

Q Compare and contrast parliamentary and presidential forms of government experienced in Pakistan. What lessons can be drawn from the oscillation between the two systems?

A. Introduction

Since independence in 1947, Pakistan has oscillated between parliamentary and presidential systems of government, reflecting its struggle to establish a stable political order. Such shifts reveal the tensions between true democracy and authoritarianism of leaders, resulting in constitutional experiments, political instability, and military intervention. This kind of disruption in powers weakens the state and destabilizes political powers. The evolution can be seen from the lens of amendments over the years and also helps in identifying lessons for sustainable governance in Pakistan.

B. Parliamentary System in Pakistan

The 1956 constitution established a parliamentary system with the Prime Minister as the executive leader. The Prime Minister is the head of government and elected by National Assembly. This system is based on collective responsibility of the cabinet to the parliament.

Performance:

This system ensured presentation and accountability but it also suffered from political fragmentation, frequent dismissals, and weak institutions due to unstable party politics.

C. Presidential System in Pakistan

1962 constitution, during the Ayub Era introduced a presidential system where the President is both the head of state and government, elected directly or indirectly.

Performance:

Promised stability, though it brought temporary escape from political chaos and also economic growth but at the cost of democratic freedom, political participation and institutional autonomy.

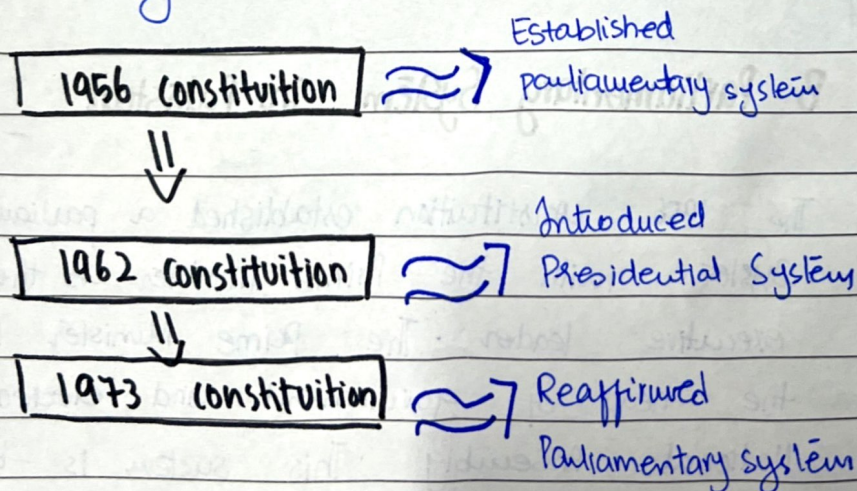


Figure:- Presidential and
Parliamentary system
in constitutions

D. Comparative Analysis

PARLIAMENTARY

PRESIDENTIAL

Constitutional Framework

- | | |
|--|---|
| ① Based on Westminster model, established under 1956 and 1973 Constitution | Based on American model. Introduced under 1962 constitution |
|--|---|

Head of State

- | | |
|--|--|
| ② President is the ceremonial head while Prime Minister is the real head of government | President is both the head of state and government, exercising full executive powers |
|--|--|

Mechanism to Elect

- | | |
|--|---|
| ③ Prime Minister elected by National Assembly while President elected indirectly | President elected directly or through a controlled electoral. |
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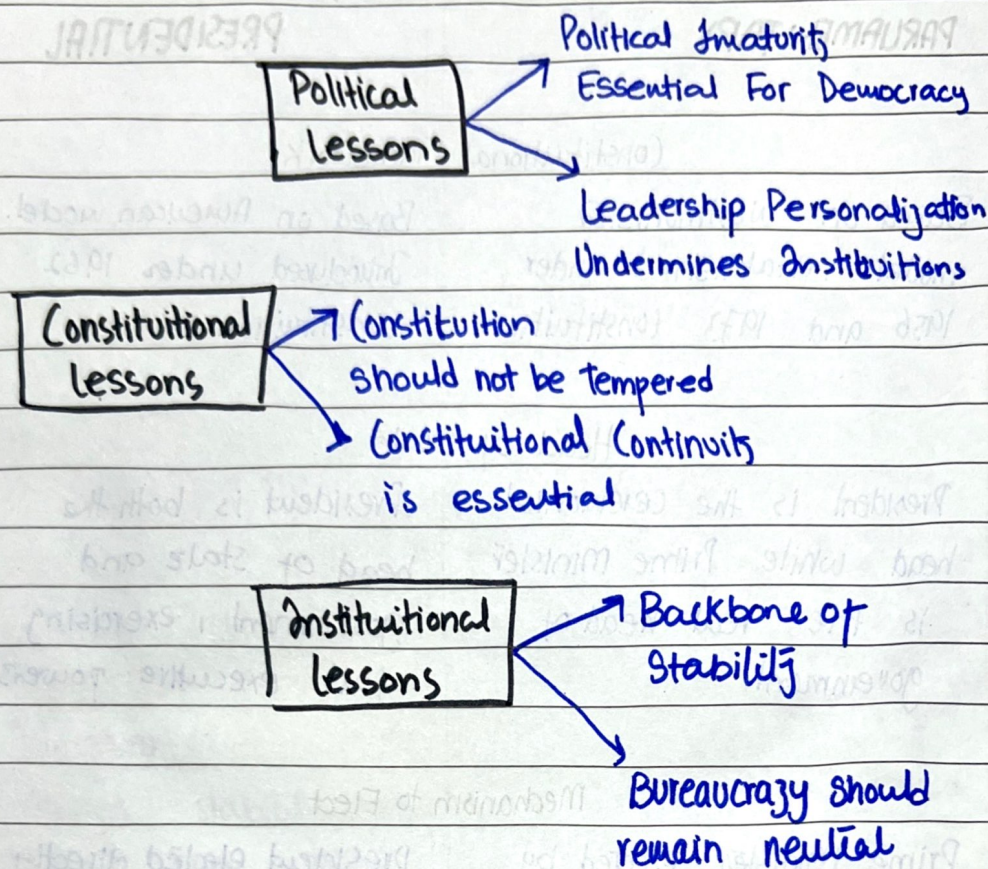
Accountability

- | | |
|--|---|
| ④ Collectively responsible to parliament; Subject to votes of confidence | President is not accountable to legislature, can be questioned for misconduct |
|--|---|

Longevity and Legitimacy

- | | |
|--|--|
| ⑤ Short lived due to political instability and divide of political parties | Presidential regimes like Ayub Khan and Musharraf Era lasted longer but through illegitimacy |
|--|--|

E. Lessons From Oscillations



1. Political Immaturity Essential For Democracy:

Frequent party defections and alliances for gains resulting in instability shows no system can work without discipline

- ◆ Dismissal of Benazir Bhutto due to horse trading ◆

2. Leadership Personalization undermines Institutions:

Both the systems suffer when leaders prioritized personal power over authority of institutions.

- ◆ Politicians using IMF, NAB to fulfill their political goals ◆

3. Constitution should not be Tempered

Frequently tempering with laws undermines the efficiency of legal system and welcomes instability in state

♦ 8th amendment and 17th amendment distorted the 1973 constitution ♦

4. Constitutional Continuity Essential For Stability

Rapid shifts and experimentation disrupt systems and hinder democracy

♦ Four constitutional frameworks in just 25 years highlight instability ♦

5. Institutions as Backbone for Stability

Strong parliaments, judiciary and professional bureaucracy are more important than charisma of leaders

6. Bureaucracy should remain Neutral:

Excessive politicization and executive interference hinders public service and influences welfare

F. Conclusion

It is important to note that the political culture and institutional integrity must be maintained and the legal system must not be experimented with. The oscillation over the years have shown that strong leaders with personalities cannot replace or fill the hole that institutions are meant to perform. Uptill now, the 1973 constitution, a parliamentary model remains Pakistan most suitable framework for democratic stability.

The foremost lesson for institutions and the entire state should be :

"Rule of law is superior to the rule of man"

Q) The crisis of governance in Pakistan is deeply rooted in its political culture. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to civil society, political leadership, and institutional performance?

A. Introduction

Governance is the process through which authority is exercised in the management of a country's economic, political, and administrative affairs. A crisis of governance arises when state institutions fail to deliver effectively due to which justice and public trust is hindered. In Pakistan, political culture is one of the major reasons for failed government but also issues arise from cultural and systematic flaws that highlight deep seated flaws in the political system and shapes attitudes, values, and behaviour of citizens alike.

B. Role of Political Culture in Governance crisis

1. Personalized Politics and Dynastic Politics :

Pakistan's political parties have been always about a single personality and their charisma rather than their concrete ideologies

- ◆ Bhutto and Sharif families dominate political culture with their affluence and dynastic politics ◆

2. No Ideological consistency in Ideology:

Parties shift from their ideologies due to their temporary interests and political gains therefore ideological consistency must be maintained in order for a stable government

- ◆ Political parties resorting from Socialism to populism ◆

3. Lack of Ethics and Discipline in Elections

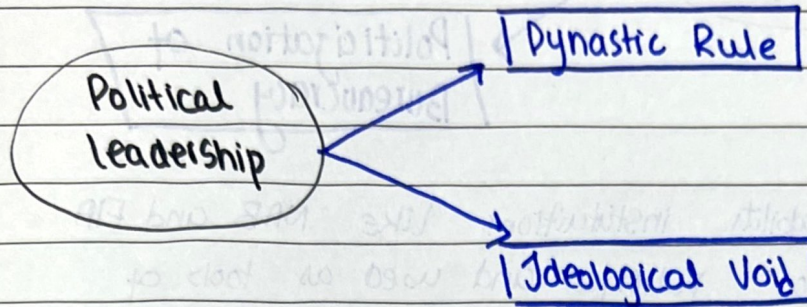
The Election period highlights the lack of ethics and discipline and shows that politicians would go to any extent just for the sake of power. On the way, ethics are compromised and fair elections just remain an elusive dream

4. Short Termism of leadership

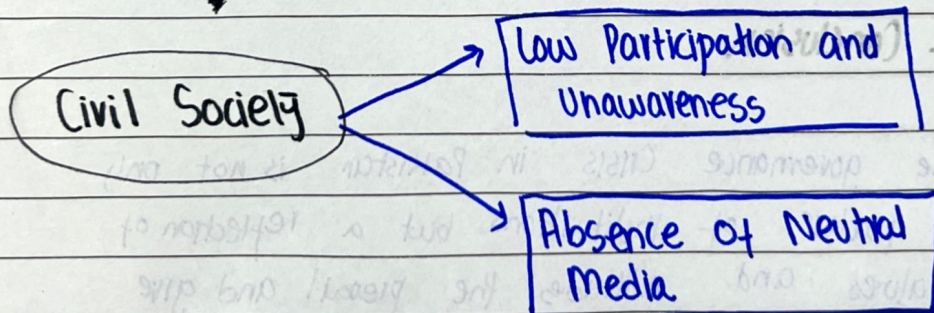
Lack of continuity in reforms and regime changes affect political stability of nations which in turn brings hundreds of various changes and disruptions

- ◆ With regime changes, come new IMF loans resulting in economy losses ◆

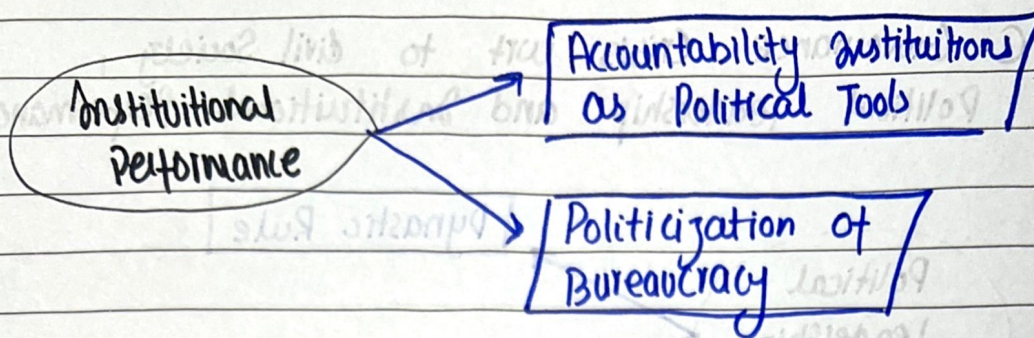
C. Governance Crisis wrt to Civil Society, Political leadership and Institutional Performance:



Political leadership revolve around charismatic personalities, Someone who can look powerful on television and is able to control masses. Rather than concrete ideologies and philosophies of leaders. An Ideological void persists in the leadership culture where people take support of religion and extremism to replace logical ideologies.



The public lacks trust and express no participation in the political system which in turn reflects disinterest and lack of awareness. The information they consume by media also remains the prey of political polarization, they act as agents for a particular party and avoid neutrality.



Accountability institutions like NAB and FIA are also politicized and used as tools of power for politicians. Lack of accountability highlights that such important institutions lack concrete policies and people in power can bend the rules accordingly. Moreover, bureaucracy, backbone of governance and public service is also weakened by frequent transfers and corruption. Instead of policy strengthening, it seems to cater people in power which erodes meritocracy.

D. Conclusion

The governance crisis in Pakistan is not only a failure of institutions but a reflection of values and attitudes that prevail and give birth to such political practices. It is important to note that political leadership must be transformed and the public must be educated to increase accountability for lack of reforms and ideologies. Encouraging development for civil society and strengthening media will also build trust. Moreover, institutions must remember their role and shall not bend their policies for anyone.