

Lefties Parties in Pakistan

Ahmed Ali ¹, Daniyal Habib ², Dr. Muhammad Rizwan ³, Sadaf Butt ⁴

¹ MPhil scholar Department of Pakistan Studies, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology Abbottabad. Email: ahmed9241443@gmail.com

² MPhil scholar Department of Pakistan Studies, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology Abbottabad. Email: daniyalhabib543@gmail.com

³ Associate Professor, Department of Pakistan Studies, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology. Email: drmuhammadrizwan_hu@yahoo.com

⁴ Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Email: sadafbutt999@gmail.com sadafbutt@aust.edu.pk

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70670/sra.v4i1.1720>

Abstract

This study provides a comparative overview of three significant political parties in Pakistan: the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Awami National Party (ANP), and the Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP). Although differing in ideology, organizational reach, and electoral success, all three parties have played important roles in shaping Pakistan's political and democratic discourse. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), founded in 1967 by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, emerged as a mass-based centre-left party advocating democracy, social justice, and constitutional governance. PPP has remained one of Pakistan's most influential political parties, forming federal governments multiple times and playing a central role in the framing of the 1973 Constitution. Despite fluctuations in its national vote share, PPP continues to be a dominant force in Sindh and an important actor in coalition politics at the federal level.

The Awami National Party (ANP) represents a secular, progressive, and Pashtun nationalist tradition rooted in the non-violent philosophy of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. Formally established in 1986, ANP has consistently supported provincial autonomy, federalism, and democratic resistance to military rule. Its most notable electoral success came in 2008, when it formed the provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Although its electoral influence has declined in recent years, ANP remains politically relevant as a voice for ethnic rights and democratic values.

The Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP), founded in 1948, represents Marxist-Leninist ideology and working-class politics. Unlike PPP and ANP, CPP has never been a major electoral force, largely due to prolonged state repression, legal bans, and its strategic emphasis on class struggle over parliamentary politics. Nevertheless, CPP's historical contribution to labor movements, student activism, and resistance against authoritarian regimes marks its importance in Pakistan's political history.

Overall, these three parties reflect the ideological diversity of Pakistan's political system. While PPP represents mainstream progressive politics, ANP embodies ethnic nationalism combined with secularism, and CPP symbolizes revolutionary left-wing thought. Together, they illustrate different

approaches to democracy, governance, and social justice within Pakistan's evolving political landscape.

Introduction:

Different political parties that represent various ideologies, socioeconomic classes, and regional interests have influenced Pakistan's political history. Because they brought progressive, left-leaning, and people-centered principles to Pakistani politics, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP), and Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP) are particularly significant. All three parties were crucial in bringing attention to topics like democracy, social justice, workers' rights, provincial autonomy, and opposition to authoritarian government, despite the fact that their political power and influence have changed throughout time (Mushtaq, et al., 2018).

At a pivotal point in Pakistani history, when social disparity and military control were causing public discontent, the Pakistan People's Party was born. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto founded the party in 1967, portraying it as the voice of the average person. Food, clothing, and shelter were highlighted in its well-known motto, which immediately appealed to labourers, peasants, and the lower middle class. The PPP vehemently opposed military rule in politics and blended socialist and democratic ideals. The party has always favoured civilian supremacy, national sovereignty, and parliamentary democracy. The PPP quickly rose to prominence as one of Pakistan's most powerful political forces, influencing the country's politics for decades thanks to its widespread popularity and capable leadership (Dawood, et al., 2017).

The Khudai Khidmatgar movement, which was headed by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as Bacha Khan, is where the Awami National Party gets its ideological inspiration. The foundation of this movement was opposition to colonial rule, political consciousness, and nonviolence. The ANP, which was formally founded in its current form in 1986, stands for a secular and nationalist political heritage, especially among Pashtun communities and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The party places a strong emphasis on respect for ethnic and cultural identities, democracy, federalism, and province autonomy. The ANP supports a robust federation where provinces have the greatest amount of autonomy, in contrast to many religious or centralised political organisations. Its politics are centred on social change, peace, and resistance to dictatorship and extremism (Rashiduzzaman. 1970).

Inspired by Marxist and socialist beliefs, the Communist Party of Pakistan was established in 1948, shortly after Pakistan was established. By advocating for equality, public resource ownership, and an end to class exploitation, the CPP sought to represent the interests of workers, peasants, and the oppressed classes. Despite never achieving widespread political success, the party had a significant impact on labour movements, progressive politics, and leftist ideology in Pakistan. The CPP frequently faced challenging circumstances as a result of stringent governmental regulations, prohibitions, and Cold War politics. Despite this, its intellectual impact could still be seen in progressive literature, student movements, and trade unions (Franda. 1970).

When taken as a whole, these three parties show how progressive politics have developed in Pakistan. The ANP stood for regional nationalism and democratic resistance, the CPP added depth to socialist and left-wing ideology, and the PPP attained widespread support and political power. Although each party addressed Pakistan's political issues differently, they were all dedicated to democracy, social justice, and the fight against tyranny. Their combined efforts bring attention to Pakistan's political development's fight for social equality and representative government.

1. Pakistan People's Party:

Historical Background:

During a time of intense social upheaval and political discontent, the Pakistan People's Party was established in Lahore in December 1967. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the party's founder, was a dynamic

political figure who had previously held the position of foreign minister under President Ayub Khan. Bhutto envisioned a mass-based political party that would represent workers, peasants, and marginalised groups in society because she was disillusioned with military rule and elite dominance of politics. Inspired by global anti-imperialist movements and democratic socialism, the PPP developed into a populist and socialist party (Dawood, et al., 2017).

In an effort to combine Islamic identity with contemporary democratic and socialist values, the PPP chose the motto "Islam is our faith, democracy is our politics, socialism is our economy, and all power to the people" from the outset. By organising students, labour organisations, and rural voters, the party swiftly won over the public, especially in West Pakistan. The PPP became the biggest party in West Pakistan in the 1970 general elections, but political impasse with the Awami League ultimately resulted in the nation's dissolution and the formation of Bangladesh (Ahmed, et al., 2022).

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took over as president and then prime minister of the shortened Pakistan after 1971. In order to restructure the state and economy, the PPP conducted significant political and economic campaigns during this time. These included land reforms meant to undermine feudal power structures, as well as the nationalisation of important businesses, banks, and academic institutions. The 1973 Constitution, which established a parliamentary system and is still Pakistan's constitutional foundation today, was one of the PPP government's greatest enduring accomplishments (Rizvi. 2021).

Organizational Structure:

The Pakistan People's Party is a mass-based national political party with a strong grassroots presence and centralised leadership, which is reflected in its organisational structure. The Party Chairperson, who has considerable influence over policy direction, party discipline, and strategic choices, is the highest authority in the PPP, according to the party constitution. The Central Executive Committee, which serves as the main national decision-making body and is in charge of approving organisational appointments, electoral alliances, and policy, supports the chairperson. Members from every province make up the Federal Council, which functions as a more comprehensive representative forum and advisory body on important political issues (Hussain, et al., 2022).

The party maintains elected provincial councils and executive committees at the provincial level to supervise political activity in each province. In order to guarantee the party's presence at the local level, these provincial bodies are further connected to divisional, district, tehsil, and union council units. As the party's official parliamentary wing, the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians oversee voter turnout in accordance with election regulations. The PPP has affiliated wings for youth, women, labour, peasants, minorities, and Pakistanis living abroad in addition to territorial units. These wings are meant to increase political involvement and mobilise particular social groups. Although the PPP has a theoretically democratic organisational structure, real power has frequently remained concentrated among the senior leadership, especially within the Bhutto family, giving the party a dynastic dimension in addition to its widespread appeal (Shah, et al., 2022).

Political Campaigns:

The Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) political campaigns have traditionally focused on populist themes, mass mobilisation, and pro-people language, highlighting social justice, democracy, and the rights of marginalised groups. The PPP relied on charismatic leadership, sizable public gatherings, and emotive appeals to the working class, peasants, and urban poor since its foundation campaign under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the late 1960s, which was constructed around slogans like "Roti, Kapra aur Makaan" (food, clothing, and shelter). Benazir Bhutto's campaigns mixed anti-authoritarian rhetoric with pledges of political restoration, women's empowerment, and welfare reforms throughout the democratic transitions of the 1980s and 1990s (Ahmad, et al., 2023).

The martyrdom narrative that followed Benazir Bhutto's murder greatly influenced the PPP's 2008 election campaign, garnering sympathy votes and solidifying the party's reputation as a symbol of

opposition to extremism and dictatorship. In more recent campaigns, the PPP has placed more emphasis on democratic continuity, social protection initiatives like the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), and provincial performance in Sindh, but it has continued to rely on its traditional populist heritage and Bhutto symbolism to sustain electoral support (Nawaz, et al., 2024).

Manifesto:

The Pakistan People's Party's manifesto has changed throughout time to suit shifting political and economic conditions. Later manifestos placed more emphasis on mixed economic policies, social welfare programs, and institutional reforms than the early ones, which were primarily focused on socialism and state control of the economy. Poverty reduction, job creation, healthcare and education reforms, women's empowerment, and province autonomy under the 18th Constitutional Amendment are all highlighted in recent PPP manifestos. The party still presents itself as a centre-left movement dedicated to social protection and democratic values.

With a focus on public ownership of important industries, the defence of the rights of workers, farmers, and minorities, and the pursuit of an independent foreign policy, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is ideologically dedicated to parliamentary democracy, social justice, and the creation of a welfare state. Its support for decentralisation and inclusive government is seen in its desire for a robust federation based on provincial autonomy. Democracy and civilian supremacy have remained the party's fundamental and enduring values, despite the fact that its programs have changed over time in reaction to shifting political and economic environments. The PPP's organisational structure is mass-based and hierarchical, with the Chairperson acting as the ultimate leader and the Central Executive Committee making important policy decisions.

With the help of specialised wings for women, labour, youth, and minorities, the party functions through a vast network of province, divisional, district, and municipal units throughout Pakistan. The Bhutto family has maintained a considerable portion of the party's leadership, giving it a dynastic aspect that has greatly influenced its identity, continuity, and political mobilisation (Ahmed, et al., 2022).

Electoral and Political Results of the Pakistan People's Party:

Since its founding, the Pakistan People's Party has had considerable electoral success, making it one of the most prosperous political organisations in Pakistani history. The PPP won a decisive mandate that demonstrated its widespread appeal among workers, peasants, and urban lower-middle classes in the 1970 general elections, making it the largest party in West Pakistan. The party's triumph set the stage for its ascent to power following the establishment of Bangladesh, even though it was unable to form a federal government because of the constitutional dispute with East Pakistan. The PPP won the 1977 elections once more, but accusations of electoral manipulation sparked political upheaval and ultimately military intervention (Noreen, et al., 2023).

The PPP made a strong comeback to political politics after years of persecution under General Zia-ul-Haq. The party formed central governments and proved its tenacity as a democratic force when it won the general elections in 1988 and 1993 under Benazir Bhutto. The PPP continued to do well in elections even after elected governments were overthrown, especially in Sindh. Following Benazir Bhutto's murder, the PPP won the most seats in the National Assembly and established a coalition government in the 2008 national elections. The PPP's contribution to bolstering parliamentary democracy is frequently cited as the reason for the first successful democratic transfer of power from one civilian administration to another in 2013 (Gohar, et al., 2022).

Although its national electoral strength has decreased in comparison to previous decades, the PPP has maintained its dominance in Sindh's provincial politics in recent elections, forming successive provincial governments. Although the party's results show diminished power at the federal level, analysts contend that the party's steady success in Sindh demonstrates its ongoing organisational foundation and voter devotion. All things considered, the PPP's electoral results show its enduring

relevance, flexibility, and pivotal position in Pakistan's democratic history (Ghauri, et al., 2025).

2. Awami National Party:

Historical Background:

A unique political heritage based on democratic federalism, secularism, and Pashtun nationalism is represented by the Awami National Party. The Khudai Khidmatgar movement, which Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan headed during the colonial era, is where the party's ideological roots can be found. These concepts were maintained after independence by a number of political groups, chief among them the National Awami Party. The Awami National Party was legally founded in 1986 under the direction of Khan Abdul Wali Khan, son of Bacha Khan, following political persecution and prohibitions during the 1970s (Hanif. 2024).

Organizational Structure of the Awami National Party:

The organisational structure of the Awami National Party is cadre-based, reflecting its ideological dedication to regional representation and collective leadership. The Central Council is the party's highest authority and is in charge of choosing senior office holders and making important policy decisions. While the general secretary oversees daily organisational operations, the party president serves as the primary speaker and political leader. The Central Working Committee, which develops political strategy, upholds party discipline, and oversees provincial organisations, supports these posts (Hanif. 2024).

The ANP has built executive organisations and provincial councils at the province level, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These organisations oversee local, district, and tehsil units that manage political mobilisation, election campaigns, and membership drives. Additionally, the party maintains specialised wings, such as women's, labour, and youth groups, which are crucial for ideological and political education. The ANP's administrative and symbolic hub is the Bacha Khan Markaz in Peshawar. Scholarly research notes that while the ANP encourages internal consultation, the Wali Khan family's leadership continuity has continued to be a defining characteristic of its organisational culture, strengthening both ideological coherence and individual allegiance within the party ranks (Islam. 2022).

Political Campaigns:

The Khudai Khidmatgar movement of Bacha Khan served as an intellectual influence for the Awami National Party's (ANP) political campaigns, which have historically been based on Pashtun nationalism, secularism, and democratic struggle. Particularly during times of military dictatorship, ANP campaigns have placed a strong emphasis on constitutional politics, nonviolence, and opposition to authoritarian government. The ANP has presented itself as a progressive alternative dedicated to parliamentary democracy, ethnic rights, and political pluralism through public gatherings, party conventions, and grassroots activism throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and portions of Balochistan (Khosro, et al., 2023).

The ANP's post-2002 campaign centred on issues of provincial autonomy, renaming the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and increased control over local resources, particularly during the 2008 general elections. While vehemently opposing militancy and extremism, the party emphasised peace, development, and education in Pashtun areas devastated by conflict. The ANP's involvement in coalition governments, especially in KP, gave it the opportunity to advocate for constitutional amendments, improved governance, and the bolstering of Pakistani federalism. The ANP has criticised both religious radicalism and centralised governmental authority while emphasising peace, stability, and Pashtun rights in more recent campaigns. Alliances with other democratic movements, symbolic allusions to its historical sacrifices, and support for communication over violence have all become more important components of the party's election strategy. Despite facing electoral setbacks and security challenges, ANP campaigns

remain centered on secular politics, ethnic inclusion, and democratic continuity, positioning the party as a principled yet regionally focused actor in Pakistan's political landscape (Hanif. 2024).

Manifesto:

Inspired by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's (Bacha Khan) political theory, the Awami National Party's (ANP) manifesto is based on secularism, democracy, non-violence, and Pashtun nationalism. While vehemently opposing military intervention in politics and religious extremism, it highlights the primacy of the Constitution, parliamentary democracy, and civilian government. As evidenced by its support for the 18th Amendment and the renaming of NWFP to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the ANP manifesto places a strong emphasis on provincial autonomy and a strong federal system. It advocates for provinces to have more control over natural resources, cultural recognition, and administrative authority.

Particularly in impoverished and conflict-affected areas, the party advocates for social justice, equitable development, and welfare-oriented policies, such as investments in healthcare, education, and job creation. Additionally, the manifesto emphasises autonomous foreign policy, particularly with regard to regional peace in Afghanistan, and peaceful cohabitation over violence. In general, the ANP platform portrays the party as a democratic, nationalist, and progressive movement dedicated to inclusive governance, pluralism, and ethnic rights in Pakistan (Hanif. 2024).

Electoral and Political Results of the Awami National Party:

The electoral outcomes of the Awami National Party demonstrate its status as a regional political party with a sizable but regionally focused support base. The ANP has consistently taken part in national and local elections since its official founding in 1986, mainly running for seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and portions of Balochistan. Despite having a small number of members in the National Assembly, the ANP was able to influence policy in the 1988 and 1993 elections by emerging as a significant coalition partner at the federal and provincial levels.

The ANP's biggest electoral victory occurred in the 2008 general elections, when it established the provincial administration and secured a sizable number of seats in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly. With this triumph, the party was able to carry out important parts of its platform, including as changes in local government and education, as well as constitutional recognition of Pashtun identity through the province's name. However, the party's strong opposition to militancy and extremism resulted in targeted violence against its workers and leadership, which seriously hindered its capacity to run for office in later elections (Shah. 2024).

The ANP had severe electoral losses in the 2013 and 2018 elections, mostly as a result of security issues, shifting voter preferences, and the emergence of new political parties in the province. The ANP has managed to maintain representation in both national and provincial legislatures in spite of these obstacles. The ANP's enduring significance as a voice for Pashtun rights and secular democratic politics is demonstrated by its electoral results, which also highlight the difficulties faced by regional parties in Pakistan's competitive political landscape (Zaman, et al., 2025).

3. Communist Party of Pakistan:

Historical Background:

After splitting from the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of Pakistan was founded in March 1948, not long after Pakistan was created. A key figure in the party's formation was Sajjad Zaheer, a well-known scholar and activist. Adopting Marxist-Leninist philosophy, the CPP aimed to unite students, workers, and peasants against what it perceived as capitalist dominance, imperialism, and feudal exploitation.

The CPP was severely repressed politically from the start. At different points throughout time, the party was outlawed, and its leaders were either detained or compelled to go underground. Despite these obstacles, the CPP had a big impact on student movements, labour unions, and progressive

literary communities, especially in the 1950s and 1960s. During the Cold War, the party denounced Pakistan's alliance with Western nations and opposed military authority (Raza. 1979).

Organizational Structure of the Communist Party of Pakistan:

A fundamental tenet of Marxist-Leninist party organisation, democratic centralism, serves as the foundation for the highly centralised organisational structure of the Communist Party of Pakistan. Party papers state that the Central Committee, which is in charge of political strategy, organisational discipline, and intellectual orientation, is the highest decision-making body between party congresses. The Central Committee elects the Secretary-General, who acts as the party's main executive and speaks for it in public and political settings.

The party is divided into basic party cells and regional committees. These cells serve as the cornerstone of party action in local communities, businesses, schools, and labour unions. In order to participate in mass movements and political campaigning, the CPP also has sectoral fronts for labour, students, peasants, and intellectuals. The party has frequently worked through associated organisations and unofficial networks rather than open electoral institutions due to past repression and legal limits. Academics contend that although the CPP has been able to maintain ideological continuity and discipline because to this organisational structure, it has also hindered its capacity to grow its mass base and successfully compete in elections (Franda. 1970).

Political Campaigns:

Rather than focussing on electoral competition, the Communist Party of Pakistan's (CPP) political campaigns were mainly focused on class struggle, workers' rights, anti-imperialism, and socialist change. With a focus on issues like land redistribution, nationalisation of important industries, labour protections, and opposition to capitalism and feudalism, the CPP, which was primarily active in the late 1940s and early 1950s, rallied support through trade unions, student organisations, peasant movements, and intellectual circles. Its campaigns focused on resistance to Western imperial influence, especially American engagement in Pakistani politics, solidarity with the working class and peasants, and alliance with global socialist organisations.

The CPP worked mostly underground, which limited its capacity to conduct large-scale election campaigns, as a result of official repression, prohibitions on communist activity, and incidents like the Rawalpindi Conspiracy Case (1951). Despite having a little electoral presence, the party had a big impact on leftist discourse in Pakistan. It also affected trade union activism, progressive politics later on, and the intellectual underpinnings of left-leaning groups, some of which were eventually incorporated into the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) (Raza. 1979).

Manifesto:

Marxist ideas form the foundation of the CPP's ideology and intellectual agenda. The party demands the creation of a socialist state, the elimination of feudal landownership, public ownership of significant industries, and free healthcare and education. The CPP prioritises revolutionary change over incremental improvement, in contrast to established political parties. Instead of using electoral manifestos in the traditional sense, its policy positions are expressed through party documents, publications, and public remarks.

In its manifesto, the Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP) calls for the abolition of capitalism and feudalism as well as the creation of a socialist state founded on workers' control over industry and community ownership of the means of production. The party rejects parliamentary politics as inadequate for real social and economic change and places a strong emphasis on equality across class, religion, and gender. The Central Committee has last say over party matters, and the CPP adheres to a rigid organisational structure based on democratic centralism. A hierarchical yet ideologically cohesive organisation is reflected in the fact that all decisions taken at the top are binding on members, while lower-level units function at the regional, local, and workplace levels. The party places strong emphasis on ideological training, political education, and member commitment, ensuring that

activism aligns with its socialist objectives and revolutionary principles (Raza. 1979).

Electoral and Political Results of the Communist Party of Pakistan:

The Communist Party of Pakistan, in contrast to the PPP and ANP, has not prioritised electoral success, and its political outcomes are better assessed in terms of social mobilisation and ideological influence rather than parliamentary participation. Through coalitions and support for progressive politicians, the CPP indirectly engaged in political politics in the early years following independence. However, the party's capacity to run for office in an open manner was severely limited by numerous prohibitions and political persecution, especially during military governments. The CPP has never won a sizable number of seats in legislative assemblies or established a federal or provincial government. Its contributions to student activism, labour movements, and intellectual life are its most noteworthy accomplishments.

Throughout the 1950s and 60s, the party had a significant impact on Pakistan's progressive ideology, labour union organisation, and peasant conflicts. Even if they went on to function outside of the CPP's official framework, many left-leaning politicians, authors, and activists were impacted by it. The CPP continues to engage in politics through partnerships with other leftist organisations, public protests, and advocacy on topics like workers' rights, privatisation, and social inequality, even though its electoral representation in modern politics is still quite small. Although the CPP's performance cannot be quantified in traditional electoral terms, academics contend that its long-term influence on political consciousness and class-based analysis in Pakistan is still substantial (Franda. 1970).

Conclusion:

Without considering the role of progressive and left-leaning parties that have opposed tyranny, brought up issues of social justice, and aided in the growth of democracy, it is impossible to properly comprehend Pakistan's political history. Three separate but related strands of left and progressive politics in Pakistan are represented by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP), and Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP). All three parties have impacted political discourse, constitutional progress, and opposition to anti-democratic forces in the nation, despite differences in ideology, organisational power, and electoral performance. Of the three, the Pakistan People's Party is the most successful in elections and has the greatest institutional clout. Since its establishment in 1967, the PPP has revolutionised Pakistani politics by offering mass politics based on popular mobilisation as opposed to elite agreement. One of its most lasting accomplishments was helping to draft the 1973 Constitution, which still serves as the basis for Pakistan's federal structure, legislative system, and fundamental rights. PPP has been able to impact state institutions, governance, and policy making in ways that ANP and CPP have not been able to due to its repeated experience in government. PPP has shown political tenacity in the face of criticism for dynastic leadership, poor governance, and dwindling popularity in some areas. Its sustained dominance in Sindh and continued relevance at the federal level show that it remains a central pillar of Pakistan's democratic framework. The Awami National Party, on the other hand, stands for a political heritage that is both intellectually coherent and more geographically centred. With its roots in Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's nonviolent philosophy, ANP has remained steadfast in its support of democracy, secularism, and province autonomy. Protecting Pashtuns' cultural, political, and economic rights under Pakistan's federal structure has been a major focus of their political fight. An important accomplishment of the ANP's time in power in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following the 2008 elections was its ability to secure the province's renaming and improve provincial autonomy through constitutional revisions. The difficulties experienced by regional and ideological parties in a more competitive political landscape dominated by national and populist parties are highlighted by the ANP's electoral fall in the years that followed. Despite reduced electoral success, ANP continues to play an important role as a principled voice against extremism and authoritarianism.

In Pakistan's political history, the Communist Party of Pakistan holds a special and significant place. The CPP has never operated as a mainstream political party, in contrast to the PPP and ANP. Rather, it has mostly had an ideological and movement-based impact. Since its establishment in 1948, the CPP has been subject to ongoing persecution, prohibitions, and repression, which has severely restricted its capacity to function freely. In spite of this, the party made a substantial contribution to student politics, labour movements, and scholarly discussions about social justice, imperialism, and class injustice. Even if it doesn't win elections, the CPP stands out morally and ideologically for its steadfast opposition to authoritarian government and reluctance to make concessions to military regimes. Rather than a lack of ideological significance, its marginal electoral performance is a reflection of structural obstacles to leftist politics in Pakistan.

When taken as a whole, these three parties show the various ways that progressive politics are expressed in Pakistan. Reformist leftist politics operating within the parliamentary system are represented by PPP. ANP blends federalism, ethnic nationalism, and progressive ideals. The CPP represents revolutionary left philosophy that emphasises structural change and class conflict. Their disparate paths show how voter behaviour, political strategy, state repression, and ideology influence the rise or fall of political movements.

These parties' opposition to military authority is another thing they have in common. Though to differing degrees, all three have suffered under authoritarian governments. ANP leaders suffered political marginalisation and bans, PPP leaders were imprisoned and put to death, and CPP activists lived underground for decades. Their collective commitment to Pakistan's democratic movement is highlighted by this common experience. Their opposition to authoritarianism has helped keep democratic ideals alive during periods when political freedoms were severely restricted.

But it's also clear that these parties have restrictions. Their efficacy has been impacted by internal organisational flaws, centralised leadership, a failure to adjust to shifting political narratives, and dwindling grassroots involvement. The difficulties of maintaining progressive politics in Pakistan's complicated sociopolitical climate are highlighted by the PPP's departure from its initial socialist program, the ANP's declining voter base, and the CPP's exclusion from mainstream politics.

In conclusion, the Communist Party of Pakistan, Awami National Party, and Pakistan People's Party have all made unique contributions to Pakistan's political evolution. Their historical contributions to the advancement of democracy, constitutionalism, social justice, and opposition to authoritarianism are indisputable, notwithstanding the stark differences in their electoral outcomes. Collectively, they embody Pakistan's progressive thought's intellectual and political heritage. In addition to highlighting the ongoing battle to strike a balance between ideology, governance, and popular support in Pakistan's changing political system, an understanding of their contributions and limitations offers important insight into the larger difficulties faced by democratic and left-leaning parties in the nation.

References:

- Ahmad, Aisha, Sohail Akhtar, and Iqra Nazeer. "Role of Left-Wing Political Parties in Pakistan: A Case of Pakistan People's Party." *International Research Journal of Management and Social Sciences* 4, no. 3 (2023): 140-150.
- Ahmed, Jalil, Sajid Hussain Tumrani, and Kashif Ahmed. "Ideological Transformation In Pakistan People's Party: From ZA Bhutto To Asif Ali Zardari (1970-2013)." *Journal of Positive School Psychology* 6, no. 9 (2022).
- Ahmed, Jalil, Sajid Hussain Tumrani, and Kashif Ahmed. "Ideological Transformation In Pakistan People's Party: From ZA Bhutto To Asif Ali Zardari (1970-2013)." *Journal of Positive School Psychology* 6, no. 9 (2022).
- Dawood, Muhammad, and Kashif Suhail Malik. "POLITICAL PARTIES IN PAKISTAN: A CASE

- STUDY OF PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY." Iranian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Vol 5, no. 3 (2017).
- Dawood, Muhammad, and Kashif Suhail Malik. "POLITICAL PARTIES IN PAKISTAN: A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY." Iranian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Vol 5, no. 3 (2017).
- Franda, Marcus F. "Communism and regional politics in East Pakistan." Asian Survey 10, no. 7 (1970): 588-606.
- Franda, Marcus F. "Communism and regional politics in East Pakistan." Asian Survey 10, no. 7 (1970): 588-606.
- Ghauri, Muhammad Junaid, Farzana Kausar, Syed Noman Haider Bukhari, and Mehreen Taj. "Political Canvassing in the Digital Age: Analyzing the Use of Facebook by Major Political Parties in Pakistan During the 2024 General Elections." Journal of Media Horizons 6, no. 3 (2025): 1496-1511.
- Gohar, Shaista, Tasneem Sarwat, Shehla Gul, Usman Ullah, and Aneela Akbar. "Political Journey Of Pakistan Peoples Party Through Decades (1967-2018) An Appraisal." Webology 19, no. 2 (2022).
- Hanif, Iqra. "ROLE OF AWAMI NATIONAL PARTY IN PAKISTANI POLITICS." International Research Journal of Islamic Culture and Communication (IRJICC) 2, no. 2 (2024): 20-28.
- Hanif, Iqra. "ROLE OF AWAMI NATIONAL PARTY IN PAKISTANI POLITICS." International Research Journal of Islamic Culture and Communication (IRJICC) 2, no. 2 (2024): 20-28.
- Hussain, Qadeer, and Muhammad Iqbal Chawla. "Building Bridges and Shaping Policies: A Comparative Study of Organizational Structures and Policy Implementation in the Pakistan People's Party and Liberal Party of Canada (1971-1978)." Journal of Development and Social Sciences 3, no. 1 (2022): 226-239.
- Islam, Rabia. "THE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) AND ITS ROLE IN NATIONAL POLITICS OF PAKISTAN." Pakistan Historical Society. Journal of the Pakistan Historical Society 70, no. 2 (2022): 103-127.
- Khoso, Abdullah, and Muhammad Rovidad. "Pakistan's ethnic parties' religious narratives and practices." The Review of Faith & International Affairs 21, no. 3 (2023): 124-136.
- Mushtaq, Iqra, Fawad Baig, and Sehrish Mushtaq. "The role of political parties in political development of Pakistan." Pakistan vision 19, no. 1 (2018): 176-190.
- Nawaz, Muhammad Haseeb, Umar Riaz, Ayesha Parveen, and Aber Nasia. "Constructing national identity: A critical discourse analysis of Pakistani political campaign slogans." Futurity Proceedings 1 (2024).
- Noreen, Kanwal, Riffat Naseer, and Farhat Nasim. "Elections of 1970, its Campaign and Results: A Case Study of West Pakistan." Human Nature Journal of Social Sciences 4, no. 4 (2023): 184-193.
- Rashiduzzaman, Mohammad. "The National Awami Party of Pakistan: leftist politics in crisis." Pacific Affairs 43, no. 3 (1970): 394-409.
- Raza, Ali. "An Unfulfilled Dream: The Left in Pakistan c. 1947-50." In State of Subversion, pp. 74-101. Routledge India, 2023.
- Rizvi, Gowher. "Riding the tiger: institutionalising the military regimes in Pakistan and Bangladesh." In The Political Dilemmas of Military Regimes, pp. 201-236. Routledge, 2021.
- Shah, Syed Ali, and Naushad Khan. "A Critical Analysis of Democratic Culture in the Political Parties; Awami National Party, Pakistan People's Party, and Pakistan Muslim League (N)." Global Political Review 7, no. 2 (2022): 148-154.

- Shah, Syed Ali, and Naushad Khan. "A Critical Analysis of Democratic Culture in the Political Parties; Awami National Party, Pakistan People's Party, and Pakistan Muslim League (N)." *Global Political Review* 7, no. 2 (2022): 148-154.
- Zaman, Nargis, and Manzoor Ahmad. "Electoral Setbacks to the Political Parties in 2018 General Election in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: A Comparative Analysis of Anp in District Charsadda and Jamaat-E-Islami in District Lower Dir." *ASSAJ* 4, no. 01 (2025): 3160-3174