

Topic: Far Reaching Effects of Political Instability in Pakistan.

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Pakistan has been struggling with threatening issue of political instability since inception. It is posing wide range of problems in country's international and national realms. However, by taking adequate measures, Pakistan can ensure stable political system.

2. Reasons of Political Instability in Pakistan.

- a. Inherent institutional imbalance
- b. Dilemma of free and fair elections
- c. Horse trading culture among political leaders
- d. Rampant corruption among political elite

3. Effects of Political Instability in Pakistan

- a. Pakistan image in international arena is deteriorating
- b. Continual shift in foreign policy is affecting its relation with other countries
- c. Eroding country's democratic evolution
- d. Severe Governance Issue
- e. Losing confidence of investors
- f. Declining economic growth
- f. Depleting foreign reserves

- g. Causing massive inflation.
- h. Posing danger for national integration
- i. Providing room to violent non state actors

4. Recommendations to strengthen political system of Pakistan.

a. Pakistan need to adopt policy of reconciliation

b. consensus based reforms in election commission

c. Judiciary must play active role in curbing horse trading.

5. ~~the~~ conclusion.

The history of politics dates back to earlier human organization in the form of foraging bands. Each member of the band tried to influence the collective affair of the band in a best possible manner. With the evolution, these bands transform into the tribes, community, and the modern nation state. In this transformation, the concept of politics undergone revolutionary changes. Throughout this political journey, modern humans have hammered out many deductive and interpretive tools for playing politics.

However, for some nations these tools are creating unstable political system.

Pakistan is one of them. Political instability is rampant in Pakistan since inception. It is mainly attributed to country's inherent institutional imbalance, dilemma of free and fair election, polarized politics and corruption of political elite. Unstable political system is posing massive complication and hindrance in almost every landscape. In international arena, Pakistan's image is deteriorating, and its foreign policy is continually shifting. Also, it is affliction country's democratic evolution and posing severe governance issues. Political turmoil is also creating repercussion in economic sector. This can be evident from investor's nonconfidence, declining economic growth, massive inflation and depleting foreign

reserves of the current political turmoil. In addition to this, it is causing hindrance in development sector, providing room to violent non state actors, and posing danger for national integration of the country. Therefore, in order to create stable political system in Pakistan, political leaders must adopt the policy of reconciliation. Furthermore, consensus based reforms in the election commission and vigilant role of judiciary in curbing horse trading is the need of an hour. In a nutshell, Pakistan has been struggling with the threatening issue of political instability which is posing wide range of problem in country's international and national realms. However by taking adequate measure, Pakistan can ensue stable political system.

Political instability in Pakistan is not a new phenomenon. Pakistan has been witnessing it since inception. After the independence, country's democratic institutes were weaker than country's military and bureaucratic institute. Also, immediate border security issues compelled Pakistan to strengthen its military institutes. Resultantly, Pakistan's

military strength reached to the point to overpower democratic institutions. This can be evident from the fact ^{that} in Pakistan's 75 years of history, there is approximately 35 years of direct military rule. Also: Although, 18th amendment has curbed the direct military involvement in politics, but there is always an element of military whenever there is political instability. After Dawn leaks, PM Nawaz Sharif was removed. He also accused then ~~chief~~ COAS for ousting him in his speeches. Currently, Ex PM Imran Khan accused the same COAS for conspiring against him in vote of no-confidence. Hence institutional imbalance particularly civil-military divide play a significant role in creating political instability.

After the institutional imbalance, the second prominent factor in the domain of political instability is the dilemma of free and fair election. General elections in Pakistan mostly resulted into mass protest and riots. The defeated parties usually do not accept the validity of the result and accuse election leaders of rigging. The election of 1977, resulted into massive protest: countrywide against

winning political party i.e PDP. ~~It~~ Ultimately this turmoil led to the promulgation of Emergency martial law. The elections of ~~2008~~ 2013 resulted into longest protest of country's history in Islamabad, which ultimately disturbed many political developments. Currently, after the election of 2018, opposition leader blamed establishment of rigging and termed the elected Prime Minister as, selected. The questionable election provides to opposition parties ^a reason to disturb the political developments by doing mass protest. Hence, election process and its result always carry high weightage in political development of Pakistan.

Furthermore, rampant corruption among the political heads has ~~been~~ a cause of political instability. Banned corruption is widely accepted norm among the leaders in Pakistan. This is common in almost all the sectors in Pakistan. But, corruption becomes a matter of grave concern when country's political head is involved in it. For instance, Faruk period (1988-1991) is the period of huge political instability. The main cause of it was the indulgence of Prime ministers in corruption. Then

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and PM Nawaz Sharif's
was governments was removed by President
Chalam Iqbal Khan on the pretext of corruption.
Similarly in the recent history, ~~the~~
corruption scandal of Nawaz Sharif under
Panama case became the main reason for
his ouster. Therefore involvement of political
head in corruption has also become the
fore runner of political instability.

Moreover, horse trading is also an
integral part of political instability. In
~~Pakistan~~, In the political history of Pakistan,
it can be witnessed only twice that ruling
party form government ~~with~~ on his own.
Mainly coalition government is formed
with the accumulation of smaller parties.
Sometimes leading parties do horse trading to
form govt. In 1988, PPP emerged as a
leading party, but in order to form govt
the then PPP leader use horse trading.

Eventually, this horse trading became one
of the causes to dissolved her government.

("Political & instability: a case study of Pakistan")
Recently, horse trading has been witnessed
in the dissolution of PTI government. social
media ~~was~~ is full of the videos of

Sindh house, where the ministers of coalition government were being bribed. From the aforementioned examples, it can be deduced that horse trading is the driving force of political instability.

The above mentioned factors of political instability are causing huge demeritisation in almost all sectors for Pakistan. To begin with, the inner political turmoil, particularly the current turmoil, is deteriorating Pakistan's image in international arenas. Political stability is prerequisite for a country to strengthen its position and put forward its interests ^{effectively} in international forums. Therefore, ~~the~~ ~~off~~ ~~Pakistan~~ ~~Pakistan~~ In this regard, Pakistan's stance on providing rights to Kashmir, Afghanistan and Palestine becomes weaker (Political Instability: A case study of Pakistan). A country needs to strengthen itself internally through political stability in order to put forward the demands of the rights of other countries. Therefore, political instability is weakening Pakistan's image internationally.

Moreover, ~~with~~ the political instability also reflects in countries foreign policy. Foreign policy ~~is~~ ^{is the} reflection of countries national interests deemed by the political head of the country. But the rampant culture of ~~para~~ polarized politics, caused shifting in countries foreign policy with the change in leadership. This also afflict the relationship with other countries. The pro-communist foreign policy of PTI government helped in developing stronger bond with Russia and China. This can be witness, when ~~the~~ Ex PM Imran Khan was invited by China in the opening ceremony of winter olympics. However, the foreign policy of current government is not similar to its ~~pre~~ predecessor. Currently, China has shown ~~this~~ his concerned regarding CPEC owing to this distrust in the leadership (Dawn News). Hence, unstable changing in leadership also afflict country relations with other other countries.

In addition to this, political instability, also erode democratic evolution of the country. According to V-Dem, political stability smooth transition of power is pre condition for democratic evolution in the country.

In case of Pakistan, no prime minister has completed his term in the office. Also, ~~Pakistan~~ owing to country's ^{weak} democratic development, Economist Intelligence Unit termed Pakistan as a hybrid regime. This makes crystal clear that political instability is inversely proportional to democratic evolution of a country.

Also, changing policy shift in domestic arenas is posing grave governance issue.

The greatest concern in governance sector of Pakistan is intermittent changes in policy with the change in government. Political instability makes this change more frequent. Malika Lodhi, in her article in Dawn, pointed out this effect. She said that Pakistan doesn't didn't lack capacity for policy development for effective governance; It lacked smooth imple- mentations of crafted policy. The main hurdle in policy implementation, she pointed, is sporadic changes in the leadership. Hence, political instability is not posing causing severe governance problems.

~~In the~~ econ

In the development sector, political instability is causing the ~~the~~ investors to lose confidence.

~~Investors are, interest interested~~

According to SBP, FDI decreases by 7% after the current political turmoil. The lack of FDI is posing a grim picture for countries, industrial, energy and agricultural sectors; ~~Pakistan~~ ~~is~~. Recently, Saudi ~~Arabia~~ Arabia shows his reluctance to invest in energy sector. Also, chairman, textile forum of Pakistan, said, in his press conference in December last year that after ~~concurrent~~ concurrent political instability, textile sector has seen substantial decrease in foreign investment. He attributed political instability to be one of the causes of decrease in investments. Hence, it can be concluded that lack of investments is mainly due to political instability in a country.

Furthermore, the instable political systems also declines the economic growth of the country. It is widely accepted notion among the political scholars that economic growth is interlinked with the stable political systems. Therefore, countries that have stable government see substantial increase in their economy. In this regard, Example of ^{India} is well suited. Despite being the global economic recession, India's economy

is continued to grow. World Bank in his annual report of 2022, predicted that India's economic growth will increase by 6pc in 2023. World Bank gives several reasons for India's growth, one of them is its stable political system. This allows India in smooth implementation of its economic policies. On the contrary, the same report predicts that Pakistan GDP growth will slow down to 2pc in 2023, World Bank pointed multifaceted challenges for declining economic growth in Pakistan one of them is current political instability. Therefore, it can be inferred with confidence that political instability directly affects country's economic growth.

In addition to reducing economic growth, political instability in Pakistan is causing massive decline in its reserves. According to SBP, Islamabad's foreign reserves stand at \$11bn in April last year. But, after the sudden change of power, SBP ~~stand~~ endure massive decline in its reserves. Currently, SBP has \$5bn reserves. (www.sbp.com). According to analyst, these reserves are 8 year lowest and only have

the capacity to meet the imports of 4 weeks. Islamabad's meagre forex reserves paints a gloomy picture. The country is facing severe repercussions in debt financing. It is posing a threat of country's default. In this scenario, Pakistan's finance minister, Ishaq Dar, is trying his best to get IMF bailout package. It is evident from Pakistan's history with IMF, that IMF bailout packages caused more harm than good in a long run. Hence, ~~Depletion~~ depletion of forex reserves owing to political instability is of grave concern.

Apart from declining states reserves, political instability also brings with it self huge inflation. The current scenario of inflation in Pakistan is gruesome which is mainly attributed to current political turmoil apart from global disturbance in demand and supply. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, inflation rate reaches to 28 pc in January 2023. This rate was 15 pc in when PTI govt left the office. The high inflation rate is posing huge burden on lower and middle classes. Hence, instable political system constitutes

chief role in exponential increase in inflation rate.

High inflation rate owing to political instability, coupling with massive destruction done by flood, is causing severe threat to national security. The main goals set by the government last year in national security policy included economic security, social security and food security. But, the current political turbulence is causing national security policy to fail. High inflation rate is creating food insecurity, malnutrition among the masses. Poor people are lacking capacity to buy food according to their need. ~~Analyst~~ The main affected people are of Sindh and Balochistan. There are almost 23m people affected by flood and lost their livelihood.. in Sindh and Balochistan (World bank annual report 2022). ~~Government~~ Furthermore, international organizations ^{request} ask confidence from government to provide it with the assistance for the flood affectedes. Hence government incapacity owing to political instability is causing the neglect of flood affectedes. which is bowing seeds of national disintegration.

One of the recent emerging threat owing to political turbulence is the reemergence of the violent non-state actors. The outgoing government had signed ceasefire agreement with TTP. But with the change of government in Islamabad, TTP called off the ceasefire agreement. Recently, traces of resurgence of TTP is found in the areas of KPK (Dawn News). TTP always take advantage of turbulence in political landscape. Previously, during the protest of PTI in Islamabad, TTP attacked Army Public School Peshawar. And now-a-days, it is also making most of the political turmoil in order to regain its control in tribal areas of KPK. The resurgence of TTP is of grave concern that is mainly attributed to political disturbance in the country.

Although, political instability is causing disturbance in almost every domain, yet by taking adequate measures Pakistan can ensure stable political system. The foremost measure to adopt in this regard is to support the policy of reconciliation in Pakistan. can not afford to politics of confrontation in the face of grim economic situation. The treasury and opposition

readers must play their constructive role by putting aside their ~~political~~ personal interest. In order to highlight To shed light on the importance of their ~~the~~ relationship, Ivor Jennings, a British lawyer, said in his book that the government governs and the opposition criticises constructively. Failure to understand this fundamental truth, which is the basic principle of parliamentary democracy, paves the way for political instability and replacement of democratic government with autocratic regime ("Cabinet Government"). Hence, Policy of reconciliation, can save political system of Pakistan from military involvement and thus can ensure political stability to a greater extent.

Furthermore, in order to solve the dilemma of free and fair election, Government need to craft consensus based reform electoral reform. ~~For this~~ Many countries have undertaken electoral reforms to pave way for impartial election. In this regard, the example of Mexico and Kenya is crucial for Pakistan. The substandard election in 1990s and 2000s in Mexico and Kenya, resulted into massive social unrest and protest. But after the culmination of electoral reforms, both countries has ensured transparent

elections. (Democracy and Transparency)
It is ^{also} a need of an hour for Pakistan. Therefore, carry out electoral reforms based on mutual consideration of all parties to ensure stable political system.

Also, in order to curb rampant culture of horse trading, the Judiciary of Pakistan need to show its resolute. Although, after 14th amendment, horse trading is legally ban in Pakistan, it is still practice with impunity. ~~Therefore, in order to~~ Therefore, judiciary should set straunch punishment that ^{could} act as a detrence to other political leaders. In this regard, banning political leaders who are charged with horse trading with for 10 to 15 years can play vital role to discourage this culture. ~~among the~~ In this way, Judiciary can play constructive role in ending ~~the~~ one of the main causes of political instability in Pakistan.

To sum up, this essay, it can be said that Pakistan has deep roots of political instability. It is due to the fact ^{that} Pakistan inherit this from his birth. The main cause of instable politics is civil-military divide, questionable election, horse trading and corrupt prime ministers. The consequences of Political instability is found in almost all sectors: be it international relation, governance, economy, or national security. Therefore, political turbulence is posing sheer challenge for the growth of Pakistan. However, by taking suitable measures, political turmoil can be reduced. For this purpose, politicians need to adopt policy of reconciliation and do consensus based reforms in election commission of Pakistan. Also, judiciary of Pakistan needs to play its due role in this regard. Political stability in Pakistan is not an illusion to achieve

To put it in the words of Nelson Mandela,
"It always seems impossible until it's
done. Therefore, a fore mentioned measures can
pave way for a stable political
system in Pakistan.