

DEMOCRACY: HOPES and HURDLES

OUTLINE:

1. INTRODUCTION:

1.1. **Hook Statement:** In 1947, Pakistan was created with the dream of being a democratic state where people would be sovereign. Yet, more than seven decades later, the nation still oscillates between democratic hope and authoritarian hurdles.

1.2. **General statement**

1.3. **Thesis Statement:** The future of Pakistan rests on the strength of its democracy, while hurdles such as corruption, civil-military relations, dynastic politics and economic crisis persist, a reformed and inclusive democratic system remains the only path to unity and prosperity.

MAIN BODY

2.1. History of democracy in Pakistan.

2.2. HOPES FOR DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN

2.2.1. Martial law is obsolete.

2.2.2. Political Representation and Inclusioness

- Federal and provincial autonomy ensured under 18th Amendment.

- Case study:- 2013 General Election - first peaceful transfer of power between two civilian governments.

2.2.3. Strengthening of Judiciary

- Lawyers movement 2007-08

2.2.4. The appearance of an informed civil society.

- Case in point: The punishment of parliamentary personnel who recklessly shot a criminal suspect in Karachi, which followed an expose of the brutal shooting by a television channel.

2.2.5. Safeguarding fundamental rights.

- Right to vote, speech, minority rights
- Women Protection Bill 2006 and reserved seats for women in assemblies.

2.2.6. Pathway to National Unity and Integrator.

- NFC Awards gave more resources to provinces

2.3. HURDLES to Democracy in Pakistan.

2.3.1. Political instability and weak governance.

- 2014 PTI sit-in demonstrated political polarization and weakened democratic continuity.
- 2022 - vote of no confidence reflected political instability.

2.3.2. Weak political parties and dynastic politics.

- Case study: PPP and PML-N dominate politics with little internal democracy.

2.3.3. Illiteracy and lack of political awareness.

- Voter manipulation by feudal lords and elites.
- Case study: Reduction in voter turnout from 52% in 2018 election to 48% in 2024 elections.

2.3.4. Corruption of democratic leaders.

- Two main leaders of two main parties were arrested in corruption charges - former PM Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif

2.3.5' - Poor economic position of the country.

3- WAY FORWARD

3.1 By educating people

3.2 By reconstructing political parties

3.3 By holding free and fair elections.

3.4 By promoting a culture of cooperation among political parties

4- Conclusion:

4.1 Thesis restated.