

"The far reaching effects of political instability" in Pakistan

1- Introduction

Thesis statement:

Political instability has adverse effects on Pakistan. Not only does it hinder the progress of a nation but also is a huge impediment in achieving goals for Pakistan. However, with commitment and stern steps Pakistan can vanquish political instability from within itself.

2- Pakistan's history filled with political instability.

3- The adverse effects caused by political instability.

a) Diverts the focus of the government from crucial matters

b) Makes Pakistan a sweet dish for international players

c) Causes less foreign direct investment in the country

d) Increases economic vulnerability

e) Rise in inflation and poverty

f) Gives rise to terrorism and sectarianism

g) More violence and protests across the country

h) Adverse effects on tourism

i) Negative image of Pakistan

j) Reduces patriot spirit from among Pakistani's

4- Ways forward to encourage more political stability

a) Constitution and legislation be strengthened

b) Governments must complete their tenures

c) Elimination of dynasty among political parties

d) Reduce interference of political parties from governmental institutions

e) Curb the interference of armed forces

f) Self realization of the effects of political instability

"Essay"

Throughout history it has been witnessed that nations and empires both powerful and influential whether it be the mongol empire, muslim empire, abasid empire, ~~france~~ france before the french revolution or United socialist Soviet Republic (USSR) political instability has made them all fall from their supreme positions. Such is the case with Pakistan, we are facing dire instability within our political system that it can cause Pakistan to crumble soon. It is proven as it is ~~causing~~ diverting the focus of the government from crucial matters, exposing Pakistan for international players, effecting foreign direct investment, weakening economy of the nation, increasing inflation and poverty, giving rise to terrorism and sectarianism, provoking violence and protests across the country, effecting tourism while also promoting a negative image of Pakistan. No doubt, this is also causing weak patriotism among the pakistani's. However ~~with~~ by strengthening constitution and legislation, allowing governments to complete their tenures, eliminating dynasty political system within parties, reducing interference of political parties from governmental institutions and limiting the role of armed forces from within civil sector will surely set Pakistan on the path to betterment. In short, political instability has adverse effects on Pakistan. Not only does it hinder

the progress of a nation but also is a huge impediment in achieving goals for Pakistan. However, with commitment and stern steps Pakistan can vanquish political instability from within itself.

Pakistan has been a victim of political instability throughout its history. There has been no peace within the country since its inception. We have witnessed constant change in the government from Benazir Bhutto, Asif Zardari, Nawaz Sharif, Zia-ul-Haq, Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, Pervez Musharraf to Imran Khan. There has been no government to be able to complete its tenure and therefore the role of military in civil sector has been prominent in Pakistan's politics as we have suffered from four dictatorships already. Whoever comes to power utilizes the system for his own expedience and therefore Pakistan has never been able to see its goals fulfilled. Therefore, it has become pivotal for Pakistan to eliminate this evil from the society, if we really want to fulfill the goals that we strive for.

Political instability has dire consequences on the ~~as a~~ country as a whole as it is diverting the focus of the government from crucial matters. The government of Pakistan remains focused concentrated on unimportant matters like protests, opposition, dirty politics, and unrest of the public while ignoring the important matters like that of global warming, economic prosperity, education, health and business sector. This only hinders the growth of the nation as the government is focused on suppressing the opposition and they even make policies that would

resist the opposition and save their seats, all at the cost of neglecting other important matters. Therefore, political instability is causing the government to shift its attention from pivotal to unnecessary matters and hindering the growth of the nation.

Moreover, political instability is also making Pakistan a sweet dish for international players from around the world. A weak economy along with political unrest gives a chance to other countries to exploit Pakistan. So we have witnessed constant interference from other nations such as USA, China and our neighbour rival India. For instance CPEC project of Pakistan and China ~~can~~ surely put Pakistan on a road to prosperity but China is aware about our economy and the political unrest within us and knows that we won't be able to pay them back as the investment in CPEC is in the form of loans and grants. This poses an existential threat for Pakistan as we are constantly facing economic problems and political instability only adds fire to the fuel. Hence, political instability is a big threat to Pakistan's well-being.

Furthermore, it is also causing less foreign direct investment in the country. Political instability causes discouragement in investors and they avoid taking risk of investing in Pakistan. Many of the projects in Pakistan depend upon foreign direct investment as it is a source of revenue for the country. For instance, according to the state bank of Pakistan, ~~our~~ foreign direct investment has decreased by about 21% as compared to 2022. Pakistan being an

weak economy cannot bear to decreasing foreign direct investment. Moreover, many of the investors who were already operating in Pakistan have also left the country due to constant political instability. It is important to understand that no investor is ready to take unnecessary risks and therefore it is crucial that Pakistan reduces this risk and encourages investors to invest all by bringing political stability in the country.

Due to less foreign direct investment Pakistan's economy is rendered vulnerable. The constant political instability has become detrimental for Pakistan's economy. It is causing institutions to become weak, for instance the constant political unrest has caused reduction in tax revenue due to no check and balance on governmental institutes responsible for tax collection as FBR (Federal Board of Revenue) also stated that direct taxes have fallen by 16% since the past two years. Moreover, the state bank of Pakistan stated that the foreign reserves of Pakistan have fallen to \$8 billion from \$24 billion dollars since 2021. This dwindling economy is becoming detrimental for Pakistan's existence as the rumors have already started to spread that "Pakistan may default soon". Hence political instability is creating a huge problem for Pakistan.

Due to economic downfall the constant rise in inflation and poverty is also being witnessed by Pakistan. Political instability has never been this much in the country as it is now. With that the inflation and poverty has risen ~~with~~ by enormous numbers and has deteriorated the lives of Pakistani's. For instance, according to the

World Bank Pakistan's inflation as of 2022 has risen up to 26%. highest ever recorded. Moreover there are about 40% people living below the poverty line, which means that ~~Pakistan~~ 40% of the people can't even purchase basic necessities of lives like food, shelter and clothes. The constant protest have blocked highways causing hike in transport cost of commodities such as vegetables ^{and} fruits because they have to come from long alternative roads. Thus, political instability is causing inflation and poverty in the country.

Moreover, due to political instability the rise in terrorism and sectarianism has also being witnessed by Pakistan. The weak law enforcement agency due to lack of political attention have been rendered fragile in dealing with crimes and violence in the country. For instance, the constant attacks of terrorist groups like TTP is one on the rise in Pakistan due to weak law enforcement thanks to political instability within the country.

Moreover, ~~the~~ hatred speeches and sectarianism divide and sectarian violence is also on the rise. Therefore, if Pakistan wants to secure the lives of its citizens from terror attacks and sectarian violence it must ensure political stability in order to enhance law enforcement agencies of the state.

Furthermore, due to political instability Pakistan has witnessed increase in violence and protests all across the country. Due to lack of political education and sense the people of Pakistan resort to violence and disastrous protests across the country. These are further fueled by the leaders of the political parties

especially the opposition, who encourage such endeavours among the masses who follow them. Many people lose their lives during these protest for instance during the march of PTI leader Imran Khan a reporter named Sadaf Naeem was violently crushed under the container of Imran Khan. Moreover, the rise in violence and hatred for each other due to tense relationship and siding with political parties is on the rise. The recent attack on Imran Khan is acknowledges it. Thus, political instability poses a great threat for Pakistan.

~~Moreover~~ Due to these protests and violence Pakistan's tourism sector has been adversely affected. We are living in the modern times and due to globalization the world has connected together and the emergence of media leaves nothing confidential. The international media channels like BBC and CNN provides coverage on the instability in the country issue of Pakistan. Moreover, this gives a chance to India to dismantle the face of Pakistan and they leave no stone unturned when it comes to Pakistan. This all prevents international tourist to come to Pakistan and this heavily affects the ~~sector~~ tourism sector of the country. Also, Pakistan major source of income is from tourism which now hinders economic growth as well. Hence, political instability is a great issue for Pakistan.

Along with affecting tourism, it has also promoted a negative image of Pakistan all around the globe and the constant propaganda by India only makes things worst for Pakistan. The world is well aware of the constant

turnmoil in Pakistan thanks to media. According to the most dangerous countries index Pakistan ranks 2nd after Afghanistan in asia and 24th overall in the world. This political instability not only is destroying the vital organs of the country like economic, businesses, education, health but is also dismantling the true image of Pakistan. When a country has a bad image in front of the international community, then it causes alienation of it from the world as no country is willing to invest or partake in any of the activities relating to that country. Therefore, Pakistan must curb political instability for its own well-being.

Due to this negative image of Pakistan ~~the~~ the morale and patriot spirit of Pakistani's is also reduced. No one wants to be known from a country which has a bad image in peoples mind and they may rather leave the country instead of serving it. Such is what is happening in Pakistan as according to The Express Tribune about 765000 Pakistani's have left Pakistan in 2022 which is nearly triple the 225000 departures in 2021 and 288000 in 2020. This truly is a big shame for the Pakistan's government has they have failed to meet the needs and expectations of its citizens. Hence political instability is a great curse for Pakistan and its citizens and must be vanquished completely from within the country.

Therefore, by taking stern steps Pakistan can encourage more political & stability within the country. It all starts by first strengthening the constitution and legislation of the country which means that strict laws and their implementation

It must be ensured. Laws regarding the formation of political parties, rights of opposition, against protest and violence, and the check and balance on political parties and the government must be strengthened so that political instability and constant turmoil in the country be completely finished. Strengthening laws will also create fear among the political parties who will then also resist the urge to exploit the system for their own expedience. This all together will bring stability and harmony within the political system of the country and will ultimately boost economy as well. Therefore, constitution and legislation must be strengthened.

Moreover, the governments must be allowed to complete their tenures. Whoever ~~is~~ ^{over}throws the ~~existing~~ government takes its place and directs policy against them in order to suppress their resistance for good. Moreover, the policies made by the previous governments are changed instantly this is the reason businesses are unable to operate efficiently in the country. Whenever ~~is~~ ^{is} thrown the party then also tries to fight back in order to reclaim their seat and this results in constant violence and protest across the country ultimately affecting the harmony of the country. Therefore, it is crucial that the existing governments be allowed to complete their tenures.

~~Furthermore~~ Another major reason for not letting the government complete its tenure is the dynasty system within the political parties. Whoever is in the government has already decided his ~~predecessor~~ successor who will take

the office when he retires or dies. This does not give chance to ^{other} people to come in the government. Moreover, this also promotes political expedience within the country as the dynasty in power constantly exploits the system. Therefore in order to bring political instability it is pivotal for Pakistan to end dynasty system of governance.

Due to this dynasty system the institutions especially the governmental institutions become a victim of constant political interference. The institutions powers relies under their chair person who has heavy affiliations with the family in the government. Who then never goes against them and constantly does their bidding as he craves the favour of them. This weak institutional power only exposes Pakistan towards more threats and encourages more political instability within the country. Therefore, it is crucial that the interference of the political parties with the governmental institutions be restricted.

Furthermore, it is also important to curb the interference of the armed forces in the political system of the country. Pakistan has been faced by four dictator regimes ever since its inception and this has cost us alot. The affiliation of political parties with the armed forces must be ~~rest~~ restricted in order to promote more political stability within the country. Finally, ~~it~~ ~~was~~ Pakistan can bring political stability by realizing the effects of it on the country. The leaders

of the political parties as well as its members must realize the consequences of political instability for the country only then will the ~~the~~^{true} process of changing the political system be triggered.

In a nutshell, Pakistan has been a victim of political instability since its inception and it is enabled us to fulfill our goals and reach our destiny. Political instability has diverted the governments' attentions, exposed us to international powers, reduced FDI, ~~and~~ increased inflation, poverty and deteriorated our economy along with giving rise to terrorism and sectarianism, violence, protests, and have negatively affected the tourism, image and spirit of Pakistan and its citizens. However as the saying goes "Better late than never" we can still promote political stability by strengthening constitution, allowing governments to complete their tenures, eliminate and dynasty system, curbing the interference of armed forces but it all starts by first realizing the effects of political instability by our leaders and political parties.