

Is Democracy Loosing its grounds in Contemporary Age

Outlines

I- Introduction

II- Ways in Which Democracy is Loosing its grounds (Thesis)

1- Rise of Authoritarianism and Democratic Backsliding

a- Case study: China, Turkey, Russia

b- Political victimization

c- Controlling social media: China, North Korea

2- Weakening of Institutions and Democratic Backlash

a- Constitutional Amendments by Orhan Viktor in Hungary

b- 26th constitutional Amendment

3- No Respect for Public opinion and media censorship

a- Massive protests against Gaza genocides are ignored

b- Media censorship on Zionist genocide.

4- Capitalists Influence on Electoral process

a- A mockery of Democratic norms

a- Lobby system in USA

b- Elan mask and current US elections

5- Rise of Populist leaders and Democratic Backlash

a- Rise of Netanyahu and Modi

i- Downfall of Freedom and Liberty

b- Divergency Tactics by Populists

i- and Threat to Right to Life

III- Democracy has Strengthened its Root in Contemporary Age (Ambitious)

1- Number of Democratic Countries increased

a- Arab Spring

b- Resilience in Brazil, Turkey

c- Protest and marches show no Authoritarianism

2- Institutions has strengthened over the time

a- US Supreme Court's decisions

b- Constitutional Amendments are misinterpreted

3- Public opinion in west is still Respected and media is Free

a- Grant of Recognition to Palestine

b- Genocidal opposition via BBC, CNN

4- Capitalists Interference is Exaggeration

a- lobbying is permitted by law

in US

b- Capitalism and Democracy are inter-connected

- 5- Populists Leaders have Public Support
- a- Netanyahu and Modi are elected
 - b- Protecting National interest is not undemocratic.

IV- BACKLASHES to Democracy are more Prominent than its strength in Contemporary Age (Synthesis)

- 1- Democratic values declined in last decade
 - a- Arab Spring didn't mature
 - b- Regime Changes, Coups
 - c- Intervention during Arab Spring were ^{Actually} against ^{spirit of} Democracy.
- 2- Democratic Institutions ^{weakened} in name of Reforms
- 3- Response to Public Opinion is just a cover up
 - a- Given Recognition is Symbolic
 - b- No steps ~~for~~ practical to stop genocide despite strong public opinion
- 4- Capitalists influence on electoral process can be legal but democratic
 - a- Lobbying serves Capitalists interests and leads to inequality
- 5- Populists gain public support through propaganda
 - a- Jewish propaganda for greater Israel
 - b- Akhonor Bhavak vs Life, Liberty, Fraternity.

Date: ___/___/20___ THE ESSAY

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From Athens and Sparta to USA and USSR, humans have adopted a number of political systems. From direct democracy practiced in Athens to representative democracy in modern day. Each system had its own advantages and disadvantages. Eventually, after the defeat of USSR in 1991, Democracy seemed to be the most viable option. The slogans; life, liberty and Fraternity attracted a number of number of nations and states started to adopt democratic values. The Japanese writer, Fukuyama, in his famous book, "End of History and the last man", argued that the democracy has emerged as a last and forever political system after the cold war. He further argues that it is the only system that can bring prosperity to the nations. But all these hopes were short-lived. The democratic indicators show that democracy is at decline. The rise of authoritarianism, institutional crises in democratic states, downturn of public opinion and rise of populist leaders

in democratic states shows that democratic norms are at decline. The other school of thought argues that democracy is not at decline rather it is strengthening its roots. Though there are claims and counter claims but the devil lies in the details. The critical evaluation of democratic indicators shows that democracy is actually losing its grounds in contemporary age.

To begin with, the rise of authoritarianism in the world shows that democracy is at decline. Take ~~the~~ the example of China. The authoritative designs introduced by President Xi has not allowed any political leaders to compete him. Similarly, Democracy has backslided in Turkey as well. Political victimization has become a neo normal. Democratic backsliding is not limited to Eastern states but it is also witnessed in western states. Hungary is one of the examples, where democracy has been sideline via constitutional reforms. Social media is used to shape the opinion in a controlled

way in said countries. The freedom of press is not there in authoritarian states. For example, the western news channels are not allowed. BBC and CNN are banned in North Korea. All these factors show that democracy is declining in twenty first century.

Similarly, the democratic institutions like parliament and judiciary are losing their due powers. In different states, one institution dominates the other in one or other way. This has led to disturbance of balance between key democratic institution. For example, Orban Victor in Hungary has introduced the constitutional reforms. These reforms provide multiple powers to executive and reduces the power of legislative and judiciary. These reforms also curtail the freedom of media. This is a serious threat to ~~practiced~~ democratic norms like freedom of expression and media, justice and accountability. These reforms has disturbed the check and balance system of three crucial institutions. Similarly, the 26th constitutional amendment, recently

introduced in constitution of Pakistan, is another example which demonstrates that separation of power in democratic states is at decline. The said amendments controls the judicial appointments in one or other way. The weakening of institutions in western countries is an indicator which predicts that democratic norms are at decline.

In the same way, public opinion, which is considered as an essence of a democratic system, is no more respected in western societies. For example, after the genocide in Gaza, the vast majority of citizens protested against genocide, but no practical steps were taken by democratic governments. Similarly, when the global Flotilla carrying aid for the people of Gaza was bombed through drones and activists were arrested, people in west again expressed their opinion through protests. But again no practical steps were taken. Similarly, to change the public opinion, censorship on press was made. News regarding genocide were

censored to favour the Zionist regime. This actively demonstrates that public opinion has lost its significance in democratic societies.

Likewise, the influence of capitalists on electoral process is another indicator which shows that democracy is losing its spirit. Electoral process in democratic countries is hijacked by the capitalists. The transparency of election becomes a question mark. The electoral process is manipulated by funding the election campaigns. This is not limited to developing countries, rather developed countries also face the same problem. For example, the role of Elon Musk in US elections is no more a secret. Similarly, the lobbying system is also crucial and manipulate the electoral process. The various lobbies in United States like Jewish lobby, Indian lobby and National Rifle lobby are key lobbies which influence the electoral process. These lobbies in order to serve their interest, hijack the electoral

system and democracy is not practiced in its true letter and spirit. So the democracy in such states is transformed from government of the people, by the people, for the people to government of the capitalists, by the capitalist and for the capitalist. This shows that the influence of capitalists has changed the true essence of democracy.

Similarly, the rise of populist leaders is another issue that weakens the roots of a democratic system. The populists use sentiments as a weapon. This leads to chaos in the society. They respect no limits and democratic norms.

Rise of Netanyahu is one example. The populist leader, like Netanyahu, to remain in power respects no humanity. The Gaza genocide by Netanyahu is one such example. Same is the case of Narendra Modi. The ultra nationalist ideology promoted by Modi has led to loss of fraternity and equality, the essence of democracy. Similarly

the divergence was tactics by populist lead to loss of precious life. For example, by provoking Hindu national sentiments leading to Hindu-Muslim riots in India lead to loss of five thousand muslims in last 10 years. This shows that rise of populist leaders has lead to decline in basic democratic values; life, liberty and Fraternity.

There is another school of thought which argues that democracy is strengthening its roots.

This school of thought argues that a tremendous increase has been witnessed in number of democratic countries. For example in 1991, only 30% of world countries had democracies. But a report published by V-Dem in 2023 shows that the 65% of the countries in the world have democratic setups. Similarly, the Arab spring shifted a number of absolute monarchies to democracies. Similarly, a number of protests in Turkey were witnessed in 2024. This shows that democracy is strengthening its roots across the world.

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Similarly, the democratic institutions are developing in newly democratic states and strengthening in existing states. For example, the supreme court of united state over ruled more than 15 legislative and presidential ordinance in last 2 years of Joe Biden regarding basic human right concerns. This include the immigrants rights as well. Similarly, the constitutional amendments in Pakistan are not against democratic norms but are misinterpreted. The constitutional amendment actually aims to stop the judicial activism, which was rampant in years 2018-2024. This amendment was actually to strengthen the check and balance system and to make the separation of power more effective. This illustrates the democracy is strengthening its roots.

Similarly, regarding the public opinion, the recent practices show that public opinion is still respected in western democracies. For example, various European countries including France and Spain has recently recognized the Palestinian state in response to

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Public opinion. Similarly, the genocide is expressed openly in number of articles published in western media. This shows that freedom of media is there.

Likewise, this school of thought, regarding the capitalist interventions, argues that capitalism and democracy are inter-linked and therefore the role of capitalists in electoral process is just an exaggeration. Capitalists, being part of a democratic system, do have their opinion and right to express their opinion. This does not reflect a manipulative impact on electoral process. Regarding the lobby system, they argue that lobbying is not there in ^{strong} democracies like UK. The lobby system is due to weak party system and it does not reflect democratic decline in recent age. Furthermore, the lobbying in USA is allowed by law. All these evidences represent that democracy is not losing its ground in contemporary age.

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Lastly, they argue that populists are not a threat to democracy. As the populist leaders have the public support, so they are not undemocratic. Populists participate in elections, which is a democratic process. For example, the populist leaders like Natenyaho and Modi are elected and come into power by will of the people, which is essence of democracy. Similarly, the protection of national interest cannot be undemocratic. So, the rise of populist leaders does not reflect weakening of democracy but it shows that democracy is strengthening its roots by each passing day.