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Democracy in Pakistan: Hopes and Hurdles

a- Introduction:

1- Hook

2- Thesis Statement

b- Historical Evolution of Democracy in Pakistan— A Brief Overview

1- Democracy in Early Years

i- Leadership vacuum

ii- Acute political instability

2- Recurrent authoritarian
shifts

i- The 1958, 1977, and 1999
military regimes

3- Current status of
Democracy in Pakistan

i- Political turmoil

ii- Incumbent government

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suffering from legitimacy crisis

C-Hopes: Potential Benefits of Democracy for Pakistan

1- Strengthened Judicial Independence and Rule of Law

i- More reliable protection of fundamental rights

ii- Institutional checks on executive excesses through judicial review

→ U.S. as a case study

2- Deepened Social Inclusion and National Integration

i- Broader representation for marginalized groups

→ Canada as a case study

3- Improved Governance Quality

i- Electoral pressure on leaders

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ii- Opposition parties ensuring accountability

→ U.K as a case study

4- Ensured Policy continuity
Through Parliamentary oversight

i- Democratic systems reduce abrupt policy reversals.

ii- Parliamentary committees force governments to defend decisions

improving long-term planning

→ case study: U.K Parliamentary oversight of security and intelligence

5- Ensured Economic Transparency and Fiscal Accountability

i- Parliamentary scrutiny of budgets

ii- Public pressure for responsible spending

→ Sweden as a case study

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d-Hurdles to Democracy in Pakistan

1- Low Literacy and Lack of Political Awareness Among Masses

i- 40% Population remains illiterate as per the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2024-25

2- Politicized Judiciary after the 26th and 27th Amendments

i- Formation of Special Parliamentary Committee

ii- Ineffective checks on the executive and Parliament

3- Compromised electoral Framework

i- Recurrent rigging allegations

ii- The Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) report on the 2024 general election

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4- Restrictions on Media and Civil Liberties

i- The PECA Act and the Amnesty International Report on Censorship and Surveillance

ii- Eroded public accountability

5- Dynastic and Patronage Politics

i- Political power concentrated within a few families

ii- state resources used to provide targeted jobs, and favors

e- What Needs to be Done-

Reforms and Way Forward

1- Reform state institutions

i- Strengthen judiciary and electoral bodies

2- Ensure internal Democracy

and Transparency in Party Funding

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i- Leadership selection on merit

ii- Prevent undue influence on
Political parties by elites

3- Promote Education and
Political Awareness.

Conclusion: