

# The Challenges and Triumphs of Democracy in the 21st Century.

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## 1- Introduction:

In contemporary 21st century, democracy has different challenges and triumphs from the history. Democracy has challenges like political instability, political polarization, and entrenchment. The challenges can be mitigated by taking positive measure.

## 2- Democracy: An overview

## 3- Triumphs of Democracy in the 21st century:

- a- Ensurance of fundamental human rights and freedom ✓
- b- Equal access to legislative processes
- c- parliamentary sovereignty and judicial independence
- d- women and child's violence protection laws
- e- women's empowerment ✓

## 4- Challenges of Democracy in 21st century:

- a- political instability and political polarization
- b- Extremism & Extremism ✓
- c- Corruption and inefficiency
- d- Growing economic and social inequalities among people ✓

4- Economic crisis and state's failure  
to control  
5- Growing terrorism and security concern  
6- Civil war and insurgency due  
to unequal distribution of resources

## 5- ~~the~~ Suggestions to overcome challenges of Democracy:

- a- Address political instability
- b- Political parties should agree on  
an agenda and they should resolve  
their personal grudges
- c- Embrace multiculturalism and  
cultural diversity
- d- International organizations should  
play their key role in strengthening  
democracy

## 6- Conclusion

It is ~~universally~~ acknowledged that ~~in ancient~~ there was no rule and ~~law~~. People were ~~lived~~ in tribes and they were beyond the concept of human rights. After some time, democracy was ~~originated~~ and human rights were introduced. The different phases of history witnessed the different challenges and successes of democracy. Similarly these are the challenges and triumphs of democracy in the 21st century. The ~~triumphs~~ of democracy in ~~the~~ 21st century are ~~ensurance~~ of fundamental human rights, equal access to legislative processes, judicial independence, parliamentary ~~sovereignty~~, women empowerment and implementation of women and child's protection laws. ~~On the contrary~~ the challenges of democracy in ~~the~~ 21st century are political instability, political polarization, extremism, corruption, economic inequalities, economic crisis, terrorism, civil war and insurgency. However democratic challenges can be sort out by addressing political instability, consensus of political parties on one agenda, embrace multilateralism and effective role of international organizations.

Tense  
Wrong

How

In contemporary 21st century, democracy has different challenges and triumphs from the history. Democracy has challenges like political instability, political polarization, and extremism. The challenges can be mitigated by taking positive measures.

Democracy is an organized form of government in which people have power to elect their representatives. There are two types of democracy:

Direct Democracy

Representative Democracy

In direct democracy people have direct authority to decide legislation, while in representative democracy people choose governing officials through elections. There are different features of democracy like freedom of assembly, personal property, freedom of religion, voting rights and consent of governed. In 21st century democracy has triumphs and challenges as well. The national and international organizations made laws related to human rights and security concerns is major example of triumph of democracy. On the contrary democracy

110

110

also has to face severe challenges in the contemporary era. The national and international security hit by non-state actors like terrorist organizations is major challenge of democracy. Similarly social unrest and civil ~~trays~~ in different countries of the world also witnesses challenge of democracy. Likewise unequal treatment of state with specific region is again undemocratic behaviors in so called democratic states. The challenges can be resolved by taking positive measures.

The first and important triumph of democracy is the ensurance of fundamental human rights. In the 21st century people have right to education, right to speech and right to property. All the democratic states ensure the fundamental rights of humans in their state. In Pakistan 18th constitutional amendment was passed in 2010. There were different provisions of 18th amendment but it also included ensurance of democracy in the Article 25A, Article 19A, and Article 10A. These articles

ensure fundamental human rights.  
Article 25A is right to education,  
19A, right to information, and  
10A, right to fair trial. Hence  
the protection of fundamental  
human rights and freedom is  
the triumph of democracy in  
21<sup>st</sup> century.

The second triumph  
of democracy in ~~the~~ 21<sup>st</sup> century  
is the equal access to legislative  
processes. The countries who ~~stand~~ are  
true depiction of democracy,  
make ~~every~~ people's equal  
access to legislative processes.  
This means that ~~all~~ elected  
members participate in the legislative  
processes of the country. In  
**Denmark**, a minister frequently  
sets up an expert committee or  
a ~~commission~~ to consider the  
need for legislation. Similarly  
a parliamentary inquiry can  
draw on international examples  
to propose legislative changes,  
as the constitutional legislative  
committee did in **New Zealand**  
when it reviewed the New  
Zealand constitution. Hence, this  
shows that ~~concern~~ ministers  
and ~~committee~~ members participation  
in legislative process is

the triumph of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Another important triumph of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century is ~~Parliamentary~~ ~~sovereignty~~ and judicial independence. The ~~parliamentary~~ sovereignty is the supreme authority of all government institutions, including executive and judiciary. Similarly in any democratic state, judiciary is independent from the other branches of government, it means that courts are beyond the influence of other branches of government and partisan interests.

The European Court of Justice case Law on Judicial Independence in September 2020 is a prime example of triumph of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century. ~~Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU)~~ encompasses the principle of judicial independence. (Rafal Maniok, European Parliamentary Research Service). Hence, judicial independence and parliamentary sovereignty are also triumphs of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

women and child's violence protection laws and their implementations are also triumphs of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In contemporary era the growing sexual abuse against women and children is common phenomena. To address this issue, democratic states have made laws for the protection of women and children. Similarly international organizations also made laws regarding this content. In Pakistan laws related to women's protection included The Domestic Violence Bill (2009), The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act (2010), The Protection Against Harassment of women in the workplace Act (2010) and The Prevention of Anti-women practices Act (2011). These laws ensure protection of women in democratic state Pakistan. Similarly there are also laws formed for the protection of children's rights. The Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (2007) was instrumental body to consider various forms of sexual abuse and exploitation of children as offence. Hence, the formulation of child and women's protection laws are



Triumphs of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

women's empowerment is another significant triumph of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the issue of women's suffrage was raised and sorted out by giving them right to vote. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century women's empowerment is important democratic issue. All democratic states consider women's empowerment important in national progress and economic development of a country. This is the reason that women have quota in civil service and reserved seats in democratic states. The international organizations also play this key in this regard. The recent USAID's vision to advance gender equality and women's empowerment is prominent example. The vision is based on a Gender Policy named, The 2023 Gender Equality and women's Empowerment Policy. So, women's empowerment is the prominent triumph of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

These are also challenges of democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> century. The most important challenge is political instability and political polarization. The political instability is the bursell of democracy. Similarly political polarization also impede democracy. The political parties have personal grudges and vendetta and on the basis of their personal conflict, democratic values are badly clashed. The political polarization is observed in many democratic states. In US politics, there is partisan polarization in congress. Indeed, ~~a Pew~~ **Research Center analysis** finds that, on average, Democrats and Republicans are farther apart ideologically today than at any time in the past 50 years. Similarly political instability can be seen in different democratic countries, presenting challenge to democracy. Pakistan is also witnessing severe political instability from previous some years. Hence, political polarization and political instability are presenting the challenges of democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Another important challenge of democracy is extremism. The extremist groups in political affairs also hinder democratic values. From Brazil to the United States, Hungary to New Zealand, right-wing extremist ideas and groups are posing a grave threat to democratic societies. Extremists only rely on particular ~~stance~~ and ~~is~~ rigid to accept diversity. So in this situation, joined consensus could not be achieved. The extremist regime's good example is the government of Afghan Taliban in Afghanistan. Afghan Taliban's strict and extremist policies impede ~~women~~ to regulate their affairs. Women are not allowed to gain education and to earn there. Hence extremism is severe challenge of democracy in 21st century.

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