

Intense political polarization is mother of all evils in Pakistan

## Outline

1- Introduction

2- Grim picture of the worst political scenario created in Pakistan

3- How political polarization is mother of all evils in Pakistan

### A- Security challenges resulted by political rift

(i). Political rift is distracting the civil-military machinery from countering terrorism

(ii). Growing hybrid warfare in the country is assisted by political segregation

(iii). Internal peace is at stake owing to political instability

### B. Economic Impacts of political polarization

(i). Unsafe environment ~~is~~ created by political segregation is major cause of reduction in the FDI

(ii). Daily <sup>political</sup> protests and boycotts are hampering the economic growth of the country

(iii) - Owing to political instability, the bad governance and the poor policies are dragging Pakistan to the quagmire of the foreign debt.

### C - Social Impacts of Political Polarization

- (i) - National cohesion and integrity are at stake due to political factionalization.
- (ii) - Political unrest is giving birth to political radicalism and extremism.
- (iii) - The trend of character assassination is increasing in the country in the form of populism.

### D - Impacts of political polarization on democratic norms of the country

- (i) - Rise of undemocratic powers which are aggrovating the political class.
- (ii) - Failure of institutions amid political instability to work within democratic framework.



(iii) - Weak political system is leading to anarchy and disobedience to the Constitution

## 5- Visible measures to root out evils and ensure political stability in Pakistan

- (i) - ~~the~~ Establishing an adhoc national government based on all parties to ensure elections in a timely fashion
- (ii) - Putting political differences aside for security and counter-terrorism collectively
- (iii) - Ensuring institutional inclusiveness to enhance economy of the country
- (iv) - Regulating media outlets with stringent laws to avoid fake political news and propaganda

## 6- Conclusion

On April 04, 2023, the Supreme Court of Pakistan issued its verdict to conduct election of the two provinces on May 14, 2023. Resultantly, many political parties protested, boycotted and disrespected the judiciary. On the other hand, a few political parties welcomed the decision. This short story depicts intense political rift in Pakistan. It is a reflection of social, democratic and economic problems of the country. Owing to political schism, the security of the country is at stake in the form of revival of terrorism. Moreover, the country is going through the worst economic turmoil which is created by weak political system in the form of unsafe environment to attract the investors. Unfortunately, political rift has also divided the entire nation and has given birth to intolerance and ~~and~~ radicalism in the nation. Furthermore, democratic values of the country are at brink due to poor political scenario ~~and~~ which is bringing about evolution of undemocratic powers. Therefore, it is <sup>the</sup> need of hour to



to create political stability and save the country from being a proxy state. In this wake, establishment of adhoc national government is necessary for conducting elections in a timely fashion. Apart from it, regulation of media channels is also imperative to avert populism and political propaganda. Although the country is witnessing the worst economic, political, democratic and social situation due to political schism yet these are still possible options to save it from bankruptcy and political instability.

Since beginning of the year 2022, track of political stability is switching. Presently, there is a big crack among political parties in the <sup>form</sup> of lack of consensus. It is pathetic <sup>that</sup> the democratic country is lacking the opposition which is pillar of democracy. The recent local Government polls of Karschi are evident to the fact that many political parties did not ~~for~~ contested the election and boycotted the polls. As a result, the masses have to

face severe repercussions. However, the country is unable to come out of economic woes due to ~~for~~ political imbroglio.

Following paragraphs would shed light on multiple impacts of political crisis on Pakistan.

On the security front, the political rift has made the country unable to ~~resist~~ counter terrorism. The country is witnessing multiple terrorist attacks on the daily basis. According to the Center for Research and Security Studies, "The deadliest terror attacks are increasing due to outlawed TTP, BLA, IS-KP and G/BG (Gul Bahadur Group)". Owing to lack of political will and absence of civil-military coordination, the ~~gen~~ political terrorists activities from cross-border are not halted. Moreover, distraction of the government from implementing policies to winning election has aggravated the situation. Thus, political rift has pushed both security of land sovereignty of



the country at stake.

Similarly, the roots of hybrid warfare are deepening due to political instability. There is no denying the fact that illicit designs use ~~great~~ internal crack as a tool to spread fake news and propaganda to hamper the sovereignty of a country. In this regard, present political dilemma of Pakistan is playing key role to be media tool to fulfill the anti-Pakistan wishes of enemies. The supporters of one political parties share illegal, unethical and fake news about the other political parties without confirming it. It is vice-versa. In this way, external factors are leading the nation into to crisis in the form of political crack.

In the same vein, internal peace is at stake owing to political impasse. Across the country, daily street crimes, robbery and killing have become the fate of the nation during this political crisis. According



to the report of Gallup-2022,  
"Crime ratio has increased by  
fifty-one per cent in a single year  
of 2022". Due to disable writ  
of execution, perpetrators are  
adding woes to the common man.  
In the words of <sup>former</sup> SSP - Kashmiri,  
Iqbal Baloch "In the northern  
Sindh daily kidnapping and robbery  
are at peak". Hence, it reveals that  
political instability has become  
major cause of peace-spoil.

Coupled with peace, economic  
crisis is also result of political  
soft. Owing to unsafe and unpredictable  
environment, investors feel insecure  
to invest in the country. Although  
the State Bank of Pakistan,  
SBP "has increased interest  
rate by 21 percent yet it is  
unable to attract a required  
number of Foreign Direct  
Investment. According to the  
Statistic of Pakistan Bureau  
of Statistic (PBS), "FDI in  
FY-2023 is \$430 but it was



\$885 in FY-2022". Thus, it is evident to the fact that political crisis has severely affected investment-friendly environment.

Furthermore, the political protests, sit-in and boycotts on the daily basis also affect the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. The road and rail infrastructures play vital role in economic growth, whereas trends of road blocking reduces the production of the country. According to famous Pakistani economist, S. I. Abbas Zaidi, "Containerness are the moving and circulating economy from one corner to another in the form of production". On the contrary, the country faces burning and blocking on containerness on multiple politically motivated eyes. As a result, the economic growth of the country is dwindling and political crisis

Apart from its political polarization has increased economic burden of the country in the form



of poor economic policies and bad governance. The policies of the country are politically motivated. They are framed only to win upcoming election tenure. As a result, the economic burden is increasing. Each government provides subsidies to the masses and various sectors but these subsidies go in vain due to poor policies of political leaders. For instance, each government brings its own public projects and nullifies the previous projects. Consequently economic meltdown and currency depreciation become the unending themes of the country.

Along with economic impacts, political polarization breeds social impacts as well. Political factionalization has divided the entire nation. The public opinion is not pro-country but pro-political parties. Instead of taking care of the country, political parties are trying to create narrative



to bewold the nation. In this way, the nation remains tilted towards political chaos, and eventually the masses also party to the political chaos. Therefore, the nation which is connected by the same land but divided by the political parties.

Correspondingly, political division also results in political radicalism and extremism. The supporters of one political party hold extremist approach against the <sup>their</sup> opposition political party. In this way, political radicalism at its peak in Pakistan. For instance, three political workers of the JDA were killed in political unrest during by elections in Sanghar in 2022. It reveals that political division has made <sup>the people</sup> blood suckers of one another. Therefore, the entire nation fails to ensure cohesion and unity which is necessary for the prosperity of the country.

Accordingly, trend of character assassination is increasing not only



in the public but also in the national legislative houses. Each political party makes mockery of the opposite political party. They try to portray one another as weak political figures, which ultimately works in the favour of enemy and negative designs of the country.

In the same fashion, political rift is weakening the democratic norms of the country. The institutions of the country are unable to work within constitutional framework due to political interference. In the words of former finance minister of Pakistan, Miftah Ismail, "Before gaining power, institutions are used to threaten one political party and after gaining ~~into~~ power the institutions are used against other political parties? It implies that politicians misuse institutions of the country for the political purpose. Resultantly, the institutions are derailed



from Constitutional framework.

Apart from it, undemocratic powers are rising under the ambit of political chaos. In the words of famous Pakistani-American writer, Ayisha Jalal, (Democracy and Authoritarianism in South-Asia), "On the eve of election, politicians are bought through (horse trading) chagga mangi politics by the invisible powers in Pakistan. Therefore, democracy comes into the hands of demagogues who manipulate it according to their vested interest. In this way, democracy by name is flourishing and in real democracy is paralyzed. The invisible hands also play vital role in political engineering to change the total political scenario."

Last but not the least, weak political system is giving birth to anarchy and disobedience to judiciary which is an undemocratic move. It is crystal clear from the recent amendment of practice



and Procedure Act - 2023 of the Supreme Court. Apart from it, various political parties fail to meet Pact Suni Serameela because they deny to orders and judgements of the respected courts. So, the factors of undemocracy in the form of disobedience are increasing in the country.

As every problem has a solution, similarly, following paragraphs would discuss the possible options to root out evils and ensure political stability in Pakistan.

Firstly, there is dire need of national government to open the ways of elections. For the purpose of political stability, all governments political parties should establish a collective government. In this way, the prevailing obstacles among the the political parties can be ironed out easily. Apart from it, an atmosphere of political



stability can evolve in the country.

Secondly, all political parties need to resolve security challenges by putting political differences aside. Presently, the country is trapped into economic and security challenges at deep length. For the survival of the country, it is necessary to counter-terrorism ~~at first~~ and other security challenges at first. Presently, the terrorists are attacking security personnel in the form of and sun. These safe-havens and bases are interconnected with the western. A joint ~~military~~ military operation with the assistance of Afghanistan and Iran should be carried out. In this way, virulence of terrorism can reduce.

Thirdly, institutional inclusiveness is necessary for the economic prosperity of Pakistan. According to the book (Why Nations Fail) "Nations thrive when they develop an inclusive political and economic



institutions. They fail when these institutions turn extractive. Thus, inclusiveness of political and economic institutions can be ensured by executive authorities. In this way, the government should use both institutions for the well-being of society.

Fourthly, regulation of the media outlets is necessary to overcome factors of responsible for political polarization in Pakistan. Currently, the mainstream media is divided into two blocs: one supports the government and other one supports the opposition. As result, the true news is overlapped in the form of misinformation. Hence, stringent laws are necessary to regulate <sup>the</sup> media. As the media is a watchdog, it should be neutral and show the all achievements and failures of the Political Parties. In this way, Political Populism can come to an end.



To conclude, Pakistan has been  
fall a prey to multifarious challenges  
owing to political unrest. Unfortunatly,  
it has direly affected the democratic  
fabric of the country. The country  
is unable to work within ambit of  
democracy not only in execution but  
also in institutions. Moreover, economy  
is facing the bottom and political  
dilemma. Owing to injure policies  
of the political parties, the country  
has become totally dependent  
on the external loans which works  
as economic traps. Moreover, the  
investors are running away from  
investing in Pakistan due to  
uncertainty created by the political  
parties. In the same manner, the  
peace is also disturbed in the  
country but owing to ~~less~~ tilted  
& diverted focus of the politicians  
the hawkish <sup>criminal</sup> activities are  
increasing in the country. Hence,  
seriousness of the political parties  
can root out all evils if they come  
to table talks for the sake  
of country.