Second Amendment – Constitutional Development of Pakistan

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Introduction
The Constitution of Pakistan 1973 has undergone several amendments. Among these, the Second Amendment holds major significance due to its impact on the political and religious identity structure of the State. Passed in 1974, it addressed a long-standing socio-religious issue in Pakistan.

Background
Before the Second Amendment, the Constitution did not legally define who is or is not a Muslim. Political and religious debates regarding the status of the Ahmadiyya community had intensified, especially after social unrest and parliamentary pressure.

Main Features of the Second Amendment
1. The amendment introduced Clause (3) to Article 260 of the Constitution.
2. It provided a legal definition of a “Muslim” in Pakistan.
3. It declared the Ahmadiyya/Qadiani community as “non-Muslim”.
4. It also amended Article 106, affecting representation in Provincial Assemblies for non-Muslim seats.

Text Inserted by the Amendment
The amendment added the following legal definition:
A Muslim is a person who believes in the unity and oneness of Almighty Allah, the finality of the prophethood of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), and does not believe in any person claiming to be a prophet after Him.

Reasons for Passing the Amendment
• Rising public unrest and religious tensions.
• Pressure from political groups and religious leaders.
• Parliamentary inquiry committees confirming the need for constitutional clarity.
• To maintain social harmony through legal classification.

Impact of the Second Amendment
1. Legal clarity about religious identity within the State.
2. Restructuring of minority representation in legislative bodies.
3. Long-term influence on future legal and political debates.
4. Strengthened the role of religion in constitutional matters.

Criticism
• Widely debated internationally regarding religious freedom.

• Critics argue it further politicized religion.
• Supporters claim it preserved the ideological identity of Pakistan.

Conclusion

The Second Amendment played a pivotal role in shaping the constitutional and religious landscape of Pakistan. Though controversial, its influence on the socio-political structure of the country remains profound. It remains one of the most historically significant amendments in Pakistan's constitutional development.

References

1. Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973.
2. National Assembly Debates (1974).
3. Constitutional Law of Pakistan – Relevant academic articles.