

**Explain the factors and disparities that disintegrated Pakistan, impact on the subsequent Bengali nationalism movement and led to the emergence of independent Bangladesh in 1971.**

## **Nationalism and the Emergence of Bangladesh**

### **Factors Leading to Pakistan's Disintegration**

- 1. Economic Disparities and Exploitation:** East Pakistan earned most of the country's foreign money, but most development money was spent in West Pakistan. This made Bengalis feel like they were being used, not treated equally.
  - 2. Political Marginalization:** Even though more people lived in East Pakistan, they were not given enough political power or important jobs in the government, which made Bengalis feel they were not part of the country's leadership.
  - 3. Cultural and Linguistic Suppression:** When the government declared Urdu as the only national language in 1948, Bengalis felt their language and culture were under threat.
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### **The Bengali Nationalism Movement**

- 1. Evolution from Cultural to Political Nationalism:** At first, Bengali nationalism was about saving culture and language, but later it included demands for fair politics and economy.
- 2. The Six-Point Program (1966):** Six-Point Plan asked for more control over East Pakistan's money, trade, and defense.
- 3. Mass Mobilization and Political Awakening:** The movement brought people from all groups together by using language, culture, and history that they all shared. It helped people see how unfair treatment in daily life was connected to the bigger fight for freedom.

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## The Crisis of 1970–71

1. **Electoral Victory and Constitutional Crisis:** In the 1970 election, the Awami League won almost all the seats in East Pakistan. But the West Pakistani leaders refused to give power, which created a serious political problem.
2. **Operation Searchlight and Genocide:** On March 25, 1971, the Pakistani army attacked Dhaka and started killing students, teachers, and normal people.
3. **International Dimensions:** Around 10 million people ran away to India, turning the crisis into an international problem. India supported the freedom movement, and the global Cold War politics also played a big role in how things ended.

Years of unfair treatment in economy, politics, and culture pushed Bengalis to fight for their own identity and state. The Liberation War of 1971 teaches us how a nation can rise when people unite to protect their rights and culture.

**Assess the historical context of the formation of the United Front and investigate the key factors of its success in the election of 1954 highlighting major points of its election manifesto. – 10 marks**

### United Front of 1954

**Historical Background of the United Front's Formation:** The United Front was formed in East Bengal (later East Pakistan, now Bangladesh) in 1953 as a group of opposition parties. Their goal was to defeat the ruling Muslim League in the 1954 election. At that time, people in East Bengal were very unhappy with how the government of Pakistan was treating them. The central government, mostly controlled by leaders from West Pakistan, ignored the needs of East Bengal. One of the biggest reasons for this anger was the Language Movement of 1952. The government tried to make Urdu the only national language, even though most people in East Bengal spoke Bangla. There were also economic problems. The Muslim League delayed elections and failed to fix these issues, which made people lose trust in them. The Muslim League had been in power since 1947 but did not care about East Bengal's problems. So, four main parties—joined hands and formed the United Front.

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### **Key Reasons Behind United Front's Victory in the 1954 Election:**

1. **Strong Unity and Popular Leaders** – Many parties joined hands to go against the Muslim League. Known leaders like Fazlul Huq and Bhasani led the team and people liked them.
2. **Popular 21-Point Manifesto** – Their plan talked about land for poor people and fair prices in markets.
3. **Muslim League's Weaknesses** – The League didn't care about local needs, so people didn't support them.
4. **Effective Campaigning** – The United Front went to many places and shared their ideas clearly.
5. **Support from All Parts of Society** – People from villages, students, and workers all stood with them. Even women came and voted to bring change.

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## Main Points of the United Front's 21-Point Manifesto:

1. **Bangla as a State Language:** They wanted Bangla to be one of Pakistan's official languages. This was the main demand after the Language Movement.
2. **End of Zamindari System:** They promised to stop the landlord system and wanted fair rent and more land for farmers.
3. **More Rights for East Bengal:** They asked to manage education and money matters by themselves.
4. **Build Cultural Institutions:** They planned to change Burdwan House into the Bangla Academy and build the Shaheed Minar to remember those who died in the Language Movement.
5. **Improve Defense and Security:** They wanted to set up naval bases and factories for weapons in East Bengal.
6. **Free and Fair Elections:** They promised honest elections with an independent group to run them and said their government would quit six months before the next election.

## Six-Point Programme of 1966

**Analyze the historical background of the Six-point Demands of 1966. How did the demands play important role in the emergence of independent Bangladesh? – 10 marks**

### Historical Background of the Six-Point Demands

After the separation of India and Pakistan in 1947, East Pakistan was often treated unfairly. Economically, a big portion of the

country's money was spent on defense, but East Pakistan hardly got any help from it.

During the Indo-Pak war in 1965, the situation became worse. For 17 days, East Pakistan had no military help. This showed how weak and unprotected it was. People lost trust in the central government. It became clear that West Pakistan's safety was more important to the government than that of the East.

Because of all these problems, Sheikh Mujib presented the Six-Point Demands in 1966 at a meeting in Lahore.

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## 2. The Six-Point Demands

1. **Parliamentary Government:** A system where the government is elected by all adults, and power is based on population size.
  2. **Limited Federal Powers:** Only defense and foreign affairs would be handled by the central government; the rest by the provinces.
  3. **Separate Currencies or Protections:** Either two different currencies or one currency with strong rules to stop money from leaving East Pakistan.
  4. **Control Over Taxes:** Provinces would collect their own taxes and give only a small part to the central government.
  5. **Separate Foreign Currency Accounts:** Each region would keep its own foreign income and have the right to make trade and aid deals.
  6. **Regional Security Force:** East Pakistan would have its own militia force to protect itself.
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## 3. Role in the Birth of Independent Bangladesh

1. **Awakening Bengali Nationalism:** The Six-Point Plan explained East Pakistan's real problems. People from all walks of life supported it.
2. **Exposing Unfair System:** The plan showed how East Pakistan was treated unfairly:
  - Politically: West Pakistan controlled power.
  - Economically: East earned money, West used it.
  - Militarily: East had no protection during the 1965 war.
3. **Political Support and Oppression:** The government rejected the plan and arrested Mujib and others. The Agartala Case made people more determined.
4. **Starting the Liberation War:** After the 1970 election, power was not given to East. On March 25, 1971, the army attacked and the war began.
5. **Support at Home and Abroad:** People in East Pakistan widely supported the plan.
6. **Plan for New Bangladesh:** The ideas of the Six-Point Plan shaped the new country.

## **General Election of 1970**

**Appreciate the background of the Election 1970 and evaluate the result of the Election with its influence in the Independence War of 1971**

### **Background of the 1970 Election**

The 1970 general election in Pakistan took place during a time of serious political, economic, and social problems that had been growing since 1947.

1. **Political Situation:** The election happened after a huge public protest in 1969 that forced General Ayub Khan to step down.
  2. **Economic Problems:** East Pakistan had more people (56% of the total population) but got much less money for development. This unfair treatment made people in East Pakistan very angry.
  3. **Social and Cultural Issues:** In 1952, the Language Movement started the feeling of Bengali identity. Over time, this led to more tension and the growth of Bengali nationalism.
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## Results of the 1970 Election

1. **Awami League's Big Win:** The Awami League won 160 out of 162 seats in East Pakistan. With this, they got a majority in the National Assembly.
  2. **PPP's Performance in West Pakistan:** Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) didn't win any seat in East Pakistan, which showed how far apart the two sides had grown.
  3. **Other Parties' Failure:** Old parties like the Muslim League and religious groups lost badly.
  4. **High Voter Turnout:** Many people voted, and the election was peaceful and fair. This made the result strong and difficult to reject.
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## Influence on the 1971 Independence War

1. **Political Crisis:** Even though the Awami League won, they were not allowed to form the government. Huge protests followed.

2. **Support for Independence:** The independence movement now had full support from the public. This helped get support from other countries too.
3. **People's Involvement:** The election had already made people more politically active.
4. **World Reaction:** Since the Awami League had clearly won but was denied power. The world saw this as a fight for democracy, not just separation.
5. **Military Attack and War:** On March 25, 1971, they launched a brutal operation (Operation Searchlight). This turned the political issue into a war. This led to a strong and widespread fight for independence.

### **Role of Superpowers in the Liberation War of Bangladesh**

#### **Explain the responses and role of superpowers in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in the light of contemporary Cold War.**

1. **India's Role and Support for Bangladesh:** India gave shelter to about 10 million refugees from East Pakistan and helped the leaders of the temporary Bangladesh government. It trained the Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters). After Pakistan attacked Indian air bases in December 1971, India directly joined the war.
2. **Soviet Union's Support for India and Bangladesh:** The Soviet Union stood strongly with India during the war. The USSR also gave political and military support to India throughout the war. After Bangladesh's victory, it was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh and helped with aid and trade.



3. **The United States' Support for Pakistan:**  
The USA supported Pakistan because they were close allies during the Cold War, and Pakistan helped the US build ties with China. The US and sent its navy, to the Bay of Bengal.
4. **China's Role in Supporting Pakistan:**  
China was a strong ally of Pakistan and supported it with weapons and political backing. China's main worry was that India and the Soviet Union would become too powerful in South Asia.
5. **United Nations' Weak Role:**  
The United Nations failed to take strong action during the war. Though the Secretary-General showed concern, no real steps were taken. The issue was brought to the Security Council, but Cold War politics and veto powers stopped any decisions.

**Cold War Context – Global Power Game:** The Bangladesh Liberation War became part of the Cold War rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union and India supported Bangladesh, while the US and China backed Pakistan to protect their global interests. The war ended with the creation of Bangladesh, showing a short-term win for the Soviet side in South Asia.

In the light of the Cold War, the Liberation War of Bangladesh turned into more than just a local fight. In the end, Bangladesh's independence came not only from the strong will of its people but also from how Cold War politics played out in South Asia.

## Formation of the Constitution of Bangladesh in 1972

### Introduction and Historical Context

The creation of Bangladesh's Constitution in 1972 was a very important moment in the country's history. After the Liberation War and getting independence on December 16, 1971, the new country needed a full set of rules and laws to run the government, and show the beliefs and goals of the new nation.

### Constituent Assembly and Drafting Process

The Constitution-making body, called the Constituent Assembly. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became its President. The drafting was done quickly—within nine months—because there was a strong need to start a proper government system after the war.

Dr. Kamal Hossain, who was the Law Minister, led the team that wrote the Constitution. The team also included well-known legal experts. They looked at the constitutions of different countries like India, the USA, and the UK but changed things to fit the needs of Bangladesh.

### Main Principles and Beliefs

The Constitution was built on four main principles that would guide how the country would be run:

1. **Nationalism (Bangali Jatiyatabad):** This principle focused on the Bengali language, culture, and traditions.
2. **Socialism:** The aim was to create a fair society without exploitation.
3. **Democracy:** The system allowed people to choose their leaders through voting. Everyone over a certain age could vote, and the real power belonged to the people's elected representatives.

4. **Secularism:** This principle protected the freedom of all religions and made sure religion was not used in politics.

## **Government Structure**

The Constitution set up a system where the parliament (called Jatiya Sangsad) would be the highest authority. The President was only a formal head, while the real power was in the hands of the Prime Minister.

## **Importance and Long-Term Impact**

The 1972 Constitution was a great success because it was made in a short time after independence and covered everything needed to run a new country. It showed the hopes and dreams of the people.

Even today, this Constitution is important. Although some parts have changed over time, the Constitution of 1972 still stands as the base of Bangladesh's laws and politics.

## **Agartala Conspiracy Case of 1968**

### **Background and Context**

The Agartala Conspiracy Case was started in the late 1960s by the government of Ayub Khan. It was mainly aimed at Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to stop his growing support in East Pakistan. The government tried to show him as a traitor who was planning to break East Pakistan away from West Pakistan with the help of India.

### **What the Case Was About**

Sheikh Mujib and about 50 Bengali officers were blamed for working together to separate East Pakistan with Indian support. A special court was set up inside the army area to hold the trial.

### **Public Reaction and Mass Protest of 1969**

Instead of making people turn against Sheikh Mujib, the case made him even more popular. Students, workers, and farmers all came together and stood behind him.

The protest grew very fast. Students led rallies and faced police attacks. Many were killed, like student leader Asad and schoolboy Matiur. Dr. Shamsuzzoha, a teacher at Rajshahi University, was also killed while trying to protect students. These killings made the people even more angry. The whole country joined the protests, and the government lost control. Even when the army was called, people kept protesting bravely.

### **Results and Importance**

The huge public pressure forced Ayub Khan to release Sheikh Mujib and the others. This event gave a big push to Bengali nationalism and made people think more seriously about having a country of their own. It was one of the most important steps on the way to the Liberation War of 1971 and the birth of Bangladesh.

### **Fourth Amendment to the Constitution**

The Fourth Amendment was passed in 1975 when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was in power, when Bangladesh faced serious political and economic problems. It changed the government system from parliamentary democracy to a strong presidential rule.

under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It made big changes to how the country was run politically and constitutionally.

1. **Introduction of a One-Party System:** The amendment ended the multi-party system and made BAKSAL the only legal political party. All other parties were banned, stopping any political competition. BAKSAL became the only political group, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to control the country's politics and economy. All political activities had to go through BAKSAL, and being a member was almost required to get government jobs or help.
2. **Change in Government System:** It changed the government from a parliamentary system to a presidential system. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became both the head of state and the head of the government.
3. **Centralization of Power:** The amendment gave most power to the president and reduced the parliament's role. This was said to be needed for keeping the country united and helping development.
4. **Impact on Democracy:** Though it was meant to bring stability, the change hurt democracy. It stopped political opposition and limited people's freedoms.

**Historical Significance:** The Fourth Amendment was a major change in Bangladesh's politics. It also caused unrest and was one reason behind the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

## **The 11 Sectors in the Liberation War**

**Review the spontaneous resistance and sector-based strategic battle during the nine-month-long Liberation War of Bangladesh.**

## **Spontaneous Resistance (March–May 1971)**

The people of East Pakistan started fighting back right after the Pakistan Army began "Operation Searchlight" on March 25, 1971.

Major Ziaur Rahman, Major Khaled Mosharraf, and Major Abu Osman Chowdhury took steps to declare independence and lead local fights. The Chittagong Radio Station was used to tell the world about the declaration of independence.

Many students, workers, and citizens joined the fight with whatever weapons they had, even homemade ones. They formed small fighting groups and attacked the enemy in places like Dhaka, Chittagong, Cumilla, and Sylhet.

But this early fight had problems because it was not organized. There were not enough weapons, and there was no central leader to guide them.

The Pakistan Army used its strong weapons to push back the fighters. So, many had to leave cities and move to villages or across the Indian border to continue fighting.

## **Sector-Based Strategic Battle System**

During the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, the Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters) were divided into 11 military sectors. This strategic division was essential to ensure regional control, supply management, and efficient military operations.

Each sector was headed by a Sector Commander, mostly consisting of defected officers from the Pakistan Army or trained leaders from the East Bengal Regiment. The sector commanders were under the overall command of the Commander-in-Chief, General M.A.G. Osmani.

Some key sectors and their commanders include:

1. Sector 1: Major Ziaur Rahman (Chittagong and Hill Tracts)
2. Sector 2: Major Khaled Mosharraf (Dhaka-Comilla region)
3. Sector 4: Major C.R. Dutta (Sylhet region)
4. Sector 5: Major Mir Shawkat Ali (Khulna-Barisal area)
5. Sector 11: Major Abu Taher (Mymensingh-Tangail area)

Apart from the 11 sectors, there were also three specialized forces known as Z Force, K Force, and S Force.

### **Strategic Advantages of Sector System**

1. **Local Knowledge and Leadership:** Each sector was led by a commander who knew the area and the local people well, which helped plan attacks and protect important places better.
2. **Better Coordination:** Dividing the country into sectors helped freedom fighters from different places work together in an organised way.
3. **Effective Training and Preparation:** Camps near the Indian border gave fighters proper training in how to fight, use weapons, and stay safe.
4. **Guerrilla Warfare Success:** Fighters used hit-and-run attacks, broke roads and bridges, and used their local knowledge to hide from the Pakistan Army.
5. **Slowing Down the Enemy:** These surprise attacks from different sectors confused the Pakistan Army and made their plans slower and weaker.

## Operation Searchlight ||

Operation Searchlight was a planned army attack started by the Pakistan Army on the night of 25 March 1971. The West Pakistani leaders refused to hand over power to the Awami League, even though it had won most of the seats in the 1970 elections.

The aim of the operation was to crush political protests and stop the rise of Bengali nationalism by using strong military force. The army first attacked Dhaka, targeting Dhaka University, student hostels, newspaper offices, and neighborhoods where normal people lived.

In the first few days, thousands of students, teachers, and unarmed people were killed. The violence then spread to other big cities like Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi.

This attack shocked people both in the country and abroad, and it caused a huge refugee problem. About 1 crore (10 million) people ran away to India to save their lives.

Operation Searchlight started the Liberation War, as Bengalis began to fight back with weapons. It played a key role in bringing all Bengalis together, which finally led to the birth of Bangladesh.

The cruelty of the operation united the people of East Pakistan. It proved that only independence could bring safety, dignity, and freedom for Bengalis.



**Assess the historical context of the Mass Upsurge of 1969 highlighting the significant events during the movement.**

**Historical Context:**

- 1. Political Repression and Discrimination:** East Pakistan was treated unfairly by the rulers in West Pakistan. Even though most people lived in the east.
- 2. Economic Disparities:** East Pakistan made most of the country's money, but development and money were mostly sent to the west.
- 3. Political Movements and Growing Nationalism:** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Six-Point Movement in 1966 demanded more freedom for East Pakistan.

**Significant Events during the Mass Upsurge:**

- 1. Student Protests:** Students from different universities started protests and strikes against Ayub Khan's rule.
- 2. General Strikes and Civil Disobedience:** Workers, farmers, and common people joined the movement by stopping work and refusing to follow the government's orders.
- 3. Police and Military Repression:** The government used force and violence to stop the protests.
- 4. Collapse of Ayub Khan's Regime:** The unrest became too much for Ayub Khan, and he resigned in March 1969.
- 5. Rise of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman:** After the movement, Sheikh Mujib became very popular as the leader of East Pakistan. His Six-Point demands gained more support, leading to the Awami League's big win in the 1970 elections.

**Evaluate the different phases of the Language Movement of 1952 with its significances.**

## **Different Phases of the Language Movement:**

- 1. Initial Protests and Political Agitations (1947-1948):** Right after Pakistan was created in 1947, the government said Urdu would be the only official language. So, students, thinkers, and leaders started asking for Bengali to have the same status.
- 2. Escalation and Mass Mobilization (1949-1951):** In 1948, big protests started with strikes and rallies led by students and cultural groups. The movement became a symbol of Bengali culture and pride.
- 3. The Critical Phase - February 1952:** The most important moment was in early 1952 when the government cracked down hard on protests. On February 21, Police opened fire and killed several students like Salam, Rafiq, Barkat, and Shafiur.
- 4. Aftermath and Political Recognition (1953-1956):** After the shootings, protests kept going and brought people from all walks of life together. Finally, the government gave in, and in 1956 Bengali became one of the official state languages in Pakistan's new constitution.

## **Significances of the Language Movement:**

- 1. Cultural Identity and Unity:** It brought people together from different backgrounds to protect their language and traditions.
- 2. Political Awakening and Nationalism:** It helped start Bengali nationalism and inspired later movements like the Six-Point Movement and the Liberation War.

- 3. Recognition of Bengali Language:** Because of the movement, Bengali was officially accepted as a state language alongside Urdu.
- 4. Democratic Rights and Resistance to Oppression:** It became a symbol of people's power to resist.
- 5. Inspiration for Future Movements:** The sacrifices and wins of the Language Movement inspired future fights for rights.

### **Mujibnagar Government (S.N)**

The Mujibnagar Government, was officially set up on April 17, 1971, in Baidyanathtala (later named Mujibnagar) in Meherpur district. It was created during the early days of the Liberation War to lead the freedom movement and get international support for Bangladesh's fight for independence. Even though Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested and taken to West Pakistan, he was made the President of Bangladesh in his absence.

Syed Nazrul Islam was the Acting President, Tajuddin Ahmad was the Prime Minister, M. Mansur Ali handled finance, Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed was the Foreign Minister, and A. H. M. Qamaruzzaman was in charge of Home and Relief. Most leaders were senior members of the Awami League, and they helped organize the resistance, gather help from other countries, and plan military actions with India.

The Mujibnagar Government had many important jobs. One big achievement of the Mujibnagar Government was bringing together the scattered freedom fighters under one leadership. It worked with military leaders to divide the country into eleven

sectors with commanders. This helped plan guerrilla attacks against the Pakistan Army in an organized way.

The government also worked hard to get international attention for the Bengali cause.

In short, the Mujibnagar Government played a key and unforgettable role in winning the Liberation War and to become a free country by politically and diplomatically.

**Evaluate the trend and nature of the students' movement of 1962 against General Ayub Khan and estimate its impact on the subsequent Bengali nationalism movement.**

### **Background and Context**

The student movement started in 1962 during General Ayub Khan's rule, mainly because of his unfair education policies. His plan tried to remove Bengali from higher education and promote only Urdu and English. Students from different cities worked together, showing strong unity and planning.

The movement was first about education but also had deep political meaning. Students demanded the cancellation of the Sharif Commission report and wanted Bengali to stay as a language of learning.

### **Impact on Bengali Nationalism Movement**

This movement brought back pride in Bengali culture and language, which had faded after the 1952 Language Movement. It showed that language and rights were deeply linked.

The movement also gave people hope that standing up against the military could bring change.

The movement made people believe that West Pakistan was trying to destroy Bengali identity. This belief became a strong reason for future nationalist movements like the Six-Point Demand and the 1970 elections.

The 1962 student movement marked a shift from cultural protests to strong political resistance. Even though it started with education, it helped build the spirit and structure of Bengali nationalism.