

-(Mock 1)

Pak - Affairs

Q2 → Evolution of Pakistan's Political System and Culture after 1999

Outline.

1. Introduction

2. Political evolution Since 1999

- ① 1999 content: Military take over under Musharraf & institutional Realignment
- ② 2001-2002 → Political Re-engineering :- Legal Framework order. & 17th Amendment
- Devolution Plan

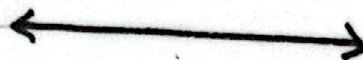
- ③ Restoration of Civilian Rule: 18th amendment 2008-2010
- ④ Democratic consolidation from 2010s onward
- ⑤ Populist politics and Hybrid Regime (2018-2025)

3. Constitutional Development's Shaping Democratic continuity and Governance

- ① 18th amendment ~~ens~~ ensuring parliamentary Supremacy
- ② 19th & 20th amendment
- ③ 26th amendment as judicial Restraint
- ④ Governance challenges in the Democratic era

4. Recent Trends

5. Conclusion.



Introduction:-

Barry Buzan said:-

"States are not only political entities but living organisms shaped by historical experiences and institutional memories."

- People, States and Fear (1991)

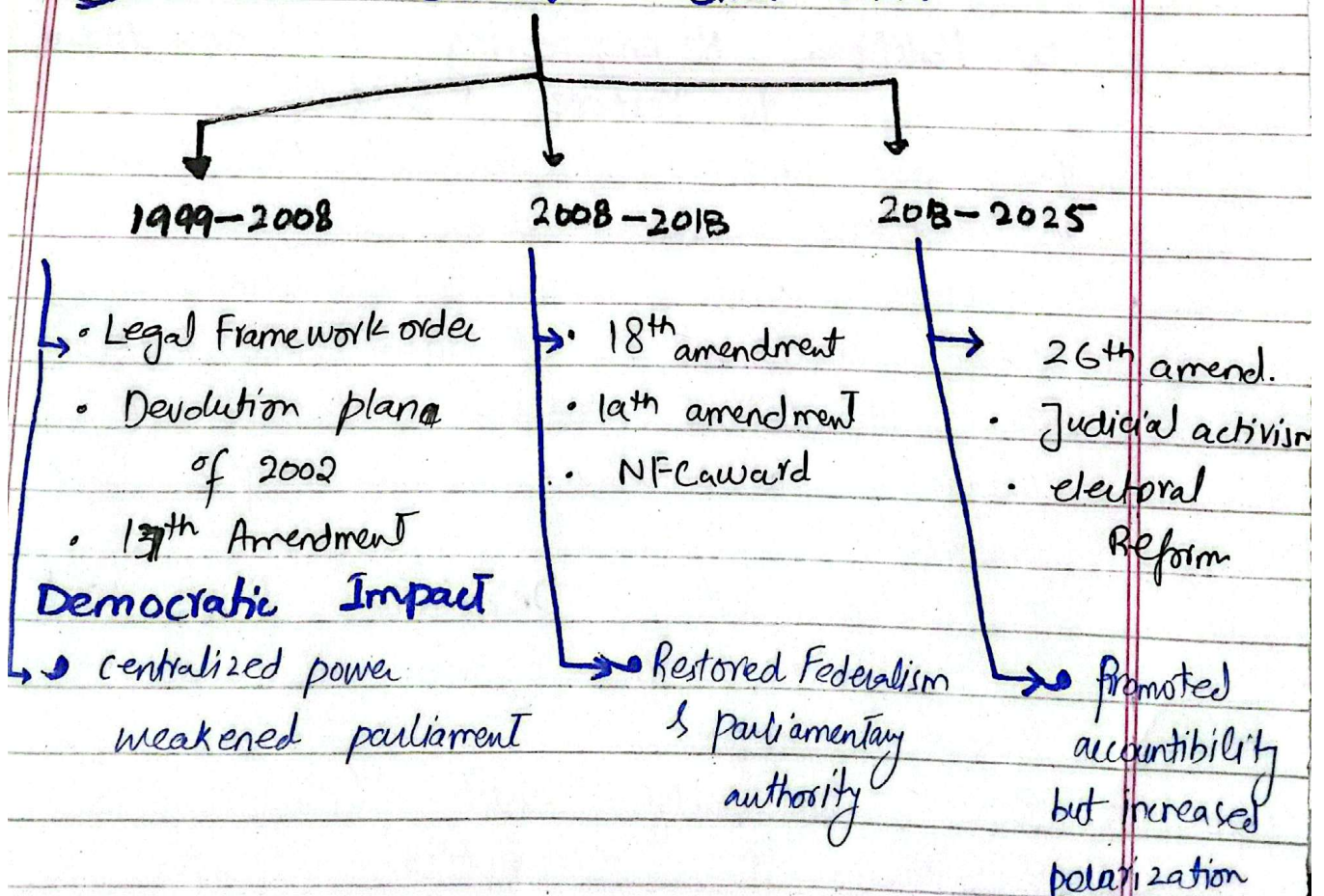
In the same scenario as described by the author, Pakistan's political system has evolved under cycles of institutional contestations, military overights and democratic assertion. Since 1999 with the military overtake in the curtains of weak governance and failure of political parties, constitutional framework experienced changes by 13th amendment as shifting from parliamentary system to semi presidential system. Post Musharraf era was recognized as democratic strengthening with 18th amendment usually renowned as "Mini constitution" promoting the restoration of civil government but also observed the judicial activism led to overreach as judiciary seen interfering in political matters. Democratic consolidation continued 2010 onward but civil military relations troubled as military was accused to interfering and biasing political parties and strengthen political polarization. Then populist govt overthrown with vote of no confidence and Hybrid regime further constrained situation. Immediate process of 26th amendment was seen to be extremely politicized restraining judicial

powers with formation and of judicial commission of Pakistan. This was stated in the Death of judicial by the international court of Justice Research paper. Constitutional Amendments in Pakistan has strengthen democratic system but governance seem to be falling due politicization and dynastic involvements. It needs reforms in framework and more suitable implementation. As Henry Kissinger has described

"The first lesson of politics is to disregard appearances; the second is to remember that reality often hides beneath the cloak of legality."

Diplomacy (1994)

(ii) Political Evolution Since 1999



(a) 1999 content:-

military takeover by
Musharraf and institutional Realignment

By alternating government changes of Nawaz and Benazir, country was facing governance failure and image distortion. On this basis, General Pervez Musharraf imposed the martial to control the situation and proposed it for the sake of betterment of Pakistan.

He proposed emergency and put constitution in abeyance then gave LFO, legal framework order for governing the country. It restructured political institutions to consolidate executive authority and curtail parliamentary sovereignty.

(b) Political Re engineering - 17th amendment to restore 58(2)(b)

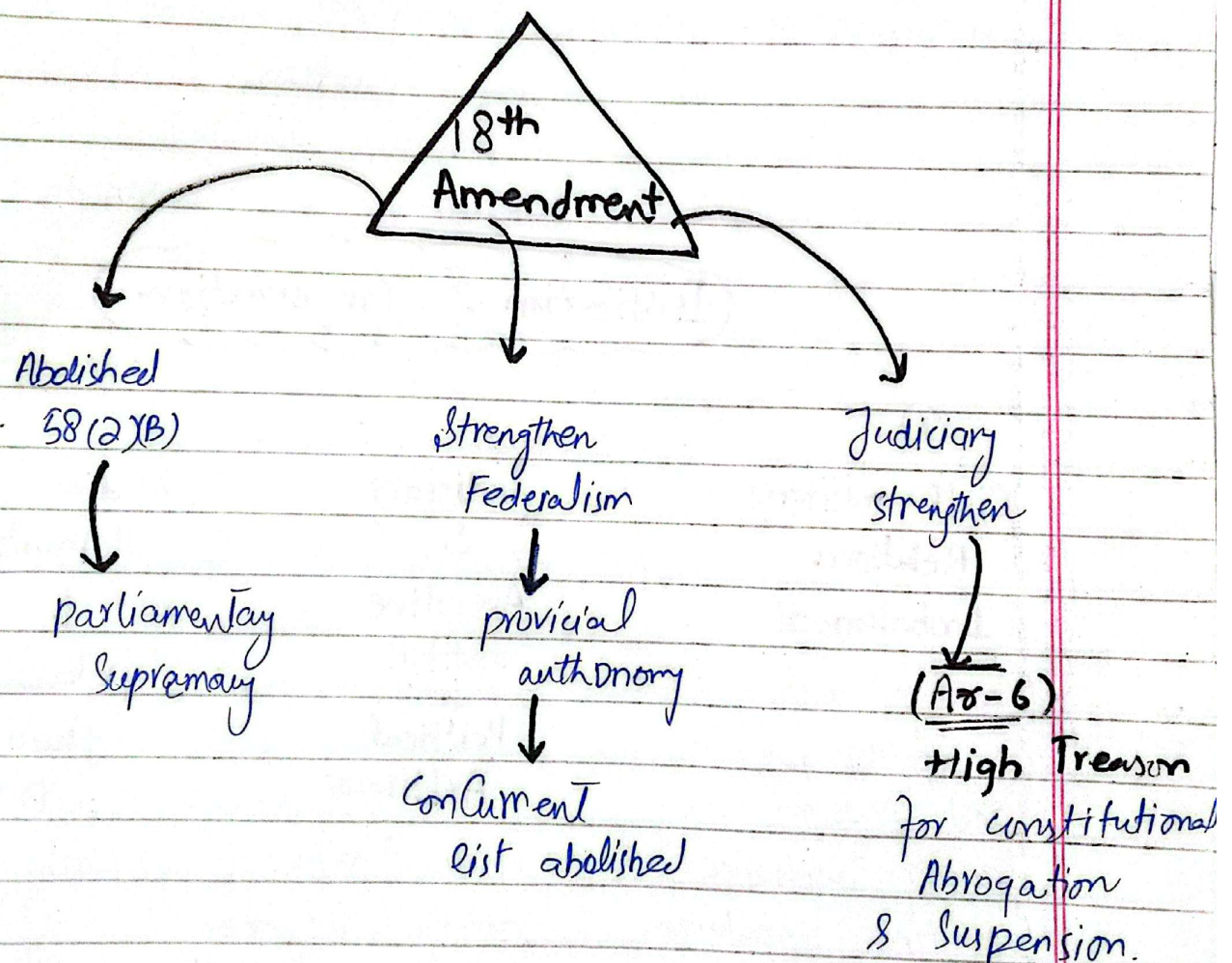
they gave President the authority to dissolve the national assembly under article 58(2)(b) It came with Semi Presidential system in which President and Parliament both share the equal power but indeed, parliamentary sovereignty was curtailed.

It came with Devolution Plan 2001 in which local government amendments were proposed strengthening the non party entities but weakening the political parties.

civilian

Restoration of ~~Military~~ Rule under 18th amendment - strengthening provincial autonomy with NFC award:-

2007 lawyer's movement and public protest led to democratic rebuilding of the Nation often quoted as the constitutional Restoration. Then came the PPP in govt democratically and introduce 18th amendment strengthening parliamentary sovereignty.



Democratic Consolidation Amid Institutional Contestation:-

From 2010 onward, the democratic govt strengthened and for the first time in Pakistan, democratic shift of government occur in 2013 elections with transfer from PPP to PMLN and in 2018 also. Although democracy empowered in this era but seem to be politicized by the increasing conflictation among institutions.

Institutional Contestation

①

Civil-military
Relations

Imbalanced

influence of military
on foreign policy
and National

Security enhanced
persisting imbalanced
Relation.

Judiciary



Assertive
institution



Political
Arbitrator

Judicial often
emerged interfering
in political & executive matters
like CJ Saqib Nisar
Dam fund

Media

Revolution



Polarized
public
opinion

Media
revolutionized
with emerging
technology and
social media
influenced
shaping public
opinion

Patil Populist politics and Hybrid Regime - 26th amendment Proposed

2010 onward Populist govt emerged named PTI coming in power in 2018 election but accused of military support and involvement by PMLN. Then PM faced vote of no confidence and removed with floor crossing observations in national assembly in 2022. From 2024, country is under the rule of hybrid regime facing dynastic politics.

26th amendment proposed came with Judicial restraint curtailing the powers of *Suo moto* of Supreme court of Pakistan. Critic observed this as the Judicial constriction of politicization of Judiciary due to formation of Parliamentary committee for CJP selection and Judicial commission for evaluation reports.

Constitutional Amendments Impacting Democratic Continuity

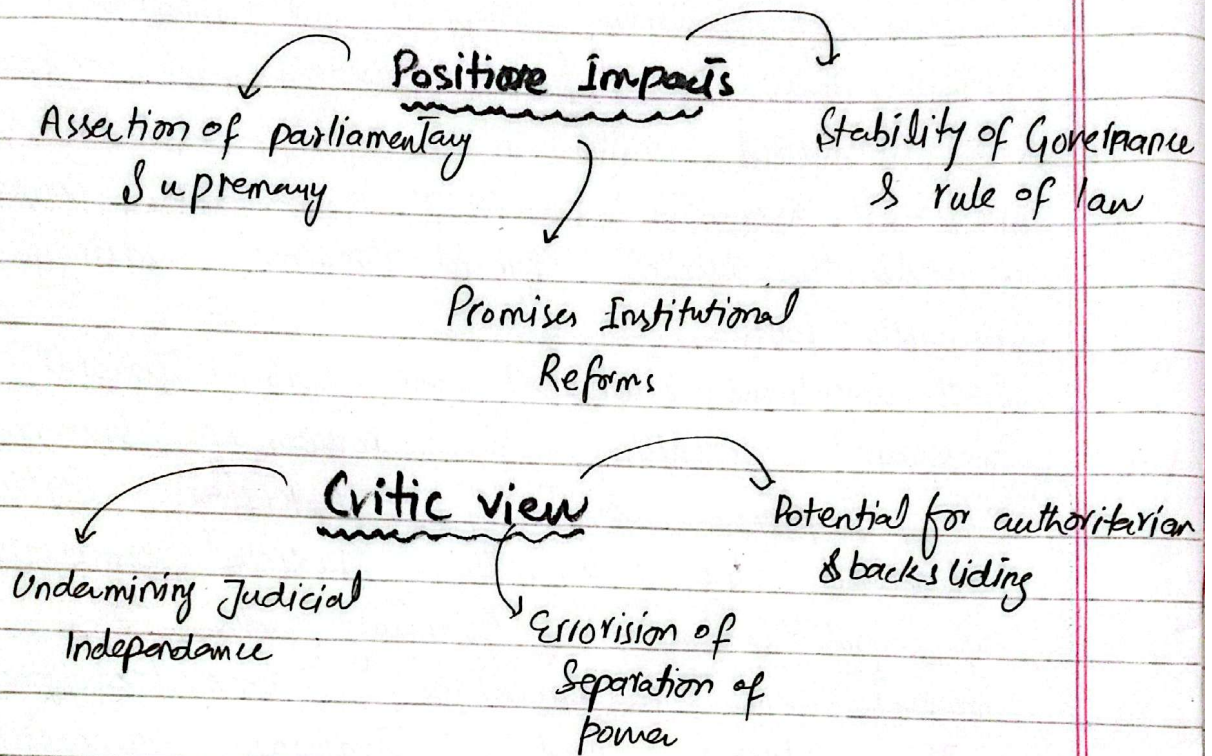
(1) 18th Amendment - Strengthening Parliamentary sovereignty

18th amendment restored parliamentary supremacy while abolishing the Article 58(2)(B) and imposing Ar 67 of High treason. It states that any entity being found to abrogate or suspend constitution would follow in category of high treason.

Also, it strengthen federalism by

decentralization of power. and

26th amendment impact on democratic empowerment :-



Governance Challenges in Democratic era :-

① Frequent political polarization
Constitutional amendment strengthen political sovereignty but in come at the cost of policy inconsistency and politicization. Dynastic & feudal politics rooted in Pakistan emerged as political involvement in governance leading to bureaucratic inefficiency and errorion of Publi's trust.

② Corruption, Mismanagement of economic policies and imbalanced executive judiciary
Relations:-

Parliamentary supremacy led to corruption enhancement and increase role of political entities in economy proceeding. Also, Judiciary restrains degraded check on executive making them whole sovereign and fatal.

Conclusion:-

The evolution of Pakistan's political system ^{since} from 1999 experienced shifts from military rule to authoritarian governance and ^{then} came the hybrid regime. Different constitutional amendments proposed in b/w strengthened parliamentary supremacy and democratic existence while at some aspects, enforced imbalance among institutions and destabilizing civil military relations.

Pakistan's future political stability depend upon rule of law, fostering political consensus within political culture and embedding constitutionalism. Pakistan need to move from democracy in form to democracy in substance.

