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PAK AFFAIRS

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Mock 2:

Q1 Critically examine the evolution of Pak's democratic system.....?

The Political System of Pakistan is federal parliamentary system or democracy where Sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty, ~~The~~ and the authority exercised by the people of Pakistan through their elected representative.

The political system of Pakistan is defined in 1973 constitution of Pakistan, which declared Pakistan as an Islamic Republic of Pakistan and federal democracy.

Historical Background:

Pakistan inherited its political system from British colonial administrative framework. Since its independence, its Political system has faced numerous political transition from democracy to presidential and military coups.

ii) Democratic Era (1972-1977)

Bhutto Era : Rebirth of Democracy.

After the independence of ~~Pemo~~ East Pakistan, Bangladesh Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became the President and later as prime Minister of Pakistan (1973-1977).

- His government restored civilian government rule and aimed to build a strong Parliamentary system.
- ⇒ The 1973 constitution of Pakistan, under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is great achievement of civilian rule to form a strong democratic Republic.
- ⇒ He introduced Parliamentary form of government, emphasize on federalism and Islamic ideology.

Key Features of Bhutto Era:

- Nationalization of key industries and economic reforms.
- Strengthening of Parliamentary form of government
- Decentralization of power through independence of Executive, legislature and Judiciary.
- While Political unrest and alleged rigging

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of 1977 election led to military coup.
(ii) Martial law and Controlled democracy (1977-1988)
Zia-ul-Haq (1977-1988)

- Zia imposed martial law and Islamization of politics.
- He suspended the constitution and pursued Islamization to legitimize his rule.
- Shifting from democracy to strong central control.
- He strengthened authoritarian tendencies and made several harsh legislation like Hudud ordinance and Qisas and Diyat ordinance (1990).
- The Eighth amendment gave presidential power to dissolve National Assembly and provincial Assembly under Article 58(2)(b).

Key Features:-

- ⇒ Strengthened Authoritarian regime under Zia-ul-Haq.
- Weak Parliamentary supremacy in his Era.
- ⇒ Weak political institutions during martial law.

(iii) Democratic Era 1988-1999.

Alternating Government between Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif cause significant unrest in the country.

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- ⇒ Despite the revival of democracy political institutions remain weak due to corruption alleges and political instability.
- ⇒ The 13th amendment under Nawaz Sharif ~~repealed~~ Presidential power restoring Parliamentary.
- ⇒ ~~Dis~~ Dismissed Article 58(2)(b) which caused ~~dis~~ repeatedly dismissed elected government.

Key Features:

- ⇒ ^{Cause} Political instability in the country.
- ⇒ It weakens Political institutions.
- ⇒ Civil-Military relations become worsened during Lia's era.

(iv) Musharraf Era (1999-2008)

Semi-presidential System.

- ⇒ President Musharraf took power through military coup in 1999, justifying it on grounds of corruption and poor governance.
- ⇒ Introduced Legal framework order (2002) to ~~repeal~~ Article 58(2)(b) to allow president to dissolve parliament again.
- ⇒ Implemented local government system (2001)

to devolve power to grassroots level, which was a positive initiative during his regime.

Key Features :-

- ⇒ Intensified civil-military relations and
- ⇒ Civil institutions remained weak.
- ⇒ The military took control over national decision-making.

(V) Democratic Era (2008-2018)

- ⇒ After ^{President} Musharraf resigned 2008 elections restored civilian rule.
- ⇒ The PPP government strengthened the democratic system within a country and cause decentralisation of power.
- ⇒ The 18th amendment under PPP government was milestone that strengthened provincial autonomy. Abolished concurrent list and transferred 17 ministries to provinces.
- ⇒ It restored parliamentary system and dismissed Article 58(2)(b) and strengthened democratic system.

The present condition of a country reflects its efforts to balance institutional supremacy and populist politics.

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Civil-Military relations and its effects on Pakistan's Political System.

The 1973 constitution of Pakistan established a democratic system with clear civilian supremacy. However ^{military} continued to exert its influence over national security, foreign policy and political system. Civil-military relation after 1973 constitution undermines the democratic continuity.

(i) Bhutto Era and Breakdown of civilian authority

After 1973 constitution Bhutto tried to consolidate civilian rule over politics but loss of East Pakistan elevated the military interventions and ^{stent} exerted its pressure over political institutions, which weakens democratic institutions and the norms of 1973 constitution. The 8th amendment under president ^{is-ul-haq} empowers the president and weakened the democracy.

2) Controlled Democracy and cycles of instability (1988-1999).

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Civil-military relations ~~causes~~ undermined the democratic system by introducing 8th amendment in 1973 constitution of Pakistan. After 1988 under Nawaz Sharif, civilian government efforts to restore the democratic system introduced 13th amendment to reassembled the presidential power.

In 2002 legal framework order again restored the Article 58(2)(b) and disrupted the parliamentary framework. However 18th amendment under PPP government was a milestone to restore democracy and it stills run in the country through elections. This transition of powers from parliamentary to semi-presidential and military regime caused significant unrest within a country and weaken political institutions and exerted a greater influence of military over politics, which cause the slow progress of country. Due to these political

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transition Pakistan is still in need
to improve its political institution
so that country can progress.

Q2:-

end the answer with conclusion.....

Compare and contrast ?

Pakistan's political system has been continuously remained change from parliamentary to presidential and military regime. Though Pakistan inherited parliamentary form of government from British colonial administration, yet it continuously remain evolved. These oscillations reflects the weak political institution, political polarization and civil-military tensions.

in context of pakistan.....

Core Difference between parliamentary and presidential form of government.

Parliamentary form of government.

According to 1973 constitution Pakistan

become Parliamentary democratic country

whose ideology is based on

Islamic principle.

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(i) (PM) Prime Minister:-

PM is the head of ~~state~~ government and has executive powers.

(ii) President:

President is the head of state.

(iii) Constitutional Supremacy:-

1973 constitution is the supreme law of the country and any inconsistent with can be declared as void.

(iv) Islamic Republic:

Islam is a state religion and law must conform with the Islamic study.

(v) Separation of Powers:

There is a separation of powers Executive, legislature and judiciary to maintain checks and balance.

(vi) Bicameral Legislation

The parliament consist of two houses ~~lower~~ ^{lower} house National Assembly (represent the people) while upper house senate (represents equal representation from all the provinces).

(2) Presidential system

(i) President is both the head of state and head of governance and holds all the executive powers.

(ii) Accountability
President not dependent on legislator's confidence while PM accountable to Parliament.

(iii) Election

President elected indirectly via referendum

Parliamentary system in PakistanSuccess and challenges

Strengths:

Parliamentary system strengthens the democratic system in a Pakistan and PM accountable to parliament.

Encourage representation of provinces and minorities

discuss these in more detail by giving multiple subheadings.....

Weaknesses:

Frequent government dismissal cause political fragmentation and weakness.

Political institutions

This transition of government from parliament to presidential cause weak political coalition which leads to instability.

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Presidential system

It strengthened central control and faster decision-making and political continuity.

Economic reforms can be seen in Ayub Era and Musharraf Era.

Weakness

- Marginalized provinces and parliament.
- promotes authoritarianism and weakens civil institutions.
- lack of accountability leads to public unrest and creates separation of East Pakistan.

Why did Pakistan oscillate between two systems

Civil-military imbalance

Political transition from civil to military cause authoritarian regime and weakens political institutions.

Constitutional manipulation

The 8th amendment and 17th amendments empowered president to control over PM, cause dismissed of government from Benazir to Nawaz Sharif.

lack of democratic culture

patronage politics and personal
leadership over institutional governance
cause unrest.

The key lesson is - that consistent
constitutionalism, democratic political
culture is essential

lessons learnt??

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