

# Nawaz Sharif – Pakistan's exiled former PM

◆ **Dec 25, 1949:**  
**Niam Nawaz Sharif**  
born Lahore,  
Pakistan

◆ **1970s:** Graduates  
with law degree from  
Punjab University

◆ **1981:** Appointed  
finance minister of  
Punjab Province by  
military government  
of General **Zia-ul-Haq**

◆ **1985:** Sharif  
becomes chief  
minister of Punjab –  
powerful position with  
influence over  
province's industry and agriculture

◆ **1988:** **Benazir Bhutto** becomes  
prime minister. Sharif fiercely opposes  
her – dispute over distribution of  
government funds in Punjab vaults  
him into national spotlight

◆ **1990:** Sharif becomes prime  
minister following president's dismissal  
of Bhutto on corruption charges

◆ **1990-93:** Sharif's bold initiatives,  
including selling off inefficient state  
enterprises, opening stock market to  
foreign capital, and loosening foreign  
exchange restrictions win support from  
**World Bank** and **IMF**



◆ **1993:** President  
**Ghulam Ishaq Khan**  
sacks Sharif,  
accusing him of  
corruption

◆ **1997:** Sharif  
returns to power.  
Amends constitution  
so that president can  
no longer dismiss PM

◆ **1998:** Pakistan  
tests nuclear weapon  
in response to India's  
detonation of five  
nuclear devices. After  
year of deteriorating  
relations with military,

Sharif appoints General **Pervez  
Musharraf** as head of army

◆ **1999:** Pakistani troops infiltrate  
Indian-held Kashmir leading to three-  
month **Kargil conflict**. In ensuing  
crisis Sharif sacks Musharraf – army  
ousts government in bloodless coup

◆ **2000:** Sharif sentenced to 14 years  
in prison for corruption, tax evasion,  
embezzlement, and terrorism. In deal  
brokered by Saudi Arabia sentence  
is reduced to exile

◆ **Aug 2007:** Supreme Court rules  
Sharif can return to Pakistan. Sharif  
says he will return on September 10