

# Democracy Without Accountability is a Time Ticking Bomb

## The Outline

### (1) Introduction

Thesis: Democratic system pledges public supremacy, but without accountability it becomes a time ticking bomb - attributed to poor governance, weak judiciary, and centralization of power - leading to disastrous consequences in the future

### (2) How is democracy without accountability a time-ticking bomb

(a) weak oversight leads to misuse of state resources, producing budgetary constraints for human development

(Monsoon Revolution in Bangladesh and GenZ protests in Nepal and Sri Lanka)

(b) skepticism about rigging of elections delegitimizes government, eroding public trust in the institutions.

(Accusations of rigged elections in 2018 an general election of Feb-2024 and mistrust within public)

- (c) Weak accountability transforms democratic institutions into authoritarian, fostering resentments within public  
(Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Report (2025) about democratic condition of Pakistan)
- (d) Judiciary is a pillar of democracy but poor regulation undermines its legal decisions, questioning rule of law  
(Amnesty International's concerns about judiciary's situation of Pakistan)
- (e) Poor accountability of representative leaders amplifies chances of nepotism and political expediency, ~~reducing~~ <sup>threatening</sup> public survival welfare in country  
(Montesquieu's concept of separation of power and accountability)
- (f) Inadequate regulation weakens state institutions, fragmenting their efficiency and public service delivery  
(Rent-seeking, corruption and Corruption Perception Index of Pakistan)
- (g) Control on dissent weakens media, ~~and~~

raising chances of mismanagement and  
\*(socio-economic crisis)\*: human rights violations  
(GenZ protests in Bangladesh in 2024)

(b) weak oversight raises chances of  
minority persecution, undermining <sup>essence</sup> legacy  
of democracy

### ③ Way Forward: Navigating the pathway for consolidation of democracy

(a) Ensuring transparent and fair elections  
to support deserving leaders

(b) Encouraging freedom of expression without  
instilling hate or violence to maintain  
dissent

(c) Strengthening judiciary and state  
institutions to perpetuate rule of law

(d) ~~Empowering~~ <sup>Depoliticizing</sup> autonomous watchdogs to  
ensure accountability of institutions  
(National accountability Bureau (NAB),  
Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) )  
(Scandinavian Model of institutional accountability)

(4) Conclusion

## The Essay

Humans have selfish nature with tendency of corruption if accountability weakens. Similarly, democracy without accountability becomes an autocracy that <sup>gradually</sup> loses its legacy ~~gradually~~, ultimately producing havoc consequences. It is a system where population remains supreme, and ~~it~~ it chooses representative directly or indirectly through elections. However, to maintain democratic system, accountability of state institutions, leaders, regulatory bodies and even judiciary are necessary. Without oversight, authorities misuse state funds, undermining human development programs. Similarly, manipulations during elections sabotage legality of the government. Elected leaders become despotic, that exploit state institutions and policies. Likewise, poor regulation weakens judiciary, ~~and~~ undermining rule of law. It increases chances of nepotism and corruption, producing frustration among the public. Efficiency of

institutions fades and crackdown on dissent becomes frequent. Additionally, minorities including women bear face injustices. It leads to long-term grievances among public, and people can emerge any time, bringing revolution and collapse of government.

To counter such consequence, the authorities must ensure transparent elections and strong institutions with adequate accountability to consolidate democracy in country.

Hence, democratic system pledges public supremacy, but without accountability it becomes a time-ticking bomb - attributed to poor governance, weak judiciary and centralization of power - leading to disastrous consequences in the future.

Weak institutions

Weak oversight

fosters misuse of resources of state, increasing budgetary constraints for human development. In democratic system, people choose their representative leader with hopes of prosperity.

However, this hope becomes an elusive dream when these leaders are not questioned and regulated. Then subsequently, politicians, bureaucrats, public officers and even clerks misuse funds, take bribery, and involve in corruption. Resultantly, human development expenditure reduces to minimal. As a result, there is less infrastructural development, job opportunities and spending on health and education, amplifying frustration within public. Moonsoon Revolution in Bangladesh in 2004 and Gen-Z protests in Nepal and Sri Lanka are examples in this regard, where democracy weakened because of poor accountability. Subsequently, the ticking bomb exploded in the form of widespread protests and toppling down of government.

Another

Additionally, skepticism about rigging of elections delegitimizes government, eroding public trust in the institutions. Transparent and fair election is a pre-requisite

of democracy, that fades with rigged elections. For instance, blackouts during elections, delayed results, freezing of communications, and alteration in results undermine democratic legitimacy. Additionally, weak oversight ~~of~~<sup>by</sup> regulatory bodies further ~~of~~ weakens the legality.

For example accusations of manipulation in election results in general elections of 2018 and that of 2024 have disrupted public trust in the <sup>respective</sup> governments. Ultimately, without public trust institutions weaken, public service delivery erodes, and frustration within public emerges, creating instincts of betrayal in the public for the government.

Hence, democracy without accountability becomes a ticking bomb,

Moreover, weak accountability transforms democratic institutions into authoritarian, fostering resentments within people. Viable democracy exists where institutions regulate themselves and

23

question lower management regarding outcomes, outputs and feedbacks. Without regulation both public and private sector monopolize in their arenas. Corporate sectors concentrate resources, widening inequality gaps between poor and rich. Also, public sector becomes autocratic, favouring powerful while ignoring majority. Resultantly, essence of democracy fades. For instance, According to Economist Intelligence Unit, Pakistan ranked 124/165 countries, calling it authoritarian country instead of democratic, hence, accountability in <sup>report</sup> shows how monopoly develops in democratic system. Consequently, it produces far and unprecedented outcomes in the future.

Apart from this, judiciary is a significant pillar of democracy, but its poor regulation undermines its legal decisions, questioning rule of law. Justice and rule of law ensures public trust within state institutions because they

treat both proletariat and bourgeoisie equally. However, when judiciary comes under manipulations and control by powerful ones, then its decisions also lose credibility. For instance, after 26th Amendment and 27th amendment, Amnesty International raised concerns about independence of judiciary in Pakistan and its submission under executive control.

Under executive domination, there are chances of fabrication of important decisions that is a blow to democratic survival. Therefore, for a democracy to prevail, accountability of judiciary is must. Otherwise, injustices and corruption would become ~~free~~ common, sabotaging democratic system in the future with devastating consequences.

In addition to this, poor accountability of representative leaders amplifies chances of nepotism and political expediency, threatening public survival in the country. A viable democracy demands strong institutions devoid of influence of

political leaders and elites. Politicization of regulatory institutions ultimately weakens its credibility. Then it leads to an unending cycle of accusations and polarization, compromising public welfare in the middle. Resultantly, public officials exploit the circumstances to serve their interest, sidelining public welfare. Montesquieu is a political philosopher who emphasized on the concept of separation of power to ensure accountability for a strong democracy. It illustrates that without regulation, public officials become corrupt, raising poverty and socio-economic crisis like unemployment, illiteracy, and food insecurity. This results in frustration within public, that can explode at any time in the future.

Apart from this, control on dissent weakens public expression, raising chances of mismanagement and human rights violations. ~~It~~ It is a pre-requisite of democracy to have a free media and freedom of expression.

to serve as <sup>independent</sup> watchdogs against corruption and rent-seeking. Social media activists, independent journalists, human rights activists, and civil society are important part of a dynamic democracy where they question about policies, formulations implementation, and decisions of government. However, if media is censored by the authorities or safety of ~~media~~ journalists are not ensured, then ~~this~~ ultimately accountability weakens, raising chances of rent-seeking and human rights violations.

For instance, GenZ emerged as powerful source in Nepal and Bangladesh against corruption, demonstrating how poorly regulated government becomes despotic and then face devastating consequences in the form of revolution. Therefore, democracy without accountability is a time-ticking bomb that can burst and topple down governments.

Lastly, weak oversight raises chances of minority persecution, undermining essence of democracy. Democracy is not the ~~only~~

government of majority, but it is the protection of minority. Democracy promises supremacy of populace without biasness of colour, religion, and gender. However, if regulation and oversight weakens, then persecution of minority and violation of their rights becomes a norm.

It not only raises concerns among national citizens but also activates international human rights organization. Combinely, it disrupts the democratic systems, creating a precedent for others. Hence, accountability is essential for survival of democracy otherwise it would generate uninter unexpected consequences like social unrest, revolution and even collapse of the government.

Untill now, reasons of democracy without accountability is a time-tacking bomb are discussed. Now, the pathway to ensure accountability and strengthen democracy is given. First of all, a legitimate democratic government requires transparent and fair election to elect

true leaders. In this way, public trust develops in the leadership as well as institutions. Additionally, accountability of regulatory institutions like National Accountability Bureau, (NAB) and Ombudsman office ~~are~~ is necessary.

Dynamic accountability institutes and autonomous bodies ensure justice, and equitable use of resources.

In this way, government becomes capable of spending on education, health, infrastructural development, and other public services, reducing public grievances and enabling true democratic system.

Another factor for strong accountability is free expression and uncensored media, ~~not~~ ~~per~~ contributing constructive role in the country. In today's contemporary world, social media is a real-time platform of accountability where public themselves post and expose misconduct and misuse of power. Hence, government must ensure free media to strengthen oversight on public officials to

to promote democracy. However, it should adopt international models like European regulation laws to control hate speech as well. It means government must encourage accountability through media to sustain democratic survival in country.

Moreover, strong judiciary and autonomous institutions are also significant to hold perpetrators accountable for their misconduct, encouraging rule of law and equality. Delayed justice and politicized institutions manipulate decisions and exploit resources, creating inequality among weak and powerful. It leads to hate and violence, threatening peaceful existence. Hence, government must ensure strong judicial institutions and rule of law to prevail timely justice, addressing public concerns and protecting democratic survival.

To conclude, democracy fosters popular supremacy; however, weak oversight erode its survival due to poor institutions, controlled

media, manipulated elections, and autocratic regimes. Poor accountability creates vacuum for misuse of resources and manipulation of elections. Moreover, it enhances authoritarian tendency within institutions and undermines the rule of law. Additionally, weak oversight creates ~~an~~ increases chances of corruption and rent-seeking, severely disrupting public trust in authorities. In addition to this, it fragments institutions, ~~and~~ amplify mismanagement, and multiply ~~the~~ cases of human rights violations. Ultimately, these factors generate sense of grievances among public, making democracy a ~~the~~ ticking bomb. To counter such conditions, governments must adopt international models like Scandinavian model to strengthen accountability and foster strong democracy.