

# IMPLICATIONS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY ON PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY:

## 1. Introduction:

Indeed, the incessant political instability in Pakistan has constrained her economic development and foreign diplomatic performance. Political instability is due to many structural causes within Pakistan, and it has impacted Pakistan's national security, making it difficult to ensure peace within and independence on the global level.

## 2. Causes Political instability:

Political Instability is the structural weakness of any system to sustain its political functioning. It arises from weak institutions, corruptions, lack of constitutionalism, and absence of rule of law.

### 2.1: Causes of political instability in Pakistan:

## i) Weak institutions in Pakistan:

In Pakistan, the institutions are weak and function at the whim of the elected leaders. Lack of separate implementation of constitutional rules have made institutions weaker.

## ii) Frequent change of governments:

Pakistan has continuously faced this governance crisis that none of its governments have completed 5 years rule till now. This creates political instability within the country.

## iii) Excessive partisan politics:

In Pakistan, there is an excessive partisan politics which repeals even policies that are better for the country.

## iv) Absence of Rule of law and Corruption:

Pakistan has faced absence of rule of law and corruption integrated within its institutions since very long. Pakistan's global name

in both these indicators are

- Rule of Law  $\Rightarrow$  130 in the world.

Rule of Law by World Justice Project  
2025.

- Corruption Perception Index  $\Rightarrow$  ~~129~~ 135.

CPI by Transparency Intl  
2024.

#### v. Ethnic politics and disintegration:

Pakistan is afflicted with ethnic politics which prioritises ethnic interests over national priorities causing political instability.

#### vi. Lack of mutual trust among actors:

Politics actors lack mutual trust between them, and they are increasingly at daggers drawn against each other.

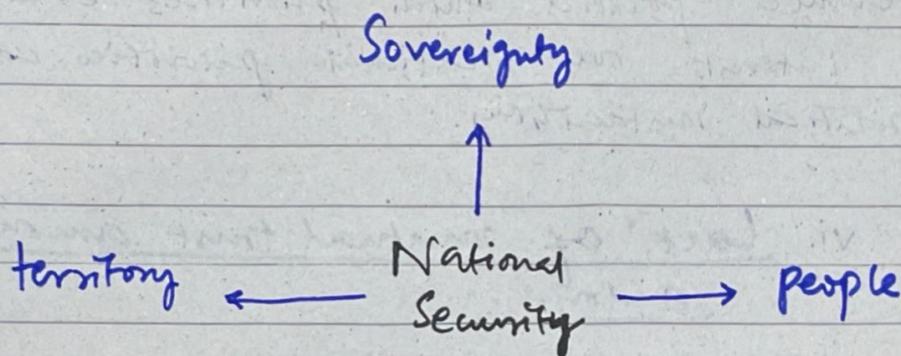
#### vii. Weak Civic virtue:

The weakness of civic virtue and fond for stable democracy has caused political instability in Pakistan. People often prioritise party commands over national interests.

### 3. Implications of political instability on national security and foreign policy:

#### 3.1: Implications on national security:

The implications of political instability on Pakistan's national security are vast:



Protection of people, territory and Sovereignty

#### i) Rise of extremist groups:

The political instability in Pakistan has led to a rise of destructive third state which is ~~implied~~ <sup>implied</sup> to devastating Pakistan.

## ii) Decline of economy and rise of poverty:

Political instability affects national security by affecting the economy of a country. Similarly, in Pakistan, there has been a rise of poverty due to economic instability. Pakistan, according to World Bank 2025 report on poverty, has a 44% population below the "4 dollars" poverty line.

## iii) Rise of secessionist movements:

Political instability harms the national security by leading to a rise in secessionist movements. Unfortunately, Pakistan faced such an <sup>unfortunate</sup> incident in 1971, which created Bangladesh.

## 3.2: Implications on foreign policy:

According to Lord Palmerton, "Foreign policy is what a country choose to do and what not to do on a global level in terms of trade, relationship, and influence." Political instability determines the foreign policy of any country.

i) Political instability leads to decreased sovereignty:

Political instability within a country declines its foreign standing also, which decreases its sovereignty in independent decision making.

Ex: Pakistan joined CEATO and SENTO under western bloc pressure because of its <sup>early</sup> political instability.

ii) Political instability make a country aid dependent:

Political instability leads to aid dependent bloc politics, and decreases independence in foreign relations

iii) Pakistan has been dependent on IMF because of its political instability:

Foreign institute dictates politics for Pakistan due to Pakistan's political instability. These policies are often harmful for growth.

4. Conclusion: Pakistan has been dwelling with political instability since its inception which has harmed its national security and impacted its foreign standing.