

## ROLE OF RELIGION IN THE POLITICS OF PAKISTAN & INDIA

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### Abstract

*Pakistan's political trajectory has been strongly influenced by religion because the country emerged as a Muslim state. The situation can be divided into two stages: the pre-partition and post-partition eras. Islam was an effective means for political mobilisation during the pre-partition era, helping to establish a Muslim state. However, the leadership's emphasis on the role of religion greatly decreased once the political goal of nationhood was achieved. Because the people wanted a Muslim country and the leadership wanted a secular state, a dispute over ideology arose. The two-nation theory, which served as a basis for Pakistan, came to be defunct on August 11, 1947, when Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah stated in the public eye that religion was a matter for the individual and focused on the equality of all religions. The value of religion in Pakistan's political growth has been highlighted in different works, such as the 1962 Constitution, the Objectives Resolution, the Basic Principles Committee Report, and the anti-Ahmadiya riots.*

*Keywords: Islam, Muslim, Pakistan's political, leadership's emphasis, secular state .*

### INTRODUCTION

Religion can be defined as the belief in and worship of Allah and Gods, or any such system of worship, and the beliefs of their religion can be determinants of their own thoughts and beliefs. Politics is the way and rule that people living in a group make decisions. Politics gives an idea of the agreement and policy between the people and states that they can live together in groups, such as tribes or a country. A large number of groups of people, such as countries, have spent more time making such agreements for group countries.

The aspiration of Muslims for a distinct homeland led to the establishment of Pakistan as an Islamic state in 1947. Islam has long been seen as a unifying factor in Pakistani politics, and a number of political movements have used Islamic principles to influence governance and policy. The majority religion in Pakistan's sociological landscape is Islam, although there are other minorities. Important factors to take into account are the relationships between Muslims and non-Muslim minorities, as well as the dynamics between various sects within Islam.

Pakistan's political development has been significantly influenced by religion, as the country was founded as a Muslim state. Pakistan's political development has been significantly influenced by religion, as the country was founded as a Muslim state. These can be divided into two stages and two eras: one is called pre-partition, and the other is called post-partition. Islam was a powerful tool for political mobilisation during the pre-partition era, helping to establish a Muslim state on August 14, 1947. but after nationhood served its political purpose, the leadership's emphasis on the importance of religion significantly decreased. Because the people wanted a Muslim country and the leadership wanted a secular state, an ideological conflict resulted. Whenever the subject of religion comes up in Pakistani politics, it is viewed as a means of taking advantage of the country's religious sentiment for one's own political advantage. Although it is true that Pakistan has historically and currently used religion as a political tool,

Harsh criticism frequently misses the social gains that can result from a meaningful integration of religion into politics.

From very beginning since from independent that Pakistan was created on that time religion party and religion leader from very beginning that they play important role in creation of constitution and on that time moved objective resolution that preamble of that were based on religion aspect that it was from that very started that religion use as tool for making political stability and policy making on the based on the religion view point on that were developed as major tool used as religion and as card used all the political party that take their popularity and its used as tool of islamization of country.

India has historically been home to a wide range of religious and cultural traditions, including Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism.<sup>1</sup> The clash of political and religious identities occurred during the fight for independence from British domination. The political and social dynamics of both countries were significantly impacted by the 1947 religious division of India into Pakistan and India, respectively, based on regions with a majority of Muslims and Hindus.

India is known for its religious diversity, with a sizable Muslim, Sikh, Christian, and other minority population in addition to Hinduism, which makes up the majority of the country. Understanding how various religious communities interact, coexist, or occasionally experience political tensions is essential to the sociological analysis. India indeed religion has a significant influence on Indian politics. It facilitates the political parties' effort to sway voter attitudes. It also aids in their formulation of various political plans and policy discussions. They can also use its to influence public conversation.

In India there are political parties with a particular religion. Some parties concentrate on particular religious communities. It's also evident that none of the parties are founded exclusively on religious principles. There are numerous political parties in India that stand for different philosophies and viewpoints. Election results are significantly influenced by religious beliefs. Voter are frequently mobilised by political parties based on their religion.<sup>2</sup> Parties that identify with particular religious communities' parties that respond to their issues also garner a lot of support. Its facilitates the party ability t sway election outcomes in their favour.

Religion has a positive role in Indian politics. It has the potential to improve social cohesion safeguard the rights of minorities. Address social issues and grant various religious communities political influence. In Indian politics, religion can be detrimental.<sup>3</sup> It may lead to conflict, prejudice, and division. This is due to the possibility of tension and religious group differences resulting from its.

For centuries religion has played a crucial role in Indian politics and society. Religion has a big impact on political discourse and mass mobilisation in a country as diverse as India. With Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism among its major religions, India is renowned for its rich cultural and religious diversity. These religious convictions have had a positive and negative impact on Indian politics, social norms, and practices. Political parties with strong religious ties have a long history in India. The Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party the two main political parties, have strong religious ties. The Hindu nationalist movement Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP are well known for their shared agenda. He INC, on the other hand, has attempted to maintain its neutrality on religious matters and has been linked to secular ideology. In India, religion has been a significant factor in political campaigns and elections.

To win over voters, politicians frequently employ religious language and imagery, political parties frequently employ religious imagery and symbols during election in and effort to forge a religious identity and win over voters form a specific religious community. In Indian politics this phenomenon is referred to as communalism. Politician have also taken advantage of religious tensions to further their own agendas. There have been violent riots in the past, frequently caused by tension between different religions. As a result of these event. Religion has become politicised and religious identity has been exploited as a means of voter mobilisation.

Religion has contributed positively to Indian politics despite its drawbacks. Social reform movements in India have benefited greatly from the involvement of religious leaders and institutions. For instance, the Sikh community has been instrumental in the struggle against social injustice and caste discrimination. Religious organisation has also played a role in giving the underprivileged and disenfranchised members of society access to healthcare and education. These groups frequently focus on morality, ethics and spirituality and have spiritual agenda. They want to reach a wider audience and are not associated with any specific religious groups.<sup>4</sup>

And what is a status of religion in secular state and how it plays a role in that type of country.

How the role of religion into politics and how its influence and how its gain public opinion and how its impact on

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*politics of India and Pakistan.*

*How can play a role of religion in the politics of Pakistan and India and how its use and misuse of religion as a slogan and its make mandate of their own party.*

*How the role of religion us as a tool in to politics of Pakistan and India and how its contribution to achievement the goal into politics?*

*What is the role religion to develop and influence into the politics of India and Pakistan?*

*How religion platforms contribute to the shaping of public opinion in Pakistan and India?*

*What is the impact of religion on the politics of Pakistan and India and what was its positive and negative impact of politics?*

*How do the religion play role to changing the popularity of political party and how if effect on public opinion and how its create soft corner for politician?*

### **OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

*The main objective of the research article Exploring the role of religion in shaping public opinion and politics of Pakistan and India, and described how religion play role to politics and how its positive impact and how its negative impact of politics. How religion effect on policy making and public opinion. The research aims to comprehensively examine to how religion play important role to contribution in politics of both India and Pakistan, and how political party use religion as cards for their popularityand religion use as tool in election campaign.*

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

*Krishan K Tummala Religion and politics in India 'Professor and director, Graduate Programme in Public Administraion Kansas State University, Mahhatten USA. Published online. 02 June 2018, according to writer that India Politics have been significantly influenced by religion both favourably and unfavourably. In addition to beign a tool for gaining authority and energising supporters. It has assisted the underprivileged and disenfranchised and contributed to social reform movements. Finding a balance between the need to uphold a secular and inclusive society and the use of religious identity as a tool for mobilisation is the challenge facing Indian Politics.*

*Raj Kumar Singh The use of religion in Indian Politics. Published July 4.2019.12.00 am, according to writer that religion has had a big impact on Indian Politics, both Positive and negatively, Apart from serving as a means of consolidating power and galvanising adherents. It has aided the initiative . the challenge facing Indian politics is striking a balance between the need to maintain an inclusive and secular society and the use religious identity as a tool for mobilisation.*

*BM Chengappa 'The role of religion in politcal evolution of Pakistan written by on march 2001 (vol.xxiv no.12, in this article sheds light on the current demand for an Islamic state made by Islamic fundamentalist parties. The establishment of Pakistan was opposed by fundamentalist because of went against conventional Islamic wisdom. However, these alienated groups made a valiant effort t create an Islamic state following the establishment of Pakistan. Pakistan political development has been significantly Influenced by religion, given that the country was founded as a Muslim state. Pre and Post Partition periods.*

*Zubaida Zafar, Prof.Dr. Umbreen Javaid. "The Journal of polical science xxxvi(2019) GC university Lahore, Religion and Politics in Pakistan5" There has been a significant relationship between politics and religion ever since Pakistan's founding, which sheds light on the country's historical Islamization. Islamization efforts encompass a range of religio-political and socio-economic concepts, with political and religious parties and leadership playing a significant role. important in light of this shift in societal ideologies. the majority of Governments purposefully used Islam as a springboard for their political beliefs in order to personal objectives that affected Pakistan's social structure. This piece produced a review of the historical context helped with this national incongruity and an understanding of this complex, multifaceted idea of Islamization.*

*Rajeshwari Sharma "Student of Department of Social Science lively Professional University Punjab, Religion in the context of Indian Democracy,, 6 India is a large country with a diverse population that practices many different religions. The majority of Indians identify as Hindus, with minorities also comprising Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and so forth. India is the birthplace of the four major world religions: Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Hinduism. In India, religion has always been significant in the social, political, and economic spheres. Looking back at India's history, we can see that religion played a significant part in shaping it. We can observe the diverse roles that religions have played throughout India's history. India is a secular state, as stated in the constitution, but we haven't been able to implement these principles in our society.*

Gape of study on the role of religion in the politics of Pakistan and Indian and south asia country. One by one is described many author and writer and journal but in this context that both of theme comparison of Indian religion role in politics and then Pakistan religion role into politics , so its very cursial to described that Indian as a secular state but on other hand Pakistan is a Islamic state its name in constitution that Islamic republic of Pakistan on the name to started that Pakistan as a religion state independent on the name of religion. But if we see in Pakistan politics religion paly important role to making policy according to Quran and Sunnah. But if we see in Indian there is religion politics exist but not influence as much just like Pakistan.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research study that is being suggested would be secondary in character and quantitative and Qualitative mixed . Primarily secondary sources of information will be used in this. Books, journals, papers, letters, reports, etc. would therefore be quite important in this study project. During the study, an analytical and descriptive method was used the role of religion in the politics of Pakistan and Indian and comparison of both of them how religion its impact on politics of both state and role of the religion in politics. The study is mainly based on national and international books, newspapers and magazines and articles on various aspects of the subject. Similarly, the Internet has been used extensively and generously to identify the perspectives of people with different backgrounds on various sources and documents on the subject religious identity and demographicsinformation. On May 19, 2021, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics made available the religious data from the 2017 Pakistan Census.

Country	Pakistan				
Religion	Muslims	Ahmadi	Christians,	Hindus	Others
Percentage	96.47%	0.09%	1.27%	2.14%	0.02%

Pakistan is home to numerous smaller ethnic groups in addition to the five main ethno-regional communities of Baloch, Muhajir, Punjabi, Pashtun, and Sindhis. In addition, there are other religious and sectarian groups like the Shia Muslim sects of Ismailis and Bohras, as well as Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus, Kalasha, Parsis, and Sikhs.<sup>7</sup>

The most recent national census for which disaggregated statistics are available, from 2011, shows that 79.8% of people are Hindu, 14.2% are Muslim, 2.3 percent are Christian, and 1.7 percent are Sikh.<sup>8</sup>

The religions that originated in the Indian subcontinent are known as Indian religions, sometimes also referred to as Dharmic religions or Indic religions. These faiths are also categorised as Eastern religions and include Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism.<sup>9</sup>

Country	India			
Religion	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh
Percentage	79.8%	14.2%	2.3	1.7

## **RELIGIOUS POLITICAL AFFILIATION AND VOTING PATTERNS**

Among the elite groups that have a say in Pakistani politics and decision-making are the Islamic parties, which have proven to be a formidable force. These groups are connected to a number of terrorist organisations that incite unrest in Kashmir and other places. Despite receiving relatively few votes in Pakistani elections over the years, these parties have a great deal of street power. This article looks at the factors that contribute to these Islamic parties' significant political influence, which is out of proportion to their level of voter support.

Over the years, Pakistan's Islamic parties have grown to be formidable forces. Among the various elite groups that control political processes and decision-making in Pakistan, such as the military, bureaucratic, Punjabi, and business elite, they have made a name for themselves. Their influence extended beyond the Afghan Jihad era and is still felt in contemporary politics due to their affiliation with various terrorist groups that incite unrest in Jammu and Kashmir and other regions.<sup>10</sup> Their street power is immense and they have a great deal of influence over Pakistani politics.

even though they have never been able to garner a significant number of votes in Pakistani elections. In the National Assembly, the combined seats of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Islam (JUI), and Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) have never exceeded six. However, these parties are leading the charge on matters such as the creation of Shariat Courts and laws pertaining to blasphemy, zakat, and ushr. Whether they are criticising Nawaz Sharif for being a "sell-out" on Kargil or launching a campaign against the US position on different issues, the masses follow these parties. This essay aims to investigate the causes of their significant political influence, which is out of

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*proportion to the amount of votes they receive.*

*Indian religion has a strong influence on culture. The religious roots of many elements of Indian culture, including the caste system, are evident. In Indian politics and society, religion also has an impact. For instance, the majority of people are Hindus, and Hinduism has a big impact on Indian culture.*

### **POLITICAL PARTIES**

*The Hindu Janata Party, or BJP Historically, the BJP has supported Hindu nationalist ideology and has mobilised Hindu voters by using religious symbolism, allegory, and rhetoric. Majoritarian Hindu themes have been supported by it, such as the building of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, which holds great religious significance for Hindus. Hindu epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata are frequently mentioned by BJP leaders in an effort to evoke a sense of pride in voters' cultural and religious heritage. Election campaigns by the party usually focus on Hindu identity issues like laws against conversion and the protection of cows.*

### **PARTY OF CONGRESS**

*Despite having a secular reputation historically, the Congress Party has occasionally embraced religious symbolism and allegiances, especially in an effort to win over minority groups like Christians and Muslims.*

*Recent years have seen the Congress highlight its support for secularism and religious pluralism while denouncing the Hindu nationalist agenda of the BJP.11*

### **TEHREEK-E-INSAF PAKISTAN (PTI)**

*Even though PTI formally promotes a platform of anti-corruption and justice, it has also made an effort to win over conservative voters' religious views. PTI leaders have framed their political agenda within an Islamic framework by alluding to Islamic principles and symbolism in their speeches.*

*The Muslim League of Pakistan-Nawaz (PML-N) In the past, the PML-N has kept close ties with conservative religious organisations and has occasionally used religious symbolism and allegiances to win over voters. To strengthen its base of support, the party has backed laws that adhere to strict Islamic principles, such as blasphemy laws.*

### **RELIGIOUS PARTY**

*Pakistan boasts a number of political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, that were specifically established on religious grounds. These political parties frequently prioritise religious symbols and allegiances in their campaigns, pushing for the enactment of Sharia law and other policies sympathetic to Islam.*

### **POLICY FORMULATION**

*Examine the ways in which religious beliefs influence the creation of laws pertaining to social issues, family law, and education. Examine if political leaders' opinions on particular policies are influenced by their religious beliefs.*

### **RELIGIOUS IDENTITY**

*Dividing people into groups according to their religion (hindu, muslim, sikh, etc.) In order to examine how religious identity affects political beliefs. Political party affiliation investigating the relationship between people's religious beliefs and their political party affiliations. Examining the influence of religious leaders examining how religious leaders affect political beliefs and choices.*

### **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

*After the partition of British India, Pakistan emerged as a different Muslim state in 1947 on the basis of the Two-Nation Theory, which emphasised the religious lines between Muslims and Hindus.*

*In contrast, India drafted a secular constitution in an effort to accommodate its various religious communities following independence.*

### **CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

*Pakistan declares Islam to be the official state religion, and Islamic provisions are incorporated into the constitution, resulting in the Islamization of the legal system and government. Although it respects and upholds religious freedom and permits citizens to freely practise and spread their religion, India's constitution upholds secularism.*

### **POLITICAL PARTIES AND RELIGIOUS IDENTITY**

*Religious identity is a major driver in politics in Pakistan, where groups such as Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam encourage Islamic governance principles. While religion can have an effect on political mobilisation in India, parties with plainly religious agendas – like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – have grown less well-known, particularly as it comes to defending Hindutva (Hindu nationalism).*

## **ELECTION-RELATED DYNAMICS**

Election-related religious mobilisation occurs in both countries. To increase their share of votes, religious parties in Pakistan frequently join forces with secular parties. Parties in India use religious symbolism and rhetoric to win over their supporters. In particular, the BJP has used Hindu nationalism to its advantage in order to increase its influence.

## **RIGHTS OF MINORITIES**

Pakistan's Islamization policies frequently end in discrimination towards and persecution of the religious minorities, like Ahmadis, Christians, and Hindus. Although there are still events of discrimination and communal violence, India's religious minorities – including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and others – have rights that are guaranteed by the constitution.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR FOREIGN POLICY**

Both country's foreign policies are shaped by religion, particularly as it comes to their conversations with their neighbours. For example, India's Hindu nationalist ideology influences its approach to Pakistan and other nations with large Muslim populations, while Pakistan's Islamic identity shapes its position on issues like Kashmir.

## **CONCLUSION**

The role of religion in the politics of Pakistan and India is complex and deeply intertwined with historical, social, and cultural factors. In both countries, religion plays a significant role in shaping political discourse, policies, and identities. However, the nature and extent of this influence differ between the two nations.

Since Pakistan's creation in 1947, religion – particularly Islam – has played a major part in the political makeup of this country. Pakistan was created with the goal of providing Muslims with their own country, and Islam goes on to have an important impact on the nation's identity and system of government. In Pakistan's political landscape, religion and politics are becoming closer as a result of political parties' frequent use of religious rhetoric for voter support and legitimacy. Further, religious organisations and clerics have a major effect on public policy and legislation, with religious parties being involved in this discussion. Though in a more complex and varied way than in other nations, religion is also a major factor in politics in India. Even though India's constitution states it to be a secular state, religion continues to have a major effect on political discourse and electoral dynamics. In recent decades, Hindu nationalism has gained prominence with the work of parties such as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideological progenitor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). These groups support a priority on Hindu identity and culture in India, which has strained relations with other religious minorities, notably Muslims. However, Hindu nationalism is not the only power that is shaping India; a number of other parties represent a range of regional and religious interests.

## **RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTION**

To fully comprehend the impact of religion on politics in both countries, one must be mindful of their specific pasts. Pakistan was created as a separate Muslim-majority state after British India split in 1947, but India grew a secular democracy with a diverse people. These recent events affected each nation's political climate and the place of religion. Tensions reside between religious identity and secularism in each country, allowing secular values that defend the separation of state and religion and revere religious diversity is essential to producing a more open and accepting political atmosphere. This could involve laws that stand by the rights of all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs, and reforms to fortify secular institutions. Disputes can be cured and social harmony is possible by building interaction and working together between various religious communities. Religious leaders, schoolwork, and community members from different walks of life can come together through initiatives to foster mutual respect and understanding, which lowers the likelihood that religious tensions will turn into political conflicts.

Education is an important variable that influences how people feel about politics and religion. Fighting religious extremism and sectarianism can be helped by promoting critical thinking and religious literacy. Tolerance, pluralism, and respect for human rights should be highlighted in educational curricula, and stereotypes and prejudices that fuel religious separation should be restricted. Political changes that enhance openness, responsibility, and diversity can lessen the impact of political division and religious extremism. Encouraging participatory governance, guaranteeing equitable representation for marginalised groups, and fortifying democratic institutions can enable citizens to participate in politics independently of their religious affiliations. International cooperation and support are vital given the global ramifications of religious extremism and sectarian conflicts. Initiatives from home to address the influence of religion in politics can be strengthened by diplomatic efforts to advance religious freedom, peace, and stability in the area. Views of politics and religion among the general public are greatly influenced by the media. Sensationalism and divisive rhetoric can be resisted with the support of responsible journalism that encourages fair

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and nuanced coverage of religious issues. Media companies ought to follow moral guidelines that put truthfulness, justice, and consideration for other viewpoints first.



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