

Political parties are responsible for imposition of Martial Law in Pakistan. Comment.

Introduction:

Pakistan's early ~~years~~ years of independence are chequered with multiple military interventions. There ~~are~~ are a myriad of factors responsible for the succeeding military coupes during the initial decades. One of the prominent source is the political parties of that time; contributing to the political instability to be taken over by the military regime.

Political parties are responsible for imposition of Martial Law.

Political parties, during the early years of independence failed

to guide the country through the unwavering affairs and compelled for military stakeholders to take the forefront. Political parties are responsible for military intervention due to the following reasons.

① Political party rendered incapable during the initial years:

All India Muslim League (AIML), which later transformed into Muslim League was rendered one of the major political parties of Pakistan after 1947. However, it displayed an ineffective role in political landscape.

Example:

Pakistan Muslim League lost its essence of dominance due to early exit of Quid and Liaquat Ali Khan. Along with this, it was was incapable of producing

any capable leader to promulgate constitution for country. Hence, the ineffectiveness of a major political party paved for military takeover.

② The debate of secularism versus religion took over.

Right after the emergence of Pakistan on map, the religious leaders were quite apprehensive to dominate exert the religious essence in the country. Hence, the debate of secularism vs religion highly influenced the political parties.

Example:

Jam'ate Ulema Islami (JUI), a religiously inclined party of Pakistan during the initial years. As the party displayed an antiliberal approach, it refused to show

allegiance to West Punjab in 1948. In 1953 it decided to show concern against the government to be ~~not~~ replaced by pure Islamic system. Therefore, religious parties provided resistance for smooth running of political parties after 1947.

③ Absence of emergence of strong political party after independence:

One of the most prominent parties during the ~~yearly~~ early years was the transformative element of AIML that is PML. There was a sharp absence of any strong political party against PML seen, that had been capable of taking the position of declining PML at that time.

Example:

Strong socialist political party PPP ~~and~~ ~~for~~ was established in

1967 and resilient Conservative Pakistan Muslim League - N formed in 1988

As a result, the solitary presence of weakening PML after 1947 gave an impetus for military intervention.

④ Powerful confrontational tussle weakened the political party in governance:

Multiple parties frequently formed coalition during the initial years of independence. These confrontational coalitions were against the military coupes as well as against the civil government multiple times. Hence, the increased resistance of alliances weakened the position of ruling party, crumbly due to increased pressure

Example:

Formation of Combined Opposition Parties (COP), Democratic Action

Committee (DAC) against the Gen. Ayub's regime, instigated the military government to enhance its strong foothold against democracy. Likewise, Bhutto's government had to come at logger heads with Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) to the point that General Zia had to ~~in~~ coercively intervene in the form of Martial law.

⑤ Role of political parties in disparity between Western and Eastern Unit - weakening of state system.

One of the biggest hurdles of the initial years was to tread ~~be & a~~ the balance between the Western and Eastern Units of Pakistan. Formula of parity never gained consent from the two sides. The tussle between the two increased the role of military, while

weakening the state's stability
for democracy to prevail.

Example:

The results of 1970 elections proved to be a point of contention between the western unit party of PPP and Eastern unit party of Awami League. The uncompromising behaviour of diffusion of power from the PPP side, while the proclivity of Awami League towards the famous six points paved way for fall of Dhaka. The truncation of the country holistically changed the stability of state's affairs increasing the military intervention.

⑥ Electoral rigging - paved way for General Zia to take over:

The mere debate on electoral rigging between the political

parties results as an invitation for military to stabilise the chaos. Whether the rigging occurred or not, the debate leads to instability.

Example:

The clash between PNA and PPP was sharpened to the point that Bhutto agreed upon the new elections to be held. However the loss of PNA, pushed the debate of rigging forward and resultanty Pakistan faced the third military takeover.

⑦ Constant tussle between the socialist and conservatist political parties:

One of the main reasons for the presence of military intervention is the ~~tussle~~ disorganised political parties. Two major parties of

Pakistan are present at the opposite ends of the spectrum, with the socialist PPP and conservatist PML-N. Both of them frequently lock horns with each other.

Example:

Although the period of 1988-1999 was a decade of democracy for Pakistan, still the political parties displayed confrontation against each other. With the entrance of PPP in 1988 to form government Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) consisting of conservatists PML-N, was formed. This resulted in early exit of Benazir Bhutto. Hence the tussle between the two parties incapacitated the pillars of democracy against military takeover.

Critical analysis:

The disorganisa^{ation}tion, decreased reception towards other parties and absence of strong political parties, created a lacuna to be filled by military. Martial law imposed to create an environment of political and economic ~~instability~~ stability. Subsequently, the three military coupes occurred due to fractured political party system and ~~st~~ even in today's time a strong political party is required to diminish the military bureaucracy intervention.

Conclusion:

The four Martial laws in Pakistan's history owes its occurrence ~~due~~ to the weak and intolerant party politics, mainly delineated from the objective of creating due to strong resistant factors. Hence, Martial law comes in due to many reasons, one of them being political parties.