

1960 - 1966
RISE OF
NATIONALISM &
MOVEMENTS
FOR AUTONOMY

- **❖** Six-point movement
- Two Economy Theory
- Student Movement/Education Movement

STUDENTS' MOVEMENT AGAINST SHARIF EDUCATION POLICY

In 1959, then president of Pakistan, military dictator Ayub Khan formed a commission headed by education secretary SM Sharif to draft a national education policy that deprioritised education for all.

The report, popularly known as the Sharif Education Policy, was published in 1962, its recommendations were so blatantly exclusionary that it sparked a student movement in the former East Pakistan, also known as the education movement.

- The Sharif Commission report recommended that,
- 1) Urdu should be made the language of the people of Pakistan;
- 2) English should be made as **compulsory** from fourth grade;
- 3) To introduce a lingua franca for Pakistan, Roman script should be introduced, and for that Arabic should be given priority,
- 4) Education should not be offered at a cheaper rate;
- 5) There are reasons to view investments in industry and education sector at par.

- So, the Commission proposed that while the government and the community should equally share the cost of primary education, three-fifths of the cost of secondary education should come from fees. In higher education, the community should bear a larger portion of the cost than before.
- Students reacted sharply to the above stated features. They
 pointed out that the door of education had been closed to the poor
 and low-income people.
- Inevitably, students from the then East Pakistan vehemently opposed the policy and demanded that it be repealed.
 Committees to protest and organise public meetings against the policy was formed in colleges and universities.

- Then came the morning of September 17, 1962.
- Thousands of students took to the streets protesting at the discriminatory education policy of Ayub Khan's military regime.
- In demand of equal access to education, students took bullets.
- At least three people including a student were killed.
- Since then, September 17 is observed as the Education Day by progressive student organisations.

MAGNA CARTA

The Six-Point Demand is regarded as Magna carta or 'Charter of Liberation' for the Bengali nation.

MAGNA CARTA

- Magna Carta was issued in June 1215 and was the first document to put into writing the principle that the king and his government was not above the law.
- It sought to prevent the king from exploiting his power and placed limits of royal authority by establishing law as a power in itself.

MAGNA CARTA

- □The right of the church to be free from governmental interference.
- □The rights of all free citizens to own and inherit property and to be protected from excessive taxes.
- □It established the right of widows who owned property to choose not to remarry.
- □Established principles of due process and equality before the law.

BACKGROUND

Despite the many development efforts during the Ayub regime, the essential disparity between the two wings of Pakistan were not properly addressed.

As a result, the feeling of discrimination continued to grow among the people of East Pakistan.

The Six Points Movement, an anti-Ayub political movement gathered momentum and was a popular reflection of this discontent.

TWO ECONOMY THEORY

- The Two Economies thesis marked the beginning of the thinking of the economics professionals of East Pakistan for securing its economic rights and for reversing its slow economic progress that widened the disparity between East and West Pakistan.
- This was put forward as the most appropriate and essential analytic and conceptual framework for designing Pakistan's economic strategy.
- · After all, success has many fathers, and failure has none and is an orphan.

PROPOSED BY SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN

- After the death of H. S. Suhrawardy in 1963, the leadership of the Awami League was taken over by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Under his leadership, the Awami League soon became one of the most popular and strongest political parties in East Pakistan and later he proposed Six point.



TIME AND PLACE

On 5 February 1966, at the Lahore Conference, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announced his Six-Point Political and Economic Programme for East Pakistan's provincial autonomy.

- 1. A truer federal type of Pakistan should be framed on the basis of the Lahore resolution.
- ➤ The constitution will be parliamentary, with elections held on the basis of universal adult franchise.
- Adult Franchise means all adult citizens of the country should have the right to vote without any discrimination of class, caste, religion, or gender.





2. Central Government shall only deal with Defence and Foreign Affairs; all other power will rest with the provinces.

3. There will be two separate freely convertible currencies in the two regions of the country: or one single currency for the whole country with the provision of two reserve banks in two provinces under a Federal Reserve banks.

[but effective constitutional provisions should be introduced to stop the flight of capital from East to West Pakistan.]



- 4. The power of taxation and revenue collection shall be vested in the federating units and the federal centre will have no such power on the issue.
- The Federal Government would receive a share from the collection of the collection of the federal units to meet financial obligations.

- 5. There should be separate accounts for the foreign exchange of the two regions.
- ➤The foreign exchange requirements of the federal government should be met by the two wings equally or in a ratio to be fixed;
- Indigenous products should move free of duty between the two wings, and the Constitution should empower the units to establish trade links with foreign countries.

6. East Pakistan should have a separate militia or paramilitary force to protect the territories.



IT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE BECAUSE

□It challenged the political and economic monopoly of West Pakistan.

□ East Pakistan's export earnings would no longer be manipulated for industrialisation of West.

IT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE BECAUSE

Proceign assistance would no longer be monopolised for West Pakistan only.

□ East Pakistan would no longer remain a captive market for West Pakistani products.

IT WAS SUPPORTED BY PEOPLE BECAUSE

- □ East Pakistan would no longer be exploited for maintaining the vast war machine of West Pakistan.
- □ Economic priorities would no longer be determined for the advantage of West Pakistan.
- □It would end the dominance of West Pakistani bureaucrats.

SIGNIFICANCE

"Six-Points movement was the Charter of Liberation of Bengali nation"

SIGNIFICANCE

The Six-point movement was the precursor of some momentous events which were the triggering factors of the emergence of Bangladesh.

DEMAND FOR AUTONOMY

Six-point demand first identified East Bengal as a separate region and demanded greater autonomy.

BENGALI NATIONALISM

- The Six-Points were a symbol of hope and aspiration of Bengalis.
- This was the key to the characterisation and selfreliance of the Bengali nation consisting of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Buddhists in East Pakistan.
- As a result, the Six-Point movement was severely suppressed while the consciousness of the Bengali nation kept it going.

POPULARITY OF AWAMI LEAGUE AND SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman presented the Six-Point demand on behalf of the Awami League in 1966.
- According to Raunaq Jahan,

"Six-point movement whose main thrust was demand of greater autonomy for East Pakistan is regarded as the turning point in Mujib's rise to charismatic leadership."

SHEIKH MUJIB'S POPULARITY

- Dr. Anisuzzaman, a distinguished literary figure of Bangladesh, has summarised the nature of the repressive measures which Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had to confront and endure for starting and sustaining the historic six-point movement at a critical juncture of our history:
- "During that period (from the middle of February through May 9, 1966), there was hardly any place where Sheikh Mujib was not arrested (on false charges) for addressing public meetings to enlist mass support in favour of the six-point program. Today in Jessore, tomorrow in Khulna, day after tomorrow in Rajshahi, and on the following days in Sylhet, Mymensingh, and Chittagong. Once he was released on bail in one place, he rushed to another place. He had no time to waste. The only time wasted was in the process of posting bail for his release. Arrested again, and being released on bail once again, and then immediately move to another place to address the public meetings (Anisuzzaman, Bangabandhu in the Context of History, in Mreetoonjoyee Mujib--Immortal Mujib, Dhaka; Bangabandhu Parishad, 1995, pp.11-12)."

VOICE AGAINST EXPLOITATION

- The Six-point demand was the first strong protest against the long-running exploitation of East Pakistan by the Pakistani government.
- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman referred to the Six points as "the Charter of Liberation of Bengal's peasants, workers, laborers, middle class and the common people to step towards the establishment of Bengal's rights."

VOICE AGAINST EXPLOITATION

- **□Six points strengthened democratic values.**
- □Six point played an important role in the Agartala Conspiracy Case in 1968.
- ☐ The removal of Ayub Khan's dictatorship.
- ☐ Six point played an important role in the mass uprising of 1969.

ELECTION OF 1970

- □The key factor in Awami League's election manifesto in 1970 was this Six points program.
- □ The Awami League sought public mandate in favor of the Six points program in the general elections of 1970.
- □A landslide victory was gained with the absolute mandate from the people of East Pakistan in favor of Six-point program.

SEEDS OF FREEDOM

- □The seeds of Bangladesh's independence were sown in the Six points.
- □Because the first demand for autonomy was in the Six-Points which helped the mass uprising in 1969 and the victory of Awami League in the election of 1970 which played an important role in the rise of independent Bangladesh.

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