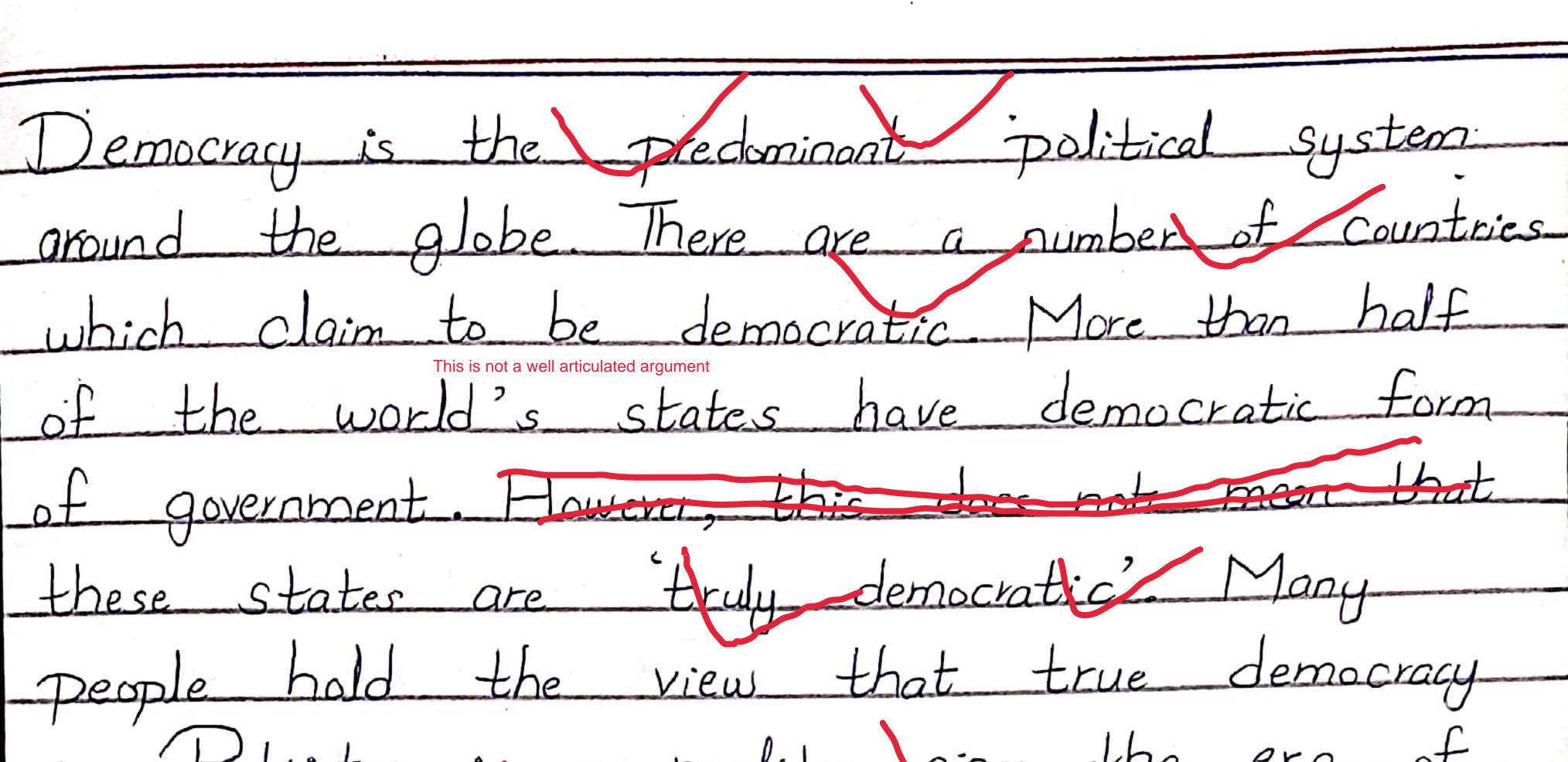
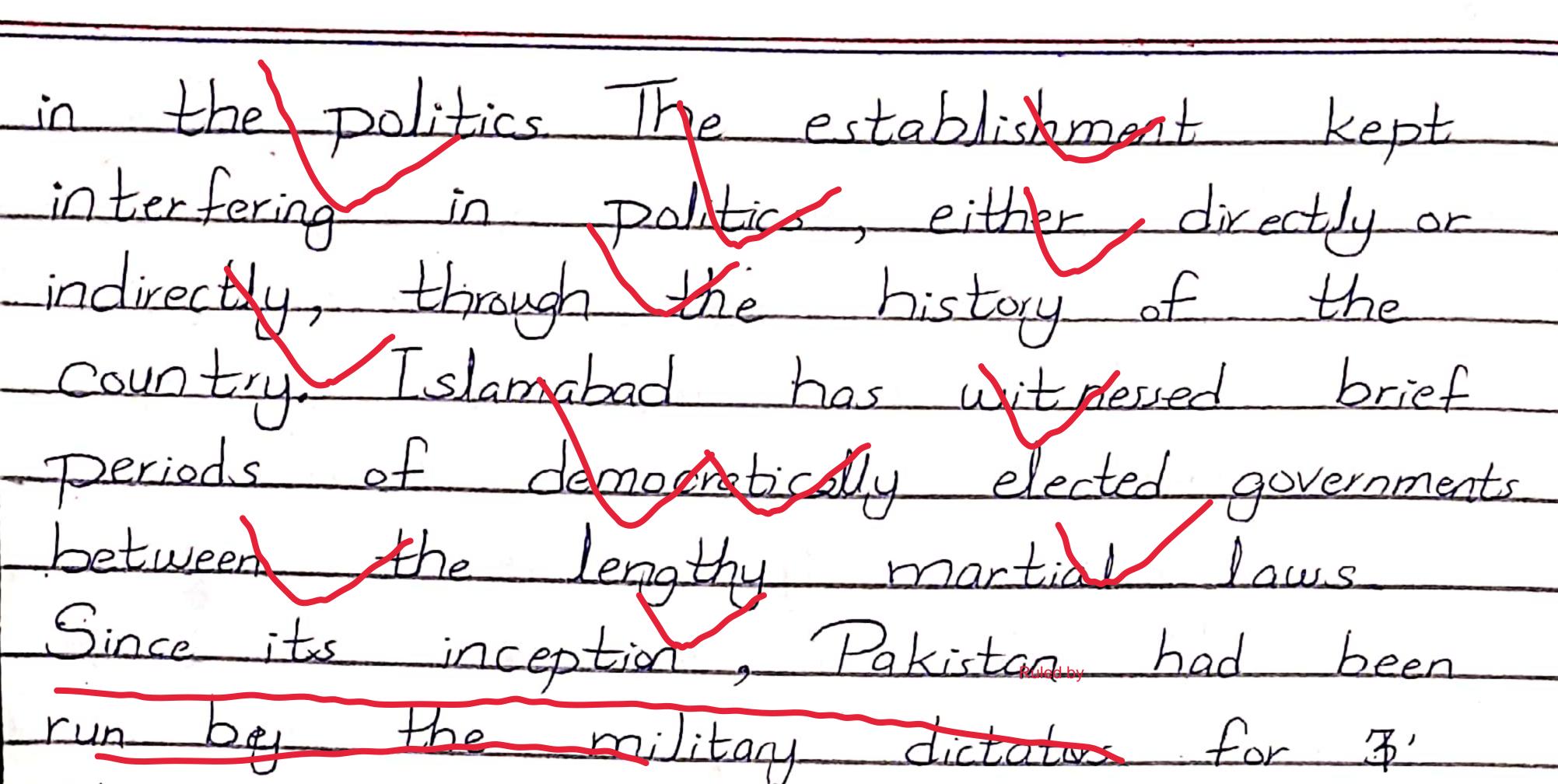
True Democracy in Pakistan: Myth or Reality

UUTLINE: 1. Introduction 1.1. Thesis Statement: Irue democracy in Pakiston is a myth and not a reality. 1.2. Outline Statement: The political role of ... Establishment, disregard for the constitution, absence of separation of power, lack internal democracy in pulitical Darties illiteracy Crackdown on dissent, and Which indicates that to devolve power are the factors which indicate that true democracy Lakistan is a myth ment Hrguments 2.1. Political role of establishment 4 33 Years direct rule Disregard for constitution 4 Doctrine of necessity Absence of Separation of power 2.3. 4 Interference by military, judiciary and paliticians in one another's domain Lack of Internal democracy in publical parties 2.4. L FES Report 'State of Democracy in Pakistan 2023' 2.5. Illiteracy -> BISP Survey 2021 and Pakistan Economic Survey (23-24)

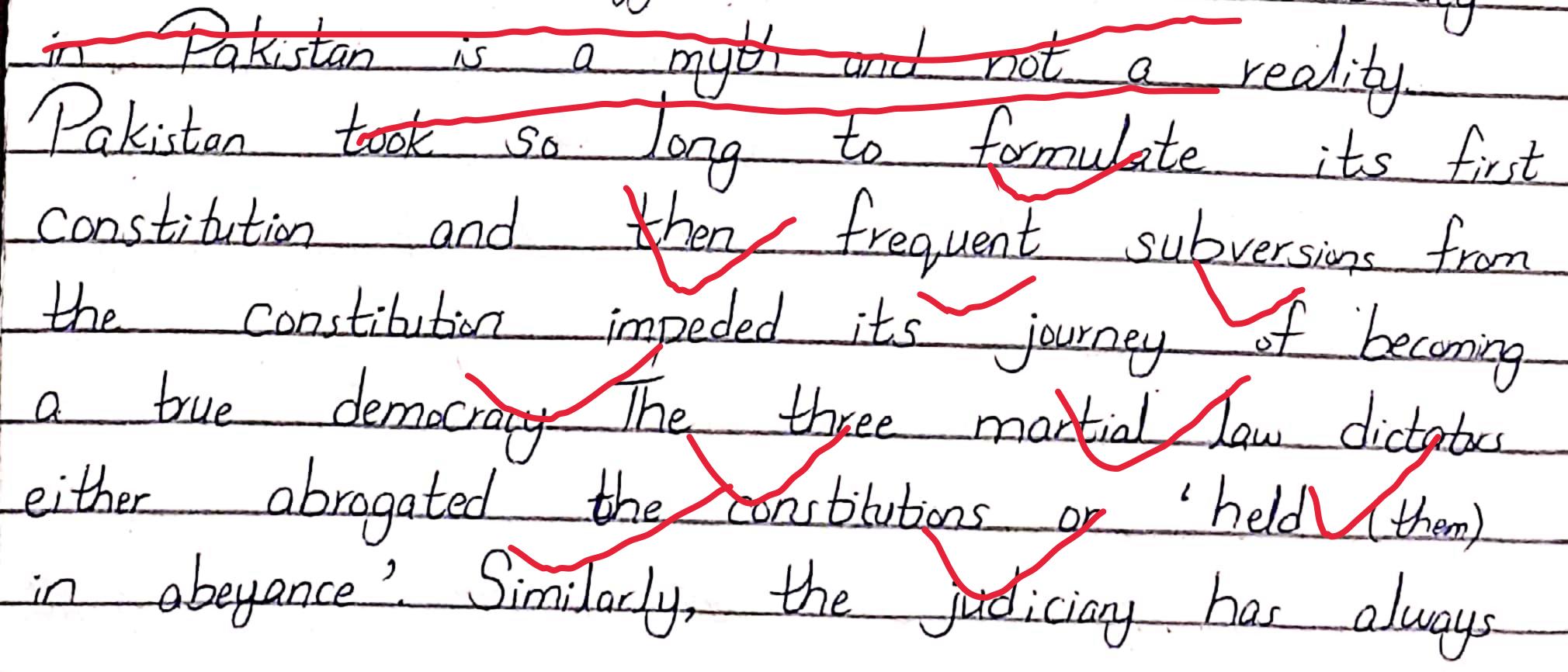
12100010101 dissent rackdown RSF 'Press Freedom Index' - 2024 Failure to devolve power interior Local government (Article 140-A) incoln's View Abraham 3. Counter-arguments End of dictatorships 4 Democracy since 2008 Conduct of dections every five years 3.3. Completion of assembly terms I hast three assemblics completed terms 4 Smooth transfer of power 4. Response 4.1. Indirect (Hybrid) rule Ly Zahid Hussain's book Elections are not standard for democracy La Elections in China, Russia etc. → Questions on Fairness of elections Fragile Parliament and dismals of Prime Ministers 5. Conclusion

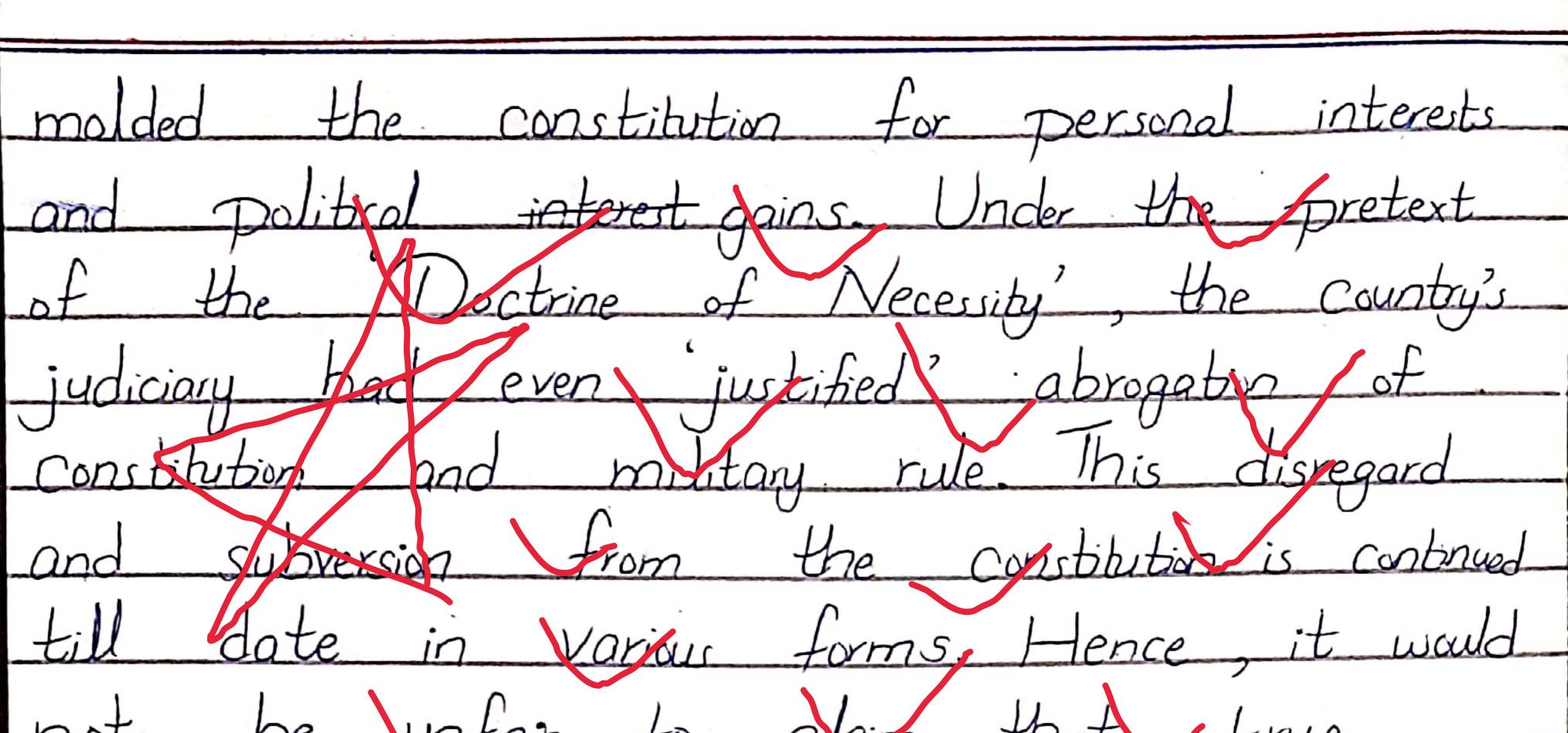


in Pakistan is a reality since the era of dictators is over in the country, it holds elections every five years, and last three elected assemblies have completed their terms. However, in actuality, true democracy means much more than elections and completion of terms. Hence, true democracy is a in Pakistan is a myth and not a reality and the indicators such as the political role of establishment, disregard for the constitution, absence of separation of powers lack of internal political parties, illiteray, lemocracy dissent, and fail devolve Crackdown ure evel POWER oral stance Droves Command over basic language is perfect Tristly in Takistan democraçu true Because real litar mil the Dersistent role

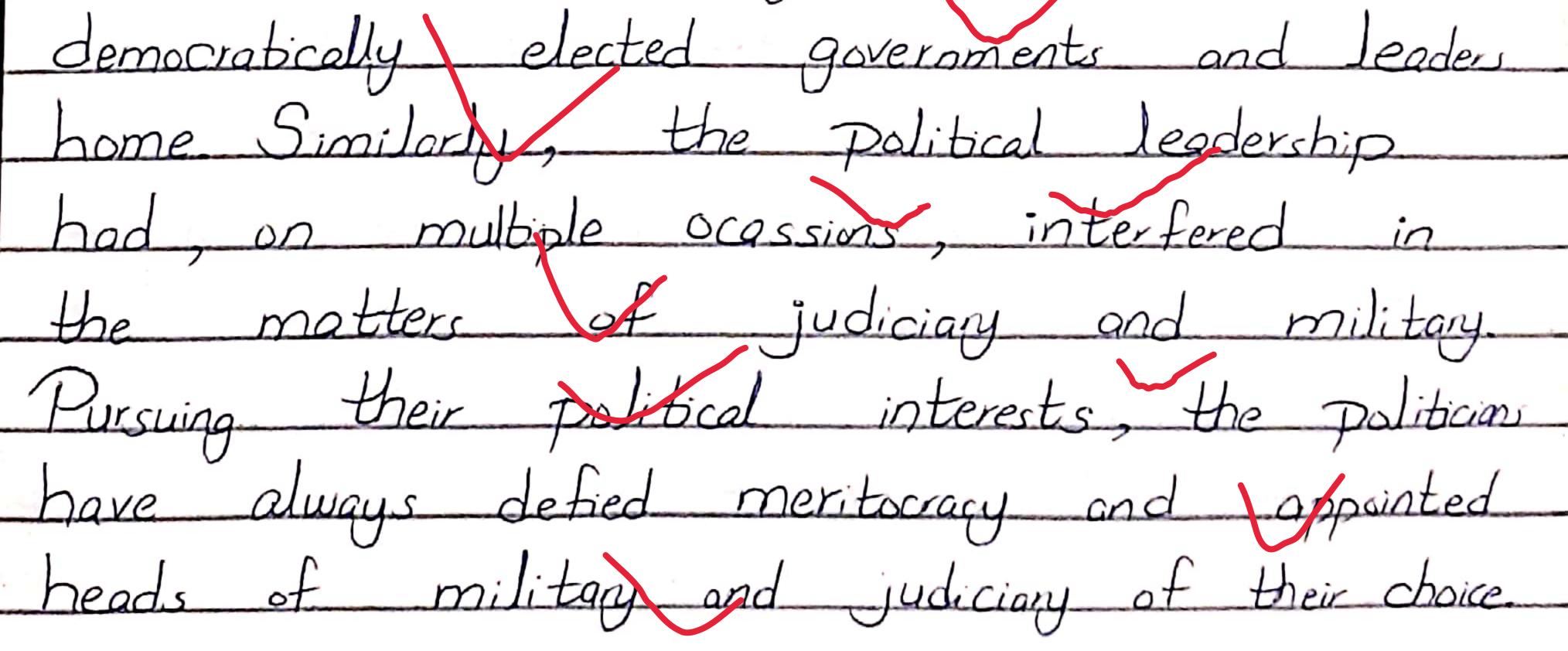


thirty-three years cumulatively. Besides the direct rule, the establishment has also meddled in politics indirectly by bringing in and out various government. Therefore, the political role of establishment proves that true democracy in Pakistan is a myth. Disregard for the constitution is the second indicator which suggests that the democracy

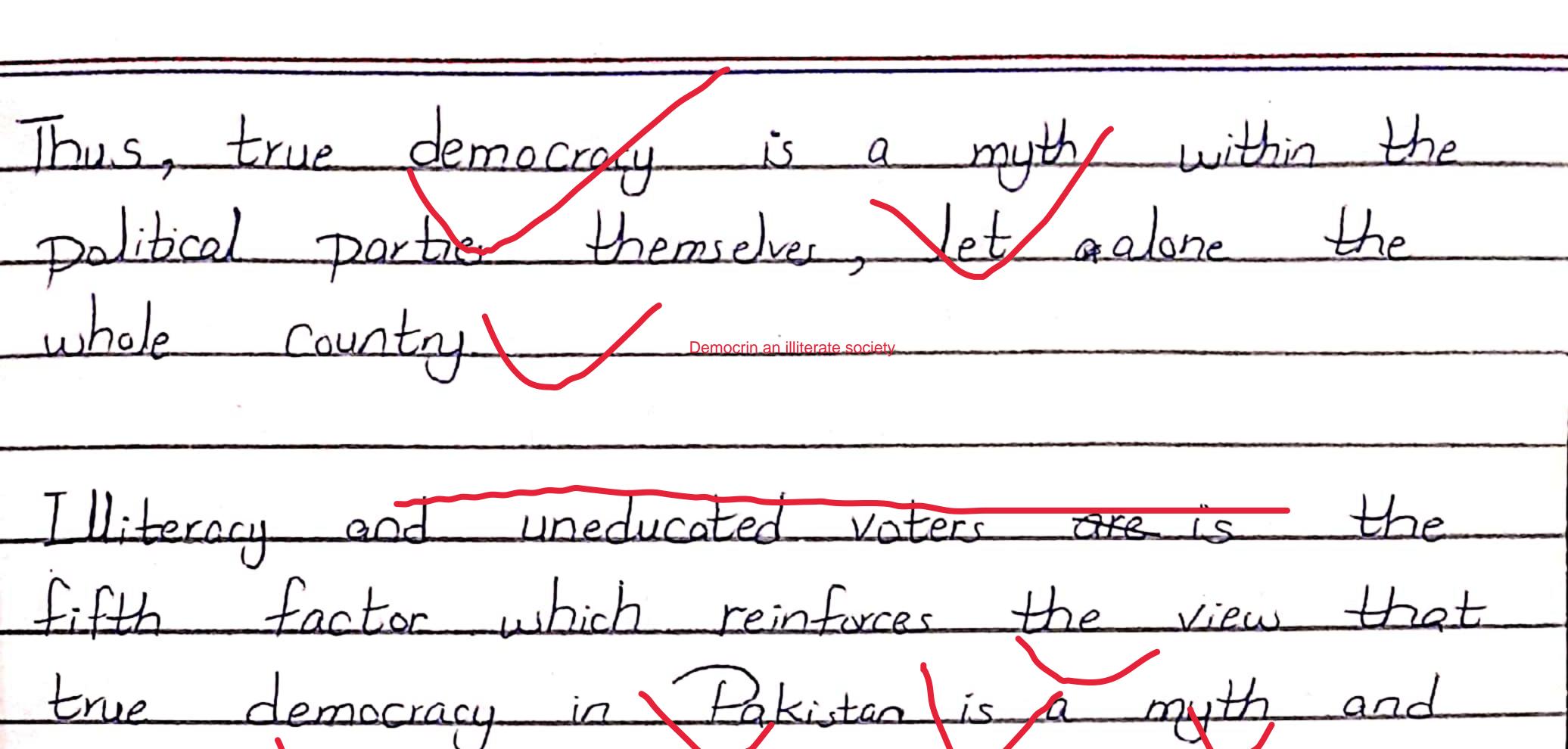




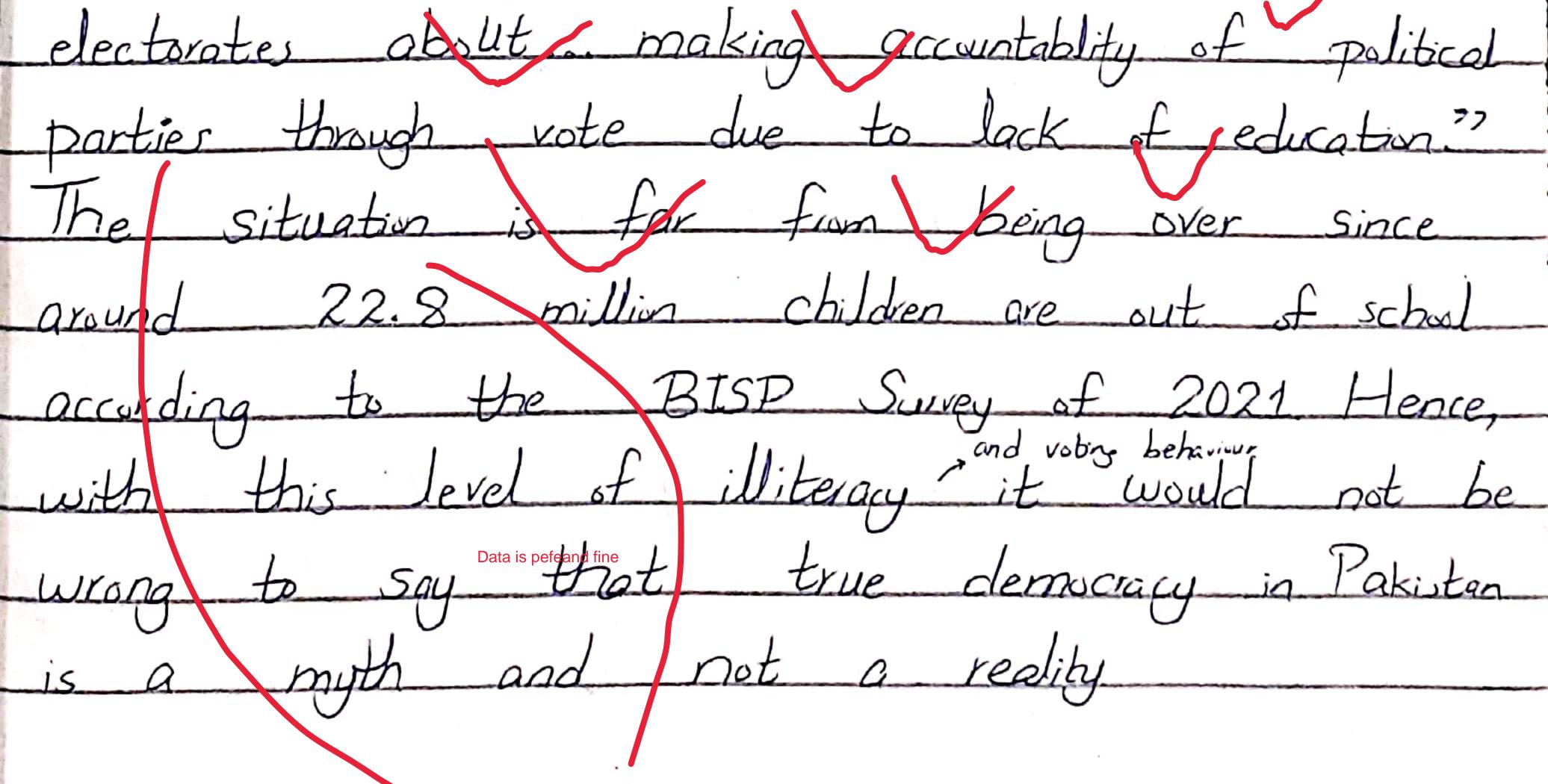
not be untar to claim that the democracy in Pakistan is a myth and not a reality Thirdly, the absence of the separation of power and interference of state institution in one another's domain has made true democracy in Pakistan a myth. The oversized role of the security institutions and istrongh fudiciary had has made then interface in politics. The two institutions had many a times sent the



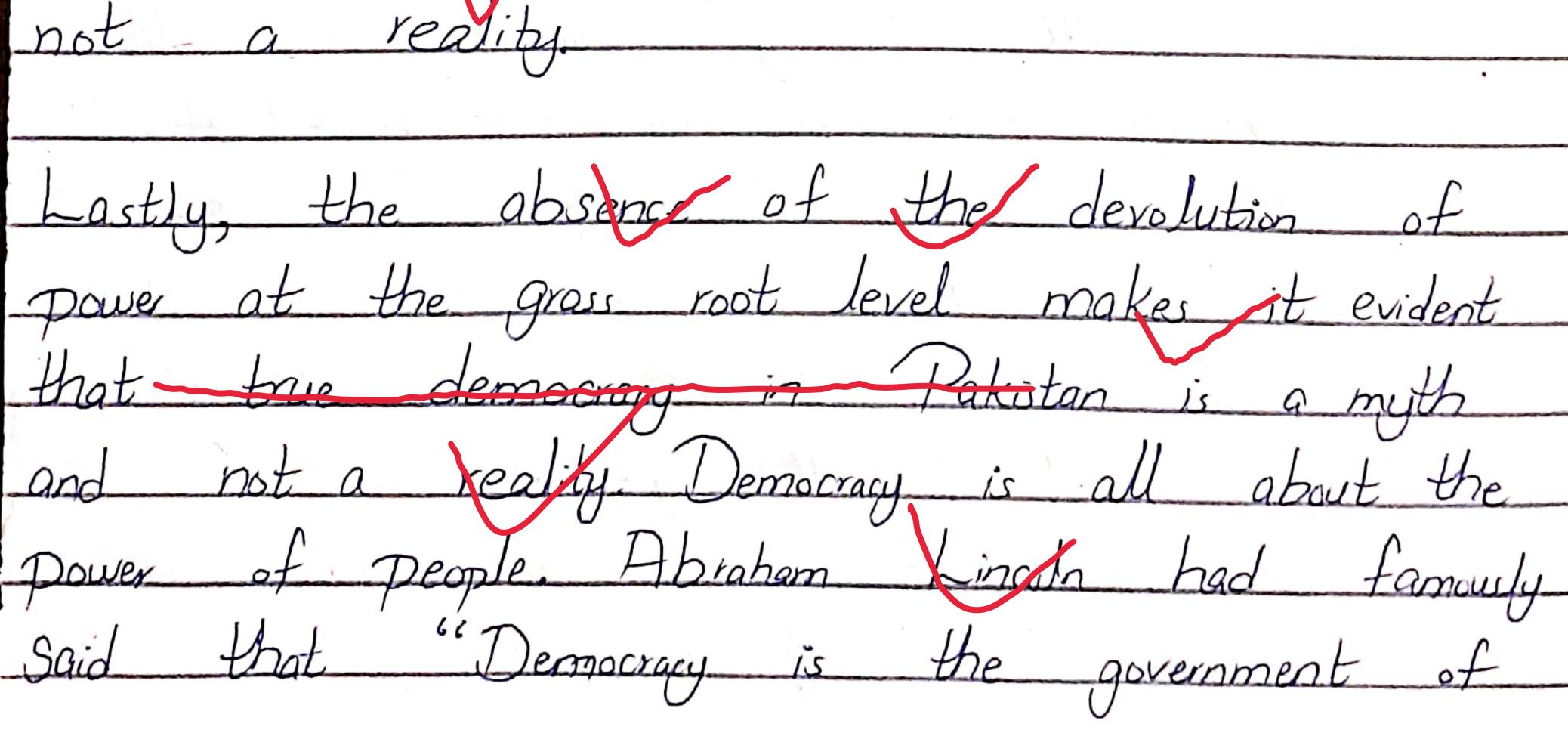
Instance a some instages, such as the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) of Pervez Mushamat, politicians have even suspended the judiciary. All of these events prevented separation of power which resulted in the obsence true democraqy in Pakistan The lack of internal democracy in the pulibid parties of Pakiston also prover that true democracy in Pakiton the country is a myth and not a reality. The political parties of Pakistan Jack the democratic culture The political parties have become the dynastic properties. Only people belonging to specific families, feudal class or elite class rose to the higher ranks of the political parties The report of EES titled "State of Democracy in Pakistan 2023" that the top three parties of declared Pakistan lack democracy within and they have a Centralized decision making system Similarly, a research of Pakistan Institute of Development Economic (PIDE) revealed that more than 50 percent of legislators of 2002, 2008, and 2013 assembly were dynastic politicians.



not a reality. As per the Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24, 62.8 percent is the literary rate of the country. The uneducated and poor voters have no understanding of the true value of their votes. The illiterate voters cast votes on the basis of barderi and sell their votes for a small amount of money. The former head of Palitical Science Department of University of Perhauer, A.H. Huldi contende that "Democracy suffers due to unawarenes of

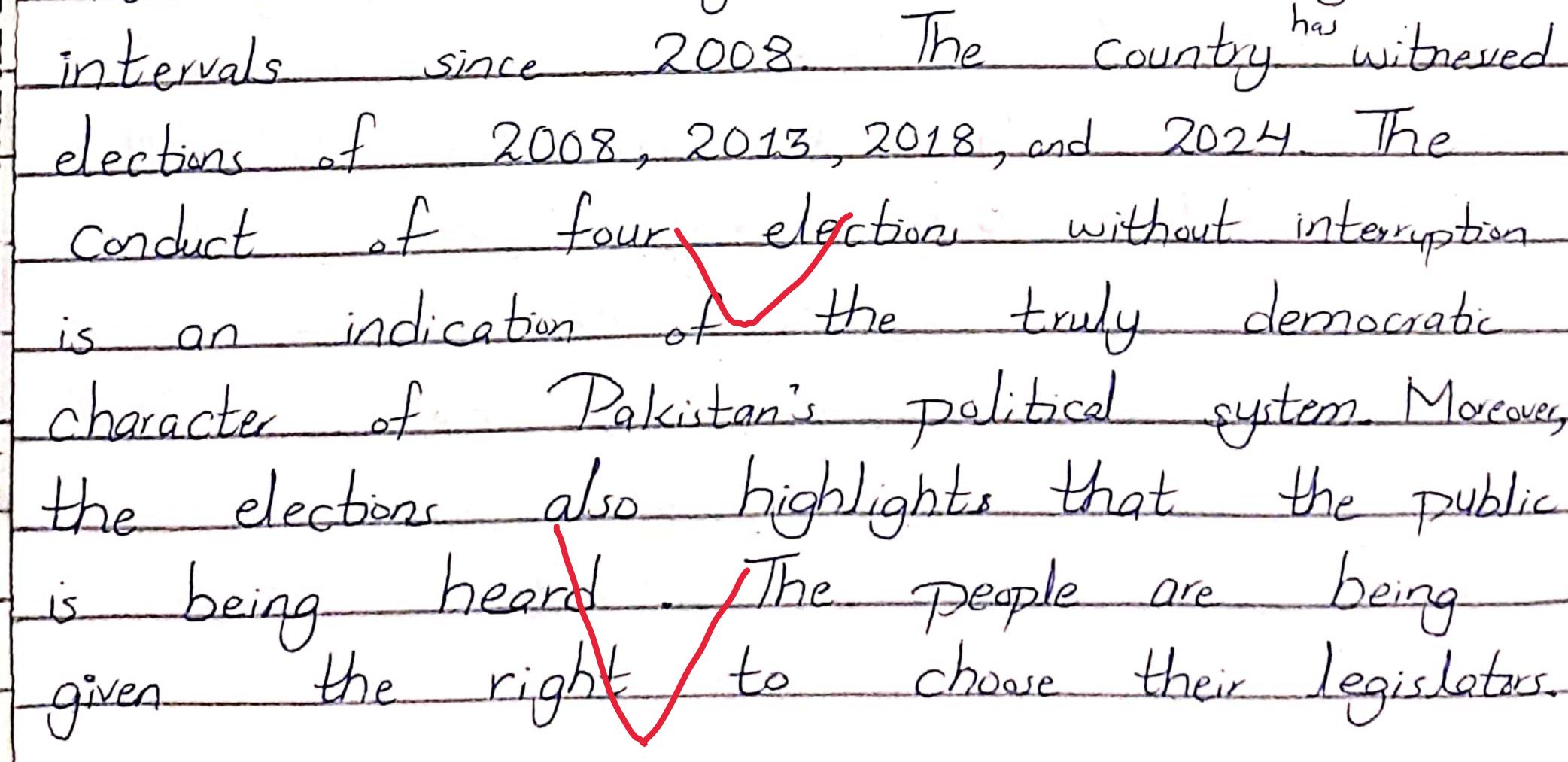


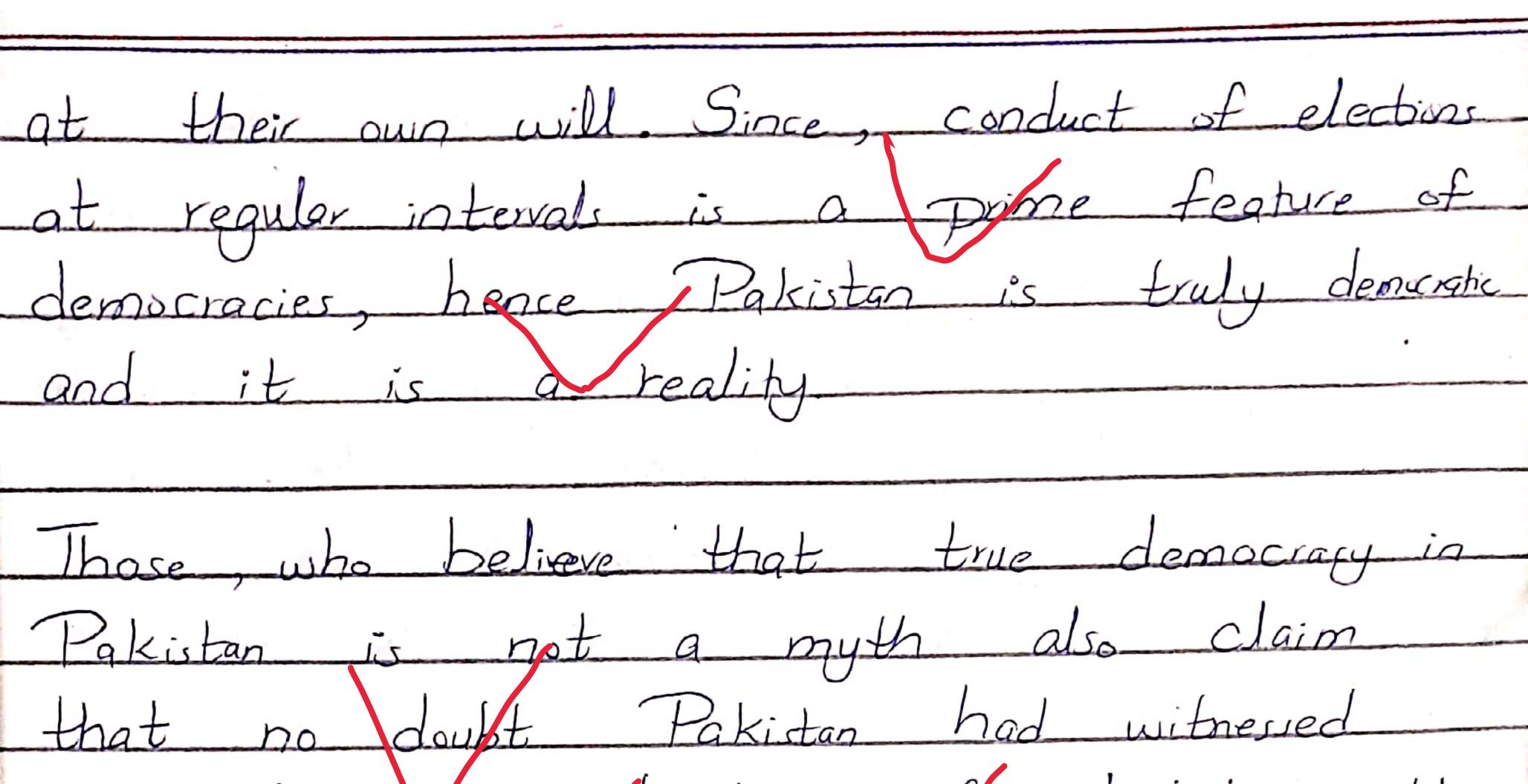
Sixthly crackdown on dissent show that democracy in Pakistan and no is a myth and not a reality Every government in Pakistan is dotted with the cases of political Victimisation of the opposition parties and their members. Freedom of speech is widely absent in the Pakistani political landscope. The Every ruling party book the dissidents in bogus cases to suppress the opposition. Moreover, it introduce draconian laws to clamp day on media. As per the Reporter without Border (RSF)'s Press Freedom Index, Pakistan ranks at 152 at of 180 countries Freedom of expression is a core feature of democracy. Since, it is missing in Pakistan, it would be right to say that true democracy in Pakistan is a myth and



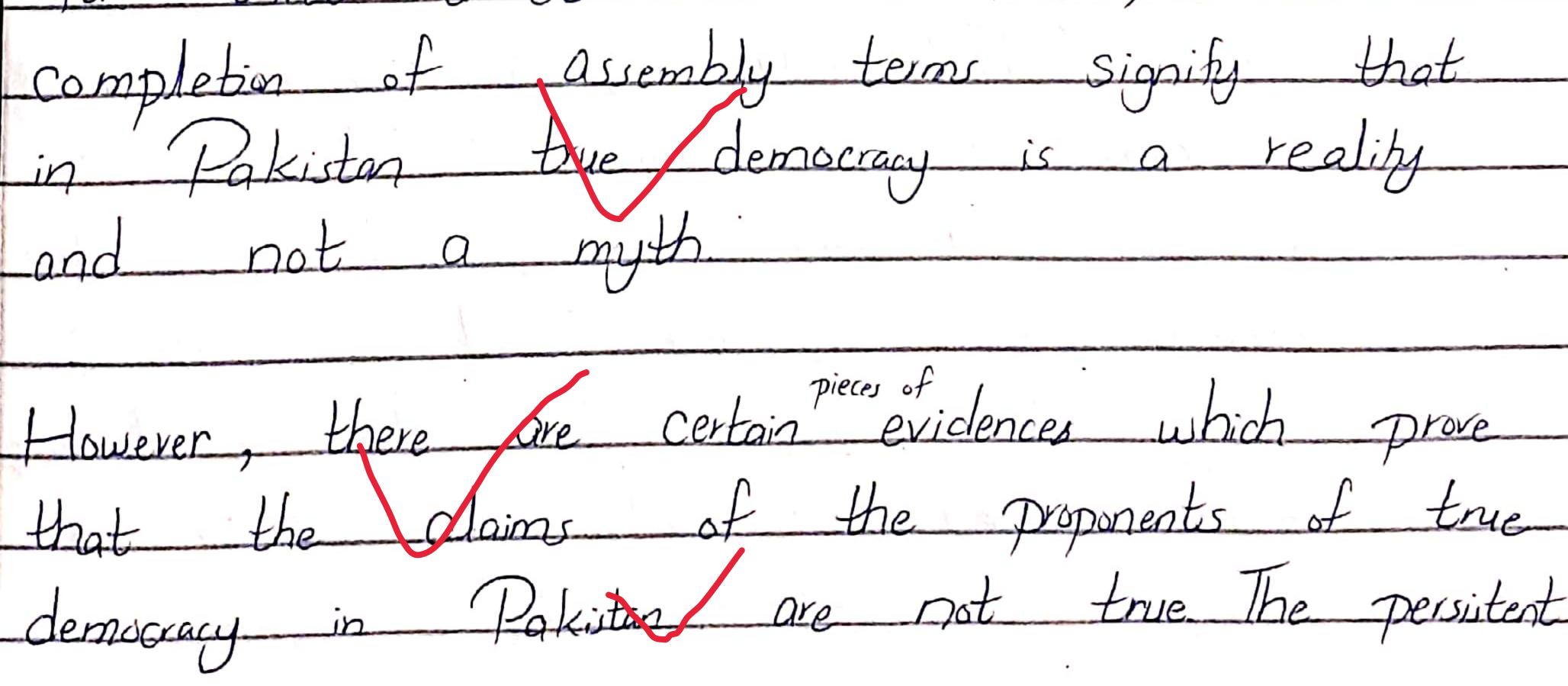
the people, by the people, for the people?" So, in democracy ordinary people should have the authority However, in case of Pakiston, political authority is limited to few people of elite or Feudal Jesses The article 140-A of the constitution of Pakistan also directs the provincial government to form local governments. But, this article has always been largely ignored by the provincial governments and they do not conduct local bodies elections at the required time. Here, with the absence of devolution of power at the grass root level, the democracy in Pakiston is a myth and not a reality. Still, there are some people who believe that true democracy in Pakistan is a reality because the era of dictatorships is over and Pakistan is truly democratic after 2008, the Country holds dections every five years and the last three assemblies have completed their terms without intemption Therefore, the smooth transfer of power between the governments shows that in Pakiston true democracy is not a myth to

The proponents of this view contend that Pakistan has remained democratic for 44 forty-four years in its seventy seven years history. The era of dictatorships is over in Pakistan" It is witnessing uninterrupted democracy since 2008. With the absence of marbial laws or any direct military interests in the democratic setup of Pakistan, it would be unfair to say that true democracy does not exists in Pakisten and that that is a myth Try to have natural transition within paragraphs The Second argument presented by the adherents of the view that true democracy exists in Pakistan is that the country - holds elections every five years. Pakistan has been conducting election at regular





the frequent dissolution of elected asiemblic but now the situation has changed Now, the legislative assemblies are completing their tenures. They are not being discolved either by military dictators judges or presidents. Thus, the sanctity of the parliament has been established now. The legislative assemblies now exhibit smooth transition of power They have completed their tenure for three times now. Therefore, the



indirect control of establishment after the end of marbal laws, the fact that elections are not the only standard for true democracy, and fragile Parliament and frequent dimissals of elected Prime Ministers are the arguments which reinforce the argument that true democracy in Pakitan is a myth and not a reality. Firstly, the era of dictatorships and direct political control maybe over but the military establishment still has indirect role in politics there are man a number of incidents which indicate that military establishment still interfers in the pulitical matters, hence preventing Pakistan from becoming a true democracy. The establishment still covertly Julls the strings and make and break governmentes. Zahid Hussoin, a segund pulitical analyst, has in his book "Hybrid Rule in Pakistan? uncovered this role of the establishment. He contended realising the feasibility of direct rule, the establishment has now turned towards indirect 'hybrid' rule where it dictates the apparently

"democratic governments" Hence, in the presence of indirect influence of establishment the true democracy in Pakistan is a myth and certainly not a reality Secondly, the view that true democracy exists in Pakistan just because it holds elections is Flowed Democracy means much more than elections The Canadian author and activist. Naomi Klein Says that "Democracy is not just the right to vote, it is the right to live in dignity". So, elections on not the standard to gauge the democracy in a country Even the countrier like China and Russia hold elections regularly but this does not make them a democracy. Moreover, every election in Pakistan had been questioned and the independent observers had doubted the fairness of elections. Even if one assumes that elections in Pakistan had been free and fair then the oppositions? refusal to accept the results reveal the indemocractic culture in Pakistan's political landscape Therefore, mere holding election does not mean that true democracy exist in Pakistan, instead the evidence suggest otherwise

Lastly, without a doubt the last three legislative asympleted their tenures but it is also a fact no Prime Minister in Pakistan has ever completed his five years term. The country has witnessed Frequent dismissal of elected Prime Ministers on what Salman Akram Raja has termed, "dubious grounds", in the book "Pakistan: Search for Stability? Moreover, the claim that the sanctity of the Parliament has been established now is not true. How can the sanctify of the Parliament be established with the leaders of its lover house being dismissed on bogus cases. Hence, just the completion of osembly terms does not mean true democracy Instead, the frequent dismissals of the Prime Ministers through unconstitutional means justify that in Pakiston true democracy is a myth and not a reality In conclusion, true democracy in Pakistan is a myth and not a reality because of the political role of Establishment, disregard for the constitution, absence of the separation of power, lack of internal democracy in political paties, illiteracy, crackdown on disent,

and failure to devolve power at local level. The military establishment either directly or indirectly influenced the politics of Pakistan, which includes thicky-three years' military rule. The judiciary and politicians, along with the establishment, disregarded the constitution by Frequently using "Doctrine of Necessity" for their petty interests. Moreover, polibicians judicion, and establishment have interfered in each others domain reculling in absence of separation of power to addition to this pulitical parties lack internal democraqy which is also highlighted by EES' report "State of Democracy in Pakistan 2023'. Furthermore, the illiterate voters do not know the true value of their voter resulting in dynastic politics Also, the crackdown on dissent and media reveals the situation of democracy in Pakistan Lastly, the devolution of power at the grass root level is absent making true democracy in Pakistan a myth. Some people believe that true democracy in Pakistan is a reality because the era of dictatorships is over, the country holds election and last three assemblies have completed their terms. However, this viewpoint is flowed because establishment

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