



# Polarized politics: the issues and challenges of democracy in Pakistan

Outline جیسا کہ democracy میں rights, equality etc. کا تقیاض کر کے کہہ سکتے ہیں۔

1- Introduction ptz ameer - issues / challenges of polarized politics

**Thesis statement.** Pakistan, unfortunately, is facing several issues and challenges of democracy due to political polarization. Political unawareness among public, arrest of political leaders, delay election process etc are few among debated arguments. These issue and challenges demand proactive solutions to strengthen democracy in Pakistan.

2- A glance at relationship between polarized politics and democracy

3- Political polarization as a major issue of democracy in Pakistan

a) People's unawareness of political, social, and human rights

b) Arrest of political leaders such as, Dr. Yasmeen Rashid, Miskeel Bukhari, Shireen Mazer etc.

c) Establishment of military courts for civil trials

d) Abuse of political power against opposition and other political parties

e) Control of media freedom on the basis of politicking

No need to mention names



f) Corruption accusations against each other to provoke  
minds of ~~young~~ <sup>Youth</sup>

#### 4- Challenges to democracy of Pakistan due to political polarization

- Negation and delay ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> election process
- Lack of accountability in all tiers of government
- Failure of rule of law due to politicizing
- Fragile transparency mechanism of the country
- Prevalence of clashes between institutions of the state
- Weak checks and balance ~~power~~ <sup>System</sup>
- Federalism conflict in the name of incomplete devolution

#### 5- Proactive strategies to curb political polarization for supremacy of democracy in Pakistan

- Strengthen rule of law as ~~requirement~~ <sup>requirement</sup> for all
- Focus on education to remove political illiteracy among nation
- Engage in active civic relations
- Awareness campaign on political awareness through media

#### 6- Conclusion

## Negation and delay election process

Polarized politics has challenges to democracy in Pakistan, chief among them is negation and delay election process. Pakistan faces the delay of its election process every time when there is a need of free and fair election throughout the country. Growing political polarization has also delayed election process recently. "After the vote of no-confidence passing against prime minister, Imran Khan, election in Punjab and KPK was delayed." (Pew Research Centre, 2023). This shows how polarized politics leads to a challenge to democracy as delay election process.

The result of delay in election process

Not only this, but lack of accountability in all tiers of government has also become a challenge to democracy in Pakistan. No doubt, polarized politics has threatened the country's accountability mechanism for political interests, rather than democratic norms. As a result, Pakistan has shaped a bad image regarding accountability at global level. As per report, "Pakistan ranks 140th out of 180 countries in accountability perception." (The International Transparency Report, 2023). Hence, polarized

zed politics has weakened accountability in all  
tiers of the government.

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