

Jinnah's Balochistan: At Cross Road

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Abstract

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan envisaged Pakistan as an Islamic democratic state, wherein the people will find out equality, Social Justice. There will be constitutional safeguard for all the communities residing in the country. Fundamental Rights will be delivered by the state to all citizens of Pakistan without any discrimination of cast, creed and geography. Strong and Prosperous Balochistan was the dream of Jinnah. Also, He had great concern with Balochistan before partition when he presented his famous fourteen points. He vowed for the up gradation of Balochistan. Jinnah believed on more and more provincial autonomy. Unfortunately, his ideas are not materialized in that extent which he desired. The current Balochistan is facing lot of problems. The researcher focuses on the perception of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah regarding Balochistan. The approach is descriptive and analytical. The research is based on original and secondary sources. The findings of the research and bibliography are in the end.

Keywords: Importance of Balochistan, Jinnah's vision, Failure and successes.

Introduction

Balochistan is the province of Pakistan. It is the largest province by area, constituting approximately 44% of Pakistan's total land mass, and the smallest in terms of population. Balochistan is bordered by Afghanistan to the north and north-west, Iran to the south-west, the Arabian Sea to the south, Punjab and Sindh to the east, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas to the north-east. Quetta is the capital and largest city of Baluchistan (Wikipedia).

The Province has very important geo- political position in the region. It has vast coastal area. It has long border with Iran and Afghanistan. Balochistan is full of resources like Natural Gas, Copper, Coal Mines, etc.

The main ethnic groups in the province are Baloch, Pashtunes, and Barhuis and there are relatively smaller communities of Iranians, Hazarajats, Kurds, Sindhis and other settlers, including Punjabis, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Sikhs and Hindus. The name Balochistan means the "Land of Baloch" in many regional languages.

As the Province of Pakistan

On March 28, the Reuter news agency carried a story filled from Karachi that "Gateway State" joins Pakistan. The Khan issued a communiqué, which said:

"It is, therefore declared, that from 9 pm on March 27th- the time when I heard the false news over the air, I forthwith decide to accede to Pakistan, and that whatever difference now exist between Kalat and Pakistan be placed in writing before Mr. Jinnah, the Governor – General of Pakistan, whose decision I shall accept."²(rupeenews.com)

While the Instrument of Accession was signed by the Khan of Kalat on March 27, it was placed before Jinnah on March 31, 1948, who accepted it. There was no kind of resistance to the accession (Reuters, India and Pakistan Service, Karachi, March 28, Lp&S/13/1847).

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The status of Kalat was less than the status of the 560 states in Bharat—thus the Khan of Kalat had no locus standi. Kharan, Makran and Las Bela quickly acceded to Pakistan. There are a plethora of letters from the rulers of Kharan Las Bela quickly acceded to Pakistan. Mir Habibullah Khan, the ruler of Kharan, wrote to the Quaid on August 21, 1947: "I announce on behalf of myself and my subjects...and joins Pakistan Dominion as its suzerain and promises to serve Pakistan up to its extent." (rupeenews.com).

The three feudatories, two of which Las Bela and Kharan, which were recognized by the British as independent, played a key role in forcing the Khan of Kalat to accede to Pakistan.

Instrument of Accession of Kalat State

Whereas the Indian Independence Act, 1947, provides that as from the fifteenth day of August, 1947, there shall be set up an independent Dominion known as Pakistan, and that the Government of India Act, 1935 shall, with such omissions, additions, adaptations and modifications as the Governor-General may by order specify, be applicable to the Dominion of Pakistan.

And Whereas the Government of India Act, 1935, as so adapted by the Governor-General provides that an Indian State may accede to the Dominion of Pakistan by an Instrument of Accession executed by the Ruler thereof:

I His Highness Baglar Begi Khan of Kalat (signed) Ruler of Kalat State in, the exercise of my sovereignty; in and over my said state DO hereby execute this my Instrument of Accession and I hereby declared that I accede to the Dominion of Pakistan with the intent that the Governor-General of Pakistan, the Dominion Legislature, the Supreme Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purpose of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession, but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of Kalat (hereinafter referred to as "this State") such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force, in the Dominion of Pakistan on the 15th day of August 1947 (which Act as so in force is hereinafter referred to as "Act").

I hereby assume the obligation of ensuring that due effect is given to the provisions of the Act within this state so far as they are applicable therein by virtue of this My Instrument of Accession.

I accept the matters specified in the Schedule hereto as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State.

I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of Pakistan on the assurance that if an agreement is made between the Governor-General and the ruler of this State whereby any functions in relation to the administration in this State of any law of the Dominion Legislature shall be exercised by the Ruler of this State, then any such agreement shall be deemed to form part of this Instrument and shall be constructed and have effect accordingly.

Nothing in this Instrument shall empower the Dominion Legislature to make any law for this State authorizing the compulsory acquisition of land for any purpose, but I hereby undertake that should the Dominion for the purposes of a Dominion law which applies in this State deem it necessary to acquire any land, I will at their request acquire the land at their expense or if the land belongs to me transfer it to them on such terms as may be agreed, or, in default of agreement, determined by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan.

The terms of this my Instrument of accession shall not be varied by any amendment of the Act or of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, unless such amendment is accepted by me in an Instrument supplementary to this Instrument.

Nothing in this Instrument shall be deemed to commit me in any way to acceptance of any future constitution of Pakistan or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangements with the Government of Pakistan under any such constitution.

Nothing, in this Instrument affects the continuance of my sovereignty in and over this State, or, Save as provided by or under this instrument, the exercise of any powers, authority and rights now enjoyed by me as Ruler of this State or the validity of any law at present in force in this State.

I hereby declare that I execute this Instrument on behalf of this State and that any reference in this instrument to me or to the Ruler of the State is to be construed as including a reference to my heirs and successors.

Jinnah's Views and Balochistan

The Quaid-e-Azam was aware of the vexing problems of Balochistan. He had demanded reforms in Balochistan in his famous "fourteen points". He pleaded that Balochistan should be brought in the line with other provinces of India. Muslim League was another political organization to sponsor the cause of Balochistan for the creation of a separate province for Balochistan. The foundations of the Muslim League in Balochistan were laid by a young known lawyer of Balochistan by the name of Qazi Isa...It was in 1938 that Isa paid a visit to Quaid-e-Azam at Bombay on his return from his studies in England and was so impressed that he accepted the invitation of the Quaid-e-Azam to form and organize the Muslim League in Balochistan (Quaid-e-Azam and Balochistan).

The foundation of Muslim league in Balochistan were laid by a young known lawyer of Balochistan Qazi Isa. In 1938, Qazi Isa met with Jinnah at Bombay on his return from England and accepted the invitation of the Quaid-e-Azam to form and organize the Muslim League in Balochistan. Apart from the other activities and visits of Muslim league leaders, Jinnah himself visited Balochistan many times. He spent two months there. Qasi Isa presented Sword of Ahmed Shah Abdali to Jinnah. He expressed,

"Throughout history, the sword had been the constant companion of the Muslims. When the Muslims did not have an Amir, this historic sword was lying in safe custody. Now that you have taken over as the Amir of this nation. I hand over this historic sword to you. This has been used in defense, in your safe hands also, it will be used only for this purpose."

On this occasion, Jinnah paid four days visits to Kalat on the personal invitation of Mir Ahmed Yar Khan, the ruler of Kalat. In 1944; General R.C. money submitted a memorandum, "post –War Reconstruction Balochistan (Inayatullah Baloch,1987,p.174).

Jinnah was interested in the socio-political and economic development of Balochistan. He wanted democratic political development in this province. He visited Balochistan in Feb, 1948 as Governor General of Pakistan.

The Governor – General of Pakistan, Jinnah said in reply to a question at a press Conference at Sibi on Feb 15, 1948, that he was not in favor of dictatorship. The question was: Why is Balochistan being made into Governor-General's province under reforms announced by you at the Durbar yesterday and are you in favor of dictatorship?

The Governor- General's answer was: I believe it will be better off that way. Things would be done far more quickly than in the usual process of full-fledged parliamentary discussions. But it does not mean that I am in favor of dictatorship.

I take this as flattering to myself that my heart, my soul and my pulse ensure that I shall be very useful to Balochistan in its present condition. There are two reasons for this proposed reform:

1. I want to help Balochistan in every way I can;
2. Things will be done far more quickly.

The Governor- General stated that the other provinces in Pakistan had gone through all the preliminary stages of parliamentary Governments. For Balochistan, there was no other way in the present circumstances but to throw the whole burden on the Governor= general.

Asked regarding the constitution and scope of the proposed Advisory Council for Baluchistan, the Quaid-e-Azam said: The Constitution and scope will be nominated by the Governor-General, but he will not make it a nominal body. He will see that he makes it a really representative body (Speeches & Statement Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Feb 15, 1948, Sibi).

Questioned as to what had transpired between him and the Khan of Kalat during their discussion in Sibi on the accession of Kalat State, the Governor General declined to state the talks but he explained that the Khan of Kalat was to meet him in the evening on Feb 14, but owing to sudden indisposition, we were unable to do so.

The Quaid-e-Azam then read out a letter which he had received from the Khan of Kalat late last evening. The letter stated,

“I have summoned both the houses of Dar-ul-Awam and Dar-ul-Umra to give me their final opinion on their future relations with the dominion of Pakistan by the 21st or 22nd of this month and the end of the month.”

After reading the letter, Jinnah told the pressmen, under these circumstances, I shall wait for his final reply and I hope that he will send it to me definitely before the end of this month (Speeches & statement-Quaid-e-Azam).

Old Grievances

“The causes of grievances in Balochistan are twofold. On the one side there are tribal leaders who want no development in the area: on the other side is the government, who is reluctant to go against tribal leaders. Natural gas development in the city of Sui, has never benefited the people of Balochistan. Huge royalties are paid to Sardar of Sui, but the money fails to reach the areas of the poor’s. Gwadar is in the clutches of a land-grab mafia of Pakistan. The federal government earns billions from gas extracted from the province, but gives only a fraction back to Balochistan for development, and this fraction is largely improperly spent; the provincial autonomy promised in the 1973 constitution is nonexistent, etc”. (History of Balochistan)8.

Balochistan remains a neglected backwater of Pakistan largely due to internal and external politics. Balochistan’s internal politics have been factionalized by federal interference and meddling in the pursuit of dubious strategic regional interests. The province’s drought-stricken pastoral economy cannot even provide for its small population. Government neglect and growing support for tribal leaders has strengthened the ranks of the separatists and increased their clout. The nascent but alienated middle class in the few towns of Balochistan is now rallying behind the nationalists and accepts the *Sardars* spearheading PONM as genuine leaders. At the same time, the developmental lag in the province is sufficient to substantiate the anti-centre stance of the PONM. That is why any military action in the province may perhaps completely lack local support. Locals may support military action if it is against the sardars who are exploiting their resources. But the federal government does not want to create any more problems in Balochistan. Even the PONM is not representing all of Balochistan, as its ideology is very narrow and its leader rarely delivers.

The other destabilizing factor relates to the ongoing battle against the combined forces of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in the area. The Pashtunes in Balochistan also have serious problems with the federal government’s policy on the Pakistani-Afghan frontier. This could be troublesome, since Pashtune nationalism has also been responsible for the internationally-reported presence of the Taliban in the province.8. (History of Balochistan

At a recent UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization) on security in South Asia, US congressman D. Rohrabacher fiercely support the Baloch cause for self determination and criticized Pakistan for its handling of the Baloch nation struggle, affirming that Pakistani

officials are responsible for war crimes in the region and should be brought to justice (UNPO).

Speaking to The News, Melissa Apaza, a UNPO spokesperson said the UNPO believes that the current security situation in Pakistan requires the participation of all stakeholders in order to bring peace to the region of not of Balochistan but also to South Asia as a whole.

She added: One of our most active members is Balochistan, a region that is facing tremendous difficulties particular regarding security issues. In fact, the democratic rights of Bloch people to assemble and to protest well as the increasing number of involuntary disappearances in the region are components of the Baloch struggle against the daily oppression they face (Melissa Apaza).

Recent Development Projects

Different projects are underway in Balochistan, including the Gwadar deep sea port which is being built by the help of China. The Makran Coastal Highway was also constructed on the coastline between Gwader and Karachi by National Way Authority, and has reduced traveling time considerably. The government is also making several water filled dams in Balochistan, including Mirani Dam. Furthermore, since 1947 till 2002 the total development budget allotted to Balochistan was Rs.152 Billion and the development budget allotted to BALOCHISTAN SINCE 2002 TO 2008 IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS ONLY IS Rs. 302 Billion. It is to be noted that this amount is only the amount allocated for developmental projects and is separate from the money allotted for other things.

Conclusion

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had great vision about Balochistan. He spent his last days of the life in Ziarat, the city of Balochistan. Jinnah believed on more and more provincial autonomy for Balochistan as a province of Pakistan. A democratic, prosperous and autonomous Balochistan was his wish but unfortunately after the demise of Jinnah, the story is quite changed. Sixty years have been passed, but due to the lack of leadership and the failed policies towards Balochistan make the future of Balochistan uncertain. Ethnic fragmentation, Foreign interference, Poverty, unemployment could not be stopped. The PPP Government took some steps like Balochistan Package, revision of NFC Award etc. But, the people of Balochistan are not satisfied. After eighteenth amendment, the provincial autonomy is restored to some extent.

Dr. Faouzia Murree, advisor to chief minister said, "The government of Balochistan is constitutionally sovereign and not subservient to any other institution. The Senate sub-committee on Balochistan has no rights to interfere in the internal affairs of a constitutionally sovereign and autonomous province. She said on the floor of Balochistan assembly on Tuesday, "Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had said that within the federation, all units will be sovereign. She said," after the 18th amendment Quaid-e -Azam's pledge became true (Dr. Fauzia murree).

It is concluded that Jinnah Loved Balochistan. He wanted to change the destiny of Balochistan. May God bless Balochistan according to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (Ameen).

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