

# Topic: The far-reaching effects of political instability in Pakistan

## OUTLINE

### 1. Introduction

#### Thesis Statement

Political instability surges due to weakening of democratic institution in Pakistan. It poses long-term implications on economic growth, internal security, and law and order situation of country. By strengthening political framework and ensuring transparency, political stability can be ensured.

### 2. Pakistan has history of political instability since its inception

### 3. Causes of political instability in Pakistan,

- Weakened democratic institution
- Frequent changes in cabinet of Prime minister
- Interference of state institutions in political framework of country
- Practices of corruption hinders political stability

### 4. Far-reaching effects of political instability in Pakistan,

- Hampers non-implementation of long-term economic reforms
- Threats to already crippling internal security of Pakistan
- Surge of inflation and consequently poverty results.

d. Surge of brain drain - educated youth move abroad

e. Insufficient political advocacy for healthcare services

f. Weakened state of law and order situation in the country

g. Hinders foreign direct investment in a country

h. Detrimental reduction in trade and commerce

i. Hampers access to the international market and favourable borrowing terms.

j. Diminished say in regional and global affairs

## 5. How political stability can be ensured in Pakistan,

a. Strengthening of political framework

b. Ensure transparency and accountability through independent anti-corruption institutions

c. Enhancement of democratic institutions and electoral reforms

d. Countering radicalization and promoting tolerance

## 6. Conclusion

Pakistan's future viability, stability and security lie in empowering its people and building political institutions. (Benazir Bhutto). This quote of Benazir Bhutto shows that how important is political stability of ~~inst~~ democratic institutions for Pakistan. Political instability in Pakistan is encroaching since its inception. The causes of political instability in the country are weak democratic institutions, frequent changings of head of state, and interference of state institutions in the political framework. A. The practices of corruption has impacted badly on the political stability of Pakistan. It fosters far-reaching impacts on the overall economic growth of country by hindering in the way of implementation of economic reforms. Due to political instability, inflation, poverty, and issues like brain drain of youth are augmented. Foreign direct investment and trade is impacted drastically. Overall, national image of country is affected at international levels. B. Therefore, political instability surges due to weakening of democratic institutions in Pakistan. It poses long-term implications on economic growth, internal security, and law and order situation of country. By strengthening political framework and

and ensuring transparency, political stability can be fostered.

From the very beginning of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, political stability in the country is at stake. Dr. Inayatullah in his book "State and Democracy in Pakistan" said that state and society balance is important for political stability. This balance is damaged in Pakistan because state was imposed on society in its colonial period.

So, Pakistan took its roots of political instability from its colonial masters. After its independence in 1947, Pakistan lost its founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan within three years. State institutions started interfering in political framework of country. In this way, political institutions of country has not developed properly since its birth.

These are many causes of political instability in Pakistan. One of which only is weak democratic institutions in the country. Due to weak democratic institutions in the country, rightist extremist political parties and political leadership has not emerged in Pakistan. Dr. Inayatullah in his book,

"State and Democracy in Pakistan", stated that the bedrock of democracy is a strong middle-class which remained weak and as a result, democratic institution has not developed in the country. Weak democracy is to the extent in the country that first election of Pakistan had been scheduled in 1970. This results in <sup>weak</sup> political institution and the roots of political instability got strong over time.

One of the other causes of political instability in Pakistan is the frequent changes in the cabinet of Prime Minister. Frequently changing head of the state results in incapability of democratic institution and the political framework of the country got weakened. One of its examples is that six Prime Ministers were changed from 1947 till 1956. And, the other example is that of cabinet changes in the era of 1990s. The regular changes in cabinet of Prime Minister and the Prime Minister himself result in political instability in the country. This was seen in those times that it impacted each and everything of country.

Interference of state institutions in the political framework of country is another reason for political instability in Pakistan. Due to weak democratic institution in the country, state institutions like civil bureaucracy and military establishment has frequently interrupted in the political framework of country. Almost half of the time since independence has been ruled by military in Pakistan. An book, "Why Nations fail", Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson said that the evolution of political and economic institutions are traced and argue that nations are not succeed or fail due to geography or culture but due to emergence of extractive or inclusive state institutions. In this way, the interference of state institutions weaken the political framework of country. As a result, political instability surges in the country.

Another reason for political instability in the country is the prevalence of practices of corruption in the Pakistan. Malpractices like corruptions impacts the trust of public on political institutions. Transparency international correlates deeply the practices of corruption with the political instability. According to, perception index, corruption

Pakistan is ranked at 140<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries. It shows the precarious condition of corruption in Pakistan which is the major part in fostering political instability in the country. It impacts the national integrity, unity, and overall political peace in the country. This is what is being experienced in the Pakistan from last three or four decades.

There are many far-reaching impacts of political instability in Pakistan, one of which is that it hampers the non-implementation of long-term economic reforms. Due to non-implementation of economic reforms in the country, economic growth of the country impacted badly. According to economists of Aisen and Viegq, who regards political instability as policy changes and use sample of 169 countries from 1960-2004, and due to political instability annual growth rate decreases by 2.39%. Due to political instability in the fiscal year 2022-23, GDP of country only grown by mere 0.29%. So, political instability results in decrease of political stability due to interruption of in the economic reforms and as a result economic growth is impacted badly.

Another impact of political instability in Pakistan is threat to the internal security of Pakistan, which is already in precarious situation.

Due to political unrest in the country, policy making process about security situation has not reached to any results.

The ongoing political instability in the country has further strained the Pakistan's internal security apparatus making it more vulnerable to the

terrorist activities (Abdul Basit, security analyst). Social unrest surges due to political instability, which then gives room to the non-state actors to perform their heinous activities. This has been observed in Pakistan from last one year. There is serious rise in the terrorist activities in the country due to political instability.

Inflation and poverty surges due to political instability in the country. Absence of one political government hinders the formation and implementation of policy changes.

According to State Bank of Pakistan, ~~29.4~~ inflation rate has increased to 29.4% in FY 2022-23 and 12 Million more people are pushed to poverty. This is the devastated situation which

impacts the salaried class of society. Political instability is impacting the lower class of society, as strict policy changes are not being taken by any political government.

One of the another impact of political instability in the country is the surge in brain drain of youth. Political unrest in the country incites the young population to move out and utilize their skills in foreign countries. Political instability augments the issues of crime and violence which interrupts the peaceful working environment.

According to a study which conducts interviews of Pakistanis in Italy, over 50% of them stated that they escaped from conflict and violence and 36% stated that an absence of rights and freedom at home. So, the asset of Pakistan, the young youth is leaving the country due to political conflicts. The flight of human capital is disastrous for Pakistan.

These are many <sup>impacts</sup> causes of political instability, one of which is that health care services are impacted badly due to insufficient political advocacy. Due to precarious condition of

political framework in the country, health care department is not given much importance by the politicians. According to economic survey of Pakistan, only less than 2% of fiscal budget/GDP is spent on health. Low expenditure of GDP on health is reflecting in the poor state of healthcare services in Pakistan. Almost 58% of hospitals in the rural areas are not given ample facilities to treat the patients. Politicians are not advocating to promote the policies for the betterment of health department.

Another impact of political instability in Pakistan is the reduction of foreign direct investment in the country. FDI plays major role in the economy of any country. According to State Bank of Pakistan, in the Fiscal year 2022-23 only \$0.89 bn of FDI in Pakistan as compared to that of \$1.94bn in 2021-22. These figures clearly shows the significance of political stability for attracting foreign direct investment in the country. Due to insecure environment and political unrest, no big companies want to sign long-term contracts in Pakistan. It is impacting the

economy of a country.

There are many impacts of political instability in Pakistan, one of which is the detrimental reduction in trade and commerce. It results in trade deficit, as imports in the country are exceeding the exports in the country. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, exports of the country are \$5.21bn and imports are \$60.013bn with a trade deficit of \$4bn in fiscal year 2022-23. The trade deficit is impacting the economic growth of the country. It then causes far-reaching impacts on the overall stability of a country.

One of the other causes of political instability in the country is that it hampers the access to the international market and hinders the favourable borrowing terms. Political unrest in the country affects the international image of the country. Due to this frequent changes in government, International Monetary Fund has refused to revise the Standby Agreement of \$3bn in June 2023. It was then given when neighbouring countries have given a

loan of \$1.2bn. So, political instability affects the international image and trust of any country. This is what happening with Pakistan.

Political stability can be ensured in Pakistan by strengthening the political institution of country. It is very important to make union councils at grass-root levels, and encouragement of political unions in institution of country. Dr. Ishaat Hussain, in his book, "Governing the Ungovernable" stated that institutional decay is the main cause for political instability and its solution lies in the increasing the strength of political institution of country. In this way, young leadership can emerge who can play significant role in fostering political stability in the country.

Another solution for ensuring political stability in Pakistan is the environment of transparency and accountability through independent anti-corruption institution. It is very important for ensuring transparency in state affairs governed by state politicians and Ministers. Case study of Singapore, Hong Kong, and

Rwanda shows that independent anti-corruption institutions helped in reducing corruption and promoting good governance, and strong legal frameworks. So, transparent political policies are very important in fostering economic growth and political stability in the country.

Enhancement of democratic institutions and electoral reforms can play major role in ensuring political stability in Pakistan. Election commission should play its role in implementation of electoral reforms. Strong democratic institution demands intra-political elections, transparency in elections and emergence of deserving leadership. Case study of South Africa and Rwanda shows that independent election commission play important role in ensuring free and fair elections. In this way, strengthening of (political) democratic institutions play crucial role in ~~pre~~ curbing the political unrest in the country.

Another solution for political instability in the country is countering the radicalization and promoting tolerance in the society. It is important to control political polarization for

ensuring political stability in the country. A policy of National Counter Extremism in UK showed that how targeted interventions, community engagement and deradicalization programs play vital role in countering extremism. These policy changes can be implemented in Pakistani society which can help in eliminating terrorism and radical activities.

In a nutshell, political instability can impose long-term implications on the overall society and people of its country. Economic situation, internal security of country and law and order situation of country is at stake due to political instability in Pakistan. The problem must be solved before it gets entrenched in the roots of society. ~~Step~~ It can be solved through strengthening of political institutions in the country and powerful independent anti-corruption institutions. These steps must be ensured to foster political stability in the country.

(1900 words approx.)