

No Confidence Politics In Pakistan: A Historical Analysis

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Abstract

This study analyzes the political culture of Pakistan in lieu of no confidence motions against the ruler. The constitution of Pakistan carries the provision of launching the no confidence motion against Prime Minister and with the consent of National Assembly; Leader of the House can be ousted. During the period of 1988-2022 three Prime Ministers faced this motion from which two were survived and one was ousted. To view the political condition of that time, newspapers and National Assembly's debates are analyzed to conduct this research and the archival sources along with secondary sources are used for study. The study complies that National Assembly passed through this process due to strong opposition and sometimes foreign interference in political institutions of Pakistan. The motions against the elected Prime Ministers without any strong reasons imparted the undemocratic moves of political leadership of Pakistan.

Keywords: National Assembly, No Confidence Motion, Prime Minister, Legislation, Political Interference

Introduction

A motion of no confidence is a motion against a governing body by the opposition or any other person or party to leave the office as the governing person had failed to fulfill his responsibilities, or made harmful decisions for other members. The legislative motion shows the confidence of Parliament over the head of state or he has lost confidence in them. In certain states, a no confidence motion against a ministry, including the prime minister, forces the minister to resign. In case of acceptance of no confidence motion against Prime Minister would also lead the no confidence against all other ministers.

This procedure may differ amongst different parliaments in a variety of ways. No confidence motions generally have less chance of passing solely but it can be used as a trick of opposition to put pressure on government. If the issue is not more critical and does not deserve a move of no confidence it may work as in favor of the government. Government even can also launch a motion of confidence to prevent dissidence from members of the government's own party.

The Constitution of 1973 suggested a five years term for the Prime Minister of Pakistan. However, the history of Pakistan witnessed that not a single Prime Minister had completed its tenure. Even the Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto did not

complete his five years, as he was the presenter of the constitution. After 1985, the President stepped down four Premiers, one was overthrown by the promulgation of Martial Law and two were dismissed by the orders of Supreme Court. The government of Zia-ul-Haq, with eighth Amendment of Constitution, empowered the President to dissolve the Assembly, and he dismissed his Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo in 1988. Similarly, Benazir Bhutto's first government came to an end with the order of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and second government was dismissed by Farooq Lughari. Nawaz Sharif's first government was also come to an end by the orders of President. However, the second government of Nawaz Sharif was overthrown by Military Coup d'état in 1999. While the government of Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani and third tenure of Nawaz Sharif was ended by Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Contrary to this, Constitution of Pakistan allows the Parliament to introduce a no confidence motion against the Prime Minister, Minister relates to any Ministry or against the Speaker. The politics of no confidence generally pressurizes the government on several matters. In the history of Pakistan, four times no confidence motion was launched to the National Assembly of Pakistan. Three of these motions were presented against the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and one was against the speaker of National Assembly. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto faced this in 1989, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in 2006 and Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2022 while Chaudhary Amir Hussain faced this in 2003 as Speaker of National Assembly. This study comprehends the political scenario, reasons behind these motions and either the motions were succeeded or not? However, the study will focus the no confidence movements launched in National Assembly against Prime Ministers only.

Historical Background

The first no confidence motion was launched against British Prime Minister, Lord North in March 1782. This was due to the defeat of British at Yorktown in the American Revolutionary War. British Parliament voted that it could no longer repose confidence in the existing ministers (Mason, 2022). Similarly, in UK, the 19th and 20th century witnessed several no confidences. Australia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Ireland, South Africa, Russian, France, Italy, Israel, Japan, Ukraine, Spain and Swedish government also faced vote of no confidence. In Sub-continent, Pakistani and Indian government confronted these motions while Constitution of Bangladesh did not allow for motion of no confidence.

In India, a resolution of no confidence is only allowed to Lok Sabha (Lower House) as Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved under the principle of 'Chamber of continuity' (Kant, 1997). Lok Sabha discusses the motion if at least half of the members support it and it will be treated successful if majority of the members votes in favor of it (India, 2014). The first ever motion was introduced Acharya Kripalani in August 1963 just after the disastrous Sino-Indian War (Express, 2008). Lok Sabha witnessed total 27 motions in this regard including 15 against Indira Gandhi, three against Lal Bahadur Shastri and three against P. V. Narasimha Rao (three apiece). Morarji Desai twice and Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi faced one of each till July 2019. In April 1999, Vajpayee was defeated in a no-confidence vote by a single vote (269-270) (Times, 2018). The most recent motion of no confidence was against Narendra Modi but lost by a vote of 325-126 (Agarwal, 2022).

Motions of No Confidence in Pakistan

The Pakistani Constitution allows for a vote of no confidence in all members of the state's

Electoral College. These motions can be moved at provincial and national level against the speakers and deputy speakers, the Prime Minister, chief ministers and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Senate (Pakistan, 1973). This requires at least 20% support of the elected members in all cases except in case of speaker and deputy speakers. When a motion is put to a vote, it is only considered successful if it receives a majority vote (International, 2010).

In article 95 of the Constitution of 1973, method is described to launch motion against Prime Minister. The article bounds to launch a resolution by the consent of not less than twenty percent of the MNAs. After the presentation of motion, National Assembly shall not vote for less than 3 days and not more than 7 days. After voting, Prime Minister shall leave the office if majority of the House passes resolution (Pakistan, Constitution of Pakistan, 1973).

Speakers and deputy speakers have been removed using the no confidence method in the past. Nine of the eleven times the motion was used, nine of them were successful (International, 2010). For the first time in Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto faced this in November 1989 launched by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. The first time it has been used against a provincial Chief Minister in January 2018, when it was used against Balochistan's Chief Minister, Sanaullah Zehri but he resigned earlier (Dawn, 2012).

No Confidence Motion against Benazir Bhutto

After 1988's election, Benazir Bhutto strived for making allied government in Center at the call of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. By winning 94 seats in National Assembly from 217, PPP became able to make a government with like-minded parties at national level and in three provinces excluding Punjab. In Punjab, IJI, an alliance of various parties led

by the Pakistan Muslim League became able to form government (Mehmood, 2003). New Government of Benazir Bhutto was extremely divided as Punjab had already fallen into the hands of the IJI. Sindhi and Balochi regional politicians that were seeking for provincial autonomy saw Benazir Bhutto as weak. These situations led her becoming Prime Minister with a split mandate in Parliament and she was forced to compromise on a number of political objectives (Sirohey, 2000). Furthermore, Zia's death paved way for the formation of a "troika" and the agreement confirmed the military's and overall political controllers' powers (Aziz, 2009).

Benazir Bhutto tried to pacify the politics toward opposition from the start of her rule. She resolved the differences between Mahajirs and Sindh leadership, as well as persuaded the Awami National Party to collate government in NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). These measures, however, did not benefit Benazir Bhutto, and soon differences emerged in the corridors of power. Personal interests overshadowed national interests and tried to derail the government, as IJI was committed, not to allow the government to work peacefully (Rehman, Khan, & Khan, (July-December) 2017).

Major test for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto came on 1st of November when a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly was launched by the combined opposition. Benazir did not feel panic and moved quickly to secure the votes for continuation of her government. Even she said if she defeated, she would sit on the opposition benches. IJI's no confidence motion received 86 signatures of the Members of National Assembly (MNAs). The motion, no doubt, followed a series of incidents, both public and private. The differences between Benazir and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan over government management, particularly on

transfers of high government officials led the crisis. The clash over the appointment of Supreme Court justices and retirement of the navy's commander, Admiral Sirohey was also the reason. Because of these personal conflicts, Bhutto's supporters determined that President was working together with the IJI on noconfidence motion (Ziring, 1990).

The other major player in power triangle was General Aslam Baig, the chief of the army staff, who repeatedly stated that he would support the "democratic process." However, after meeting with Nawaz Sharif just before the noconfidence vote turned down the political neutrality. Organizations from both the left and right launched a political assault on Benazir Bhutto's administration. Socialists and progressives banded together with conservatives to mount this challenge, and they truly believed they had enough votes to overturn Bhutto's slim majority. In spite of this crucial situation, Benazir went to Kuala Lumpur to attend the meeting with commonwealth leaders. During this period, Nawaz Sharif met an ally of Government, and made an agreement with MQM to support opposition in no confidence. Later on, 14 MNA's announced to support the opposition in this movement (Ziring, 1990).

On October 26, 1989, Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor presented the motion to the National Assembly. The country already suffered under Martial Law lasting approximately eleven years so Speaker National Assembly addressed with assembly before the introduction of motion. He stated that the country had struggled for a long time for this House and if House succeeded then the democracy would flourish. The House had to set precedents for the continuity and importance of the House" (Assembly, 1989). Then, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Chaudhary moved motion under Article 95(1) along with the rule 22 of National Assembly. The speaker asked to stand up to those members

who were in favor of the motion and the number was 98.

The opposition needed 119 votes to target the Bhutto's government. The house started its hearing on November 1, 1989. Firstly, Leader of the Opposition Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Khan Jatoi was allowed to talk on no confidence movement. The opposition leader pointed a plethora of questions, allegations and issues. He raised the question, whether the present Government during the past about one year's performance, been able to cut wisely policies of the Government, whether they had been able to frame the policies with a far sight or not, and whether the achievements had been to their credit or they show a debit balance sheet? The government failed in all-important sectors of public life, including economy, administration, Law and Order, control in rise in prices, unemployment, corruption and so on. He also raised a point about the appointment of Prime Minister that the People's Party did not come on majority in the House and the party collated with other party to form of government but the main thing was to create pressure from within and from outside the country that she be sworn in as soon as possible.

He further denoted that why effort was being made to prevent the Chief Minister of the Punjab from being sworn in. What was the object? Similarly, the dissolution of Provincial Assembly of Baluchistan (that was survived by the order of High Court), unsuccessful attempts of no-confidence against the Chief Minister of Punjab and crossing of the floor also the facts which were against the government. The People's Works Program was interference in the affairs of the Province while in their manifesto, they committed for provincial autonomy. The other points were making Zakat and Ushar as a part of the Finance bill, entrance of Federal Law enforcing agencies into provinces without permission of the Provincial Governments and worst law and order

situation in Sindh. The foreign policy of the government about Afghanistan and India was quite hypocritical and the disturbance in Indus Basin Treaty was the factors that led to the no confidence on Government (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 1989).

Molana Fazal-ur-Rehman opposed the government as they were the partners of Pakistan Peoples Party in MRD. He expressed that the leadership of PPP did not meet their expectations which saddened them. They rejected a woman leader in MRD and at the time of formation of Government (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 1989). The other factors were same as described by the opposition leader. Contrary to this, Imran Farooq, a leader of MQM debated that MQM and PPP promised to run governmental affairs without any limitations or bounding but the promises made by PPP were never fulfilled ever in these eleven months. Coalition government did not mean that major parties take decisions unanimously, they had to consult with their partners but PPP did not do so. They signed memorandum of understanding but did not fulfilled the promises. In spite of all these they alleged the MQM (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 1989). He further talked about the situation of Sindh and student federations. Similarly, Syeda Abida Hussain raised some points from the opposition side.

Mr. Speaker allowed the Minister of Parliamentary affairs to counter the comments but he had not debated and asked to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to further speak on this. Benazir Bhutto replied that the leader of the opposition thought that elections resulted as divided verdict and it was a mercy upon us that we formed a government. She said that they were here just because people of four provinces elected them and she would stay there until the desire of public. She further added that personal liking and disliking would shatter the House and she did not want polarization. She acknowledged that

leaders worked with integrity, principles, ideology and according to manifesto, in spite of that they were pressurized by Punjab government. The opposition even threatened that they were in larger province and never let the government to work properly (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 1989). She further discussed the issues of lobbying by provincial governments, pressure on federal officers, bureaucracy, expenditures, corruption, peoples program, unemployment, foreign affairs specially with India, inflation, budget deficit, water issue and about cancelation of nuclear processing plant.

After a long debate, the motion was put to a vote and opposition fell twelve votes short of its target, receiving only 107 of the 119 votes required. By a 12-vote margin, the motion was defeated and at least 30 potential supporters of the motion declined to attend, with some claiming to have been bribed. As the debate began, it was clear that the opposition had failed to secure the votes of key parliamentary blocs that had been leaning toward a change of government, including ten members of Ms. Bhutto's People's Party from her home province of Sindh. Despite this, the Prime Minister appeared nervous as she defended her record and narrated that her government stood for "democracy and bribery," when she meant to say it stood against bribery. Members of the opposition laughed (Times N. Y., 2022). Bhutto's precarious majority remained maintained, and Meraj Khalid, the speaker, announced the move's defeat to thunderous applause from the government benches. The Prime Minister was present throughout the proceedings and she promised lawmakers that her government would "live up to the people of Pakistan's expectations and aspirations" (Ziring, 1990).

In spite of all these circumstances she said the Government would make a fresh attempt to listen to legislators in its party and to defuse confrontation with the opposition. Benazir Bhutto no doubt faced the no confidence

motion with courage but her government did not last so long. On 6 August, 1990, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan used the power vested to him under Article 58-2(b) of the constitution of Pakistan, and the government of Benazir Bhutto got lapsed.

Shaukat Aziz Survived

The military takeover of Pakistan in 1999 was a bloodless coup d'état orchestrated by COAS General Pervez Musharraf on October 12 that ousted Nawaz Sharif from Premiership. Musharraf appeared on television on October 14, 1999 and declared emergency by issuing a Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO), suspended Constitution and dissolved Assemblies, but leaving President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar in office. General Musharraf dispensed an executive diktat in 2001 that President Tarar deemed unconstitutional and illegal. After that, Pervez Musharraf forced President Tarar to resign from office (Reddy, 2022) and Musharraf himself assumed the office of President on June 20, 2001. In light of the Supreme Court's decision, referendum was held on April 30, 2002, allowing him to keep his power as he won the referendum with nearly 98 percent (BBC, 2022).

During President Musharraf regime, National Assembly elected Mir Zafar Ullah Khan Jamali on November 21, 2002 and unexpectedly he announced his resignation in June 2004. Shujaat Hussain sworn in as Prime Minister on temporary basis and he was replaced by Shaukat Aziz in August 2004. Shaukat Aziz was already working as Minister of Finance in Musharraf's government. He introduced several macroeconomic policies and brought a boom in automotive industry, energy megaprojects, nuclear industry, port industry, telecommunication services and much more.

Despite overseeing and presiding over unprecedented economic growth, his privatization and energy policies continued to

be highly divisive in public circles. Even opposition lodged no confidence motion against the Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. They accused that his privatization policies and privatized energy sector did not adequately address the country's economic problems. Aziz defended his policies, claiming that they kept these institutions afloat when they were on the verge of collapse. Liaqat Baloch narrated that all opposition parties were united on a one-point agenda, to restore democracy and oust the military from politics. Opposition presented a 500-page dossier to the National Assembly as evidence of wrongdoing. They further highlighted that last year's GDP growth rate was 8.4%, and that year's growth rate was expected to be 6.6 percent but poverty and unemployment was still widespread. The privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills was another concern of opposition (Aljazeera, 2022).

The opposition was based on an Alliance for Restoration of Democracy including MMA (Collusion of Religious Parties), PPP, PML-N and MQM. On August 23, 2006, opposition submitted their motion to the office of Speaker of National Assembly and during session of the House, Raja Pervez Ashraf further argued on it. He said that they had to set noble precedents in the house as well as in country so it was his opinion if Prime Minister resigned it would be a noble precedent. If he did not resign on any ground, the Minister of Privatization must resign and it might become a precedent (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 2006).

The motion of no confidence against Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was moved by Qazi Hussain Ahmad on August 25, 2006 (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 2006). The moved motion was signed by 137 members of the National Assembly that were more than 20% of the House, however, at the time of counting 101 members stood up in favor of motion.

On August 29, 2006, National Assembly started its session and Mr. Speaker Ch. Amir Hussain allowed Molana Fazalur Rehman, the opposition leader to present his remarks on the no confidence motion. He stated that the four year of government unveiled the incompetency of government even the policies which were presented by General Musharraf were also incompetent. The governments of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif were lapsed due to allegations of corruption and demolition of economy, however, the Musharraf government doing the same. They had instituted National Accountability Bureau to legalize their corruption and to prevent themselves from accountability. In case of debts, the question was raised before seven years that inflation was raised due to debts but the current government had not resolved this problem. The privatization of steel mills of Pakistan was another vague policy that was opposed by Supreme Court as well (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 2006).

Qazi Hussain Ahmad raised the points against Non-Islamic moves and secularism, and emphasized on Islam, democracy, federalism, free judiciary, basic rights and provincial autonomy. Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan and Aitzaz Ahsan, Imran Khan, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Shah Mehmood Hussain Qureshi, Khawaja Asif, Liaqat Baloch, Hakeem Qari Gul Rehman, Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Imtiaz Safder Warraich, Dr. Fareed Ahmad Piracha, Shireen Rehman, Mrs. Shahida Akhtar Ali, Naheed Khan, Samia Raheel Qazi and Abdul Rauf Maingel also raised points from opposition side. The opposition also heightened the brutal killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti.

The Prime Minister responded that the resolution had basis of false allegations, frivolous and selective use of distorted information designed to mislead the nation. He clarified that when President Musharraf came into power, the country was

bankrupted and no one gave worth to Pakistan. They set up a task to make over country greater and they did this in past seven years. This government never asked for foreign aid as well as passed a law to restrict the number of debts. He further added that he always respected the constitution and the laws of the land as he firmly believe that no country could progress if its institutions did not function diligently within the legal framework of the state. He further clarified himself saying that he had never remained in any position of trust or did not taken any step or decision for personal benefit. (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 2006).

He explained the situation of Steel Mills, Stock Exchange, Economy, Sugar and Cement price and Dams, PQA Investment of Funds, Port Qasim Authority Industrial Plots, Earthquake, OCAC Paras, Human Development Fund, Hajj policy, DHA, Okara Military Farms, PIA, PTCL, Habib Bank, KESC, Pak Arab Fertilizers and National Refinery Ltd and BOG of Public Corporations,. He also answered comprehensively about Unemployment, Poverty, Agriculture Performance, Large Scale Manufacturing, Energy and Power, Budget and Trade Deficit, Personal Security Para, Bullet Proof Vehicles, Law and Order situation of Karachi, Baluchistan, South Waziristan, Constituencies, National Finance Commission, Council of Common Interests, Detentions and other allegations which were led by opposition.

Aljazeera News predicted before a week of election on no confidence that the motion which was set to be debated within the next week, was unlikely to pass because pro-government members of parliament held a majority (Aljazeera, Pakistan PM faces no-confidence vote, 2022). It was obvious because ruling coalition enjoyed the support of 201 members of the 342 and opposition had only 141 seats. The same was witnessed on the eve of voting and 136 votes were in

favor of no confidence motion as announced by the Speaker National Assembly, Amir Hussain (Assembly, National Assembly Debates, 2006). Finally, Shaukat Aziz survived from no-confidence vote brought by the combined parliamentary opposition; members of the ruling party praised him. Mr. Aziz claimed that his regime was in larger interest of nation. It had never engaged in corruption, as claimed by "champions of negative politics" and those (former Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif) who plunder national wealth and later settle abroad (News, 2022).

Imran Khan Lost Premiership

On July 25, 2018, Pakistan held general elections and PTI won the most seats in center. The party remained most powerful in KP; the PPP maintained its hold on Sindh; and the newly formed Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) became the most powerful party in Balochistan. The PML-N won the most seats in Punjab; however, PTI formed its government after several independent MPs joined the party. PML-N alleged that the elections were rigged but they took oath.

No party had sufficient number of MNA's for the formation of government; however, PTI emerged as major party so Imran Khan began talks to smaller parties and independent members to make a coalition government. MQM Pakistan, PML-Q, BAP, GDA, AML, JWP and 9 independent members joined the Government. On the other hand, PML-N, PPP, MMA and ANP planned to sit in the opposition benches formed "Grand Opposition Alliance". However, PPP withdrew its support for Premiership of Shahbaz Sharif due to those statements which were made by him for former President Asif Ali Zardari.

The opposition named their alliance as Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and played a crucial role against the PTI government and finally they announced to

launch a no confidence motion on March 3, 2022. The Opposition's efforts to destabilize the PTI-led government increased and the motion was signed by more than 80 MNAs from the PPP, PML-N, JUI, ANP, Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M), and other parties. Shahbaz Sharif, the opposition leader stated that the leader of the House had lost the confidence of this house and country suffered from political instability and uncertainty as well as foreign policy had totally failed (Malik & Satti, 2022). The standoff among the opposition parties over the no-trust move had gone after the PDM persuaded the PPP to hold immediate elections in the country if they succeed in toppling the PTI administration. As the PPP had insisted that, the PTI-led government served out its 5-year constitutional term and MQM and PML-Q did not agree for earlier polls. However, on March 5, 2022, Ahsan Iqbal, a leader of PML-N expounded that PTI allies would get an offer which they could not refuse (Tahir, 2022).

On 8 March 2022, opposition submitted their no confidence motion to the National Assembly and asked for to conduct session of the assembly as earlier as possible. They claimed that they had more than 172 members for making no confidence motion successful. The session of National Assembly was started at 25th of March 2022 while the motion of no confidence was presented on 28th of March 2022. Shahbaz Sharif, the opposition leader sought leave to move the resolution of vote of no confidence against the Prime Minister. Deputy Speaker asked to stand up those members which were in favor of motion. 161 members stood up in favor of motion so motion was adopted under Article 95(1) resolution was led to the house. The Deputy Speaker announced that further debate will made on 31 March.

Joint opposition succeeded to convince the MNAs of PTI and other allies of PTI government. Raja Riaz, an estranged leader

of PTI claimed on 17th of March that about two dozens of disgruntled members were present in Sindh House, which would vote in favor of no confidence motion (News T. , 2022). Similarly, Raja Riaz alleged PTI's Chief Minister of Punjab was involved in corruption in selling of government positions and said that the corruption money went to a hill in Islamabad (Malik N. , 2022). On the other hand, Government also endured that they had contact with opposition MNAs that were in favor to rule out blackmail amid no confidence motion (News G. , 2022). An ally of government, Shahzain Bugti from Jamhoori Watan Party left PTI on 27 March (Recorder, 2022). On the next day, four members out of five, Baluchistan Awami Party quit PTI alliance and joined opposition (News T. , In a blow to govt, four BAP MNAs join opposition, 2022). Similarly, another ally of government MQM-P left government with its seven members including two Ministers resigned from cabinet (Chaudhary, Hussain, & Gurmani, 2022).

During a short span of time, a severe change was witnessed from both opposition and Government side. Prime Minister Imran Khan before the next hearing of the House, on March 27 declared that the oppositions' no trust motion carried a part of an alleged "foreign funded conspiracy" hatched against his government. He said our foreign policy was being influenced from abroad. Attempts were made through foreign money to change the government in Pakistan. (News D. , 2022). He claimed that he received a letter in which the conspirator threatened that if government never led down then the country would face the critical and dangerous situation. It was further stated that the letter was issued by USA; however, USA denied this allegation. That was a factor, which led more questions in no confidence motion.

On 31st day of March, the National Assembly started its session but was adjourned by Deputy Speaker without debating on this matter. The next session of the house witnessed a turning point when on April 3, 2022, the Law Minister, Fawad Chaudhary stated that although a motion was filed under Article 95 but Chair must invoke Article 5(1) of the Constitution, which states, "loyalty to the state is the basic duty of every citizen," in light of the fact that the motion was filed under an "international conspiracy." On March 7, Pakistan's ambassador was invited to an official meeting by a country with a team of note-takers. They advised that the Prime Minister Imran Khan would face a no-trust motion and on March 8, move had been presented to the National Assembly Secretariat. The regime change plot was regrettable since it was carried out at the behest of foreign elements as part of a conspiracy, adding that some government allies and PTI members were also involved. It was not a vote of no confidence; it was a flagrant breach of Article 5(1) of the Constitution. (News T. , Pakistan descends into political chaos after NA dissolved on PM Imran Khan's advice, 2022)."

Deputy Speaker without hearing any other member stated that the opposition had submitted no confidence motion on 8th of March 2022. Motion of no confidence must be according to rules and constitution. Foreign powers have no right to dismiss the elected government of Pakistan. The points raised by Minister of Law stood valid and the no confidence motion repealed the constitution and rules of law. Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri ruled out the no-confidence motion and declared it "unconstitutional" and then he adjourned the House.

Prime Minister Imran Khan took an astonishing step and advised President Arif Alvi to dissolve National Assembly just after a little while of the ruling of Deputy Speaker. He added that he would like to

congratulate the entire nation on the NA deputy speaker's rejection of a foreign conspiracy's attempt to change Pakistan's administration. Such schemes would not prevail in the country. As soon as the President receives his suggestion, the assemblies would be dissolved and the process of a caretaker government would start (News T. , PM Imran Khan advises president to dissolve assemblies, 2022). The President accepted the suggestion of Prime Minister and dissolved the assemblies on March 3, 2022. He asked from government and opposition to assign names for caretaker Prime Minister as well as asked the date of elections from Election Commission of Pakistan. The Government of Imran Khan proposed the name of former Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmad while opposition had not provided any name.

On the same day, Supreme Court of Pakistan took suo moto the decision of Deputy Speaker as opposition narrated his move unconstitutional. The hearing about this case lasted for five days and finally on 7 April the court ruled Deputy Speaker's ruling as contrary to the constitution. The dissolution of Assembly by President also stood contradictory with constitution. The Court ordered to restore the government and asked to cabinet to perform their duties. Supreme Court ordered to conduct the session on 9th day of April 2022 as per order of the day that had been issued for April 3, 2022 (Pakistan S. C., 2022).

The House held its business on April 9, 2022 which was lasted till midnight so on 10 April 2022 voting started on no confidence motion. For the first time in history of Pakistan, the no confidence motion against a Prime Minister was endorsed by the National Assembly of Pakistan. The no confidence motion which required 172 votes of MNA's was supported by 174 members of National Assembly. Anticipating his loss, Imran Khan alleged that opposition worked on the agenda of US so he

called on his supporter for the countrywide rallies (Aljazeera, Pakistan PM Imran Khan gone after losing no-confidence vote, 2022). On 11 April, 2022, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif took the oath as Prime Minister of Pakistan after securing 174 votes of his party members and allies. The cabinet of 37 members took oath on 19 April.

The regime change dramatically transformed the perspective of whole nation and PTI demonstrated largely at Karachi, Peshawar, Malakand, Multan, Khanawal, Khyber, Jhang, Quetta, Okara, Islamabad, Lahore and Abbottabad. Similarly, PTI protested at Bajaur, Lower Dir, Shangla, Kohistan, Mansehra, Swat, Gujrat, Faisalabad, Nowshera, Dera Ghazi Khan and Mandi Bahauddin (Qarar, Gabol, Sirajuddin, Ali, & Bacha, 2022). The twitter trended "Imported Government Rejected (Imported Hakoomat Namanzoor)" with over 8 million tweets. This no confidence motion caused the complete unrest in the country which not only affected the country politically but economically too.

Conclusion

From the day of independence, it was witnessed that not a single Prime Minister completed his tenure. Though the constitution of Pakistan allowed to Parliament to launch a no confidence motion against the Leader of the House but it must be presented under prescribed rules. The no confidence motion against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto launched by IJI was allegedly supported by the Osama Bin Laden. Similarly, the motion against Shaukat Aziz was not succeeded but this also paved way to the end of Military regime of President Pervez Musharraf and his Prime Minister left the office on completion of Parliamentary tenure. In case of Imran Khan, he himself alleged that PDM was backed by US for the regime change in Pakistan. The politics of no confidence motion in Pakistan determined

that the political system of Pakistan is not much developed as it has to be.

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