

# The need for temperance in Politics

## Outline

### I- Introduction

Statesmen regard the need for temperance in politics because it bridges political divides, strengthens democracy, fosters cooperation to address national and global challenges, and guides the nation towards progress and sustainability.

### II- What is temperance in Politics?

### III- There is no need for temperance in Politics:

A counter perspective

A- Leads to failure in upholding truth and Justice

(Martin Luther's letter and civil rights movement)

(Ongoing Genocide in Gaza)

B- Results in political gridlock and delay decisive actions

(US debt ceiling crisis, 2023)



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IV - Statesmen Propagate that there is need of temperance in politics because:

A - Bridges political divides and counters

Polarization in Politics

(All Parties Conference in Pakistan)

B - It strengthens Democracy.

(South Africa's Government of National Unity, GNU)

C - Fosters cooperation to address global and national issues

(COP 29)

D - Guides nation towards development and sustainability

(PM Narendra Modi's economic reforms)

E - Promulgation of rightful laws and rules for people

(Affordable Care Act, 2022 in US)

(Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 in India)

F - Upright foreign policy and better relations with other nations

(Norway's Role in Middle East)

(China's Dragon policy)

G - Reduces social divide and tackles social tensions

(Nelson Mandela)



H - Paves the way to gain economic stability  
(New Zealand)

(Canada's fiscal Policies)

V - Benefits of temperance in Politics

A - Encourages Inclusivity and fosters Peace

(Rapprochement of Saudi-Iran)

B - Facilitates long-term Policy making

(Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030)

C - Enhance good governance

(New Zealand)

VI - Conclusion

Temperance in Politics leads to balance and harmony in Political domain which leads to social stability and sustainability.



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## The need for temperance in Politics

"Power must never be trusted without a check, and restraint is the essence of balanced governance"

- James Madison

South Korea was immensely facing

governance issues when President Park Geun-hye was accused over corruption scandal in 2017. had always been facing

This event led to drastic drop in economy and increased social tension. The need for accountability and moderation in politics was the only hope to get out of that misfortune. Under the regime of new elected President Moon Jae-in, temperance and balanced policy formulation was inculcated in politics of South Korea. This resulted in fair governance, social justice, economic development and peaceful engagement with North Korea. Keeping this event in view, it is evident that temperance is needed in politics to drive nations toward

growth and prosperity. Temperance in politics indicate moderation and balance in decision making, policy formulation, and upright leadership and governance. In contrast, absence of

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temperance leads to polarization, impulsive decision, poor governance and erosion of public trust. Is it even possible to initiate effective governance without temperance in politics? It appears to be impossible, as the world without temperance would collapse out of misery.

Furthermore, there is need for temperance in politics because it bridges political divides, strengthens democracy, fosters cooperation to address global and national challenges, and guides nation towards progress and sustainability.

Islamic philosopher, **Al-Farabi**, in his book - **Virtuous City**, integrates temperance as a basic tool for leaders to ensure justice and harmony. He ~~argues that leader should exhibit moderation and wisdom in politics to create a~~

~~balanced and growing society.~~ Political temperance refers to exercising moderation, restraint, and balance in political decision-making, promoting stability and ensuring ethical governance for betterment of society. It focuses on principled liberal approaches rather than extreme or self-locus decisions in politics. It strengthens moral and political integrity through addressing polarization in politics. There is need for temperance



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in politics as it focus on balancing conflicting ideas, interests or emotions driven politics. Aristotle, in his book - Nicomachean Ethics, emphasizes that virtue of nation lies in moderation and temperance in governance which results in upright governance, avoiding pitfalls of authoritarianism or unchecked populism.

Populist leaders believe that there is no need of temperance in politics because it leads to failure in upholding truth and justice, and marginalizes weaker segment of society. Temperance in politics leads to delays in addressing justice and often encourages compromise. This results in racial inequality, violation of human rights or suppressed economic growth. Political leaders hesitate to ~~take~~ confront urgent crisis timely. The failure to timely intervene in Gaza genocide has exacerbated harm and suffering which has led to violation of Geneva convention. The inefficiency of global leaders to agree on middle path to stop genocide has perpetuated Siege in Gaza and neighbouring regions. Moreover, Martin Luther King, highlights the injustice of whites in South America during Civil Rights Movement.



in 1960s. Through his famous Letter from Birmingham Jail, he describes the vulnerabilities faced by protestors for their rights ~~wh~~ were suppressed and counter attacked by white moderates to undermine protests for marginalized groups in South.

Furthermore, temperance in politics result in political gridlock and delay decisive actions. It encourages middle way between opposing parties resulting in lack of support from extreme opposites favouring stalemate. Temperance in politics undermines progression in politics and policy formation of any state. This is evident in US debt ceiling crisis in 2023, in which ~~wh~~ two major opposing parties of US, Democrats and Republicans, sought to compromise on increasing debt ceiling and ~~cuts in spending~~ rather to increase in debt ceiling. The delayed negotiation between parties led to governmental default and economic instability. The crisis lasted longer than expected due to indecisive actions. Temperance and moderation in politics prevented both parties to get into timely negotiations to overcome economic strain.

In spite of all critiques, need



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for temperance in politics can not be neglected.

Statesman Propagate that there is need of temperance in politics because it bridges political divides and counters polarization in politics.

Adopting balanced and ~~contrast~~ centrist approach encourages dialogue between parties which agree on middle path between extremes. This

tends to prevent ideological divides and conflicts

in politics. In October 2024, All parties conference (APC) was conducted in Pakistan. It provided a single

~~platform to all parties of Pakistan together for consensus.~~ APC was conducted to address national

issues such as, terrorism, inflation or rapid

~~change~~ climate changing. The coalition also

showed solidarity with Palestinian people and against

Israeli opposition. This is a clear indication that

~~temperance in politics helps all political parties to~~

~~align under one cause irrespective of their~~

~~ideological differences.~~

Secondly, temperance in politics

encourages cooperation and compromise thus

strengthening democracy within nation. This

empowers the political parties to put aside

their differences in memorandums and tackle

challenges faced by country. Such as, poverty,



unemployment or corruption. For example, despite the differences in ideologies Ten political parties are coalited under one national party in South Africa. It is known as, **South Africa's Government of National Unity (GNU)**, this commitment of political parties is based on temperance in politics which strengthens democracy to direct national unity and stability and empower marginalized groups based on racial differences.

Thirdly, temperance in politics fosters cooperation to address global and nation issues. It encourages political leaders to prioritize pragmatic solutions over ideological gaps between political parties. Temperance in politics brings multiple parties together to cooperate to achieve peace nationally and globally. ~~It focuses on shared goals rather than partisan division to address global issues like, climate change and national issues like, economic recovery.~~ A recent example of temperance in politics is evident through **UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs)**, which are conducted every year. **COP 29**, is 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of all parties which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. It is ~~world's only multilateral decision making forum on~~



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climate change that brings almost every nation together to focus on adaptation and mitigation strategies to counter climate change globally.

Cop 29 intended to overcome climate crisis, limiting global temperature, helping vulnerable communities to combat climate change and achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2050.

Regardless of political differences, different global political leaders combine to observe temperance to overcome global and national issues.

Fourthly, Political temperance guides nations toward development and sustainability. It helps nations to navigate their complex issues on common grounds fostering inclusivity and far-sighted policies. This results in stability in politics, policy formation and innovative programs. Balanced politics leads to economic growth and social welfare.

India's moderate economic reforms such as, **Atmanirbhar**

**Bharat** (self-reliant India) and many other, under leadership of **PM Narendra Modi** focuses on

~~combination of pro-business~~ Pro-business policies

with social welfare schemes. Ultimately, resulting

~~in temperance in politics~~ which ensure development and sustainability. Despite all differences, basic

~~framework of leading political parties~~ focuses on



modernization of economy, infrastructure growth and bringing millions out of poverty line.

Fifthly, temperance in politics paves the way to promulgation of rightful laws and rules for people. ~~The political leaders practice temperance and moderation resulting in avoidance of extreme view while focusing on consensus.~~ For example, **Affordable Care Act, 2010**, was promulgated through accommodating various political interests. The main aim of the act was for betterment of people in the US by expanding health care facilities. Through multiparty support National Health Services in the US tends to flourish leading to sustainability in reforms. Furthermore, another example to this could be, **The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019**, it was a combined party act which provided citizenship to religious minorities from neighbouring countries. This depicts that temperance in politics leads to fair representation of population in legislation to acknowledge their demands through rightful laws and rules.

Sixthly, Political temperance aims to strike a balance between different interests, fostering diplomacy and ~~with~~ mutual respect. Political parties prioritize stability of foreign



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Policy and forming better relations with other nations. Foreign policies are based on national interest and universal values to maintain diplomatic channels and prevent nations from isolationist policies. Through temperance in politics, China expands its reach and global dominance in peaceful manner by means of its upright foreign policy, **China's Dragon Policy**. Similarly,

### **Norway's role in Middle East Peace process**

emphasizes on social peace and diplomacy through political temperance. Norwegian leadership plays a constructive role in fostering dialogues between adversaries to build strong international relations.

Seventhly, inculcation of temperance in politics leads to reduction in social divide and tackle social tension. It helps to address social grievances of people by eliminating social differences based on political ideologies such as, '**us vs them**' mindset. Temperance in politics enables sense of unity among people and promotes social harmony. **Nelson Mandela** exemplifies political temperance by transferring South Africa into democratic nation. Mandela, focused on reconciliation instead of punishment. He hoped to unite South Africa after apartheid recession



and Political divide through temperance in politics. Moreover, **Nordic countries** like, Norway and Sweden, practices temperance in politics which helps the nations to promote high level of social equality. Temperance in governance prioritizes investment in education, healthcare and infrastructure which are essential to counter social disparities and social tension. **Singapore's** balanced and moderate governance enhances social welfare, thereby, ~~increasing~~ human development index of Singapore.

Lastly, temperance in politics paves the way to gain economic stability by stabilizing tax, trade and monetary policies. Moderation and temperance leads to involatile policies which decreases uncertainties for investors. **New Zealand** possess temperate governance and transparency in economic institutions helps it to be consistently rank highest with Foreign Direct Investment. Temperance in politics prioritizes inclusivity, thereby, reducing socio-economic differences and limiting marginalization. **Canada's fiscal policies**, justifies this by maintaining social cohesive society which helps to achieve seventy percent economic stability under temperate politics. Furthermore,



temperance in **United Arab Emirates'** governance moves the nation towards surging economy by widening state earnings beyond oil, focusing on ~~tourism, technology~~ and finance.

Temperance in politics is one of the vital running wheels of politics which takes the nation towards progress and stability. There are many benefits of temperance in politics which could be divided into three major domains.

First, temperance in politics encourages inclusivity and fosters peace. It ~~ensures equal representation of diverse perspectives of different parties.~~ It prevents marginalization of any political party having different ideologies. Temperate governance enhances democratic values and avoids extreme politics. It is beneficial for broader spectrum of

society. **Rapprochement of Saudi-Iran**, mediated by China, rely on restoration of diplomatic ties based on temperance in Middle Eastern politics.

~~The temperate agreement was routed to promote regional inclusivity and peace, and reduced sectarian divide between nations, promoting inclusivity by fostering trust among diverse groups which results in reduced radicalization.~~

Second, Temperance in politics



promote moderate policies facilitating sustainability which results in long-term gains. It avoids ~~temp~~ abrupt shift in policies, thereby, maintaining social and economic stability. It is evident through **Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030**, which classifies balanced policies in Saudi Arabia to diversify oil-dependent economy for rapid development with long-term goals. The temperate nature of politics leads to promotion of different important sectors of country such as digital infrastructure, renewable energy or tourism to avoid economic disruptions.

~~Third~~, temperance in politics results in good and ethical governance. It focuses on moderation in politics and avoiding corruption or any unlawful act against nations' policies.

Temperate politics enhances transparency and accountability that ensure political parties alignment with societal welfare rather than favouring single party agenda.

**New Zealand** remains one of the least corrupt nations globally. Politicians and public officials inculcate temperance and moderation in their decision-making and consistently emphasize transparency, accountability and societal welfare over self-centered dominating politics. Moreover, the list of benefits of temperance ~~is~~ in politics



cannot be gauged through words. These benefits are widely evident globally which supports the notion of need of temperance in politics.

To sum up the discussion, the importance and need for temperance in politics cannot be overlooked. In spite of all the critiques, there is an urgent need for temperance in politics which not only brings political stability, but helps nations to overcome its national and global challenges. Moreover, it leads to sense of unity among people and holistically guides the nation towards progress and sustainability. **Aristotle** in his book - **Politics**, emphasizes the value of temperance and moderation in governance and, further, advocates balanced rule of nation, undermining tyranny and populism. He states that, "In all things of nature, there is something marvelous, and in political life, it is the mean that sustains harmony and prevents conflict." He encourages balance and harmony in politics which would lead to social stability and sustainability. Initiation of effective and temperate governance majorly depends on upon balance and moderation in politics which ultimately leads to prosperous state. **James Madison**, states that



that, "Ambition must be made to counteract ambitions". He argues that political powers should be structured, that the ambitions of one branch of government would check competing ambitions in other branches. This highlights the importance of balance and restraint in government, and temperance in politics to prevent the abuse of power leading to flourishing governance and successful state.

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