

Q1. In light of Pakistan's current political instability, could a presidential system be a solution to governance issues? Critically evaluate.

## 1. Introduction:

Pakistan has experienced recurring political instability throughout its history, oscillating between civilian and military governments.

Since the adoption of constitution of 1973,

Pakistan has been governed under Parliamentary system, yet the challenges of poor governance, political instability and frequent regime changes persist. Few people think

think that Presidential system can provide

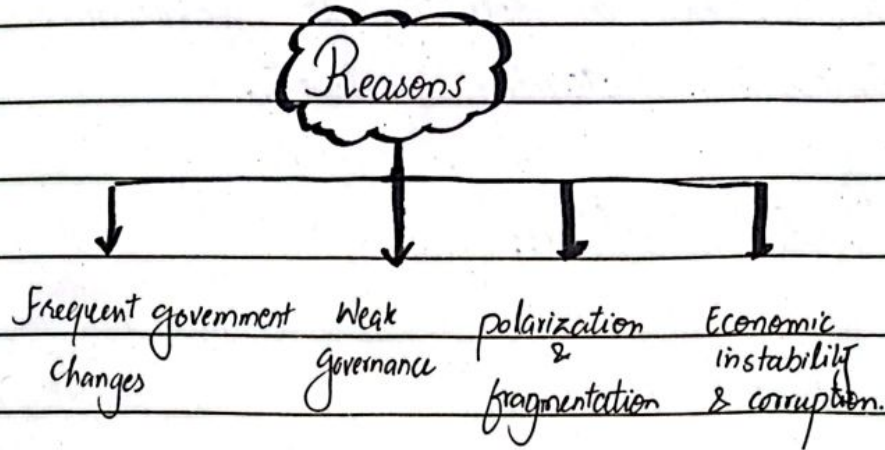
strong leadership, effective governance and streamlined policies. However, the historical

experiences of Pakistan with presidential system as well as global trends, raise concerns

about authoritarianism and democratic backsliding.

## 2. Pakistan's current Political Instability:

Multiple factors have contributed to the Pakistan's current political turmoil.



### 2.1. Frequent Government changes:

The volatile nature of governments and the fragility of coalition governments, specifically after 2018 elections led to political instability, poor governance & inconsistent policies.

### 2.2. Weak Governance:

Weak governance and the failure of government to implement effective policies has led to unstable regimes which in turn leads to regime change and this vicious cycle continues.

### 2.3. Polarization & Fragmentation:

Political, ethnic, religious and ideological polarization is deeprooted issue in Pakistan.

Lack of consensus on the matters of national interests due to polarization & fragmentation has greatly contributed to political unrest.

#### 2.4. Economic Instability & Corruption:

The economic turmoil in the country, and the contribution of political corruption in this matter has caused to establish the air of mistrust between government and people.

### 3. Potential Benefits of Presidential System:

Incentivising the above mentioned situation, proponents argue that presidential system can prove to be solution of the turmoil. Presidential system can potentially provide stronger executive leadership, reduce instability and provide a way to efficient governance.

#### 3.1. Stronger Executive:

Presidential System can provide a stronger executive, where the power is centralized in the hands of President. He can make effective use of the power to take

decisions necessary to ensure better governance while rampantly decreasing political instability in the country.

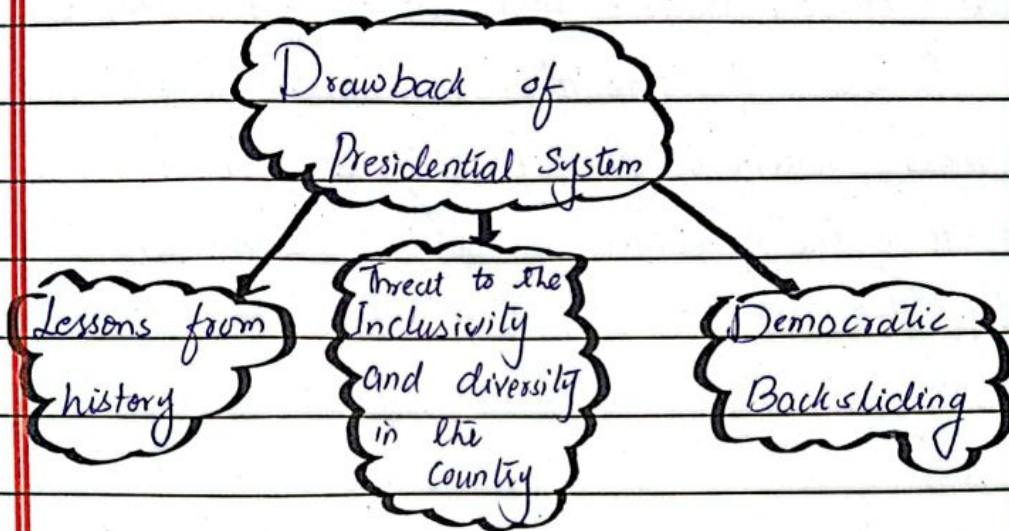
## 2.2. Separation of Power: Better governance.

The key attribute of this system is separation of power b/w legislature and executive, that makes executive independent in its decisions.

President can take swift decisions to ensure better governance through immediate policy implementation.

## 4. Why Presidential System is not a solution?

Despite the effectiveness of decision making power in Presidential system, it does not provide adequate effectiveness to the problem of today's Pakistan. Pakistan has a history of presidential system that ended with an authoritarian rule and greater political instability. The socio-political landscape of Pakistan does not favour this system either.



#### 4.1. Lessons from History: Failure of Presidential System.

Pakistan has experienced the presidential system during two military regimes of Ayub Khan and Gen Zia ul Haq. Both decades 1960s and 1980s are marked by the political unrest and weakened democracy. Both Ayub and Zia's governments were authoritarian, that weakened democratic institutions and exacerbated the situation of political instability. These past experiences taught Pakistan a hard learned lesson of never considering Presidential System a solution.

#### 4.2. Threatens Inclusivity and diversity in the country:

The ethnic, religious and regional <sup>diversity</sup> ~~inclusivity~~ in Pakistan necessitates a system that ensures inclusivity among different groups. While the presidential system is characterised by the centralization of power in single hand threatening the diversity and inclusivity.

#### 4.3. Democratic Backsliding:

Presidential system can be a successful form of government in countries like the United States. However a country like Pakistan ~~is~~ always faces a threat from the authoritarian nature of this system. Presidential System in Pakistan can potentially end up in democratic backsliding like it did in the past. The authoritarian rule threatens democracy and nurtures dictatorship as it did during the military regimes in Pakistan.

#### 5. Conclusion:

Presidential System may provide a short term solution to current ~~state~~ problems in Pakistan by providing strong executive,

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but in a long run it can lead to  
~~and~~ establishment of authoritarian rule.

Instead of establishing presidential system  
in the country, Pakistan needs to strengthen  
it's parliamentary system. A stronger & more  
stable parliamentary system will ensure  
inclusivity, democracy and effective governance  
in the country.