

established Muslim identity in sub-continent

4. The Democratization process in Pakistan is still weak and ambiguous. Do you consider dynastic politics and feudalism are the major hindrances on the way of establishing true democratic system in Pakistan? Explain.

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FACTS REGARDING WEAK DEMOCRATIZATION IN PAKISTAN.

1 RECURRING MARTIAL LAWS:

Martial law in Pakistan has been a consistent violation of democratic system in Pakistan as it has disrupted constitutional governance and will of people - Imposed from 1958 - 1977 and then in 1999 by dissolving constitution and democratically elected government. These military regimes banned political parties and restricted civil liberties such as freedom of speech and parliament. Instead of rule by democratically elected government power was concentrated in the hands of these un-elected military generals who were not even accountable to parliament and public. Media censorship, imprisonment of political opponent became much common under these authoritarian regimes. Moreover, dissolution of constitution and undermining democratic development further weakened/causes political instability. Therefore, martial law in Pakistan stands as a consistent suppressor of democracy.

2 HINDRANCE IN SMOOTH TRANSITION OF POWER:

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In democracy there is smooth transitioning of power through electoral process and it disrupts because of deep rooted political rivalries, lack of tolerance and absence of democratic political culture. Lost political parties blamed rigging and instead of referring/reviewing legally they engaged in protests causing political unrest in country. Moreover political alliances are mostly opportunistic rather than ideological breaking apart quickly after elections forming uncertainty in developing stable government. Also vote buying, floor crossings and manipulations within assemblies reduces trust on parliamentary procedures.

Winning parties never get to complete their time period and are always replaced by opponent parties through vote of no confidence. As in case of Pakistan in year 2022 government was removed by opposition which the ruling party claim that it was not through democratic process but ^{was} through foreign interference.

Which was called as soft democratic breach. As a result transition became contentious and affect democratic process.

DATE: ___/___/___

3 UNDERMINING THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Local government is the foundation of democratic system because it ensures public participation, accountability and provision of services at grass root level. But unfortunately in Pakistan successive governments have violated democracy by delaying local government elections, dissolving local assemblies prematurely and handed over the powers to provincial bureaucracies. This centralization of authority deprives citizens of their rights to self government and access in decision making process. Without local government people are excluded from political process and power remained confined to elite circles at national and provincial level. Moreover absence of empowered local institutions leads political accountability, civic responsibility and responsiveness of state. Article 140A mandates local government system. By violating article 140A, these elites further deepen democratic decentralization hence the continued weakening of local governance is deepening democratic violation and inclusiveness of governance in Pakistan.

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JUDICIAL DISQUALIFICATIONS:-

In Pakistan frequently elected leaders disqualification have weakened the democratization process by passing the will of electorate. High profile disqualifications in 2012 on the content of court and 2017 disqualification under article 62 and 63 for "not being honest and truthful". These decisions sparked outrage across the country and questions were being raised on the neutrality of court. These kinds of decisions were mostly politically favoured and sidelined. Presumes with will of ruling party which resulted in judicial engineering in political system. Also favouring and aligning with one political party, it erodes public trust in judicial system. This system could have played their role in authenticity of decisions, fairness and accountability. Unnecessary interference of judiciary violates democratization and interfering electoral mandate. As a result democratic process becomes unstable fragile and open to manipulation.

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● DYNASTIC POLITICS AND FEUDALISM: MAJOR HINDRANCES IN ESTABLISHING TRUE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN

1 FEUDALISM IN SINDH: A MAJOR BARRIER TO DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS:

Feudalism in Sindh remained a major obstacle in the way of democratic system of Pakistan. Rich class or waderas often use their social and economic influence to control voters, suppress dissent and control local administration to dominate rural politics. They often control voters through coercion thereby influencing rural politics. Democratic participation is further restricted as poor and peasants are mostly dependent on these waderas for their livelihood further weakening political independence. Moreover feudal lords often inherit these political seats converting democracy into a dynastic rule rather than merit based system. They also restrict land reforms, education expansion to reduce awareness to ordinary people. As a result democratic values like accountability, fairness and equality failed to persist in feudal dominated regions of Sindh.

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2 DYNASTIC POLITICS IN BALOCHISTAN: A SILENT THREAT TO DEMOCRACY:-

Dynastic politics in Balochistan is a major impediment in the way of democratic process in Pakistan. Because power remains concentrated in the hands of few influential families and tribal elites who inherit power generation by generation. These powerful families dominate political parties, violate or manipulate the electoral process thereby suppressing the merit based representation. They also provide limited access in politics to local citizens thereby violating independent democracy. These families restrict educational and reforms for reducing public awareness. These dominating families will mostly make decisions favouring their self interest or tribal interest undermining the public interest or provincial interest. This lack of political diversity and competition causes voters apathy, poor governance and weak democratic institutions in Balochistan thereby interfering in the process of democratization in Pakistan.

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3 DYNASTIES AND TRIBAL DOMINANCE IN KPK:

KPK is less feudal in comparison to Sindh and Balochistan its political landscape is significantly shaped by tribal hierarchies, broadcast networks and dynastic control. Prominent political families such as the Sherpao (Quami Watan party), Khattak, Hoti and Chani clans have maintained political influence across generations, often transferring leadership roles to their families rather than public support. In rural and tribal areas, malik and tribal elders dominate political decision making which restricts independent political expression and deters youth and non elite participation. Political parties including those with reformist agenda have also increasingly relied on electable dynasties rather than nurturing grassroots leadership. This elite capture of democratic space impedes internal party involvement which lacks accountability. Therefore the democratic system in KPK lacks patronage politics and regional diversity.

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4 FEUDALISM IN PUNJAB; A STRUCTURAL OBSTACLE TO DEMOCRACY:-

Punjab, one of the populous province of Pakistan also faces deep rooted democratic challenges especially in Southern Punjab.

Large landowning families dominate political landscape and use their influence and social clout to control local population and manipulate electoral outcomes.

these feudal elites often maintain private militias, operate informal justice systems thereby eroding democratic freedom at grass root level. Voters in these areas are dependent on landlords resulting in coercion rather than free choice.

This elite capture of electoral politics block upward mobility for middle class, educated citizens. Until feudal dominance is dismantled, promise of democratic inclusivity and equal representation in Punjab will remain elusive.

CONCLUSION:-

Democracy is in fragile state it is not because of lack of institutions but due to entrenchment of dynasties and feudal lords that weakens public participation, suppress alternative leadership and erodes responsibility. In order to break this cycle political will, strong institutional reforms and civic engagement is required which would ensure the will of people.