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English Essay

"The Creation of New Provinces in Pakistan: Implications for an Integrated Country"

Outline

1. Introduction

2. Ways in Which Creation of New Provinces can Positively Promote Integration in Pakistan

2.1 Creation of new provinces along ethnic lines would strengthen regional identities

2.2 Smaller administrative units improve governance, public service delivery, and resource management

2.3 Decentralising power from the federal government to provincial governments

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2.4 brings people closer to governance
New provinces could enhance the federal structure, ensuring balance between regional autonomy and national unity.

2.5 Increased political representation in provincial assemblies allows more local voices to be heard.

2.6 Dissatisfaction among provinces over Punjab-centric policy making would be reduced allowing increased harmony.

2.7 Regional disparities over distribution of resources would decrease through equitable sharing.

3. Ways in Which Creation of New Provinces Can Lead to Disintegration Within Pakistan

3.1 Creating provinces based on ethnic and linguistic identity may potentially exacerbate divisions within the country.

3.2 Division among provinces can fuel separatism rather than national cohesion.

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3.3

Redrawing boundaries could lead to political unrest and disputes over resource allocation in politically sensitive regions

3.4

Resource rich regions may refuse to share resources, causing further economic disparity within the provinces

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Barriers in Implementing New Provinces in Pakistan

4.1

Resistance from public, especially in Punjab where provincial identity is deeply entrenched

4.2

Divisions among political parties regarding creation of new provinces and the basis on which they should be created

4.3

Requirement of constitutional amendments with 2/3rd majority along with multiple legal challenges

4.4

Disputes over sharing natural resources between existing and new provinces

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5. Overcoming Barriers to Ensure New Provinces Strengthen National Integration in Pakistan

5.1 Incorporating proportional representation and inclusive governance models to ensure fair political participation for all ethnic groups

5.2 Dialogue among all political parties and regional leaders to ensure broad-based agreement

5.3 Streamlining legal process through clear definition of powers between federal and provincial governments to ensure cooperative governance

5.4 Establishing fair mechanism for resource sharing to prevent economic disparity among provinces

5.5 Securing 2/3rd parliament majority for constitutional amendment

6. Conclusion

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Introduction

The debate over the optimal number of provinces to ensure national integration within Pakistan, is present since the country's inception. Proponents of creating new provinces argue that smaller administrative units with an equitable resource sharing mechanism would allow Pakistan to achieve good governance. On the other hand, stand the opposers of creating new provinces based on the belief that new provinces would lead to a loose federation and could potentially further fuel separatist movements which have long existed within the country. On the potential bright side, the grievances that have bred separatist movements could be addressed through new provinces. However, the process requires political consensus to attain 2/3rd majority within the parliament to pass the 27th Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan (1973). Provided

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Punjab dominates the proportional representation within the National Assembly; the toughest barrier to overcome would require a broad consensus. If the broad consensus is attained, the likelihood that creating new provinces would result in stronger national integration in Pakistan, outweighs the negative implications. By addressing the underlying cause of national disintegration, Pakistan's national cohesion would be strengthened provided that the process is done in a transparent and fair manner with positive intentions.