

Topic: Democratic Unrest in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences

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Essay

Democracy, as Abraham Lincoln famously described as, "government of the people, by the people and for the people." Yet in many countries democracy remains as a unfinished project, fragile, vulnerable and often disrupted. Democracy is a system in which people elect their leader who remains accountable to people. When this system works smoothly, the country remains stable but when this system faces continuous distrust, conflicts and problems, it results in democratic unrest. Pakistan is one of those countries where democracy could not grow easily. Since its

inception, Pakistan has oscillated between democratic experimentation and authoritative rule which created a hybrid political system vulnerable to tensions, crises and institutional confrontations. Democratic unrest refers to political instability, electoral disputes, public protests and governance breakdown which weaken the democratic norms. In Pakistan, this unrest is the product of structural weaknesses,

institutional imbalance, economic instability, social fragmentation and many other external factors. Its consequences are affecting governance, economic development, social harmony, and the country's global image.

This essay analyzes the structural, political, economic and social causes of democratic unrest in Pakistan, followed by a discussion of the consequences and recommendations for a more stable democratic future.