

21363

Serial No:

SUPPLEMENTBOARD OF INTERMEDIATE & SECONDARY
EDUCATION SUKKUR, SINDHName of Examination SSC/HSC Part I-IIAnnual / Supplementary 20

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Political Polarization and its Consequences for Democracy in Pakistan.

Outline

1 Introduction:

Thesis Statement

Though, the volcano of political polarization was in process at the earlier days of independence over ethno-linguistic grounds. Yet, the lava erupted recently in the wake of certain developments, particularly with dethroning of Imran Khan. This has changed democracy into establishmenarian democracy in Pakistan.

02 A birds eye view of the vicious circles of the political instability in Pakistan.

03 Prominent factors that lead to the political polarization in the country.

3.1 Melting pluralism in Pakistani society skyrockets political instability in the country.

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3.2 Military-Bureaucratic oligarchy and their intervention in political processes boost political polarization in the country.

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3.3 Political witch hunt mingled with nepotism and favouritism aggrandize political instability in Pakistan.

3.4 Geo-political rivalries and interference of global powers have exacerbated political instability.

{ cablegate, scandal in Pakistan }
'lettergate'

3.5 The confinement of Judiciary to juristocracy and hyper active judicial activism erode political stability in Pakistan.

{ Doctrine of necessity }

3.6 Ineffective civilian government jumbled with ethno-national divide makes the matter worse in the country.

04 How political polarization is a poison for the democracy in Pakistan.

4.1 No democratically chosen Prime Minister have so far completed his tenure.

4.2 Political polarization steps-up populism in the country. that is existential threat to the democracy.

4.3 Socio-political fabric of the country dwindles that causes havoc to democracy.

4.4 Political Polarization provides fertile grounds for undemocratic forces in the country.

4.5 Political instability abets struggle of power between state elites i.e establishment and judiciary which is against the core democratic values.

05 Ways forward to bar political polarization and to help flourishing democracy in the country.

- S.1 Works should be done to induce pluralism in the society as it is a key feature of the democracy.
- S.2 There is intense need of reforms by legislative Assemblies to distance Army and bureaucracy from politics in the country.
- S.3 Political parties must strive to build political consensus on shared norms and code of conduct.
- S.4 There must be free and fair elections under the supervision of free media to strengthen socio-political fabric in the country.
- S.5 Judiciary should not confine itself to juristocracy and hyper active judicial activism.

06. Conclusion.

«Pakistan's future viability, stability and security lies in empowering its people and building political institutions»
— Benazir Bhutto

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Introduction

Maida Farid writes in her article named 'Pakistan: A Land of dented democracy and increasing polarization'.

"Socio-political fabric of Pakistan is greatly polarized on all levels, from the political elites to the masses."

Ever since independence Pakistan's democracy has not been deep rooted and flourished. The prime factor behind it is political polarization. It is remained what Muhammad Wasim in his book 'Political conflict in Pakistan' refers as establishmentarian democracy. There are numerous factors behind rising political instability in Pakistan ranging from military-bureaucratic oligarchy to judicial activism. From Geo-political rivalries to political witch hunt and ineffective civilian

its part and all forgotten

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government jumbled with ethno-national divide in the country.

The rising political instability wreaks havoc on democracy in Pakistan.

It provides fertile grounds to the undemocratic forces. Further, it weakens socio-political fabric in country.

Not only political polarization abets struggle of power between state elites but also rises populism in the country. What causes political crisis?

Is it since inception of the country?

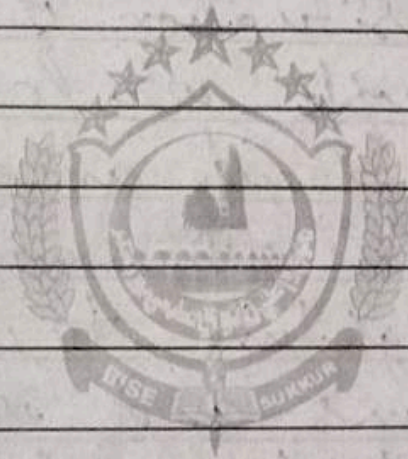
What measures need to be taken to halt widening gap among political classes? Though, the volcano of political polarization was in process at the earlier days of independence over ethno-linguistic grounds. yet, the lava erupted recently in the wake of certain developments, particularly, with the dethroning of

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Imran Khan. All this has changed democracy into establishmentarian democracy in Pakistan. Therefore it is high time to save the sinking ship of democracy in Pakistan by building political consensus and starting socio-political and economic reforms.

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To cut long story short it can be said that vicious circles of political instability in Pakistan is as old as the country itself. Multiple factors including disruption of the democratic process by military establishment, dwindling pluralism in the society and struggle of power b/w state elites. have contributed in political instability in the country. Joseph Stalin words fit well in the ^{current} situation of Pakistan.

"The people who cast the vote do not decide an election,

The people who count the votes do".

Hence, its high time to initiate much needed reforms and establish political consensus to bestow life to the democracy in Pakistan otherwise, what Imran Khan said "In Pakistan politics is hereditary" will be the future of politics in the country.

"Political disagreements have the colour and fragrance that normally is seen and felt in a political bouquet, while remaining united on one issue that democracy is the future of Pakistan."

— Asif Ali Zardari