

Democracy in the Shadow of Civil Military Relations in Pakistan



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(Bernardo Feeney Jr.)

DEMOCRACY IN THE SHADOW OF CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS IN PAKISTAN



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KW Publishers, New Delhi, India, 2015. Softcover. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Pakistan was not born as a military state but the military has ruled the country more than the civilians in its short history. After partition, the military shaped the politics of Pakistan in several ways. Set of causes historical, institutional and societal are attributed to the decline of democratic institutions and the rise of military as the dominant political institution in Pakistan. Due to the ascent of military regimes, Pakistan did not follow the dominant paradigm of separation of civil-military institutions where the military plays a subservient role to the civilian authority. Rather the military became the supreme authority. This study attempts to explain the phenomena of civil-military relations in Pakistan vis-a-vis its implications for democracy. In this perspective, the study examines the causes of military dominance, the nature of civil-military relations and its implications for democracy. The study attempts to provide explanations based on the three principle axis: the first axis is historical and explores how different societies were formed in pre-colonial history, how colonial experience and post-Partition politics shaped civil-military relations the way it is in Pakistan. The second axis is analytical which explains the philosophy, composition and organisation of the military. Further, it also explains the nature and evolution of civil-military relations and the use of religion in legitimising authoritarianism in Pakistan. The final axis analyses, through empirical evidence, the impact of civil-military relations on democratic institutions in Pakistan. Even though democracy in Pakistan remained hostage to the confluence of negative forces, Pakistans citizens had the experience of engaging in electoral processes, however rigged. Given the history of sporadic progress of democracy in Pakistan, the last six years were exceptions as Pakistan witnessed the completion of the first civilian tenure and a successful democratic transition...



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