



Seeds of conflict in Pakistan:

# THE ECONOMIC FACTOR

# West Pakistani colonialism over EP

- ▶ Bengali economists, Rehman Sobhan and Kabir Uddin and a group of Harvard economists, Edward S. Mason, Robert Dorfman and Stephen A. Marlin, have separately published evidence how WP control EP economy.
- ▶ Their documentation indicate Bengal was a colony of WP.
- ▶ They showed statistics regarding per capita income, development expenditure, WP domination over market, control over Bengal's export surplus, and economic impact on EP lifestyle.

# Per capita income

- ▶ The per capita income in WE in 1969-70 was 61% higher than EP.
- ▶ This figure became almost double what it was 10 years back.
- ▶ WP was 17% higher than that of East Pakistan in 1949-50.

## PER CAPITA INCOME IN EAST AND WEST PAKISTAN (1959-60 PRICES, IN RUPEES)

	1949-50	1959-60	1969-70
Pakistan	311	318	424
West Pakistan	338	366	537
East Pakistan	287	278	331
East-West gap	51	88	206

**Source:** *Third Five Year Plan of Pakistan*, p. 11, and *Report of the Panel of Economists on the Fourth Year Plan (1970-75)*, p. 132.

# Development expenditure

	1950-55	1965-70
East Pakistan	20%	35%
West Pakistan	80%	65%

- In 1950-55, EP received only 20% of development expenditure and WP 80%.
- Despite of many promises of the central government, EP received only 35% in 1965-70.
- This despite fact that EP has 54% of total population.

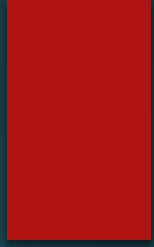
# Domination over EP market

- ▶ 40 to 50% of all WP exports sold in EP market.
- ▶ EP has been used as a dumping ground for Shoddy, high-priced goods produced by inefficient industrial units in WP.

# Transfer of resources to WP

- ▶ EP's export surplus with the outside world utilized by central government to finance the deficit of WP.
- ▶ The total transfer of resources in the 20 years till 1968-69, Rs 31 million, or 2,100 million dollar.

# Impact on population growth



	EP	WP
1949-50	49 million	32 million
1959-60	53 million (2.9% annual population increased in 1st <sup>nd</sup> decade)	45 million (4% annual population increased in 1st <sup>nd</sup> decade)
1969-70	69 million (3% annual population increased in 2 <sup>nd</sup> decade)	59 million (3.1 % annual population increased in 2 <sup>nd</sup> decade)



# M.M. Ahmed's claim regarding balance economy

- ▶ The mentioned information give some idea of WP's exploitation of EP.
- ▶ The assertions undoubtedly substantial Awami League charges of economic strangulation.
- ▶ In Yahya regime, M.M. Ahmed was the President's economic advisor.
- ▶ M.M. Ahmed tried to portray a presentable economic picture of their own to justify the claim that the president regime tried to back the tide of economic disparity.
- ▶ The statistics mentioned by Ahmed only serves an argumentative purpose.
- ▶ It gives no proper idea of the immense human misery.
- ▶ These are entirely on the side of the suffering of people of EP.