

## General Election

Q) The seed of liberation war was sown with the historic general election of 1970. Do you agree? Or, Discuss the impact of the general election of 1970.

⇒ The 1970 General Election was a significant milestone in Pakistan's history as it was the first nationwide democratic vote after the long period of military rule. The outcome of the election played a crucial role in shaping the course of upcoming events that led to the independence of BD.

When Yahya Khan came in power, he in a radio-address promised to hand over power through the next election to

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the elected candidates. As a preparation, political activities were permitted and polling for election <sup>date of</sup> the national assembly and provincial assemblies were declared to be ~~summer~~ started on 5 October and 22 October. But the election was rather delayed for the devastating cyclone in East Pakistan. The elections were finally held on 7 and 17 December.

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and leaving a muslim only Head of state.

2. Holding regular and open elections, both for provinces and the entire country based on population and everyone's right ~~to~~ to vote.
3. Making sure that courts are fair and people's basic rights are protected.
4. Giving good ~~an~~ amount of power to each province will still keeping the country strong and able to operate inside and outside its borders.
5. Making sure no matter where they are from, gets to be a part of the nation, and removing any differences between the regions.



①

In east Pakistan Awami League was the most popular party standing for election. The main issue in their election campaign was provincial autonomy, and political scene from the

In west Pakistan, Bhutto's "Pakistan People's Party" was the most popular one. During the election campaign, their principal because of their principles and for Bhutto's socialistic ideas, PPP became popular.

The elections of 1970 resulted in an overwhelming victory for Sheikh Mujib's Awami League.

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It won an absolute majority in the National Assembly by securing 160 out of 300 seats. It also secured all the reserved seat for women.

Awami League won 288 out of the 300 seats in provincial assembly as well.

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Region	National Assembly			Provincial Assembly		
	Elected (300)	Reserved (13)	Total (313)	elected ( <del>200</del> )	Reserved	Total
East Pakistan (Awami League)	160	7	167	288	10	298

In that election, East Pakistan won the provincial as well as the national assembly

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This election of 1970 had enormous significance for the emergence of independent and sovereign BD and Bengali nationalism.

This was the most free and fair election after the election of 1954. It marked the victory of the uniqueness of Bengali as a nation that had been and the autonomy that had been claimed by people in the east province got validated. However, Yahiya Khan refused to transfer power when the time was due and that he directed military attack on innocent Bengali. This was the beginning



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of the armed struggle for the liberation of the people of Bengal which resulted in the emergence of BD in 1971.

Thus the seed of liberation war was sown in the general election of 1970.