

The page features decorative leaf patterns at the top and bottom. The leaves are drawn in a simple, line-art style with fine lines representing veins. They are arranged in a slightly overlapping, horizontal row. The background is a textured, mottled purple and blue gradient with a fine, fibrous texture.

POLITICS IN PAKISTAN

Name: Muzammil Ahmed

Student ID: 16941

Department: BS-SE 1st semester

Assignment: English Essay

POLITICS IN PAKISTAN

The **politics of Pakistan** takes place within the framework established by the [constitution](#). The country is a [federal parliamentary republic](#) in which [provincial governments](#) enjoy a high degree of autonomy and residuary powers. Executive power is vested with the [national cabinet](#) which is headed by [the prime minister](#), who works coherently along with the bicameral [parliament](#) and the [judicature](#).^[1] Stipulations set by the constitution provide a delicate [check and balance](#) of [sharing powers](#) between [executive](#), [legislative](#), and [judicial](#) branches of the [government](#).

The [head of state](#) is the [president](#) who is elected by the [electoral college](#) for a five-year term. The president was a significant authority until the [18th amendment](#), passed in 2010, stripped the presidency of its major powers. Since then, Pakistan has been shifted from a [Semi-presidential system](#) to a purely [parliamentary government](#).

The Government consists of three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. The Executive branch consists of the Cabinet and is led by the Prime Minister. It is totally independent of the legislative branch that consists of a [bicameral parliament](#). The Upper House is the [Senate](#) whilst the [National Assembly](#) is the lower house.^[4] The [Judicial branch](#) forms with the composition of the [Supreme Court](#) as an [apex court](#), alongside the [high courts](#) and other [inferior courts](#).^{[5][6]} The judiciary's function is to interpret the [Constitution](#) and federal laws and regulations.

Pakistan is a [multiparty democracy](#) where several political parties compete for seats in the National and Provincial assemblies. However, as an aftermath of the [Fall of Dhaka](#) in 1971, a two-party system was inculcated between the [Peoples Party](#) and [Muslim](#)

[League](#). There has also been a sharp rise in the popularity of centrist parties such that [PML-Q](#) and [PTI](#). The [Military establishment](#) has played an [influential role](#) in the country's politics. From 1950s to 2000s, several [coups](#) were staged that overthrew democratic regimes. However, after the resignation of [President Pervez Musharraf](#) in 2008, a sharp line has been drawn between the [Military](#) and **politics** and Pakistan is moving closer to becoming a [liberal democracy](#).

The president of Pakistan, in keeping with the constitutional provision that the state religion is Islam, must be a Muslim. Elected for a five-year term by an [Electoral College](#) consisting of members of the Senate and National Assembly and members of the provincial assemblies, the president is eligible for re-election. But no individual may hold the office for more than two consecutive terms. The president may resign or be impeached and may be removed from office due to incapacity or gross misconduct by a two-thirds vote of the members of the parliament. The president generally acts on the advice of the prime minister but has important [residual powers](#).

One of the most important of these powers—a legacy of General [Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq](#)—is the president's power to dissolve the National Assembly "in his discretion where, in has arisen in which the Government of the Federation cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and an appeal to the electorate is necessary." This power has twice been granted —by the [Eighth Amendment](#) in 1985 and by the [Seventeenth Amendment](#) in 2003—and has twice been revoked—by the [Thirteenth Amendment](#) in 1997 and by the [Eighteenth Amendment](#) in 2010. Despite this most recent power-stripping, the President remains the *ex officio* chair of the [National Security Council](#), as per the National Security Act 2004.

The prime minister is appointed by the members of the National Assembly through a vote. The prime minister is assisted by the Federal Cabinet, a council of ministers whose members are appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister. The Federal Cabinet comprises the ministers, ministers of state, and advisers. As of early 1994, there were thirty-three ministerial portfolios: commerce; communications; culture; defense; defense production; education; environment; finance and economic affairs; food and agriculture; foreign affairs; health; housing; information and broadcasting; interior; Kashmiri affairs and Northern Areas; law and justice; local government; minority affairs; narcotics control; parliamentary affairs; petroleum and natural resources production; planning and development; railways; religious affairs;

science and technology; social welfare; special education; sports; state and frontier regions; tourism; water and power; women's development; and youth affairs.

Officially a federal [republic](#), Pakistan has had a long history of alternating periods of electoral democracy and [authoritarian](#) military government. Military [presidents](#) include General [Ayub Khan](#) in the 1960s, General Zia ul Haq in the 1980s, and General Pervez Musharraf from 1999. However, a majority of Pakistan's [Heads of State](#) and [Heads of Government](#) have been elected civilian leaders. General elections were held in October 2002. After monitoring the elections, the Commonwealth Observer Group stated in conclusion:

We believe that on election day this was a credible election: the will of the people was expressed and the results reflected their wishes. However, in the context of various measures taken by the government we are not persuaded of the overall fairness of the process as a whole. ^[21]

On 22 May 2004, the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group re-admitted Pakistan into the [Commonwealth](#), formally acknowledging its progress in returning to democracy.