

## Politics of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) during Musharraf Regime: A Critical Appraisal



Shaista Gohar	Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. <a href="mailto:shaistagohar@awkum.edu.pk">shaistagohar@awkum.edu.pk</a>
Hasnain Sajid	Visiting Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, AWKUM, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. <a href="mailto:hussychd@gmail.com">hussychd@gmail.com</a>
Sumayya	Visiting Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, AWKUM, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. <a href="mailto:Summaykhan1995@gmail.com">Summaykhan1995@gmail.com</a>

**Abstract:** *The emergence of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as a political party on political scene of Pakistan was indeed a resistance against Ayub regime to red out his government. It was PPP which ended the Yahya regime after the secession of East Pakistan while entered in electoral politics in 1970. It was PPP which launched political alliance and started nonviolence resistance against Zia regime for the restoration of democracy. Similarly during Musharraf regime PPP did not left the political field and to do its politics with a new zeal. The PPP on one side struggled with other political parties for the restoration of democracy and on the other side did compromise politics with Musharraf to pave the way for future politics. This article highlights and analyze the PPP politics during Musharraf regime either it was alliance politics or electoral politics or dealing politics. Descriptive analytical method is conducted for data application which is collected through secondary sources like books, reports, journal and reliable newspapers articles.*

**Keywords:** Pakistan Peoples Party, Musharraf regime, Political alliances, electoral politics, NRO deal, Charter of Democracy (CoD)

### Introduction

At its inaugural convention, held in Lahore between November 30 and December 1, 1967, the Pakistan Peoples Party was introduced. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was chosen to preside over that same conference as its chairman. When the PPP was created, fighting the military dictatorship of Ayub Khan, which was at the height of its strength, was a more urgent mission. After the defeat of East Pakistan in December 1971, when Bhutto took office as president and in charge of enforcing martial law, the PPP came to power. Bhutto visited Islamabad on December 20, 1971, when he met General Yahya. General Yahya turned over command to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after resigning. As president

and chief martial law administrator, Bhutto took an oath. Bhutto gave up the presidency on August 10, 1973. In April 1972, Bhutto ended the martial law, and in 1973, he resigned as president to become prime minister. Bhutto was deposed and jailed in July 1977 by the military, which also imposed martial law and suspended some provisions of the 1973 Constitution. Chief of the Army Staff General Muhammad Zia ul-Haq became administrator. The Bhutto party was able to survive after his passing in 1979 due to dynastic politics. The co-chairpersons of the party were his widow Nusrat and his daughter Benazir. During martial law, the PPP joined forces with ten other parties to create the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), which was created to exert pressure on

the Zia regime to hold democratic elections in accordance with the 1973 constitution. August 1988 saw the death of General Zia ul Haq in a plane accident. When Pervaz Musharraf, another military dictator, assumed power in October 1999, the PPP's difficult tenure as a ruling and opposition party during the turbulent years of 1988 to 1999 came to an end. Concerning the installation of Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the PPP leadership stayed silent. The PPP exerted its greatest influence during this period inside the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) and the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD). In order to participate in the 2002 general elections, the PPP founded the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary (PPPP) under the leadership of Amin Fahim when Pervez Musharraf issued the Political Parties Order 2002 (PPO-2002). The Charter of Democracy (CoD), a remarkable document, was created in 2006 by the PPP and PML-N leaders in order to promote Pakistan's democratic culture. The "Benazir-Musharraf Deal, 2007" was signed as a result of Musharraf's efforts to foster understanding with Benazir Bhutto. Benazir Bhutto traveled back to Pakistan in 2007 in order to take part in the upcoming election, but on December 27, 2007, while returning from Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi following a successful electoral campaign, she was tragically shot and killed. All political parties naturally expressed sympathy for BB's assassination, but there was also an increase in political tension because the PPP's democratic credentials were questioned by the prospect of a deal with Musharraf. The election commission of Pakistan announced the results on March 1, 2008, showing that PPP had won handily with 125 seats and PML (N) had come in second with 91 seats. The government was founded by these two parties with national consensus.

### **Background of Musharraf Take Over**

The relationship between the PML (N) government and the management of the military force was quite tight following the Kargil incident in 1998. On October 12, 1999, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attempted to remove General Pervez Musharraf, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, from responsibility for the Kargil conflict by appointing Ziauddin Butt, who was

younger than many of his colleagues, to lead his region (Khan, 2016). The military corps commander had not given him permission to assume control of his new job despite the appointment's formalities being finished. Pervez Musharraf tried to board a PIA commercial flight to return to Pakistan when he was on an official visit to Sri Lanka on that day. The arrest of Musharraf, the COAS, and the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee had been ordered by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (Gohar, 2020). However, things had changed, and General Musharraf now presided over the nation.

### **Military take over of Musharraf and PPP Politics**

In October 1999, the military successfully overthrew Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup. The Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the Chief Ministers, and the Director of the ISI have been placed in the Army's custody. General Pervez Musharraf blamed the Nawaz Government for its misbehavior. During an interview in London, the exiled PPP opposition leader accused the Prime Minister of calling for a military coup. According to Benazir Bhutto, when PM Nawaz assumed power, he systematically destroyed democracy. No one was able to stop him from breaking the law, and the military had already taken action to safeguard his institution (Asian Recorder, 1999). In the approaching senate elections, the PPP leadership was certain that it would win with a landslide. Unfortunately, Benazir Bhutto has said nothing on the election of Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Even after she was issued an arrest warrant by the Lahore High Court due to allegations of corruption brought against her by the PML (N) Government, she continued to support the military by assuming that she would return to Pakistan. However, the military dictatorship rejected Benazir's appeal because they believed that her passage would damage their reputation (Gohar, 2022).

### **PPP politics of Alliance**

The PPP was most effective during this time period when it formed alliances. The most important organization was the Grand

Democratic Alliance, which Nasrullah Khan established. It was a coalition of political and religious parties that opposed the Nawaz dictatorship. The fundamental objectives of this alliance were to save the federation and remove an increasingly tyrannical prime minister, Nawaz Sharif. Other aspects include the return of democracy, political accountability, the economy, the rule of law, press freedom, and human rights accomplishments. There were 19 political parties in the coalition, but three of them had a greater representation. The PPP had more impact because it was more important to it (Gohar,etal, 2023).

According to the GDA statement, the Nawaz Sharif administration immobilized all state institutions through conspiracies. The GDA expressed its gratitude for the administration's overthrow and expressed hope that the military would start holding dishonest politicians accountable (Khan, 2016). The PPP still views itself as the military's crown jewel, but at the GDA's urging, it now emphasizes more political party consensus. Although it lost eight component parties with PMLN membership to GDA, the alliance changed its focus and, on December 3, 2000, in Islamabad, established a new alliance called the "Alliance for Restoration of Democracy" (Nawa-i-Waqat, 2000, December 4). Nawabzada Nasarullah Khan was chosen to serve as its leader. The PPP and PML (N) put their differences aside as a result of the ARD and joined together on the same platform. Its primary goals included holding new, fair elections, restoring democracy, granting autonomy to the provinces, and establishing a commission to investigate historical wrongdoings (Gohar,etal, 2023). As a result, on December 10, 2000, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto were forcibly banished to Saudi Arabia and London, respectively, drawing harsh criticism from ARD (The News, 2000, December 12). The ARD requested the return of democracy, the exiled leaders Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, as well as the military's return to the barracks. By imprisoning the ARD's political staff, the government severely suppressed it. In addition, the death of Nawabzada Nasarullah Khan on September 27,

2003, also contributed to the government's success in engaging all stakeholders. The Musharraf administration changed the political landscape by introducing a new system and engaging all component parties rather than outlawing political parties (Gohar,etal, 2023).

### **Electoral Politics of Musharraf and PPP Response**

Elections in Pakistan were not conducted in accordance with international standards until shortly after General Pervez Musharraf took power in 1999. In August 2001, local body elections were held without the participation of any political parties. The General Zia presidential ordinance 1979's local government system was reinstated by the Musharraf administration (Syed & Khan, 2020). The voting process was totally stalled. Money is wasted. Voting was delayed, there were issues with the voter list, and other usual procedures used the employment of the state apparatus. However, the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy brought all these strategies together in a military confrontation (Khan, 2016).

President Pervez Musharaf took office after President Rafiq Tarar was forced to resign. In order to further justify his conduct, he then proclaimed a presidential referendum that was held on April 30, 2002. Political parties were given the opportunity to run, although there were strict restrictions. As a result, PPP chose not to vote in the referendum on behalf of ARD (Syed & Khan 2020). In order to boost the anti-referendum campaign against the president, the ARD requested that exiled PPP leader BB return to the nation. Pervez Musharaf underlined, however, that he would not permit BB to return. The PPP claimed that the PMLQ administration met at Lahore Governor House to finalize its list of candidates. By acquitting important PPP leader Aftab Sherpao, the NAB was used as a potent tool against dissent. Despite political opposition, the Pervez Musharaf referendum was held, and 97.5% of the ballots were cast in his favor. Since the president is chosen by two Houses of Parliament and four province assemblies, the PPP argued that this arrangement was unconstitutional (Talbot, 2009). On October 10, 2002, 73 political parties

made the decision to run in the general elections. Musharraf, Pervez created his own political party, the PML (Q), the royal party, in opposition to the PML (N) and PPP. The Political Parties Order of 2002 (PPO-2002) was issued by Pervez Musharraf. Additionally, it expanded Article 63, which barred anyone who had been accused from voting. BB was likely intended to remain exiled in Dubai by these laws (Kennedy, 2006). PPO, according to Raja Pervez Ashraf, leader of the PPP, is a denial of democracy. Political parties have its own set of policies, procedures, and this obviously targeted BB. An individual was also prohibited from serving in both party and public office by the edict. This again focused on BB. In July 2002, Musharraf introduced the Public Office Order of 2002, which prohibited politicians from serving in office more than twice or three times. The ouster of Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto from office had disastrous effects (Gohar, etal, 2022).

Under Amin Fahim's direction, the PPP established Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian to take part in elections. Democracy, religious tolerance, equal economic opportunity, and people's power were listed as the 2002 Manifesto's four guiding principles (PPP Manifesto, 2002). There have been major allegations of election tampering and rigging. The PPP claimed that their candidate was under pressure to resign in order to benefit the PML (Q). The leading opposition figure's exclusion from the elections raised eyebrows in the European Union. In support of BB, Nawaz Sharif has also withdrawn his nomination. The EU observer came to the conclusion that the government's plan to exclude well-known MPs involved keeping both families out of the electoral competition (EU Report. 2002). The general elections were deemed highly flawed by the EU. Despite these limitations, PPP gained more seats in Sindh, and MMA was the dominant political force in Baluchistan and the NWFP. The overall voter participation was 41%. Islamabad had 51% of it, Punjab had 45.5%, Sindh had 38%, NWFP and FATA had 31.4%, and Baluchistan had 29%. Three political parties, PML (Q), MMA, and PPP, were chosen to form the National assembly in

November 2002. Musharraf's PML (Q) was able to form a government without the PPP and MMA by the work made so far. The ISI and NAB disqualified the lawmakers who were elected on PPP ballots. Later, they pledged their allegiance to PML (Q). With 172 votes, Zafar Ullah Jamali of Baluchistan was chosen prime minister. MMA PPP Shah Mehmud Quraishi gained 72, while Fazal Rahman gained 86. After the MMA secretary-general was chosen as the opposition leader at the time the 17th amendment was passed, the opposition leader issue was not resolved for one year (Talbot, 2009).

From August 18 to October 6, 2005, Pakistan held its local government elections. According to Section 129 of the Local Government Ordinance of 2001, which was amended, the Chief Minister has the authority to override any decision made by the district Nazim in the interest of the public, national security, and peace (Daily Times, 2005, August 29). According to Raza Rabbani, the head of the opposition in the senate, "the real motive behind those changes were to establish the dictatorship of chief minister". In December 2004, the Sindh Provincial Government separated Larkana, Dadu, Jacobabad, and Mirpurkhas for administrative purposes in an effort to disperse support for the PPP and facilitate an easier election manipulation by calling the coalition. The nomination petition for the PPP candidates was also denied for some reasons. PML (Q) CM Arbab Ghulam of Sindh was on a military-sponsored mission to finally defeat PPP. *Awam Dost* candidates endorsed by the PPP were abducted in order to stop them from submitting nomination papers (Gohar, etal, 2022).

### **PPP Politics of Charter Against Musharraf Rules**

Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, the leaders of the PPP and the PML (N) were both exiled and remained very passive in politics. Both leaders agreed that Pakistan's democratic culture needed to be strengthened. A unique document called as the Charter of Democracy was however signed by the leaders. This great document gave rise to hope for future democratization and fair competition. The 36-point charter was

ultimately agreed to by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif on May 14, 2006, in London. The conference is attended by Makhdum Amin Fahim, Raza Rabbani, Pervez Ashraf, Aitazaz Ihsan, and PML (N) leaders Shahbaz Sharif, Nisar Ali Khan, Ahsan Iqbal, among others (Dawn, 2006). The revival of the 1973 Constitution, the return of the Prime Minister's authority, Party-based local government elections, an independent electoral commission, and the elimination of concurrent lists were among the legal reforms that both parties agreed to implement. The document was significant and had the power to democratize Pakistan. According to officials, it was known as the Magna Carta of Pakistan. Constitutional amendment would not be permitted to Parvez Musharraf (Gohar, & Bibi, 2022).

### **Constitutional Changes of Musharraf and PPP Reaction**

The "Doctrine of Necessity" allowed for the legalization of the Musharraf coup and gave him the authority to amend the constitution. The provision of significantly increased power to the president of Pakistan was the most significant. The National Assembly was to be dissolved by the president, who would also pick the military chief and establish the National Security Council. Musharraf stated amendments were required to bring about true democracy (Talbot, 2009). The PPP opposed it and argued that only parliament had the authority to amend the constitution. The PPP also opposed the NSC and claimed that by that time, the military would be interfering with domestic politics. However, PPP charged MMA with dishonesty for signing the constitutional amendment with the PML (Q) (BBC News, 2003). After dealing with the MMA, the government presented the 17th constitutional amendment to the national assembly on December 26, 2003. The leader of the PPP, Aitazaz Ahsan, objected to the change and argued that LFO had been declared unconstitutional and that it was in direct conflict with ARD and MMA positions. However, the law received 71 votes in favor and the president's assent on December 31. After the amendment, the president called a vote of confidence in Musharraf in the National

Assembly and the provincial assemblies. Despite receiving 658 out of 1170 votes, PPP declined to cast a ballot, preventing Musharraf from addressing the assembly and joining the meeting. Similarly, on April 19, 2004, the National Security Act was passed (Talbot, 2009). As the National Security Council was not originally featured in the constitution, LFO established it. The head of state is the chairman of the NSC, which is made up of the prime minister, the head of the opposition, the speaker of the National Assembly, the chiefs of the naval and air forces, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The president and the administration would get security-related advice from the NSC. When the NSC bill was brought up for voting in the national parliament and senate of Pakistan, the PPP decided to boycott the proceedings because they felt it sent the incorrect message about democracy. President Musharraf must resign from his position as army leader before December 2004 in accordance with the 17th Amendment. But the government also enacted a bill concerning offices that greatly disrupted the National Assembly (Khan, 2016). The PPP stated that they would not welcome a president in a uniform. On November 28, 2007, he was forced to resign the position and turn it over to General Ashfaq Pervez Kiyani because to the PPP's and other opposition leaders' persistent defiance to the administration of Musharraf, who wore a uniform (Gohar, et al, 2023).

### **Lawyer Movement against Musharraf and PPP Politics**

President Musharraf removed Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry on corruption charges in March 2007. Because Justice Bhagwandas, the senior Chief Justice at the time, was traveling at the time, Justice Javed Iqbal was named as acting Chief Justice in his place. Even if all of these actions were legal under article 209, they nevertheless gave rise to a nationwide movement to reinstate the Chief Justice. The campaign was primarily launched by attorneys, but in later years, President Musharraf received harsh criticism for his actions from the opposition parties, civic society, private media, and the general public

(Khan, 2016). The "Lawyers' Movement," also known as "*Adliya Bachao Tehreek*," was a historical movement. The PPP has occasionally supported the Lawyers' Movement. After returning from exile, the PPP's key leader also joined the movement. On November 11, 2007, she tried in vain to visit Chaudhry Iftikhar when security personnel barred her path. While participating in protests in support of Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, numerous PPP activists were assassinated (Gohar, et al, 2020). Pakistan's democratic politics have been significantly impacted by the Lawyer's Movement. It might have something to do with the populist leadership of the PPP party and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who gave "bread, cloth, and shelter." Similarly the "rule of law" was supported by the Lawyer's Movement. PPP initially encouraged the movement to gain traction in Pakistan's political arena by promising to restore the deposed judges. However, as the PPP government failed to keep its election pledge, the strong sentiment sparked by the lawyers' movement started to negatively impact the party, giving PML (N) the upper hand. In any case, the campaign significantly undermined Musharraf's government while making it easier for Benazir Bhutto to return to Pakistan (Gohar, et al, 2022).

### **PPP Politics of Dealing with Musharraf**

Musharraf wanted condition-based mutual understanding with PPP because PPP was a significant political party and he tried to create understanding with Benazir Bhutto; however, the first round of the Musharraf Benazir bargain disastrously failed. Musharraf chose a different strategy and opted to unite the MQM and PML (Q) into a coalition to create the national government. Amin Fahim and Yousef Raza Gillani were given the opportunity to join hands, but they declined (Gohar, et al, 2022). Despite the fact that the PML (Q) government was established at the national level in 2007, President Musharraf's position was not favorable. President Musharraf and BB began negotiations for upgrades in yet another agreement. Sincere efforts were made by the West and allies within the state to make this

arrangement happen. This time, Benazir went ahead and signed the "Benazir-Musharraf NRO Deal" with President Musharraf. According to this agreement, Musharraf would stay in power while BB was free to return to Pakistan, get involved in real politics, and have all charges brought against her and her husband Zardari dropped (Gohar, et al, 2020).

Musharraf's endurance was on the verge of failing, but only with Benazir's help would he be kept alive. Both presidents agree to prevent radicalism from entering the nation because they both perceive a threat from Islamic organizations. After discussion, the National Reconciliation Order's final text was signed in Dubai (Ahmad & Afridi, 2014). The NRO ended corruption and investigations against 8,000 people, including ministers, government employees, and lawmakers, as well as Asif Ali Zardari, who was the main NRO agreement benefactor. Although the NRO was very helpful, civil libertarians scarcely ever criticized it. The NRO arrangement is condemned by civil society and political scholars who claim that it violates the Charter of Democracy. Shujaat Chaudhary recognized that the sole purpose of Musharraf's agreement with Bhutto was to divide the opposition parties (Gohar, et al, 2022). According to Benazir Bhutto, the agreement should be viewed as a political one, with the goal of facilitating the transition from authoritarian control to democracy. The NRO arrangement wasn't made public until Justice Retired Wajihuddin contested Musharraf's nomination for re-election on October 6. Amin Fahim and Faryal Talpur each filed a petition against Musharraf (Gohar, et al, 2023).

### **Musharraf's Presidential Election, 2007 and PPP Reaction**

The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Iftikhar Muhammad Chowdhury has taken up the issue of Musharraf's eligibility to seek for reflection as president while wearing a uniform. PPP made it clear that, in accordance with its platform, it would not accept a president in uniform. Although the government had already announced that Musharraf would take off his uniform prior to the presidential election, Musharraf sought **guarantees** that, by doing so,

he would either become **president or not**. The SC of Pakistan accepted Musharraf's reflection as president during this time and gave him the go-ahead to remove his uniform. On October 6, 2007, Musharraf got the most votes (57%), winning 671 out of 1170 members of the **Electoral College** for the second time (**Khan, 2016**).

### **Benazir's Return and Assassination, 2007**

Benazir Bhutto made the decision to return to Pakistan in 2007 in order to take part in the next election. While acknowledging her own security during exile was doubtful, she wanted strict security from the US and Musharraf; however, these promises were not kept. On numerous times, she also asked Musharraf for impregnable security, but she never received it (Gohar,etal, 2020). Benazir Bhutto traveled to Pakistan on October 18, 2007, and was greeted joyfully by her followers. Oddly, though, she was brutally attacked by a suicide bomber four hours later. Fortunately, she survived the attack, despite the fact that it claimed the lives of hundreds of people. After all, there was a serious threat to her life, so she sought from the president impenetrable security. On the following day, President Musharraf issued a provisional constitutional decree and declared a state of emergency during which all fundamental rights were suspended (Ahmad & Afridi 2014). Benazir Bhutto finally made up her mind to march for a long time, but she was imprisoned at home right away because of an internal security issue. The dictatorial actions of Musharraf are then made public, and BB requests cooperation from the foreign media in doing so. The leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz fiercely denounced Benazir Bhutto's arrest. The JI leader Qazi Hussain Ahmed also praised and applauded Benazir Bhutto's position regarding Musharraf (Gohar,etal, 2022). Unfortunately, Benazir Bhutto's murder on December 27, 2007, while traveling from Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi, following a successful election campaign, destroyed the cornerstone of the political arena. It was hypothesized that this was a full-fledged targeted suicide attack in which the assailant successfully targeted BB. After the passing of charismatic leader ZA Bhutto, Pakistan

experienced yet another significant political setback (The Washington Post, 2007). Additionally, the attack was heavily denounced by western media, which labeled it a "cowardly attack" by the US. The PPP urged that UNO be given control of the inquiry into BB's case. The political era, however, had come to an end. According to the late Benazir Bhutto's will, the PPP appointed her 19-year-old son Bilawal and her husband A.A. Zardari as co-chairperson and chairperson, respectively. To give the impression that he was Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's heir and to strengthen his claim to Benazir's inheritance, Bilawal Zardari changed his name to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari (Gohar,etal 2022).

### **General Elections 2008 and PPP Electoral Politics**

General elections in Pakistan were scheduled to take place on January 8, 2008, according to the election commission of Pakistan (Dawn, 2008, Nov21). The All Parties Democratic Movement (APDM), an alliance of political parties made up of the PML (N), PTI, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pukhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, and others, boycotted the elections on November 24, 2008 (Dawn, 2007, November 30). But immediately after speaking with Benazir Bhutto, they decided to reverse course and run in the elections. On December 16, 2007, the official campaign got under way, one day after President Parvez Musharraf removed the state of emergency. However, Benazir Bhutto's election campaign actually got underway on December 16, before the officially announced campaign time. The national campaign specifically addressed General Musharraf's situation, the economy, particularly inflation, price increases, and food shortages. PPP, however, exercised greater caution while keeping in mind the potential power-sharing agreement (Gohar,etal 2022). After Benazir arrived in Pakistan, the PPP campaign intensified. However, this campaign was unexpectedly put to an end when Benazir Bhutto was shot and killed on December 27, 2007, as she was leaving for a rally. As previously stated, on December 30, 2007, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari were swiftly elected as the PPP's co-chairmen. Both, however, were unqualified to become

prime minister. Elections scheduled for January 8, 2008, have been sought to be postponed by the provincial governments of Sindh and Punjab. As a result, the electoral commission has set a new date of February 18 (Gohar,etal 2020) In response to Benazir Bhutto's death on December 28, 2007, the PML (N) declared it would abstain from voting. However, the PML (N) also altered its mind and declared participation in the elections when the PPP decided to take part in the rescheduled elections, which would be held on February 18 (Ahmed & Afridi, 2014).

All political groups felt compassion for BB's death, which obviously increased political tension because the PPP's democratic credentials could be jeopardized by an agreement with Musharraf. The Pakistani electoral commission announced the results on March 1, 2008, showing that PPP had won handily with 125 seats and PML (N) had come in second with 91 seats. The government was founded by these two parties with national consensus. The PPP also got majority in Sindh and formed its government there (Gohar,etal 2022).

## Conclusion

Conclusively the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) the old surviving party in Pakistan is playing its role in the politics of Pakistan since its foundation in 1967. The party is not only playing its role in civilian period as governing and parliamentary opposition party but also doing its politics in military regimes with unique struggle for democracy. Similar stance of politics was adopted by the PPP during the Musharraf regime (1999-2008). The PPP's political ebbs and flows were apparent throughout the whole period. PPP participated actively in the GDA and ARD political alliances. The PPP refrained from agitating because both groupings were opposed to the Musharraf government. However, it took a number of reasonable positions toward the Musharraf administration in light of the situation. It initially supported the military rule and eventually pushed his administration to disband the parliamentary bodies. The party, which once refused to make any deals with Musharraf, signed the "Charter of Democracy" with its bitter rival PML (N) in the past to unite against the military dictatorship. On the other

hand, it also signed the "Benazir-Musharraf Deal" at the same time. Later, the agreement surfaced under the guise of NRO. In spite of PPO, which required that even the party name and leadership be altered, the PPP eventually demonstrated its will to participate in elections under President Musharraf. Benazir Bhutto, the PPP's charismatic leader, passed away during the Musharraf government, and the Zardaris took over as party leaders. The party received tremendous support from the new leadership. They opted to run in the General Elections of 2008 after reorganizing the Party since they observed that the country's mood was wholly supportive of the PPP. They also succeeded in doing so with a majority. If the party did not take positive step on time, the subsequent years would not be remarkable as democracy in Pakistan.

## References:

- Ahmed, Z., & Afridi, M. K. (2014). Controlled democracy and political opposition in Pakistan: A case study of Musharraf era. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(14), 560-560
- Dawn, 2007, November 21
- Dawn, 2007, November 30
- "Deal Over Pakistan Power Struggle", (2003, December 29). BBC News.
- EU. (2002, October 10), "Pakistan National and Provincial Assembly Election", Election Observation Mission, Final Report
- "For a Just, Equitable and Egalitarian Pakistan", (2002, September 30). PPP Manifesto,2002; Retrieved from; <http://www.pppusa.org/upload/manifesto2002.pdf>
- Gohar, S., Bibi, H. (2022). Reflections of Charter of Democracy, 2006 in Zardari Era: A Critical Appraisal .*Global Political Review*, VII(II),51-58 doi:https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2022(V II-I).07
- Gohar, S., Jawad, S., & Begum, A. (2022). Politics Of Pakistan People's Party (Ppp) In Senate Elections 2018 A Critical



- Appraisal. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 6(9), 4980-4989.
- Gohar, S., Jawad, S., Sajid, H., Khan, M. A., Sumayya, N. Z., & Ullah, U. (2020). Pakistan Peoples Party Government and Military Relations during Zardari Era (2008-2013): An Analysis. *International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change* 11 (12), 881-892
- Gohar, S., Jawad, S., Sajid, H., Sarwat, T., & Ullah, U. (2022). Role Of Pakistan Peoples Party In Politics Of Pakistan 2008-2018: A Decade Of Pragmatism. *Webology (ISSN: 1735-188X)*, 19(1).
- Gohar, S., Jawad, S., Zahid, N., & Nisa, Z. U. (2023). Role Of Pakistan Peoples Party In Political Alliances Of Pakistan Against Military Regimes (1967-2008): An Assessment. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 1101-1110.
- Gohar, S., Sarwat, T., Gul, S., Ullah, U., & Akbar, A. (2022). Political Journey Of Pakistan Peoples Party Through Decades (1967-2018) An Appraisal. *Webology (ISSN: 1735-188X)*, 19(2).
- “Interview with Rahimullah Yousafzai” (2006, May 15). Dawn also available at this report;
- Kennedy, C. H. (2006). Pakistan in 2005: Surviving domestic and international Tremors. *Asian Survey*, 46(1), 125-131.
- Khan, H. (2017), Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan, Karachi: Oxford University Press.
- Nawa-i-Waqt*, 2000, December 4
- Rizvi, H.A. (2005, August 29). “Beyond the Local Government Elections”, Daily Times (Lahore).
- Syed, K. H., & Khan, I. (2020). Electoral Politics in Pakistan: First Half Decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. *Pakistan Vision*, 21(2).
- Talbot, I. (2009), Pakistan: A New History, Karachi: Oxford University Press.
- The News, 2000, December 12
- White, G. and Ali, I. (2007, November 2). U.S. Warns Musharraf Not to Use Martial Law. The Washington Post.