

Communist Party of Pakistan

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The **Communist Party of Pakistan** (CPP) (Urdu: کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف پاکستان) is a communist party in Pakistan.

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Founding

The CPP was founded in Calcutta, Union of India on March 6, 1948. A decision was taken at the Second All-India Conference of the Communist Party of India, which was held in Calcutta at that time, that a separate communist party ought to be created in the new state of Pakistan. It was thought that Pakistan, being a relatively small country (in comparison to India) and suffering from instability, was ripe for revolution. The delegates from Pakistan separated themselves and held a separate session where they constituted the CPP. Sajjad Zaheer (founder of the All-India Progressive Writers Association), from West Pakistan, was elected General-Secretary. The delegates from East Pakistan elected an East Pakistan Provincial Committee. Many Muslim leaders of the CPI were sent to Pakistan to help with the formation of the party.

Goals

The attempt to start a revolution in Pakistan failed and the CPP leaders were jailed. In the 1951 Rawalpindi Conspiracy Case, many leading members were convicted and the party was forcibly repressed by successive governments.^[1]

Communist Party of Pakistan

کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف پاکستان



Chairman	Engineer Jameel Ahmad Malik
Founder	Sajjad Zaheer
Founded	March 6, 1948
Split from	Communist Party of India
Headquarters	Central Secretariat, 1426-Fateh Jang Chowk, Attock Cantt, Pakistan
Ideology	Communism, Marxism–Leninism
International affiliation	International Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties
Colors	Red

Website

http://www.cpp.net.pk

Politics of Pakistan
 Political parties
 Elections

Struggles

Diplomatic intervention by Jawaharlal Nehru led to the most prominent CPP leaders being freed and sent back to India. At this stage the CPP was in poor shape in West Pakistan, while in East Pakistan the party had a limited foundation. However, it was difficult to have a unified underground political organization spanning such a vast geographical territory and the East Pakistan branch was able to operate with autonomy.

1954-1957

In the provincial elections in East Pakistan in 1954, the CPP supported the United Front launched by the Awami League, Krishak Praja Party and the Nizam-e-Islam party. Four out of ten CPP candidates were elected, and 23 CPP members were elected as candidates of other parties.

In 1954 the party and its front organizations such as the National Students Federation, Progressive Writers' Movement and Railway Worker's Union were banned. As a result the CPP launched the Azad Pakistan Party (APP) in West Pakistan with Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din as leader. In 1957, the CPP and other leftists created the National Awami Party as a legal party. The APP merged into the NAP.

In East Pakistan, the CPP worked within the Awami League and then in Ganatantri Dal.

1958

In 1958 the Kull Pakistan Kissan Association (All Pakistan Peasants Association) was launched.

Mid-1960s

In the mid-1960s the US State Department estimated the party membership to be approximately 3000.^[2] The CPP also began to organize themselves abroad. In Europe, the CPP branch published the Urdu magazine *Baghawat*, which translates as "rebellion".

1966

In 1966 the Sino-Soviet split reached the CPP. In East Pakistan a pro-Chinese group broke away from the CPP.

1968

At the fourth party congress in Dhaka in 1968, a decision was taken that a separate communist party should be formed for East Pakistan. Thus the Communist Party of East Pakistan (CPEP) was founded. The CPEP later became the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

The CPP organized a militant and armed peasants struggle in Patfeeder, Baluchistan. The CPP resisted the autocratic regimes of the times, and built up militant trade union movements.

1990

In December 1990 Jam Saqi became general secretary of the party. In April 1991, he resigned from the party.^[3]

1995

In 1995 the CPP merged with the Major Ishaque faction of the Mazdoor Kissan Party to form the Communist Mazdoor Kissan Party (CMKP). The CPP accepted the criticism that they had been too uncritical towards the Soviet Union. In 1999 a group broke away and reconstituted the CPP. In 2002, the CPP split, leading to the existence of two separate CPPs, one led by Maula Bux Khaskheli and a splinter group led by Khadim Thaheem.

2013

Decades after when the Communist Party of Pakistan was banned in July 1954 on charges of plotting to overthrow the government and crackdown against its leadership throughout the country, now once again the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)^[4] has registered the Communist Party of Pakistan led by its Central Chairman Engineer Jameel Ahmad Malik and Secretary General Mehraj Gul Khattak with election symbol as **Sickle**. The Communist Party of Pakistan is registered under the Article 17 of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 as reported vide ^[5] Pakistan Today dated January 14, 2013.

See also

- List of political parties in Pakistan
- Communism
- Marxism
- Faiz Ahmad Faiz
- Mazhar Ali Khan (journalist)
- Comrade Sultan Ahmed Khan Tarin

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