

{ Political Science }

Question # 1

Compare and contrast parliamentary and presidential form of government. Which system is more suitable and why?

1) Introduction

Democracy provides for two types of government. These include parliamentary and presidential form of government. Both forms of government provide for peaceful transition of power and protect individual rights. However, they differ in their basic structure. Pakistan has experienced both forms of governments. Both had certain merits as well as drawbacks.

2) Presidential form of government

The political system of

US is based on presidential form of government. Following are the features of presidential form of government.

a) President is head of state and government.

In presidential form of government, the president is head of state as well as head of government. He is also the Commander-in-Chief of armed forces.

b) President is not responsible to parliament.

In presidential form of government, the president is not responsible to parliament. He is not a member of parliament.

c) Ministerial Responsibility does not exist in presidential form of government.

Ministerial responsibility is not found in presidential form of government. The resignation of minister does not affect the president.

d) Impeachment of president

Presidential form of government does not provide for vote of no confidence. President can be impeached by congress if he acts against the constitution.

e) It provides for supremacy of constitution

In presidential form of government, sovereignty belongs to constitution. All the organs of state have to act according to constitution.

3) Parliamentary form of government

The political system of UK, Pakistan, India etc. is based on parliamentary form of government. Following are the features of parliamentary form of government.

a) It provides different head of state and head of government.

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In Parliamentary form of government, President or King is the head of state while the prime minister is the head of government.

b) Prime minister is responsible to parliament.

Prime minister is responsible to parliament. He is also a member of parliament. He is the leader of majority party in parliament.

c) Ministerial responsibility exists in parliamentary form of government.

In Parliamentary form of government, the resignation of one minister accounts for the resignation of whole cabinet. The position of prime minister is weaker in relation to cabinet than president.

d) It provides for vote of no confidence.

The prime minister can

be removed from office due to vote of no confidence.

e) It provides for supremacy of parliament

In parliamentary form of government, the parliament is the supreme. According to Dicey

The British parliament can do anything except make a man woman and woman a man

4) Comparison between presidential and parliamentary form of government

Following is the president between presidential and parliamentary form of government.

Similarities

- a) Both provide for democratic form of government
- b) Both are based on will of majority
- c) Both aim to protect liberty

d) Both form of government provide for peaceful transition of power

e) Judiciary plays an important role in both forms of government

Difference between presidential and parliamentary form of government

Presidential form of government

1) President is head of state and head of government as well

2) Executive is free from control of legislative

3) It provides for impeachment

4) Ministers are not always party members

Parliamentary form of government

1) Prime minister is head of government while president is head of state

2) The strength of executive depends on its position in parliament

3) It provides for vote of no confidence

4) Ministers are member of the party

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e) President is head of cabinet

h) Prime minister is first among the equals

g) Constitution is supreme

d) Parliament is supreme

Suitable form of government for Pakistan

Pakistan has experienced both presidential and parliamentary form of government.

ii) Why presidential form of government is not suitable for Pakistan?

Following are the reasons why presidential form of government is not suitable in Pakistan

a) It has the tendency to transform into dictatorship.

b) It can suffocate political structure

of Pakistan

Political elites are not in favour of presidential form of government.

(ii) Why parliamentary form of government is suitable in Pakistan?

- 1) Pakistan was a commonwealth state so it inherited parliamentary form of government
- 2) The founders of Pakistan preferred parliamentary form of government
- 3) Political parties are trained according to parliamentary form of government
- 4) It provides for more accountability
- 5) It provides sovereignty to parliament

Conclusion

Both forms of government differ in structure. In case of Pakistan parliamentary form of government ~~has~~ is more successful.