

General Yahya Khan (1969-1971)

General Yahya Khan was a Pakistani military officer who served as the President of Pakistan from 1969 to 1971. He took over as the President after a military coup that ousted President Ayub Khan in 1969.

During his presidency, Yahya Khan faced numerous challenges, including the growing unrest in East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) and the worsening relations with India. In 1971, he ordered a crackdown on the Bengali population in East Pakistan, which led to a brutal civil war and eventually the secession(separation) of Bangladesh.

Yahya Khan's rule was marked by authoritarianism and a disregard for democratic norms. He suspended the constitution, dissolved the National Assembly, and imposed martial law throughout the country. His policies towards East Pakistan also alienated many in the country and contributed to the eventual breakup of Pakistan.

In December 1971, following the loss of East Pakistan, Yahya Khan resigned from office and handed over power to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who became the first civilian President of Pakistan. Yahya Khan retired from the military and lived in seclusion until his death in 1980.

legal frame work order 1970

The Legal Framework Order (LFO) of 1970 was a constitutional amendment introduced by the government of President Yahya Khan in Pakistan. The LFO was intended to provide a legal framework for the upcoming general elections in Pakistan, which were scheduled to be held in 1970.

The LFO established a new system of government in Pakistan, which was called the "Basic Democracy System." Under this system, the country was divided into 138 electoral constituencies, with each constituency electing one member to the National Assembly.

The LFO also introduced the concept of "One Unit," which merged the four provinces of West Pakistan (Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) into a single administrative unit. This move was controversial and was opposed by many politicians in the country.

The LFO was criticized for being undemocratic and for consolidating power in the hands of the military government. Many political parties boycotted the elections, and the Awami League, a party that represented the interests of the Bengali population in East Pakistan, won a majority of the seats in the National Assembly.

Despite this, the military government refused to hand over power to the Awami League, leading to the outbreak of a civil war in East Pakistan and eventually the secession of Bangladesh. The LFO was eventually superseded by the new constitution of Pakistan, which was adopted in 1973.

General Election 1970

The General election of 1970 was a historic event in Pakistan's political history. The election was held under the Legal Framework Order (LFO) of 1970, which introduced a new system of government in the country.

The election was contested by a number of political parties, including the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), and the Awami League. The Awami League, which represented the interests of the Bengali population in East Pakistan, campaigned on a platform of greater autonomy for East Pakistan and equal rights for all Pakistanis.

The results of the election were surprising, with the Awami League winning a majority of the seats in the National Assembly. However, the military government, led by General Yahya Khan, refused to hand over power to the Awami League, citing concerns over the party's demands for autonomy for East Pakistan.

This refusal to transfer power eventually led to a civil war in East Pakistan, which lasted from 1971 to 1972. The conflict ended with the secession of East Pakistan, which became the independent country of Bangladesh.

The 1970 general election is significant because it highlighted the deep divisions within Pakistani society and the failure of the country's political leadership to address these divisions. It also paved the way for the eventual breakup of Pakistan and the emergence of Bangladesh as a separate nation.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Six points

The Six Points of Awami League, also known as the Six Point Demand, were a set of political demands put forward by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the leader of the Awami League, in 1966. The Six Points called for greater autonomy for East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and included the following demands:

1. The federal government should only be responsible for defense, foreign affairs, and currency.
2. The two wings of Pakistan (East Pakistan and West Pakistan) should have equal status.
3. The power to tax and regulate trade should be given to the provinces (including East Pakistan).
4. The federal government should only have limited powers over communications and transportation.
5. Each province (including East Pakistan) should have its own militia or paramilitary force.
6. The central government should not be able to declare a state of emergency in East Pakistan without the provincial government's consent.

The Six Points were seen as a radical departure from the existing power structure in Pakistan, which was heavily centralized and dominated by the military and political elites from West Pakistan. The Six Points galvanized (stimulate) support for the Awami League in East Pakistan, and the demand for greater autonomy eventually led to the 1971 War of Independence and the birth of Bangladesh as a separate nation.

Causes of separation of east pakistan

The separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan in 1971 was a result of a combination of political, economic, and social factors. Some of the main causes of the separation of East Pakistan are:

1. **Political marginalization:** East Pakistan felt politically marginalized by the central government in West Pakistan, which was dominated by military and political elites from the West.
2. **Economic disparity:** East Pakistan was economically underdeveloped and lagged behind West Pakistan in terms of development and investment.
3. **Linguistic and cultural differences:** The majority of the people in East Pakistan spoke Bengali and had distinct cultural practices that were different from those in West Pakistan, which spoke Urdu.
4. **The Six Points:** The Six Points of Awami League, which called for greater autonomy for East Pakistan, were seen as a threat by the military government in West Pakistan.
5. **Cyclone Bhola:** The devastating cyclone that hit East Pakistan in 1970 highlighted the lack of response and support from the central government in West Pakistan.
6. **The 1970 General Election:** The election was won by the Awami League, which had campaigned on a platform of greater autonomy for East Pakistan. The military government in West Pakistan refused to hand over power, which led to the outbreak of a civil war.

These factors, among others, led to growing discontent and eventually the secession of East Pakistan, which became the independent country of Bangladesh. The separation was marked by violence and human rights abuses on both sides, and it remains a deeply divisive and traumatic event in the history of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Operation Search Light and Birth of Bangladesh

Operation Searchlight was a military operation launched by the Pakistani military government in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in March 1971. The operation was aimed at suppressing the growing movement for autonomy and independence in East Pakistan.

Under Operation Searchlight, the Pakistani military launched a brutal crackdown on political activists, students, intellectuals, and civilians who were advocating for greater autonomy or independence for East Pakistan. The operation included mass arrests, torture and killings, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people.

The brutal suppression of dissent and the military crackdown led to the outbreak of a civil war in East Pakistan, with the Bengali population forming a resistance movement against the Pakistani military. The resistance movement, led by the Mukti Bahini (Liberation Army), fought a guerrilla war against the Pakistani military, which lasted for nine months.

The civil war and the conflict between the Pakistani military and the Bengali resistance movement led to a massive humanitarian crisis, with millions of people fleeing their homes and seeking refuge in neighboring India.

In December 1971, the Indian army intervened in the conflict, leading to the defeat of the Pakistani military and the surrender of their forces. The war resulted in the birth of Bangladesh as a separate and independent country, with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman becoming the first President of Bangladesh.

The events leading up to the birth of Bangladesh and the violence and atrocities (barbarity) committed during the civil war remain a deeply divisive and traumatic chapter in the history of Pakistan and Bangladesh.