**Amendments in Gen. Musharaf period:**

The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan was a short-time amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, adopted by the elected Parliament of Pakistan in 1997 by the government of people elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. It stripped the President of Pakistan of his reserve power to dissolve the National Assembly, and thereby triggering new elections and dismissing the Prime Minister. The Constitutional Amendment was supported by both the government and the opposition, and was thus passed unanimously. With the enforcing of this amendment, Pakistan's system of government was shifted from Semi-presidential system to Parliamentary democratic republic system.

• The amendment removed Article 58(2)(b) of the Constitution, which gave the President the power to

• dissolve the National Assembly in his discretion where, in his opinion ... a situation has arisen in which the Government of the Federation cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and an appeal to the electorate is necessary.[1]

• In Pakistan, once legislators are elected to national or provincial assemblies, the people cannot recall them before the end of their five-year terms. In the past, this has contributed to a sense of immunity on the part of members of the ruling party, and to a public perception of rampant corruption among leading politicians – in 1997, Pakistan received the second-worst score in the world on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

• A few months later, the Fourteenth Amendment was passed, which subjected Members of Parliament to very strict party discipline by giving party leaders unlimited power to dismiss legislators who failed to vote as directed. This virtually eliminated any chance of a Prime Minister of being thrown out of office by a motion of no confidence. The amendments removed nearly all institutional checks and balances on the Prime Minister's power, by effectively removing the legal remedies by which he could be dismissed.

• Nawaz Sharif's government became increasingly unpopular after the passage of these amendments, even though it was the election of his Pakistan Muslim League by a heavy majority that enabled him to alter the Constitution in the first place. A few months later, Nawaz Sharif's partisan stormed the Supreme Court of Pakistan and forced the resignation of the Chief Justice. This strengthened the perception that the country was becoming a civilian dictatorship.

• In 1999, the Pakistan Army General Pervez Musharraf assumed power in a military-led bloodless coup. Among the reasons he gave for doing so were the destruction of institutional checks and balances, and the prevailing corruption in the political leadership. The coup was widely welcomed in Pakistan. Amongst the Opposition, ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was one of the first leaders to congratulate General Pervez Musharraf for removing Nawaz Sharif. The Supreme Court later validated the removal on the grounds that the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments resulted in a situation for which there was no constitutional remedy.

• In October 2002, elections were held in Pakistan. In December 2003, Parliament passed the Seventeenth Amendment, which partially restored the President's reserve power to dissolve Parliament and thus remove the Prime Minister from office, but made it subject to Supreme Court approval

The Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan was an amendment to the [Constitution of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) passed in December 2003, after over a year of political wrangling between supporters and opponents of [Pakistani President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_Of_Pakistan) [Pervez Musharraf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pervez_Musharraf).

This amendment made many changes to Pakistan's constitution. Many of these changes dealt with the office of the president and the reversal of the effects of the [Thirteenth Amendment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteenth_Amendment_to_the_Constitution_of_Pakistan). Summarized here are brief descriptions of the major points.

* President Musharraf's [**Legal Framework Order**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_Framework_Order_of_Pakistan)**(LFO)** was largely incorporated into the constitution, with a few changes.
* Article 63(1)(d) of the Constitution to become operative after December 31, 2004. The intent of this was to prohibit a person from holding both a political office (such as that of the president) and an "[office of profit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_of_profit)" - an office that is typically held by a career government servant, civil or military - such as the office of the Chief of Army Staff. Although this was supposed to [separate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers) the two types of office, a loophole - ".. other than an office declared by law .." - allowed Parliament to pass an ordinary law later in 2004 - permitting the President to hold on to the office of Chief of Army Staff, an option that President Musharraf then exercised.
* Should the President win a majority in a vote of confidence in the [electoral college](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_College_of_Pakistan) within 30 days of the passage of this amendment, he shall be deemed to be elected to the office of President. (On January 1, 2004, Musharraf won 658 out of 1,170 electoral-college votes - a 56% majority - and was thereby deemed to be elected president.)
* The President regains the [authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reserve_power) to dissolve the [National Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) - and thus effectively to dismiss the [Pakistani Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) - but the power to do so is made subject to an approval or veto by the [Supreme Court of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan).
* A Governor's power to dissolve a Provincial Assembly is similarly subject to Supreme Court approval or veto.
* Article 152A, which dealt with the [National Security Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Council_of_Pakistan), was annulled. (The legal basis for the NSC is now an ordinary law, the National Security Council Act of 2004.)
* Ten laws had been added by the LFO to the Sixth Schedule, which is a list of "laws that are not to be altered, repealed or amended without the previous sanction of the President." After this amendment, five of those laws will lose their Sixth Schedule protection after six years. Laws to be unprotected include the four laws that established the system of democratic local governments. (Those in favor of this change have argued that it would enable each province to evolve its own systems. Opponents fear that authoritarian provincial governments could disempowered or even dismantle the system of local democracies.)