**Pervez Musharraf**

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| **Pervez Musharraf پرويز مشرف** | |
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| **12th** [**President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Pakistan) | |
| [**Incumbent**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incumbent) | |
| **In office since** | [October 12](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_12), [1999](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999) |
| **Preceded by** | [Muhammad Rafiq Tarar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Rafiq_Tarar) |
| **Succeeded by** | *Incumbent* |
| **Born** | [August 11](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August_11), [1943](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1943) [Delhi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi), [British India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_India) |
| **Political party** | None |
| **Spouse** | [Begum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Begum) [Sehba Musharraf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sehba_Musharraf) |

**Pervez Musharraf** ([Urdu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urdu_language): پرويز مشرف; born [August 11](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August_11), [1943](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1943) in [Delhi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi), [British India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_India)) is currently the [President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President) of [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) and the [Chief of Army Staff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_of_Army_Staff) of the Pakistani military. He took power on [October 12](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_12), [1999](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999) after a [coup d'état](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup_d%27%C3%A9tat) and assumed the title of [President of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Pakistan) on [June 20](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_20), [2001](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001). In the [*TIME* 100 Poll 2006](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_Magazine_2006_Time_100_Poll) of "The People Who Shape Our World" he is currently ranked at number thirteen. A recent (September 2) poll conducted by American think tanks rated him as the 7th most powerful Dictator.

**Family background**

General Musharraf's parents came from an educated middle class [Syed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed) family and both were college-educated. His mother, Begum Zehra Musharraf, studied [English Literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Literature). She worked for the [International Labor Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Labour_Organisation) (ILO) and retired in 1986. Syed Musharraf-ud-Din, Musharraf's father, was a graduate of [Aligarh University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aligarh_University) in [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India). He joined Pakistan's Foreign Service in a clerical position and progressed in his career, retiring as a Section Officer in the Foreign Ministry. He spent several years in the capacity of support staff in the Pakistan Embassy in [Ankara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ankara), [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey), where Musharraf spent part of his childhood and learned to speak fluent [Turkish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language).

General Pervez Musharraf was born in [Daryaganj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daryaganj) in [Delhi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi), [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), and after the [independence of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_of_Pakistan), in [1947](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1947), his family immigrated to Pakistan and settled in [Karachi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karachi) in [Sindh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh) province.

General Musharraf is married to [Begum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Begum) [Sehba Musharraf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sehba_Musharraf) and has one son, [Bilal Musharraf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilal_Musharraf), and a daughter, Ayla. Both are married with two children of their own. His son lives in [Boston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston), and his brother also lives in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). Both are US citizens.

**Education**

Musharraf attended [Saint Patrick's High School, Karachi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick%27s_High_School%2C_Karachi), graduating in 1958 before going on to attend [Forman Christian College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forman_Christian_College) in [Lahore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahore).

**Military training**

In 1961, he entered the Pakistan Military Academy at [Kakul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kakul) and was later commissioned into the Pakistan Artillery. A graduate of the Staff College, Quetta, and the National Defense College, Rawalpindi, General Musharraf also a graduate of the [Royal College of Defense Studies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_College_of_Defence_Studies) of the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom).

**Military career**

Musharraf participated in the [Indo-Pakistani War of 1965](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1965) as the 2nd Lieutenant in the Field Artillery Regiment and later in the [Indo-Pakistani War of 1971](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1971) as a [Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_%28military_unit%29) [Commander](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commander) in the [SSG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Service_Group) Commando [Battalion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battalion). He later admitted that he "literally wept" when he heard the "disgusting" news of Pakistan's surrender to India. Later he commanded Regiments of Artillery, there after an Artillery Brigade and then went on to command an Infantry Division.

In September 1987, heading a newly formed SSG at Khapalu base (Kashmir), he launched an unsuccessful assault to capture the Indian held posts of Bilafond La in [Siachen Glacier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siachen_Glacier).

On promotion to the rank of Major General on [January 15](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_15), [1991](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991), he was assigned the command of an Infantry Division. Later, on promotion to Lieutenant General on [October 21](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_21), [1995](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1995) he took over command of the I Corps. In 1998, following the resignation of General Jehangir Karamat, he was personally promoted over other senior officers by Prime Minister [Nawaz Sharif](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawaz_Sharif), as an obedient General and took over as the Chief of Army Staff In 1999, he led the Pakistan Army during the [Kargil Conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kargil_Conflict). Gen Musharaf also attended SSG and was also the trainer of Pakistani commandos.

**Role in Kargil Conflict**

From April to June 1999, Pakistan and India were involved in the [Kargil Conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kargil_Conflict) in which Musharraf was Pakistan's Army chief. This conflict resulted in eventual mistrust between civil and military leaderships and this division ultimately saw the demise of democratic system in Pakistan.

**Coup d'état and election**

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| [**Pakistan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) |
| This article is part of the series: [**Politics and government of Pakistan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Pakistan) |
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| * [**Constitution**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) * [**Government**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan) * [President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Pakistan)   + **Pervez Musharraf** * [Prime Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan)   + [Shaukat Aziz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaukat_Aziz) * [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majlis-e-Shoora)   + [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Pakistan)     - [Chairman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chairman_of_the_Senate_of_Pakistan)   + [National Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Pakistan)     - [Speaker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speaker_of_National_Assembly)     - [Deputy Speaker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deputy_Speaker_of_National_Assembly) * Federal courts   + [Supreme Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan)     - [Chief Justice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Justices_of_Pakistan)   + [Federal Shariat Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Shariat_Court_of_Pakistan)     - [Chief Justices](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Justices_of_the_Federal_Shariat_Court)   + [High Courts](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=High_Courts_of_Pakistan&action=edit)   + [District Courts](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=District_Courts_of_Pakistan&action=edit) |
| * [**Elections**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elections_in_Pakistan)   + [Local Body Elections](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Local_Body_Elections_of_Pakistan&action=edit) |
| * [**Political Parties**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_Pakistan)   + [Pakistan Muslim League (Q)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Muslim_League_%28Q%29)   + [Pakistan Peoples Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Peoples_Party)   + [Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muttahida_Majlis-e-Amal)   + [Minor Parties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_Pakistan#Minor_parties) |
| * [**Provinces And Territories**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdivisions_of_Pakistan)   + [Governors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provincial_Governors_of_Pakistan)   + Provinces     - [Balochistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Balochistan)     - [N.W.F.P](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_the_North-West_Frontier_Province)     - [Punjab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Punjab)     - [Sindh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Sindh)   + Territories     - [Islamabad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad_Capital_Territory)     - [FATA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federally_Administered_Tribal_Areas)     - [Azad Jammu & Kashmir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azad_Kashmir) |
| * [**Local Government**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_Government_of_Pakistan)   + [Districts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Pakistan)   + [Cities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Pakistan) |
| * **Issues**   + [Foreign Relations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_Pakistan) |

Musharraf became [*de facto*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_facto) [Head of Government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_Government) (using the title *Chief Executive* and assuming extensive powers) of [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) following a bloodless [coup d'état](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup_d%27%C3%A9tat) on [12 October](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_12) [1999](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999). That day, Prime Minister [Nawaz Sharif](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawaz_Sharif) attempted to dismiss Musharraf and install [ISI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence) director Khwaja Ziauddin in his place. Musharraf, who was out of the country, boarded a commercial airliner to return to Pakistan. Senior Army generals refused to accept Musharraf's dismissal. Sharif ordered the Karachi airport to prevent the landing of the airliner, which then circled the skies over Karachi. In the coup, the generals ousted Sharif's administration and took over the airport. The plane landed with only a few minutes of fuel to spare, and Musharraf assumed control of the government. Sharif was put under house arrest and later exiled. He and other democratic leaders have subsequently been prevented from entering Pakistan. The existing [President of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Pakistan), [Rafiq Tarar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rafiq_Tarar), remained in office until June 2001. Musharraf formally made himself President on [June 20](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_20), [2001](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001), just days before his scheduled visit to [Agra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agra) for talks with India.

**Referendum held: Supreme Court orders elections**

Shortly after Musharraf's takeover, several people filed court petitions challenging his assumption of power. On [May 12](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_12), [2000](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000), the [Supreme Court of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan) ordered Musharraf to hold general elections by [October 12](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_12), [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002). In an attempt to legitimize his presidency and assure its continuance after the approaching restoration of democracy, he held a [referendum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Referendum) on [April 30](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_30), [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002) to extend his presidential term to five years after the October elections. However, the referendum was [boycotted](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boycott) by the majority of Pakistani political groupings, which later complained that the elections were heavily [rigged](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rigged_election), and [voter turnout](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voter_turnout) was 3% or below by most estimates. A few weeks later, Musharraf went on TV and apologized to the nation for "irregularities" in the referendum.

Musharraf also forcibly removed many of the [Supreme Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan) Justices who had voted against his usurpation of power. These included Justice [Taqi Usmani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taqi_Usmani), a world authority on International financial law and Constitutional law. Newspaper editors who were critical of Musharraf, such as the editor of the [*Balochistan Post*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan_Post)*,* have also been exiled.

General elections were held in October 2002 and a [plurality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plurality) of the seats in the [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Pakistan) was won by the [PML-Q](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Muslim_League_%28Q%29), a pro-Musharraf party consisting of feudal landlords whose power and hold on politics Musharraf had promised to destroy. However, parties opposed to Musharraf effectively paralyzed the [National Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) for over a year. The deadlock ended in [December 2003](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December_2003), when Musharraf made a deal with the [Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muttahida_Majlis-e-Amal) party, an alliance of Islamic parties sympathetic to [Taliban’s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban) agreeing to leave the army by [December 31](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December_31), [2004](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004). He subsequently refused to keep his promise. With that party's support, pro-Musharraf legislators were able to muster the two-thirds [supermajority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supermajority) required to pass the [Seventeenth Amendment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventeenth_Amendment_to_the_Constitution_of_Pakistan), which retroactively

**Electoral College victory**

In a [vote of confidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vote_of_confidence) on [January 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_1), [2004](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004), Musharraf won 658 out of 1,170 votes in the [Electoral College of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_College_of_Pakistan), and according to Article 41(8) of the [Constitution of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan), was "deemed to be elected" to the office of President until October 2007.

**After September 11, 2001**

**Support for the War on Terrorism**

Following the [September 11](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11), [2001](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001) terrorist attacks in the United States, Musharraf sided with the United States against the [Taliban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban) government in [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan), after an ultimatum by the United States. Musharraf agreed to give the United States the use of three airbases for [Operation Enduring Freedom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Enduring_Freedom). [Secretary of State](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Secretary_of_State) [Colin Powell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Powell) and other administration officials met with Musharraf. Musharraf's reversal of policy and help to the U.S. military was necessary in the U.S. bombing that rapidly overcame the Taliban regime.

**Tensions with India**

On [December 13](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December_13), [2001](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001), a group of militants attacked India's [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_India) with bombs and guns. India, blaming Pakistan for the attack, mobilized for a potential war. Musharraf denied any Pakistani involvement with the attacks.

Intense pressure from Washington followed. The [*Washington Post*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Post) (Jim Hoagland, [January 17](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_17)) said that "the United States extracted promises from Gen. Musharraf that Pakistan's intelligence service and army will cease giving food, weapons and other logistical help to infiltrators who carry out raids into India and [Indian-controlled Kashmir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Occupied_Kashmir). The army will no longer provide mortar fire to cover the militants, who have been cut adrift by Musharraf".

**Denouncing extremism**

On [January 12](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_12), [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002), Musharraf gave a landmark speech against Islamic extremism. He unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism, including those carried out in the name of freeing Kashmir's Muslim majority from Indian rule. He also pledged to combat Islamic extremism and lawlessness within Pakistan itself.

**Dual-office controversy**

A pro-Musharraf party, the [PML-Q](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PML-Q), won a [plurality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plurality) in the elections of October 2002, and formed a majority coalition with independents and allies such as the [MQM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MQM). Nevertheless, the opposition parties effectively deadlocked the National Assembly, refusing to accept the legitimacy of Musharraf's authority. In December 2003, as part of a compromise with the main Islamist opposition group, the [Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muttahida_Majlis-e-Amal), an alliance of Islamist radicals including the Jammat Islami whose leaders have known links to [bin Laden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osama_bin_Laden), General Musharraf said he would step down as Army Chief by [January 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_1), [2005](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005). In return, the MMA agreed to support a constitutional amendment that would retroactively legalize Musharraf's coup, and restore some formal [checks and balances](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Checks_and_balances) to Pakistan's system of government.

In late 2004, however, pro-Musharraf legislators passed a bill allowing Musharraf to keep both offices, and Musharraf announced that he intended to hold on to both.

**Views and perceptions of Musharraf**

**Image of a moderate leader**



General Pervez Musharraf, President and Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, addressing the [UN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN) [General Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Assembly) on [November 10](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November_10), [2001](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001)

Musharraf is considered a moderate leader by [Western](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_world) governments. Many believe that Musharraf is sincere in his desire to bridge the [Islamic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) and Western worlds and has previously spoken strongly against the idea of the inevitability of a 'clash of civilizations’ between them. Furthermore, he has coined the phrase of "[Enlightened moderation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enlightened_moderation)" and is believed to be an ardent promulgator of the same. Musharraf's emotional ties to the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) may be conjectured to be significant since at least two close members of his family live there: his brother, a doctor, lives near [Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago%2C_Illinois), [Illinois](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois), and his son, who lives in [Boston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston%2C_Massachusetts), [Massachusetts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts). Musharraf's son, Bilal runs a venture funded high-tech startup in Boston. Musharraf's only other child, a daughter, is a graduate of the National College of Arts in Lahore and is an [architect](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architect). Musharraf's elder brother, Javed Musharraf, a [Rhodes Scholar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodes_Scholarship) at [Oxford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_University), was a CSP officer in the Government of Pakistan prior to retiring from the [International Fund for Agricultural Development](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Fund_for_Agricultural_Development) (IFAD) in Rome, Italy.

**Disputed President**

Musharraf is also considered as a disputed personality holding powers as Army Chief and President because of the reason that he was dismissed and given retirement by Prime Minister, and because of the most disputed referendum held under his power, and was reported to have cast maximum of 3% votes in his favor.

**Musharraf's views considered relatively liberal**

Musharraf was raised in a family that is considered liberal by Pakistani standards. The women of the family are unsequestered and seen and photographed in public without veils. His mother worked for the [ILO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Labour_Organization) and was friends with well-known Pakistani liberals. His daughter is an architect and his son was educated at [Harvard University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_University).

Shortly after coming to power, and on numerous occasions afterwards, Musharraf expressed admiration for the secularist reformer of [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey), [Kemal Atatürk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kemal_Atat%C3%BCrk), outraging religious radicals in the country. However in Parliament he was in alliance with the [Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muttahida_Majlis-e-Amal) an Islamic alliance, some of whose leaders still publicly support the Taliban regime. Additionally, Musharraf has expressed admiration for the long-time [1980s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980s) [Martial Law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martial_Law) dictator of [Balochistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan_%28Pakistan%29), General [Rahimuddin Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rahimuddin_Khan), whose reign witnessed controversy over his conservative, authoritarian style of government, as well as unprecedented stability and economic expansion.

Musharraf is known to have dinner drinks of alcohol, thus making him a known Westernized liberal.

At the same time, the conduct and procedure of national elections in Pakistan has been criticized by Human Rights groups within Pakistan, including the world renowned human rights activist, [Asma Jehangir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asma_Jehangir).

Furthermore, Musharraf was initially promoted in the Pakistani Army based on his hardline religious affiliation to the [Deoband school](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deobandi).

**Support for the "War on Terror"**



Musharraf with [United States President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_President) [George W. Bush](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush)

Since his involvement as a senior officer of Pakistan's special forces during the [Soviet invasion of Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_invasion_of_Afghanistan), Musharraf has had excellent personal relations with several sections of the US security establishment.

It is widely believed that Musharraf was coerced by the United States into turning his back on his former allies, the Taliban government of Afghanistan. Certainly his speeches on national television expressed his belief that he 'had no choice' but to act in unison with the United States.

Musharraf's support for the [USA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) was indispensable in defeating the [Taliban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban) in [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) with the ease that it was routed. This was done after his swift and strategically sound decision to cease Pakistan's long-running support of the Taliban. Pakistan cut the [Taliban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban)'s oil and supply lines, provided intelligence and acted as a logistics support area for [Operation Enduring Freedom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Enduring_Freedom). It has also allowed US forces to operate inside Pakistan, and Pakistani forces especially the military controlled [Inter-Services Intelligence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence) Directorate have been implicated in the use of torture on suspected militants.

Under U.S. pressure, Musharraf has launched a major military offensive in the tribal region of [Wana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wana), displacing many resident families in the hunt for militants, and has caused a national insurgency movement made up of disaffected militants and former residents of Wana whose homes were demolished by the army in its heavy bombing campaign.

However, after the more recent resurgence of the Taliban, the United States is taking a harder look at Pakistan's continuing role in the Taliban insurgency, according to reports in the New York Times Seth G. Jones, a political scientist at the RAND Corporation, said that there was increasing evidence that Pakistani intelligence agents had been financing, training, providing intelligence and assistance to Taliban insurgents. Whether the orders come from General Musharraf himself is not clear, Mr. Jones said, but he said it was clear that he knew about the support, and that he so far had failed to stop the militancy.

Musharraf speaks fluent English and has given many interviews and speeches on various US and European TV channels and other media. He is also known for giving contrasting views in his interviews. He has spoken at [think tanks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Think_tank) such as the [RAND Corporation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAND) in [Santa Monica, California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Monica%2C_California), in [June 2003](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_2003). His support for the US-led War on Terror has been a cause for increasing public support for right-wing Islamic parties in Pakistan. The US's image in Pakistan has suffered ostensibly after the [war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_invasion_of_Iraq) in [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) without an authorizing [UN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN) resolution. Musharraf has bluntly refused to send any Pakistani troops to Iraq without a UN resolution and also due to public pressure in Pakistan.

After lengthy talks with his Afghan counterpart, [Hamid Karzai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamid_Karzai), he said on [September 7](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_7), [2006](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006) he was committed to crushing the Taliban, their [al Qaeda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaeda) allies and "[Talibanisation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban)", a reference to the spread of hardline [Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam). "The best way to fight this common enemy is to join hands, trust each other and form a common strategy," he told reporters in [Kabul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabul), days before the fifth anniversary of the [September 11 attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11%2C_2001_attacks) that prompted the [US-led invasion of Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001_war_in_Afghanistan). "Any militant activity will be addressed with force. No Talibanisation. No Taliban activity on our side of the border and across the border in Afghanistan," Musharraf said. The issue of cross-border movement clouded President [George W. Bush](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush)'s visit to Islamabad early [2006](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006) and Musharraf's pledge comes ahead of a trip to the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) and [Cuba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba) and an expected meeting with Bush.

**Assassination attempts**

On [December 14](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December_14), [2003](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003), General Musharraf survived an [assassination](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassin) attempt when a powerful bomb went off minutes after his highly-guarded [convoy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convoy) crossed a bridge in [Rawalpindi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rawalpindi). It was the third such attempt during his four-year rule. Eleven days later, on [December 25](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December_25), [2003](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003), two [suicide bombers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suicide_bombing) tried to assassinate Musharraf, but their [car bombs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car_bomb) failed to kill the president; 16 others nearby died instead. Musharraf escaped with only a cracked windscreen on his car. It has been reported that [Amjad Hussain Farooqi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amjad_Hussain_Farooqi) is suspected of being the mastermind behind these attempts, and there was an extensive manhunt for him, ending with Farooqi's death.

**Elections during Musharraf's administration**

On [12 May](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_12) [2000](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000), the [Supreme Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan) ordered Musharraf to hold national elections by [12 October](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_12) [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002); elections for local governments took place in 2001. Elections for the national and provincial legislatures were held in October 2002, with no party winning a majority. In [November 2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November_2002), Musharraf handed over certain powers to the newly elected [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Pakistan). The [National Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) elected [Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mir_Zafarullah_Khan_Jamali) as [Prime Minister of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan), who in turn appointed his own cabinet.

On [January 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_1), [2004](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004) Musharraf won a [confidence vote](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confidence_vote) in the [Electoral College of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_College_of_Pakistan), consisting of both houses of [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament) and the four provincial assemblies which are dominated by the landed elite of the country, most of whom have been given governmental posts under Musharraf. Musharraf received 658 out of 1170 votes, a 56% majority, but many opposition and [Islamic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) members of parliament walked out to protest the vote. As a result of this vote, according to Article 41(8) of the [Constitution of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan), Musharraf was "deemed to be elected" to the office of President. His term now extends to 2007.

[Prime Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) [Jamali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zafarullah_Khan_Jamali) resigned on [26 June](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_26) [2004](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004). His resignation is widely believed to be on the command of General Pervez Musharraf. Jamali, in the first place was appointed by Musharraf, who controls the PML(Q). He formed PML(Q) by horse trading with different parties (largely the PML(N) and the PPPP). Most of the ministers of the cabinet were senior members of other parties, who joined PML(Q) after the elections just because Musharraf promised them important offices in the government. Musharraf replaced Jamali due to his poor performance and in his place Musharraf appointed [Shaukat Aziz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaukat_Aziz), a former Vice President of [Citibank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citibank) and head of *Citibank Private Banking* as the new prime minister. Musharraf choose Shaukat Aziz due to his successful measures in revitalizing Pakistan's economy as the Finance Minister. The new government is mostly supportive of Musharraf, who remains the President and Head of State in the new government. Musharraf continues to be the active executive of Pakistan, especially in foreign affairs. Although whether he stays the president after he gives up the post of Chief of Army staff is still to be seen.

**Nuclear proliferation**

Recently, Musharraf has come under fire in the West after the disclosure of [nuclear proliferation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_proliferation) by Dr. [Abdul Qadeer Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdul_Qadeer_Khan), the [metallurgist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metallurgy) known as the father of Pakistan's bomb. Musharraf has denied knowledge of or participation by Pakistan's government or army in this proliferation despite deep domestic criticism for singularly vilifying Khan, a national hero. Musharraf continues to enjoy strong support of the [White House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_House) and [Defense Secretary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_Defense) [Donald Rumsfeld](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Rumsfeld). AQ Khan has been pardoned in exchange for cooperation in the investigation of his nuclear-proliferation network. The fate of those who were found to have conspired with Khan is yet to be decided.

**Peace overtures with India**

Musharraf was Chief of Army Staff at the time of Pakistani incursions into the Indian-held disputed territory of [Kashmir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir) ([Kargil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kargil) sector), in the summer of 1999. After suffering many reverses, the Pakistani Army was ordered to retreat. Some reports suggest that Musharraf retreated after huge pressure on the then Pakistani Prime Minister [Nawaz Sharif](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawaz_Sharif) from the American President, who feared the conflict could turn into a nuclear catastrophe. However in a recent book co-authored by ex-[CENTCOM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CENTCOM) Commander in Chief [Anthony Zinni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Zinni) and [Tom Clancy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Clancy), the former alleges that Musharraf was the one who pushed Sharif to withdraw the Pakistani troops after being caught in a losing scenario. According to an ex-official of the Musharraf government, [Hassan Abbas](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hassan_Abbas&action=edit), it was Musharraf who planned the whole operative and sold the idea to Nawaz Sharif. The view that Musharraf wanted to attempt the Kargil infiltrations much earlier was also revealed by Former Pakistani PM [Benazir Bhutto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benazir_Bhutto) in an interview to a leading [daily](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper), where he had supposedly boasted that "he would hoist the [flag of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Pakistan) atop the [Srinagar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Srinagar) Assembly" if his plan was executed As the Kargil incident came just after the [Lahore Peace Summit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahore_Declaration) earlier that year, Musharraf was viewed with mistrust in India.

In the middle of 2004, Musharraf began a series of talks with India to solve the [Kashmir dispute](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir_dispute). Both India and Pakistan have the tactical capability to launch nuclear strikes on every city within each other’s borders. The two countries are continuing to aggressively increase their nuclear capabilities by actively producing even more nuclear weapons and perfecting their missile technologies by routinely conducting tests of ever more sophisticated missiles.