

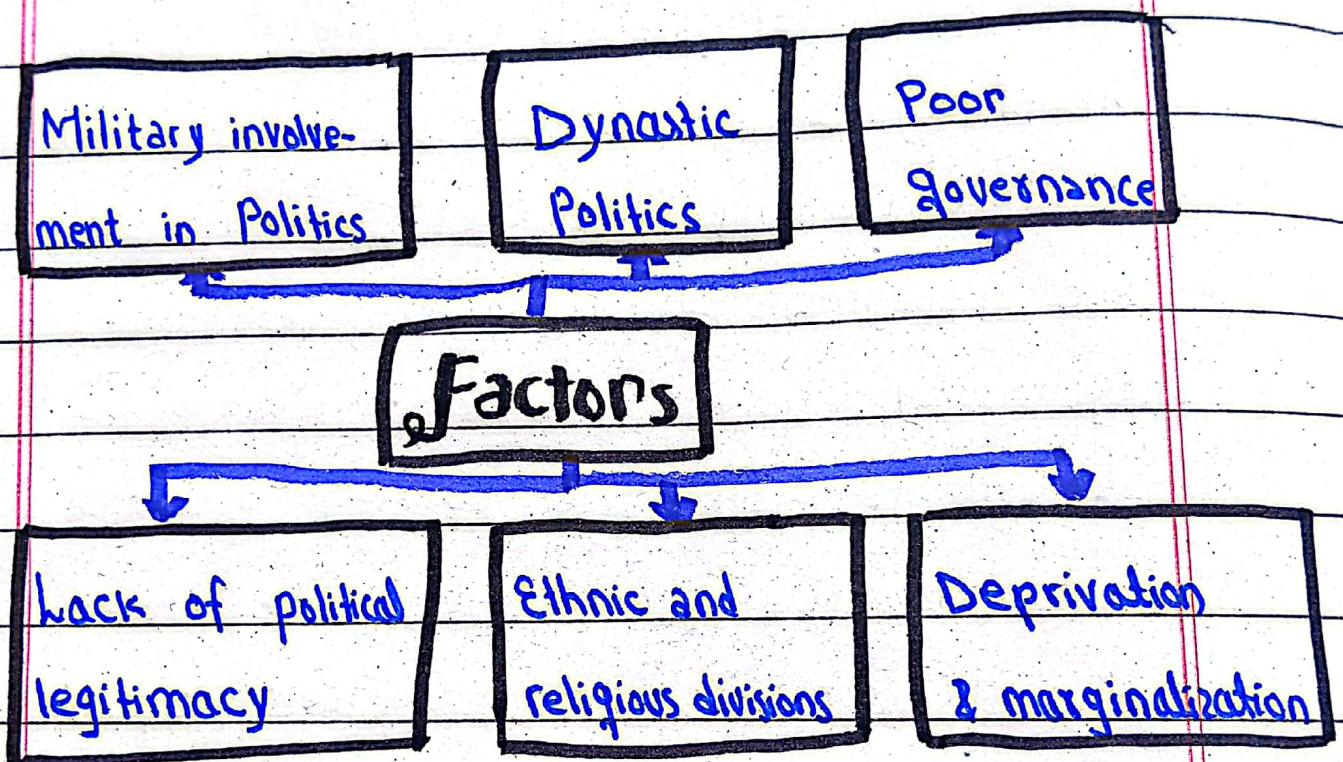
Political stability remains an elusive concept. Explore factors also discuss constitutional and political reforms.

Introduction:

Pakistan has been facing Political instability since its inception. Military involvement, Dynastic Politics, poor governance, ethnic and religious divisions, lack of political legitimacy, Deprivation and marginalization sentiments contribute to the political instability. Ensuring intra-party democracy, good governance, merit-base reinforcement of political candidates, institutionalization of political parties and Revisiting Article 63A to shut the door of defection and floor crossing, strengthening federalism and provincial autonomy, electoral reforms and judicial independence and rule of law can foster stability.

Factors contributing to the political instability in Pakistan:

After the demise of Quaid-e-Azam, Pakistan has faced political instability. The factors responsible for political instability are:



i) Military involvement in the politics:

Pakistan has faced several military coups in the past contributing towards the fractured polity of Pakistan. Besides the

military coups, it has always influenced the political decisions.

Ian Talbot in his book "Pakistan: A New History" discussed that military as a strong institution has always influenced politics, which resulted into instability.

ii) Dynastic politics:

The political landscape of Pakistan is dominated by some elite families, leaving no space for common citizen to join politics.

Ishrat Hussain in her book "Governing the ungovernable" show that Dynastic politics is significant factor responsible for political instability."

As the dynastic politics prioritize patron-client system, higher positions rewarding to the loyalist. This creates desperation in society.

iii) Poor Governance of Pakistan:

Poor governance is another factor responsible for political instability. The institutions are controlled by the political leaders. So, they only work to please the government instead for the welfare of people.

"The politicization of bureaucracy resulted into corruption and weak accountability." Source: IPRI

iv) Lack of political legitimacy:

Lack of political legitimacy also results into instability.

"The recent Pakistan's government is accused of mandate theft and lacks political legitimacy. This resulted into protest by the citizens." Source: PIDE

Lack of public supports and protests resulted into instability in Pakistan.

v) Ethnic and religious divisions:

During the zia era, ethnic and religious identities gained momentum. The Saudi and Iran conflict resulted into sectarian issues in Pakistan.

Ian Talbot in his book "Pakistan: A New History" argued that Pakistani government has failed to resolve ethnic and religious divisions which resulted into political instability.

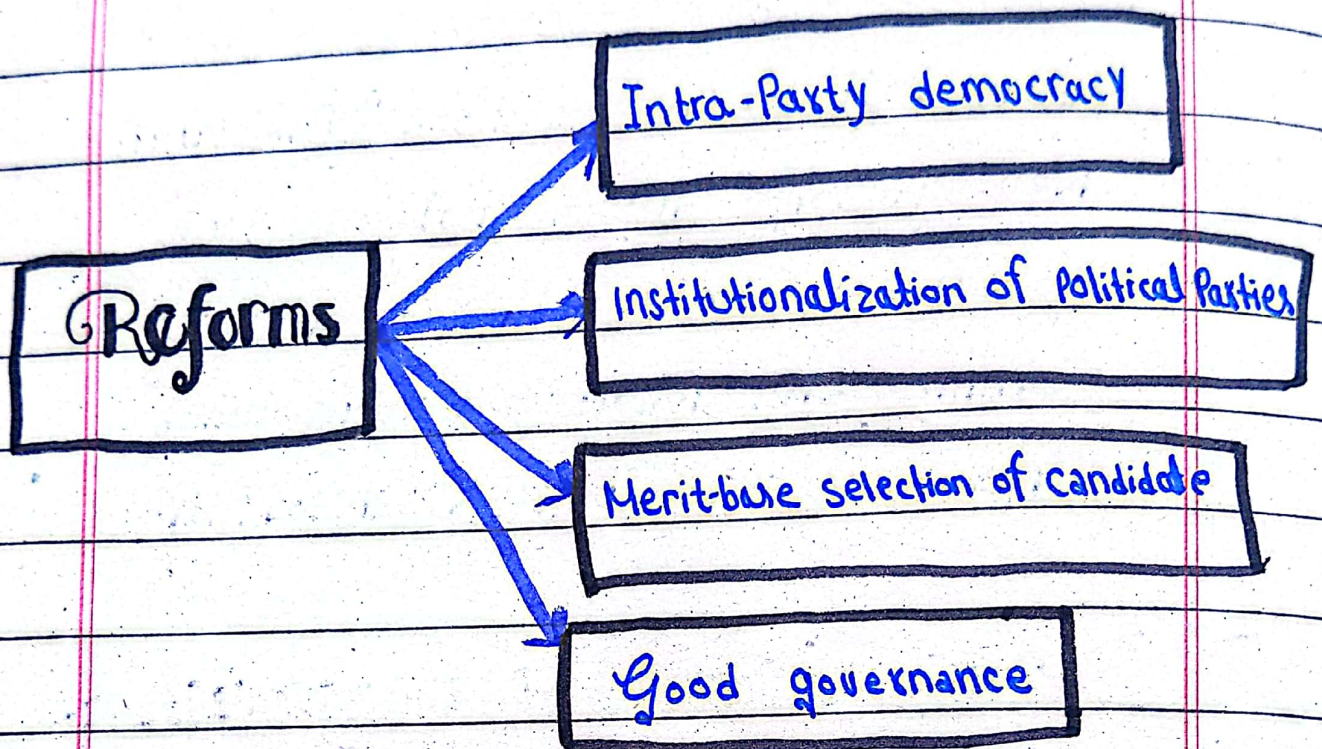
vi) Deprivation and marginalization sentiments:

The exploitation of the resources of Balochistan by the federal government has resulted into deprivation and marginalization sentiments among the people of Balochistan.

"Due to the feelings of marginalization, the attacks on Chinese workers started, resulting into security concerns." ISSI

Political reforms to foster stability in Pakistan:

The following measures should be adopted to foster stability:



i) Intra-party democracy:

Intra-party democracy should be ensured by the political parties to elect competitive and visionary leaders.

Ishrat Hussain in her book "Governing the Ungovernable" said that except the Jamat-i-Islami no party has followed the principle of intra-party election.

ii) Good governance in Pakistan

Good governance is very important factor to bring stability in Pakistan. Through the transparency and accountability, the people trusts in public institutions will be restored.

"Through the use of good governance military influence can be reduced like in Turkey. This will bring stability in Pakistan." Source: IPRI

iii) Merit-based selection of political candidate:

Instead of selecting the candidate on the basis of political (Candil) linkages, selection should be based on the merit to reduce the desperation of common citizens.

Ishrat Hussain in her book "Governing the ungovernable" suggest that candidate should be selected on merit basis.

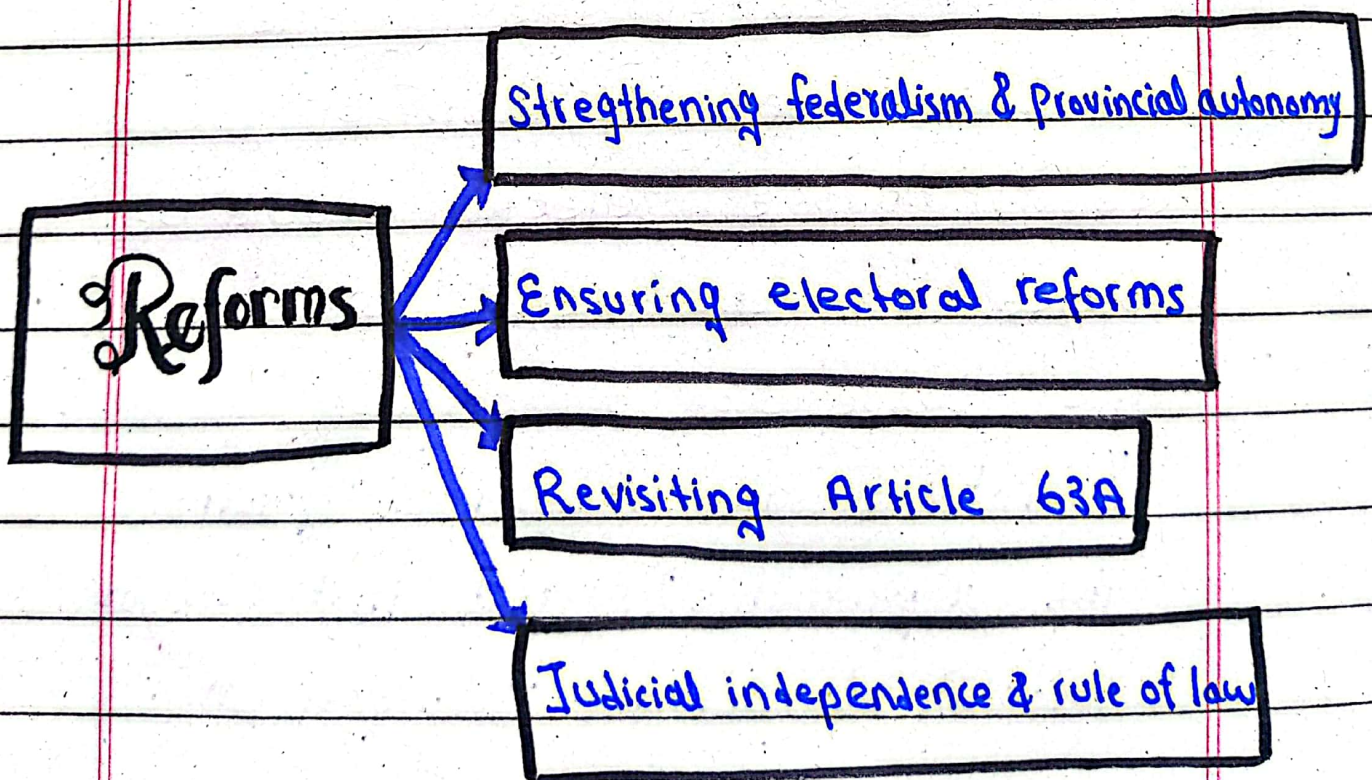
iv) Institutionalization of political parties:

The political parties of Pakistan should be institutionalized to ensure intra-party democracy.

"The institutionalization of political parties is crucial to ensure democracy to bring stability." ISSI

Through the institutionalization, common people will have opportunities to join politics.

Constitutional Reforms:



i) Strengthening federalism and provincial autonomy:

The implementation of 18th amendment should be ensured in all the provinces which gives political autonomy to these provinces.

Katharine Adeney in her book "Federalism and Ethnic Conflict regulation in India and Pakistan" argues that diverse groups should be given political autonomy to prevent ethnic conflicts and bring stability.

ii) Ensuring electoral reforms:

Electoral reforms should be made to ensure fairness and transparency in the election process.

"Reforms should be made by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECB) to ensure transparency and fairness in the election process to foster stability in Pakistan." Source: PIDE

iii) Ensuring judicial independence and rule of law:

Judicial overreach and political interference resulted into the instability and lawlessness.

"The amendment in the constitution of Pakistan should be passed to ensure judicial independence and rule of law to bring stability in the country." Source: IPRI

iv) Revisiting Article 63A to shut down floor-crossing:

Party-switching has become common in Pakistan for the personal gains which results into party indiscipline.

"Article 63A should be revisited to shut down floor-crossing or horse-trading to ensure discipline in the political parties." Source: ISSI

Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion it is clear that various factors are responsible for the political instability in Pakistan. These factors can be addressed through the potential political and constitutional reforms to ensure stability.