

Democratic Unrest in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences

1- Introduction

Hook

General statement

Thesis statement: Democratic unrest in Pakistan has its roots in history, currently the lack of division of power and rule of law caused democratic decline. This leads to the dilemma of abuse of power and weak social cohesion.

2- Causes of Democratic Unrest

2.1- Historical Perspective; Three constitutions, Three martial laws, 27 amendments - Yet illusion of democracy

2.2- Division of power; Reluctant to share power, No local government system and Intra-party democracy

2.3- Weak rule of Law; No separation of power, manipulation of Judiciary, bureaucracy, ECP. Montesquieu - Separation of power

2.4- Awareness; Ruler-Urban divide, gender disparities, education barrier.

2.5- Flaws in Voting and Election Procedure;

vote buying, biased to 'biradari' or caste system. Anatol Lieven 'Pakistan a Hard Country'

3. Consequences of Democratic Unrest

3.1- Abuse of Power; Powerful is exempted from law, lower class physically and economically exploited

3.2- Eroded Trust in state; low turnout in elections, nourish criminal minds, white collar crime

3.3- Increased Vulnerabilities; social media propaganda, violent protests - mobocracy. EU Disinformation Lab report (2020)

3.4- Social unrest; corrupt governing bodies, poor economic conditions

3.5- Current scenario; Illusion of democracy, Case study of Internet Freedom report, IMF report (2025)

4. Solution

4.1- Check and Balance; USA - Case study. Ensure accountability, transparency and public trust

5. Conclusion