

Mock 4
Pol. Sci II

22nd / August / 2024

SECTION "A"

Q3 Enlist the pros and cons of "Two-Party System" of Political governance in various countries. If this phenomenon would develop in Pakistan? Discuss (20).

Ans Introduction:-

Two-party system, political system in which the electorate gives its votes largely to only two major parties and in which one or the other party can win a majority in the legislature. The United States is the classic example of a nation with a two party system. The structure of the two-party system compels participants to strive for a majority of votes in specific electoral areas. Members of the national representative assemblies are chosen from single-member districts, with voters often choosing between two fairly evenly matched politicians who compete with each other for the office.

Pros of a Two Party System:

1. It places restrictions on the amount of extremism that enters the government:

When there is a multi-party system in place, then anyone with a view that is exceptionally (conservative) or liberal can become a representative in the government. That includes people who may hold racist, segregationist views, theocratic principles, and old-fashioned ideas on genderism. The goal of only having two major parties is to select someone who best represents the platform of the entire body - not just one of the segments fighting for power.

2. It encourages the government to offer majority representation:

Although no candidate since 1900 has even come close to winning a presidential election in the US, there are a handful of incidents where some people made a strong stand. Teddy Roosevelt^{run} for a second term in office as a third-party candidate and received over 27% of the vote. Ross Perot received over 18% of the vote in 1992. George Wallace won electoral votes in the 1968 election. The reason why it

is so difficult for candidates to be successful in a third party is because the two-party system of governing encourages a majority every time.

This system works to be inclusive by allowing each major party to create a platform which represents the overall will of the people. Anyone can join either organization in this system and then fight for the policies they wish to see enacted.

3. It gives every eligible person a chance to run for office:

The primary system in the United States acts like what a multi-party election does for other governments with one key exception: Instead of sending representatives into office, it creates a run-off election to choose one person. This process allows each district and state to vote for the one person they wish to represent them on behalf of their favored party.

4. It speeds up the governing process for the country: When an emergency situation arises, the

two-party system makes it easy for the government to respond quickly to the situation. Every branch of government in the United States, going all the way down to the local level, is linked through this centralized system of electoral representation. This structure eliminates the need for a coalition because even the third-party candidates must work with Republicans or Democrats to create a majority set of circumstances. That means there is less gridlock in place than there would be in other governing styles.

5) It simplifies the process of governing:

Voters can cast a ballot for any political party they want at any time - Even if someone registers as a Republican, they can vote for a Democrat with their ballot - and the opposite can occur as well.

6) Political information is much easier to understand:

Although a two-party system limits the options of voters, it allows parties to present information in a convenient manner. Each party

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is able to represent their own broad political philosophy. As such, voters can better understand the views of a party regarding certain issues.

B. Cons of a two-Party System:

(1) It eliminates the idea of having 100% representation of personal ideas:

Because the two-party system puts multiple factions underneath an general umbrella, it creates a "bite your tongue" set of circumstances for voters. They might not like the candidate that represents their preferred party, but that person is perceived as being better than the person running on the other side of the ticket. If you were in a multi party system, you could vote for the exact person who represents your values.

2. It creates a system of exclusiveness:

Some states in the U.S. almost always vote for one party exclusively in the presidential

election cycle. If your state votes for Democrats almost all of the time, then begin a Republican puts you on the outside of the election. You know that your vote counts, but it won't contribute to the electoral tally for the presidential election since a majority vote doesn't matter. People can feel excluded in the two-party system because neither option works for them, but it doesn't allow for representation of an independent ^{or} either.

3- It promotes corruption:-

Politics is always linked with corruption no matter where you are in the world. Practices patronage may be frowned upon but it's a common sight in the political sphere. Even the awarding of government contracts to party insiders is a practice rampant in two-party systems.

4- It will eventually lead to societal polarization:

People identify with their political party as closely as they do to their family, friends, and brands that they prefer.

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Criticizing the party platform becomes a personal insult, so another is offered in return. That is why the structure of a two-party system often leads to societal polarization.

* Impact of a two-party system in Pakistan.

If Pakistan were to develop a two-party system, it would lead to significant changes in the country's political dynamics.

1) Stability vs. Fragmentation:

Pakistan's current multiparty system often results in fragmented coalitions and unstable governments. A two-party system could bring more stability and smoother transitions of power.

2- Simplified electoral process:

Elections might become simpler and more predictable, as voters would have clearer choices between two major parties.