

5) The challenges and Triumphs of Democracy in the 21st Century

Outline

Introduction

Thesis statement: Undoubtedly, democracy faces the challenges in the form of rise of populism, biasness of media, misinformation and disinformation spread by social media and violation of minority rights, however, conduct of elections on time, robust role of civil society and consensus on climate justice point towards its triumphs in the 21st century.

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A - Historical overview of democracy

B - Contemporary state of democracy

C - The challenges of democracy in the 21st century

i) Rise of populism

case in point: The former US president Donald Trump

ii) Biasness of media

iii) Filter bubble used by social media spreading misinformation about democracy

iv) Threat of resurgent Russia

case in point: Invasion on Ukraine

v) Violation of minority rights

case in point: Construction of Mandir on the site Babri Masjid in India

v) Rise of communist china

D - Triumphs of Democracy in the 21st century

i) Conducting of elections on time in different democratic nations

case in point: Elections in Pakistan 2008, 2013, 2018

ii) Robust role of civil society

iii) Less likely military interventions

case in point: No military intervention in Pakistan since 1999

iv) Consensus on climate justice

case in point: Establishment of the losses and damages fund

Conclusion

Democracy is being practised around the world since ages. This form of government stands for the welfare of the people. Therefore, it is considered as the best form of government.

Unfortunately, this form of government is facing certain challenges in the 21st century.

The rise of populism has hit it hard. The populist leaders are using slogans that are creating us versus

them phenomenon in a democratic society. Biasness of media has put its weight behind it by exacerbating the situation.

When it comes to resurgent behaviour of Russia, it has also threatened democratic

system. It is evident from its invasion on Ukraine in 2022. Despite the challenges faced by democracy, it has achieved major triumphs in the 21st century.

Elections have been conducted on time as they are considered prerequisite to democracy. Moreover, the role of civil society has also been robust. It is now playing confrontationalist role against anti-democratic forces. Similarly, consensus on climate justice adds to the list of triumphs achieved by democracy in the 21st century. This essay discusses historical and contemporary overview of democracy. It throws light on challenges faced and triumphs achieved by it in the 21st century.

Historically, democracy took birth in ancient Greece. The word democracy is also taken from Greek language. Demos means the people and the cracy means the rule. Thus, democracy stands for the rule of the people. The people participated directly in the state affairs. They

decided what agenda should be. Hence, democracy originated from greeks and it stood for the rule of the people.

Contemporarily, democracy is practised in many countries of the world. There are around hundred countries where democratic system is in practice. For instance, India is the largest democracy in the world. The democratic system has brought prosperity to these nations. Although there are some exception to above, the majority of democratic nations have flourished. Thus, democracy is considered as the best form of government in the contemporary world.

Despite democratic system being the best form of government, it is faced with certain challenges in the 21st century. The first challenge to it

i) the rise of populism. The populist leaders use slogans. These slogans affect sentiments of the public. The public gets divided between Us vs Them. This has threatened multiculturalism that is considered to be the feature of a democratic society. For instance, former US president incited the supporters to attack Capitol Hill. Thus, populism is a major threat to democracy.

Biasness of media has taken threat to democracy next level. It promotes the slogans of the populist leaders. This is because they pay them heavily. Despite the fact that, the role of media is to present right information. It has to make analysis of the information before dissemination. However, it has done otherwise. Thus, biasness of media has adversely affected democracy.

Not only media but social media has also badly impacted democratic systems. As one knows that social media uses filter bubble. The filter bubble shows as per interest of the user. Once the user watches any information contradictory to democracy. Then he is consistently bombarded information related to that. Despite the fact that, that information can be propaganda against democratic system. However, consistent information gained by the user forms his opinion against democracy. Thus, social media also contributes threat to democracy in the 21st century.

Russia is also considered to be a great challenge to democracy in the 21st century. In the 20th century, Russia did not withstand the force of democratic world. However, its resurgent is viewed as a great challenge to

democracy. It is evident from its invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia receives supports from other anti-democratic forces. For instance, it receives unqualified support from communist China. This emboldens Russia to take more invasive steps against democracy. Thus, democratic system is not held by resurgent Russia in the 21st century.