

Benazir Bhutto's Politics: A Way Forward to the Restoration of Democracy in Pakistan

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Abstract

People with the courage and ability to change the backward thinking of society can rewrite and make history. Instead of bowing down in front of time and circumstances, they turn them around by bearing the pain; those persons are known to be historians. This study is about the life of a personality who was born on the soil of Sindh. Her character was as unparalleled by her name Benazir. After the judicial murder of her father, she joined practical politics. Finally ended with her martyrdom in 2007. In the midst of this, how did she take the political struggle? Historical events will be studied impartially. This study aims to highlight the untold aspects of Benazir Bhutto's life. What kind of hardships did she bear? How she reorganized the party. How far have the people of the country consciously benefited from it? How did Benazir Bhutto get rid of martial law with her wisdom and intellectuality and put this country on the path to democracy?

Keywords: Benazir Bhutto; Democracy; Pakistan People's Party, Z.A Bhutto, Dictatorship

Introduction

Benazir Bhutto was born on June 21, 1953, in the political family of Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto. She was the 12th (in 1988) and 16th (in 1993) Prime Minister of Pakistan. Benazir was the first woman prime minister of any Muslim country and the first prime minister of Pakistan to be elected twice. She was a representative of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's People's Party and a follower of the Shia branch of the Muslim religion. Benazir Bhutto, who had earlier launched a movement to reconstruct the constitutional government in the country. Her convoy was also targeted on 18 October by militants in Karachi during the welcome rally on her return home, but she survived. During the election campaign, she sharply criticized al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations and accused the government of failing to tackle terrorism. It was speculated in political circles that Mrs. Bhutto would be the country's next Prime Minister. During her political journey, Benazir married Asif Ali Zardari, a successful businessman, on December 18, 1987.

After studying in America and England, Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan in 1977. In 1977, a very unfortunate incident happened when her father came to power after winning the elections, there was a stigma on him that he had messed up the elections. General Zia-ul-Haq took over the reins of governance, and Z.A. Bhutto was accused of murdering Ahmad Raza Kasuri. He was hanged on April 4, 1979, and the Pakistan military government detained Benazir. When her father was hanged, She expresses her views about that night "A few hours after the start of April 4, 1979, my father was murdered in Rawalpindi jail, where my mother and I were under house arrest in a deserted police training center in Sihala, three or four miles away (Bhutto, B., 2014). Benazir Bhutto said in an interview with The Al-Fatah newspaper that Bhutto sahib has been removed. Still, she is satisfied that all conspiracies against the people and the third world will fail, and the people of Pakistan will win again (Al-Fatah, 1978).

In 1985, Benazir's brother Shahnawaz died in Paris, and Benazir Bhutto reached Pakistan for her brother's last rites. Once again, she was arrested for leading the ongoing protest against the military government but was soon released. After this, general elections were announced there. In 1988, Benazir won the election by a huge margin and became the Prime Minister of Pakistan. She was known as the most prominent female leader globally. But by the time she was ousted from power for the second time. According to many analysts, Benazir's downfall was attributed to her husband, Asif Ali Zardari.

Political Struggle of Benazir Bhutto

The political life of Benazir Bhutto started mainly after the execution of her father (Sekine, K., 1992). Then she began the political struggle. After British colonialism, Benazir's role is vivid and sound, transforming the democratic transition (Azeem, M., & Salim, A., 2019). She handed over the struggle for the poor people of Pakistan to Ms. Benazir Bhutto. He wrote I want to tell you that this is the fate of the coming days. Just trust the people and work for their equality. The paradise is at your mother's feet, and this heaven is at the feet of the people. No one knew that the leader of the people was struggling for the people during the lifetime of Benazir Bhutto. The struggle for life and democracy has begun in the light of the leadership of the people. She was the leader of the United Nations. As a true proponent of Bhuttoism, she not only popularized the philosophy of Z.A Bhutto but also illuminated it with unparalleled sacrifices and new heights. Benazir Bhutto wrote several books and gave lectures in various prestigious institutions globally.

She published articles in many international newspapers with her philosophy and intellectuality. She made promises in her books about reconciliation, peace had become a part of her life. Once she said, that ignoring these distances between Muslims and the West would cause problems every day and they would not be able to get out of this idol. She wanted to introduce her nation as a peaceful rather than an identity with the faces of terrorists and extremists. At every new juncture of the people of Pakistan, the blood of the People of Pakistan. The center of love and affection of millions of workers is the essence of the struggle for democracy during the tenure of Benazir Bhutto. Courage and bravery have been inherited. They can be disputed, but their patriotism and struggle for democracy cannot be denied. Ms. Benazir Bhutto's speeches and talks will continue for several decades. She was a very strong woman who opposed the treatment of Muslim sects and women. On his arrival in Pakistan on October 18, she was given a warm welcome, which proved that the people of Pakistan are with her legacy.

Death of Shahnawaz Bhutto

During her first exile in France, she lost her loving revolutionary brother Mir Shahnawaz Bhutto who was mysteriously found dead in his apartment (Zain, O. F., & Ali, B., 2009). Bhutto claimed that Shahnawaz was murdered by his wife, Raehana, or that he was murdered on Zia's

orders. In August, Zia's administration authorized her to bring her brother's remains to Pakistan, where they would be interred in the family cemetery in Larkana. The representative of the monthly "Dhanak" asked, "Miss Benazir Sahiba, what are the reasons for the sudden death of your dear brother Shahnawaz Bhutto?" Whatever situation has emerged from the news so far seems very disturbing.

Benazir Bhutto replies, "I am not in a position to tell you how Shahnawaz Bhutto died. I have suffered the loss of three brothers this year. First Nasir Baloch, then Ayaz Samu, and now Shahnawaz Bhutto. I can only speculate that if Shahnawaz's death was natural or unnatural if it was a suicide or the action of a local enemy, the police and French court proceedings could not have been so long. French police, investigative agencies, and the court have expanded their investigation to such an extent that even two weeks after the death, we have been told that at least two weeks will be spent investigating further (Monthly Dhanak, 1985). She was apprehended soon after the burial and imprisoned under house arrest in Karachi until

November. She says about the antiquates of behaving toward women in Pakistan that "we cannot resolve the situation when law enforcement itself is demoralized for doing the job that it ought to be doing" (Richard Haass, 2007). When she was released and returned to Europe. She expresses her independence in her words "When Benazir Bhutto and her mother's detention ends in Pakistan, they both go abroad. This is how she describes this time in her own words. Mother Nusrat Bhutto said. Pinky hey, you're free.

I was dreaming of that day. As we walk out of Geneva airport, I look at the sky with endless eyes, the three-year-long detention in which I only looked at the walls, I couldn't believe I was free" (Bhutto, B., 2014).

Bhutto elected to return home once Pakistan's martial rule was lifted in December 1985. She arrived at Lahore Airport in April 1986, when she was greeted by a large crowd. An estimated two million people visited her (Bhatia, S., 2008).

The newspapers, magazines, and the general institutions and organizations of the world became very familiar with the wisdom and struggle of Benazir Bhutto. Now it would not have been possible for the Martial Law government to arrest Benazir and keep her away from the people and the world. She had got sympathy from all over the world. Words of sorrow were formally

expressed by US President Ronald Reagan and members of the British Parliament, they also protested after her arrest she received a letter from the French court regarding the death of Shahnawaz Bhutto. She was released on November 3, 1985. She once again got in touch with international intellectuals and friends. Finally, on December 30, 1985, martial law was abolished in the country. She convened a meeting of the Central Committee of the People's Party in London and announced to finish her exile and return home.

Benazir's Return to Pakistan in 1986

Benazir Bhutto knew it was a mistake to give General Zia a chance to prepare for her arrival, so the actual date for the trip was kept secret (Doherty, K. M., & Doherty C. A., 1990). The test was coming, and as Benazir Bhutto and her party members made final arrangements to land in Lahore, the capital of Punjab and the home of General Zia and many of those in the government and the military, people began to flock to the city (Doherty, K. M., & Doherty C. A. 1990). The then-acting chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party came to Pakistan 100 days after the abolition of martial law (Qureshi Ajaz, 2013). On the arrival of Miss Benazir Bhutto, there was so much rush on the stage, she said that we were promised that politicians will not be arrested till the elections (Qureshi Ajaz, 2013). Millions of people were on the streets of Lahore by the time the Pakistan International Airlines plane touched down. Lahore has taken on a carnival-like vibe. After nearly nine years of harsh military rule, Pakistanis had reason to celebrate. The tremendous outpouring of passion and support astounded everyone: the press, the government, the opposition parties, and Benazir Bhutto were all taken aback by the greatest assembly in Pakistani history. However, she raised a new spirit in party workers (Azeem, M., & Salim, A, 2019).

During the campaign, it was discovered that the most often heard and praised phrase was about Z.A. Bhutto. Benazir Bhutto was cautious in her remarks and demeanor so as not to incite violence. Bhutto's issue was how to convert wide popular support into a political movement powerful enough to demand new elections while avoiding violence and risking the re-imposition of martial law. 1987 Asian Survey Benazir Bhutto resumed her campaign in other parts of Pakistan, ushering in a new age of street politics (Azeem, M., & Salim, A, 2019). She started keeping her party and activists away from arrests. For each development, separate strategies, eliminate factionalism from the party and strengthen the party.

She rearranged the structure of the party with the People's Lawyers Forum, Women's Wing, People's Doctors Forum, Farmers Wing, Cultural Wing, and others for strengthening it. After the death of Z.A Bhutto, the party became lifeless, but once again she made it the strongest party in Pakistan. This party has a branch in every city and village, also it has received the highest number of requests from the people in the elections. The workers of this party have been struggling against martial law. They suffered punishments to make the country stronger for the sake of democracy. The people of Pakistan trust this party and consider it reliable for them. It was the only party that made poor workers stand against the landlords and other corrupt people. This party proved to be a people's party through the efforts of Benazir Bhutto.

Benazir's Marriage with Asif Ali Zardari

On July 29, 1987, a few members of the Bhutto family and some of their friends assembled at the London apartment of Sanam Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto's sister. Despite the unfortunate events the family had braved, Begun Nusrat Bhutto appeared calm and composed. Among the guests were Hakim Ali Zardari, father of Asif Ali Zardari, and his wife (Dawn News, 2015). On September 18, 1987, Benazir Bhutto married Asif Ali Zardari in Karachi. After more than 10 years of hardships, the Bhutto family returned to their happiness once again. Much to the surprise of many, Benazir accepts an arranged marriage proposal. While some expected her to be sidelined thereafter, the marriage strengthened her hand in politics (Dawn News, 2015). From March 12 to April 23, 1988, she visited the United States and The United Kingdom, where she met American television and newspapers in Washington. This time, like her father, Benazir Bhutto started a nonstop tour, gatherings, and processions even in the streets and other places. She worked hard and made the party to be the largest party in the country with a total of 207 seats in the elections of November 16, 1988. Her party won 92 seats.

On December 1988, the acting President of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, invited her to form the government. On December 12, 1988, she was sworn in as the First Woman Prime Minister of Pakistan. She got 148 votes in favor and 55 against. The opponents of the Bhutto family could not tolerate her prime ministership. She said that she had escaped the crisis by getting a majority of votes from the national assembly. Only 18 months later general Zia-ul-Haq's former president Ghulam Ishaq Khan Government her government on August 1990. While the people elected her for five years. Once again, her successors made several cases against Benazir Bhutto and her husband Mr. Asif Ali Zardari was arrested in various cases. Benazir Bhutto met her

husband on various occasions in jail, attended court hearings, fought her cases legally in courts, and faced charges against her in special courts. When a newspaper reporter asked her about the allegations of corruption against her, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said, "I want to gain the confidence of the people by telling them that what they tell you is double standards of corruption which they are calling corrupt" (Daily Jinnah, 2007).

Elections were held on October 24, 1990. Now she got an opportunity to play her role as a visionary. On the one hand, Benazir was upset with the rulers sitting in the government, on the other hand, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif stood against each other due to differences on some issues. Their differences weakened the government. Foreign aid countries decided not to give new loans due to non-payment of previous loans and demanded to repay the previous loans. Finally, because of such a situation, the powers that be immediately removed Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and appointed Mr. Moin Qureshi as the temporary Prime Minister. Her husband Asif Ali Zardari was in jail for two and a half years, he was also released. The cases registered against Benazir and her husband were not proved. Elections were held on October 6, 1993, in which the PPP led by Benazir Bhutto won 86 out of 207 seats in the National Assembly. On October 19, 1993, she was re-elected prime minister of Pakistan.

Murder of Murtaza Bhutto

Like the Nehru-Gandhi family in India and the Kennedys in America, the Bhuttos of Pakistan is one of the world's most famous - and troubled - political dynasties (BBC News, 2007). On September 20, 1996, he was shot dead along with six companions during a police encounter near his Karachi residence (Wikipedia, 2022). Relations between Bhutto and Leghari had declined after she suggested he had been involved in her brother's murder (Bhatia, 2008). Leghari threatened Benazir Bhutto's cabinet with dismissal unless she implemented steps to combat corruption and address the economic crisis (Burns, J. F, 1996). Leghari ousted Bhutto's administration on November 5th, citing the eighth amendment to the Constitution. He also suspected Bhutto was complicit in her brother's killing (Burns, J. F, 1996).

Administrative Aspect

In the year 1994, she made full use of her advice to make many arrangements, for the police (to eliminate terrorism in Karachi) and in the ARMY. Peace has been restored to the inhabitants of the province as a result of the operation, which has recovered loans from banks, investors, traders, and Jagirdars (Landlords). Strict measures, a huge campaign against the tax and income tax evaders, limitations on the bank and financial institution loans to powerful persons, and reduced corruption at the federal level. The IMF and the World Bank have defaulted on the country on loans taken and every government has avoided repaying the loans to the next government. Ms. Benazir Bhutto paid full attention to this. She announced to set up income tax, and property tax in the agriculture sector. On the other hand, task forces have been set up in the fields of environment, agriculture, society, and energy.

It also directed foreign investors and foreign companies to invest in Pakistan and many other countries in Pakistan. In such a situation no foreign investor is willing to invest in this country (Dawn News, 2015). Foreign direct investment by multinational companies (MNCs) is another source of international Technology transmission (Bhutto, B. A, 2014). In the foreign investment policy of 1997, Pakistan opened most sectors of the economy to FDI, by giving 100% foreign ownership except for some conditions like the provision of national treatment to foreign companies by following the WTO obligations by giving some incentives such as duty and tax exemptions and some other concessions (Bhutto, B. A, 2014). It showed interest in the investment process. This year, due to the turmoil raised in the economy, the International Monitoring Fund has confirmed a report that Pakistan has come out of the social crisis. And it has reserves of \$ 1.2 billion.

The World Bank and other foreign organizations have announced a budget of 2 billion megawatts for electricity projects totaling 1400 megawatts. Half of the rupee project has been completed, and the World Bank has agreed to contribute \$1 million to the already awarded social education program. This is in addition to the billion and fifty million. As a result of their defense efforts, the Swedish and French governments gave Pakistan military weaponry. In addition to A.M.X tanks, Lama, and PUMA helicopters, Pakistan has received 5000 aircraft and Augustan submarines.

Under General Zia-ul-term, a \$ 37 million military equipment announcement was also made. Haq's On October 23, 1995, the United States Government met in Washington. Brown words,

which today play a crucial diplomatic function, supplanted it. He added that Pakistan's approach toward nuclear weapons constrains the United States' involvement in the country's actions. This entails approaching the Kashmir dispute from the standpoints of Islam and the rest of the world. On January 3, 1994, India signed the Foreign Affairs Talks between Pakistan and India. On October 3, 1995, Islamic ministers in the National Assembly approved a proposal appointing the All-Party Hurriyat Conference as an observer in the O.I.C. Mrs. Bhutto and Mrs. Tansu Chhillar, the Prime Minister of Turkey, battled for the first time in Bosnia on February 2, 1994. He put his own life in danger while raising attention to the day's injuries. Her first year on the job was in 1994. He has now traveled to the Islamic World.

According to Benazir Bhutto, "democratic nations should remain united": In his address to the crowd, he paid respect to Benazir Bhutto, saying that he had made such a battle for people's importance, representative government, and human rights. And discussed democracy This was stated by Pakistan's former Prime Minister in 1989, and it is still true today. Benazir Bhutto was the Islamic country's first female prime minister.

Returning from exile to Pakistan in 2007

Benazir Bhutto is returning to Pakistan on 18th October 2007. Despite death threats, Benazir Bhutto flew into Karachi today as hundreds of thousands of her Pakistan People's Party supporters gathered to welcome her arrival. "My return heralds for the people of Pakistan the turn of the wheel from dictatorship to democracy," Benazir Bhutto said of a return to Pakistan after eight years of exile (The Guardian, 2007). A journalist asked in an interview that after eight years you returned home, how much difference do you see between 1999 and today's Pakistan? Responding, Benazir Bhutto said: In 1999, the situation was very complicated and bad. At that time the country was occupied by a dictator, but today the situation is quite the opposite. The people of Pakistan have hope that democracy will come (Memon Saleem, 2012).

She rejected a call from President Gen. Pervez Musharraf to delay her return from exile, insisting she would land in Pakistan as planned next week to campaign for the January elections (CBC News, 2007). Another journalist Jang newspaper's representative asked in the interview, "Have you ever considered the option of accepting President Musharraf with a uniform?" Responding to this, Benazir Bhutto said that we never considered accepting Musharraf with the uniform. He has considered accepting Musharraf without a uniform (Jung Magazine, 2006).

Moreover, the journalist insists Bhutto answer this question, how do you think there can be free and fair elections? Benazir Bhutto replied I don't think there can be free elections as long as General Musharraf is sitting. (Jung Magazine, 2006). Her return to Pakistan brought a revolution in the country. Pakistan's survival and stability are subject to the empowerment of its people and the strength of its institutions.

The main problem that Pakistan is facing is the rise of extremism and terrorism. The solution to this problem will affect the whole world, especially the Southern and Central Asian and all Muslim nations. Extremism is rampant in an environment where the welfare of the people ignores the government's fundamental social responsibility. goes. This is the root cause of this authoritarianism and social inequality, which fuels religious extremism. Let's take a look at Pakistan's 60-year-old history, from democracy and democracy to free elections to rigged elections, and throughout the period of not holding elections. We are no longer part of this consciousness.

She returned to Pakistan on October 18, 2007. On the same day, she was attacked by two suicide bombers in Karachi during a rally that killed nearly 140 people, but fortunately, she survived. A few days later, on December 27, 2007, she gave a speech at a PPP rally held in Rawalpindi's Liaquat National Bagh and was assassinated after this election rally (Mrochen, 2020). When she was leaving supporters while looking out of the sunroof of her car. She was declared clinically dead, and her corpse was quickly taken to Chaklala Air Base. The next day, she was buried next to her father at the Bhutto family mausoleum, Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, her family tomb in Larkana (Bhatia, S., 2008). Her death put a question mark on the restoration of democracy in Pakistan.

She was more political than her life and loved the people of Pakistan. She returned home with no deal but public power. Despite not having an official position, he received the protocol of the head of state in the world. She was loving and kind. He said that we have sacrificed our lives, freedom, youth, and peace of mind, for democracy.

Conclusion

In a democracy, there are neither war nor terrorism flourishes internationally. It has not yet come to the notice of the West that General Pervez Musharraf's military force is continuously destroying Pakistan's democratic institutions (Bhutto B, 1989). General Musharraf wants to strengthen his dictatorship by rigging the general elections using the importance of Afghanistan

to the United States. The law and order situation in South Asia and what comes out of the events of 9/11 pose a great threat to the world. If there is democracy in Pakistan, then only it will be possible to end extremism, militancy, and terrorism (Bhutto B, 1989). Whenever democracy begins to flourish in Pakistan, it has reacted to such decisions by opposing, the policies that have supported terrorism in Afghanistan. Militant hideouts are strengthening, it has become necessary to crush extremism in Pakistani society. By taking this step alone, terrorism can end in Pakistan, and a new sun of peace can rise for the world.

To achieve this goal, the political parties in Pakistan will have to create awareness among the masses against extremist forces, not only verbally but also in practice. Going through an interview Benazir Bhutto says But I am here this afternoon to tell you that as far as we, the Pakistan People's Party, is concerned, the choice in Pakistan is not really between military dictatorship and religious parties; the choice for Pakistan is indeed between dictatorship and democracy. And I feel that the real choice that the world also faces today is the choice between dictatorship and democracy, and in the choice that we make between dictatorship and democracy lies the outcome of the battle between extremism and moderation in Pakistan (Richard Haass,2007).

During General Musharraf's regime, terrorists created a very complex situation in Afghanistan. Benazir Bhutto was trying to improve Pakistani society at that time. Because of the visit of the then US Secretary of State Colin Powell to Pakistan, he said that the US will get an opportunity to involve the Pakistani people in the war against terrorism, after which America's support for democracy in Pakistan will put terrorists and fighters against the wall. The U.S. Secretary of State should especially take care of the following.

1. Colin Powell urged General Musharraf to withdraw the controversial constitutional amendments under which only one person does not have the power to pass the law.
2. Because of the dictatorial powers of the President in Pakistan, which includes the unilateral dismissal of the Prime Minister, Parliament, and Cabinet in addition to elections.
3. Pressure should be exerted on General Musharraf to release political prisoners.
4. Political leaders living in exile should be allowed to return.

5. Us Secretary of State Colin Powell can make it clear that future US aid, global debt, and relief to Pakistan will depend solely on the fundamental and human rights of the people of Pakistan in the general elections.
6. The situation in Pakistan is such that it can promote terrorism, so the West will have to play its role in a positive way to restore democracy in Pakistan.
7. The United States should stay away from elements playing with democracy in Pakistan.
8. Don't allow the terrorists and the Taliban, who have brought the world to the brink of destruction, to re-establish their roots.
9. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell should help or help the People of Pakistan for the security of South Asia and the United States so that the people can lead democracy in Pakistan on the path to success.

It was her dream and Once she said, “I entered politics with the dream that I could help my country prosperous according to democratic principles” (Qureshi Ajaz, 2013).

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