

Mock Exam (2023 March)

Dated: 15-03-2023.

Batch : OB-47 (online)

Timing: 10am - 1pm

Subject : Pakistan Affairs

Student ID : Farah Lehman 27232

Question NO. 5

Discuss history of evolution of Pakistan

- A brief history of Pakistan's turbulent democratic and political evolution:

On the 25th of July, millions of Pakistanis will brave the hot, humid July weather, perennial fears of security and their own apprehensions of Pakistan's fledgling democracy to head to the polls and to elect Pakistan's new government. The day is indeed a historic moment because this will only be the second time Pakistan will witness a successful democratic transition in its turbulent seventy year history. It is then pertinent to chronicle the historical events that brought Pakistan's democratic journey to this groundbreaking moment.

- 1947-1958: An incipient democracy struggles to assert itself as the specter of dictatorship looms.

The first decade after Pakistan's independence was marked by a struggling democracy trying to impose itself on Pakistan's landscape. This first decade in fact laid the groundwork for civil-military imbalance that would come to define Pakistan in coming years.

Pakistan's beginning was marked by contrasting fortunes of military and civilian government.

→ Existential fears of India threatening:

This fear led to Pakistan diverting scarce resources to the military. This line of thinking led Pakistan to entrench itself firmly in Cold War Camp on the hopes that America would protect Pakistan's territorial integrity. America, for its part, poured millions in the Pakistani army in a bid to make it a bulwark against possible Soviet aggression in Asia.

"The diverging paths of military & civilian government eventually pitted the two forces in a conflict that was only ever likely to have one winner. Pakistan's first experiment with democracy thus came to an ignominious end on 7th October 1958, when the President Iskander Mirza abrogated the constitution and declared martial law in Pakistan."

● 1958-1971 : The years of development, conflict and direct military rule.

Iskander Mirza's control of the state would turn out to be short-lived as well. The army chief Ayub Khan took power in his own hands & send Mirza on a 'vacation' without a return ticket. Ayub Khan installed himself as president. The economic policies Ayub promulgated were also in large part responsible for East Pakistan breaking apart from Pakistan.

Ayub took pride in Pakistan being the United States's 'most-allied ally', and installed a political system that strongly mirrored America's presidential form of democracy.

"Zia-ul-Haq's oppressive rule continues to haunt Pakistan's political & social fabric. Zia abrogated the 1973 constitution, and added the infamous Eighth amendment that would debilitate Pakistan's democracy for next twenty years."

● 1971-1988 : The years of self-avowed 'socialism' and military rule.

The division of Pakistan meant Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and his Pakistan People's Party (PPP) found themselves governing the country. Bhutto resorted to authoritarian rule that isolated his party cadre, and stifled opposition in the country. Bhutto's taste for authoritarianism was only compounded by an economic crisis that gripped Pakistan. The

floods in 1973-74 and the OPEC oil crisis that triggered a global recession all contributed to decreasing Bhutto's popularity in country.

"With the end of the incumbent Parliament's tenure on the 31st of May, however, it seems that democracy is finally entrenching itself in Pakistan. All parties seem united on holding elections on 25th of July, & other state institutions such as judiciary too seem to be on board with this idea".

Zia's tenure was another setback to democratic project in Pakistan since his constitutional amendments and use of Islam as a political gimmick were to shape Pakistan's political landscape for decades to come.

• 1988 - 1999: Controlled democracy and

decade of presidential high-handedness.

Pakistan's 1990's oscillated between rule by Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto. The "Daughter of the East", Benazir made a remarkable return from obscurity in 1988 when her PPP surged to power in that year's elections. However, General Zia's legacy continued to stifle democracy in Pakistan, with Benazir coming in direct conflict with now far more powerful position of President, and the army. Indeed it was 8th amendment that paved the way for President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's dismissal of Benazir's government in 1990.

1990's elections saw Nawaz Sharif's Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) come to power.

1993 & 1996 were next

(5)

● 1999 — 2008: 'Enlightened Moderation' and a period of seismic changes.

Pervez Musharraf's rule was another defining period in Pakistan's history. These nine years once again witnessed near unprecedented economic growth, much of it owing to economic rewards from Pakistan's participation in the war on Terror — to the impact the WoT had on Pakistan's security & peace.

Digital media gained immense traction & growth. Pakistan's exposure to democracy and the globalisation through a vibrant media and societal changes that emerged out of a rising middle class and led to lawyer's movement and the opposition to emergency of 3rd Nov, 2007.

● 2008 — Present: Democracy gaining a foothold in the country?

2018 will mark a decade since Pakistan has had uninterrupted democratic rule. This period has seen tremendous democratic gains such as passing of 18th amendment, the passage of the seventh National Finance Commission (NFC) award, and more recently, the Thirty First Amendment Bill that paves the way for FATA's merger with KPK.

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This decade, however, has not been bereft of civil-military conflict. In fact, events such as Dawn leaks, The multiple military operations during the PPP and the incumbent governments' tenures, The 2011 American operation against Osama Bin Laden and The Memogate scandal that emerged in aftermath of this operation all damaged the already precarious civil-military (program) paradigm, and led to calls that the country might return to direct military rule.

With the end of incumbent Parliament's tenure on the 31st of May, however, it seems that democracy is finally entrenching itself in Pakistan. All parties seem united on holding elections on 25th of July, and other state institutions too seem to be on board with this idea.

• A Collapse of Parliamentary Democracy in Pakistan:

Parliamentary democracy is both a form of government and a way of life.

It cannot be said that Pakistan lack strong leaders. What there often seemed to be was a total lack of loyalty to any ideal or set of principles or even to the country on part of these party leaders. Pakistan was very much like Hobbes' state of nature where every political or provincial group fought

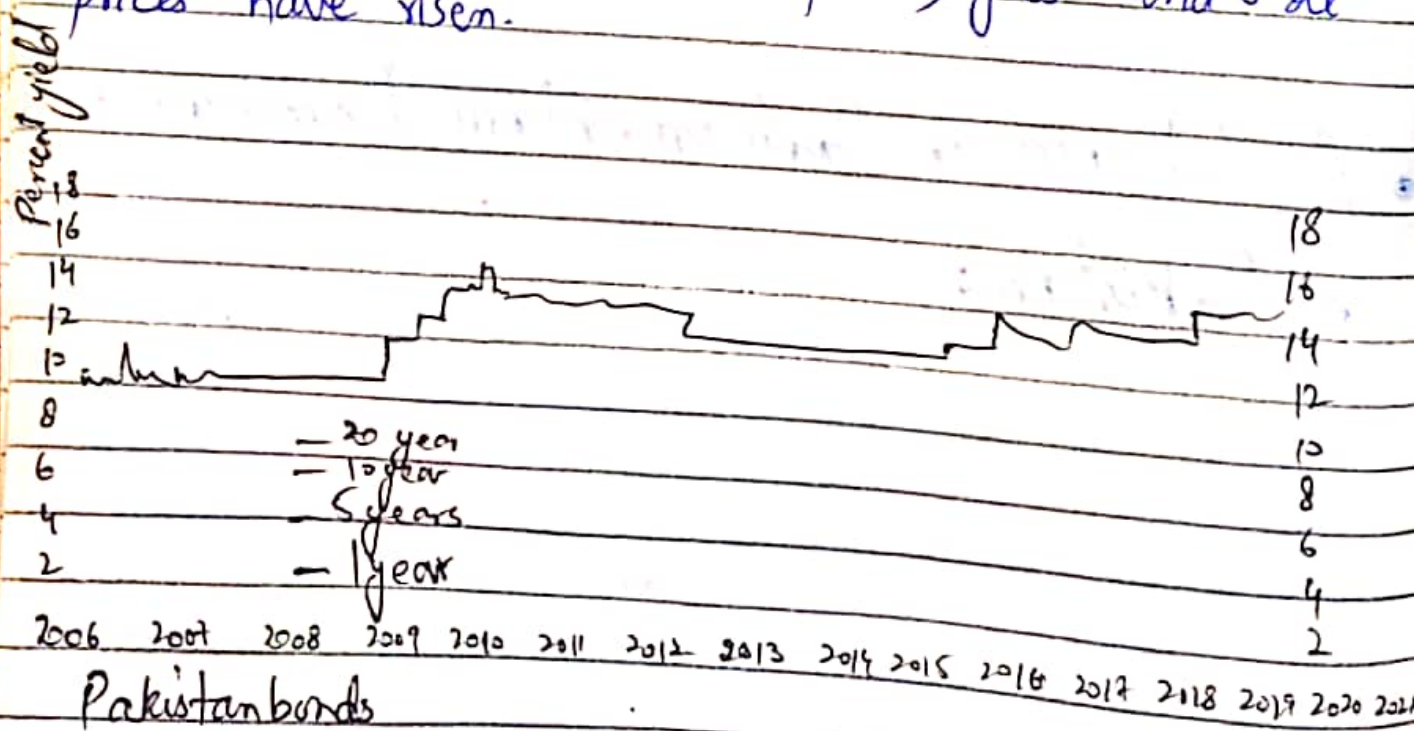
against every other group. It was a ceaseless and ruthless struggle for power. Most of the leaders thought of themselves, their families, or at best their provincial groups and did not give a second thought to Pakistan. Pakistan need a deperate remedy for this malady.

Question NO. 4:

If the recent economic crisis occur

• 2022-2023 Pakistani Economic Crisis:

The 2022-2023 Pakistan economic crisis is an ongoing economic crisis in Pakistan. It has caused severe economic challenges for months due to which food, gas and oil prices have risen.



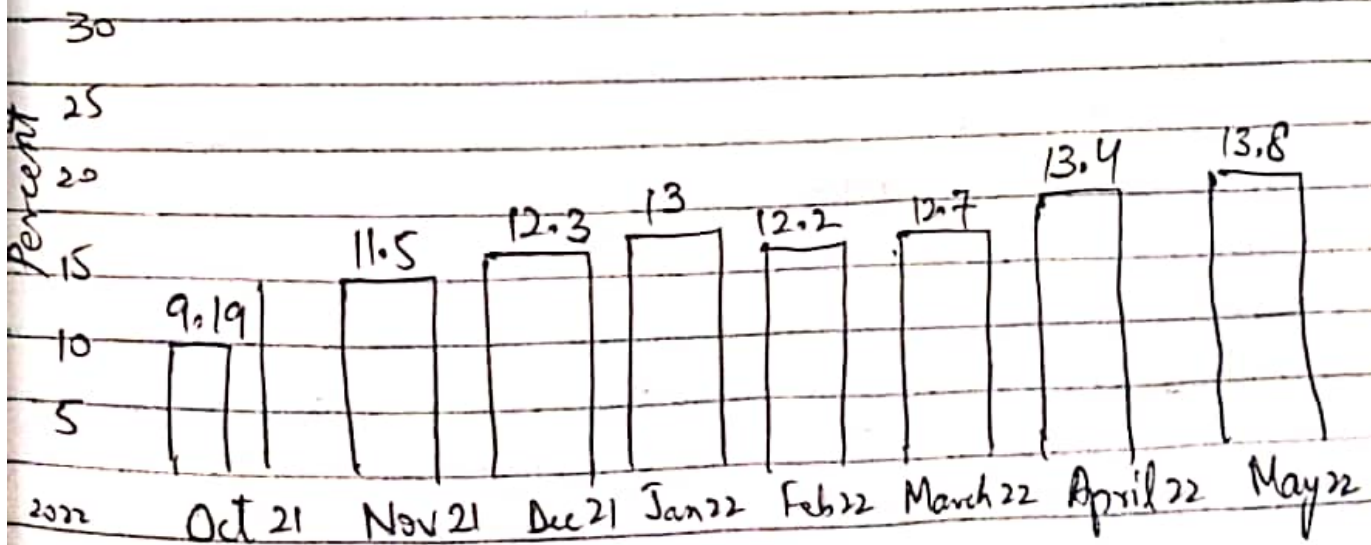
Pakistan bonds

Inverted yield curve in 2019-2020 & 2022

The political crisis and removal of previous government has led to the worsening political environment, which has found itself to enter into the economic environment, thus, we can say that poor manages in economic system of Pakistan is major cause of economic crisis.

(Att) At the same time, the main focus of the current government is political survival and economic crisis is on the back burner. The **Ukraine war** has caused fuel prices to rise worldwide. Excessive external borrowings by the country over the years raised the spectre of default, causing the currency to fall and making imports more expensive in relative terms. By June 2022, inflation was at an all time high, along with rising food prices.

"Pakistan Inflation"



Due to poor governance, low productivity per capita in comparison with other low to middle-income developing countries has resulted in a balance of payment crisis, whereby the country is unable to earn enough foreign exchange to fund the imports that it consumes.

Pakistani Army and civilian govt. both are responsible for Pakistan's current looming financial crisis.

A large portion of Pakistan's economy is spent on expenditure of security forces. Pakistan's defence forces budget for the year 2018-19 is \$ 9.6. The said amount might have been spent on the welfare of the people but it was diverted to Pakistan Army that's why inflation is skyrocketing.

Pakistan is optimistic to seek bail out package from IMF (International Monetary Fund) for \$ 8 million dollars to fix balance of payment issues.

Enmity with neighbouring countries including India, Iran and Afghanistan is also one of the reasons of doom of Pakistan's economy.

Ever powerful power-hungry Pakistan Army's generals-dictators, incompetent and puppet govt. of Pakistan, war-mongering extremist, poor & illiterate public, incompetent opposition parties are to be held responsible for current economic situation of Pakistan.

• Way forward:

It's time for Pakistani public to raise their voices, come on the streets, revolt against tyrannical army and selfish and whimsical politicians and snatch and handover power into abled hands otherwise Pakistan is on the verge of doom. No power in the world can save Pakistan.

