

D Pak Affairs 2

M. Hanzala Muavia

Q1- Critically examine the evolution of political culture of Pakistan since 1971. How have civil-military relations shaped democratic continuity and instability?

1- Introduction:

Pakistan is a democratic republic, although there lacks democratic culture. After 1971, many positive and negative developments have occurred which have created both opportunities and threats for democracy in Pakistan.

Civil-military relations is an important feature of democratic evolution of Pakistan. These relations have shaped democratic continuity on one hand by ~~promoting~~ conducting elections, and on other hand hampered the democratic process by direct and indirect military intervention. In short, democratic culture has evolved since 1971 and civil-military relations have played vital role

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in it.

2- Democratic Evolution in Pakistan since 1971

Era	Key Developments
1971-1977	Democratic Government but populism and lack of dissent
1977-1988	Military rule and Islamization under Zia
1988-1999	Democratic rule with frequent change in governments
1999-2007	Military rule with basic democracy model and promotion of some liberal values
2007-Present	Civilian rule with military's indirect involvement in politics

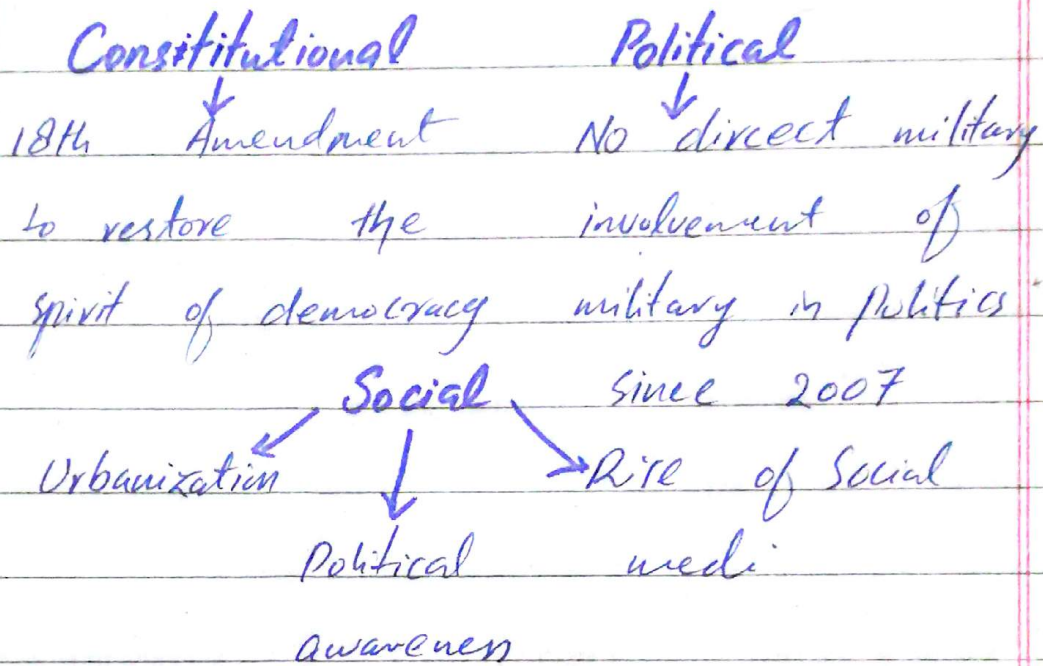
3- Critical Evaluation of the Evolution of democratic culture since 1971

A- Positive developments in democratic culture of Pakistan

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Many positive developments have occurred since 1971 on the constitutional, political, and social level.



These developments have created opportunities for flourishing of democracy in Pakistan.

B) Negative developments since 1971

Two direct military governments and one civilian martial law dented the democratic culture in Pakistan. Moreover, in the age of social media populism has

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risen in the country. Religious intolerance has also a role in dividing people in Pakistan.

C) How to improve the democracy in Pakistan

Some steps are required to ensure democracy in its true spirit in Pakistan. Those steps include:

i- Ensuring the supremacy of the Constitution of Pakistan

All the ↓ institutions ↓ Ensuring Article
Should work under 140A, local
their own jurisdictions governance system
all across
the country

ii- Strengthening the legislative organ of the government to gain public confidence on democracy

iii- Education and unbiased role of media are essential

to promote democracy in Pakistan.

4- How Civil-military relations have shaped democratic continuity and instability?

A) How these relations have shaped democratic continuity

Civil-military relations are essential features of democratic culture of Pakistan. These relations have shaped democratic continuity in Pakistan because of following factors:

i- Local bodies governments during direct military rules:

Military had ruled the country through local government system that resulted in mass awareness about democracy in Pakistan.

ii- Mass mobilization for democracy: To counter the military rule mass was mobilized in the country, particularly in 2007, which resulted

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In improving the public trust on democracy.

B) How civil-military relations resulted in democratic instability

i- Lack of trust of people on democracy: Owing to military interventions in politics resulted in loss of mass trust on democracy and democratic process. This leads to political instability in the country.

ii- Centralization of power: Owing to civil-military and politicians oligarchy power has centralized in a few hands. This is a blow to democracy and hampers true democracy in the country.

iii- Election manipulation: It is another menace - that leads to democratic instability. Pakistan has never witnessed any transparent election since 1971. Therefore,

political instability prevails in the country.

5- Conclusion:

In short, Pakistan's democratic journey ~~has~~ ~~many~~ is not smooth. There are many challenges in the way, such as lack of implementation of the constitution, political instability due to military coups, and loss of mass trust on the democratic process. The main contributing factor in this process is civil-military tangle. However, continuity of elections, mass awareness through social media, and no direct involvement of military shows that democracy is on the right track in Pakistan.

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