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Evolution Of Democracy In Pakistan. Democratic Norms and Political Culture In Pakistan Leading the Evolution.

1. Introduction:

The evolution of democracy in Pakistan has historically remained fragile. It has gone through distinct phases including constitutional crisis, controlled democratic parliamentary governments, and frequent military coups. Moreover, the international tag of hybrid regime has worsened the case. However, this weak evolution of democracy is driven by weak democratic norms i.e. absence of electoral defeats, intra-party elections etc. Moreover, the political culture of Pakistan i.e. feudal-dynastic politics, weak civilian institutions and politicized judiciary have eroded democratic norms and evolution of democracy in Pakistan.

2. Conceptualizing The Democratic Form of Government : Defining Democracy:

— Democracy is the form of government; which is by the people, for the people, and of the people —

[Abraham Lincoln
Former USA President

3. Evolution Of Democracy In Pakistan:

Weak Beginning of Democracy; death of political leadership



Constitutional Crisis and Institutional Imbalances.



Civilian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Abrogation of constitution

Military rule, coup
and controlled democracy



Military coup followed
by parliamentary
democracy : Constitution
of 1973



Military coups and
civilian rules : civil-
military imbalances



Transition to democratic
government, elections,
political instability,
electoral crisis and
deviated democratic
norms



The International
Tag of Hybrid Regime:
2025

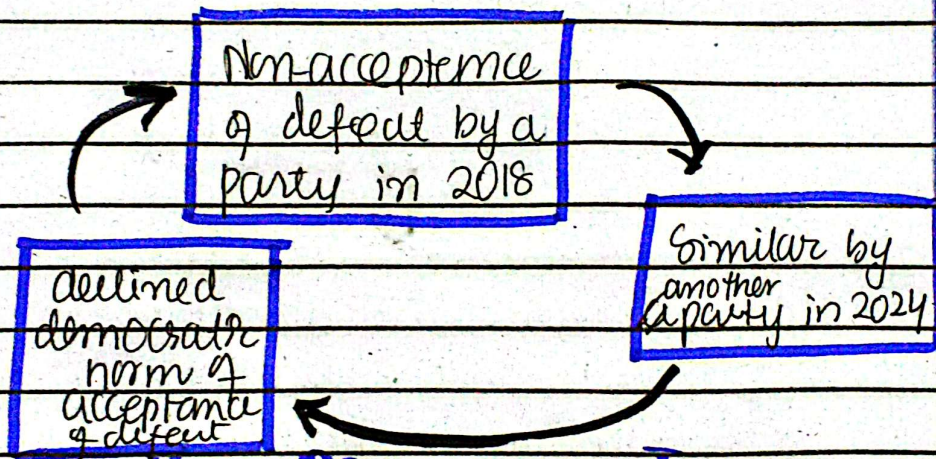
— Neither Democracy nor
politics has remained intact —

J. Sardar Akhtar
J. PDP Member

4. The Democratic Norms

Defining the Evolution of Democracy In Pakistan:

a) The Absence of Acceptance of Electoral Defeats Defining Factor of Evolution of Democracy In Pakistan:



b) The Absence of Intra-party Elections Reflecting Weak Democratic Norms and Weak Democratic Evolution In Pakistan:

The absence of historic intra-party elections reflect that weak democratic norm has played key role in weak democratic evolution in Pakistan.

c) Weak Public Participation In Electoral Process:

The vote on Bridari System (Clans) reflect weak democratic knowledge. The support to Bridari candidate instead of visionary leadership is an evident.

5. The Political Culture Of Pakistan Defining Evolution of Democracy In Pakistan:

The political culture of Pakistan defines evolution of democracy in Pakistan.

a) Dynastic Politics Hindering Pathway To Visionary Leadership Reflecting Democratic Crisis:

The dynastic politics hinders the pathway to visionary leadership reflecting democratic crisis. This salient feature of political culture of Pakistan has played a crucial role in weak evolution of democracy in Pakistan.

b) Weak Civilian Institutions and Politicized Judiciary: The

infamous Maulvi Tamarauddin case reflect politicized judiciary and weak civilian institutions in Pakistan. Thus, it is another defining feature of weak evolution of democracy in Pakistan.

6) Critical Analysis:

Despite Apart from declined democratic norms and the political culture of Pakistan, other factors play a crucial role in weak evolution of democracy in Pakistan. The fiscal fragility, debt dependence, IMF programs, geo-political and geo-economic environment also play indirect role in weak evolution of democracy in Pakistan. The incapacity of political leadership of Pakistan too erodes the democratic norms and evolution in Pakistan.

- Paraphrased Interpretation
from Beyond the Crisis: Pakistan

1) Conclusion.

Thus, it can be concluded that undoubtedly democratic norms and political culture of Pakistan has resulted in weak evolution of democracy. Moreover, the external factors also have a say in this weak evolution of democracy.

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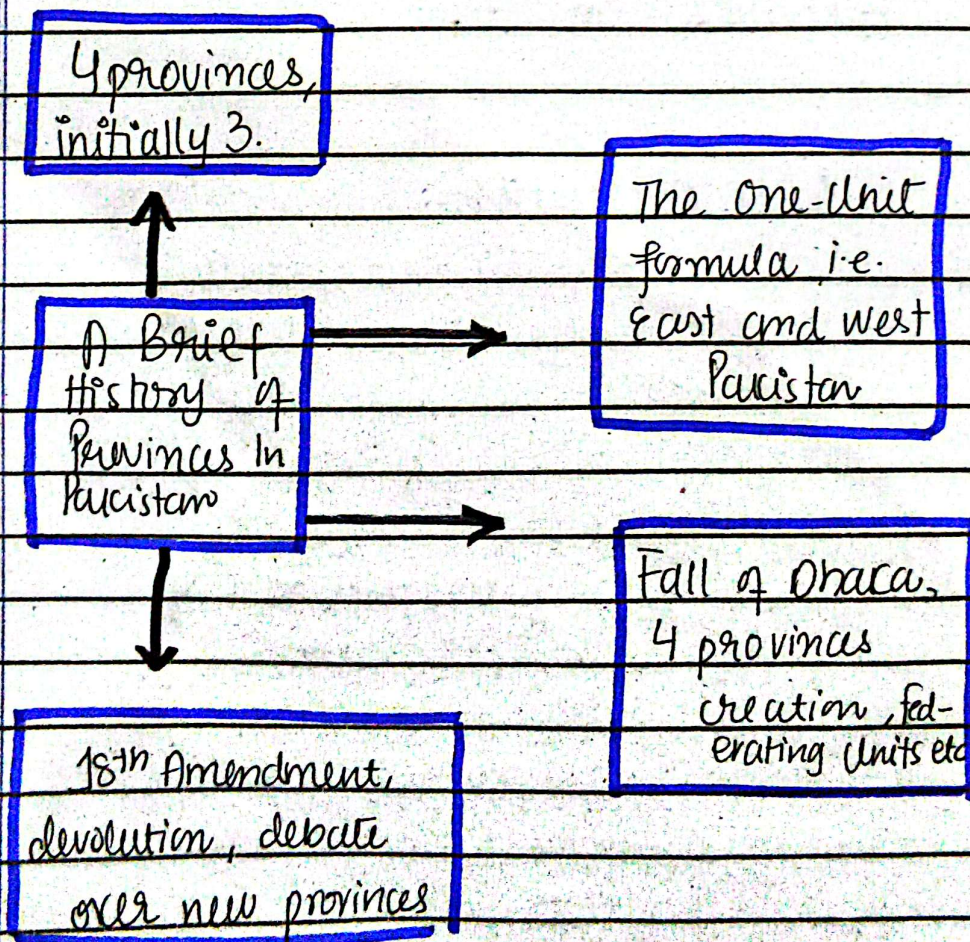
The Case For New Provinces In Pakistan; Hopes And Hurdles In It.

1. Introduction:

The creation of new provinces are generally and globally practiced to address new fault lines of the country. Similarly, in Pakistan, the creation of four provinces and the infamous 18th amendment was passed to address issues. However, now debate has started for creation of more provinces in recent times. The argument to create new

provinces are based on the hopes of better administration, development of neglected areas and addressing centre-province conflicts. However, certain limitations are present in the pathway to new provinces including increased institutional burdens and potential political contention over resources. Therefore, new provinces must be made while avoiding hurdles and purely on administrative grounds.

2. A Brief Overview Of Provinces In Pakistan:



3. Preparing the Case for New Provinces In Pakistan:

Following is the case for new provinces in Pakistan:

a) Provinces Shall Be Made Purely On Administrative Grounds:

The new Provinces shall be made purely on administrative grounds. as:

— New administrative units shall only be created for addressing administrative issues. Without this notion, things will only get worse —

— Islamabad Policy Institute

b) Provinces Shall Be Made By Following Due Constitutional Process:

New Provinces shall be made by following due constitutional process and clarity.

Initiating bill from the provincial assemblies

Approval from the relevant provincial assembly for changes

Approval by Majlis-e-Shooraa.

c) Establishment of Local Government and then Phased Transition Towards New Administering Units:

The new provinces in Pakistan shall be made only when local government system has not performed or established. Following problems can be resolved and local government can lead to new units

— Without establishment of local government, and without giving it adequate time to perform, Pakistan will repeat its governance failures, political crisis and social unrest problems. New Provinces without or before local government would go in vain —

- IPRI report 2025

4. Hopes For New Provinces In Pakistan:

Following are the hopes:

a) Better Administration and Institutional Efficiency Due to Localized System:

The administration would definitely be enhanced and institutional capacity and efficiency be increased due to localized power system. New provinces can result in better administrative outputs provided the needs are done in a constitutional manner.

— Federal Minister
[Abdul Aleem Khan]

b) Better Development and Targeted Resource Allocation for Neglected Areas:

New provinces have high hopes that it will result in better development of the neglected regions. The historical grievances would be addressed provided the new administrative units have autonomy and zero imposts.

c) Enhanced Political Representation to avert centre-periphery:

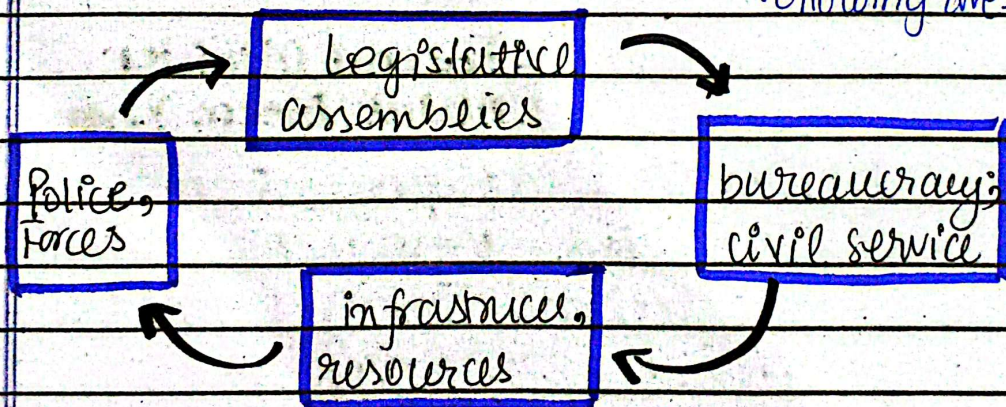
The New provinces in Pakistan have the potential to increase political representation of the marginalized. This would also avert the centre-province periphery and the problems of centralized system.

5) Hurdles In the Process of New Provinces In Pakistan:

Following are the hurdles in the process of new provinces:

a) Institutional Burdens:

Following are:



b) A Potential Political Contestation Over Natural Resources, Capital, and Borders:

The potential of political contestation over resources, capital of the

DATE: / /

new provinces and borders of the new administrative units would lead to new fault lines.

These new fault lines would result in political, economic and societal crisis in Pakistan.

Thus, due processes should be followed.

6) Concluding Analysis:

Thus, it can be concluded that new provinces in Pakistan can be made easily by following constitutional processes. However, it should be purely made on the administrative grounds, and that also be phased transition from local government to new provinces. Moreover, hopes are high due to potential of better administration and governance outcomes; however, hurdles must be cleared to ensure stability in Pakistan.