



## Assignment # 1

Course: Pakistan Studies

course code: SS1003

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section: BSCS-G

Topic:

“Discuss the issue of provincial autonomy in Pakistan. Analyze with special reference to 18th amendment.”

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# **Discuss the issue of provincial autonomy in Pakistan. Analyze with special reference to 18th amendment.**

## **Introduction:**

There has been a rich history in the formation of the characteristics of the Governing system of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan today. For starters, the provincial autonomy has led to a more integrated system of state-management after the occurrence of the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment in the country's constitution. The aim of this discussion is to cover the intended meaning and purpose of the concepts of provincial autonomy and the cause of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Without further delay let's dive into this topic.

## **What is Provincial Autonomy?**

The term '*Provincial Autonomy*' refers to the freedom of decision and governance a province can have whilst staying a sub-division of a state. Said that the state is major and highest form of ruling, the provinces are given freedom in a sort of federal supervision to ensure that the states do not go rogue but are still loyal to the whole state.

The essential elements of provincial autonomy encompass functional independence, owned responsibilities, and resource separation. In this sense, the power or legislature seeps partly to the provinces as well, however the real power of the assets of the state remains for the federal legislature of the state to have.<sup>1</sup> (Majeed\*, 2021)

## **What was the 18th Amendment?**

The 18th amendment is a well-known constitutional change or correction in the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, The bill of this amendment was passed by the Senate of Pakistan on April 15, 2010. This amendment contained the following elements.<sup>2</sup>

- Pakistan was a Parliamentary Republic<sup>2</sup>
- The President could no longer dissolve the Parliament.<sup>2</sup>
- The provinces were given a good amount of freedom in governing, legislature, and financial affairs.<sup>2</sup>
- The president is to be kept up to date regarding all the internal, external, and foreign affairs overseen by the parliament members<sup>2</sup>.

(Along with many more)<sup>2</sup>

(President's Assent Received:, 2010)

## **Provincial Autonomy in Pakistan (an analysis)**

### **1. *Parliamentary Republican***

The whole governing system of the Country changed, and this opened a whole new point of view to the approach of governing a state. Starting of in the past, the previous 'Federal' form of government was supportive towards a strong more controlling center. Thus, the relations between federal and provincial governments would get acrimonious over several issues.<sup>3</sup> (Shahzad, 2020) Therefore the era of a *Parliamentary Republican* led to a more integrated format of combined governance. In which the provinces gained more freedom and control over their respective areas, which in turn led to more satisfied voices of the state's sub-divisions.

### **2. *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the new name of NWFP***

With the new advent of Provincial autonomy, one of the notable features seeing to the renaming of the *North Western Frontier Province (NWFP)* as *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)*.<sup>2</sup> (President's Assent Received:, 2010) In fact the official spelling of the provinces Sindh and Baluchistan were also tweaked<sup>2</sup> (President's Assent Received:, 2010). This Showed a gesture or a form of inheritance to the right of provincial autonomy. This was the first-time provinces had their own subjects of matter to oversee independently. So, it would see fit for the provinces to shift into a new form recognition, one which we know as the newer names of the provinces of the state's new era of governance.

### **3. *New opportunities after the amendment***

The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment changed a great deal of the constitution. This opened a whole new era for the experimentation of constitutional applications. For starters the provinces were finally governing themselves in many aspects, there was a sense of independence, no bias uniform-legislature across the state.

## **Concluding Remarks of the Analysis**

*(With reference to the 18th Amendment)*

The rich history of the Governing system of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has led to more integrated systems governance after the occurrence the 18<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment. The aim of this discussion was to cover the intended meaning and purpose of the concepts of provincial autonomy and the cause of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. We saw that through the many effects and aspects of this amendment. From understanding the definitions of Provincial Autonomy to getting our head around the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment , we saw how much it changes the view, aspect and functioning of the provinces and the state's governing body. To sum up , the change in the constitution can be seen as,

*“...the amendment introduced more than 100 articles changing 34% of the constitution,”<sup>4</sup>*

-Mr. Zafarullah Khan, Executive Director, Centre for Civic Education (Khan, n.d.)

In light of this we saw how the whole idea of managing a state was molded into the provincial autonomy within the parliamentary state of Pakistan.

## **References**

1. Majeed\*, G. A. (2021). IMPACT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN PAKISTAN. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences Research*, 4(2), all. doi:<https://doi.org/10.37605/pjhssr.v4i2.266>
2. President's Assent Received:. (2010, April 19). *Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010*. Retrieved from pakistani.org: <https://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/constitution/amendments/18amendment.html>
3. Shahzad, S. A. (2020, September). Federalism and Provincial Autonomy in Pakistan: A Case of. *Pakisran Socail Sciences Review*, 4, all. doi:<https://pssr.org.pk/issues/v4/3/federalism-and-provincial-autonomy-in-pakistan-a-case-of-balochistan.pdf>
4. Khan, M. (n.d.). *18th Amendment: Implications for Provincial Autonomy and Governance*. Retrieved from cppg.fccollege.edu.pk: <http://cppg.fccollege.edu.pk/publications/18th-amendment-implications-for-provincial-autonomy-and-governance/>

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1. Majeed\*, G. A. (2021). IMPACT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN PAKISTAN, *Pakistan Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences Research*, 4(2), all. doi:https://doi.org/10.37605/pjhrsr.v4i2.266
2. President's Assent Received.. (2010, April 19). *Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010*. Retrieved from pakistani.org: <https://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/constitution/amendments/18amendment.html>
3. Shahzad, S. A. (2020, September). Federalism and Provincial Autonomy in Pakistan: A Case of. *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 4, all. doi:https://psr.org.pk/issues/v4/i3/federalism-and-provincial-autonomy-in-pakistan-a-case-of-balochistan.pdf

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