

DATE: ___/___/___

Democratic Unrest in Pakistan, Causes and Consequences Outline

① Introduction

Historical Development of democracy
in Pakistan.

The Economic Intelligence Unit's remarks
Thesis Statement

② Causes of Democratic Unrest in Pakistan.

2a) Least transparency in elections;

i) 2024 General Elections — most contro-
versial elections

2b) Marginalisation of opposition;

i) Every ruling government tries to
marginalise opposition

2c) Media and other freedoms nixed;

i) Prevention of Electronic Crime Act

2d) Lack of efficient leadership;

i) Not a single leader upholds democratic
norms and values

2e) Lack of commitment of provinces
to establish local governments;

i) Punjab's 16th tenure ended in December

DATE: / /

2021

2f) Undermined separation of powers;

i) 26th and 27th Amendments have affected the ~~democracy~~ independence of the judiciary.

2g) Low literacy rate of population;

i) At least 40 per cent of population is illiterate.

3) Consequences of Democratic Unrest in Pakistan.

3a) Alienation between the public and the government increases;

i) The current ruling government does not enjoy public's support.

3b) The concept of accountability ceases to exist;

i) IMF's report

3c) The economy remains unstable;

i) Pakistan ~~economic~~ has recently faced the brink of bankruptcy

3d) Institutional overreach has become frequent;

i) The parliament's influence over the judiciary

4) Effective Measures to Counter Democratic Unrest in Pakistan.

i) Increasing literacy rate to

DATE: 1/1

- make public aware and educated.
- ii) Provinces to show commitment to establish LAs.
 - iii) Political parties should ensure democratic norms within party.

5) Conclusion

DATE 1 / 1 /

Since the inception of Pakistan as a democratic state, not a single prime minister has completed his or her tenure. Moreover, the recent report published by the Economist Intelligence Unit in 2025 has given incredibly low numbers to Pakistan in ~~quality~~ democracy, which indicates the ceasing of democracy from the country. These events rightly indicate the democratic unrest in Pakistan. There are numerous causes of democratic unrest in Pakistan; initially, due to least transparency in elections, the democratic unrest remains in the country as the governments do not enjoy the popular support. Furthermore, the continuous marginalisation of the opposition contributes to the democratic unrest in Pakistan. Moreover, the media and other freedoms remain censored which leads to democratic unrest in the country. Additionally, due to lack of efficient leadership, the democratic unrest prevails in the country due to lack of leaders who uphold democratic norms and values. Furthermore, the

DATE: ___/___/___

There are also numerous consequences of democratic unrest in Pakistan. Initially, the alienation between the public and the government increases. Moreover, the concept of accountability slowly erodes from the country. However, certain effective measures can ensure to counter the democratic unrest in Pakistan. Hence, it can be deduced that there are numerous causes and consequences of democratic unrest in Pakistan.

Initially, due to least transparency in elections, the democratic unrest remains in Pakistan. ~~but~~ The elections are considered as a referendum of the public to decide who they want to establish government. However, when the ~~electo~~ transparency does not exist in the elections, the public feels that their right have been stolen. This leads to the lack of trust of trust in the state institutions, which gives birth to the democratic unrest in the country. For instance, the 2024 general elections remain the most controversial elections of all

DATE: / /

time. Due to this, the institutions responsible for holding elections have lost trust, which is a cornerstone of a democracy. Hence, it can be said that the least transparency leads to the democratic unrest in the country.

Moreover, the marginalisation of the opposition causes the democratic unrest in Pakistan. The opposition is considered as the basic foundation of democratic values in the country, as it ensures the smooth running of democracy. However, when the opposition is marginalised, it leads to erosion of democracy from the country. For instance, every successive government tries to marginalise the opposition through certain repressive actions. Due to these repressive actions of the government, the opposition remains inactive and ineffective to make accountable the government, which leads to democratic unrest. Therefore, it can be assumed that the marginalisation of the opposition contributes to the democratic unrest in Pakistan. Furthermore, the curtailed media and other freedoms remain one of the major causes of the

DATE: 1/1/

democratic unrest in Pakistan. Media independent media and the public freedoms are the fundamental aspects of the democracy. However, when the governments use different tactics to control media and the public to evade accountability, this gives birth to the democratic unrest.

~~The public and the media~~ ~~are~~ ~~being~~ ~~suppressed~~ For instance, the recently introduced PECA Act by the government aims to suppress ~~the~~ any one who criticizes the government. These actions go against the fundamental aspects of the democracy, and due to this the democratic unrest prevails in the country. Hence, the ~~media~~ media and other freedoms being ~~nixed~~ remain cause of the democratic unrest in Pakistan.

Moreover, the lack of efficient leadership causes the democratic unrest in Pakistan. The inefficient leadership always thinks of personal ambitions over the long interests of the country. ~~The~~ The inefficient leadership do not engage with the public nor with the opposition to maintain the democratic norms and values in the country. ~~Moreover,~~ Moreover, since the demise of

DATE 1 / 1 /

the great Quaid-e-Azam, the country hasn't seen the efficient leader to match his caliber, and ensure democratic norms and values. As Henry Kissinger has written his book Leadership that "the ordinary leaders do not think of the entire nation," and certainly this loop of inefficient leadership has contributed to the democratic unrest in the country. Therefore, it can be said that the lack of efficient leadership has contributed to the democratic unrest in Pakistan.

Additionally, the lack of provinces to establish local governments has caused the democratic unrest in Pakistan. Local governments are considered as the nurseries of the democracies as they establish relations with the government and the public. However, due to inefficiency of the provinces to establish local governments the relations between the public and governments remain sour and unyielding. For instance, the tenure of LLGs in Punjab ended in December, 2020, but the provincial government has failed to conduct LLG polls and establish LLGs.

DATE: ___/___/___

Due to this, the essence of democracy is slowly eroding from the society. Hence, it can be said that the ~~function~~ of provinces to establish local governments contributes to the democratic unrest in Pakistan.

Furthermore, the undermined separation of power remains one of the causes of the democratic unrest in ~~the~~ Pakistan. The separation of power is the cornerstone of the democracy. However, when the separation of power remains undermined, the democratic unrest prevails in the country. Due to this the one institute's powers become exaggerated which can willfully control the other institutes. For instance, the 26th and 27th Amendments have affected the independence of the judiciary. Due to these amendments, the judiciary remains compliant to the executive. Hence, the undermined separation of power leads to democratic unrest in Pakistan.

Finally, low literacy rate of the population is also a cause of democratic unrest in Pakistan. The literate population is the

DATE: / /

strength of democracy. However, when the population is illiterate, it is unable to make good decisions and select efficient leadership. Moreover, the illiterate population is only inspired by the mere slogans. ~~For reasons~~

As the Economic Survey of Pakistan shows that the 40 per cent of population is illiterate, which further contributes to the democratic unrest in the country.

As it is also argued that illiteracy and democracy cannot move together. Hence, it can be said that democratic unrest is also caused due to illiteracy prevailing in Pakistan.

There are also numerous consequences of the democratic unrest in Pakistan. Those consequences will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

Firstly, the alienation between the public and the government increases due to democratic unrest in Pakistan. The government does not enjoy the ~~so~~ public support as the public assume that the sitting government is not credible enough to rule. Moreover, the public do not trust the governments and curse

DATE: 1/1/

them of stealing public mandate.

For instance, due to democratic unrest the current sitting government do not enjoy the popular support.

Hence, it can be said that the democratic unrest leads to alienation of the public from the ruling government.

Secondly, the democratic unrest in Pakistan leads to cessation of accountability from the country.

The rulers do whatever they want, and considers themselves to be not accountable to anyone.

Moreover, the agencies, which make checks and balances, become toothless.

For instance, despite the powers given to the NAB, it has ~~remained~~ continuously failed to hold accountable the corrupt representatives.

It is mainly due to the democratic unrest in the country as the IMF's recent Governance and Corruption Development Report (GCDR) rightly indicates corruption as the biggest menace to the country.

Thirdly, due to democratic unrest in ~~the~~ ~~country~~ Pakistan, the economy remains instable. It is believed that democracy is the only solution.

DATE 1 / 1 /

to economic problems of the world. However, when the democratic unrest remains in the country, the country faces frequent change of governments. This leads to ~~an~~ inefficient and discontinued policies as each government introduces new policies. This further leads to disruptions in economic growth and the country suffers economic instability. Hence, in a nutshell it can be said that democratic unrest in Pakistan leads to economic ~~an~~ instability.

Lastly, due to democratic unrest in Pakistan, the frequency of institutional overreach increases. The democratic unrest compels the other pillars of the country to increase its power. ~~B~~ Thus leads ~~B~~ an institute to have influence over the decisions of the other institute. For instance, in the current democratic unrest, the parliament holds greater authority over the decisions of the judiciary. Hence, it can be said that the ~~democratic~~ institutional overreach is the result of the democratic unrest.

However, if certain measures are adopted the democratic unrest

DATE: ___/___/___

can be countered. First, the literacy rate should be increased to make public aware and educated. When the public is aware, it makes calculated decisions regarding rulers, and ~~we~~ makes them accountable. Second, the provinces needs to establish the local governments as they ~~eng~~ ensure engagement of the public with their representatives. Moreover, the political parties needs to uphold democratic norms and values within the party. This will ensure the meritocracy, which is cornerstone of the democracy. Hence, by adopting such measures the democratic unrest in Pakistan can be curbed.

Hence, in a nutshell, it can be concluded that there are numerous causes and consequences of the democratic unrest in Pakistan, which are discussed in this essay. The ~~a~~ causes of democratic unrest initially are the least transparency in elections as manipulated elections leads to political unrest which is an antonym of the democracy. Furthermore, the marginalisation of the opposition is the major cause of democratic unrest.

DATE: / /

Moreover, the undermined separation of power remains significant contributor to the democratic unrest. Furthermore, the low literacy rate of the population remains cause of the democratic unrest as illiterate and democracy do not move together.

Apart from the causes of the democratic unrest in Pakistan, there are numerous consequences of democratic unrest in Pakistan. Due to democratic unrest, the alienation between the public and the government increase.

Furthermore, the institutional overreach becomes more frequent. However, all is not lost, if certain effective measures are adopted the democratic unrest can be countered in Pakistan.