

Critically evaluate the influence of political culture on evolution of democratic culture of Pakistan. In your opinion has Pakistan able to fulfil democratic indicators in its true letter and spirit.

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1) Introduction :-

Pakistan's political culture has always acted as a wall in the path to progress

- Trek to Pakistan,

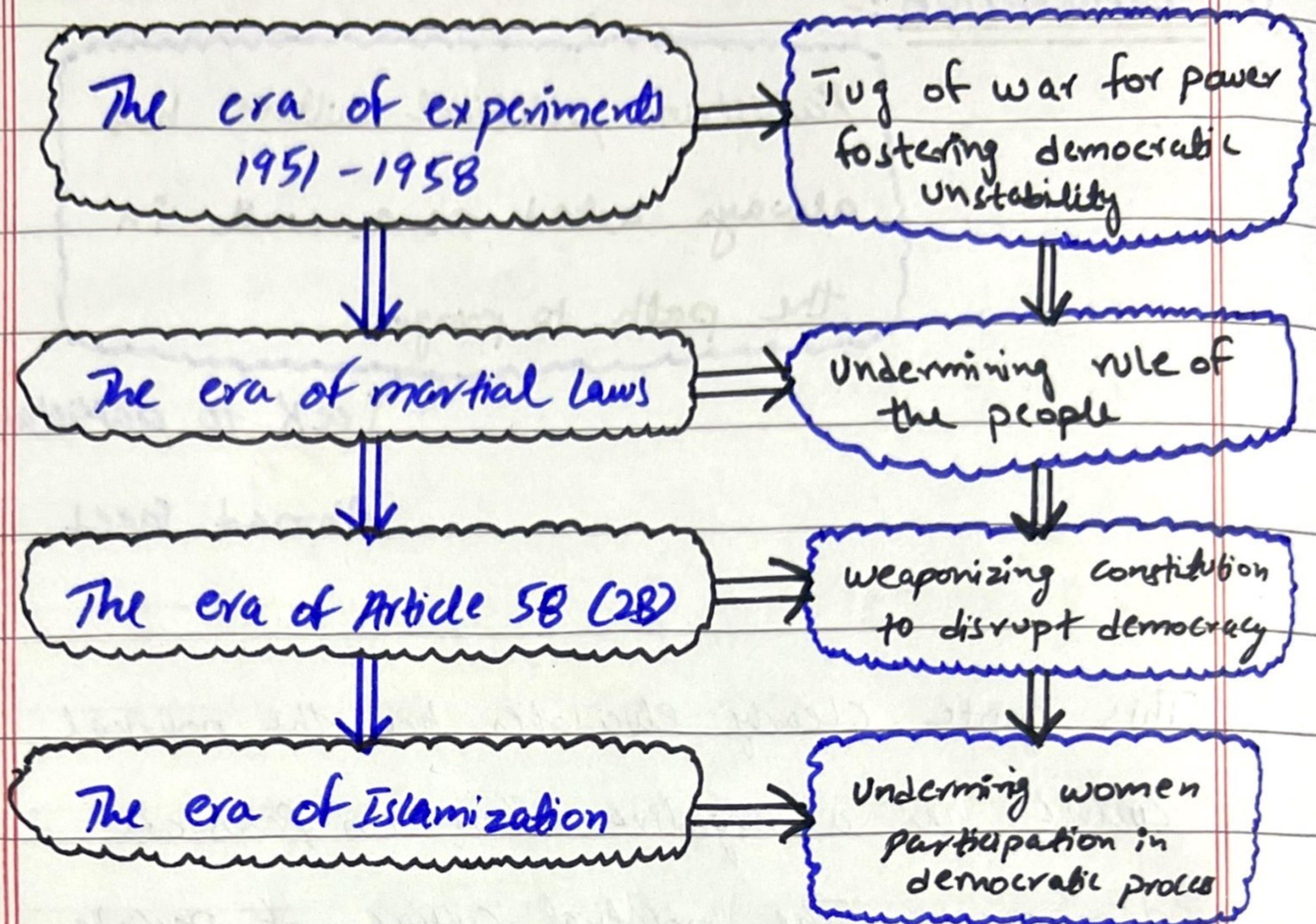
Ahmad Saeed

This quote clearly elucidates how the political culture had a negative effect on Pakistan's democracy. The political culture of Pakistan can be categorized under the era of experiments, the era of martial law, the era of Article 58(2B) and the era of Islamization. All of these have had significant effects on the democratic culture of Pakistan. Also, Pakistan has failed to fulfill the democratic indicators in their true letter and spirit, causing hinderance in the path towards progress.

2) Influence of Political culture on evolution of democratic culture of Pakistan

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Description:-

The following flow chart shows the influence of political culture on the evolution of democratic culture ⁱⁿ of Pakistan.

2.1) The era of experiments : The tug of war for power

After the assassination of Liaqat Ali Khan, the country faced extreme political turmoil.

From 1951-58, 6 leaders were changed in this short span of 8 years. This brought extreme

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uncertainty in the country by disrupting the democratic traditions in Pakistan.

The constant changing of political leaders in a country give birth to the turbulent winds that damages the democracy

- Daniel Ziblitt, How democracies die

2.2) The era of martial laws promoting authoritarianism

The political culture of military coups of 1958, 1977 and 1999, significantly weakened the democratic norms in Pakistan. This promoted a culture of authoritarianism among the citizens, containing their emotions. Despite that martial law regimes showed significant economic growth in the country, at the cost of democratic hurdles.

Military coups are not a long term solution, it undermines democracy and fuel negative sentiments in people, which can erupt in future

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- Anatol Lieven,
Pakistan a hard country

2.3) The era of Article 58 (2B) : weaponization of the constitution

The article 58 (2B) of the constitution, granted absolute power to ~~the~~ the president, who can then dismiss the prime minister. It was a hurdle in the path of democracy as no leader was able to complete his five year tenure as a leader, bringing instability in the country.

Article 58 (2B) was a wall in
the path of democratic supremacy,
bringing uncertainty

- Shahzaib Ali, Pakistan
on the edge

2.4) The era of Islamization affecting the women

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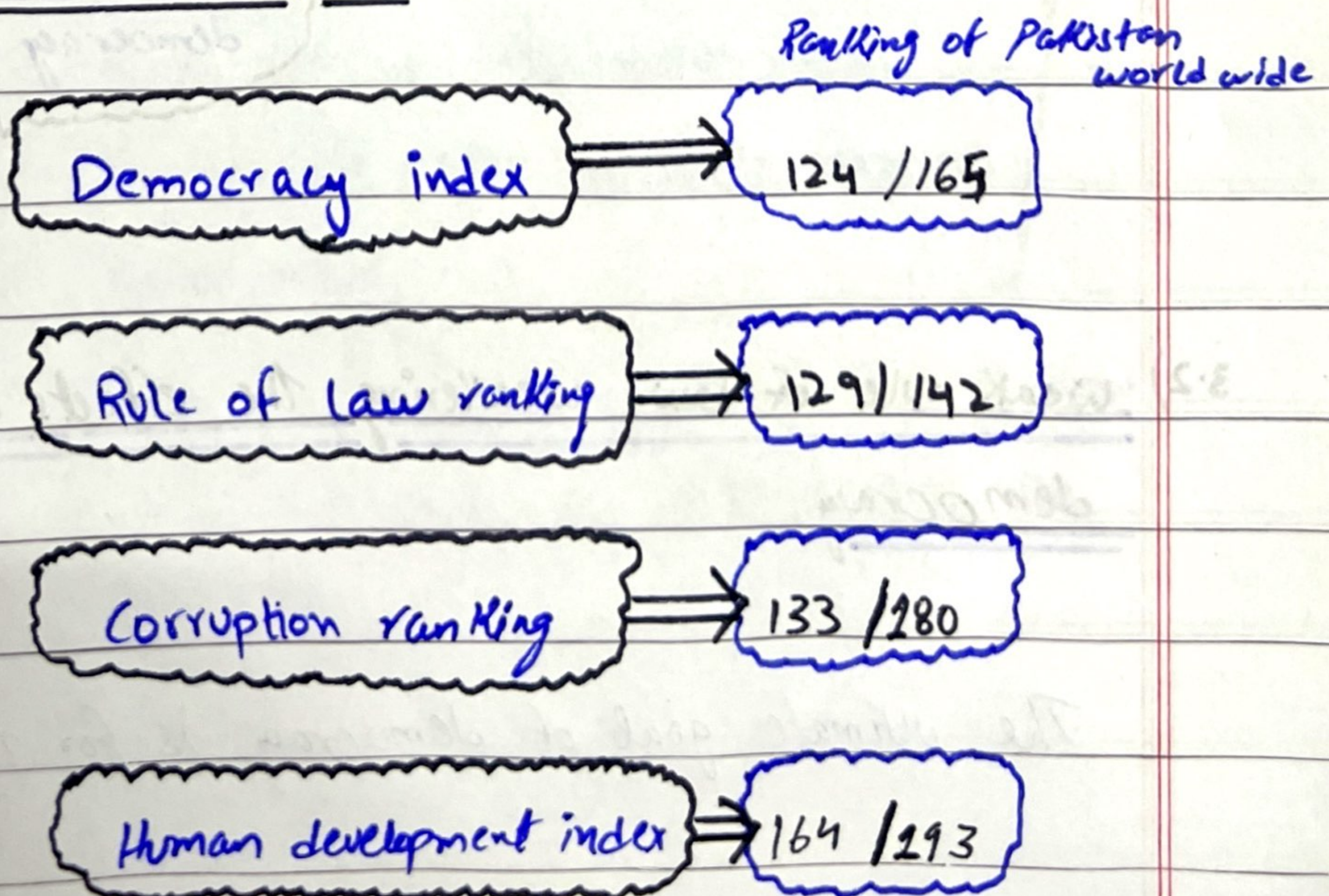
Pakistan was to be an Islamic republic.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and General Zia, were the first to incorporate Islamic principles in the country, which was beneficial. But, this weakened the participation of women in politics, making democracy exclusive.

Example :-

Women below the age of 65 could not become a member of National Assembly during the Islamization policies of Zia.

3) Pakistan has not been able to fulfill the democratic indicators in their true letter and spirit

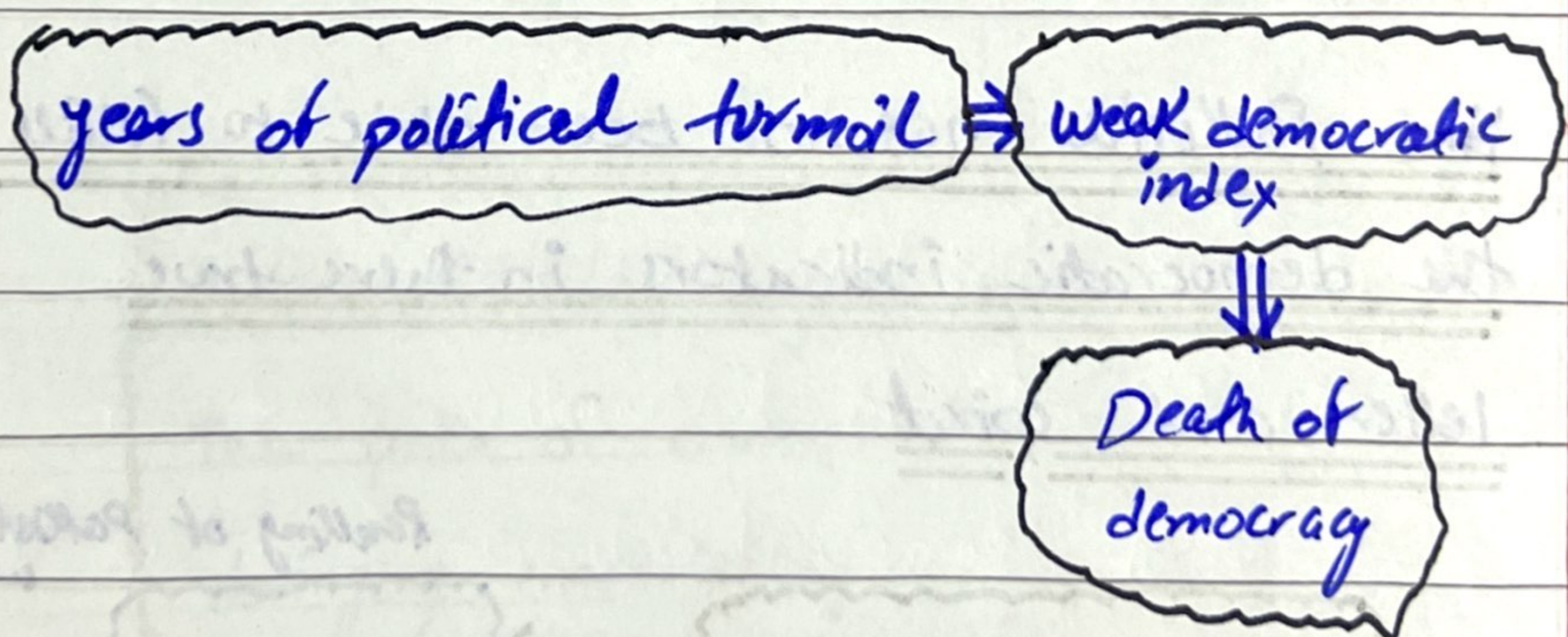


Description:-

The following flow chart shows the ranking of Pakistan in different democratic indicators.

3.1) Democracy index in chaos after years of Political turmoil

The low ranking of the democracy index classified as authoritarian regime. This promotes the welfare of the state over the welfare of the people in Pakistan. The years of political turmoil is the catalyst for such a low ranking.



3.2) Weak rule of law weakening the effects of democracy

The ultimate goal of democracy is for the

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people to have a government who can uplift the standard of living. But, the weak rule of law ranking of Pakistan shows the lack of justice in the country. This causes people to protest which weakens democracy.

3.3) High Corruption weakening the country inside and out

Pakistan ranks at 133 out of 180 in terms of corruption, which shows the lack of democracy in the country. This shows that Pakistan is at the palms of elites, who are driven by self agendas.

To preserve democracy, check the points of corruption, and one would see immediate progress from regress

- Daniel Ziblatt, How democracies die

3.4) Human development index an essential element of democratic supremacy

Human development index is a convergence of average life expectancy, income and literacy.

Pakistan ranks at 164 out of 193 countries.

This shows that Pakistan has been unable to fulfill its democratic indicators, which cost the instability of democracy in the country.

4) Critical Analysis

To analyze, the political culture has always been in a state of uncertainty in Pakistan. It has been driven by people to fulfill their hidden agendas. Despite that, it has also contributed in achieving some great outcomes such as, adding Islamic touch, attainment of nuclear etc. But still it has caused significant damage to the democratic culture of Pakistan.

5) Conclusion:-

To conclude, the political culture of Pakistan has caused significant impacts on its democratic culture engulfed in tug of war for power, military

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caps, islamization policies and by weaponizing the constitution. All of these brought instability to the democracy of Pakistan. Hence, all of these curtailed the progress of Pakistan to fulfil its democratic indicators in their true letter and spirit.

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