

Pakistan Affairs

Q No1 Devise measures to balance the civil-military equation in Pakistan.

Answer

A. Introduction:

Civil-Military relations in a country are an ideal barometer of the quality of democracy and institutional harmony. The quality of democracy and governance is determined not only by form of the government but the degree of governance. An example is the French Third and Fourth Republics that vested authority in National Assembly and national bureaucracy. When in 1950s, the effete nature of National Assembly and bureaucracy failed to ensure dissolution of the French Empire, the military stepped in to fill the governance

DAY: _____

vacuum leading to Charles de Gaulle era. Pakistan has a history of civil-military equation imbalance because of long military rule of 33 years, some internal and external factors. There is a strong need to devise measures to balance civil-military equation in Pakistan.

Such measures include improving role of national security council, more transparent constitutionally defined roles, implementation of charter of democracy (COD) and many others.

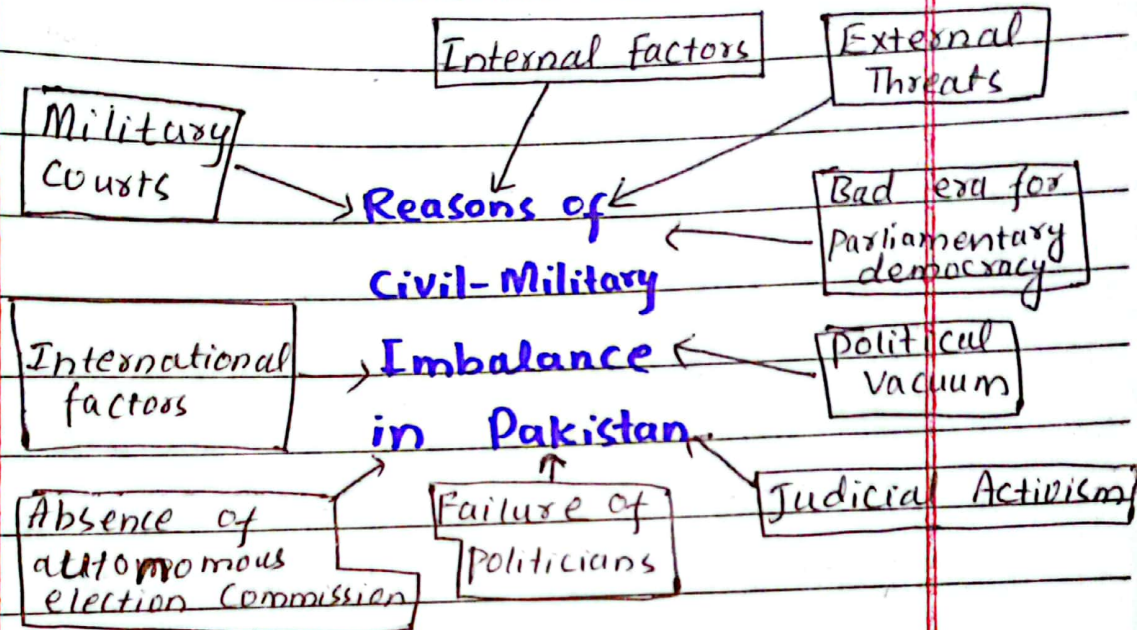
B Historical Imbalance in Civil-Military Equation in Pakistan:

33 years long military rule and 3 military coups of 1958, 1977 and 1999 have strong influence on

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

Civil-Military relations in Pakistan. Military has exercised very strong influence over civilian domains because of many reasons.



C. Measures to balance Civil-Military Equation in Pakistan:

1- Strengthening role of National Security Council:

National Security Council should be made more operational and effective. The National security agency should exercise effective control over the coordination of defence and foreign

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

policy inputs feeding into national security options for the Prime Minister.

2. More transparency in Constitutional defined roles:

There should be greater transparency in Constitutional defined roles for balancing civil-military equation in Pakistan. According to Peter Feaver, Military should be as powerful to do anything that Civilian leader ask it to do and ~~as~~ subordinate enough to ~~to~~ do only those thing which it is authorised to do.

3. Implementation of Charter of Democracy:

(COD)

Charter of democracy has been a great success in the democratic evolution in Pakistan. This Charter guarantees

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

strong democratic values
and balanced civil-military
duo in the country.

The implementation of Charter
of democracy must be
ensured to balance civil-
military equation in Pakistan.

4- Improvement in Role of Parliamentary democracy:

The role
of parliamentary democracy
must be improved and
strengthened to balance
civil-military equation in
Pakistan. In the era 1951-58

bad parliamentary democracy
caused civil-military imbalance
in Pakistan. This set a stage
for military who had been
working in background. So,
if parliamentary democracy
is strengthened it will
ensure civil-military balance
in the country.

5- Transition towards a development state from a National Security State:

In Pakistan, There is a need of transition towards a development state from a national security state. The ideal model for Pakistan would be Huntington's fifth model of civil-military relations with low military political power, and high professionalism within a pro-military ideology.

6. Addressing threats and good governance.

With attenuated threats and better governance, space will be created for increased spending on human security and development. It will build stakes for common people in the creation of civil-military harmony. This can

be achieved by shaping the environment to attenuate the external and internal threats through inventive diplomacy and better governance. Rebecca Schiff recommended Concordance between the government, the military and the people.

7. A Combination of objective and Subjective Civilian Control:

This is needed to be exercised instead of a standalone version of the two. It is also necessary to involve military in a certain aspects of national policy planning to bring convergence between ^{the} civilian and military components in the state. This can be done by sending military officers to civilian institutions (universities) so they can get degrees in management,

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

Social Sciences and Economy besides giving them opportunities to serve in the civilian departments on deputation. Also There should be subjects related to national security and defence in civilian colleges and universities to build a basic knowledge base in students.

8. Improving Human Capital and Democracy within the political parties:

Democratic practices must be followed to select right leadership for the onerous task of governance. The political processes and structures for decision making and consultation should be transparent to enable people to tap the right leadership talent. A system of Cabinets should be instituted by

political parties to train the potential National Security Advisors, Ministers of Defence and Parliamentary Committees' heads, for shouldering their future responsibilities with Confidence.

9. **Developing a tendency of institutional role in politics:**

Armed forces should be eschewed by the armed forces to achieve the desired balance in civil-military relations, like in case of Indonesia and Turkey. The military professional education should be so tailored as to develop a habit of Voluntary obedience to the civilian leadership.

10. **Structural deficit of decision making structures should be addressed:**

In the Parliamentary oversight committees of Senate and National Assembly and the political parties should get experts on defence and security matters with practical experience, elected in the parliament to provide strong oversight capacity to the government. There is a strong need to follow DCAF criteria for democratic control of the armed forces to bring military and civilian components under constitutional limits.

D. Conclusion:

A healthy balance in the civil-military relation is absolutely essential for a democratic state like Pakistan. Therefore, improvement is required in the quality of response to all eight DCAF indicators of the civilian control. In order

to establish a balanced civil-military equation, both civilian and military components of state need to take steps at moral, intellectual and structural planes. The steps suggested for building respective capacities and redressing shortcomings by both, there is a need to bring a qualitative change in civil-military relation. This will result in improved professionalism and democratic consolidation in the country.