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## Polarized Politics: The Issues and challenges of Democracy in Pakistan

### a- Introduction

1- Definition of Polarized Politics

2- Thesis statement

plz write here for proper

### b- Manifestations of Polarized

#### Politics in Pakistan

1- "Us vs Them" Political culture

i- Politics framed in rigid binaries:

Patriots vs anti-state

ii- Lack of compromise and

cooperation

2- Cycle of Political Revenge

and institutional Abuse

i- Exploitation of courts, anti-con-

stitution bodies, and security

agencies for targeting opponents

ii- Former victim seeking revenge

after government changes (Mawaz

Sharif in 2018, and Imran Khan in 2023)

## C- Issues and challenges of Polarized Politics for Democracy in Pakistan

1- crisis of ~~Electoral~~ credibility

i- Every election is followed by rigging allegations (The 1977, 2018, and 2021 elections)

2- Breakdown of ~~Parliamentary~~ functioning

i- Boycotts, walkouts, and legislative obstruction

ii- Parliament reduced to a battle ground (PPP walkouts against PML-N speeches)

3- Regime changes and Policy discontinuity

i- opposition parties lobby to remove the prime minister

ii- successive governments reversing policies (PTI's tariff and circular debt reforms partially reversed)

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4- Societal Fragmentation and  
intolerance

i- Citizens split into hostile  
political camps

ii- Use of derogatory terms for  
rival supporters (Yashika, Patwari, Tiyala)

5- Opening space for undemocratic  
interventions

i- Persistent political chaos

invites non-political actors to  
"stabilize" the system (1968, and  
1977 Martial laws)

6- Economic Fallouts of Polarized

Politics Undermining Democracy

i- Political uncertainty discouraging  
investment and growth

ii- Erosion of public trust weakening  
democratic legitimacy

7- Weakening of Federal Harmony

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i- strained centre-province relations

(center considering governor's role  
in KP in late 2025)

ii- Media Polarization and Opinion

Warfare threatening Democratic  
Functioning

i- Informed decision-making  
undermined

#### d-Way Forward: Managing Political Polarization

i- Promote Political culture

i- Parliamentary norms over  
street politics

well organized and  
quite relevant

ii- Consensus building and cooperation

2- Strengthen Electoral and Account-  
ability Institutions

i- Detach accountability from  
Political vendetta

ii- Transparency and procedural  
fairness

#### e-Conclusion