



# **Pakistan Studies**

## **Assignment No: 4**

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## **Question 1: Discuss the key reasons behind the problems of Political Parties in Pakistan. Logically justify each reason**

### **Introduction**

Political Parties around the world face different problems but the problems faced by third world countries such as Pakistan are similar, these problems are not in governance, but problems that are due to the lack of will in delivering.

### **Political Parties in Pakistan**

Pakistan has a Multi-Party-Political system, ever since its creation we have had Political Parties formed on basis of Religious and vested interests, that has always gone against our national interest.

Few problems faced by the political parties of Pakistan are listed below:

- Weak Political Structure in the Country.
- Lack of Internal Democracy in Political Parties.
- Lack of Vision in Political Parties.
- Status-Quo in Political Parties.
- Non-State Actors.
- Political Maneuvering by our Establishment.
- Civil-Military Relationship Imbalance/ Foreign Agenda.

### **Weak Political Structure in the Country**

Since our independence in 1947, the political structure in our country has been non-existent due to several reasons, mainly because at the time of independence we did not inherit a healthy political base, Quaid-e-Azam and most of the leaders who helped us get freedom,

soon left this world, and this created a space in our Politics, which was never filled, If we read our history, we still feel that this space or vacuum is yet to be filled.

### **Lack of Internal Democracy in Political Parties.**

Ever since the concept of creating Political parties in our country became common, the Rich Mafia started to exploit it, today after 75 years of our independence, we have political parties with no concept of Intra-Parties Election, meaning thereby that the leadership will always belong to the next generation of the person who created the party.

Taking into consideration the oldest political party of Pakistan, The Pakistan People's Party, it was created by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who was also the first Chairman and Head of the Party, after his Death, the leadership of the party was given to his daughter without any Elections, with only reason being to keep the followers of his father intact, after the death of his daughter, next chairman at the moment is Bilawal Zardari, Son of the daughter of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

This clearly shows that there is no concept of making leaders for our country in our Political Parties.

### **Lack of Vision in Political Parties.**

In Pakistan, Politics has always been about grabbing power, the main reason due to which our country's political structure hasn't developed is because the main motive of political

parties has always been to get in power and damage their opposition parties, making sure they remain in power.

This hunger for power comes with a reason, like in all third world countries, our country is underdeveloped both infrastructure wise and financially, but our Politician who have remained in office have gained millions and billion in their net worth; Corruption, it the evil that has damaged our Country.

As there is no Vision of Political Parties, they tend to keep the masses uneducated so that the uneducated masses keep making wrong decision by voting them.

### **Status-Quo in Political Parties.**

The root cause behind why third world countries are third world countries, is due to the status-quo phenomenon , The family of the leader is considered above the law, the leader who created the party on the basis of his wealth considers him to be correct all the time and from him there is no law, his family enjoy un-lawful facilities and hence this keeps damaging our country financially.

### **Non-State Actors.**

The role of Non-state actors has always been crucial in Pakistan's Political Arena, due to Pakistan Strategic Location and the fact of Pakistan being the only Muslim Nuclear State, the

world keeps an eye on Pakistan, and always tries to destabilize our country both internally and externally, hence influencing our Political Parties by funding them.

### **Political Maneuvering by our Establishment.**

After Allah All-Mighty, the Establishment of Pakistan has always been the main stakeholder for ensuring the existence of Pakistan on the Map of the world, hence in order to ensure that duty, they keep trying to maneuver and select governments of their own choice, as they have a fair idea of the foreign funding our parties have been receiving, this sounds good for our country but is the main reason why our Political parties have failed to develop with time, because to learn you have to loose, as ***Failure is the best Teacher.***

### **Civil-Military Relationship Imbalance/ Foreign Agenda.**

As we discussed that the main power has always resided in the hand of our Military leadership, this has always been a reason that our politician's highlight to cover their lack of deliverance as government.

Pakistan's Military is amongst the best and most professional military in the world and it has always been the objective of our enemies to weaken it, hence they fund promote their agenda of weakening our Army by creating a rift between Military and Civil leadership, at the end Military always wins, and Pakistan losses.

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## **Question 2: Suggest practical solution for each problem in political parties.**

### **Way Forward for a Better Political Atmosphere.**

As a country we have a very weak Political system, a system based of feudalism, favoritism and nepotism, in this question, the solution to these problems is discussed.

Few Suggestions to solve the problems that our Political Parties face today are as follows:

- Democracy in Political Parties.
- Making Manifesto's Compulsory.
- Meritocracy.
- Status-Quo in Political Parties.
- Accountability within Political Parties.
- Keeping an eye on Funding or Bank accounts of Political Parties.

### **Democracy in Political Parties**

Introducing democracy in political parties will solve most of the problems faced by Parties today, we should bring a legislation in which Intra-Party Election should be made compulsory for every political party and ensuring the transparency of those elections should be the job of Election Commission of Pakistan.

### **Making Manifesto's Compulsory.**

Having a Manifesto should be made compulsory for every party, and there should be a body that should ensure that the party after coming in power is sticking by its manifesto, so that the people should get a fair idea to whether they voted the right party or not.

In past, we have seen parties raising slogans that appeal the public, but when they come into power, they forget their promises and there is no one to remind that or hold them accountable, and our uneducated population keeps playing in their hands by voting them again and again.

### **Meritocracy.**

The best way to solve the problems faced by our country as well as our political parties is by introducing and ensuring Merit in every appointment, because when right person is appointed in the right place, things naturally start to get better, in this past era we have missed been missing Meritocracy in every field which is why today we are behind the world in almost every field.

In our past, governments have appointed their favorites on crucial appointments and they failed to deliver resulting in loss for the country.

### **Status-Quo in Political Parties**

To prosper as a nation, we need political parties with a proper vision and strong leadership to lead our country when they get into power, this is only possible if we break the chains of status-quo in our society and start treating everyone in the political party equally.

Our history shows deep root of status-quo in our politics and in our country, apparently there is a different law for the powerful and a different one for the weak, this has damaged our basic Islamic principles, principles that made every rich and poor, every black or white equal, we have shifted from that path and to rectify our mistakes we need to get rid of this status-quo culture as soon as possible.

### **Accountability within Political Parties**

The success of every society is linked with how effective is the accountability process in it, unfortunately in our country, those who looted our nation were also responsible to protect our nation's wealth, hence they weakened our accountability institutions and in return profited.

So, in order to develop we must have a rigorous accountability process in place that does not care if it's the head of the party that is responsible or the lowest ranked person of the party, whoever is found responsible should be punished and made an example so that this never happens again.



### **Keeping an eye on Funding or Bank accounts of Political Parties.**

Another challenge we have been facing is foreign funding of our political parties, this foreign funding makes these political parties speak the tongue of their masters, hence going against the national interest of our country.

In order to take care of this nuance, we should task some institution to keep an eye on the bank accounts of all the political party, and question them about their capital whenever there is a doubt and which ever party fails to justify their funds should be banned from politics, this will also add a sense of patriotism in political parties that in order to govern they have to stay loyal to the national interest of the state.

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**THE END**