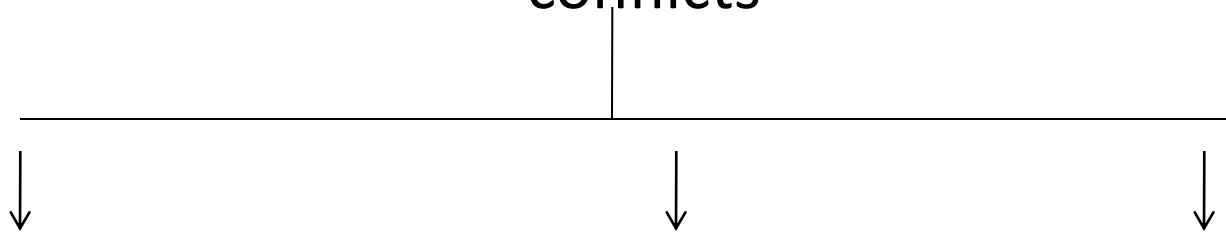


## National Identity and Ethnic Crises in Pakistan: Case Study of Seraiki Ethnic Movement:

- Why there are ethnic disruption in our society?
- Why Pakistan is not viewed by all people as their homeland?
- What is the root cause of identity crises?

**Paul Brass** has discussed different dimensions of ethnic conflicts

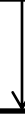


Unequal distribution of resources.

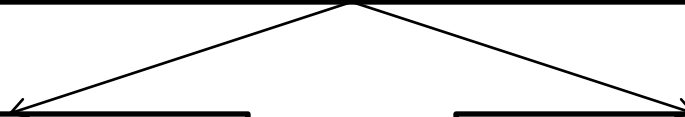
Evolution of ethnic Consciousness due to subjective factors.

Political context.

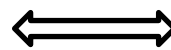
Crises of ethnic identity in terms of discriminatory economic policies.



Asymmetrical economic development, did not benefit masses and elite equally.



Nexus between Punjabis and Mohajir Community



Convergence of economic interests

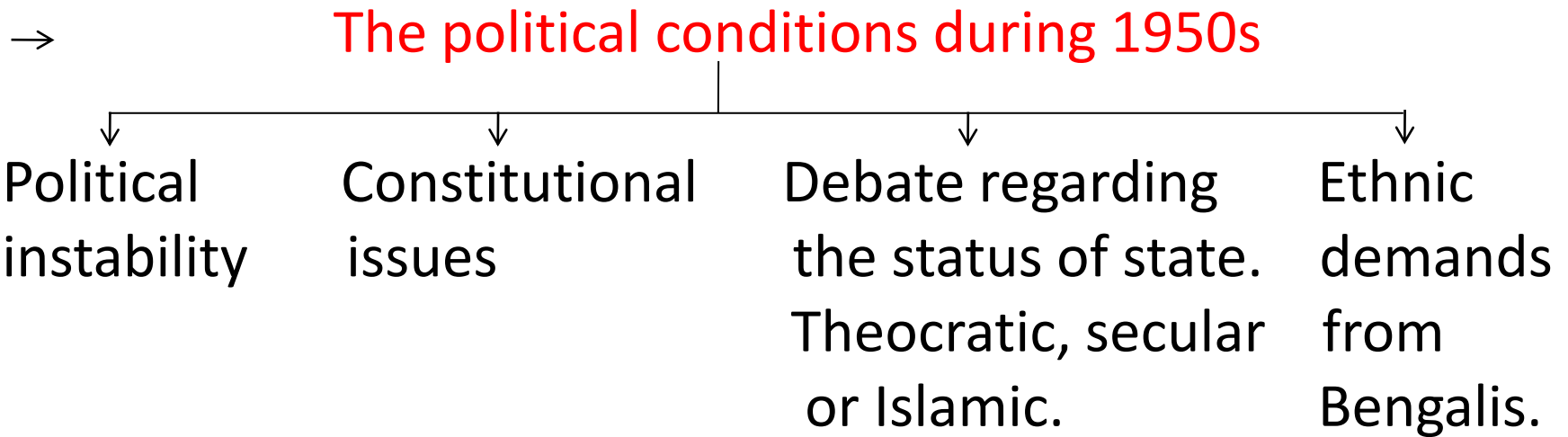


Deprivation or sense of marginalization among smaller ethnic groups.

→ History shows that the concentration of power and wealth in one or two ethnic groups also disgraced Muslim League in East Bengal.

→ There was another dimension of economic conflicts i.e. the demand for the implementation of land reforms by the Mohajir community.





## **The decade of 1960s**

### Transformation of political goals

The issue of ethnicity and ideology were diffused.

Developmental goals became more pronounced + Rhetoric of modernization.

→ Secular trends + Hegemony of West Pakistan in terms of economic growth.



Escalated ethnic and political dissent.

→ Ayub Khan's developmental strategies created gap between haves and havesnot.



Authoritarianism

+

Economic disparities

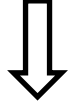
+

Suppressive political culture

→ National Identity crises during Bhutto era 1970s.



Socialist economic reforms



Manipulation of ethnic identities



Animosity against Muhajir community and magnifying the role of local Sindhis.



Autocratic + despotic style of governance

The decades of 1970s



The interpretation of national identity in terms of socio-economic paradigm.

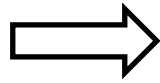


Popular support was with the PPP in West Pakistan.



Bhutto's populism generated Sindhi Nationalism / discord between Sindhis and Muhajirs.

Style of governance  
autocratic + denial  
of land reforms.



Political dissidence, ethnic  
confrontation and  
Provincialism.

→ Ethnic crises rising in 1977 elections, opposition  
movements resulted in military take over.

## The new dimension of Ethnicity and national identity during 1980s.

- Afghan issue dominated the Pakistan politics.
- Zia adopted instrumental approach to tackle ethnic issue.
- The use of Islam to perpetuate his power.
- Zia's referendum in the name of Islam.
- Denial of democratic and electoral process.



## Analysis of Seraiki Movement

→ Ethnic consciousness is caused by relative deprivation which means one's level of dissatisfaction relative to others. It is also interpreted as, when an individual perceives that he has inadequate opportunities as compared to others.

And if this situation persists for a longer period of time, then the individual feels himself as unjustly treated by the society.

→ There are three aspects of relative deprivation i.e.

decremental, aspirational and progressive deprivation in terms of expectations and achievement levels.

Decremental Deprivation

Expectations among individual's remain stable

Achievements become less

Aspirational Deprivation

Expectations keep on rising.

Achievements remain stable.

Progressive Deprivation

Expectations remain stable

Achievement become high and high

→ Seraiki is the widely spoken language in the districts of Bhawalpur, Lodhran, Vehari, Pakpattan, Multan, Khanewal, Sahiwal, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Sargodha, Khushab, Layyah, Bhakkar, Mianwali, Dera Ismail Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Tank, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalnagar.

→ Economic Deprivation: -

The nationalist parties claimed that the areas like Bhawalpur generate more revenue than it is spent on it. It is the biggest producer of Pakistan's most important cash crop 'cotton'. But the successive governments could not be able to come up to the normative expectations of the Seraiki population.

There is 50.58% population living below the poverty line in Dera Ghazi Khan, 39.86% in Bhawalpur while 38.91% in Multan.

- Therefore, Seraiki nationalists demand to raise the job quotas for the local population.
- They demand for the formation of the separate province. They perceived that a separate Seraiki province would ensure the resource mobilization to satisfy the discontented people of this region.
- Then during 1950s under the “Thal Irrigation Scheme” thousands of acres of land were allotted to Punjabi Speaking migrants.

→During 2009-10 developmental projects of 20 billion were allocated for Punjab out of which only one was given to South Punjab.

→ **Linguistic issues.**

Reservations of Seraki population