# Summary of the political history of Pakistan

## Structure of Administrative bodies:

According to the 1973 constitution president is the head of the state but is supposed to work on the advice of the prime minister. So the prime minister has the major power.

### The president:

President is the head of the state. He is supposed to follow the advice of prime minister. The President is elected for a term of 5 years and is authorized to appoint the Attorney General Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, and the Chief Election Commissioners. The President of Pakistan is chosen by a secret ballot through an Electoral College comprising the Members of the Senate, National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies.

### The Prime Minister:

Prime minister holds maximum power.The Prime Minister is assisted by the Federal Cabinet. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President from among the members of the National Assembly, and has to demonstrate majority support in the House.

## Legislature:

The legislature is bicameral which includes the senate and the national assembly and for a law to be made a part of constitution it is necessary to be approved by both houses. Both houses can initiate some bill but there are other complexities involved.

1. The members of the national assembly are elected by the people and are representatives of their respective constituency. The number of constituencies in a province is dependant on the population. Therefore it has unequal distribution of power among the provinces.
2. To overcome the problem of unequal distribution of power senate was established which consists of equal amount of representatives from every province.

## Judiciary:

Judiciary is free and independent. The citizens have the right to be protected by law, and have duties imposed on them, loyalty to the the republic and obedience to the law. The judiciary includes supreme court, provincial high courts and other lesser courts exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction.

The federal shariat court constitutes another key pillar of judiciary which deals with the jurisdiction relating to the enforcement of hudood laws etc.

The are several other courts and tribunals to deal with specific kinds of cases e.g. drug courts, labour courts etc.

## Military:

The military have played an active role in pakistani politics. Military governments were led by (in the 1960s) General Ayub Khan and General Yahya Khan, (in the late 1970s and 1980s) General Zia-ul-Haq, and (from 1999 to 2008), General Pervez Musharraf. A major number of important historical events happened in military rule.

## Regions:

Pakistan is divided to 4 provinces Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and KPK with 3 territories i.e Islamabad, FATA, and region of Gilgit Baltistan. The disputed Kashmir has its own government.

## Provincial Governments:

Provincial government has a governor, a council of ministers headed by a chief minister appointed by the governor. The isa a well-defined division of the responsibilities between federal and provincial governments.

## Political parties:

### Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP):

Founded in 1967, by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. It has held government four times since its formation. It claims to be the only party which has support in all provinces.

### Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N):

The party was founded in 1962 as a successor to the previously disbanded Muslim League, and gained the (Nawaz) or (N) label in 1993 for its leader, Nawaz Sharif who has been elected as prime minister for three times.

### Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI):

Founded by Imran khan in 1996. It has got a good support from people in the recent years.

## Timeline of Pakistan Politics:

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| 1947-1948 | Independence, Death of Jinnah, Kashmir war |
| 1951-1960 | Military rule (Liawat Ali Khan Assassinated, first constitution 1956, Martial law, Ayyub Khan becomes president) |
| 1965-1972 | Second war with india, Ayyub resigns, Gen Yahya takes over, Bangladesh issue |
| 1977-1988 | Zia takes charge, Us pledges military assistance to Pak, Martial law lifted, Benazir returns, zia dies in air crash |
| 1988-1999 | Butto, NS, Butto, Leghari dismisses bhutto over corruption allegations, NS, Nuclear tests |
| 1999-2007 | Musharaf Coup, Kargil war, Musharaf and Judiciary |
| 2007-present | Butto killed, PPP-PMLN- Panama |