

## **CAUSES OF MARTIAL LAW IN PAKISTAN:**

Pakistan represents an example of how an apolitical military could slowly be drawn into the political field due to the failure of political institutions and politicians, low political mobilization, as well as external factors. The main causes of martial law in Pakistan are following:

### **The Untimely Demise of the Quaid-i-Azam and A Leadership Crisis:**

Like many third-world countries, Pakistan was born a fragile nation-state. It was burdened with ideological and ethnic cleavages, and created amidst administrative chaos. The first year of Independence was marked by heavy dependence on the charismatic personality of Jinnah; he was Governor-General and President of the Constituent Assembly. However, he died on 11 September 1948, leaving behind an enduring political vacuum. With Liaquat's death, the façade of "parliamentary democracy" began to erode. The bureaucratic elites did not take long to convert the office of Governor-General into an instrument of bureaucratic intervention.

### **Provincialism**

The geographical separation of East and West Pakistan produced not only administrative, physical but social, economic and political problems as well. Distance made communication irregular and expensive. Misunderstandings arose easily and were difficult to dispel. Since the capital was in the West wing, East Pakistan felt neglected. Differences in languages and cultures were obstacles in the way of national integration.

### **Extreme Political Instability**

The decline of civilian institutions in Pakistan was set in motion primarily as a result of the serious crisis of political leadership within a couple of years of Independence. After Quaid-Azam, Liaquat Ali Khan's assassination resulted in the conversion of the office of the Governor General into an instrument of bureaucratic intervention. Bureaucratic intervention, preemption and opposition among the political leaders made a sham of the parliament and the cabinet government. The façade of "parliamentary politics" persisted but in reality the focus of power had shifted to the bureaucratic and military institutions.

### **Factionalism: The Breakdown of the PML**

Research about the ascent of the army in Pakistan typically focuses on the vacuum in the political system due to disintegration of the Muslim League after Partition and the decay of political institutions in general.

### **Failure of Political Leadership**

After the death of Jinnah, his political successors badly failed to create consensus politics. The second line leadership could not translate the political achievements of

Jinnah into a vibrant, moderate and forward-looking democratic polity. The situation was not much different at the provincial level where different political parties and leaders engaged in struggle for power in violation of parliamentary norms.

## **Interference of the Heads of State**

In a parliamentary democracy, the head of state has no room for political maneuvering. The office of the head of state is nominal and non-partisan. In violation of well established parliamentary theory, Ghulam Muhammad and Iskander Mirza violated this norm and actively maneuvered, politics notwithstanding legal tradition and the dreadful consequences of their actions.

## **Role of Judiciary**

All the democratic constitutions of the world provide a list of the fundamental rights of the people which are recognized and guaranteed by the superior judiciary. Unfortunately, the higher judiciary in Pakistan did not play this Pakistan's inception, and became subservient to the executive.

## **Homogeneity of the Pakistan Army**

The military's strength in Pakistan is also a result of its strong ethnic and regional cohesion. In fact, only three Army Chiefs in Pakistan's history came from outside of the Punjab and NWFP. This ethnic imbalance has enhanced the military's efficacy in politics.

## **Absence of Independent Election Commission**

Another factor which facilitated the army's rise to power in Pakistan was that the country had no democratic elections for eleven years after Independence, and democratic values had scarcely struck roots.

Reference:

[http://www.google.com.pk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CBsQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpu.edu.pk%2Fimages%2Fjournal%2Fstudies%2FPDF-FILES%2FArticle-3\\_V\\_12\\_No\\_2\\_Dec11.pdf&ei=zGAdVOKrCOnMyAPg4oGQDA&usg=AFQjCNFXX6ieNXJSF9CwOMN9y9D4rkZgqg&bvm=bv.75775273,d.bGQ&cad=rja](http://www.google.com.pk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CBsQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpu.edu.pk%2Fimages%2Fjournal%2Fstudies%2FPDF-FILES%2FArticle-3_V_12_No_2_Dec11.pdf&ei=zGAdVOKrCOnMyAPg4oGQDA&usg=AFQjCNFXX6ieNXJSF9CwOMN9y9D4rkZgqg&bvm=bv.75775273,d.bGQ&cad=rja)