

Q8
CSS-2011
P. 100 marks

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How general elections in 2002, 2008, and 2013 strengthened the democracy in Pakistan?

INTRODUCTION

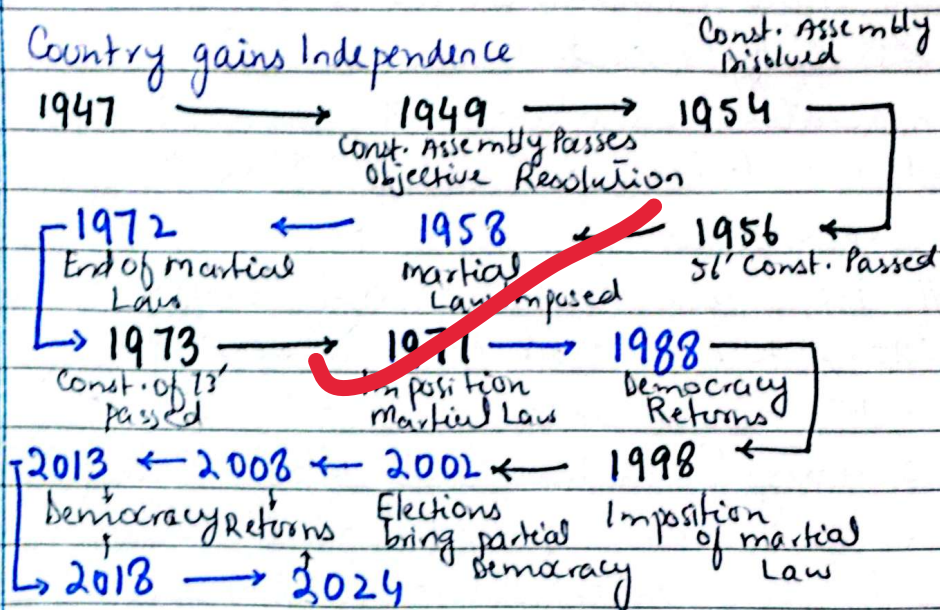
Democracy in Pakistan returned after 4 years of martial law^{in 2001} and in 2008 it was fully restored. Through general elections, democratic institutions will be strengthened and revived. Pakistan was founded on the principles of democracy. However, that not all the case as the country's turbulent history tells us that for the majority period it spent under indirect or direct military. From this table below we can see the time periods when the country was under direct military rule

Democratic Rule	Military Rule
1947 - 58	1958 - 72
1972 - 77	1977 - 1998
1988 - 98	1998 - 2002
2002 - onwards	

Total years under democratic rule uptill 2002 are 25, while military rule are 30 years. However, today a new leaf has turned in the country's history through the return of democracy.

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DEMOCRACY'S JOURNEY IN PAKISTANI HISTORY



Democracy Through The Early Years:

After the death of the Nation's founder and eminent leaders, democracy found loose footing during the early years of Independence. The subsequent power tussle between the governor general and the prime minister was evident. The Governor General's undemocratic attitude led to dissolution of the 1955 constituent Assembly in 1954 and imposition of martial law in 1958.

Democracy During the 70's

After the dismemberment of the country, elections were held in '72' and democracy was fully restored. The government limited the role of the armed forces and passed the new constitution of 1973.

Democracy Post-2002

After General Musharraf held the elections under Legal framework Order 2002, he formed a democratic government. He restored the '73' constitution and ceded power in 2008/07 to the new government.

The 2008 headed by the Pakistan Peoples Party avoided the mistakes of the past and strengthened democracy by further passing the 18th Amendment in 2010.

Later, power was transferred to the new government through peaceful elections held in 2013.

**STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY
THROUGH ELECTIONS
HELD IN 2002, 2008, 2013**

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Political Process to start once again

Political processes and representations that were once stalled by the suspension of democratic would now once again gradually resume. These processes would also help inclusion of minority segments, women and the oppressed.

"Under Article 17 of the Constitution; Every citizen shall be able to form a political party or be member of such." These rights enable and ensure the public to once again strengthen democracy by actively taking part in it.

Local Representation Ensured Through Elections

The 2008 elections brought fundamental changes to the polity of Pakistan. with the introduction of the 18th amendment, devolution of power was achieved and local governments were given legal cover under Article 140A.

Through local governments, the democratic principles can be best realized as local issues can be solved at the local level.

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Grievances of Areas to be discussed in Parliament

Parliament, a forum that allows members to raise their genuine grievances of their electorate. Some lawmakers ask for increase in the education facilities. While some ask for more representation in the corridors.

All in all, parliament is strengthened through debate and dialogue when members are elected. They bring a host of experience and issues when they come to the Parliament.

Add and highlight references/examples against these arguments

Development towards a Positive Culture of Political

In the eras of dictatorship, sufficient political rights were curtailed of the people. However, with the return back to normalcy, democratic rights have been restored. A new culture of politics also emerged along with the revival of democracy.

Through subsequent elections this culture will positively impact the democratic norms. As it will allow for new voices and personalities to be heard, allowing for more representation and inclusion.

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Strengthening of Parliament and other Institutions

Parliament gets its strength through the democratic process of elections. It derives its power from the masses that trust the system and elect their representatives.

Through subsequent elections, this trust gradually increases and Parliament gains strength. The debate and legislation on various issues also provide it more strength.

Continuation of Electoral Process will result in the Progress of Democracy

As per Murray Edelman

'Voting is the form of participation that citizen can directly participate in government.'

Elections keep the wheel of democracy spinning. By continuing the process of elections, the citizens can hold their elected leaders to account, the public can ^{also} reinforce the spirit of national unity and democratic principles.

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Public can only exercise rights if Elections take place

The general is the biggest stakeholder in a democracy, however it has little say in how policies are made. Through the mechanisms of electoral politics, the general has the ability to either remove or vote their representatives into or out of power.

The strength of democracy is fully achieved when the public is in the driving seat and representatives know they are to held accountable by the public.

International Perception Shifted at home and abroad due to Elections

After the elections were held in 2001, 2008, and 2013; the global perception shifted and Pakistan garnered a soft image at home and abroad due to the functioning of democracy.

Pakistan was ranked 100 in 2011, on the World Democracy Index

(Economist)

Add more arguments in this part

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Conclusion

In conclusion, the country's nascent democracy is slowly getting a boost from the elections that have been held till date. Representation from the country's corners has increased and public participation and trust in the polling process has also increased.