Title:
Political stability: Democracy or Authoritarianism

Outline:

A- Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Democracy ensures long-term political stability, because it guarantees equal rights for all, freedom of expression, and institutional accountability.

B- Democracy ensures political stability:

1B- Rule of law guarantees equality and justice.

(USA - Watergat Scandal)

2B- Separation of powers, prevents abuse of power.

(Montesquieu theory of separation of power)

3B- Balance of power between government and political parties, creates harmony.

(18-amendment in the constitution of Pakistan)

4B- Freedom of speech reduces the risk of violant uprisings.

(Economic Intelligence Unit Survey)

D- Way forward :

E. Conclusion :

"A political system is not a luxury, but a necessity for the survival and the development of a society." Political stability is very crucial for economic growth, social harmony, and effective governance of a nation. Without stable political system, country cannot be prosperous. It ensures that the country remain resilient in the times of crises and prevents the country from chaos. Now a days, there is an ongoing debate: which form of government - democracy or authoritarianism - is best suitable for a long-term political stability. Democracy ensures political stability because it guarantees equal rights for all, freedom of expression and institutional checks and balance system. On the other hand, authoritarianism can also ensure political stability but for a short period of time, because of centralized power, and the absence of checks and balance system.

Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, a stable political system is only possible, if all the rights of the people, as given by the law, are fulfilled. If

a leader or ruler fails to ensure the
general will of the masses, they can
change their leader through free and
fair elections. This is the fundamental
principle of democracy, where the
power to choose leaders lies with
the people, and political system of the
country remains stable.

In democratic form of government
everyone, either leader or masses, enjoys
equal rights. In this political system
law is supreme and everyone, regardless
of their position and status, is subject
to its authority. This guarantees
equality and justice in society. For
example, political system of U.SA
ensures the rule of law, even in
Watergate scandal the impeachment
process of president Richard Nixon
showed that accountability is necessary
for the stability of any political
system.

Separation of powers prevents
abuse of power and ensures accountability.
Every form of government has three
main organs that are legislature,
executive, and judiciary. All these have
separate functions, for example, law
making, execution, and implementation
respectively. But, there is a system

of checks and balance over them, that prevents the abuse of power and ensures accountability. According to Montesquieu, separation of powers, among these organs of government with proper checks and balance system, ensures the general will of the people rather than the individual interests. This would lead to the long-term political stability.

Balance of power between the government and oppositions or other political parties, main principle of democracy, ensures the long-term political stability. Here, the balance of power means that the government can only make policies and decisions with the cooperation of opposition groups of that country. For example, Pakistan has multi-party system. The decision of 18-amendment, to the constitution of Pakistan, was taken by the government with the cooperation of all political-parties of Pakistan. Political - parties or opposition groups make the government accoutable for its decisions and policies. political - parties are necessary for the democratic form of government, as they hold the government accountable.

Freedom of speech is the right to express one's opinion without the fear of government censorship, retaliation, or societal suppression. It is a core principle of democracy, allows citizens to express their grievances and demand reforms through peaceful means. It reduces the risk of violent uprisings and hold government accountable. Article-19 of the Universal declaration of Human Rights guarantees freedom of expression. When governments respect the freedom of expression of citizens, they earn the citizen's trust, reducing political unrest, and ensures the political stability. According to Economic Intelligence Unit Norway ranked 1st, in the best democratic countries, in freedom of expression.

Free and fair elections promote peaceful power transition. Elections empower citizens to change their leadership and choose an efficient leader by casting their votes. In Pakistan, democratic elections in 2013 marked the first peaceful transfer of power between civilian governments. Free and fair elections are a cornerstone of democracy, which hold leaders

accountable to citizens and an essential mechanism for ensuring political stability. Because in this mechanism a leader is elected by general will of people.

Democracy promotes diversity, leading to political stability. Democracy provides a plateform for ethnic, religious, and cultural minorities, where they can express their ideas, opinions. In this way, they are involved in decision making process, preventing political unrest. Maleeha lodhi in her book, Beyond the crises state, stated that: "Diversity is a blessing in disguise." This shows that diversity in a country ensures political stability if the voices of minorities are to be heard, and equal rights and opportunities are given to them by the government.

Strong democratic institutions establish the foundation of stable political system by ensuring accountability and rule of law. Separation of power between three organs of gouerment and checks and balance systems between them, ensure accountability and prevent the abuse of power. Independent judiciary upholds rule of law, by

ensuring all actions performed by public officials must be according to the legal and constitutional standards. For example, in USA President Nixon's resignation and his impeachment, built public trust on government institutions. This incident shows. that, strong institutions play a major role in the stability of political system.

In contrast to the aforementioned idea, authoritarianism claims to provide political stability through swift decision making and strict control, prevents from societal unrest. However, centralized power structure, lack of accountability may cause the political un-rest, leading to fragile governance structur.

In an authoritarian form of government, power is centralized in the hands of one or a few persons. Centralized power may ensure the abuse of authority, or corruption. Because, there is no separation of powers and a system of checks and balances, which hold leaders accountable. Authoritarian government also control the media, silencing dissent and criticism. There are no rules and regulations for leaders, they are above the law or they are law. The

authoritarian goverments often prioritize the interests of their leaders over those of general public, despite having a quick decision - making process. After some time, this will cause a political un-rest.

Authoritarian regimes suppress public participation in the decision-making process. leaders make such laws that favor themselves or their preferred individuals, rather than the public will. These laws are then imposed forcefully on general public. Public has no right to express their opinion or demand reforms. When people become fed up with this type of injustice, they often revolt. The Arab Spring brought an end to decades of authoritarian rule in the countries like Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, and also plunged these countries into political un-rest and chaos.

Authoritarianism fails to address long-term grievances. Instead of implementing reforms related to economic, ethnic, and structural disparities, authoritarian governments are concerned with maintaining control. Moreover, instead of addressing the complaints of people through open dialogue,

authoritarian governments suppress their dissent through violance or imprisonment, this silences the immediate opposition but makes the foundation of long-term political un-rest. For example, in Syria, Bashar-ul-Asad's regime failed to address economic disparities and ethnic grievances, main cause of his fall. So, the failure to resolve societal, economic, and regional issue, may lead to political instability.

Economic growth alone cannot guarantee political stability. Authoritarian regimes like china have achieved economic growth, but they failed to address political grievances by suppressing freedom of speech of public. Due to lack of political freedom could create long-term political instability, as citizens demand their political right alongside the economic prosperity. According to Fukuyama, if basic rights of citizens are fulfilled,, then will demand their political rights. So, china must grant its citizens political rights in order to maintain political stability.

While debate on which form of political system - authoritarianism or democracy - ensures long-term political stability, reveals that both have some limitations. To ensure the political stability, strengthening democratic institutions is a very crucial step regarding this. Independent courts, transparent electoral commissions, and active investigation organizations prevent authoritarian tendencies and ensure accountability in governance. Promoting freedom of speech is equally important in ensuring political stability. Peaceful expression of grievance or open dialogue between citizens and government, prevents from political un-rest. Additionally, equal representation of marginalized groups in decision-making process, promotes unity and prevents mistrust.

In the light of discussion above, democracy, with its emphasis on equal rights, freedom of expression, and institutional accountability, is the most effective system for ensuring long-term political stability. History demonstrates that countries like United States of America and Scandinavian countries have stable political systems, because of their strong democratic norms. On the other hand,

authoritarian regimes, as were in Arab countries like Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Syria, may offer short-term political stability. In this lack of accountability, and public participation in decision-making process leads to instability and collapse. Thus, history proves that democracy remains the most sustainable form of political system.