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HYBRID DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN: challenges and prospects

Outline :-

① Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistan hybrid democracy, marked by a mix of civilian governance and military influence faces challenges but holds prospects.

- (a) Definition of Hybrid Democracy
- (b) Characteristics of Hybrid Democracies (Mix of authoritarian and democracy)
- (c) Pakistan's Experience with Hybrid Democracy

② Evolution of Democracy in Pakistan

- (a) Early democratic phase (1947-58)
- (b) Military Interventions and controlled democracy
 - Ayub Khan (1958-1969)
 - Zia-ul-Haq (1977-1988)
 - Pervez Musharraf (1999-2008)

(c) Transition to Hybrid Democracy
(post-2008 era)

- Civil military Relations and
power sharing

③ Key features of Pakistan's Hybrid Democracy

- (a) Civil military relations and the Role of the Establishment
- (b) Weak political Institutions
- (c) Judiciary's Role and Activism
- (d) Media: Freedom vs Censorship
- (e) Electoral process and political Engineering
- (f) Influence of non-state actors and pressure groups

④ Challenges to Hybrid Democracy in Pakistan

- (a) Civil - Military Imbalance
case study: political crisis of 2014 (PTI - Dharma)

- (b) Weak democratic Institutions
case study: parliament's ineffectiveness in policy making

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(c) Judicial overreach Institutions
and Politicization

Case study: Judicial Activism
during the Panama papers case

(d) Electoral Rigging and Manipulation
case study: Allegations in the
2018 General Election;

PDM Marches and 2023 9 May.

(e) Economic Instability

• Impact on Governance and
democratic Development

(f) Political polarization and
Lack of consensus.

Case study: PDM vs PTI conflicts

(g) Suppression of Media and
civil society

Case study: Media blackouts
and curbs during political unrest

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Prospects of strengthening Democracy in Pakistan

(a) Strengthening civil institutions

• Role of parliament and political
parties

(b) Balancing civil-Military
Relations

case study: post 2008 civilian
government reforms

(c) Judicial Reforms

Ensuring judicial neutrality

26 - Amendment

(d) Free and Fair Elections

- strengthening the role of
Election Commission of Pakistan

(e) Media Freedom and Accountability

(f) Promoting political Tolerance
and Consensus Building

(g) Addressing Socio-Economic
Disparities

Conclusion

Hybrid democracy refers to a system in which both types of government exist; authoritarian and democracy. where regular elections are held but real control holds by non-democratic institutions including; military, judiciary or other elite groups. while formal structures of democracy like, voting, political parties, and a constitution but these are undermined by other autocratic practices. Hybrid democracies combine elements of both democratic and authoritarian systems its key characteristics include weak political institutions, strong military influence in political affairs, media freedom is strictly restricted. All these characteristics leads to political instability and undermined country progress.

Meanwhile, Pakistan experienced with hybrid democracy since 1958 through direct military involvements and take over charged a series of ~~own~~ military coups, including Since in 1958 Ayub era, Gen Zia-ul-Haq 1977 and from 1999 Gen pervez Musharraf until 2008.

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These direct military coups which Pakistan seen from 1958 to till 2008 undermined severely a country progress. Pakistan hybrid democracy, marked by a mix of civilian governance and military influences faces numerous challenges such as civil military imbalance, weak democratic institutions and political polarization and Economic instability. While, all these issues can be mitigate through certain steps and it holds prospects of Pakistan democracy.

Moreover, Evolution of democracy in Pakistan from 1947 in early phase of democracy to 1958. After 1958 there were seen a series of military coups in Pakistan through direct influence. In 1958, first Marshal law administrator General Ayub Khan take oath a direct and hold strong control over Pakistan through Marshal law. Second, Phase of Gen Zia-ul-Haq

who holds in 1977 until 1988.

In this era democracy remains bleak in a country and strong influence of Zia on a country. Third phase of direct coups of Gen Pervez Musharraf which is from 1999 to 2008, often undermining democratic norms. Meanwhile, After Musharraf's resignation Pakistan transitioned back to civilian rule, yet the military rule remained substantial. Where the civilian rule come back into the force and government but still strong substantial involvement of military been remained over key decisions including: national security and foreign policy, Defense and internal security etc.

That is to say, that civil military relations and the role of establishment diminishes the effective role of civilian government. Military often played a decisive role in shaping national policies and governance. Term

establishment in Pakistan typically use for collective military influence, intelligence agencies like ISI and other security apparatus. Another feature of hybrid democracy is weak political institutions which are highly influenced by military engaged in politics. Judiciary role in politicization is another issue which influence strong political roles. Influence of non-state actors and pressure group is another key feature of hybrid democracy. non-state actors in Pakistan are influential in both political and social spheres, often undermine democratic stability and exacerbating the hybrid nature of the political system. Thus there are numerous challenges leads to hybrid democracy in Pakistan. Civil military imbalances leads to ultimately hybrid democracy and erodes democratic values. political crisis of 2014 PTI dharna and PDM in 2022 and also allegations

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in 2023 9-May Imbalances between
ex-political parties and military
demonstrates bleak democracy in Pakistan.
Although, weak democratic institutions
erodes parliaments effectiveness in
policy making