

## Question:

Civil-Military imbalance has been a major impediment in Pakistan's democratic development. Discuss.

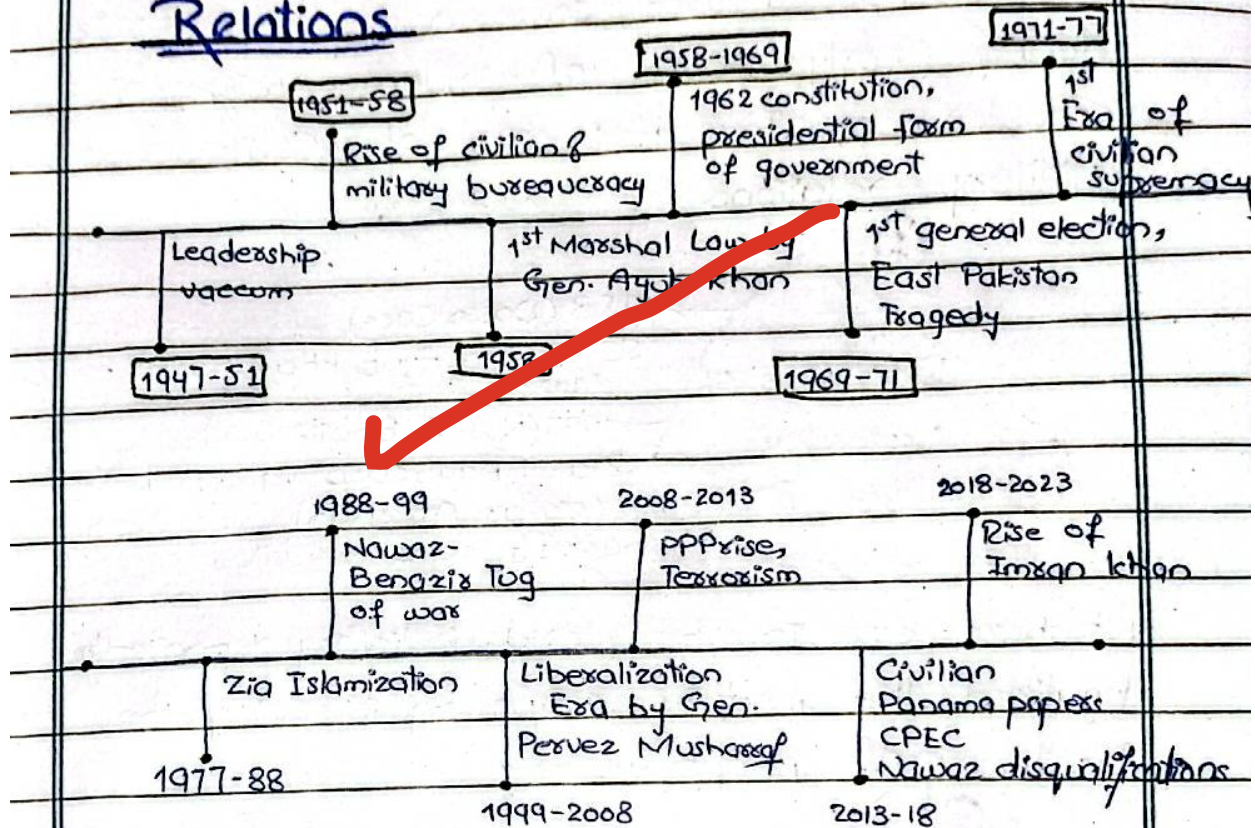
### Introduction

Since 1947 independence, civil-military relations have been the matter of concern for Pakistan's political trajectory. Even after debacle of British Empire, the stains of authoritarian rule can be traced back in governmental structure. After the assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan, a leadership vacuum was created with the rise of civilian and military bureaucracy. The military emerged as the most organized institution in Pakistan. Meanwhile, weak democratic traditions and fragile politics repeatedly allowed the armed forces to rule and dominate the political arena. The recurring cycle of Martial laws weakened the already weak democracy and obstructed the political maturity that was necessary for sustainable democracy. Thus, the civil-military imbalance is not only a historical event rather it is a continuous impediment that is shaping Pakistan's democratic structure till now.



# Historical timeline of Civil-Military Relations

## Relations



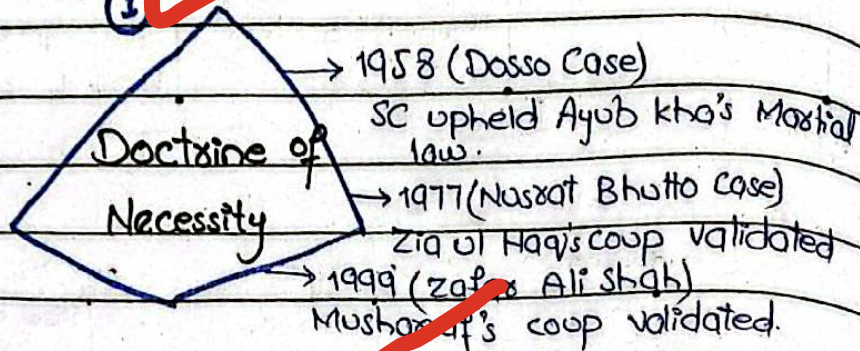
## Unique Characteristics of Civil-Military Imbalance

According to Traditional Theory of Civil-Military Relations, A paradox lies at the center of traditional civil-military relations theory, that is highly appreciated in Pakistan's military department. The military, an institution designed to protect the polity, must also be strong enough to threaten the society it serves. The military take-over or coup



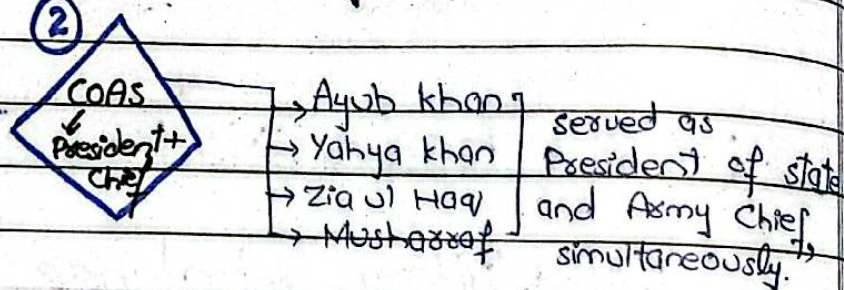
is an example where this balance is used to change the government. Pakistan's military has showed some unique characteristics during early years of independence that consider as the benchmarks of 'Civil-Military relations'.

①



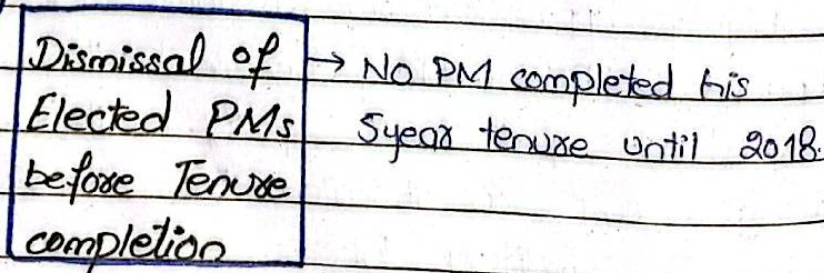
Nowhere else in the world, judiciary repeatedly legalized the military coups by inventing the Doctrine of necessity.

②



Only Latin America had experienced the role of Army Chief as a President simultaneously, but Pakistan normalized it in the era of four military rulers.

③





this part is not required, so no need to discuss it in detail.

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The chronic instability under military pressure is unparalleled compared to democracies.

④

Military entrenched in Constitution

→ 8<sup>th</sup> amendment under Zia's regime,  
→ 17<sup>th</sup> amendment under Musharraf

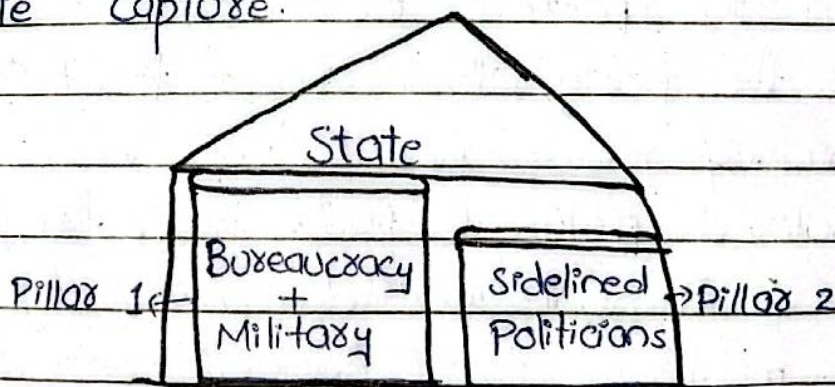
Constitution was amended many times to legalize military powers after staging coups. Till now, American Constitution pass 27 amendments that took 230+ years while Pakistan has passed 26 amendments in just 5 decades.

⑤

Hybrid Regime Concept

→ Civil - Military mix

Pakistan coined a unique global term: Hybrid Regime or Hybrid Democracy, where civilians govern but ~~gov~~ military controls policy from behind. At independence, ~~be~~ bureaucracy - Military alliance was a unique Pakistani model of state capture.



⑥

Unprecedented Military Tenure Extension



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Army Chiefs given extensions repeatedly that were legalized by Parliament or Supreme Court, such as: Ayub Khan extended himself, Zia ruled 11 years, Musharraf ruled 9 years, General Kayani got 3 extra years and Bajwa got 3 years too.

relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement

## Why Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan are as they are?

Civil-Military Relations are paradoxically seen as the descent of democracy in Pakistan. Though Military-Bureaucracy alliance filled the gap of leadership by sideline the civilian government. The role of civilian government was also allowed the armed forces to take over the state.

## Weak democratic foundation

Pakistan inherited colonial bureaucracy and military institutions that were strong as compared to political institutions. Muslim League, the party that strived for Pakistan was more of a movement than an institutionalized political party. Thus, fragile civilian government was dominated by strong military. Samuel P. Huntington stated that military of any state should be strong enough, if civilians are unable to



run the state so military should intervene.

## Political Instability and Civilians Corruption

In 1950s, frequent changes of government, such as 7 Prime Ministers dismissed in 11 years, undermined the legitimacy of civilian government. Moreover, corruption allegations and patronage-based politics discredited the political leaders. In this way, military presented itself a clean and effective alternative against civilian government. So, military dominated in state affairs as a solution of political instability, incapable politicians, and corruption.

## Economic Interest of Military

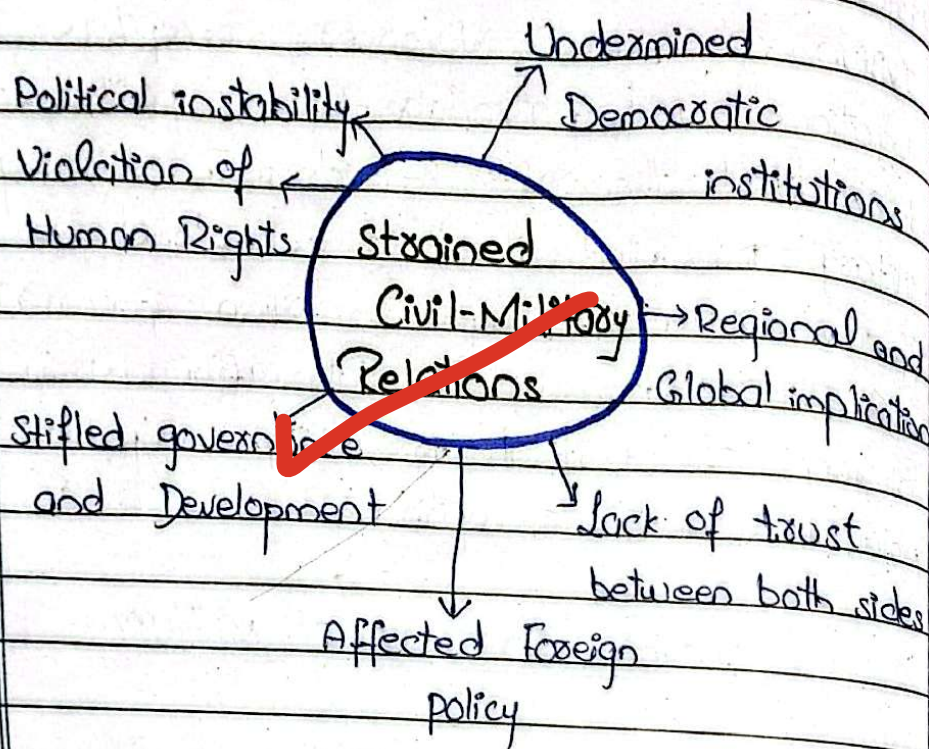
In response of fragile institutions, military made economic and commercial developments in Pakistan that includes Bahria Foundation, Fauji Foundation, Army Welfare Trust, and Shateen Foundation. With the passage of time, Officers dominate land allotments, housing schemes, and corporations creating a class vested interest in perpetuating the military dominance. On the other hand, civilians weakened by corruption and pursuing self-interest in government rarely



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matched with militaristic economic chut.

## Consequences of Strained Relations



The strained relations of civilians and military have negatively impact the country's governance, stability, development, and democracy. In fact, it directly impacts the foreign policy of Pakistan. Due to India and Kashmir angle, Pakistan's foreign policy <sup>had</sup> prioritized the security and military <sup>was</sup> arsenals to protect the state. Martial laws and current military authority has caused to spend more budget on military department.

this was the main part asked.  
discuss it in detail by giving multiple subheadings.



## Way Forward: Solutions

Improving civil-military relations and civilian supremacy in Pakistan requires a multifaceted ~~supremacy~~ approach that addresses institutional, structural, and cultural factors.

### ① Strengthening Democratic Institutions



According to world Justice program: Pakistan Judiciary Ranking is 130/142. The judicial system has inefficient legislative process, politically polarized, limited autonomy, and inadequate transparency. So, Pakistan should focus on strengthening its democratic institutions.

### ② Promote Civilian Oversight

The promotion of civilian oversight provides transparency and accountability about defense programs, and expenditures.



The civilian oversight includes



(Independency)



Parliamentary  
Committees

Independent  
Commissions

Judicial  
Review

↓  
Scrutinize  
defense Budget

↓  
Military  
appointments

↓  
strategic  
decisions

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of Auditor General of Canada are some examples that Pakistan can opt to conduct audits and evaluations to ensure effectiveness and compliance with laws and regulations.

### ③ Civilian Leadership and Political stability

Pakistan should focus on cadre of civilian leaders who are capable, experienced, and committed to governing effectively. This involves investing in education, training, and capacity building programs for civilians, policy makers and the bureaucrats. Strong civilian leadership is essential for asserting authority and managing civil military relations constructively. For instance, USA, UK, and Canada the President, Congress, and state government exercise the ultimate authority over the military.



"In military, even a technician will have access to a decent computer, while in civilian government, even some ministers do not know how to use one."

~Anatol Lieven

Pakistan: A Hard  
Country

Military Personnels should be restricted to perform relevant duties while avoiding participation in civilian authority decision making. Although, military has proved to be prudent in state affairs since the beginning but who is responsible for state affairs should perform these duties. In this way, leadership vacuum would be fulfilled and each department would be liable to perform their respective duties. This will lead to political stability and ultimately smooth the double edged sword of the state.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, military is responsible to protect the state from external harms and internal harm while civilian authority is responsible to run the administration. The paradox of civil-military relations is due to interference of one department into



decisions of others. If Pakistan creates strong democratic institutions and restrict external intervention into policy making it can be prosperous and civil-military relations can be improved constructively.

you have not understood the qs and hence most of the answer is irrelevant.