

Political Polarization; Governance and Society

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement:

Political polarization undermines the essence of social cohesion and democracy. Thus, some concrete measures are necessary to address the menace of political uncertainty.

2. A brief overview of the political polarization

- Definition of political polarization by US state department

3. How does political polarization affect governance and society?

(a) Effect on Governance:

I - Political instability leads to economic instability

Books: Issues in Pakistan's Economy

II - It results in extractive state institutions

Books: Why Nations Fail

III - It deteriorates law and order equation of society

Reference: Afghanistan's politics

IV - Political uncertainty maligns democratic values

Case in point: Current political situation of Pakistan

V - It causes delay in strategic projects

Case in point: Delay in China Pakistan Economic Corridor phase (II).

(b) Effect on Society:

I - Political instability exacerbates chaos in society

Reference: PILDA report (2024)

II - It causes decline in public trust from governments

Case study: Fall of Hosni Mubarak

III - It increases risks of extremism and intolerance in society

Case study: Civil war in Sudan

IV - It divides society in multiple

sections

Case study: ethnic division in Pakistani society

4. What are the measures to address the issue of political polarization?

I - Ensuring democratic culture within political parties is essential

Case study: Islamabad Pact

II - Efficient role of parliament
 can address political chaos
 Reference: Justice Athar Minallah's
 remarks

III - Impartial role of judiciary
 is also necessary in this regard
 Case in point: Recent decision of
 Supreme Court on issue of
 reserved seats

IV - Inclusive role of state
 institutions is indispensable for
 political stability
 Books: Why Nations Fail

V - Responsible role of media
 outlets is also necessary for
 conducive political environment

VI - Consensus among tiers of
 state on key national interests
 is imperative for political stability
 Case study: USA political
 system

S. Conclusion

Politics plays a key role in governance and society. Political stability leads to a well-governed, peaceful and united society. However, political uncertainty brings chaos and turmoil in the society. For instance, African countries are facing issues of governance and social cohesion. It is because they have continuously faced the menace of political skirmishes. Rising economic meltdown is linked with uncertain political environment. Similarly, presence of extractive state institutions, coupled with deteriorating Law and Order situation is an other consequence of polarized politics. Absence of democratic ethos, declining public trust from institutions, delay in strategic projects and others are all the negative results of political instability. Exacerbating social chaos, and rising extremism and intolerance are also manifestations of societal breakdown resulting from political polarization. Nonetheless, some discrete measures are imperative to address the political polarization. Ensuring democratic culture within political parties along with efficient role of parliament is essential for conducive political environment. Moreover, impartial

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role of judiciary, inclusive role of state entities and responsible role of media channels are also vital steps in this context. Political polarization undermines essence of governance, social cohesion and democracy. Thus, some concrete measures are necessary to address the issue of political uncertainty -