

2023

Date:

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Q. The evolution of democratic system has always remained a dilemma in Pakistan, even after ~~planning~~ passing more than seven decades of its existence the democracy could not get its roots. Discuss in detail.

Introduction

Fukuyama's *The End of History and The Last Man* (1992) highlighted that democracy had reigned supreme compared to all other political and government ideologies. E.g., the world's nations strove to achieve the target of democracy. Pakistan too followed suit but struggled to no avail. The structural deficiencies, heterogeneity in the nation, insecurity and staunch resistance are some of many reasons democracy could not get its roots. In this answer, the dilemma of Pakistani democracy will be discussed in detail.

Democracy unable to get its roots in Pakistan even after seven decades
Born a security state

In 1947, Pakistan was granted independence by the British. Soon

after Pakistan realised that relations with its neighbours, India, would be far from amicable to start, India disrupted the water supply of Pakistan and then delayed the distribution of resources to Pakistan. The nail in the coffin was the unlawful infiltration of Kashmir despite it being a Muslim state contiguous with Pakistan. Caught between a rock and a hard place, Pakistan diverted most of its resources to the military instead of developing democratic institutions. An insecure state could only depend on its military might for protection in this scenario (Abdul Sattar, Pakistan's Foreign Policy 1947-2019). Thus, democracy could not develop from the get go which is why Pakistan still struggles today.

Dynastic politics - opposite of democracy


Pakistan has a handful of political parties that have ruled the country. The political parties are such that the set up is such that the chairmanship is passed between family members. ~~As~~ They haven't adopted democratic ideals but instead rule like monarchs ~~to~~ ^{few} newcomers have seen the sunlight compared to the familiar faces for the last few decades. This is against democracy ~~that~~ (Hawid Khan, Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan, 2017). This is

against democracy as not everyone is given an equal chance and people are unable to elect representatives that they truly want/need

Constant military intervention

Democracy has ~~not~~ been unable to hold its ground because just when political ~~part~~ representatives were elected democratically, the military would use the notion of necessity and takeover. Since Pakistan's independence, the country has seen military rule 4 times and for approximately 33 years, military intervention disrupted democracy to such an extent that democratic institutions could not develop (Ayesha Jalal, The Struggle for Pakistan). Hence, even after seventy years Pakistan has struggled with democracy despite consistent civilian rule since 2008, the country has been far from democratic.

Absence of strong personalities especially in the beginning

Jinnah was the only strong personality at the time of independence. He had the ability to guide the people and was able to unite them. As said by Stanley Wolpert 

"Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Muhammad Ali Jinnah did all three"

Jinnah was the only source of inspiration who advocated strongly for democracy. After he died shortly after independence in 1948, leaving a unstable and insecure country that lacked guidance. Powerful and ill-intentioned people took the rights ^{of the country} and democracy took a nose-dive. Hence, democracy was a challenge in the beginning and precipitated throughout the 50 years of Pakistan's existence.

Feudalism: chink in the armour of democracy

Pakistan is marked with backwardness and medieval institutions such as feudalism. The British in ^{Britain} Europe was able to eliminate feudalism but left this evil institution in its former colony, Pakistan. Feudals essentially mentally enslave the people of their area and ensure that they remain in power in exchange for providing basic needs of the people (if that)* Democracy ~~could~~ could not flourish as feudalism infiltrated the government system. Any votes to political representatives ~~are~~ are in areas where feudalism

ic prevalent is not the will of the people but feudal loyalty of the impoverished and emotionally and physically blackmailed masses. * (Anatol Lieven, Pakistan: A Hard Country)

Ethnic loyalty - not rational thinking and meritocracy guides politics

Pakistan is ethnically diverse and this challenges democracy. Heterogeneity entails that each group votes for their own in-group and is against their out-group. For instance, Sindhis tend to vote for PPP and Punjabis tend to vote for PML-N because of the ethnic make-up of the party that appeals to them. (Anatol Lieven, Pakistan: A Hard Country). This is far from the notion of democracy that entail ~~democracy~~ meritocracy and betterment of the country. ~~It~~ This thought-process has continued since the country's inception and still persists today after 76 years.

Constitutional amendments to attain power and shun democracy

Article 58 2(b) was ~~for~~ been used as a tool to maintain unsurmountable power. Through this amendment ~~that~~ the National Assembly can be dissolved by the President who ~~can~~ wielded ultimate authority. This dismissed democracy as only one person could give the government decisions of the whole country and the will of the people was ignored. Amendments 8 and 17 brought about by Zia ul Haq and Pervez Musharraf respectively were used to diminish democracy. Hence constitutional amendments have been used as tools to ~~diminish~~ ^{harm} democracy (Hamid Khan, Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan, 2017). Even now, there are talks to change the 18th amendment which entails that after 76 years, democracy has not taken its roots.

Changing entire constitutions harms democracy

Pakistan has had 3 constitutions throughout its history. The first one was in 1956, 9 years after independence, which only lasted 2 years. The next one was in 1962 which was flawed and unicameral in nature and did not work as it was undemocratic.

Finally the 1973 constitution took root but has faced 26 amendments and has also been suspended by General Musharraf. This was Zia ul Haq. This has culminated into democracy being left as an essential tool for democracy since as the constitution has faced constant changes.

Elected Prime Ministers unable to complete their term

Despite civilian governments elected chronologically since 2008, no prime minister has completed his term. Democracy would entail that the term in office be completed by the representative elected by the common man. However, this is far from the case.

Democracy seen as a western concept and resisted by Islamic clerics

Anything that is seen as western is resisted by the fundamentalists of Pakistan. Democracy is seen as an invention of western civilization which is

not the case as democracy was advocated for by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and was practiced by the Rightly Guided Caliphs. However, Islamic clerics resist democracy and that is one of the reasons why democracy has not taken root even after 70 years.

Scarcity of choice in the political arena

There are only a handful of parties in Pakistan that people can choose from. Only 4 parties come to mind that have an actual shot of winning, PML-N, PPP, PTI and IJI-F at the moment. Pakistan has always provided a lack of choice and democracy cannot take root with parties that have limited ideas to offer and have minimum initiatives. Malcha Lodhi highlighted that each party offers the same thing to the public so differentiating between them and innovative thoughts are missing. According to Amir Rana, a Dream Party would promote democracy and offer more than is currently being offered. Hence, throughout history, the public has lacked choice to ensure democracy.

Absence of females in politics

Benazir Bhutto has been the only female prime minister of Pakistan. Pakistan has lacked the female touch in the political realm. Where countries have progressed and are striving for gender equality, Pakistan lags behind. Democracy would ensure that women are present in large numbers but social barriers have prevented this. "No nation can rise to the height of its glory unless you women are side by side with you" (Ginnah).

Why low voter turnout trend has ensured democracy does not take root

Pakistanis have unfortunately lacked faith in democratic institutions in Pakistan. In ^{the average} ~~Israel~~, for example, voter turnout for the past nine general elections is just a little over 45%. ^{*} which means that over half the voters don't even participate in elections. ^{*} Democracy requires mass opinion to be taken into consideration and general

will of the people be heard. Hence, democracy has not taken root as people don't even participate in elections. * (Ahmed Bilal Mubhoob, votes turnout fault lines, 2022).

Normalisation of usurpation of power

It has become the norm in Pakistan when ~~the~~ authoritarian leaders take the reins of the country without the public's consent. The average citizen stands by and democracy is put on the backburner. When such normalisation ensues, it is easy for powerful leaders to ~~of~~ ~~take~~ ~~up~~ ~~positions~~ ~~of~~ ~~authority~~ without consent. This ensures that democracy cannot take root as people have normalised usurpation of power.

Critical analysis

The constitution of Pakistan has always been used as an accessory instead of the ultimate law of the land. It was either completely ceased or used for narrow means and manipulated by interested parties. Even now, it reads more as a magazine

that is not taken seriously and thrown away when deemed of no use (Basil Nabi Malik, No grand plan, 2023). Compared to western countries such as The US that uses the constitution as the supreme law of the land. Moreover, democratic institutions are placed in democratic countries and are worked on to promote consistent democracy. Condoleezza Rice refers to the critical nature of institutions in her book Democracy: Stories from the Long Road to Freedom (2017), calling them the 'scaffolding for democracy'. Because India saw the long-term goal and had abundant resources and structures on their side of the border, they were able to become the largest democracy in the world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, democracy was not taken root in Pakistan due to several unfortunate factors. When Pakistan started to make progress it was pulled down by ill-intentioned forces that didn't see the long-term goals. Instead, a ~~narrow~~ narrow goal was prioritised and the common man suffered just as he is today.

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8 Industrialization is the backbone of the modern economic system and uplifts the standard of living of the masses. Elaborate causes for the hindrances of industrial development in Pakistan.

Introduction

Pakistan has the potential to reach great economic heights. The country is rich in natural resources and endowed with a young and eager population. These God-given advantages are not utilized.

Rather, hindrances are created that ensure that Pakistan cannot progress and industrial development is not achieved.

The causes for the hindrances to industrial development can be divided into economic, political, social and external segments. Each work in concert with each other to block Pakistan's aim of industrial development.

Economic causes for the hindrances of industrial development in Pakistan
Energy crisis precipitates into lack of industrial development

Pakistan is marred by an energy crisis that takes a major toll on industrial progress. An industry cannot function to its full capacity without a consistent supply of power. In the summer of 2023, the shortfall was well above the 7000 megawatts. While the world was making mammoth industrial progress, Pakistan between 2007 to 2016 faced ~~as~~ loadshedding of approximately 8 hours a day on average in urban centres and 18 hours a day in rural areas. This was a major reason for lack of industrial progress which culminated into Pakistan falling behind and suffering today.


Expensive power and the opportunity costs to industrial development

The domestic ^{unit} charges to vary from 35 to 65 ~~per~~ PKR. In commercial sectors, the charges vary from 48 to 90 PKR per unit cost. The prices have more than doubled in the last two years. ~~This~~ This money utilized on basic energy needs could ~~be~~ have been used to fuel industrial progress. Energy takes the largest slice of the resource pie and limited resources are left to create better products and investment in more efficient machinery. This proves to be a challenge to industrial development.

Government intervention where free market mechanisms should ensue.

~~According to~~ Patrist The government frequently infiltrates areas of free progress where they are not needed. According to Adam Smith's invisible hand theory, the market can correct itself based on market forces of demand and supply. When the government constantly intervenes, it disrupts the efficiency of the market which leads to impediments to industrial development. Moreover, the intervention is not well-thought out in most cases and policies are usually knee-jerk reactions which don't account for sustainable long-term solutions. This is a major ^{cause} of hindrance to industrial development.

IMF reliance: a curse disguised as a blessing

Structural efficiencies ensure that industrial development is achieved. The IMF, however, is used as a means to save Pakistan from economic doom without accounting for the structural remedies that are needed. The IMF is good at stabilisation, but not so good at sustainable growth. (Mustaq Khan, )

Much more is needed, 2023). The IMF has failed Pakistan and been a hindrance, cause in industrial growth. IMF focuses on economic policies that follow the Occidental model which ~~often~~ fails to account for indigenous solutions that would suit Pakistan. This hinders industrial growth. Even after 22 attempts, the IMF has failed to provide a sustainable path for Pakistan (Mohammad Zuhair Khan, Has the IMF failed Pakistan?, 2023).

Forgotten promises of expanding the tax base according to the NFC.

The National Finance Commission (2010) ~~has~~ set out to expand the Tax to GDP ratio to 15%. However, it has failed to achieve this target and stands at lower than 9%. The absence of tax revenue for the government is telling of the industrial deficiencies in Pakistan where the government does not have resources to fix the broken industrial structure, development cannot be achieved. This fuels the causes to the hindrances to industrial development which requires massive capital and resource investment.

Underutilization of resources

Pakistan is blessed with natural resources that are underutilized to a large extent. These could be used to fuel industrial growth. For example, raw materials from resource-rich Balochistan could be used to propel existing industries, as well as form new industries. The absence of initiative and political turmoil are causes for the underutilization of resources to fuel industrial growth.

Political causes for hindrance to industrial development

Nationalisation and the promotion of inefficiency

Nationalisation in Pakistan has done more harm than good. It has led to inefficiencies and has contributed to the bottlenecks of industrial development. Where a profit maximisation incentive is missing, industrial growth cannot be achieved. According to Atif Qureshi in his book Pakistan: Manifest Destiny (2009), Pakistan has been marked by socialistic policies that

haven't worked and are also un-Islamic. When private property is arbitrarily usurped by the government, industrial progress cannot be achieved. Nationalisation has contributed to an unproductive industrial sector and culminated into development being hindered.

Bureaucratic hurdles and red-tapism igniting industrial bottlenecks

Industrial development requires a bureaucracy and government that encourage growth. However, Pakistan falls on the far end of the spectrum when it comes to ease of doing business. The country ranks at 108 out of 190 in the Ease of Doing Business Index (2022). This acts as a hindrance to industrial development as industrialists have to jump through hoops to get even the most basic and mundane tasks done, let alone major tasks.

Absence of Democracy and its ^{cause} negative impacts on industrial development

Absence of Democracy: and the negative cause to hindrances in industrial progress

Democracy in Pakistan is a farce!

concept. The will of the general ~~pop~~ population is ~~not~~ ^{rarely} taken into account when formulating policies and carrying out decisions. This translates into the absence of business-friendly policies that would provide industrial development. For instance, in the constitutional and political history of Pakistan (Hamid Khan, 2017) the implications of dynastic politics and absence of democracy are highlighted. This fuels ~~other~~ impediments to progress.

Oscillating political policies and insecurity in the industrial sector

A game of musical chairs ~~is~~ takes place in the Pakistan government. Governments aren't granted the privilege of completing their term and with every new government, policies are also changed. Riaz Riazuddin ~~writes~~ highlighted in his article in Dawn that the economic policies are not monitored to see if they work as every couple of years another government comes to power and completely disavows the economic policies in place to put new ones. ~~The~~ Each new policy is



claimed to be the ultimate solution. These constant fluctuations render the industrial sector insecure as they industrial activities have to be revamped to suit the new power. These fluctuations are one of the major causes of hindering industrial development.

Social causes that wipe out industrial progress in Pakistan

An illiterate population cannot fuel industrial progress

Human resource of a country is the ultimate means of progress in all fields. An illiterate and unskilled population cannot hope to promote industrial development. The illiteracy rate in Pakistan currently stands at approximately 40%. (Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training). Moreover, even the seemingly literate and educated people are not taught the skills necessary for professional environments. Rather, the focus is on cramming and passing structured examinations (Neda Mulji, skills vacuum, 2023). Hence, an incapable and unskilled labour force is a reason or cause of absence of industrial

growth.

Women restricted to the four walls of their homes, unable to contribute to industrial development

"No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you"
 Jinnah - Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Where half the population is unable to contribute to industrial development, Pakistan cannot hope to remove its ills. The women's lack of participation due to social stigma and cultural misogyny are causes to women not adding to the development of the country. Hence, this proves to be a bottleneck for industrial progress as only males dominate this field and the female perspective is absent along with the much needed ~~add~~ additional work force.

Rampant corruption hindering industrial development

Corruption is a major reason for the lack of industrial progress. Corruption leads to the system not operating to its full capacity and

market forces being skewed to favour undeserving individuals. The most efficient and profitable industries are unable to make progress because of corruption & Pakistan ranks 140/180 in the Corruption Perception Index in 2022. This indicates that ~~corrupt~~ corruption is part and parcel of the system and in turn leads to inefficient use of resources and ^{hindrance to} lack of industrial growth.

Conclusion

In conclusion, industrial progress faces impediments due to many reasons. Industrial development is achieved when the country is doing well in other domains such as politics, ^{and} society. ~~and~~ Pakistan lacks these stable structures. The country struggles to achieve basic targets so development takes a backseat. Thus, social, political and economic causes discussed in the answer hinder industrial development of Pakistan.