

Q. 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? Argue.

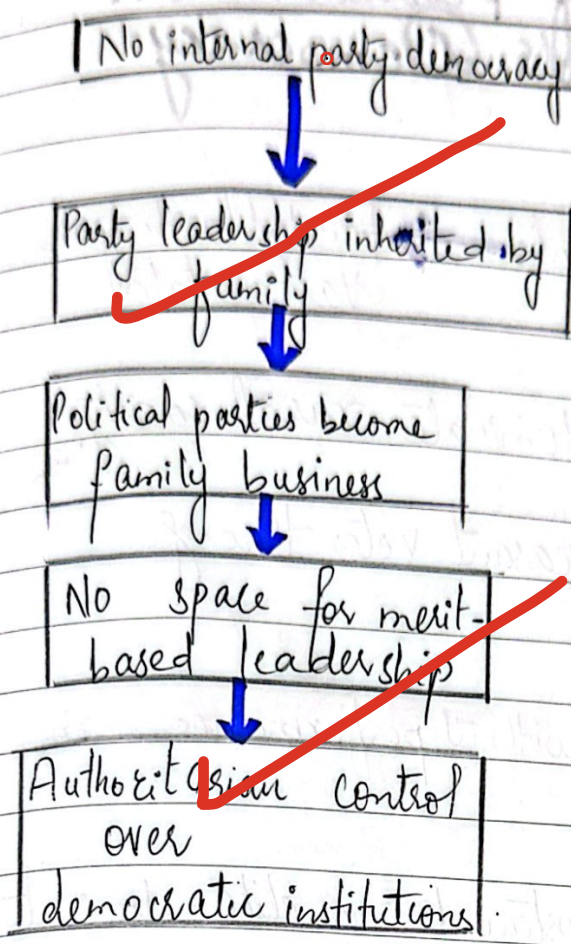
## 1. Introduction

Democracy in Pakistan has faced numerous challenges since its inception. Despite certain positive indicators, such as the uninterrupted civilian governments since 2008, increased political awareness, and higher voter turnout in the general elections 2024, the democratization process remains fragile and unclear. Among various obstacles, dynastic politics and feudalism are often cited as significant hindrances. However, while these factors are indeed influential, they are part of a broader web of structural and institutional issues such as constitutional delays in the early history of Pakistan, leadership crisis, political polarization, military interventions, and absence of democracy in political parties.

## 2. Dynastic Politics and Feudal History in Pakistan

### 2.1 Rise and Consequences of Dynastic Politics in Pakistan





## 2.2 Examples of Dynastic Politics

| Political Party | Founding leader         | Dynastic continuation                                |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| PPP             | Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto     | Berazir Bhutto<br>→ Asif Zardari<br>→ Bilawal Bhutto |
| PML-N           | Nawaz Sharif            | Maryam Nawaz Sharif                                  |
| ANP             | Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan | Wali Khan<br>→ Asfandyar Wali Khan                   |
| JUI-F           | Mufti Mahmood           | Maulana Fazlur Rehman                                |



## 2.3 Influence of Feudalism on Pakistan's Democracy

Colonial land grants → Feudal lords gain vast estates

↓  
Feudal lords dominate rural society

↓  
Control over peasant votes through dependency

↓  
Win elections without performance or merit

↓  
Democratic system becomes elite-dominated

## 2.4 Examples of Feudal Influence in Politics

Chaudhary Family  
(Gujrat)

- Industrial feudal family dominating Punjab since the 1980's

Bhutto Family  
(Sindh)

- Feudal lords; transitioned into political leadership



relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement.

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### 3. Major Hindrances on the Way of establishing a true democratic system in Pakistan.

#### 3.1. Constitutional Delays in the Early History of Pakistan

In its formative years, Pakistan suffered from delays in Constitution-making, due to disagreements between East and West Pakistan regarding language, representation, and power sharing. Furthermore, the abrogation of the **PARODA ACT** in **1954** created legal and administrative chaos, culminating in the first Martial law in 1958. These constitutional weaknesses laid an unstable foundation for democratic governance.

#### 3.2 Leadership crises in the Country

The deaths of Quaid-e-Azam (1948) and Liaqat Ali Khan (1951) left Pakistan without visionary leadership. The leadership passed into the hands of feudal elites who lacked democratic commitment. This led to immature policies, increased East-West trust, and ultimately the Separation of East Pakistan.

#### 3.3 Political Polarization - A serious challenge to democracy

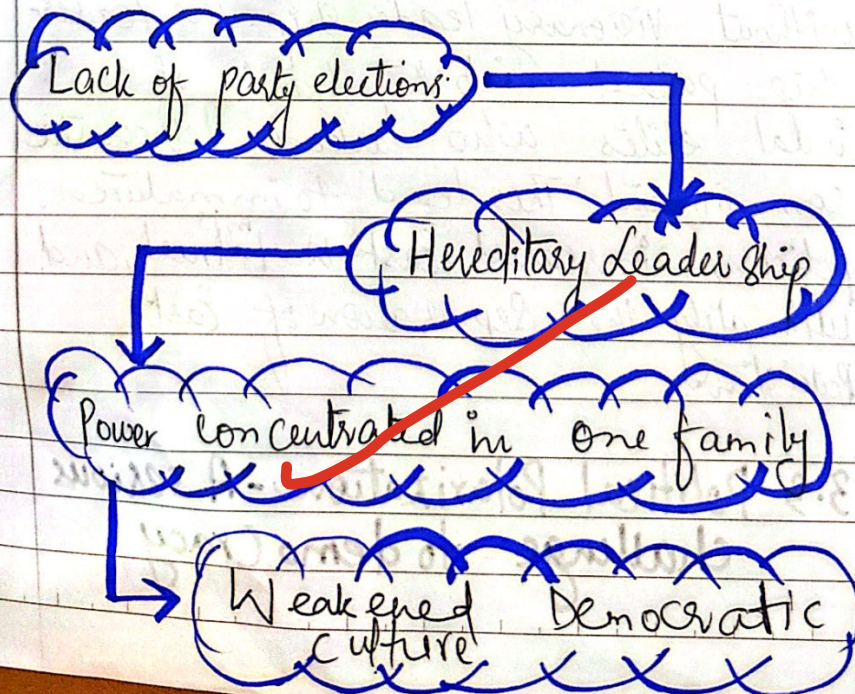


Pakistan suffers from extreme polarisation, where political parties refuse to work together. Opposition labels government as corrupt or foreign agents (e.g. IMF narratives). This zero sum behaviour creates instability and gives space for military interventions.

### 3.4 Frequent Military intervention and Martial Laws in Pakistan

Military coups have repeatedly overthrown democratic government. Once in power, military rulers introduced 8th and 17th Amendment to strengthen their rule and weakened civil authority. This cycle has undermined democratic continuity and institutional growth.

### 3.5 Absence of democracy in Political Parties





### 3.6 Clash among the State Institution

Pakistan's executive, judiciary, and military are often at odds. The judiciary exercises suo moto powers under Article 184(3), intervening in executive affairs. Meanwhile, the military refuses to remain under civilian control. These clashes paralyze policy-making and weaken institutional trust.

### 3.7 Poor Accountability and Weak Accountability Institution.

Democracy cannot survive without accountability. However, Pakistan's accountability institutions are either ineffective or politically used. This has allowed corruption to grow unchecked. As per CPI 2023, Pakistan ranks 133/180, far behind reforming nations like Bangladesh.

## 4. ~~Conclusion~~ Ways to Strengthen Democracy in Pakistan

Decentralize Power

Norway's  
Consensus  
Democracy  
Model

Switzerland's  
direct democracy  
model



Reng Fencing  
The Indian  
Army Model

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Botswana's  
Transparency  
Model

Sweden  
Democracy  
Model

## 5. Conclusion

The democratization process in Pakistan remains weak and ambiguous, hindered by more than just dynastic politics and feudalism. While these <sup>are</sup> significant barriers, the real hindrance lies in a broader crisis of institutional fragility, military interference, political polarization, weak accountability, and leadership crisis in the country. Addressing these systemic flaws through comprehensive reforms, internal party democracy and institutional reforms is essential. Without such changes, democracy in Pakistan will continue to struggle in both form and function.