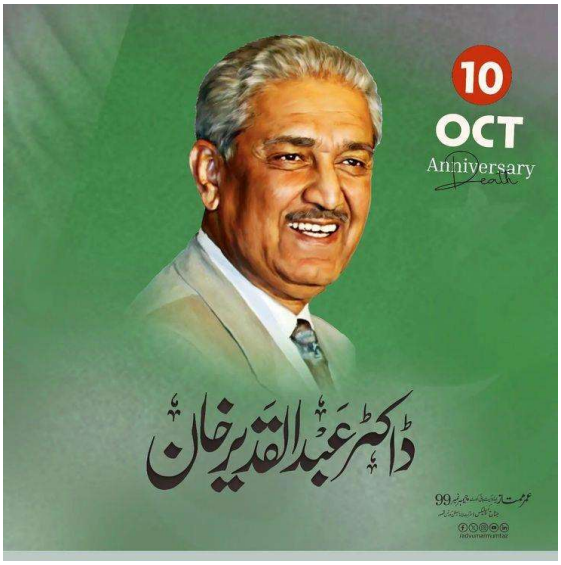
Dr.Abdul Qadeer Khan



Born:1 April 1936 Bhopal,British India
Died:10 October 2021 (aged 85) Islamabad, Pakistan
Known for:"Father of Pakistan's atomic weapons program"
Award: Nishan-i-Imtiaz (1996; 1999)
Position: a nuclear physicist and metallurgical engineer

Dr.Abdul Qadeer Khan's title can be described as the "Father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program". He is also recognized for his contributions to nuclear technology and is considered a national hero in Pakistan. He was awarded the Nishan-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian honor, twice.

Early Life

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan was born on April 1, 1936, in Bhopal, India. He was a Muhajir of Pashtun origin. His family later moved to Pakistan in 1952. Khan's early education included studies in Europe, where he earned a Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering from the Catholic University of Leuven. He also received a master's degree from Delft University of Technology. His career led him to work in the Netherlands, where he later became involved in Pakistan's nuclear program.

Political Career

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan briefly entered the political arena by founding the Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Pakistan (Movement for the Protection of Pakistan) in 2012. The party was dissolved a year later after failing to win any seats in the 2013 general election. He was known for his scientific

achievements and advocacy for nuclear technology sharing, which led to a controversial political career. Elaboration: Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Pakistan.

Elaboration:

Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Pakistan In 2012, Dr. Khan established the Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Pakistan (TTP) with the hope of using his popularity to gain political traction. The party's aim was to protect Pakistan, but it was dissolved in 2013 after failing to secure any parliamentary seats.
Political Advocacy Dr. Khan was known for his strong views on nuclear technology sharing and his advocacy for a scientific education.
Controversy and Support He became a controversial figure due to his alleged involvement in the proliferation of nuclear technology, but he maintained considerable support within Pakistan, with many institutions and schools named in his honor.
Advisory Role Following his departure from the Khan Research Laboratories, Dr. Khan briefly served as a policy advisor on science and technology to the Musharraf administration.

Dr.Abdul Qadeer Khan Research Laboratories and atomic bomb program

In April 1976, Khan joined the atomic bomb program and became part of the enrichment division, initially collaborating with Khalil Qureshi.Calculations performed by him were valuable contributions to centrifuges and a vital link to nuclear weapon research, but continue to push for his ideas for feasibility of weapon-grade uranium even though it had a low priority, with most efforts still aimed to produce military-grade plutonium.Because of his interest in uranium metallurgy and his frustration at having been passed over for director of the uranium division (the job was instead given to Bashiruddin Mahmood), Khan refused to engage in further calculations and caused tensions with other researchers.Khan became highly unsatisfied and bored with the research led by Mahmood. finally, he submitted a critical report to Bhutto, in which he explained that the "enrichment program" was nowhere near success. Khan initially worked with the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), but differences arose with its head, Munir Ahmad Khan. In mid-1976, at Bhutto's direction, Khan founded the Engineering Research Laboratory, or ERL, for the purpose of developing a uranium-enrichment capability. (In May 1981 the laboratory was renamed the Khan Research Laboratory, or KRL.) Khan's base of operations was in Kahuta, 50 km (30 miles) southeast of Islamabad; there Khan developed prototype centrifuges based on German designs and used his suppliers list to import essential components from Swiss, Dutch, British, and German companies, among others.
In the early 1980s Pakistan acquired from China the blueprints of a nuclear weapon that used a uranium implosion design that the Chinese had successfully tested in 1966. It is generally believed that the Chinese tested a derivative design for the Pakistanis on May 26, 1990. Khan, having satisfied Pakistan's needs for its own uranium weapon, began in the mid-1980s to create front companies in Dubayy, Malaysia, and elsewhere, and through these entities he covertly sold or traded centrifuges, components, designs, and expertise in an extensive black-market network. The customers included Iran, which went on to build a uranium-enrichment complex based on the Pakistani model. Khan visited North Korea at least 13 times and is suspected of having transferred enrichment technology to that country. (His laboratory also developed Pakistan's Ghauri ballistic missile with help from the North Koreans.) Libya, supplied by Khan, embarked upon a nuclear weapons program until it was interrupted by the United States in 2003

On January 31, 2004, Khan was arrested for transferring nuclear technology to other countries. On February 4 he read a statement on Pakistani television taking full responsibility for his operations and absolving the military and government of any involvement—a claim that many nuclear experts found difficult to believe. The next day he was pardoned by Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, but he was held under house arrest until 2009. Khan's critics, particularly in the West, expressed dismay at such lenient treatment of a man whom one observer called "the greatest nuclear proliferator of all time." For many Pakistanis, however, Khan remains a symbol of pride, a hero whose contribution strengthened Pakistan's national security against India.

Youm-e-Takbir

Youm-e-Takbir(The day of greatness) is celebrated as a national day in Pakistan on 28 May in commemoration of Chagai-I and Chagai-II series of nuclear tests. The nuclear tests made Pakistan the seventh nation to possess nuclear weapons and the first in the Muslim world.The Prime Minister of Pakistan at the time, Mian Nawaz Sharif and by the joint efforts of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan ordered the launching of the nuclear bomb test in response to Indian threats and nuclear tests.Youm-e-Takbeer (Day of Greatness) is celebrated in Pakistan on May 28th to commemorate the nuclear tests conducted on that day in 1998, making Pakistan the seventh nuclear power in the world and the first Muslim nation with a nuclear arsenal. It's a day to recognize Pakistan's defense capabilities and the collective effort that contributed to this achievement. Thousands of names were propose by millions of Pakistanis. This name was suggested by more than one person. All the people who suggested this name were given the Prime Minister Award. Youm-e-Takbir here can be translated to "The day of greatness" or "The day of God's greatness".

Dr.Abdul Qadeer Khan Last Days

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, known as the "father of Pakistan's nuclear program," passed away on October 10, 2021, in Islamabad at the age of 85. He was given a state funeral and buried in the H-8 graveyard. He reportedly passed away after being hospitalized with lung problems. Dawn.com reports that he was admitted to a hospital where his health deteriorated early morning and he died after being transferred. Radio Pakistan reports that he was admitted to a local hospital with lung problem He was given a state funeral at the Faisal Mosque before being buried at the H-8 graveyard in Islamabad.

Legacy

Dr. Abdul Qadeer khan's legacy is complex and highly debated. While he's often considered the "father of Pakistan's nuclear program," he's also a controversial figure due to his involvement in nuclear proliferation, according to The Guardian. He played a key role in establishing Pakistan's nuclear program by obtaining blueprints for uranium centrifuges. However, his work also led to the development and proliferation of nuclear technology to other countries, according to the Royal United Services Institute. **Controversial Figure** **Nuclear Proliferation** Khan is known for his role in exporting nuclear technology, particularly centrifuges, to countries like North Korea, Iran, and Libya. This led to concerns about the proliferation of nuclear weapons. **Opportunist** Some view Khan as a self-serving individual who exploited his position to gain wealth and power.

Positive Contributions

Pakistan's Nuclear Program Khan's work was crucial in establishing Pakistan's nuclear program and developing its nuclear capabilities.

Uranium Enrichment He was instrumental in developing Pakistan's uranium enrichment technology, allowing the country to produce weapons-grade fuel.

Deterrent Khan argued that nuclear weapons were essential for Pakistan's security and deterrence.

Negative Aspects

Proliferation His actions contributed to the spread of nuclear technology, raising concerns about nuclear proliferation.

International Sanctions His involvement in nuclear proliferation led to international sanctions against Pakistan.

Unethical Practices Some accuse him of using his position for personal gain and violating ethical standards.

In Summary Dr. A.Q. Khan's legacy is a complex mix of positive and negative aspects. While he played a pivotal role in Pakistan's nuclear program, his involvement in nuclear proliferation and controversial practices have left a lasting and contentious mark on his reputation

Famous Quotes

"I saved the country" and "If we had had nuclear capability before 1971, we would not have lost half of our country—present-day Bangladesh—after disgraceful defeat"