Musharraf’s Regime

**Kargil Conflict 1999:**

Kargil conflict in 1999 was generally portrayed as one of the big events in the relation of two neighboring but hostile countries\_ Pakistan and India. For Pakistan, it was a defensive strategy, which ultimately went towards a permanent conflict. This conflict erupted along the Line of Control (LOC) in Kashmir. Many agreements related to borders were signed between both countries like Cease Fire Line in 1948 and Simla Agreement and Line of Control (LOC) in 1972. All these agreements failed to meet the desired results because India was persistently violating every agreement and considered them of no value. She violated the agreement of LOC. It showed aggression in Siachen, Nellum Valley and finally in Kargil. There were multiple factors, which led Pakistan and India to war in Kargil. Pakistan’s army won Kargil war militarily but did not win it diplomatically as well as politically. Indian diplomats exploited the conflict and went to get support from America, in which they succeeded. Repercussions of this conflict had been damaging for Pakistan internationally and domestically.it proved that there was a huge communication gap between army and the government.

Kargil conflict has its root in the past, when two agreements were signed between India and Pakistan. First military exchange between India and Pakistan over Kashmir established in 1948 having the name of Cease Fire Line. It was considered international border line between both the countries. In 1972 another agreement was signed namely as Simla Agreement with little modification of what was Cease Line Fire and became Line Of Control (LOC) . In this agreement both countries come to the settlement that both were to be remained in their own dominions within the area of LOC. First violation of LOC was done by India in 1984, when attack had been initiated by Indian army on Siachen and occupied 10 sq Km area across the line. Indian military showed aggression and it was a first challenge to Simla Agreement. A serious conflict was started between both countries. About six talks took place between both rivalries, in which Pakistan was at the point of view that India had to withdraw from the Siachen but Pakistan did not get fruitful results of these talks. Once again in 1988 Indian troops attacked on Qamar Sector, Pakistan’s army did respond but Indian managed to hold 10 posts within Pakistan’s territory. This was accompanied by an Indian attack on Nellum Valley route in Pakistan’s side. These consecutive conflicts proved to be an eye opener for Pakistan because all the agreement failed to prevent an Indian aggression.

For Pakistan things were going wrong and she started to realize that this is the time to deter the Indian bellicosity. India attacked Nellum Valley on regular basis and for that Pakistan responded and started to attack Dras-Kargil road, Where India faced much difficulty because Indian supply route was blocked. Pakistan army had subjugated the kargil and some posts which came under the dominions of India and the height advantage also went to Pakistan. Indian leader L.K Advani and many other leaders condemned this act of Pakistan. India also started to deploy its army on these areas. A mission was started having the name Vijay Operation, in which about 200,000 soldiers were mobilized by India. A serious conflict was started and many innocent people along with the LOC were killed. India attacked on Pakistan army equipped with many weapons like small guns, anti-aircraft guns and grenade launcher and air force of India also got involved. The only motive which Indian army had at that time was to remove, the Pakistan army posts, which had clearly height advantage. For that, Indian firstly targeted the Tiger Hill with full power, in this operation India managed to recapture some of the important territories. Both countries had lost many soldiers in this area. Then clash was started in Dras Sector, where India simply damaged the Pakistan army and this post was also recaptured by Indian. India faced a lot of problem from the Mujahedeen of Kashmir in every step of their planning. Many Indian soldiers had been killed by Mujahedeen. India initiated its final attack on Pakistan army on every occupied area and got about 80% of its territory back in their pockets.

At the end, Pakistan withdrew from Kargil because of the pressure of America. American role in this conflict was an obvious fact. It looks like that America was playing neutral role in this conflict but the reality stands somewhere else. American adopted a unilateral approach and that was Pakistan must withdraw from Kargil. Indian diplomats were completely exploiting the existed conditions during Kargil conflict. The image of Pakistan came in international community as a hostile and terrorist country. On the other hand, America was not happy of Pakistan nuclear program. Another most important factor was Nawaz Sharif’s unprecedented tour to America and unscheduled meeting with American president Clinton. This made Pakistan a culpable state and it also played a role to tilt American towards unilateral approach.

Kargil War ended up with a lot of casualties from both sides. About 587 soldiers were killed of India and roundabout 387 soldiers were killed of Pakistan. Repercussions of this conflict were devastating for Pakistan than India. Inability of politicians can be seen during the war and the result was that in same year Nawaz Sharif’s government had to depart. Weak and nominal communication between military and civilian government came in front of the picture. Even Pakistan nation had no idea that what was going on in Kargil? This war affected the image of Pakistan in international level. Pakistan was about to face many problems from international community and international community started to tilt towards India more sympathetically than Pakistan. Even international media exposed its biasness and started to publish against Pakistan and Nawaz-Clinton meeting depicted as “Pakistan will withdraw from Kashmir”. Mujahedeen took complete advantage from this situation and started to target Indian military. This conflict gave the chance of freedom fighter of Kashmir to act more organized and properly.

To conclude, Kargil war for Pakistan was a Defensive-offensive approach but it failed in both. A clearly won battle on military basis ultimately was lost badly on diplomatic level. Pakistan had to pay the price of this both, internationally and domestically.

**Nine Eleven Attacks:**

The September 11 attacks also known as 9/11 were a series of four coordinated suicide attacks upon the United States in New York and the Washington, D.C. areas on September 11, 2001. On that Tuesday morning, 19 terrorists from the Islamic militant group Al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger plans. The hijackers intentionally flew two of those planes into the twin towers of world trade center in New York City, causing huge fires that led to the collapse of the towers in less than two hours. One plane crashed into the Pentagon building in Washington. The last plane crushed in a field of Pennsylvania. The hijackers also planned to crush this plane but were failed by the action of plane’s passengers. It was by far the most terrible attacks in human experience.

The September 11 attacks resulted in a huge loss of human life. In the initial weeks, the total number of the fatalities at the WTC, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania was six or seven thousands but as weeks and months went by, that number constantly shrink, eventually reaching three thousands. The September 11 causalities were not only numerically larger than military targets. Most of the causalities were sailors or soldiers, of the 2,388 people killed; only forty eight were civilians.

On September 11, 2001, the Americans knew that they had been attacked and perhaps were even at war, but they did not know who the enemy was or what their future intentions were. In 2001, American responded quickly and patriotically. Following the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush issued an ultimatum against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which he accused of harboring Bin Laden and his network of terrorists. On October 7, 2001, Special Forces had destroyed the Afghan regime and numerous Al-Qaeda leaders were killed or captured.

However, American war against terrorism promised no clear-cut solution. Even Osama Bin Laden was to be captured or killed, that would not necessarily mark the end of terrorist’s threat to America. Bin laden followers and other terrorists groups hiding in Pakistan, Somalia and the Philippines, will be the ultimate target of US led war against terrorism.

Following September11, Americans purchased and proudly displayed their national flags to help the victims of terrorist attacks. Billions of dollars contributions flowed to organizations and individuals to help the families of those killed. Partisan differences in Washington were temporarily put aside to pass national security legislation. But the unity of spirit that the United States shows in the days, weeks and months following September 11 did not necessarily translate into uniformity of opinion.

American government announced that Al-Qaeda was mainly responsible for these terrorist attacks and in 2001. The group leader Osama bin Laden, who had initially denied involvement and later claimed responsibility for the attacks. His declared a holy war against the United States, and issued a fatwa signed by him and others calling for the killings of American civilians in 1998 are the evidence of his motives. In one of his vital statement, Bin Laden publicly acknowledged Al-Qaeda’s involvement in the attacks on the twin towers and admitted his direct link to the attacks. He said that attacks were carried out because “we are free and want to regain freedom for our nation and said that as you undermine our security in the same manner we will undermine yours”. Al-Qaeda cited the motives for its activities against western countries owning to the presence of US troops in Saudi Arabia, US support of Israel, and sanctions against Iraq. In 1998, Bin Laden issued a Fatwa calling for American troops to leave Saudi Arabia.

In 1998, he said that for over seven years United States has been occupying the land of Islam and the holiest places of the Muslim Ummah in the Arabian peninsula, plundering its resources, dictating its rulers , humiliating its people and turning the entire peninsula into an  American military base. The post 9/11 global strategic environment has complicated the situation for the Muslim countries. On one hand, Afghanistan and Iraq became the first victim of global war against terrorism. On the other hand, the regimes in the Muslim countries are being subjected to close scrutiny and criticism. All the wind of accusations has started appearing in all directions against Islam and the Muslims. This complicated situation created disharmony and a deep mistrust between the West and the Muslim world. However, a peaceful and stable global security environment needs harmony, cooperation and a sense of mutual co-existence. The entire global campaign has been launched with the aim to discredit Islam and the Muslims. Under these circumstances, the collective will and strength of Muslim countries has become the target of hate of the west in general and of United States in particular.

To cut this long story short, the incident of 9/11 has not only affected the internal security environment of Pakistan but also deteriorated the relations with Afghanistan. Pakistan’s sovereignty has been challenged owning to US counter operation against the fleeing terrorist’s elements in tribal areas of Pakistan. Cross border terrorists attack against Pakistani forces are growing on daily basis.

American invasion on Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11 attacks on the world trade center was an event of paramount significance in the contemporary world history. The significance of the invasions lies in the fact that the challenge to American prestige and stature was accepted by the sole super-power as she embarked upon the global crusade against terrorism. USA and her Western allies jointly took on the impotent Taliban regime that generated such grievous ramifications that shook the entire region. A paradigm shift and a u-turn in the Pakistan’s policy towards Taliban that produced disastrous implications for her the after-shocks of which are discernible even after a decade. The ensuing instability and chaos enveloped Afghanistan and her neighbors especially Pakistan besides possessing the potential to threaten the global peace and security.

The turn of the 21st century was undeniably highly tumultuous. The civilized world was aspiring to attain conditions of permanent peace. But these aspirations could not be turned into reality owing to the global terrorist network, Al-Qaida’s materialization of their plan to challenge the still unchallengeable sole super-power of the unipolar world. The crashing of planes with the twin towers awoke the western world from slumber and made them act in unison in the novel episode of the crusades as some were claiming the realization of theoretical clash of civilization notion. They rode on the tides of popular demand to nip the evil in the bud and crush the undemocratic theoretic regime of the Taliban in Afghanistan after their refusal to hand over the Al-Qaida chief to the Americans. The clouds of war started hovering over the horizons creating anxiety in the corridors of power of the Afghanistan’s neighbors especially perturbing Pakistan’s military led Musharraf government.

But for Musharraf regime, it was an ambivalent situation. Some promising prospects were appearing more desirable than serious implications. Pakistan had been the greatest supporter of the Taliban regime since they occupied the helm of affairs because of their utility in preserving strategic interests, strategic depth doctrine. Moreover, the stabilizing factor of the regime cannot be ruled out also as peace had returned to most parts of the country under their control besides the fact that their prime opponent, the so-called Northern Alliance, was being diplomatically supported and materially aided by India. But all these facts were over-shadowed by the prospect of securing legitimacy and international recognition of the unconstitutional military government of Pakistan. Therefore, Americans were not allowed to bomb Pakistan to stone by becoming the biggest non-NATO ally of United States and allowing them to use air-spaces, territory and air bases to attack Afghanistan besides affording logistic support and transit facilities. This was done to secure the supreme national interests at the cost of the “national interest” as no consideration was paid to the disastrous fruits that the country could harvest in this adventure.

The mild resistance offered to the invaders soon evaporated. The invaded country fell into the invader’s lap who a puppet installed a puppet regime that adopted quite stern approach towards Pakistan. Besides, the porous Durand line was crossed by Taliban and settled in the unsettled tribal regions. They infiltrated into Pakistan along with their ideology, radicalized the masses and established their safe heavens. Moreover, the spillover effects of US invasion are manifestly obvious in the form of waning writ of state, creeping Talibanization, unbridled militancy, suicide bombing, tarnished image of the country etc.  The country has suffered enormous humanitarian, economic and social repercussion owing to the war on terror launched with US invasion on Afghanistan.

 However, some people object that nuclear power Pakistan should not have succumbed to US ultimatum in the manner she did. It is difficult to conclude that the country should have chosen for confrontation of the USA and continued with her policy towards Taliban. Nevertheless, one thing lies beyond any disputation that had there been a democratic government at the helm, the sacred national consciousness of this conscientious nation should never have been sold so cheaply. Pakistan, then, never had to listen to the refrain of ‘do more’ even after sacrificing thousands of innocent citizens and her territorial sovereignty should never have been violated at will. There is no denying the fact that Pakistan would have derived more economic, political and diplomatic benefits than she harvested and that too with grace and honor.

To recapitulate, the US invasion on Afghanistan was a serious blow to the regional peace and security. Pakistan has to bear the brunt of being allied herself to United States and has been paying the price still. The strategic depth has given way to a fear of being sandwiched between two hostile fronts. Her Indo-centric foreign policy has lost perpetuity giving way to permanent threat perception from the western border. She has turned out to be a hot bed of terrorism and a land inhabited by extremists and intolerant fundamentalists that now has become a real challenge to her foreign policy.

**Musharraf Solution to Kashmir Issue:**

Since the departure of the British from Indian Sub-continent, following the creation of the two Dominions, India and Pakistan, Jammu & Kashmir has been the bone of contention between the two countries. So far three wars have been fought on Kashmir in 1948, 1965, and 1999. Since the cease-fire went into action on January 1, 1949, One-third of Jammu & Kashmir falls under Pakistan’s occupation. While rest of Kashmir is under direct Indian control and occupation. The Kashmir dispute is an international dispute, and it is more than 62 years old. The Kashmir conflict, however, ostensibly seems to an outcome of a ‘communo-legal’ dispute, with Pakistan supporting for a communal solution to the conflict, while India sticking to legal aspect of the accession referring to the Indian Independence Act 1947. Kashmir is ‘nuclear flash point and   entire South Asian geopolitics is absorbed on the Kashmir, and the peace in the region necessarily depends on the successful resolution to the dispute. Since 1948   Pak India war   till now different solutions and mechanisms are proposed for the solution of this long lasting dispute of Kashmir. Prime Minister Feroz Khan Noon offered pure and simple partition to the United States’ Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Henry Cabot Lodge, in Karachi on 10 February 1958. Ayub Khan   suggested alternatives to plebiscite. The Z.A. Bhutto – Swaran Singh talk’s central focus was on partition.

One such attempt regarding solution of Kashmir issue was   made during Musharraf era. In 2006 General Musharraf   who believed both Pakistan and India would have to retreat from positions held since 1948 come up with four point formula. This four-point solution to Kashmir issue which includes demilitarization and “self-governance with joint supervision mechanism”. The four-point formula of Musharraf  included a) Kashmir should have the same borders but free movement   across the region be allowed for people on both side of LoC; b)There should be  self-governance or autonomy but not independence .c)Region should be demilitarized i-e  phased wised withdrawal  of troops from the region. d) And a mechanism should be devised jointly so that the road map for Kashmir is implemented smoothly. Thus Pakistan’s President, Pervez Musharraf, had diluted the Pakistani position significantly. Musharraf 4 point formula brought five major shifts in Pakistan decades long stand on Kashmir. These five major changes are  : 1) setting aside the U.N.’s resolutions on plebiscite; 2)  self-governance substation for self-determination; 3) forsaking religion as a criterion; 4) Pakistan  advise  to  Kashmiris to talk to New Delhi; and 5) accepting the Line of Control (LoC) provided it is combined with joint management, an issue pre-eminently liable to compromise. . He suggested a four-step approach for implementation of solution.

•There should be agreement that Kashmir is the central problem between two states;

• Identification of those loci and plans that   are unacceptable to the other side;

• Take up consideration of other proposals; and

• Solution acceptable to Pakistan, India and the Kashmiri people should be agreed.

There was also a appraisal clause in the Musharraf formula that after 7 or 15 or more years it would be discussed to the people and if they agree with it   the arrangement will be deemed as final settlement on the Kashmir problem. But if they say no, then another mechanism will have to be advanced to determine the desire of people in all these regions comprising Jammu and Kashmir and India and Pakistan.

The proposed formula met with different reactions both from inside Pakistan, Kashmir and India. Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif had been advising Indian leaders not to reach any deal with President Musharraf on the Kashmir issue. Sharif responded to the Musharraf 4 point formula in these words, “This gentleman Musharraf announces very important things off-the-cuff. He has the habit of taking decisions in a very casual manner. He is also erratic, a little impulsive. I don’t agree on a lot of things with Mr. Musharraf. But then one has to look into this. One will have to study this. We don’t have to go by what Mr. Musharraf says. Let us sit down and see how best we can resolve this issue”. Reacting to President Musharraf’s formulation on Kashmir, Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said, “They were half-baked things that did not have the mandate of Parliament”. Professor Abdul Gani Bhat, a former Chairman of the Hurriyat Conference in Kashmir Valley showed his response to the Musharraf solution saying “The proposal was in fact not only an acceptable solution but a very workable one too, where no party would have suffered the painful sense of defeat: neither the Indians nor the Pakistanis and not even the people of Kashmir.

There aroused certain differences to 4 point formula on part of India. India Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, however, excluded any consideration of such proposals by emphasizing that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and there would be no redrawing of the international boundaries or rearrangement of regions that would blow of communal dimensions .The Indian claim over the whole area of Jammu and Kashmir, including Pakistani administered Kashmir, was repeated  in March 2006 by the Indian government s official protest over the proposed construction of the Bhasha dam in the territory which comes under the Pakistani controlled part of Kashmir. The doctrine of open borders or soft borders was explained by Manmohan Singh as” making LoC a porous border so that there could be free flow of ideas and people between the two parts of Kashmir which will, according to him, one day make LoC irrelevant.” Demilitarization is also not agreeable for India because they consider it as their domestic security related issue. Apart from differences over demilitarization, major obstacle in making LoC beside the point is that India considers this decision should be the eventual solution of the Kashmir dispute whereas Pakistan considers this as one of the very important confidence-building measure. Accepting LoC as ultimate solution to the issue means Pakistan completely gives up its case on Kashmir.

Thus there are certain obstacles in implementing 4 point formula of Musharraf especially when Musharraf is himself not in power but the fact remains there that Musharraf 4 point formula showed the willingness of Pakistan for resolution of the Kashmir issue by withdrawing from its historical stance of seeking plebiscite for Kashmiri people according to the UN resolutions .Kashmir issue solution demands give and take policy from all the parties to issue. Musharraf 4 point formula leads to ultimate solution of prolonged Kashmir issue which is very important for the peace and prosperity of the region. Now the carrying the task will be easier when both states are being run by democratic governments.

**Enlightened Moderation:**

Enlightened moderation is a term coined by the former President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf. It refers to the approach which, in his opinion, should be adopted to while practicing the religion Islam. He believed that Islam needs to be practiced in moderation as opposed to the fundamentalist version of the religion, which is supported by most groups. This strategy was unveiled by the former President in the OIC Summit Conference in Malaysia in 2002.

To use Musharraf’s own words, he believes, “The world has become an extremely dangerous place. The devastating power of plastic explosives, combined with high-tech remote-controlled devices, as well as a proliferation of suicide bombers, has created a lethal force that is all but impossible to counter. The unfortunate reality is that both the perpetrators of these crimes and most of the people who suffer from them are Muslims. This has caused many non-Muslims to believe wrongly that Islam is a religion of intolerance, militancy and terrorism.”

Musharraf believed that the extremist version of Islam more rampant in the world had earned a bad name to the religion and its adherents. He believed that this was damaging to the reputation of this religion and its followers and the situation needs to be addressed. His solution for this was Enlightened Moderation. He wrote, “My idea for untangling this knot is Enlightened Moderation, which I think is a win for all — for both the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds. It is a two-pronged strategy. The first part is for the Muslim world to shun militancy and extremism and adopt the path of socio-economic uplift. The second is for the West, and the United States in particular, to seek to resolve all political disputes with justice and to aid in the socio-economic betterment of the deprived Muslim world.

He believed that political unrest, injustice and economic deprivation had caused Muslims all over the world to revert to the more fundamentalist and militant aspects. He urged the Muslim body to remember the glorious, and more moderate, past of the religion Islam and invited them to participate in the Islamic renaissance, the time for which has approached. He said the tolerance, acceptance and generosity are the very virtues of the Prophet of Islam (SAW) unfortunately the Muslims today are far removed from them.

It is ironic that as Musharraf declared Enlightened Moderation to be the future of the Muslim world at large, Pakistan continued to suffer in the hands of jihadist elements, a constant battlefield between fundamentalist Islamic groups trying to control the land. The Musharraf administration tried to take steps along the lines of ‘enlightened moderation’ in Pakistan and faltered. Banning militant groups only led to them springing up under different names and although the process of registrations to madrassahs came to a halt, the deficiencies in the public sector education curriculum remained unaddressed. Moreover the army failed to sever ties with the Taliban’s or other militant groups operative within Afghanistan and Kashmir ‘in the interest of retaining strategic proxies.’ In the analysis of one author, “In sum, Musharraf failed to successfully anchor enlightened moderation in Pakistan, largely due to policies that empowered the Islamic parties and tolerated militant groups…fiery clerics and vigilante youth squads who tasked themselves with enforcing Islamic morality proliferated in parts of the country, culminating in taking over of the Red Mosque in Islamabad in 2007 and its storming by the Army. As enlightened moderation dimmed, it gave way to a darker phenomenon: Talibanization”.

**Referendum and General Elections of 2002:**

General Pervaiz Musharraf followed the trend of his military predecessors in ruler ship. Like Ayub Khan and Zia Ul Haq, he endeavored to legitimize the martial law rule by constitutional means, and he remained successful to legalize his military rule. No doubt, the military coup of Musharraf gave setback to the democratic political culture of Pakistan.

He launched military coup on 12 October 1999, overthrew the elected regime of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and come to power as a result. He justified martial law by proclaiming that military regime would prevent the country from political destabilization and economic repression. He criticized the popular elected bodies on the ground that they had failed to bring economic development and social stability in the country.

After coming into power he promulgated Constitutional Provincial Order. Now through PCO he shielded the military regime. The military junta thought that the judiciary might cause obstacles in the way of martial rule. The Supreme Court could have invalidated the military takeover as ultra-unconstitutional act. But judiciary yielded to the pressure of military. When General Musharraf won over the support of Supreme Court, he found his power on solid ground.

In order to stay in power, General Musharraf announced the plan of referendum on 8 April 2002. Through referendum he wanted to elect himself as President. But according to 1973 constitution the President could not be elected through referendum. He must be elected by the Parliament and the Provincial National Assemblies. The Supreme Court did not challenge the referendum process. Military regime brought Election Commission to its command and conferred on it the responsibility to conduct and supervise the referendum. The Election Commission was no longer an independent body.  The outcomes of the referendum were surprising for Musharraf. He secured 97% of votes to his favour. It is believed the ISI had rigged the polls on a massive scale. I A Rehman aptly said, “Referendum is unconstitutional and an old lever of the military to rule”.

After referendum, Musharraf promulgate Legal Framework Order (LFO) on 21 August 2002. Through LFO he done certain constitutional amendments. LFO strengthened the power of President. Article 58 (2) (b) was revived. Now President have a discretionary power to dissolve the Assembly.  Article 112 (2) (b) was revived. Now the Governor have a power to dissolve the Provincial Assembly only with the consent of President.  It allowed Musharraf to rule in uniform. In a nutshell LFO strengthened the power of Musharraf and helped him rule on a more secure manner.

Musharraf announced the General Elections for the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies. To secure his position as President, Musharraf needed political support in the National Assembly. The military junta formed political party named PML (Q). It was mainly consisted of dissenters from the PML (N) and the PPP-P. Those who felt threat from NAB started joining the King’s party. NAB crackdown on those politicians who declined to join King Party. Musharraf and military elite supported the PML (Q).  The net result was that PML (Q) secured 78 seats in the National Assembly out of 268.  It bagged 128 seats in the Punjab. As a result its position in the Punjab Assembly strengthened.

Another significant development that happened during that election was the coalition of six religious parties.  They were calling itself as Mutahida Majlis e Amal (MMA). MMA emerged as great electoral alliance.  MMA gained wild popularity in the NWFP. They played the card of religion and swept the ground in that province by securing 47 seats.  MMA secured 45 seats in the National Assembly. The major parties like PPP-P and PML (N) could not gain expected results. PPP-P gained 62 seats in the National Assembly while PML (N) secured 14 seats. Both parties were too incapable to make government in the center.  PML (Q) got advantage from that political scenario. It made coalition with National Alliance (NA) which secured 12 seats in the NA. Through horse trading and other political maneuvering PML (Q) remained successful in swelling its ranks. Mir Zafarullah Jamali from Baluchistan was elected as Prime Minister with 172 votes in the House of 342.

Musharraf’s long standing rule strengthened the influence of military in politics. The military won over politician to its area of influence. PML (Q) was formed in order to secure the vital interests of military. The backdoor policies of military impinges on the democratic culture of our country.

# The Rise and fall of Pervez Musharraf:

**October 1998:** Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appoints Gen. Pervez Musharraf as army chief.

**Oct. 13, 1999:** Gen. Musharraf seizes power in a bloodless coup after Mr. Sharif dismisses him as army chief.

**June 20, 2001:** Gen. Musharraf appoints himself as president of Pakistan. He promises to hold restore civilian rule through democratic elections the following year.

**September 2001:** Gen. Musharraf says Pakistan is backing the U.S. against al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

**April 2002:** After a controversial referendum, Gen. Musharraf’s military rule is extended for five years.

**August 2002:** Gen. Musharraf introduces constitutional changes that grant the president new powers, including the right to dismiss Parliament.

**September 2006:** Gen. Musharraf releases his memoir, "In the Line of Fire."

**March 9, 2007:** Gen. Musharraf suspends Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, the head of Pakistan's Supreme Court, for abuse of office. Lawyers and judges began protests against perceived interference in the judiciary, and the movement quickly snowballs into an major anti-Musharraf campaign.

**July 10, 2007:** Hundreds of soldiers storm Islamabad's Red Mosque to evict Islamist militants occupying the building. By evening, about 50 militants and 12 soldiers had died in the worst fighting ever in the heart of Pakistan's capital.

**July 20, 2007:** The Supreme Court of Pakistan reinstates Chief Justice Chaudhry, whom the government had suspended in March for alleged misconduct, dealing a blow to Gen. Musharraf.

**Oct. 6, 2007:** Gen. Musharraf wins reelection in a contested presidential vote boycotted by nearly the entire opposition.

**Nov. 3, 2007:** He declares a state of emergency and fires several prominent judges to consolidate his grip on the courts. He also clamps down on the media and on political opposition.

**Nov. 28, 2007:** Gen. Musharraf resigns as army chief and is sworn in for a new five-year term as president, this time as a civilian.

**Dec. 15, 2007:** Mr. Musharraf lifts the state of emergency.

**Dec. 27, 2007:** Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is killed in a suicide bombing, throwing Pakistan's political system into a new round of turmoil.

**February 2008:** Mr. Musharraf is defeated in parliamentary elections. A new government, led by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani of the Pakistan’s People Party, is set up.

**August 2008:** Mr. Musharraf resigns as president after political rivals launch impeachment proceedings against him. A month later, Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of Ms. Bhutto,[is appointed president](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121904419698449175.html).

**March 2009:** The government reinstates judges who Mr. Musharraf had dismissed.

**March 24, 2013:** After four years of self-imposed exile in London and Dubai, Mr. Musharraf [returns to Pakistan](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324789504578379953929836558.html) with the aim of running in parliamentary elections slated for May.

**April 16, 2013:** Mr. Musharraf [is barred from standing in May’s parliamentary elections](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324030704578426322878696406.html) because of pending court cases.

**April 18, 2013:** A court orders the arrest of Ms. Musharraf pending trial on charges related to his moves against the judiciary in 2007. At the time of the order, Mr. Musharraf flees the court’s premises with the help of his security guards.

**April 19, 2013:** [Mr. Musharraf is arrested](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324493704578431750651200458.html) and presented to court, which puts him under house arrest.