

The Role of Political Leadership in Undermining Democracy in Third-World Countries

Outline

(1) Introduction

Thesis statement: In third-world countries — including Pakistan — political leadership undermines democracy by various means. The decline of democracy in already suffering countries further deprives the people of their basic social, economic, and political rights. However, democracy can be protected by empowering constitution and enhancing political awareness.

(2) Declining Democracy: An Existential Threat to Third-World Countries

(3) Ways through Which Political Leaders Undermine Democracy

(a) Curbing the freedom of speech by strict legislation

(b) Meddling the electoral process to kick out the opponent

(c) Undermining the political standing of opposition by lawfare

(d) Interfering other state institutions for their own interests

(e) Corruption in allocation of designations, resources and budget

(f) Using ^{the} religion card to undermine the minority rights

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(4) Exploiting social media for their benefit by blocking the public access or conducting propaganda

(4) Impacts of Undermining Democracy in Third-World Countries

(a) Strict Legislation results in public unrest and countrywide protests

(b) People lose their trust in ^{the} state institutions

(c) Economic situation of such country worsens

(d) Female Empowerment and Minority rights are curtailed

(e) Anger and loss of hope in ^{the} population.

(5) Remedies to protect ^D Democracy from Political Influence

(a) Strengthening the already constituted human ^{political} rights

(b) Surveillance of electoral process by neutral body

(c) Mechanism of strong accountability against misconduct

(d) Empowering institutions in their domains

(e) Enhancing political literacy in public by using technology

(6) Conclusion

The Essay

People shouldn't be afraid of their government. Governments should be afraid of their people (Alan Moore, V for Vendetta, 1990). This statement by Alan Moore clearly depicts the relationship between the people and the political leadership of a country. A government is responsible for serving the people ~~to~~ with their due rights. Along with this, it can be held accountable by the people of ^{the} state. But in third-world countries, the people are being deprived from their political and democratic rights by the political leaders. The leadership does this by violating the right of speech, meddling the electoral process, and waging lawfare against opponents. Other tools used for this purpose are corruption, use of religion cards, and interference in other states' institutions. Social media is the most common tool used to hurt ~~the~~ the democracy in modern day politics. Consequently, the people deprived of their rights get enraged and lose their trust on state institutions. Economic situation and human development of the country also affected badly. But such countries can ensure the protection of democracy by strengthening constitution, building strong accountability mechanism, and

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increasing political literacy rate. In third-world countries — including Pakistan — the political leadership undermines democracy by various means. The decline of democracy in already suffering states further deprives the people of their basic social, economic, and political rights. However, the democracy can be saved by empowering constitution and enhancing political awareness.

The Global Democracy Index, 2023 reveals that the rate of democracy is declining globally; it has dropped from 5.29 in 2022 to 5.23 in 2023 (EIU, Democracy Index, ^{Feb} 2024). The same index shows that all third-world countries has shown bad performance, but worryingly, Pakistan has downgraded from a democracy to an authoritarian state. This index is a whistle blower for all developing countries and specifically for Pakistan. The transition from a democracy to an authoritarian regime changes the open-air state into a cage where people are not supposed to raise questions about the credibility of public policies. They are just obliged to follow them blindly, no matter if they get any benefit or not. This situation violates all the human rights enlisted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.