

# Introduction to the Constitution of Pakistan

## 1. Definition and Importance of a Constitution

### Definition of a Constitution:

- A **constitution** is a set of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state is governed.
- It defines the **structure of the government, rights of citizens, and distribution of power** among different state institutions.
- It acts as the **supreme law of the country**, ensuring order, justice, and governance.

### Importance of a Constitution:

1. **Provides a Legal Framework:** It establishes the **legal and political system** of a country.
  2. **Defines Fundamental Rights:** Protects the **rights and freedoms** of citizens.
  3. **Ensures Rule of Law:** Prevents arbitrary rule and promotes justice.
  4. **Establishes Government Institutions:** Defines the **roles and responsibilities** of the executive, legislature, and judiciary.
  5. **Represents National Ideology:** Reflects the **religious, cultural, and social values** of the nation.
  6. **Maintains Stability:** Ensures smooth governance and prevents chaos.
  7. **Guides Policymaking:** Helps in the formation of laws and policies.
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## 2. Ideological Factors that Shaped the Constitution(s) of Pakistan

The Constitution of Pakistan was shaped by several **ideological, religious, and historical factors**. The most significant among them was the **Objectives Resolution of 1949**, which laid the foundation for the **Islamic character** of Pakistan's constitutional framework.

### a) The Objectives Resolution (12th March 1949)

- Passed by the **first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan** under the leadership of **Liaquat Ali Khan**.
  - It laid the foundation for the future **constitutions of Pakistan** (1956, 1962, and 1973).
  - The Objectives Resolution became **a preamble to the Constitution of Pakistan** and was later made a **substantive part** of the 1973 Constitution (Article 2-A).
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## b) Key Ideological Features of the Objectives Resolution

1. **Sovereignty Belongs to Allah:**
    - It declared that **Allah Almighty is the supreme authority** and that the government of Pakistan would exercise power **as a sacred trust**.
    - This ensured that **all laws would be based on Islamic teachings**.
  2. **Islam as the State Religion:**
    - The resolution emphasized that **Pakistan would be an Islamic state**, ensuring that all laws conform to the **Qur'an and Sunnah**.
  3. **Democracy Based on Islamic Principles:**
    - The political system of Pakistan would be **democratic**, but it would function **according to Islamic values** such as **justice (Adl), equality, and consultation (Shura)**.
  4. **Protection of Minorities:**
    - The resolution guaranteed **religious freedom** for non-Muslims.
    - **Minorities** were given the right to **freely practice their religions and cultural traditions**.
  5. **Fundamental Rights for Citizens:**
    - Ensured the **protection of life, property, and religious beliefs** of all citizens.
    - Guaranteed **freedom of speech, equality, and social justice**.
  6. **Islamic Education and Way of Life:**
    - The state was responsible for **promoting Islamic teachings and moral values** in education, law, and governance.
  7. **Independence of Judiciary:**
    - Stressed that the judiciary should work **independently to uphold justice**.
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## 3. Impact of the Objectives Resolution on the Constitution(s) of Pakistan

The Objectives Resolution became **the ideological foundation** of all Pakistani constitutions:

### a) Constitution of 1956:

- Declared Pakistan as an **Islamic Republic**.
- Made **Islam the official religion** of the country.
- Ensured that **no law would be passed against Islamic principles**.

### b) Constitution of 1962:

- Continued the **Islamic provisions** but gave more power to the **President**.
- Recognized Islam as a **guiding principle** of governance.

### c) Constitution of 1973 (Current Constitution):

- Declared **Islam as the state religion** (Article 2).
  - The Objectives Resolution was added as **Article 2-A**, making it **an enforceable part of the Constitution**.
  - Established the **Council of Islamic Ideology (CII)** to ensure all laws conform to Islam.
  - Declared that the **President and Prime Minister must be Muslims**.
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## 4. Conclusion

- The **Objectives Resolution of 1949** played a **key role** in shaping Pakistan’s constitutional development.
  - It provided **an ideological roadmap**, ensuring that Pakistan remains a **democratic and Islamic state**.
  - The **constitution of Pakistan (1973)** still reflects these principles, emphasizing **Islamic governance, democracy, and fundamental rights**.
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### Summary Table of Key Points

Aspect	Details
Definition of a Constitution	A set of laws and principles governing a country.
Importance of a Constitution	Establishes legal framework, protects rights, ensures rule of law, and maintains stability.
Objectives Resolution (1949)	Defined Pakistan’s ideological foundation as an Islamic state.
Key Features of Objectives Resolution	Sovereignty of Allah, Islamic state, democracy, minority rights, fundamental rights, judiciary independence.
Impact on Constitutions	1956: Islamic Republic; 1962: Islamic principles upheld; 1973: Objectives Resolution made part of the Constitution.

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These detailed notes cover the **definition, importance, and ideological basis of Pakistan's constitution**, especially the **Objectives Resolution of 1949**. Let me know if you need further clarifications! 😊