

Discrimination Towards East Pakistan

After the formation of Pakistan in 1947, East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) faced severe discrimination from the West Pakistani ruling elite. This discrimination was prevalent in various sectors, leading to political, economic, and social disparities.

1. Political Discrimination:

- Despite having a majority population, Bengalis had limited representation in governance.
- The Pakistani rulers suppressed democratic rights, imposing autocratic and military rule.
- Elections were frequently delayed, and elected governments were removed unlawfully (e.g., Jukta-front in 1954).
- East Pakistani political leaders, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, were often imprisoned.

2. Administrative Discrimination:

- East Pakistanis were underrepresented in government jobs; in 1962, only 119 out of 954 top officials were Bengalis.
- Most government offices and headquarters were in West Pakistan, favoring West Pakistani employment.
- The language barrier (Bengali not being a state language until 1956) restricted opportunities for Bengalis in competitive exams.

3. Military Discrimination:

- The army recruitment policy was biased: 60% Punjabis, 35% Pathans, and only 5% from the rest, including East Pakistan.
- In 1955, among 2211 army officers, only 82 were Bengalis.
- In 1966, only one Bengali was among the 17 top military officials.

4. Economic Disparity:

- East Pakistan's resources were exploited for the benefit of West Pakistan.
- Budget allocations heavily favored West Pakistan in all five-year plans (e.g., in the first five-year plan, East Pakistan received 113 crore, while West Pakistan received 500 crore).
- Industrialization was focused in West Pakistan, with East Pakistan providing raw materials but having few industries.
- Financial institutions were concentrated in West Pakistan, restricting economic growth in the East.

5. Educational Discrimination:

- The government deliberately neglected education in East Pakistan.
- From 1955 to 1967, only 797 million rupees were allocated to East Pakistan's education sector, whereas West Pakistan received 2084 million rupees.
- Scholarships were also unevenly distributed—West Pakistan received 30 out of 35 scholarships.

6. Social Discrimination:

- Infrastructure development (roads, hospitals, schools, postal and telecommunication services) was mainly focused on West Pakistan.
- West Pakistanis enjoyed a higher living standard due to better access to resources and services.

7. Cultural Discrimination:

- Bengali culture and language were suppressed.
- The Pakistani government attempted to impose Urdu as the sole state language.
- Cultural icons like Rabindranath Tagore were banned, and traditional celebrations like Pahela Baishakh were discouraged.

Conclusion:

The continuous discrimination and oppression by West Pakistan led to rising dissatisfaction in East Pakistan, ultimately fueling the demand for autonomy and the independence movement, culminating in the Liberation War of 1971.

Language Movement: Full Notes

(i) Background → Early Phase of the Language Movement

- The two parts of Pakistan (East and West) had significant differences in history, culture, language, and geography.
- The question of the state language arose even before the creation of Pakistan in 1947.
- **West Pakistan leaders favored Urdu**, which was spoken by only **3.27%** of the total population, while Bangla was spoken by **56%**.
- **Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah** and other scholars protested against making Urdu the state language.
- **Tamaddun Majlish**, a Bengali Islamic Cultural Organization, led by **Abul Kashem**, played a crucial role.
- The first pamphlet, "**The State Language of Pakistan: Bangla or Urdu**", was published on **15 September 1947**, favoring Bangla.
- **National Language Action Committee**, formed in **October 1947**, turned the movement into a political demand.
- Despite protests, Urdu was proposed as the **state language** in the **Education Summit of Karachi (December 1948)**.

Key Events in the Early Phase:

- **23 February 1948**: Dhirendranath Datta proposed Bangla as an official language in the **Constituent Assembly**.
- **26 & 29 February 1948**: Student protests and strikes in Dhaka.
- **2 March 1948**: **National Language Action Committee** (second formation) by students and scholars.
- **11 March 1948**: Strike led to arrests, including **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Shamsul Haque, Oli Ahad, and Kazi Golam Mahbub**.
- **March 1948**: Chief Minister **Khaja Nazimuddin** agreed to some demands, temporarily easing tensions.

(ii) Language Movement Day → The Height of the Language Movement in 1952

- **19 March 1948**: Governor-General **Mohammad Ali Jinnah** visited Dhaka and declared "**Urdu, and only Urdu, shall be the national language**", sparking protests.
- **1948**: All-Pakistan Education Summit proposed writing Bangla in Arabic script; **Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah** opposed it.
- **11 March 1950**: **University of Dhaka National Language Action Committee** was formed.
- **1951**: **Liaquat Ali Khan assassinated**, Khaja Nazimuddin became Prime Minister, further strengthening the movement.

Key Events of February 1952:

- **27 January**: Khaja Nazimuddin reaffirmed Urdu as the only state language at Paltan Ground, reigniting protests.
- **31 January**: **All-Party Central Language Action Committee** formed, led by **Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani** and **Kazi Golam Mahbub**.
- **20 February**: Decision to defy **Section 144** (ban on gatherings).

21 February 1952 - The Historic Day

- **Morning (11:00 AM)**: Thousands gathered at Dhaka University's **Amtola**.
- **Students marched chanting**: "*Rashtro Bhasha Bangla Chai*".
- **Police responded with baton charges, tear gas, and bullets**.
- **Martyrs**: **Abdus Salam, Abul Barkat, Rafique Uddin Ahmed, Abdul Jabbar** were killed.
- **22 February**: Mourning rallies; police again fired, killing more, including **Shaifur Rahman**.
- **23 February**: Students secretly built the first **Shahid Minar**, later demolished by police.

Aftermath & Recognition:

- **1956**: Bangla was recognized as one of the **national languages** of Pakistan.
- **1971**: The Language Movement fueled the **Liberation War**, leading to Bangladesh's independence.
- **21 February**: Declared **International Mother Language Day (1999, UNESCO)**.

Basic Features of the Constitution of Bangladesh

1. **Adoption and Enforcement** – The Constitution was **adopted on 4 November 1972** and came into force on **16 December 1972**, marking **Victory Day**.
2. **Number of Articles and Parts** – The Constitution consists of **153 Articles** arranged under **11 Parts**.
3. **Fundamental Rights** – The Constitution guarantees **basic rights** such as **equality before law, freedom of speech, movement, religion, and protection of life and liberty** (Articles 27-47A).
4. **Equality Before Law (Article 27)** – All citizens are **equal before the law** and entitled to **equal protection** of the law.
5. **Freedom of Religion (Article 41)** – Every citizen has the **right to profess, practice, and propagate** any religion.
6. **Freedom of Speech (Article 39)** – Citizens have the **right to express their thoughts freely**, subject to **reasonable restrictions** for public order and morality.
7. **Right to Property (Article 42)** – Citizens have the right to **acquire, hold, transfer, and dispose of property**, subject to the law.
8. **Protection of Home and Privacy (Article 43)** – Ensures the **security of a person's home, correspondence, and communication**, except in cases of **state security or public order**.

Notes on Crisis of Democracy (1954-1969)

(i) Election of 1954

- The **United Front Coalition (Jukta Front)** was formed on **14 November 1953** by:
 1. **Awami Muslim League** (Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani)
 2. **Krishak Sromik Party** (A.K. Fazlul Haque)
 3. **Nezam-e-Islami** (Maulana Atahar Ali)
 4. **Democratic Party** (Haji Danesh)
- Their goal was to **defeat the ruling Muslim League** in the 1954 East Pakistan Provincial Elections.
- The **election took place on 8 March 1954**, with **37.19% voter turnout**.
- **Results:**
 - **United Front won 223 out of 309 seats.**
 - **Muslim League got only 9 seats**, marking a massive defeat.
- A **14-member cabinet** was formed under **A.K. Fazlul Haque**, including **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** (Agriculture & Village Development).

(ii) 21-Point Charter

- The **21-Point Charter**, written by **Abul Mansur Ahmed**, reflected the demands of East Bengal.
- Some key points included:
 - **Bangla as one of the state languages** of Pakistan.
 - **Abolition of Zamindari system** without compensation and land distribution to the poor.
 - **Free and compulsory primary education** in **mother tongue**.
 - **Education through the mother tongue.**
 - **Recognition of 21st February as "Shahid Dibosh" (Martyrs' Day)** and a public holiday.
 - **Full autonomy for East Bengal** as per the **1940 Lahore Resolution**.

• Conclusion

The **21-Point Charter** became a **symbol of resistance against West Pakistani domination** and played a crucial role in mobilizing public support for the **United Front in the 1954 elections**. Many of these demands were later echoed in the **Six-Point Movement (1966)** led by **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, which ultimately led to the **Liberation War of 1971** and the creation of **Bangladesh**.

(iii) Fall of United Front Ministry

- The **Muslim League conspired** against the United Front government.
- **Reasons for dismissal:**
 - A.K. Fazlul Haque's **speech about two Bengals** during a visit to Kolkata.
 - **Declaration of 21st February as a public holiday** and establishment of **Burdawan House as a Bangla Language Research Centre** angered the central government.
 - **Riots at Adamjee Jute Mill and in front of Central Jail** were used as an excuse to dismiss the government.
 - A **distorted New York Times article** falsely claimed **A.K. Fazlul Haque wanted independence for East Bengal**.
 - On **30 May 1954**, the **Governor's Rule** was imposed by the central government, dismissing the United Front.
 - The United Front government lasted only **56 days** (till **2 June 1955**).
 -

(iv) Crisis of Democracy & Movement for Self-Determination (1958-1969)

- **7 October 1958:** President **Iskander Mirza** imposed **Martial Law**, abolished the Constitution, dismissed the Parliament, and **appointed General Ayub Khan as Chief Martial Law Administrator**.
- **27 October 1958:** Ayub Khan overthrew Iskander Mirza in a **military coup** and became **President**.
- **1962:** Ayub Khan introduced a **new Constitution** with "Basic Democracy," restricting people's voting rights.
- **Education Movement of 1962:** Students protested against the **Sharif Commission Report**, which threatened education rights. The government was forced to **suspend the report**.
- **National Democratic Front (NDF) formed in 1962** by opposition parties to restore democracy.
- **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became General Secretary of Awami League in 1963** and continued the movement for democracy.

Notes on the Rise of Nationalism and Movements for Autonomy

1. Six Points Demands (1966)

- Introduced by **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** in **Lahore (Feb 5-6, 1966)**.
- Aimed at **ending discrimination** against East Pakistan.
- Rejected by West Pakistan leaders; Mujib walked out and announced it to the public.
- **Key Points:**
 1. **True federation** based on the Lahore Resolution; **parliamentary system** with a legislature elected via universal adult franchise.
 2. **Federal government to handle only Defense & Foreign Affairs**; all other powers to be with provinces.
 3. **Separate currencies for East and West Pakistan** or economic safeguards for East Pakistan.
 4. **Power of taxation and revenue collection to federating units**.
 5. **Provinces to regulate foreign exchange earnings and trade**.
 6. **Provincial right to form a militia or paramilitary force**.
- Gained massive public support; became a **key election manifesto of Awami League (1970)**.

2. Agartala Conspiracy Case (1968)

- **Sheikh Mujib visited Agartala (1963)** and sought Indian support for an armed movement.
- **Pakistani intelligence uncovered** the plan, leading to **1,500 arrests**.
- **Mujib was the main accused**, and **35 people** were charged.
- A **special tribunal** began hearings on **June 19, 1968** in Dhaka Cantonment.
- **Anti-Ayub protests intensified**, demanding Mujib's release.
- The situation escalated when **Sergeant Zahurul Haq** (one of the accused) was **killed on Feb 15, 1969**.
- **Public outrage led to mass protests**, forcing the government to **withdraw the case and release Mujib (Feb 22, 1969)**.

3. Eleven (11) Points Demands (1969)

- **Led by students** amid the anti-Ayub movement.
- **Sarbadaliya Chhatra Sangram Parishad (All-Party Student Action Committee)** was formed on **Jan 5, 1969**, led by **Tofael Ahmed (VP of DUCSU)**.
- Included the **Six Points** and additional demands like:
 - **Educational reforms** and withdrawal of Dhaka University Ordinance.
 - **Freedom of speech, press, and individual rights**.
 - **Nationalization of large industries**.
 - **Labor rights and fair wages**.
 - **Flood control & proper use of water resources**.
 - **Rejection of curfew, emergency acts & repressive policies**.
 - **Unbiased foreign policy**.
 - **Immediate release of political activists**.

4. 1969 Mass Movement & Fall of Ayub Khan

- Movement escalated **beyond students** to include **workers, peasants, and the general public**.
- **Chhatra Sangram Parishad's 11 Points** gained widespread support.
- **Major Events:**
 - **Jan 20, 1969:** Hartal observed; police fired, killing student leader **Asaduzzaman**.
 - **Jan 24, 1969:** Protests intensified; **Matiur (Class IX student) killed**, triggering mass violence.
 - **Feb 15, 1969:** **Sergeant Zahurul Haq** killed, leading to further protests.
 - **Feb 18, 1969:** Dr. **Mohammad Shamsuzzoha (Rajshahi University proctor)** bayoneted to death.
 - **Feb 21, 1969:** Ayub Khan **announced he would not seek re-election**.
- **Political leaders united behind Six & Eleven Points**.
- **March 10, 1969:** Ayub announced a return to a **parliamentary system**.
- **March 22, 1969:** **Governor Monaem Khan removed**.
- **March 25, 1969:** Ayub **handed over power to General Yahya Khan**.
- **Significance:** Marked the **success of the mass upsurge** and **increased demand for independence** in East Pakistan.

Notes on Bhola Cyclone and the 1970 Election

1. Bhola Cyclone (1970)

- **Date:** November 12–13, 1970.
- **Affected Areas:** Chittagong, Barguna, Patuakhali, Char Tazumuddin, Maijdi, Haringhata.
- **Casualties & Damage:**
 - **500,000 deaths** (official estimate).
 - **46,000 inland fishermen lost their lives, 20,000 fishing boats destroyed**.
 - **Over 1 million cattle lost**.
 - **400,000+ houses and 3,500 schools damaged**.
 - **Wind speed: 222 km/hr, Storm surge: 10.6m**.

- **Response of Yahya Khan's Government:**
 - **Neglect, inefficiency, and indifference** in relief efforts.
 - Leaders called it a **“Holocaust”** and accused the military regime of **“criminal negligence”**.
 - **Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani** demanded Yahya Khan's **resignation**.
 - **Media outrage:** Headlines like **“No Relief Coordination”** criticized the government.

2. 1970 General Elections

- **Background:**
 - **Ayub Khan resigned on March 25, 1969**, handing power to **General Yahya Khan**.
 - **Yahya Khan promised democratic elections** but delayed them.
 - **Election held on December 7, 1970** (January 17, 1971, in cyclone-hit areas).
- **Legal Framework & Features:**
 - **Abolition of West Pakistan’s One-Unit scheme.**
 - **National Assembly: 313 members (169 from East Pakistan, 144 from West Pakistan).**
 - **Provincial Assemblies: 621 members (310 from East Pakistan, 311 from West Pakistan).**
 - **One person, one vote** principle adopted.
 - **Pakistan to remain a federal republic** with an **Islamic ideology**.
 - **Legislative members elected through direct elections.**
 - **Equal economic opportunities promised.**
- **Major Political Parties:**
 - **Awami League (AL)** – Led by **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** (162 candidates).
 - **Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)** – Led by **Zulfikar Ali Bhutto**.
 - **Pakistan Muslim League (multiple factions).**
 - **Jamaat-e-Islami** and other religious parties.
- **Election Results:**
 - **Awami League won 160 out of 162 seats in East Pakistan** (final count **167** including reserved seats).
 - **Awami League secured 298 out of 310 seats in the East Pakistan Provincial Assembly.**
 - **Awami League became the largest party in the National Assembly.**
 - **PPP won 81 out of 138 seats in West Pakistan.**

3. Significance & Aftermath of the 1970 Election

- **Significance:**
 - **First democratic election in Pakistan’s history.**
 - **Major victory for Bengali nationalism** and demand for autonomy.
 - **Six-Point Movement validated** as the people's mandate.
 - **Showed political division between East and West Pakistan.**
 - **Awami League earned the right to govern Pakistan.**
- **Aftermath:**
 - **Yahya Khan refused to transfer power** despite Awami League's majority.
 - **Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (PPP) opposed Mujib's government formation.**
 - **Postponement of National Assembly session (March 3, 1971)** led to **mass protests**.
 - **March 2, 1971: Students hoisted the Bangladesh flag at Dhaka University.**
 - **March 3, 1971: Awami League demanded independence.**
 - **March 7, 1971: Sheikh Mujib's historic speech at Racecourse Ground** fueled the movement.
 - **March 25, 1971: Yahya Khan launched Operation Searchlight**, starting the **Bangladesh Liberation War**.

Notes on the Liberation of Bangladesh (1971)

1. Genocide of 25 March 1971

- **Operation Searchlight:** Pakistan Army launched a planned attack on **March 25, 1971**, targeting unarmed Bengalis.
- **Mass killings** began at **Dhaka University**, including Jahurul Haque Hall, Jagannath Hall, and Rokeya Hall.
- **Targeted Areas:** Old Dhaka, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Kachukhet, Tejgaon, Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Rayer Bazaar, etc.
- **Main Victims:** Students, intellectuals, political activists, and general civilians.
- **Objective:** Crush the **Bengali nationalist movement** and prevent the independence of Bangladesh.

2. The First Government of Bangladesh (Mujibnagar Government)

- **Formation Date:** April 10, 1971.
- **Swearing-in Ceremony:** April 17, 1971, at **Baidyanathtala (Meherpur, Bangladesh)**.
- **Key Leaders:**
 - **President:** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (in absentia).
 - **Acting President:** Syed Nazrul Islam.
 - **Prime Minister:** Tajuddin Ahmad.
 - **Finance Minister:** Captain M. Mansur Ali.
 - **Home, Agriculture, Relief & Rehabilitation Minister:** A.H.M. Kamaruzzaman.
 - **Foreign, Law & Parliamentary Affairs Minister:** Khondokar Moshtaq Ahmed.
 - **Commander-in-Chief of Liberation Forces:** Col. M.A.G. Osmani.
 - **Chief of Staff:** Lt. Col. Abdur Rab.
- **Functions of the Government:**
 - Established **missions abroad (Delhi, London, Washington, etc.)** to gather international support.
 - Organized and managed the **Muktibahini (Freedom Fighters)** into **11 sectors**.

3. Liberation War of 1971

- **March 26, 1971: Declaration of Independence** by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- **Pakistani Military Atrocities:** Widespread massacres, targeting **Hindus, intellectuals, and political activists**.
- **Resistance by Freedom Fighters:**
 - Initial resistance from **East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) and police**.
 - Pakistan Army used **tanks, machine guns, and aerial bombings**.
- **Atrocities on Intellectuals:** Professors, journalists, engineers, doctors **killed systematically** to weaken Bangladesh's leadership.
- **Liberation War continued for 9 months**, leading to final victory on **December 16, 1971**.

4. Liberation War and Different Organizations

1. **Students:**
 - Largest group among freedom fighters.
 - Received **military training** in India and fought in frontline battles.
2. **Farmers:**
 - Provided **food, shelter, and intelligence** to fighters.
 - Acted as local informants and resistance members.
3. **Women:**
 - Participated in **Sangram Parishad**.
 - Many women became **Biranganas (war heroines)** due to sexual violence by Pakistan Army.
 - **Two women awarded "Bir Protik"** for their bravery:
 - **Taramon Bibi.**
 - **Dr. Sitara Begum.**

4. **Mass Media (Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro - SBBK):**
 - Broadcasted news, patriotic songs, and motivational speeches.
 - **M. R. Akhter Mukul's** "Charampatra" inspired fighters.
5. **Expatriate Bangladeshis:**
 - Collected **funds for the war**.
 - **Lobbied foreign governments** for support.
6. **Artists, Writers, Intellectuals:**
 - Wrote in newspapers, composed patriotic songs, and produced radio programs.
 - Many were **killed by Pakistan Army on December 14, 1971** (Intellectuals Massacre).
7. **Mass People:**
 - Provided **logistics, intelligence, food, and first aid**.
 - **Tribal communities** also played a role in the resistance.

5. Contributions of Political Figures

1. **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman:**
 - **Leader of Bangladesh's independence movement**.
 - **Spent 12 years in prison** under Pakistan rule.
 - Became **first President** after independence.
2. **Tajuddin Ahmad:**
 - **First Prime Minister** of Bangladesh.
 - Led the **Mujibnagar Government** and directed the **Liberation War**.
3. **Syed Nazrul Islam:**
 - **Acting President** during the war.
 - Organized and coordinated the war effort.
4. **Captain M. Mansur Ali:**
 - **Finance Minister** during the war.
 - **Arranged funds** for food, arms, and military training.
5. **A.H.M. Kamaruzzaman:**
 - **Home, Relief & Rehabilitation Minister**.
 - Helped in **refugee rehabilitation** and international diplomacy.
6. **Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani:**
 - **Political mentor of Sheikh Mujib**.
 - **Called for international support** for Bangladesh.
7. **Professor Mozaffar Ahmed (NAP-Mozaffar) & Comrade Moni Singh:**
 - **Led Communist movements** supporting the war effort.

6. Victory and Emergence of Independent Bangladesh

- **December 16, 1971:**
 - **Pakistan Army (93,000 soldiers) surrendered** at Racecourse Ground, Dhaka.
 - **Lt. Gen. A.A.K. Niazi surrendered** to Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora (India).
- **Human Cost of the War:**
 - **3 million martyrs**.
 - **2.5 lakh women victims of sexual violence**.
 - **Millions of refugees** in India.
- **Bangladesh became the first Third World country to gain independence through armed struggle.**