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Topic:- Democratic unrest in Pakistan: Causes and consequences

OUTLINE

① Introduction:-

- ⇒ Definition of democratic unrest.
- ⇒ Pakistan as an evolving state

2. Historical causes:-

- a. colonial legacy
 - ⇒ center-based administration
 - ⇒ Bureaucratic dominance.
- b. leadership vacuum after independence
 - ⇒ Fearful death of leading leaders
 - ⇒ lack of political continuity.

c. Military intervention.

- ⇒ multiple martial laws
- ⇒ Disruption of political evaluation.

3. Political causes:-

- a. Political polarization:-
 - ⇒ Inter-parties relations are not good enough.
- b. weak political parties
 - ⇒ Family and self centric parties.
 - ⇒ Not any clear ideology of any party.

3c. Electoral disputes:-

⇒ Rigging allegation on each other

⇒ That results to street mobilization and political instability.

4. Institutional Cause:-

1. Civil military imbalance:-

⇒ More influence of military personnel in Governance and policy making.

⇒ lead to weak civil influence / supremacy.

2. Weak judiciary and rule of law:-

- a. ⇒ politicized courts appointment.
⇒ justice delayed - justice denied.

3. Governance failures:-

⇒ Poor policy making, corruption and misuse of resources.

⇒ Poor delivery of services to public.

5. Socio-Economic causes:-

⇒ Inflation, unemployment and IMF dependency.

2. Youth bulge & Joblessness:-

3. Social Inequality.

- ⇒ Only the elites class hold control on politics and economy.
- ⇒ ~~the~~ increasing space between rich and poor.

4. Media & Social media polarization.

- Fake news and emotional mobilization
- politicized media houses.

6. Consequences of democratic unrest.

a. political consequences

- ⇒ economic growth
- ⇒ law and order
- ⇒ Foreign policy.
- ⇒ Nation development.
- ⇒ Education.

Way forward.

- ① Strengthening political parties
2. Insuring civil military balance and constitutional supremacy.
3. Electoral reforms to build trust.

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- Economic stabilization and youth empowerment.
- Judicial independence and accountability.
- National political dialogue and consensus on democratic rules.

Conclusion:-

⇒ Democratic unrest is a multi-dimensional challenge

⇒ Sustainable democracy requires institution strength, political maturity and economic stability.

= Pakistan democratic future depends on collective commitment from political actors, institutions and citizens.

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Democratic unrest can be defined as the continuous instability, political hurdles, and societal dissatisfaction that slows down the smooth functioning of any democratic system. Pakistan being a developing state is currently experiencing a democratic unrest. That caused political instability, economic instability, bad Governance destabilized governments, institutional conflicts and deep public mistrust. Despite having a democratic framework. That aspires to democracy. Pakistan is experiencing a roller coaster journey. There are many external and internal factors that have contributed to this unrest of Pakistan. This essay examines the causes of democratic unrest in Pakistan and analyze the consequences that result from these disturbances.

To find out the major causes and their consequences of this Pakistan democratic unrest. we will go to historical background. In history of Pakistan after the independence. The first

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major collapse is the death of founding fathers without any clear or full constitution. That left out a vacuum to continue the political and constitutional legacy of Pakistan. That vacuum created by the certain death was filled by bureaucracy and military. Whereas, the political class of the country failed to adopt the culture of consensus, that caused the rapid governments turnover in 1980's. This period of ~~time~~ instability created a space for military intervention.

and in 1988 General Ayub Khan take over the state and imposed martial law. After that the legacy of martial laws continued till 1999. That weakened the democratic based and also destructed the ~~politic~~ evolution of political institutions. Democracy requires continuity but Pakistan's governments are being reseted multiple times ~~for~~ without even completing their 5 year period.

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Another ~~very~~ major cause of democratic unrest in Pakistan is the political polarization of political parties. The rivalries among them. And having a weak ideological mindset. This is because political parties in Pakistan revolve around the personalities and families rather than ideology. ~~and~~ As a result they are unable to create a credible leadership or issue based politics. None of them have the plan for the stability of state rather than proving each other an existential threat. This polarization is getting intensified day by day. Particularly between the three major political parties. Every election is followed by ^{allegations} rigging, that lead to protests. A democratic system can not function effectively when political actors refuse to electoral outcomes and rely on street powers.

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Civil-military imbalance is to be the heart of Pakistan democratic unrest. Military has played significant role in governance, public policy and national security decision.

Although, civil governments are constitutionally supreme but.

always had a great influence of military. Their dominance of military stakeholder over

the system has produced a greater friction, policy instability and legitimacy crises whenever

the civilian government assert to have an autonomous government

They faced the early dissolution of the government. That's why

no governments had completed its full tenure till now. weak

Judiciary is also a reason to democratic unrest of Pakistan. As

the appointment of judges are being politicized by the sitting

government to have more influence over courts and that leads

to the uncompetent judiciary and slower the process

of decision making. Currently

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Thousand of cases are pending in different courts of Pakistan. That is due to weak judiciary and rule of law. The government officials are mis-using the resource of state major institution are involved in corruption and poor policy making. But they are not answerable to anyone because they are having full control over the judiciary.

After discussing the institutional cause that leads to democratic unrest. It become clear that the major institutions have role in democratic stability. However, institutions are not solely responsible for it there are also many other aspect. To understand the ongoing instability it is necessary to understand the socio-economic factor as well.

As ^{socio} economic stability plays a crucial role in the stability of a country. However, economic instability had a crucial role in failing democratic unrest.

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Pakistan economy has struggled with inflation, unemployment, debts dependence, and repeated IMF bailouts. When inflation rises it affects the middle and lower middle class. In frustration more likely they protest or turn against the government. Pakistan has one of the youngest population at about 64% under the age of 30. Most of them are willing to leave the country either for educational purposes or for work in Middle-east and other region this is because they are not provided with such opportunities of employment to pursue their career in their own country and serve their country. The elite class of the society hold the full control over the society. that leads to capitalism where the rich become richer and poorer become more poor. Only the elite class is able to participate in politics besides any ideology.

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After discussing the socio-economic factor that leads to democratic unrest. It became clear that Pakistan should focus on its major economic activities to overcome the problem of socio-economics. Now we will discuss the major economic factor that leads to democratic unrest.

Economy is one of the major components of any state. But if we try to understand economic stability, it comes when a country is politically stable. Meaning when the policy of any government remains permanent and also the government completes its full tenure with peace. The ~~major~~ ~~major~~ ~~major~~ major investors avoid such countries where they fear of political instability. Investors avoid unstable countries. That reduces the incoming investment to the country and makes the stock market more volatile due to uncertainty, which slows down the economy. Directly affects the inflation rates and devaluation.

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of currency. Whenever the currency of any country devalues there is a slight increase in the inflation.

After economics the most important factors of politics is media-social media. As it is used for giving information about the current scenario. On the other hand, it also manipulates the public through fake news, hate campaigning, emotional mobilization which play a major role in manipulating the governments. Increasing the rivalries between political parties ~~and~~ that can lead to protest and political instability. Electronic media that is influenced by political and commercial interest, often intensifies polarization rather than encouraging constructive debate.

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Consequence of democratic unrest is chronic political instability. As a result of repeatedly changing prime ministers, assemblies dissolution and fragile coalition governments.

This instability hinders long-term policy and weakens public policy.

Democratic unrest often leads to tension between state institutions.

Judicial interventions in political matters, disputes over appointment.

These crises erode the credibility of institutions and create confusion over distribution of powers.

Political turmoil has serious economic repercussions. Investors avoid unstable environments, leading to reduced foreign investment and slower economic growth.

One of the most dangerous consequence is the erosion of social cohesion.

Political polarization divides society along party, regional and ideological lines. As unrest grows, institutions become more politicized.

Bureaucracy may begin to serve political interest instead of public welfare.