

Q. Describe the political system of Pakistan which

form of government is suitable to make country

politically suitable?

There is need a form of government to govern a state's domestic and foreign affairs. Presidential and parliamentary systems are two forms of government to run a state. Out of one-ninety-four countries, those which are democratic in nature have opted either parliamentary form of government or presidential form of government. In case of Pakistan, the governmental system has been oscillating between presidential and parliamentary form of government. However, right now, Pakistan is being governed by parliamentary form of government. The fluctuation in political system of Pakistan has sparked a debate whether parliamentary form of government is stable for Pakistan or not. In reality, the parliamentary form of government is suitable for Pakistan than presidential form of government.

Political System of Pakistan

Parliamentary:

It is structure in which the executive branch derives its democratic legitimacy from legislature and also accountable to it. In parliamentary system head of state is normally different from the head of government, and Pakistan is a example of it. In Pakistan, there are four provinces and one center which defined in article 1 of 1973 constitution. Center consists of two houses: Upper House (Senate) and Lower House (National Assembly) as per article 50. This is called bicameral system. However, there is a unicameral system in the four provinces, Punjab, KPK, Sind, and Balochistan.

Tiers of Government in Pakistan

- Federal Government
- Provincial Government
- Local Government

Federal level

Federal Government:

It consists of Prime Minister (Chief executive of Federation), Federal Ministers, Cabinet of PM and Parliament. Parliament consists of three components i.e. the President, National Assembly and Senate.

Executive Branch

It consists of President, PM and Cabinet. According to article 41 of 1973 constitution, the President of Pakistan is head of state and article 41(3) defines how electoral college elects the President. The eligibility for President to become the President is he/she shall be Muslim and forty-five years old.

Article 90 defines that the cabinet shall consist of Prime Minister and Federal Ministers. The eligibility for PM is he/she shall be member of national assembly and 45 years old.

Legislative Branch

It consists of Senate and National Assembly

Senate:

It is ~~comprise~~ continuous and could not be dissolved and total number of seats are 104 (reduced to 96 in next tenure). The term of Senate is 6 years. However, half of the members retire after three years. All provinces have equal representation, 23 seats from each province.

National Assembly

The total number of seats in National Assembly are 342 which distribution is on the basis of population. The term of National Assembly is five year as per the constitution of 1973.

The National Assembly shall be headed by speaker and Deputy speaker.

Provinces	Seats
Punjab	183
Sindh	75
Balochistan	43
IKPIL	17

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PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Provincial government:

It comprises of Chief Minister (Chief executive of Province) and provincial ministers, and executive authority of the province shall exercise in the name of the Governor by Provincial government.

Governor:

Governor is a nominal head of province and he has executive powers to dissolve assembly as by the advice of CM.

Chief Minister:

CM is a administrative head of province and has power to appoint ministers and financial powers.

Legislative:

It is a provincial assembly. Each province has different number of seats as per population.

Province	Seats
Punjab	871
Sindh	168
KPK	145

~~Suitable~~

Presidential Form of Government - not Suitable for Pakistan

In presidential form of Government, executive authority is concentrated into single man. The fluctuation of presidential and parliamentary forms of governments has sparked a debate in Pakistan. Consequently, two school of thoughts have emerged. One school of thought claims that presidential form of government is suitable for Pakistan by arguing that when President Ayub (1962-1969), Zia-ul-Haq (1979-1988) and Mushraf (2001-2008) were in office the country economy ~~was~~ ^{was} growing. In reality, this is a flawed argument. No doubt, when these figures were in power, the country's economy was growing but these figures

had run aid base economy and they didn't have proper economic plan. Moreover, these figure have given huge set back to democratic norms of the country by ~~containing~~ containing political opponents through different strategies. For instance, President Ayub has banned the opposition parties to contest election and the same strategy followed by President Zia-ul-Haq and President Mushraf. In contrary to that, the period where that saw the parliamentary system in Pakistan has always ~~tried~~ tried to foster democratic norms and value. For instance, President Zia-ul-Haq introduce the **8th** amendment to **1973** constitution, which gave sole power to dissolve national assembly. Consequently, massive political crisis witnessed by Pakistan during last decade of

20th century. However, in 1997, the then Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, introduced the 13th amendment to the 1973 constitution, which is a big step towards true democracy. In 2010, Pakistan People Party ~~introduced~~ introduced the 18th amendment to the constitution. The article 6 curtailed the all power of president to dissolve assembly. Thus, history proves that parliamentary form of government is suitable for Pakistan.

Parliamentary Form of Government Suitable for Pakistan

Coordination between Legislature and Executive.

In parliamentary form of government, better coordination between legislature and executive fosters democratic norms and values. Cabinet members are often drawn from the parliament, ensuring a direct link between those making laws and those implementing

them.

2. Historical Context:

Pakistan's adoption of the British-style parliamentary system after independence in 1947 reflects a continuity that aligns with its colonial past, providing a sense of familiarity and institutional legacy.

3. Diversity and Representation:

The proportional representation in Pakistan's parliament allows for the inclusion of various ethnic and linguistic groups. For instance, the National Assembly's composition mirrors the country's diverse demographics, ensuring representation for regions such as Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

4. Flexibility and Adaptability:

The parliamentary system in Pakistan has demonstrated adaptability

bility during political transitions, such as the peaceful transfer of power between different political parties after general elections. This flexibility enables the government to respond promptly to evolving challenges.

5. Accountability and Oversight:

Parliamentary committees, like the Public Account Committee, play a vital role in holding the executive accountable. These committees conduct inquiries into government actions, ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.

In not shell, those who claims Presidential form of government is not suitable for Pakistan, because ~~historical~~ historically legacy, flexibility of parliamentary system suite for Pakistan.

