

Populism poses an existential threat to democracy

I. Introduction:

Thesis statement:

Indeed, populism poses a persistent threat to democracy. Its anti-pluralist, anti-elite, anti-establishment agendas not only undermines democratic principles but also threatens citizens fundamental rights, ^{promotes} fosters state colonialization, weakens rule of law, fosters political polarization ultimately leads to democratic breakout.

II. Deconstruction of Statement Populism: A threat to Democracy

III. How Populism poses an Existential Threat to Democracy:

i) Populism: a moralized form of anti-pluralism

Case in point: Jan-Werner Müller's stance in "What is Populism" - a book.

ii) Populist leaders disregard rights

of religious, ethnic and
sectarian minorities

Case study of Hungary's Prime
Minister Viktor Orbán of Populist
Fidesz party.

iii) Populists claim of anti-establishment
, erodes public trust in national
institutions.

• Prof. Nadia Urbinati's Statement

• Case study of Pakistan

iv) Threatens rule of law through
discriminatory legalism

For my friends, everything; for
my enemies, the law — Jan-Werner
Muller's argument

v) Populist governments erode
institutional checks on Executive
powers thus undermine democratic
principles

Patrick Liddiard point in
"Is populism really a problem
for Democracy?"

vi) Demagogue leaders prioritize

state colonization to get
immunity from accountability

Case story of Recep Tayyip
Erdogan in Turkey

vii) Populism creates binary divide
of 'us' versus 'them' and increases
political polarization

Case story of US president

Donald Trump

viii) Populism focuses on personalistic
leaders at the expense of party
institutionalization

Case in Point: Hugo Chavez's populist
regime in Venezuela

ix) Populist regime is more
susceptible to influence by non-
state policies and actors

Case in point: "Alliance for
Securing Democracy" — a report

x) Populism leads to democratic
breakdown in previously wealthier
democracies

Case in point: "Freedom House

and Penn World Tables"

x) Serial populism and decline in voter turnout are the fallouts of populism.

• Case study of electoral volatility in Central and Eastern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa

• Case study of populism in Latin America

xii) Anti-elites become new elites under the umbrella of populism through corruption and crony capitalism.

Nick Friedman argument in "Populism and the Judiciary"

IV. Pragmatic measures to deal with the menace of populism to Democracy

i) Effective role of Media in exposing populist's agendas.

ii) Bring more transparency and

accountability in democratic governments

iii) Ensure good governance and reduce opaque tax concessions to the elites.

iv) Prioritize inclusive and pluralistic form of governance in decision and policy making.

V. Conclusion:

Pathways to Pakistan's Prosperity

I. Introduction

a) Thesis Statement:

Pakistan is a developing country on the map of Global South, which has been struggling to achieve prosperity since independence. The road to prosperity is rough and tough. But Pakistan has enormous potential and resources; by harnessing them, it can develop at social, economical, political and technological grounds to attain prosperity.

II. What does prosperity mean for Pakistan today.

III. How can Pakistan Achieve Prosperity

A- Social Development

- i) Promote quality education to ensure human development
- ii) Foster women empowerment to boost up economy

- iii) Improve healthcare facilities to improve living conditions
- iv) Prioritize national integration by alleviating the grievances of marginalized communities
- v) Ensure personal security by combating terrorism and extremism through effective policies and measures.

B) Economic development

- i) Make sustainable agricultural growth to mitigate the risks of climate change
- ii) Diversify economy by prioritizing industrial reforms and encourage tourism to create employment opportunities
- iii) Encourage export discipline by providing export subsidies and tariff reduction to exporters.
- iv) Ensure energy security by negotiating agreements with IPPs to create a business conducive

environment.

v) Bring reforms in tax collection and reduce opaque tax concessions to political elites.

C) Industrial development

i) Make inclusive policies to counter political polarization that is a threat to national harmony.

ii) Prioritize democratic reforms in state institutions to rebuild public trust.

iii) Ensure effective local governance by power decentralization at provincial level to achieve growth equality.

iv) Provide rule of law and judicial independence to make a just society.

v) Resolve regional territorial conflicts through diplomatic measures to achieve regional cooperation.

D) Technological development

- i) Establish vocational training institutions to ~~eradicate~~ reduce rate of unemployment by improving human capital
- ii) ~~Make~~ educational reforms to include skill development and foster research and development
- iii) Ensure regulative use of AI in business, health, education and industrious sector.
- iv) ^{make a} Shift on renewable energy resources by utilizing technology to ~~create~~ ^{deal with} energy crisis

Conclusion:

The Essay

Pakistan is a naturally blessed country which has the highest youth potential, natural resources of gas, minerals and oil and geo strategic position on the world map. Since its emergence as a new state, it has been struggling to achieve prosperity. In 1960s and 1970s per capita income increased that could be considered as prosperity at that time. But in the 21st century, the concept of prosperity has evolved. As **S. Akbar Zaidi** stated in '**Issues in Pakistan economy**'—book provides indepth analysis of Pakistan economic challenges — Prosperity and development cannot be measured by a few indicators such as GDP which illiteracy, poverty, income disparities and unhealthy environment

persist in a society. Therefore, for a country to achieve progress and prosperity, it has to make strides in social, political, economical and technological areas. Because development in these sectors would ensure human development that is a pre-requisite of prosperity.