

TOPIC:

: THE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN:

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Political instability in Pakistan has far-reaching effects in the form of economic meltdown, declining state institutions & depleting foreign reserves and lack of foreign direct investments. Stability remains an important factor in the effective working of state institutions. Political instability leads a country toward default because it compromises the core values of a state like national integration, center province relations and the cooperation of state institutions. There are multiple factors contributing to political instability including military interventions in politics, greed of politicians, horse trading etc.

The track record of political stability in Pakistan is regretful. Since the independence of Pakistan, the state has been bearing the direct and indirect interventions of state institutions. The Founding Father of Pakistan had envisaged a democratic country for us but unfortunately it had experienced autocratic and dictatorial powers over the

past seventy-five years. In such situations, Pakistan faced political instability in the form of dictatorship and then in the form of terrorism after 2007.

Pakistan has borne three martial laws in its history which are leading factor even in current political instability in Pakistan. Military take over puts the democratic system to halt and the public opinion remains unpopular that further exacerbates the political instability. Almost thirty years of direct military interventions in the history of Pakistan have left deep effects in the political system of Pakistan that remain unresolved till the date.

Political affiliations of political leaders with dictators, in order to gain power, in the past, was against the democratic norms. The Greed of political leaders for power leads the country to decline, without addressing the existing threats and opportunities. Their desire to acquire political power has made the politics a controversial

subject. And controversies always lead to instability of current situations of the country.

Political coalitions has become a trend now a days which is a pleasant phenomena of today's politics because most of political parties got representation in the government. But at the other hand the evil of horse trading has also become a hindrance in the way of political stability. Some ministers deviate from their party's core values because they get money by doing this. Horse trading turns the whole political system of a country upside down.

Role of establishment has remained suspicious since last seven decades. The formation of a government and the deformation always being related to establishment by the people. Political stability has always been remained \neq under the influence of unseen force of establishment.

Most of the political parties of Pakistan are family-centered. There is no importance of intra-party elections in these parties despite the article 234 of the Constitution of Pakistan calls upon the intra-party elections. Thus these parties exert pressure on state institutions and try to mold the situations which best suit their personal gains. This state of affairs further accelerates the political instability.

When a country faces the political instability, the economy always declines of such country. Political instability diverts the attention of politicians from policy making to securing their positions. They show extreme reluctance to the wellbeing of people and to the economy of country. Political chaos in the country do not let the policy makers to think and legislate about the economic situation, improvement of exports and mitigation of balance of payment crises.

Political instability further affects the national integration because it moves society to multipolarity. The multiple poles of the society do not allow the nation to cooperate with each other on common terms. Lack of national integrity pave a way toward the statement of public relations that further increase the chances of instability inside the society.

A country with a political chaos is less productive in terms of trade with other countries. Pakistan's foreign reserves are decreasing with a fast pace because of mistrust of foreign Pakistanis over the incumbent government. Lack of remittances can also be related with the political instability because diaspora always consider the default of country that is related with stability of political situation.

Political stability attracts the foreign direct investment but unfortunately in case of Pakistan, it could not attract FDIs because of instability.

Foreign Investors remain hesitant to make investments and to make deals with politically instable countries. Because they have fear of losing their investments due to changing political environment. They also have fear that if they make a deal with a government and the next government does not cooperate with them, their investment would go in vain.

In the history of Pakistan, not even a single Prime Minister has completed his five year tenure. Because before his completion, motion of vote of no-confidence remained always ready. Political affiliations and horse trading has always been used to oust the Prime Minister. Political instability leads ^{the parliamentarians} toward the motion of vote of no-confidence. Hence, in a term of five years, two Prime Ministers with different political vision and strategy affects the stability of the political system in a negative way.

House trading and vote of no-confidence compels the incumbent government that has majority in the two or more provincial assemblies, to vacate the office of Prime Minister. Thus inculcating the rivalry among the federation and federating units it leads them to misuse the state machinery in pursuit of their political gains.

Political instability further provides space to militant and separatist organizations to perform their malicious attacks. The considerations of the policy makers deviate from national security policy to party security policy and hence the non state actors get a space to do their work. Militant insurgency in FATA and Baluchistan performed their deadliest attacks in recent past due to political instability in the country.

There are certain precautionary measures to stabilize the political system of Pakistan. First of all is to refrain establishment meddling in the affairs of

state. All the state institutions including establishment should play their due role that is provided within the constitutional constraints. Interference of establishment should be criminalized through proper legislation.

Political awareness campaigns should be started to remove political differences among masses and the political parties should resolve their disputes through dialogue. All the disputes among federation and its units should be resolved through Council of Common Interest. CCI should pay due heed to both (government and opposition) to provide a balanced decision.

Governments should be allowed to complete its tenure irrespective of their performance during the tenure. This will help to get the benefits of long term policies made by governments. Political instability can be reduced by refraining the opposition from victories against the government.

One of the main reasons of regime change operation is horse trading. Necessary legislation should be incurred to discourage horse trading. Convictions of the cases of horse trading should be made necessary to avoid regime change operations in future. This factor will also help in reducing political instability that was inculcated among the masses through popular narrative of horse trading.

Center province is a mandatory factor of stable political systems. Provinces should be encourage to hold their reservations over the matters of its scrutiny but within the limitations of Constitution. Otherwise provinces should obey the orders of the centre and political parties should not allowed to put the Center-province relation in a difficult situation.

Political instability in Pakistan is a crucial matter for the future developments of the South Asia in general and in the region in particular. Political instability in Pakistan affects the social, economic

and political life of the people of Pakistan. Political stability of Pakistan lies in the reforms of current political system of Pakistan. All the hurdles in the way of stability should be identified and mitigated accordingly.