

DEMOCRATIC UNREST IN PAKISTAN;

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

1. Introduction

2. Thesis Statement: This essay would reflect light on democratic unrest in Pakistan including causes comprised of political, economical and social also it would point out the far reaching implications of these causes.

3. Political Causes

3.1 Political instability

- a. Frequent government changes
- b. Policies rejection by ~~pre~~ succeeding governments
- c. Conflict of power between institutions

3.2 MILITARY INTERVENTION

- a. ^{Repeated} Military interference
- b. Martial laws imposition
- c. De jure control

3.3 INEQUITABLE RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

- a. Discrimination among natural resources
- b. Regional disparities
- c. Mistrust among provinces due to resources

3.4 ECONOMIC FRAGILITY

- a. Dependence on foreign aid
- b. Lack of FDI
- c. Imbalance in export and imports

3.5 TERRORISM AND INSURGENCY

- a. Surge in terrorism
- b. Cross border movements causing terrorism.

c. Rise of insurgency within border

3.6. WEAK GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

a. Scarcity of leadership roles in institutes

b. Hike in corruption

c. Reports of IMF

3.7. EDUCATIONAL BACKWARDNESS

a. low literacy rate

b. Unawareness of civil rights and responsibilities

c. ~~Be~~ Prone to manipulation

4. CONSEQUENCES

4.1. PAUCITY OF FDI

~~4.1.1. Scarcity of FDI~~

a. lack of FDI

b. Decrease trust of foreign investors; halt in CPEC

4.2. POVERTY

a. unemployment

b. lack of basic needs

4.3. POLITICAL UNREST

a. Social unrest in peoples

b. Frequent protests, resistance and pressure

c. Paralysis in functioning of government.

4.4. MAXIMIZATION IN CRIME RATE

a. Increase in crime due to social unrest

b. Frustration and psychological stress

c. lack of opportunities; societal pressure

4.5. FRACTURED INTERNATIONAL IMAGE

a. Political, social unrest and thuggish economy

b. Rise of enemies attack

c. Absence of value on international platforms.

4.6. INSTABILITY IN NATIONAL INTEGRATION.

a. ~~Be~~ Disagreements over resource distributions

b. Public backlash

c. Public intolerance

5- Conclusion

Democracy in its essence is ~~for~~ the people, by the people and for the People. The definition given by America's great leader Abraham Lincoln. Pakistan since its birth has faced^{to} turbulent journey with consequent two weathers of which are warmth and coldness. Pakistan is like an ocean with beautiful shore, people of Pakistan are like fishes in that ocean. Sailors (Politicians) came feed fishes and washed away by big tsunami. Pakistan's democracy is ~~like~~ example of this, it is disturbed because of frequent ^{to} change of regimes, civil-military dissent, inequitable resource distribution among ~~or~~ provinces, economical weakness and security problems. The unfortunate part is these causes have significant and prevailing repercussion ~~exactly~~ which includes meagreness in FDI, Poverty, Political unrest, increase in crime rate, pauper international ~~pr~~ image and turbulence in national integration. This essay would track down some factors responsible for Democratic unrest and its worst ramifications ~~in~~ in Pakistan. 144

There are various causes of democratic unrest, the most significant one is Political instability. Pakistan since its inception has faced tumultuous path. When the leader of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam died just after one year of his country's birth, there was a vacuum which no body filled fully yet. After that incident everyone tried to powerful but not a leader.

Frequent government change was new normal ~~which is still~~ has its lease also seen through out history of Pakistan. Dismissal of ~~Nawaz~~ ^{Khawaja} ~~Nawaz~~ ^{Nawaz} Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1953-1954.

~~After that~~ This was the first dismissal after that 12 political leaders including Prime Ministers and President had been dismissed or resigned under pressure. As said by Ayesha Siddiqi: "Frequent changes in ~~military~~ civilian government and repeated military interventions have created a culture of political instability that undermines democratic consolidation in Pakistan.

There have been some progress also in governments by ~~performing~~ reforms and policies but unfortunately those policies were most of the time rejected by ~~succeeding~~ ³⁰⁰ government. ~~These~~ ³⁰⁰ ~~causes~~ Additionally conflict of power is also main concern between institutions throughout history, which resulted retardness in its functioning. Hence, weak political system is the major cause of democratic

Military intervention is also prevalent cause in disturbing democracy. As in democracy peoples select their representator to protect their rights and provide basic ~~and~~ needs of life. However military interference is not sign of democracy as they are not representat~~ab~~ of civilians. Due to ~~a~~ weak politics, vacuum created which is filled by military. History has witness ~~internal~~ alternative civilian and military regime. Pakistan has faced multiple martial laws from its 1958 ⁷⁰⁰ till the last in 1999 by General Pervez Musharraf. ~~to these~~ Democratic norms weakened, civil military imbalance and suppression of civil liberties was seen. At present day ~~military~~ ~~demilitary~~ analyst speaks about de jure influence of military which is affecting its democratic pathway.

When there is disproportionate distribution of resources, it will cause democratic unrest. There has been discrimination over natural resource. For example Sui gas was found in Balochistan in 1955, it was provided other provinces except Balochistan. A survey done in 2001 shows there are many districts deprived of gas. Quetta the capital city was provided ^{Sui} gas in 1986. Other provinces ^{also} have grievances regarding Nfc, water distribution and natural resources reward. These unequal an division causes resentment in peoples and among provinces thus create ~~dem~~ imbalance in democratic system. 26.

Pakistan since its birth is crippling in economical aspect which is augmenting unrest of democracy. As its industrial sector is not strong it is not causing ~~causing~~ that much exports needed to run country.

Pakistan's export and import report for fiscal year 2024-2025 provided by IMF reported its exports are \$32 billion while imports are \$58 billion with trade deficit of \$26 billion. Besides this, Pakistan ~~de~~ rest its shoulder on IMF and which ^{provides} ~~further~~ benefit for short time although it is eating inside Pakistan's base. In addition to this, dearth of FDI is ~~its~~ another factor responsible for fracture economy. All these collectively results in civil unrest.

Terrorism and insurgency also hold flag in factors responsible for democratic instability. Pakistan's west and east borders skirmishes causes infiltration of militants and increased cross border movements which lead to terrorism and insurgency within border. As when military operations ~~are~~ executed insurgent and militants cross border and after short period come back to cause turmoil. As reported by PIPS (Pakistan Institute for Peace Strategy) there has been surge in terrorism, 521 total attacks done in 2024 with 852 fatalities. Additionally, 81% rise is seen in first quarter of 2025 compared to previous one in terrorism related incidents. These events further escalate governance crisis and democratic unrest.

Weak governance with corruption is the ugliest factor responsible for death of democracy.

There has been always a left space for ^{strong} leadership in Pakistan's politics which no one fully filled.

Institutes lack excellence and governance which cause retarded results. There has been

rise in corruption in latest years. According to IMF report elite capture and weak governance lead corruption in Pakistan.

Data provided by ^{IMF's} GICDA (Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment) from 2000 to present \$5 trillion corruption has been done. It's equal to ~~dec~~ which if not don Pakistan's economy will increase by 6% annually. Ergo, poor governance and lack of integrity is significant in causing governance crisis.

There are innumerable repercussions of democratic unrest, the significant one is lack of FDI. Due to political unrest and weak economy, foreign investors fear to invest in this ~~to~~ land. It has impacted their

business by frequent policies change.

CPEC is one of the major source of FDI. However political, social unrest and weak governance has halt its progress. According to recent study

FDI & inflows in Pakistan has declined by about 37% due to democratic unrest. FDI is backbone of a country, without it economical progress is plateau. ~~then~~ So, scantiness of FDI is major implication caused by fragile democracy.

Due to disturb democracy there will be turbulence in Political System of Pakistan. As when people would be deprived of their rights and basic needs ignited by persistent instab environmental instability, this will cause social unrest. Frustrated ~~people~~ civilians will protest and resist government by causing halt in its functions. This will further disturb political system ~~and~~ caused impacted by democratic crisis.

Crime rate augmentation is another dreadful implication ~~caused~~ resulted by civil unrest. As said by sociologist Clifford R. Shaw and Henry McKay crime is emerged by society disorganization, comprised of weak institutions, poverty and other lack of basic needs. Due to democratic unrest there will be absence of jobs, basic needs, citizens right, inevitable division which will force a person to commit crime. Hence, crime rate will enhance because of democratic crisis.

Fractured international image is one of the pertinent implication of civil unrest. Due to weakness in internal political, economical and social fabric of country, other countries will give no heed to Pakistan even at international forums. Internal fragile system will leave Pakistan vulnerable to enemies. Besides it, International forums will neglect representation of Pakistan. ~~Therefore~~ Ergo, governance crisis will hold bad image to international countries and forums.

Poverty in Pakistan is direct and indirect implication of democratic unrest. Because of frequent government change and weak governance, its inconsistency in reforms and policies has been seen which undermines economy and development of infrastructure. Mismanagement and corruption further add fuel to this by diminishing resources, opportunities and lack of basic needs which lead to poverty. According to World Bank's 2025 update, 44.7% of Pakistan's Population is now estimated to be living below the poverty line. As said by Muhammad Yunus (a Nobel laureate, Economist) Poverty is not created by poor people. It is created by institutions that deny people the right to work, the right to education, and the right to participate in society. All in all, destitution resulted by ~~poor~~ governance and ~~also~~ absenteeism of democracy.

Democratic crisis has multiple impacts but ~~fragility of~~ crack in national integration is one of the direct repercussions. The consistent political instability, economic fragility, poor performance by institutes, scantiness of justice all combine to affect individuals and undermine public trust in government.

Additionally inequitable resource distribution causes resentment and frustrations, ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~are~~ due to lack of opportunities and their basic needs, which ultimately results in discrimination and conflicts among peoples. Besides this, insurgencies further widen the gap of national integration.

As said by Kofi Annan democracy is not just the right to vote, it is the right to live in dignity and unity, which is the foundation of national cohesion'. Furthermore as quoted by Abdul Salam that a democratic society that respects diversity and ensures justice strengthens national integration and harmony.

In a sum, ethnic disintegration is the most prevailing and pertinent ramification of democratic unrest.

In conclusion,

Democratic unrest in Pakistan arises from a combination of political instability, economic fragility, weak governance and ongoing terrorism. These factors undermine public trust in democracy, weaken rule of law, create social and regional grievances. Together, these causes and repercussions form a cycle that perpetuates instability making consolidation of democracy in Pakistan an ongoing and complex challenge.