

## Abstract

Religion plays an important role in life of an individual, however, at times religious extremism can turn state affairs, especially politics into a nightmare. Miss utilization of religious influence in politics has caste negative impacts on Pakistan. From Liaquat Ali Khan to Zia-ul-Haq every ruler has employed religious extremism to strengthen their rule. This study discusses different historical events that strengthen the religious extremism in Pakistan in context of its impact upon Pakistani politics. This study will shed light upon different extremism related historical perspectives that caused a drift in political ideologies. Historical study is divided in to two parts, of which one part discusses events from pre partition and other one comprises of post-partition of India. This research work connects the post partition historical events with pre partition purposely to study the link between religion and politics in Pakistan. For this purpose, this research work studies Jinnah's envisioned Pakistan and today's Pakistan. Then its major chapter studies the Islamization of Pakistan by General Zia-ul-Haq that transformed the social and political structure of state. After studying the history and by collecting the historical evidences, researcher reaches on the conclusion that gradual increase of religion in politics has transformed Pakistani identity as religious extremist internationally and completely ignored the plural social existence of Pakistan. The state cannot ignore it's all elements while designing its policies by keeping in mind the particular element of society. When the state gives preference to one extremist community other ones in minority feel insecure. Pakistan cannot be a theological state as per its pluralistic nature and it also cannot be completely secular because of its ideological pursuit in the name of religion. A mid-way will be the best solution by separating religion from politics. To bring the positive democratic trend in Pakistan. It has to accept its inclusive identity beyond the religious extremist identity and it is the duty of the government to removes these ambiguities over national identity. If the government itself continues to use religion for political purposes, then it is feared that the problem will never be solved.