**ZULFIQAR ALI BHUTTO AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:**

Amendments in constitution are a necessity to bring it into line with needs of the changing times. These amendments and adaptations keep the sacred instrument afresh and up-to-date. Similarly, the constitution of 1973 that came into force on 14th August 1973 was amended seven times during Bhutto regime. However, most of these amendments were not made out of necessity but were motivated by some ulterior motives

**Objectives of amendments**

Bhutto was more like an autocrat and wanted concentration of all powers in his own hands. His desire of establishing a presidential system could not be fulfilled because of strong opposition. But the way he got the constitution amended shows his lack of respect for the democratic credentials.

The constitutional amendments during Bhutto rule revealed the dictatorial setup of his government.19 If Bhutto had the temperament to bear opposition, and then he might be the elected leader and could enjoy power without taking strict measures against opposition. He was sure like Ayub Khna that political solidarity and national unity could be achieved through ‘Strong Centre’. Moreover it was also necessary to materialize Bhutto’s preference of political and economic power through centre. He also wanted to keep political and economic power of Punjab under certain limits. Up till July 5, 1977 about 30 articles of constitution were amended more or less. If the last amendment would had been enacted the condition would be different. If the PNA would have agreed with the proposal of holding referendum the assembly could be saved in either condition. The constitutional history of Pakistan is a nightmare and regretful also. After the Provisional Constitution of 1947 about 6 different constitutional drafts were prepared, out of which three remained successful for implementation i.e. 1956, 1962 and 1973. The constitutions of 1956 and 1962 were abrogated while 1973 is still functional with about 21 amendments. It is questionable that why certain regimes amended constitution under their own vested interests. The constitutional provisions were utilized for the benefit of government. The upper political hierarchy is the beneficiary of such amendments, the general masses are least benefited. Evenly the apex constitutional institutions are helpless to interpret and implement the constitution of 1973 in letter and spirit. Parliamentary democracy is actually a national government and mostly the feudal get elected under parliamentary democracy. There is a large contradiction between parliamentary democracy and feudalism. The exertion of authority through rule of power is nature of feudalism and there is no tolerance or difference of opinion under this system. Unfortunately until the feudalism could be occupant over national politics the pattern of governance will be adversely effected.

**7th amendment and parliament**

The Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan was adopted by the elected [Parliament of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Pakistan) on 16 May 1977, a month before the ending of [ending](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Fair_Play) of the democratic government of Prime minister  [Zulfikar Bhutto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulfikar_Bhutto). The *VII Amendment* was also the last of seven amendments that were adopted the elected Parliament and enforced by the Government of Prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The *VII Amendment* orders and enables the people elected Prime Minister to obtain a [Vote of confidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vote_of_confidence) by the people elected [members of Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Members_of_Parliament). The *VII Amendment* also constitutionally orders the people elected President to hold a national referendum for the approval of Prime minister if he or she fails to secure the vote of confidence of the members of Parliament.