



- Noreen Iqbal

Political, Economic and Geographic Profile of Pakistan

ABSTRACT

This paper is a brief study of geography, economic profile and political scenario of Pakistan. This study highlights the efforts and political struggle of leaders and politicians of Pakistan. It is also indicated the main features, ranking of Pakistan in international communities in different fields and prominent aspects. No doubt, Pakistan is the world's seventh atomic nation and on the number of nuclear weapons, ranked in top five. Located on complex strategic location, playing a significant role in global politics, power games and economic ties as worked in past as most influential partner against terrorism. The main component is the comprehensive geographical profile as it possessed world 2nd highest peak to the seashore of Arabian Ocean. The significant Gwadar port can monitor the international trade routes of Oil and gases from Persian Sea and Arabian Sea.

KEY WORDS: *Pakistan, Geographical Profile, Economic corridor, CPEC, China, global politics, deterrence, atomic weapons, Freedom Movement*

** Lecturer, Political Science, Govt. Girls Inter College Dadyal, Mirpur.*

Pakistan, with its official constitutional name “Islamic Republic of Pakistan” is an autonomous and sovereign state located in south Asia possessing approximately 212.7 million population, ranked “world’s sixth-most populous country”.¹ Pakistan spanning an area 7,96,096 sq. miles which is “the 33rd largest country”. This country is recognized as middle power State,² but having world’s 6th position in “the largest standing armed forces” and is a “declared nuclear-weapons state, 2nd in South Asia, 3rd in Asia and the pioneer unique nuclear State in the Islamic World also in Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC)”. It realized as “semi-industrialized economy with a well-integrated agriculture sector and a growing services sector”.³ The IRP is also among the topper rank of the nations who are known as emerging economies and development and its growth is also considerable valuable⁴ and has another record of “world’s largest and fast growing middle class”. Since its foundation it has been known as “regular periodic military rule, political instability and conflicts with India, face challenging problems, including overpopulation, terrorism, poverty, illiteracy, and corruption”.⁵

¹ "Pakistan Bureau of Statistics 6th Population and Housing Census". pbscensus.gov.pk. Archived from the original on 15 October 2017.

² Buzan, Barry; Wæver, Ole (2003). *Regions and Powers: The Structure of International Security*. Cambridge University Press. p. 55.

³ Bhatti, M. U. S. "Services sector: domestic and outward growth". *Dawn*. (22-6-2015).

⁴ Mathew Joseph C. *Understanding Pakistan: Emerging Voices from India*. Taylor & Francis. (2016). p. 337.

⁵ Yasmeen N. M. *Pakistan: a global studies handbook*. ABC-CLIO. (2006). pp. 317–324.

Pakistan has great international regard as being a member of United Nations, also vital part in the “Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)”, the founder member of “Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC)”, “the Commonwealth of Nations”, the founder member of “South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)”, “the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC)” and Major non-NATO ally.

Pakistan strategically occupies a pivot geographic position, located at the crossroad known as confluence of “South Asia, Central Asia and Middle East”⁶, covering an area of 7,96,096 km² a mixture of mountainous, plateau, plain and deserts. Pakistan is bordered by India from east leading towards south, Arabian Sea is on its South, Iran is Southern west linking Baluchistan, on the west Afghanistan is located separated by Durand line linking with most part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Gilgit till to Wakhan corridor an ancient part of Kashmir and from north to northern east two Chinese Xinjiang and Tibet covering the region of Jammu and Kashmir State claimed by Pakistan, occupied by India. Two distinctive features for Pakistan are; “by land, it is narrowly separated narrowly Tajikistan by Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor in the northwest,⁷ and by sea;

⁶ Edward Wong (27 October 2010). "In Icy Tip of Afghanistan, War Seems Remote". New York Times. Retrieved 4 Jan. 2012.

⁷ "Pakistan". The World Factbook. Central Intelligence Agency. On 27 February 2017.

also shares a maritime border with Oman”.⁸ Having “1046 km coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south and land borders of 6774 km in total, 2430 km with Afghanistan, 523 km with China, 2912 km with India and 909 km with Iran.”⁹

Administrative divisions

Pakistan is a federal parliamentary republic under the constitution of 1973 based upon the Objectives Resolution of 1948, comprised upon four provinces; “Punjab province, Sind Province, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Province, and Baluchistan Province” and three territories which are federally controlled; “the capital territory Islamabad (Isd), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K)”.

Admin. Division	Capital	Population	Area	Districts
Baluchistan	Quetta	12.344	347190	34
Punjab	Lahore	110.126	205345	36
Sindh	Karachi	47.886	140914	29
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Peshawar	40.525	101741	34
Gilgit Baltistan	Gilgit	1.800	72971	10

⁸ Ian S. L & Michael O’Hanlon (2011). "Pakistan Index" . Brookings population p. 13.

⁹ Braj B. Kachru; Yamuna Kachru; S.N. Sridhar (27 March 2008). Language in South Asia. Cambridge University Press. p. 138.

Admin. Division	Capital	Population	Area	Districts
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	Muzaffarabad	4.568	13297	10
Islamabad	Islamabad	2.852	906	1

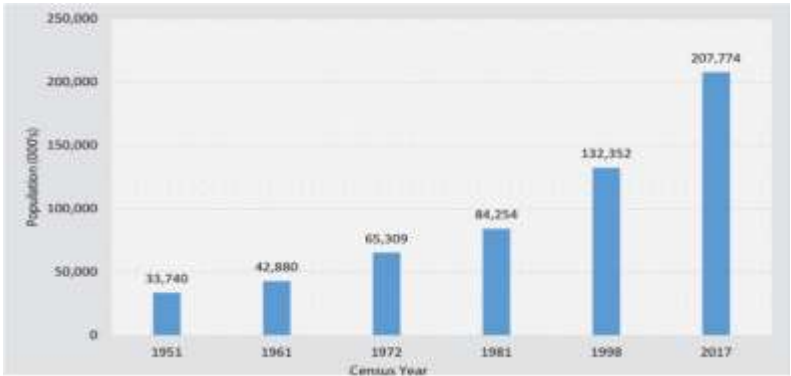
In the light of the census of 2017, the estimated population in Pakistan is approximately 207774000 which is now approximately 212742631 represents 57% increase from 1998¹⁰ which is equivalent almost 2.6% contribution in world's population.¹¹ It is 6th most populous State in the world, reported rate of growth is 1.45%¹², growth rate in SAARC is highest one, a classified "Young Nation" with a median 23.4,¹³ more than 104 million are under 30, 35% people under age 15 while the fertility rate is estimated 2.68 and it is also 6th largest diaspora in the worldwide of Pakistan. The chronological narration of the population of Pakistan can be stated as under:

¹⁰ "Country Profile: Pakistan". Library of Congress. 1995. pp. 2–3, 6, 8. 2 September 2019.

¹¹ Wynbrandt, James (2009). A Brief History of Pakistan. Infobase Publishing.

¹² Hussain, Rizwan. Pakistan. The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World. Pakistan is unique among Muslim countries: it is the only country established in the name of Islam

¹³ Harold G. (1987). Modern Indian responses to religious pluralism. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.



The Population comparison from 1951 to 2017 of Pakistan

Historical evaluation of Pakistan

Although the creation of Pakistan is based upon the ideology of Islam, but it is ethnically and linguistically diverse region with diverse geographic features, climate, lifestyle and wildlife. This happens due to gradual decline of Mughals rule in early 18th century which resulted in Sikh empire in 19th century latterly East India captured this land during 1848 in Anglo-Sikh wars.¹⁴ Furthermore, Urdu-Hindi issue was the obvious foundation of the Two Nations Theory in subcontinent.¹⁵ The sacred movement which believed as holy struggle initiated by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan who helped the Muslim to make their own identity in the establishment of All India Muslim League in 1901. This effort also envisioned the Muslim through

¹⁴ Akhtar, A. H; Talkhiş, Salim (1993). Hayat-i javed. Lahore: Sang-i Mil Publications.

¹⁵ "Country Profile: Pakistan". Library of Congress. 1995. pp. 2–3, 6, 8. on 2-11-2019.

education and affirmation in Two Nations theory.¹⁶ They nonviolence freedom movement offered in massive campaigns as “civil disobedience” in 1920-30.¹⁷

Gradually but steadily, Muslim League fame increased time by time until in 1930s practically participated in politics a step forward from the acquisition of fundamental rights. The major breakthrough was the presidential address of Allama Muhammad Iqbal dated December 29, 1930 at Allabad called for "the amalgamation of North-West Muslim-majority Indian states, consisting of Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind, and Baluchistan". In this movement deprived minority of Muslim community won the provincial elections of 1937-39. The great contribution was paid by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, honoured as “Quaid-e-Azam” later the founder of Pakistan, struggled utmost to convince the British rulers about the reality of Two Nations theory until in led the Muslim League to adopt the Resolution of Lahore dated March 23, 1940 by AK Fazlul Haq, which became famous as “Resolution of Pakistan”.¹⁸

¹⁶ John Farndon (1999). Concise encyclopaedia. Dorling Kindersley Limited. p. 455.

¹⁷ "Country Profile: Pakistan". Library of Congress. 1995. pp. 2–3, 6, 8. on 2-11-2019.

¹⁸ Mohiuddin, Y. N. (2007). Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook. ABC-CLIO. p. 70.

The rapid dynamics in the politics of subcontinent during the election of 1946, Muslim League won 90% Muslim reserved seats which turned into a plebiscite in the British India for Muslim separate land and a true defeat of Congress who claimed as sole representative party in British India.¹⁹ The British were forced to accept Jinnah views of Two Nations theory with having no alternate choice, but they struggled utmost to prevent the partition and offered a short-term resolution as cabinet mission plan of 1946. Soon, this plan was rejected by both parties, but this led a foundation of the division of subcontinent as given a sketch of Muslim Hindu majority rule over certain areas. The plan of partition was accepted by all the Indian leaders “Jawaharlal Nehru and Abul Kalam Azad of Congress, Jinnah of the All-India Muslim League, and Master Tara Singh representing the Sikhs” and all were agreed on the proposal of transfer of power to Indians and independence in June 1947 with Lord Mountbatten.

On Aug. 14, 1947, India was partitioned into couple of dominions: Pakistan (on the indigenous holy night of 27th of Ramadan known as “Lailatul Qadar” according to Islamic calendar) and India on 15th of August 1947. This partition was amalgamation of Muslim majority eastern, western and northern west British India, which is

¹⁹ Stanley Wolpert (2002). Jinnah of Pakistan. Oxford University Press. pp. 306–332.

comprised upon East Bengal as Eastern Pakistan while the provinces of Sind, Baluchistan, Punjab and North West Frontier Province as (western Pakistan).²⁰ "You are free; you are free to go to your temples; you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place or worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed that has nothing to do with the business of the State." This was an announcement made by Quaid-e-Azam M. A. Jinnah, in his speech being Governor General of Pakistan on Aug. 11, 1947 before the parliament of Pakistan while the Secretary General of All India Muslim League, Liaquat Ali Khan was selected as a Prime Minister of first Islamic ideological State, Pakistan,²¹ a nation with the status of dominion in British commonwealth which has two monarchs until it changed position into republic.²² The foundation of Pakistan was not totally accepted by Hindus and even British rulers²³ that once Batten was asked by Collins and Lapierre that "if

²⁰ Isaacs, Harold Robert (1975). *Idols of the Tribe: Group Identity and Political Change*. Harvard University Press.

²¹ Brass, Paul R. (2003). "The partition of India and retributive genocide in the Punjab, 1946–47: means, methods, and purposes". *Journal of Genocide Research*.

²² Daiya, Kavita (2011). *Violent Belongings: Partition, Gender, and National Culture in Postcolonial India*. Temple University Press. p. 75.

²³ Bates, Crispin (3 March 2011). "The Hidden Story of Partition and its Legacies". BBC.

he would have sabotaged Pakistan had he known that Jinnah was dying of tuberculosis, he replied 'most probably'.²⁴

Muslim scholars in very early demanded the Islamic constitution for Pakistan in which Maulana Shabbir Ahmed Usmani, Maulana Mawdudi etc which played a pivotal role to make an explicit declaration affirmation upon the “Supremacy of Allah and Shariah” in Pakistan²⁵ which clearly indicated in the Objectives Resolution on March 1949, Liaquat Ali Khan was significant person who second this declaration as "sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to God Almighty alone and 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". This foundationary move remained as “preamble of the constitutions of 1956, 1962 and 1973”²⁶ laid down as a foundation of democracy in Pakistan but just soon this democratic routine was stepped down by General Ayub Khan by overthrowing Sikandar Mirza and introduced presidential system of governance in Pakistan in 1962 which was delightful.

The Indo-Pak war of 1965 made economic downturn and wide scale public disapproval in 1967. Two years later, Ayub Khan gave up the

²⁴ "Muhammad Ali Jinnah's first Presidential Address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan (August 11, 1947)". J Speech. Retrieved 1 March 2016.

²⁵ McGrath, Allen (1996). *The Destruction of Pakistan's Democracy*. Oxford University Press. p. 38.

²⁶ Ahmed, Akbar (2005). *Jinnah, Pakistan and Islamic Identity: The Search for Saladin*. Routledge. P. 106.

command to General Yahya who had to face the devastating cyclone which resulted in half million casualties in East Pakistan.²⁷ While the elections of 1970 were initially a landmark to democracy by stepping down martial law but after fall of East Pakistan’s “Awami League victory against Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Yahya and military establishment” play a new episode in Pakistan which resulted into not to accept awami league mandate to handed over the power to them brought operation searchlight in Eastern part against the nationalists and Bengali Mukti Bahinis started a full fledged war for their liberation with the association of Indian army which obviously looked as civil war circumstances.²⁸ The insurgency in East, Pakistan launched pre-emptive strikes by Airforce and Navy marines turned into conventional war. The war on two battlefields inside and outside made Pakistan weak soon resulted into Indian victory and dissolution of Eastern Pakistan into Bangladesh.²⁹

Surrender in war made a replacement of Yahya by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto as a president, with continuous effort of couple of years the country stepping up towards promulgation its constitution and democracy in 1973, the era of 1972-77 known as “era of self-consciousness, intellectual leftism, innovations, nationalism,

²⁷ Hussain, Rizwan. Pakistan. The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World. Mawlānā Shabbīr Ahmad Usmānī.

²⁸ Hussain, Rizwan. Pakistan. The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World.

²⁹ Mission with a Difference. Lancer Publishers. p. 17. Retrieved 13 March 2012.

nationwide reconstruction an ambitious plan to develop its nuclear deterrence capability and goal of preventing any foreign invasion; the country's first nuclear power plant was inaugurated in that 1972".³⁰ Another General Ziaul Haq arose against democracy in 1977 with corporatization and economic Islamisation initiatives promulgated marshal law. The period of 1977-88 was a golden time for Pakistan in which is develop itself as fastest growing economic power in South Asia and in this era Zia made a difficult decision of "distribute US resources to factions of the mujahideen against the USSR in Afghanistan".³¹ General Zia, in a plane accident in 1988 wad died while he was on the way from Bahawalpur to Islamabad. Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto the former prime minister of Pakistan was highly mandated by the votes and bestowed "1st ever female Prime Minister of Pakistan and Islamic world" and her party PPP was trailed by "Pakistan Muslim League (N)", and throughout the following decade the pioneers of the two gatherings battled for control, as PML(N) verified a super majority in decisions during 1997 era, PM Nawaz Sharif approved atomic testing, as a reprisal to the 2nd atomic tests requested by India, drove

³⁰ Bose, Sarmila (2005). "Anatomy of Violence: Analysis of Civil War in East Pakistan in 1971". *Economic and Political Weekly*. 40 (41): 4463-4471.

³¹ R. Jahan (2004). Samuel Totten (ed.). *Teaching about genocide: issues, approaches, and resources*. Information Age Publishing. pp. 147-148.

by PM Vajpayee in hostile month of May 1998.³² Military tensions and armed pressure in two nations at junction of J&K and AJK; Kargil locale prompted the “Kargil War”, and disturbance in municipal military relations enabled another General to breakdown the popularity based qualities by another marshal Law. Pervez Musharraf as CEO from 1999 to 2001 and as President from 2001 to 2008 a time of edification, social progressivism, broad monetary changes, and direct inclusion in the US-drove war on psychological oppression. After the assassination of Benazir Bhutto on 27th Dec. 2007, PPP got majority during the elections of 2007 and “Yousaf Raza Gillani was elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan” in a collaborate government of PPP and PML(N), soon Pervaiz Musharraf was suppressed by different resolution from provincial assemblies to make an end of his tenure and replaced by Asif Ali Zardari.³³ Gillani was disposed by Supreme Court order and Pervaiz Ashraf. In the elections of 2013, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz got another historical success and Nawaz Sharif elected as PM and Mamnoon Hussain as president. In this tenure CPEC was launched³⁴

³² Pervez Amerali Hoodbhoy (23 January 2011). "Pakistan's nuclear bayonet". *The Herald*. Archived from the original on 18 February 2011. Retrieved 9 September 2011.

³³ Haroon, Sana (2008). "The Rise of Deobandi Islam in the North-West Frontier Province and Its Implications in Colonial India and Pakistan 1914-1996". *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*. 18 (1): 66-67.

³⁴ Khan, Feroz Hassan (2012). *Eating grass: the making of the Pakistani bomb*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

and soon the PM Sharif was suspended in Panama scandal and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was chosen as next prime minister of Pakistan. In the elections of 2018, Pakistan Tehrik Insaf was taken majority and they established a collaborated government with smaller parties and mainstream parties PML (N) and PPP are in opposition. Sports legend of Cricket Imran Khan was selected as Prime Minister and Arif Alvi was president of Pakistan.³⁵

Economy

Pakistan after independence in 1947 was counted as weaker and weaker economy state and Indian leader predicted that Pakistan state should be dissolved soon being a poorest economy.

Pakistan's key economic statistics	
Pakistan's GDP composition by sector	
Agriculture	20.9%
Industry	20.3%
Services	58.8%
Employment	
Labour force	61.04 million
People employed	57.42 million

Table 5: Economic indicator in Pakistan during 2017-19

This State is enlisted amongst “developing countries” and counted in next eleven along with “BRICs who have a high potential to

³⁵ International Institute for Strategic Studies; Hackett, James (ed.) (2010). The Military Balance 2010. London: Routledge. pp. 367–370.

become the world’s largest economies in the 21st century”. It is also known as “semi industrialized with centers of growth”. According to the “economic complexity index, Pakistan is the 67th largest export and 106th most complex economy and during fiscal year of 2015-16”, stoop at \$20.81billions as export and imports are \$44.76 counted in “negative trade balance about \$23.96 billion”³⁶ which is shown in this table.

Fiscal Year	GDP growth	Inflation rate
2013–14	4.05%	8.6%
2014–15	4.06%	4.5%
2015–16	4.56%	2.9%
2016–17	5.37%	4.2%
2017–18	5.79%	3.8%

The Table showing Pakistani Economy as "Negative Trade Balance"

Pakistan is considered in leading producer of natural commodities comprising upon labor markets as 10th in the world possessing about seven million strong Pakistani diaspora who contributed \$19.9. while the world trade organization (WTO) describes this fact as “Pakistan's share of overall world exports is declining; it contributed only 0.13% in 2007”.

³⁶ Khan, Feroz Hassan (2012). Eating grass: the making of the Pakistani bomb. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.