



75 YEARS
OF PAKISTAN
A COUNTRY IN SEARCH OF
POLITICAL STABILITY
SEMINAR
REPORT

OCTOBER 2022

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Overview of the Organization | 3 |
| Participants Profile | 3 |
| Selection Criteria..... | 4 |
| Setting the Context | 4 |
| Objectives..... | 5 |
| Discussion by the Panelists..... | 6 |
| Takeaways from the Seminar | 9 |
| Q. Is Pakistan an accidental state?..... | 9 |
| Q. What is the nature of our problems?..... | 9 |
| Q. What were the significant achievements during Ayub Khan's era that earned it the title of the "Golden Era"? | 10 |
| Q. What factors contributed to the decline in Pakistan's development trajectory following Ayub Khan's era, despite its initial successes? | 10 |
| Q. How can Pakistan address the challenges it faces post-Ayub Khan's era and foster sustainable development? | 10 |
| Q. How would Mr. Zahid Aziz characterize the identity of Bhutto?..... | 11 |
| Q. Who can be held responsible for the Fall of Dhaka?..... | 11 |
| Q. How do you assess Zia's era? | 12 |
| Q. What is your perspective on Zia's era? | 12 |
| Q. How is the 1990s era in Pakistan assessed?..... | 12 |
| Q. What are the views on future stability in Pakistan?..... | 13 |
| Q. How are recent briefings by the DG ISI and ISPR representatives viewed?..... | 13 |
| Q. How is the future stability of Pakistan perceived?..... | 13 |
| Q. What are the concerns regarding the potential exploitation of internal divisions by foreign elements? ... | 14 |
| Q&A Session with the Students | 14 |
| Q. What role do student unions play in Pakistan, and why are they not allowed?..... | 14 |
| Q. We are told that once you enter government or become a civil servant you won't have any control over your decisions. How true is that? | 14 |
| Final Words of Advice | 15 |
| Findings..... | 15 |
| Glimpses of the Seminar | 19 |

Overview of the Organization

The Institute of Policy Input and Research (IPIR) is a non-profit, non-political, and independent research organization dedicated to promoting evidence-based decision-making, fostering innovative thinking, nurturing a cross-disciplinary research culture, upholding integrity, and developing human resources. It maintains impartiality by refraining from endorsing any political party or institution in its policy evaluations. The primary objective of IPIR is to cultivate a robust research culture and an inclusive policy-making model to foster a better society conducive to the flourishing of future generations. Emphasizing professionalism, transparency, and objective research, IPIR serves as a beacon for informed decision-making.

As a sister organization of the World Times Institute, IPIR collaborates closely with the institute and shares its mission to provide valuable insights and analysis to the public. Additionally, IPIR is affiliated with Jahangir World Times (JWT), Pakistan's premier monthly magazine on current affairs, catering specifically to aspirants for competitive exams such as CSS, PMS, and others.

On 29th October 2022 at 2:00 PM, IPIR organized a seminar titled "Pakistan at 75 Years: A Country in Search of Political Stability" at the Main Hall of the World Times Institute.

Participants Profile

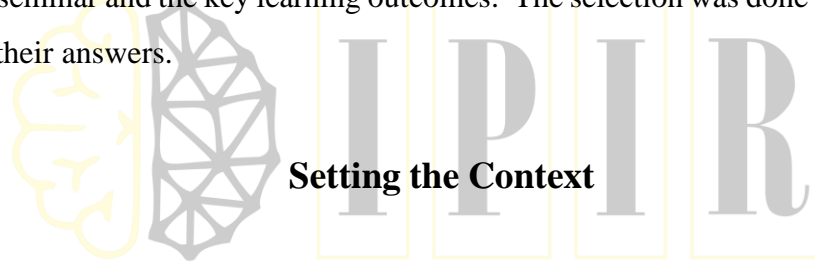
- Prof. Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi - Senior Political and Defense Analyst
- Dr. Hassan Iqbal - Former Federal Secretary
- Mr. Zahid Aziz - Senior Political Analyst and Columnist
- Mr. Ahsan Tariq – Geopolitical Analyst and Moderator
- Ambassador Irfan ur Rehman Raja (Senior Faculty Member of WTI, Lahore)
- Mr. Adeel Niaz (Project Director World Times Institute)
- Miss. Tahmina Habib (Deputy Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs)
- Dr. Mahmood Alam Durrani (Principal of Akhtar Saeed College)

- Shahid Zaheer (Retired Chief Commissioner, Inland Revenue Service)
- Col (Retd) Abid (Senior Defense Analyst and Columnist)

Our honorable guests included august personalities from academia, politics, bureaucracy, law, and other fields of life. Apart from our speakers and chief guests, around 100 participants joined the seminar from various universities.

Selection Criteria

We initiated a Google Doc for participants. Apart from the general information e.g. university, qualification, grades, they had to submit an answer highlighting the reason(s) for attending this seminar and the key learning outcomes. The selection was done based on the quality and clarity of their answers.



Setting the Context

In the tumultuous journey of Pakistan over the past 75 years, politics has been a constant source of chaos and challenge. Periods of stability have been fleeting, overshadowed by frequent upheavals and leadership vacuums. This instability has hindered the strengthening of state institutions and exacerbated socio-political polarization, leading to a depletion of economic resources.

As outlined in Ray Dalio's book 'Changing World Order,' Pakistan appears to be following a concerning trajectory towards internal unrest, aligning with what Dalio describes as an Internal Order/Disorder Cycle. Over the last 25 years, Pakistan's industrial productivity has seen minimal growth, contrasting starkly with China's exponential economic expansion. Foreign Direct Investment has dwindled, and the country's reserves have plummeted to their lowest levels in three years, painting a bleak economic picture.

To navigate these challenges and compete effectively on the global stage, Pakistan must prioritize political stability, foster a balance of power, and strengthen its institutions. Without

concerted efforts in these areas, the gradual decay of institutions may ultimately lead to the state's implosion. Pakistan's political leadership must take decisive action to earn the respect and recognition the country deserves, both regionally and internationally.

Objectives

- i. Through a critical analysis of Pakistan's political eras, the aim is to gain a deeper understanding of the factors contributing to the nation's tumultuous political history, including external influences, internal power struggles, and socio-economic dynamics.
- ii. Investigating the root causes behind Pakistan's turbulent political journey to identify key factors driving instability, such as weak governance structures, institutional corruption, and historical grievances.
- iii. Exploring the reasons for the lack of a functional democracy in Pakistan, examining institutional barriers, political culture, and the role of external actors in shaping democratic processes.
- iv. Evaluating the underlying causes of prolonged political instability in Pakistan, including factors such as regional conflicts, sectarian tensions, and the legacy of colonialism.
- v. Examining critical events in Pakistan's history, such as the separation of East Pakistan and the rise of military dictatorships, to understand their impact on the country's political landscape and national identity.
- vi. Investigating whether Pakistan can be considered an accidental state, analyzing the circumstances surrounding its creation, the challenges of nation-building, and the evolution of its political institutions.
- vii. Understanding the role of the military and bureaucracy in shaping Pakistan's political dynamics, including their influence on governance, foreign policy, and national security.
- viii. Engaging in a debate on potential solutions to address Pakistan's persistent political instability, focusing on reforms in governance structures, electoral processes, and socio-economic development initiatives.

Discussion by the Panelists

Prof. Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi offered a detailed examination of Pakistan's political trajectory, juxtaposing its accomplishments with persisting challenges. He began by acknowledging Pakistan's operational democracy, asserting its comparative advantage over several Muslim-majority nations. However, he identified a pervasive deficit in democratic culture, an underlying issue that impedes the nation's holistic advancement. With a critical eye on Pakistan's 75-year political odyssey, he cautioned against oversimplifying the complex interplay of achievements and ongoing struggles, refraining from categorizing the latter as outright failures.

He delved into Pakistan's formative years, meticulously dissecting the formidable obstacles it confronted at its inception. Notably, he shed light on the formidable task of nation-building amidst a partitioned subcontinent, fraught with challenges such as unproductive land allocations and the mass migration of refugees. Despite the daunting nature of these challenges, he underscored Pakistan's pragmatic orientation towards survival, prioritizing immediate existential concerns over the idealistic pursuit of democratization in a volatile post-partition landscape.

Nevertheless, he did not hesitate to address the contemporary challenges looming on Pakistan's horizon. Of particular concern was the persistent food deficit, exacerbated by Pakistan's predominantly agrarian economy. He aptly highlighted the ominous correlation between food insecurity and escalating social unrest, underscoring the urgent imperative of rectifying this pressing issue to avert potential instability.

Transitioning from challenges to opportunities, he offered a hopeful perspective, identifying nascent yet promising developments within Pakistan's societal fabric. Notably, he highlighted the emergence of a burgeoning cadre of educated youth and dynamic entrepreneurs, whose potential, if harnessed effectively, could catalyze sustainable progress and prosperity.

His analysis then shifted focus to the multifaceted nature of Pakistan's political instability, advocating for a holistic approach that considers political, economic, and societal dimensions. He emphasized the indispensability of evaluating leadership attributes, economic dynamics, and societal dispositions to glean a comprehensive understanding of the underlying causes of instability.

Moreover, he delivered a poignant critique of Pakistan's stagnant collective narrative, lamenting the persistent fixation on external transformations at the expense of internal evolution. He cited recent debates surrounding Pakistani identity as emblematic of this entrenched mindset, underscoring the urgent need for a paradigm shift towards a forward-thinking outlook to effectively address contemporary challenges.

In summation, his address offered a nuanced and meticulously crafted analysis of Pakistan's political landscape. It celebrated past achievements while candidly confronting ongoing impediments, advocating for a proactive and forward-looking approach to steer Pakistan towards a more stable, prosperous, and inclusive future.

Dr. Hassan Iqbal commenced his address with a brilliant aphorism, “If you forget your past, you will live it again”, underscoring the critical importance of remembering history to avoid reliving its tumultuous chapters. Reflecting on Pakistan's historical narrative, he acknowledged its turbulent trajectory marked by political upheavals and internal discord. Despite these challenges, he acknowledged significant milestones, including Pakistan's attainment of nuclear power status, which altered the regional balance of power. Amidst these achievements, however, he lamented the nation's persistent instability and internal strife, highlighting the urgent imperative to harness its greatest asset: its youth.

Drawing from his extensive experience in administration spanning four decades, he identified administrative inefficiencies and bureaucratic red tape as formidable impediments to Pakistan's quest for stability. He criticized the prevailing myopic and reactive approach to problem-solving, lamenting the absence of proactive measures to address systemic issues before they escalate. He underscored the pressing need for a sustainable mechanism to tackle challenges, emphasizing the inadequacy of ad hoc solutions in addressing Pakistan's complex socio-political landscape.

Furthermore, he highlighted the shift in Pakistan's predominant challenges from external to internal spheres. While external threats have waned, internal obstacles such as administrative hurdles and systemic shortcomings have emerged as primary impediments to progress. He emphasized the imperative of addressing these internal challenges with urgency and foresight, advocating for a paradigm shift towards proactive governance and sustainable solutions.

His address provided a sobering assessment of Pakistan's internal dynamics, emphasizing the need for systemic reform and proactive governance to navigate the nation toward stability and prosperity.

Mr. Zahid Aziz provided a nuanced analysis of Pakistan's journey over the past 75 years, portraying it as a perpetual contest characterized by alternating political regimes. Delving into historical patterns, he delineated the oscillation between odd and even decades, noting that even decades often witnessed the imposition of dictatorships, which, while bringing about relative political stability, were also accompanied by economic growth. In contrast, odd decades were marred by political and economic challenges, highlighting a cycle of instability.

Despite the economic strides made during dictatorial rule, Mr. Aziz cautioned against overlooking the long-term consequences. He pointed out ongoing conflicts with India, simmering linguistic and ethnic tensions, and persistent economic instability as enduring challenges that have shaped Pakistan's trajectory. This comprehensive assessment underscored the multifaceted nature of Pakistan's governance landscape and the intricacies of its political dynamics.

Moreover, Mr. Aziz acknowledged Pakistan's comparative performance within the Muslim world, noting its unique hybrid governance model. He stressed the importance of fostering long-term political stability through a holistic approach, advocating for the elevation of middle-class politics and the cultivation of organic leadership. He highlighted deficiencies in the current leadership landscape, dominated by establishment figures, and called for reforms to empower local government institutions and enhance accountability mechanisms.

In essence, Mr. Aziz's analysis provided valuable insights into the complex interplay between political dynamics and governance structures in Pakistan. His call for comprehensive reforms resonated with the need to address longstanding challenges and pave the way for enduring stability and progress in the nation's journey ahead.

Takeaways from the Seminar

Q. Is Pakistan an accidental state?

Pakistan's establishment cannot be deemed accidental, given its historical context. The process of gaining independence and laying the foundations of Pakistan was marked by deliberate efforts and a struggle-based approach. Despite this, Pakistan has faced challenges in achieving stability, which is acknowledged as part of its journey. Initially, the focus was on creating a viable state, which involved addressing issues like provincial linkages and establishing governance structures, particularly in places like Dhaka. The influx of refugees and communal tensions, notably in Bengal and Calcutta, added to the complexities of nation-building.

Q. What is the nature of our problems?

Whenever we start a thing there is a learning curve, which means people learn by doing it over time. Pakistan right after independence faced a similar issue. There was a lack of trained civil servants. They were settling down; some were leaving the country. We also had to rehabilitate the military. Our main reliance was on British Civil/Military assets and it was comparatively more than India's. The issue of economy, highlighted in the starting, was that it was a unified one and it took a lot of time to create a separate version of it. The institutional imbalances spilled over from British where state institutions were more powerful than political. Gradually other problems emerged such as the increased role of the military which was due to the overall geostrategic makeup of Pakistan at that time. The role of bureaucracy was also added but was constantly undermined given the continuous disturbances.

It is also important for civilizations that we create alternate civilian infrastructure that we critically lack. To reduce the role and influence of the military and to strike a balance in our institutional makeup we need to change what is called the security profile of our country. Furthermore, we need to stop our over-reliance on these institutions for administrative and other issues that come under the rubric of government. We need to perform as a civilian government.

Q. What were the significant achievements during Ayub Khan's era that earned it the title of the "Golden Era"?

Ayub Khan's era, often referred to as the "Golden Era," witnessed remarkable economic development under the leadership of a proactive bureaucracy. This period saw the implementation of various policies aimed at fostering growth and modernization. One notable achievement was the initiation of the Green Revolution, which revolutionized agricultural practices and led to a substantial increase in per capita income. The bureaucracy played a central role in this period, efficiently allocating resources and spearheading developmental projects such as the construction of vital infrastructure like canals. These concerted efforts resulted in tangible improvements in the country's economic indicators, contributing to the perception of Ayub Khan's tenure as a period of prosperity and progress.

Q. What factors contributed to the decline in Pakistan's development trajectory following Ayub Khan's era, despite its initial successes?

Despite the initial successes of Ayub Khan's era, Pakistan experienced a decline in its development trajectory in the subsequent years. One significant factor was the policy shift towards nationalization, which disrupted the previously conducive business environment. This move led to uncertainty among investors and entrepreneurs, resulting in capital flight and a loss of confidence in the economy. Additionally, corruption and inefficiencies crept into the system, hindering the effective implementation of development initiatives. These challenges, coupled with the lack of sustainable policies, contributed to the stagnation and eventual decline witnessed post-Ayub Khan's era.

Q. How can Pakistan address the challenges it faces post-Ayub Khan's era and foster sustainable development?

To overcome the challenges faced post-Ayub Khan's era and foster sustainable development, Pakistan must undertake comprehensive reforms and adopt a strategic approach. This involves creating a secure and conducive environment for business by rooting out corruption

and ensuring transparent governance practices. Clear parameters for progress should be set, and efforts should be made to pursue composite development initiatives that address multiple facets of the economy and society. Moreover, holding decision-makers accountable and promoting collaboration between bureaucrats and leadership are essential steps towards laying the groundwork for sustainable development in Pakistan.

Q. How would Mr. Zahid Aziz characterize the identity of Bhutto?

Bhutto's identity encompassed various facets, notably that of an adept politician who addressed functional disparities and advocated for social democratic principles. Despite possessing strong credentials in social democracy, Bhutto encountered challenges in fully realizing the policy doctrines he championed. His era witnessed a blend of significant achievements and failures, influenced by both internal and external factors. Despite his efforts to foster political consensus and unite disparate political factions, Bhutto's career reflected a complex interplay of successes and setbacks. While he succeeded in establishing a unified voice across the political spectrum, Bhutto's cautious approach to implementing his socialist-leaning policies limited their effectiveness and contributed to his eventual downfall.

Q. Who can be held responsible for the Fall of Dhaka?

The Fall of Dhaka is a complex event rooted in internal failures within Pakistan. Multiple factors contributed to the emergence of Bangladeshi nationalism, including unequal development and social injustice. This nationalism manifested in ethnic and linguistic identities, ultimately leading to the dissolution of East Pakistan. Individuals such as Mujeeb ur Rehman, Yahya Khan, and Bhutto all played roles in this internal failure. Mujeeb ur Rehman's leadership represented the aspirations of the Bengali population, which felt marginalized within the Pakistani state. Yahya Khan's failure to address the grievances of East Pakistan and his decision to resort to military action further exacerbated tensions. Bhutto's political maneuvers and unwillingness to accommodate Bengali demands also contributed to the crisis. Ultimately, the Fall of Dhaka stands as a stark reminder of the consequences of internal divisions and neglect within a nation.

Q. How do you assess Zia's era?

Zia-ul-Haq's era was characterized by the global trend of Islamization, which was fueled by geopolitical dynamics, including the Cold War. While Pakistan received support during this period, primarily from the United States, the pursuit of Islamic policies had far-reaching consequences domestically. Zia's Islamization policies aimed to bolster the country's Islamic identity but inadvertently led to the marginalization of certain communities and the exacerbation of sectarian tensions. The aftermath of Zia's era saw a rise in sectarian violence and a fragmentation of societal cohesion, highlighting the long-term repercussions of his policies.

Q. What is your perspective on Zia's era?

Zia-ul-Haq's era marked a significant shift in Pakistan's trajectory, particularly in terms of its engagement with Islamization. While Pakistan's involvement in the broader Islamic movement was initially seen as a response to regional and global dynamics, the failure to effectively manage the aftermath of this engagement led to internal strife. The glorification of jihad and the instrumentalization of religious rhetoric without adequate planning for post-conflict reintegration contributed to the perpetuation of challenges that continue to plague Pakistan. This era serves as a cautionary tale about the complexities of navigating religious identity within the context of statecraft.

Q. How is the 1990s era in Pakistan assessed?

The assessment of the 1990s era in Pakistan involves a critical examination, drawing parallels with the governance model of Ayub Khan's regime. It underscores that despite assertions of stability by authoritarian regimes, the fundamental issues persisted without resolution. There's a call for introspection within the political sphere, urging politicians to enhance their performance, minimize internal conflicts, and foster a culture of consensus-building. Additionally, there's an emphasis on adopting the discipline and coordination observed within the military for effective governance. The significance of achieving both electoral legitimacy and performance-based

credibility is highlighted, particularly in addressing basic societal needs such as healthcare, education, and food security, which remain unmet in many areas.

Q. What are the views on future stability in Pakistan?

Future stability in Pakistan is viewed through the lens of the nation's untapped potential, particularly among its youth. There's a consensus on the imperative need for pragmatic, resilient, and visionary leadership to harness this potential effectively. The continuity of such leadership is seen as pivotal to preventing the country from falling into a state of perpetual stagnation. However, the current dearth of effective leadership is acknowledged as a significant hurdle that must be overcome through concerted efforts aimed at identifying and nurturing capable leaders who can steer the nation toward sustainable growth and development.

Q. How are recent briefings by the DG ISI and ISPR representatives viewed?

Recent briefings by the DG ISI and ISPR representatives mark a departure from traditional practices, signaling a shift towards greater transparency and accountability within these institutions. However, their effectiveness is contingent upon the willingness of political parties to demonstrate tangible performance and avoid creating governance vacuums. While the acknowledgment of the stated roles by these institutions is appreciated, their successful implementation hinges on the wisdom and foresight of political stakeholders in ensuring a harmonious balance of power dynamics within the country.

Q. How is the future stability of Pakistan perceived?

The perception of future stability in Pakistan is closely linked to the political acumen and efficacy of leadership in addressing internal challenges and preventing the emergence of power vacuums. There's a consensus on the importance of resolving internal conflicts and fostering a conducive environment for sustainable governance. While the statements made by the DG ISI are noted, their actualization depends on the pragmatic decision-making of political entities and their commitment to upholding democratic principles and institutions.

Q. What are the concerns regarding the potential exploitation of internal divisions by foreign elements?

There are legitimate concerns regarding the potential exploitation of internal divisions within Pakistan by foreign entities seeking to further their interests. The need for internal cohesion, cooperation, and coordination among various stakeholders is underscored as essential for safeguarding national sovereignty and security. It is recognized that the exploitation of internal divisions could undermine the country's stability and integrity, necessitating proactive measures to mitigate such risks through concerted efforts aimed at fostering unity and resilience against external pressures.

Q&A Session with the Students

Q. What role do student unions play in Pakistan, and why are they not allowed?

Student unions historically have served as platforms for student representation, advocacy, and activism, allowing students to voice their concerns and participate in campus governance. They have played pivotal roles in advocating for student rights, promoting academic freedom, and engaging in social and political issues. However, in Pakistan, student unions have faced restrictions and have been banned since the 1980s due to concerns over violence, political unrest, and disruption of academic activities. The ban was imposed during military regimes, citing the need to maintain law and order on campuses. While some argue that student unions can foster democratic values and groom future leaders, others contend that they often become politicized and contribute to campus violence and radicalization. The debate over whether to lift the ban on student unions continues, with proponents advocating for their reinstatement under strict regulations to prevent misuse and ensure peaceful student activism.

Q. We are told that once you enter government or become a civil servant you won't have any control over your decisions. How true is that?

Decision-making is a collective exercise and requires a collective opinion. We do realize that sometimes illogical decisions are being peddled by the higher authorities but that is not always

the case. So while it is true you can turn it around by showing and proving yourself. Your work should speak and that will give you some space to be vocal and voice your concerns.

Final Words of Advice

Objective and impartial analysis is encouraged when studying Pakistan's complex socio-political landscape, devoid of emotional bias or preconceived notions. Additionally, there's a call for social mobilization to address power imbalances and promote inclusivity within the national discourse, ensuring a balanced distribution of resources and opportunities for all segments of society.

Findings

1. Pakistan's establishment was a deliberate process rooted in historical context, not accidental. The struggle for independence and laying the foundations involved intentional efforts. Challenges in achieving stability have been part of Pakistan's journey. Initially, the focus was on creating a viable state, addressing provincial linkages, and establishing governance structures, especially in Dhaka. The influx of refugees and communal tensions, particularly in Bengal and Calcutta, further complicated the nation-building process.
2. Pakistan faced a learning curve after independence, including a lack of trained civil servants, the need to rehabilitate the military, and the challenge of creating a separate economy. Institutional imbalances inherited from the British era, where state institutions were more powerful than political ones, contributed to the country's problems. The military's increased role was influenced by Pakistan's geostrategic makeup, and the bureaucracy's role was undermined by continuous disturbances. To reduce the military's influence and achieve a balanced institutional makeup, Pakistan needs to change its security profile and reduce its over-reliance on the military for administrative tasks.
3. Ayub Khan's era was marked by remarkable economic development under a proactive bureaucracy.
 - a. Initiation of the Green Revolution, which revolutionized agricultural practices

and led to a substantial increase in per capita income.

- b. Efficient allocation of resources and spearheading of developmental projects, such as the construction of vital infrastructure like canals.
 - c. The bureaucracy played a central role in this period, contributing to the perception of Ayub Khan's tenure as a period of prosperity and progress.
 - d. Tangible improvements in the country's economic indicators were observed during this time.
4. Pakistan's economic trajectory post-Ayub Khan's era saw a decline attributed to various factors. A notable shift towards nationalization disrupted the business environment, causing uncertainty among investors and entrepreneurs, leading to capital flight and a loss of economic confidence. Corruption and inefficiencies further hindered development initiatives, contributing to stagnation and eventual decline due to the absence of sustainable policies.
 5. Bhutto's political identity was multifaceted, portraying him as a skilled politician who tackled functional disparities and advocated for social democratic principles. Despite his strong credentials in this ideology, Bhutto faced challenges in fully realizing the policy doctrines he championed. His era reflected a mix of notable achievements and failures influenced by a combination of internal and external factors. While Bhutto worked towards fostering political consensus and uniting disparate factions, his career showcased a complex interplay of successes and setbacks. Although he successfully established a unified political voice, Bhutto's cautious approach to implementing his socialist-leaning policies limited their effectiveness and ultimately contributed to his downfall.
 6. The Fall of Dhaka was a complex event stemming from internal failures within Pakistan, driven by various factors such as unequal development and social injustice that fueled Bangladeshi nationalism. This nationalism, rooted in ethnic and linguistic identities, culminated in the separation of East Pakistan. Key figures like Mujeeb ur Rehman, Yahya Khan, and Bhutto played pivotal roles in this internal breakdown. Mujeeb ur Rehman symbolized the aspirations of the marginalized Bengali population, while Yahya Khan's failure to address East Pakistan's grievances and resort to military action heightened tensions. Bhutto's political decisions and reluctance to accommodate Bengali demands also contributed to the crisis. The Fall of Dhaka serves as a poignant

- reminder of the repercussions of internal divisions and neglect within a nation.
7. During Zia-ul-Haq's era, the global trend of Islamization, influenced by geopolitical factors like the Cold War, shaped Pakistan's trajectory. Despite receiving support, notably from the United States, the implementation of Islamic policies under Zia had significant domestic consequences. While aiming to strengthen Pakistan's Islamic identity, these policies unintentionally marginalized communities and heightened sectarian tensions. The aftermath of Zia's rule witnessed increased sectarian violence and a breakdown of societal unity, underscoring the enduring impact of his governance on Pakistan's social fabric.
 8. The assessment of the 1990s era in Pakistan critically examines the governance model, drawing comparisons with Ayub Khan's regime. It highlights that despite claims of stability under authoritarian rule, fundamental issues persisted unresolved. The assessment calls for political introspection, urging politicians to improve performance, reduce internal conflicts, and promote consensus-building. Emphasizing the need to emulate the discipline and coordination seen in the military for effective governance, the importance of attaining both electoral legitimacy and performance-based credibility is underscored. Addressing basic societal needs like healthcare, education, and food security, which remain unmet in various regions, is identified as crucial.
 9. The future stability of Pakistan hinges on unlocking the nation's untapped potential, especially among its youth. There is a shared belief in the necessity of pragmatic, resilient, and visionary leadership to harness this potential efficiently. Sustaining such leadership is deemed crucial to averting perpetual stagnation. Yet, the lack of effective leadership poses a notable challenge, necessitating focused initiatives to identify and cultivate capable leaders capable of guiding the country towards sustainable progress and development.
 10. The recent briefings by the DG ISI and ISPR representatives highlight a shift towards increased transparency and accountability within these institutions. These briefings emphasize the importance of political parties demonstrating tangible performance and avoiding governance vacuums to make this transparency effective. While the acknowledgment of roles by these institutions is welcomed, the successful implementation depends on political stakeholders ensuring a balanced power dynamic in the country.

11. Legitimate concerns exist about foreign entities exploiting internal divisions in Pakistan to advance their interests. Internal cohesion, cooperation, and coordination among stakeholders are crucial to protect national sovereignty and security. The exploitation of internal divisions could threaten the country's stability and integrity, highlighting the importance of proactive measures to counter such risks through united efforts to promote unity and resilience against external pressures.



**INSTITUTE OF POLICY
INPUT & RESEARCH**

Glimpses of the Seminar



