

# *Pakistan Period and Disparity between West Pakistan and East Pakistan*

*Prepared By  
Mallika Datta  
Lecturer at EDS  
United International University*

---

# PAKISTAN

14 August 1947,  
Pakistan became an  
independent country.  
But it faced many  
problems.

- Geographical
- Political
- Economic

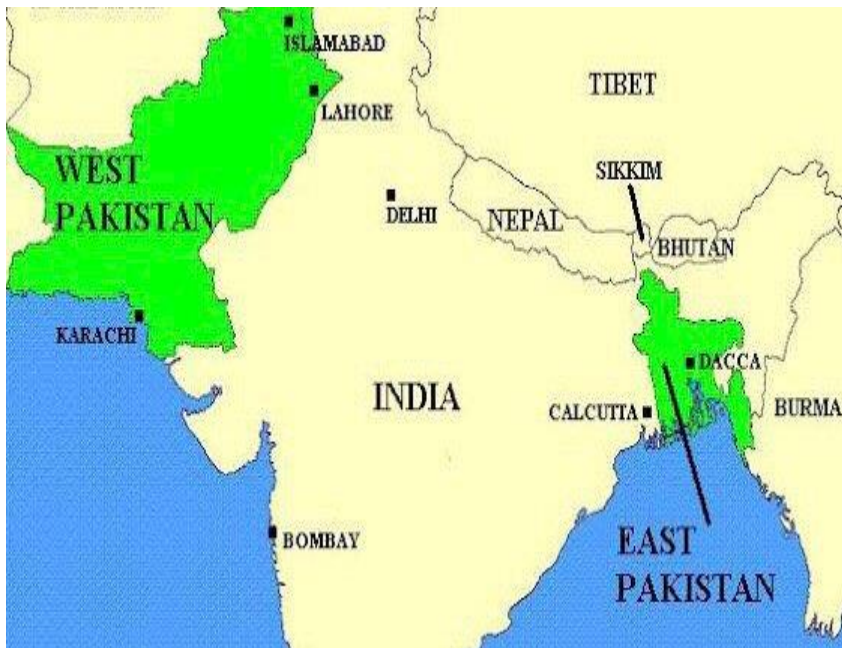
# GEOGRAPHICAL PROBLEM

No natural  
borders

Although Pakistan was created to unite the Muslim population of the old British India, it did not have natural borders, such as rivers, mountains or the sea.

# GEOGRAPHICAL PROBLEM

## Location of two states



The two separate parts of Pakistan (East Bengal and West Pakistan) were separated by about a thousand miles of land that belonged to India.

# POLITICAL PROBLEMS

Lack of  
infrastructure

India inherited government buildings, furnishings, even officials from the British. Pakistan had none of these.

# POLITICAL PROBLEMS

## Little experience

India had officials, members of the Indian National Congress, with the political experience to take over the government. They had experience both of the election process and of holding political office.

In Pakistan. the assembly members were mostly wealthy landowners with little political experience.

# POLITICAL PROBLEMS

Disparity  
between  
Eastern and  
Western  
Part

Half the population of Pakistan lived in East Bengal, the majority of government and army leaders came from West Pakistan.

# DISPARITIES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST PAKISTAN

Statehood  
to a single  
state

- ❑ The merger of two widely different regions could not exist for long.
- ❑ As time went by, alongside the geographical, social and cultural differences, there also developed gradual disparity between the two wings in economic and other institutional levels such as military, educational and political representations.





"..., food scarcity was recorded in many places. People of Faridpur, Comilla and Dhaka districts were facing a calamity due to acute shortage of food grain. On that time, government introduced the 'Cordon System'. This meant that there was to be no movement of food from one district to another." (Rahman 2012. P. 103)

The disparities between West Pakistan and East Pakistan will be described in the next slides.

# Disparities between east and west Pakistan

- Cultural discrimination



□ Bengali was the mother tongue of **56 percent** of the people of Pakistan. On the other hand, Urdu was the mother tongue of **only 6 percent** people of the whole of Pakistan (Census 1951).

□ Thus Bengali, despite being the language of most of the people of Pakistan, was ignored by the Pakistani ruling group as a state language.

# Political Disparity

East Pakistan became subjected to political discrimination immediately after the birth of the state of Pakistan. From **1947 to 1958**, among all the presidents of Pakistan, one was from East Pakistan who spoke in Urdu.

In reality, East Pakistan was politically neglected by Pakistan from the very beginning.

Pakistan had a severe shortage of trained administrative personnel, as most members of pre-independence Indian Civil Service were Hindus or Sikhs who opted to belong to India at partition. And these posts were filled by West Pakistanis. For example, *United Front* got **236** seats out of 309 in the provincial election in 1954 but this government could not continue more than two years.

**During the regime of Liaquat Ali & Nurul Amin**, 'the kind of torture and harassment of political prisoners that was going on had no precedence in any civilized country at any stage of history. Political prisoners appealed time and again for their rights and privileges people in their position enjoyed in British period. Unfortunately, their petitions were ignored.' (**Rahman 2012. P. 172**)

# Social Disparity

## Health and social Development

| Sl. No | Areas                     | West Pakistan | East Pakistan |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1      | Total Population          | 5.50 Crore    | 7.50 Crore    |
| 2      | Number of Doctors         | 12400         | 7600          |
| 3      | Rural Health Complex      | 325           | 88            |
| 4      | Social Development Centre | 81            | 52            |

[Source: M.A. Rahim, Bangladesher Itihas, P. 480]

# Disparities between east and west Pakistan

- **Employment**

| SL No. | Areas              | West Pakistan | East Pakistan |
|--------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1      | Central Civil Jobs | 84%           | 16%           |
| 2      | Foreign Jobs       | 85%           | 15%           |
| 3      | Army               | 95%           | 5%            |

[Source: M.A. Rahim, Bangladesher Itihas, P. 479]

In administrative arena, within 1966, 77% 1st class jobs belonged to the west Pakistani

74% for 2nd Class, 73% for 3rd Class and 70% for 4th Class jobs went to west Pakistan while remaining were for East Pakistan.

# Disparities between east and west Pakistan

## • Military

| SL No. | Areas              | West Pakistan | East Pakistan |
|--------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1      | Central Civil Jobs | 84%           | 16%           |
| 2      | Foreign Jobs       | 85%           | 15%           |
| 3      | Army               | 95%           | 5%            |

[Source: M.A. Rahim, *Bangladesher Itihas*, P. 479]

- The headquarters of the three Defense Services were established in West Pakistan.
- In the army, Of the total Commissioned Officers 95 percent posts were held by the West Pakistanis and East Pakistan had a share of only 5 percent.
- In Air Force only 17% were from East Pakistan. Similar was the case in the Navy in which the percentage of superior officers ranged from 5 to 17%.

# Economic or Financial Disparity

During the Pakistani rule, East Pakistan was subjected to severe economic disparity. As a result, East Pakistan could never be self-sufficient economically. The provincial government did not have any control over its currency and economy. As everything was controlled by the Centre, all the income of East Pakistan flew away to West Pakistan.

Head offices of the State Bank and other banks, insurance companies, trading concerns and foreign missions were established in West Pakistan. About two thirds of the foreign exchange of Pakistan was earned by selling the jute of East Pakistan. But the jute farmers could never get the fair price for their products.

| SL. No | Areas                            | West Pakistan | East Pakistan |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1      | Foreign Currency for Development | 80%           | 20%           |
| 2      | USA Aid                          | 56%           | 34%           |
| 3      | House Building                   | 88%           | 12%           |
| 4      | Industrial Bank                  | 76%           | 24%           |

[Source: M.A. Rahim , Bangladesher Itihas, P. 480]

# Disparities between east and west Pakistan

- **Bank, trade and commerce**

| SL No. | Areas              | West Pakistan | East Pakistan |
|--------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1      | Central Civil Jobs | 84%           | 16%           |
| 2      | Foreign Jobs       | 85%           | 15%           |
| 3      | Army               | 95%           | 5%            |

Head offices of the State Bank and other banks, insurance companies, trading concerns and foreign missions were established in West Pakistan.

[Source: M.A. Rahim, Bangladesher Itihas, P. 479]



# Disparities between east and west Pakistan

- **Foreign exchange**

| Sl. No. | Areas              | West Pakistan | East Pakistan |
|---------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1       | Central Civil Jobs | 84%           | 16%           |
| 2       | Foreign Jobs       | 85%           | 15%           |
| 3       | Army               | 95%           | 5%            |

About two thirds of the foreign exchange of Pakistan was earned by selling the jute of East Pakistan. But the jute farmers could never get the fair price for their products.

[Source: M.A. Rahim, Bangladesher Itihas, P. 479]

# Disparities between east and west Pakistan

- **Capital investment**

Between the financial years, 1947-48 and 1960-61, capital investment for development purposes amounted to 172 crore Rupees for East Pakistan, it was 430 crore Rupees for West Pakistan.

| Sl. No. | Areas              | West Pakistan | East Pakistan |
|---------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1       | Central Civil Jobs | 84%           | 16%           |
| 2       | Foreign Jobs       | 85%           | 15%           |
| 3       | Army               | 95%           | 5%            |

[Source: M.A. Rahim, Bangladesher Itihas, P. 479]

# Disparities between east and west Pakistan

- Education

| Grade                        | East Pakistan<br>1968-69 | West<br>Pakistan<br>1968-69 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| University                   | 04                       | 09                          |
| Medical, Engineering College | 09                       | 17                          |
| Primary School               | 28307                    | 39418                       |

Source: Bangladesh documents, Ministry of External Affairs,  
India, 1971 (p:17)

During the period 1947-58, enrollment in primary schools increased by 163% in West Pakistan and by 38% in East Pakistan.

Enrollment in secondary schools increased by 64% in West Pakistan, but dropped by 6.6% in East Pakistan.

University enrollment increased by 38% in West Pakistan, but by only 11% in East Pakistan.

*THANK YOU*