

## Political Culture of Pakistan

To begin with, the political culture of Pakistan is dominated by several features as provided below:

The foremost characteristic of political culture of Pakistan is the presence of dynastic politics.

Soon after the independence, the only Muslim political party dispersed into many factions, giving rise to several political parties. It is the backdrop of these events that evolution of political parties eventually culminated into dynastic politics in early 1990s.

This era is predominantly marked by the rise of only two political parties, to wit; Pakistan Muslim League NAW (PMLN), and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). Furthermore, it <sup>resultantly</sup> eventually undermined the grass-root political participation from many factions, marked by the dominance of some political parties in Pakistan. In this way, the dynastic politics still has prominent presence in the political culture of Pakistan.

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Further, Pakistan also grapples with the challenge of feudal politics in its political culture. It erodes the concept of grass-root level participation. This type of politics is predominantly existing in the regions of South Punjab and Sindh. These feudal lords create the monopoly of power and usurp the lands of ordinary people, strengthening their own position while leaving others at their whim. In addition to this, in some areas of Sindh, it has been observed that the sixth to seventh generation of these feudals has come to power, highlighting the wide gap in the participatory and representative government. Thus, the feudal culture is considered a major dilemma in the political culture of Pakistan.

The non-democratic nature of political parties is another feature in the political culture of Pakistan.

The legal system of Pakistan makes it obligatory for political parties to undertake intra-party elections, even if it is only for the theoretical purposes only. On the other hand, the political parties regard this

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obligation as unnecessary, prioritising other matters of considerable concern in their eyes. The purpose of declaring intra party elections as mandatory element is to ensure transparency and smooth working of the forthcoming political process. However, the negligence on the part of political parties makes it an entirely ~~un~~democratic process.

Low voter turn-out is considered another issue in this regard. An essential feature of democratic state is the will of people of elect representatives according to their choices. This resultantly ensures the accountability of elected representatives towards their electors; those who played instrumental role in their election.

In contrast, lack of awareness about the importance of vote highlights the grim reality of the political

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culture of Pakistan. A research conducted by "Gallup Pakistan" highlights that the voter turnout in 2024 elections in Pakistan is only 48%; a significantly low percentage. This shows the insignificance of a crucial right granted to people, which remain unexercised due to many factors, primarily illiteracy. This stark reality, hence, highlights another feature of political culture of Pakistan.

Lastly, the rise of populism in current-day politics is observed as another major feature. Populist ideology is driven by the majority of masses in Pakistan. It helps shaping the public opinion, followed by public protests, which often lead to violent activities. The gradual rise of populism among few classes of society highlights the interests of people in political process, demanding the promised outcome on part of political parties. The factors giving rise to populism, however, vary but mostly they are similar, ranging from socio-economic issues, to backwardness and abuse of power by the ruling elites. It is considered

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a positive development in the political culture, creating a kind of check on the <sup>ruling</sup> political party. Hence, <sup>the</sup> populist ideology if exercised in the right direction can lead to the transformation of political culture of Pakistan.

If it is essay, then substantiate your Every argument with evidence