

Democracy: A Hollow facade

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Democracy is government of the people,
by the people and for the people.

(Joe Biden)

When Joe Biden was saying above phrase during his state Union address, viewers across the world could easily sense a pride in his voice. Same can be felt in speech of every Western leader, intellectual and even a common citizen of west. This shows the ironclad thinking of west regarding democracy. Concept of democracy may be suitable for west and may have worked in west (for the most part) but it has failed to address core issues of developing east and south especially the third world countries like Pakistan. Here it is considered nothing more than a facade by elite to suppress the masses if it cannot ensure human rights like freedom to live, speech, work etc. then it is not better than a dictatorship.

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Particularly in Pakistan and by large in third world, democracy could not be implemented in all its essence. Partial Election system, illiteracy of masses and corrupt establishment are some of core reasons for this. Election Commission of Pakistan has recently gained a very tainted position in eyes of masses. Issues related to Form 47 and 45 and a recent press conference of D.C Rawalpindi regarding blatant corruption and interference in General elections only added more fuel. Moreover majority of vote eligible population does not take into account implications of casting a vote to certain candidate on local and national level. In this age of awareness masses still cast vote on the basis of Caste, Creed and personal gains. Additionally establishment also play not so constructive role, when it comes to election. Institutional interests generally take precedence over national

interests. Above are some issues which have make it impossible to implement democracy in its true essence, here in Pakistan.

Process of democracy has also been repeatedly derailed due to frequent coup by Pakistan Army. Coup by General Ayoub Khan, General Zia-ul-haq and by General Pervez Musharraf played a significant role in setting direction for political systems in Pakistan. For the most part Pakistan has remained under military rule since her inception since 1947. These coups set a uniaue precedence in history of Pakistan. These repeated attempts to derail democracy in Pakistan played an important role in conditioning of collective national conscious, which accepted these coups as new normal.

When establishment could not rule directly due to Unfavorable

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Circumstances, they formed shadow governments where politicians are on front but strings of power are still controlled by establishment. This produces a mirage of democracy in eyes of common people and world both seek the oasis of democracy.

Foreign powers have also played a negative role due to their vested interests. As it is on their agenda to de-stabilize Pakistan, so they do not allow and impede political stability in Pakistan. As political un-stability leads to economic and social un-stabilities. They sometimes support democracy while other times they provide complete backing to dictators.

Democracy has failed to protect human rights for common people of Pakistan. It does not guarantee that a common man can safely exercise its inherent rights. It does not provide assurance that

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a person can exercise right to life, speech, movement, vote without facing any obstacle by other individuals and institutions. Forced disappearance is a solid example and argument for this point. People are being made disappear in name of security of Pakistan. After disappearance it is not possible to either locate the individual or its fate. Even judiciary seems powerless before these unknown powers and often fail to substantiate inherent human rights. All of this is happening in a so called democracy where government claim to represent masses and protect their rights. We see loved ones of disappeared to wander from one forum to another seeking justice, which feels like a distant dream and reality. People can be disappeared in broad daylight without any trace and after some time their tortured corpses are found in road sides of a distant location.

Democracy has failed to stop elites to exploit common.

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Democras has also provided a constitutioned cover to these elite. Elite Class has always consider this their inherent right to exploit common people. Exploitation takes as many forms as elite wishes it to be. It can happen in form of political, economic and social form. Politically, our country is still ruled by modern era feudal lords. Function and goal is ^{still} same to oppress and suppress common people. Common people cannot even think to form its own political party and be a political rival to this ruling elite. No common man can expect a fair election against this ruling elite. Secondly common man cannot do a successful business because big companies manipulate market due to their vast capital. In spalhok industry of sports and surgical, small companies often face issues in the form of threats, catfishing. Pakistan is still ruled by original 22 families and their remnants and all major business sectors are under their control.

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Democracy has also failed to uphold rule of law in Pakistan. Here strong can do whatever they want and can even violate rules and laws without any serious imputation. Recent news of torture of a minor age maid by a judge family made headlines nationwide. But no strict action was taken against culprits. Another example is when an MNA from Balochistan killed an on-duty traffic warden, no penalty was extracted from that MNA. So democracy has become a new and effective tool in hands of this powerful elite. It not only safeguards them from law but also promote exploitation of common by elite.

Democracy is in general an imperfect idea and system where needs of majority are satisfied on expense of vulnerable minorities. It does not provide and cater even genuine needs

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of a vulnerable section of society at expense of majority even majority is exploiting minority.

Moreover Democracy in Pakistan has also failed to fulfill its another stated goal of bringing social order to this nation. By protecting powerful exploiter, it has added to social unrest. Social Unrest is a natural consequence in a society where rule of law is not present and state institutions cannot safeguard common masses from powerful elite. Due to this, it has become a common practice to give a call of Dharma. These exploited participants when gather in masses, they try to take law in their own hands and cause severe issues to others which starts a chain reaction of social Unrest.

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To conclude and summarize above points, Democracy in its present form has failed to provide and protect basic human rights of life, speech, movement, information e.t.c. in Pakistan. Instead it has promoted exploitation and violation of rights of a common man by shielding and protecting powerful. Democracy has become a tool to violate instead of becoming an instrument to protect and provide. That is why Democracy in Pakistan is considered ^{nothing} but a facade. Unless ^{related} issues are analyzed and solved, Democracy will keep failing its objectives and impeding progress of Pakistan. We can hope and pray that Pakistan gain stability through democracy.

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