

'Democratic Backsliding in Pakistan: Causes, Consequences, and the Way Forward'

Outline

Introduction

- Hook
- Background
- Thesis Statement: Pakistan's democratic backsliding stems from institutional weaknesses and military interventions, necessitating structural reforms to ensure sustainable democracy.

Less words

More meanings good effort

Causes of Democratic Backsliding

2.1 • Military Intervention

- 1958, 1977, 1999

2.2 • Weak Democratic Institutions

- Frequent changes in government
- Lack of continuity in policies

2.3 • Ethnic and Sectarian Division

- Conflicts over resources, and autonomy
- Balochistan insurgency.
- PTM and issue of Pashtun rights.

2.4 • External Interference

- Role of Foreign Powers
- Impact of international events
- War on Terror

Consequences of Democratic Backsliding

3.1 • Economic Instability

- Economic crisis of 2022-2023

Date: _____

Day: _____

3.2 • Social Unrest and Violence

- Rise in extremist violence and Terrorism

3.3 • Human Rights Abuses

- Censorship of Media and Social media
- Arrests and Detentions

3.4 • International Image and Diplomacy

- FATF grey listing
- Diplomatic tensions

How democracy can be a flourished and stable in Pakistan

4. The Way Forward

4.1 • Strengthening Democratic Institutions

- Reforms to strengthen parliament, Judiciary and election commission.

4.2 • Promoting Civic Engagement

- Civic education
- Awareness programs

4.3 • Redefining Civil-Military Relations

- Ensure civilian supremacy

4.4 • Addressing Elite Capture

- Reducing influence of powerful elites
- Promoting Meritocracy.

5. Conclusion

Essay:

'Democracy is not a spectator sport', said Aung San Suu Kyi. Yet, in Pakistan, democracy seems to be in the stands, watching as authoritarianism takes center stage. Pakistan's experience with democracy has been tumultuous, with periods of military rule, weak institutions, and elite capture undermining its democratic functions. These factors have contributed to a decline in democratic governance, with severe consequences for the country's economy, security and human rights situation. To reverse this trend, Pakistan needs to strengthen its democratic institutions, promote civic engagement and redefine civil-military relations. For instance, the 1973 constitution and the movement for the Restoration of Democracy in the 1980s, highlight the country's potential for democratic governance and the people's desire for democratic rights. By taking these steps, Pakistan can ensure a sustainable democratic future.