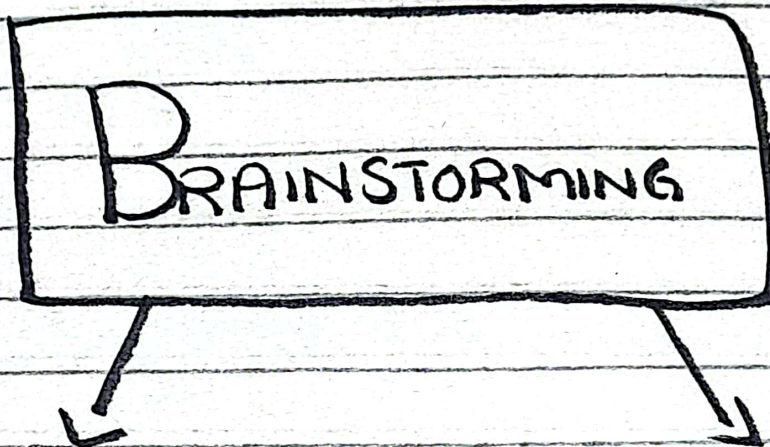


ESSAY

MOCK - DEC

Topic : "DEMOCRATIC UNREST IN PAKISTAN:
CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES"



* Causes

- Military Interventions
- Corruption and poor governance.
- Ethnic and religious divisions
- External Interference

* Consequences

- Political Instability
- Economic Instability
- Social unrest and extremism
- Human rights and rule of law.

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1.2 Thesis statement.

1.3

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THE ESSAY

"Democracy is -the worst -form of government, except for all the others" (Winston Churchill). This quote highlights the imperfections of democracy, which is relevant to Pakistan's democratic struggles. Pakistan's tumultuous political landscape has been a subject of international concern for decades. Despite being the world's fifth-most populous country, Pakistan has struggled to establish a stable democratic system, with frequent military interventions, corruption, and ethnic tensions undermining its fragile institutions. The country's democratic history is marked by repeated cycles of authoritarian rule, flawed elections and violent protests. Democratic unrest in Pakistan is a complex issue with deep-rooted causes and far-reaching consequences. This essay will explore the causes and consequences of democratic unrest in Pakistan, examining the role of military interventions, corruption, ethnic division and external interference in perpetuating instability. Military intervention have played a significant role in perpetuating democratic unrest in Pakistan. The country, Pakistan has experienced several military takeovers. For example, General Ayub Khan's coup in 1958 overthrew the civilian government.

and established the martial law. Another notable coup was by General Zia-ul-Haq in 1977, which removed PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and led to a decade of military rule. Military regimes often bypass parliaments and judiciary, eroding their authority.

Another causes are corruption and poor governance. Widespread corruption and ineffective governance have its effects on public trust in elected officials and institutions, fueling dissatisfaction and unrest. For example, High-profile scandals like the Panama Papers (2016) exposed offshore assets of political leaders, including former PM Nawaz Sharif, shaking public confidence in the integrity of politicians. Failure of civilian governments to deliver basic services and ensure accountability. For instance Pak's healthcare system remains underfunded, and frequent power outages have sparked public protests against mismanagement.

Ethnic and religious differences have been exploited in politics, leading to social tensions and unrest that destabilize democracy.

Ethnic groups like Baloch, Sindhi & Pashtun have demanded greater autonomy. The

Balochistan conflict involves separatist movements protesting perceived neglect and exploitation of resources. Political

parties often use sectarian rhetoric to mobilize support, exacerbating violence.

For example, sectarian clashes between Shia and Sunni groups have led to bombing and riots, undermining national unity.

influence of foreign powers (external interference)
external actors, such as neighboring India or
global powers have influenced Pakistani politics
through diplomatic pressure or funding.

Allegations of Indian involvement in Baloch
separatism have strained relations and
affected internal security policies. This loss of

repeated frequent gov
policy chaos
leading to
there impact on policy - frequent government changes and
e.g. In Pakistan's history, rapid changes in
government (e.g. multiple coups and elected
regimes shifting power) have led to policy flip-
flops, disrupting long-term economic plans
and foreign investments. Lack of
continuity and consistency in governance.

After each regime change in countries like
Thailand during political crises, administrative
priorities shift, causing projects (e.g. in fra-
structure deals) to stall or get abandoned,
hurting development. Economic instability
has impact on political unrest on economic
growth and development. For example,

Venezuela's political turmoil in the 2010s
triggered a sharp drop in GDP and hyperinfl-
ation, stunting growth and development
projects. Investor confidence and economic
instability e.g. During the Arab Spring,
investor confidence in Egypt collapsed,
leading to capital flight and economic
contraction due to political uncertainty.
Social unrest and extremism i.e. rise
of extremist groups and their impact on

society e.g. Post-election violence in Kenya (2007-2008) saw the emergence of militant factions that targeted communities, deepening societal divisions. And also the link between democratic unrest and social instability e.g. In Sri Lanka, political protests against the government have sometimes escalated into communal clashes, showing how unrest fuels social instability. The impact of democratic unrest on human rights and rule of law. e.g. During protests in Hong Kong (2019), allegations of police brutality and rights violations rose, weakening the rule of law perception. Restrictions on civil liberties and media freedom. E.g. In Turkey after the 2016 attempted coup, the government imposed media blackouts and detained journalists, curbing civil freedoms amid political turmoil.

In conclusion, democratic unrest is a complex and multi-faceted issue that arises from a combination of political, economic and social factors. The erosion of trust in democratic institutions, fueled by corruption, inequality, and social injustice can have far-reaching consequences, including political instability, economic turmoil, social unrest and the erosion of human rights. As we reflect on the challenges facing democracies around the world, it is clear that addressing these underlying causes is crucial to preventing the devastating

consequences of democratic unrest. By promoting inclusive governance, strengthening institutions and fostering a culture of dialogue and compromise, we can build more resilient democracies that serve the needs of all citizens. Ultimately, the future of democracy depends on our ability to learn from the past and work towards a more just, equitable and peaceful future.