**Background**

**Background:** Creating a comprehensive constitution was a significant challenge for newly formed Pakistan. Although Quaid-e-Azam urgently addressed this issue, other pressing matters diverted his attention. Pakistan adopted a parliamentary government, where the executive (lawmaker) holds more power than the head of state. This system was borrowed from the British parliamentary model, following the Indian Act of 1935 as an interim constitution with minimal amendments.

**Shortcomings:** While India swiftly established its constitution, Pakistan faced delays. All India Muslim league was demanding for a separate homeland but at the same time, they did not perform their homework about the constitution of the country. The Lawmakers in the Pakistan Constituent Assembly, many from East and West Pakistan, lacked expertise in law-making. Their focus was often on resolving conflicts, hindering progress on constitution-making since 1947.

**Definition of Constitution**

A constitution is like a rulebook for a country. It is a set of basic laws and principles that the government and people follow. It explains how the country should run, what rights the citizens have, and how decisions are made. It is like a backbone of a nation's legal system. Culture, history, religion, traditions, and political systems are the sources of constitution making.

**History of Constitution Making**

Pakistan became independent from British India in 1947, following its partition, the first document that served as a constitution for Pakistan was the Government of India Act, 1935 with amendments.

**Constitution of Pakistan**

The supreme law of Pakistan is known as the Constitution. The current constitution is the Constitution of 1973, establishing a bicameral parliamentary system with the President as the head of state and a popularly elected Prime Minister as the head of government. Pakistan's legislative body consists of two chambers, the Senate (upper house) and the National Assembly (lower house). It was drafted by the government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the constitution underwent additions by opposition parties and received approval from the legislative assembly in 1973. Unlike the earlier constitutions of 1956 and 1962, the Constitution of 1973 was the first to be formulated with the agreement of all.

**Reasons for Delay**

It took almost nine years for the two constituent assemblies to make the first constitution of the country. The following are the main reasons for the delay.

a) Two wings of Pakistan – East Pakistan and West Pakistan

b) Inexperienced Politicians

c) Clash of Interests between two Wings

d) Debate on 'State’ and ‘Islam’

e) Federal State System

f) Cultural and linguistic differences

g) Lack of Homogeneity between two Wings

h) Language Issue

i) Administrative Problems

j) Influx of refugees

k) Politician’s personal clashes and differences

l) Lack of quality leadership

m) Illiteracy

n) Lack of mutual Understanding & Tolerance

**Description of the Reasons for the Delay**

**a) Two wings of Pakistan – East and West:** Geographical, cultural, and economic differences between East and West Pakistan led to disagreements on resource distribution and representation, delaying the constitution.

**b) Inexperienced Politicians:** Early political leaders lacked the necessary experience, which caused delays in constitution-making.

**h) Language Issue:** The adoption of Urdu as the official language, lead to the protests in East Pakistan, which intensified the regional tensions and delayed constitutional progress.

**k) Politician’s Personal Clashes:** Personal conflicts and power struggles among politicians created disagreement, hindering agreement of all on crucial constitutional matters.

**l) Lack of Quality Leadership:** Political instability due to frequent leadership changes and a lack of visionary leaders delayed the constitution-making process.

**m) Illiteracy:** High levels of illiteracy delayed public engagement and understanding of constitutional debates, slowing down the overall process.

**Measures Taken by Jinnah**

Jinnah took measures to establish the first constituent assembly of Pakistan in August 1947. It consisted of members elected in the 1945-46 election and 10 members from princely states. This assembly had dual responsibility of serving as the federal legislature and the constituent assembly. Unfortunately, the members lacked the necessary competence, commitment, and political experience. Jinnah aimed to address this issue, but his untimely death in 1948 posed another challenge to the inexperienced nation.