

Salient Features of the Constitutions of Pakistan

1956, 1962, and 1973

1956 Constitution

- • First constitution of Pakistan
- • Parliamentary system of government
- • Prime Minister as chief executive, President ceremonial
- • Unicameral legislature (National Assembly)
- • Declared Pakistan an Islamic Republic
- • Fundamental Rights included
- • Islamic provisions: Objectives Resolution as preamble, no law against Quran and Sunnah
- • Abolished parity between East and West Pakistan

1962 Constitution

- • Introduced by Ayub Khan
- • Presidential form of government
- • President both head of state and government
- • Unicameral legislature (National Assembly)
- • Basic Democracies system for indirect elections
- • Fundamental Rights restored later through amendments
- • Reduced role of religion initially (Islamic provisions restored in 1963)
- • Strong central government, limited provincial autonomy

1973 Constitution

- • Consensus-based, still in force (with amendments)
- • Federal parliamentary system
- • Prime Minister as chief executive, President ceremonial
- • Bicameral legislature (National Assembly & Senate)
- • Wide range of Fundamental Rights guaranteed
- • Strong Islamic provisions: State religion Islam, no law against Quran & Sunnah
- • Provincial autonomy enhanced
- • Objectives Resolution made substantive part of Constitution (1985)

Comparative Overview

- 1956: Parliamentary, Islamic Republic, Unicameral legislature
- 1962: Presidential, Basic Democracies, Strong Center, Unicameral legislature
- 1973: Federal Parliamentary, Bicameral legislature, Consensus-based, Islamic provisions strengthened