

## **General Zia-ul-Haq Era**

Zia ul Haq was a Pakistani military officer and politician who served as the sixth President of Pakistan from 1978 until his death in 1988. He was born on August 12, 1924, in Jalandhar, British India (now in Punjab, India).

Zia ul Haq joined the British Indian Army in 1943 and later served in the Pakistan Army after the partition of India in 1947. He was a highly decorated officer and served in various important positions during his military career.

In July 1977, Zia ul Haq led a military coup against the government of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was subsequently arrested and later executed in 1979. Zia ul Haq then declared martial law and assumed the role of the Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA). He appointed himself as the President of Pakistan in September 1978.

During his presidency, Zia ul Haq implemented a series of Islamic reforms in the country, including the introduction of Sharia law, the establishment of Islamic courts, and the imposition of restrictions on the sale and consumption of alcohol. He also strengthened Pakistan's ties with the United States, especially during the Soviet-Afghan War.

Zia ul Haq's regime was criticized for its human rights violations, including the suppression of political opposition, the censorship of the media, and the persecution of religious minorities. His government also faced allegations of corruption and mismanagement.

On August 17, 1988, Zia ul Haq was killed in a plane crash along with several other high-ranking officials. The cause of the crash remains unknown, and there are conspiracy theories that suggest foul play was involved. His death marked the end of his 11-year rule in Pakistan.

## **Development in the General Zia-ul-Haq Era**

During the General Zia ul Haq era in Pakistan, there were several significant developments in various areas. Here are some of the notable ones:

1. **Islamization:** Zia ul Haq implemented a series of Islamic reforms in the country, which included the introduction of Sharia law, the establishment of Islamic courts, and the imposition of restrictions on the sale and

consumption of alcohol. He also made Islamic studies a compulsory subject in schools and universities.

2. **Economic policies:** The Zia ul Haq government introduced various economic policies, including liberalization of the economy, reduction of import duties, and an emphasis on private sector development. However, there was also a significant increase in foreign debt during his regime.
3. **Education:** The government established new universities and colleges, and made efforts to promote education, especially for women.
4. **Foreign policy:** Zia ul Haq strengthened Pakistan's ties with the United States, especially during the Soviet-Afghan War. He also improved relations with China and other Muslim countries.
5. **Human rights:** Zia ul Haq's regime was criticized for its human rights violations, including the suppression of political opposition, censorship of the media, and persecution of religious minorities.
6. **Nuclear program:** Under Zia ul Haq, Pakistan's nuclear program was significantly expanded, and the country is believed to have conducted its first nuclear test in 1983.
7. **Afghan war:** Pakistan played a significant role in the Afghan war during Zia ul Haq's era. The country provided military and logistical support to Afghan resistance groups fighting against the Soviet Union.

Overall, the General Zia ul Haq era in Pakistan was marked by significant developments in various areas, but also characterized by authoritarianism and human rights violations.

### **Weaknesses in the Era of General Zia-ul-Haq**

Despite some of the developments achieved during the Zia-ul-Haq era in Pakistan, there were several weaknesses and challenges faced by the government during his regime. Here are some of the notable ones:

1. **Authoritarianism:** Zia-ul-Haq's regime was marked by authoritarianism, with restrictions on political opposition and media censorship. The

government suppressed political dissent and was accused of human rights violations, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and disappearances.

2. **Islamization policies:** While the Islamization policies implemented by the government were popular among some segments of society, they were also criticized for being discriminatory towards religious minorities and for limiting personal freedoms.
3. **Economic challenges:** Despite some economic liberalization policies, the country's economy faced several challenges during Zia-ul-Haq's regime, including high inflation, foreign debt, and a widening wealth gap.
4. **Corruption:** The government was also criticized for its corrupt practices, with accusations of embezzlement and misuse of public funds.
5. **Afghan war fallout:** Pakistan's involvement in the Afghan war during Zia-ul-Haq's regime had several negative consequences for the country, including the rise of militant groups and drug trafficking, which continue to affect Pakistan to this day.
6. **Political instability:** The military coup that brought Zia-ul-Haq to power in 1977 and the subsequent imposition of martial law contributed to political instability in the country, which continued even after his death in 1988.

Overall, the weaknesses of the Zia-ul-Haq era were significant, and many of the challenges faced by the government during his regime continue to impact Pakistan today.

### **Comparison between Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and General Zia-ul-Haq Era**

The Zulfikar Bhutto era and the General Zia-ul-Haq era were two distinct periods in Pakistan's history, marked by different political, economic, and social developments. Here is a comparison between the two eras:

1. **Political changes:** The Zulfikar Bhutto era was marked by the adoption of a new constitution in 1973, which introduced a parliamentary system and strengthened the federal structure of the country. On the other hand, the

General Zia-ul-Haq era saw the imposition of martial law, suspension of the constitution, and a move towards authoritarianism.

2. **Economic policies:** The Bhutto era saw the nationalization of several industries, including banking, and an emphasis on socialist policies. The Zia-ul-Haq era, on the other hand, was marked by economic liberalization, including a reduction of import duties, deregulation of industries, and an emphasis on private sector development.
3. **Islamization policies:** While Bhutto's government did not implement any major Islamization policies, Zia-ul-Haq's regime introduced several, including the introduction of Sharia law, establishment of Islamic courts, and making Islamic studies a compulsory subject in schools and universities.
4. **Foreign policy:** Bhutto's government pursued a policy of non-alignment in foreign affairs and established closer ties with the Soviet Union and China. Zia-ul-Haq's regime, on the other hand, strengthened Pakistan's ties with the United States, especially during the Soviet-Afghan War.
5. **Human rights:** Bhutto's government was criticized for its human rights violations, including the suppression of political opposition, but the Zia-ul-Haq era was marked by even more severe human rights abuses, including the censorship of the media and the persecution of religious minorities.

Overall, while both eras were marked by significant developments, the Zulfikar Bhutto era was characterized by a move towards socialism and a focus on strengthening democratic institutions, while the General Zia-ul-Haq era was marked by authoritarianism, Islamization policies, and human rights abuses.