**The Problems of the New State**

The attainment of independence brought an end to one phase of the struggle and marked

the beginning of a new one for setting up and running a viable, stable and prosperous state.

Pakistan began its independent life under very difficult and unfavorable circumstances. Pakistan

faced serious problems in the initial stages.

1. New Administration

2. Division of Assets

3. Integration of Princely States

4. Communal Riots and Arrival of Refugees

5. Canal water and trade issues

**1: New Administration**

The shortage of trained human power especially senior officers was a serious problem in

the setting up of federal government in Karachi. Most of them had migrated to India. There was a

shortage of office space, equipment and furniture. This disturbed the direct connections between

the federal government and provincial governments. On the other hand, the provincial

governments were overburdened that needed very accurate connection between the centre and

the provinces to solve the problems of the Muslim refugees who had nothing to eat, drink, wear,

rest, etc. To counter the critical situation, the official system should have been efficient but due to

the lack of all these facilities the administrative authorities were painfully facing difficulties.

**2: Division of Assets**

The Indian government was not cooperative for transfer of record and equipment to

Pakistan. The civil administration was not handing over the promised financial, military, and other

shares that created mountainous hurdles to eradicate the pains and miseries of the refugees.

Financial Assets The full financial share of Pakistan was not transferred. Initially rupees 200 million were

transferred that were not sufficient to meet the expenditures of the newly born state. The Indian

government was so reactionary that it tried its level best to block these funds to suffocate the

newly born Muslim state as they expected foolishly that Pakistan would collapse and rejoin India

soon after its existence. They did not release the remaining funds until Gandhi’s threat of marn

bert (fast until death). Under this pressure, more funds were sent in early 1948 but no installment

was later paid.

Military’s Division

As far as the problem in dividing man power there was no serious setback because the

division was not in the hand of third person and Muslims were free to come to their dreamland,

Pakistan. Anyhow, their shifting was slow and insecure. There were obstacles in the Pakistan’s

share of weapons, equipment, and stores. The broken and damaged stuff was sent by India.

Pakistan did not get any ordinance factory. Reorganization of the Armed Forces was another

tough job and the there was no army officer up to the rank of colonel. The shortage of

experienced officers convinced British officers to continue their services. This also accelerated

undue promotion in the military services to fill the gap.

**3: Integration of Princely States**

There were over 560 princely states in India on the verge of the partition of India. About

500 states had joined India before August 15 because of the motivation by V. P. Menon and

Mountbatten. The princes were inclined to honour every gesture of the British representative so

they conceded what the member of the Royal family (Mountbatten) wished. The Hindu-British

conspiracy blocked states to join Pakistan.

**Junagadh**

It was a small state with access to sea having about 7 lakh population and 3377 mile

area. The ruler was Muslim while the majority of its population was Hindu. The ruler decided to

accede to Pakistan and Pakistan also accepted the accession. In November 1947, the Indian

troops entered the state and took its control. The referendum favoured India.

**Hyderabad**

It was geographically big and financially a rich state. Its ruler was Muslim and majority

population was Hindu. It was surrounded by India from all sides. The Nizam wanted to stay

independent. Mountbatten discouraged him and signed Standstill Agreement. But India built

pressure on the Nizam by sending its troops in September 1948 claiming that serious law and

order situation had developed. The state was integrated in India.

**Kashmir**

The most important state was Kashmir naturally connected with Pakistan. Its ruler was

Hindu while population was Muslim. The population inclined towards Pakistan but the Hindu ruler

declared to join India. The Kashmiri people revolt against the ruler in Poonch area and soon it

became widespread. The ruler sought Indian support. India demanded accession. On October

27, 1947 Indian troops landed in Srinagar. The people continued their struggle for independence

and India promised to finally settle the matter with reference to the people under the UN

Resolutions.

**4: Communal Riots and Refugees**

The Communal riots occurred earlier in August 1946. The killing of Muslims in Indian

areas forced them to leave India. The Sikhs and Hindus attacked the refugee caravans and

trains. There were organized gangs to kill the Muslims. The refugee problem created critical

condition in the border areas. The massive migration proved serious economic and humanitarian

problems for the new state. The military was asked to help cope with the refugee problem.

**5: Canal Water Problem**

The major rivers flow from Kashmir and some canal heads located in India. In 1948, India

cut off water to some canal that was a serious threat to agriculture in West Pakistan. The Indian

plans to build water storage on the rivers that are vital for Pakistan’s economy worsened the

situation. It also showed the traditional anti-Muslim attitude. The World Bank settled the problem

in September 1960 (Indus Water Treaty).

**Trade Problem and the Economy**

India devalued its currency in 1949 but Pakistan refused to do so. It stopped trade that

adversely affected Pakistan’s economy as it depended on trade from India. Pakistan had

inherited a weak economy and poor industrial base. The beginning years of Pakistan were

troubled and difficult due to the India’s non-helpful policy and the war in Kashmir. It had profound

impact on Pakistan’s worldview and its relations with India. Pakistan strived for its survival and

security. Many Indians and the British predicted the collapse of Pakistan. They were of the

opinion that very soon the Muslims would realize their blunder. They would be forced by the

circumstances to go back to join India. But PAKISTAN, by the grace of Almighty Allah, was able

to meet the challenge even with its problems.

**The Objectives Resolution (1949)**

The Objectives Resolution was the first constitutional document that proved to be the

‘foundation’ of the constitutional developments in Pakistan. It provided parameters and sublime

principles to the legislators. It made the constitution-making process easy task setting some

particular objectives before them that would be acceptable to the people of Pakistan who had

suffered a lot under the Hindu-dominated majority. The Resolution was moved by Liaquat Ali

Khan, the then Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and approved on March 12,

1949.

**The Constituent Assembly (1947-54)**

The first Constituent Assembly came into existence under Indian Independence Act 1947.

The elections were held in July 1946 to decide the destiny of the All India Muslim League

(AIML)’s claim that it is the only representative party of the Indian Muslims that desire separate

homeland, Pakistan. The members from the districts that became part of Pakistan were declared

members of the Constituent Assembly. The number of such members was 69. It increased to 79

after the 1947 when some states joined Pakistan and then increase in the population. There were

two major parties, Muslim League and Congress in the Assembly at that time. This Assembly had

dual functions to perform.

**Features of the Objectives Resolution**

1. Sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone.

2. The authority which He has delegated to the state of Pakistan through its people

for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust.

3. Constitution will be framed for sovereign, independent state of Pakistan.

4. The state shall exercise its power through the representatives of the people.

5. Principles of Democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice as

enunciated by Islam will be fully observed.

6. Muslims shall be enabled to organize their lives in accordance with the teachings

and requirements of Islam as set out in the Quran and the Sunnah.

7. Minorities to have freedom to freely profess and practice their religions and develop

their cultures.

8. Provisions for safeguarding the legitimate interests of minorities, backward and

depressed classes.

9. Pakistan shall be a Federation with autonomous units. State’s sovereignty and

territorial integrity will be protected.

10. People of Pakistan should prosper and attain their rightful place in the comity of

nations and make contribution towards international peace and progress and

happiness of humanity.

**Explanation and Importance**

The Resolution declared the sovereignty of God as the distinctive political philosophy.

The Western democracy gives the notion that sovereignty lies in the people but this Resolution is

important having the concept of the sovereignty of God. It clarified that people would utilize

powers gifted by God so they would have to work within the limits prescribed by Him. The

exercise of the powers is a sacred trust. The representatives of the people of Pakistan will

manage the affairs under the universal ideology of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance, and

social justice with the spirit of an Islamic framework.

The Resolution pledged to give the due respect and rights to the minorities, backward

and depressed classes in the benign society of Pakistan. Their rights, interests, religion and

culture were not confuted.

It’s important that the Resolution promised the federating units for due powers,

autonomy and territorial integrity.

**Objections by Non-Muslims**

The major objection by the Non-Muslims was that the government was trying to mix the

religion and politics that was against the spirit of democracy. The non-Muslims objected on the

‘Sovereignty of Allah’ and minorities’ rights, saying it would promote inequality in the society.

They were also of view that Shariah was not adequate for the modern time. They feared that it

would encourage the religious extremists to work for the establishment of a ‘theocratic state.’

**Importance**

The Objectives Resolution is a basic and primary document of the constitutional history of

Pakistan. It is a framework that provides mechanism to achieve goals for a better life of the

people of Pakistan. It’s important that it embraces centrality of Islam to polity sustaining their links

with the pre-independence period. The AIML leaders were modernist Muslims not in favour of an

orthodox religious state. Therefore, they selected the middle way abiding by the Islamic laws and

the international democratic values. The Resolution remained ‘Preamble of all the constitutions

due to its importance.