

Timeline of Constitutional Development of Pakistan

Here, you will have the Timeline of the Constitutional Development of Pakistan from 1947 to the current decade of 2021.

Brief Background Constitutional History:

By the end of World War II, the British imperial government granted independence to its Indian colony and for that matter, the British Parliament enacted the Indian Independence Act, 1947. Under the Act, the British Crown relinquished its sovereign powers over India and transferred those powers to the newly established dominions of India and Pakistan on 14 August 1947. The Government of India Act, 1935, hitherto the constitution of British India, was amended to bring it in consonance with the aims and objectives of independence as laid down in the 1947 Act. The combination of these two constitutional instruments served as an interim constitutional order for both countries until their respective constituent assemblies adopted their own constitutions.

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Constitutions of Pakistan MCQs

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Aug-1947	The Objective Resolution - the first document of constitutional nature - introduced and adopted by the first Constituent Assembly amid opposition from the Pakistan National Congress, the only opposition party consisting of Hindu minority from East Pakistan.	
Mar-1949	The Objective Resolution - the first document of constitutional nature - introduced and adopted by the first Constituent Assembly amid opposition from the Pakistan National Congress, the only opposition party consisting of Hindu minority from East Pakistan.	
Sep-1950	Interim Report of the Basic Principle Committee introduced in the Constituent Assembly, but due to public opposition from Bengal and Punjab on the federal formula, debate on the report postponed.	
Dec-1952	Basic Principle Committee Report is introduced in the assembly for discussion.	
Sep-1954	Report of the Basic Principle Committee is adopted as the draft constitution.	
Oct-1954	First Constituent Assembly is dissolved by the Governor-General Ghulam Muhammad.	
Jun-1954	Indirect elections held / nominations made to the second Constituent Assembly.	
Sep-1955	One-Unit constituted, combining the four provinces and ten princely states of West Pakistan.	
Feb-1956	1956 Constitution promulgated.	
October 1958	1956 Constitution is abrogated and martial law imposed. General Ayub Khan takes over the reins of power.	
Jun-1962	General Ayub Khan promulgates the 1962 Constitution through an executive order.	
Mar-1969	General Ayub Khan steps down and hands over the reins of power to his successor General Muhammad Yahya Khan who imposes second martial law in the country.	
Mar-1970	One-Unit is dismantled and Legal Framework Order is issued to serve as the interim constitution.	
Dec-1970	First general elections on adult franchise were held in the country.	
Dec-1971	East Pakistan secedes after a brief and bloody civil war, General Yahya Khan steps down and Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto takes over as the first civilian martial law administrator.	
Mar-1972	First Tripartite Accord between the Pakistan Peoples Party and the coalition of National Awami Party and Jamiat-ul-Ulema Pakistan.	
Apr-1973	1973 Constitution adopted.	Nov-1985
Apr-1997	The civil government of Nawaz Sharif restored some powers of the Prime Minister under the 1973 constitution which were taken away by 8 th Amendment and also took away power of the President to dissolve the National Assembly in his discretion.	Parliament passed the 8 th Amendment to 1973 Constitution giving legal and constitutional cover to the suspension of the constitution and all acts of General Ziaul Haq between the suspension and restoration of the constitution.
Oct-1999	General Musharraf launches the third military coup, suspends the constitution, dismisses the federal and provincial governments, assumes the office the Chief Executive, declares state of emergency and promulgates the Provincial Constitutional Order, 1999.	
Jun-2001	Musharraf assumes the office of the President of Pakistan.	
Aug-2002	Musharraf issued the Legal Framework Order, 2002, providing for the general elections of 2001, restoration of the 1973 constitution with numerous amendments.	
Dec-2003	Parliament passed the 17 th Amendment in the 1973 constitution, incorporating the Legal Framework Order, 2002 into the constitution, reversing the 13 th Amendment by bringing the Prime Minister and National Assembly, once again, under the thumb of the President, which office was occupied by General Musharraf.	
Nov-2007	Musharraf issued another Legal Framework Order No.1 of 2007, assuming to himself the power of amending the constitution, and suspending the fundamental rights. He steps down as the military chief and is sworn as the President for the third term.	



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Feb-2008	General elections held in the country, in which General Musharraf's supported party was defeated.
Aug-2008	Musharraf resigns from the office of President under intense pressure and ahead of impeachment charges.
Apr-2010	18 th Amendment, removing discretionary powers of the President to dissolve the national assembly and restoring to the office of Prime Minister all powers under the constitution that were taken by the military dictators General Ziaul Haq and Musharraf, and turning Pakistan from a semi-presidential to parliamentary system.

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