

Zia's Era

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1 Introduction

1. Born 12 August 1924 – 17 August 1988.
2. Pakistani four-star general.
3. He was Pakistan's longest-serving head of state.
4. Declared third martial law in Pakistan history 1977.
5. After deposing Prime Minister Bhutto on 5 July 1977, Zia declared martial law, and appointed himself Chief Martial Law Administrator, which he remained until becoming president on 16 September 1978.

2 Martial Law under General Zia

- Steady economic growth favouring the private sector.
- Efforts were made to Islamize the political, legal and economic structures.
- Pakistan gained the status of Most Favoured Nation from the United States following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979.
- Vast amounts of military equipment and aid were donated to Pakistan to help the four million Afghan refugees who crossed into Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province.
- Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.
- Trial.
- The Doctrine of Necessity

3 Islamization

Islamization aka Shariatization is the process of bringing someone or something under the influence of Islam or Islamic rule. Or it is a process of society's shift towards Islam, such as found in Sudan, Pakistan, Iran, Malaysia, or Algeria.

In 1977, when General Zia Ul Haq overthrew the elected civilian government of Z. A. Bhutto, immediately announced himself as CMLA, and within days started the Islamization of institutions. He promised to establish an Islamic state and enforce Shariat¹ law (Haqqani, 2005, p. 120). Hassan Askar Rizvi in his book, *Military, State and Society in Pakistan* comprehensively analyzed Zia's Islamization program. He stated that "Islamization main focused was regulative, punitive and extractive and Zia little attempt to bring socio-economic equality under Islamic law." He divided Zia's promotion of Islamization into following steps:

- 1 - The formation of Council of Islamic Ideology, to advise the government to

Islamize the polity and adjust existing laws with the spirits of Quran and Hadith.

2- Constitutional amendment to set up a special Shariat bench in each of the four Provincial High Court and Appellate branch in Supreme Court. One year later the Shariat bench replaced Federal Sharia Court.

3- In 1979, Hudood Ordinance issued to enforce an Islamic punishment for several crimes. This ordinance covered the punishment of sex-related, theft of property, possession of Alcohol and prohibited drug. According to this ordinance, the punishments were imprisonment, lashing, financial penalties, amputation of the right hand for the theft and stoned to death for adultery and rape.

4- In the banking sector, a new interest-free system introduced. Investors encouraged to follow Islamic modes of investment, i.e., Musharika and Modarba.

5- In 1980, a mandatory tax called Zakat enforced, which applied to savings accounts and other investment at the rate of 2.5% per annum.

6- Higher education curriculums were also revised according to Islamic teaching. In the prominent Quaid Azam University, Sharia Faculty inaugurated, and a separate Islamic University with the financial support of Gulf countries was established in Islamabad. Zia promised a separate university to women

7- The school's curriculum was also revised and emphasized on Islamic Principles and teaching of Ideology of Pakistan.

8- Media and press were compelled to reflect orthodox Islamic values. Various cultural activities – dance, women's sports, and women's stage performance – were discouraged. Women TV announcers and anchors were ordered to cover their heads.

9- The tradition of obligatory prayers breaks during working hours was started in government institutions and encouraged other non-governmental offices to follow the same path.

10- According to 1979 constitutional amendment, Ahmadis were considered non-Muslim. Zia's regimes prohibited them from the using of Islamic identity, symbols, and titles.

4 Referendum of 1984

- After Bhutto's execution, momentum to hold elections began to mount both internationally and within Pakistan. But before handing over power to elected representatives, Zia attempted to secure his position as the head of state.
- A referendum was held on 19 December 1984 with the option being to elect or reject the General as the future President, the wording of the referendum making a vote against Zia appear to be a vote against Islam. According to official figures 95% of votes were cast in favour of Zia, however only 10% of the electorate participated in the referendum.

5 1985 Elections

- The election campaign was closely regulated by the military government. The candidates were not allowed to use loudspeakers, hold public meetings or take out processions. The candidates generally shied away from talking about domestic political problems or foreign policy. They focused on local problems and issues. Parochial and ethnic considerations, local alliances and local feuds figured prominently in election campaigning.
- The exclusion of political parties and restrictions on political mobilization enabled the feudal and tribal elite to emerge victorious in the polls. The well-known landed families of the Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and the tribal chiefs of Baluchistan tightened their hold over the elected bodies. The commercial elite and the affluent candidates also performed well in the polls.

Landlords and Tribal leaders = 157

Businessmen = 54

Urban Professionals = 18

Religious Leaders = 6

Others = 3

TOTAL SEATS 238

6 1985 Constitutional Amendments

The Eighth Amendment was a clearly a capitulation on the part of the newly formed civilian government to get lifted martial law. While retaining elements of both the parliamentary and the presidential form of government, the Amendments tilted the balance of latter's favorite Eight Amendment reduced the status of the Prime Minister, making him subservient to the desires of the former. The main obsession was to retain power at any cost, even if this meant the negation of constitutional democracy, national integrity and national institution.

7 Soviet-Afghan War

- On 25 December 1979, the Soviet Union (USSR) intervened in Afghanistan.
- International standing enhancement and resumption of aid.
- Pakistan was offered 325 *million in aid over three years by USA, which later was made to 1 billion.*
- Pakistan got 40 F-16 jet fighters from USA.
- Zia played a large part in the eventual withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in 1988.

8 Death of Zia 1988

General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq was killed in an air crash on August 17, 1988. He had gone to Bhawalpur to see a demonstration of tanks where he was accompanied by a number of Generals, including the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of General Staff, high-ranking Military Attaches, as well as the U. S. Ambassador to Pakistan. On his return journey, his military transport aircraft, a C-130, exploded in mid-air a few minutes after takeoff from Bhawalpur airport, killing all passengers aboard including the President. General Zia's remains were buried on the grounds of Faisal Mosque in Islamabad. With the death of General Zia, the 11-year military rule came to an end.