

The Politics of Compromise and

Pakistan's Political Parties

compromises have been the norms in Pakistani Political history.

Pakistan's history is full of many compromises that costed democracy; the current Hybrid regime is the biggest compromise. Parties in power are merely the face of the actual rulers: establishment and bureaucracy. Expecting a reform in this compromised setup of democracy is a mistake one can make. People of Pakistan's only hope lies in the realm of political parties, which are currently in disarray.

Pakistan Muslim League (PMLN) has a formidable legacy; it returns to power every other time. Behind its success lies the strategy of maintaining good relationships with country's elite and voters' happiness. It is achieved through economic reforms and schemes. In past, these development schemes were carried out by getting huge loans from every possible lender. On the contrary, present setup is unable to borrow that amount of money; therefore, PMLN tries to appease their workers through their government in Punjab. Neither PMLN's will, nor the real rulers behind the show will allow for any reform that might weaken their grip, and pave the way for uncompromised democracy.

Pakistan's Peoples Party (PPP) on the other hand, is struggling to get due share of power.

in this hybrid setup. PPP, once the voice of democracy, is no longer seems to unlike the huge interference of unelected power institutions. In past, it has struggled to restore democracy against dictatorship of Zia and Mushraff - both generals. Currently, it is not in the cabinet; it supports every act of the government which ~~gives~~ benefits it as well.

Pakistan Tahreek e Insaaf (PTI)'s story is somewhat diverse in itself. Founded on the manifesto justice and Naya Pakistan (New and reformed Pakistan), PTI achieved its seat of power by people's will, and most importantly by the establishment creating the path for uninterrupted hybrid regime. Its founder is in the jail by the because of the current hybrid regime whose foundations ~~will be laid by him~~ in 2018. One thing that sets apart Imran Khan is its popular support. But fate of him, and his party is unfavorable for him and his party based on Status quo.

Political parties are in constant aggression and hostility towards each other. This behavior will only lead to more of a puppet democracy. Parties need to reconcile, so that future of Pakistan's politics and democracy will survive on its own - not on compromise.