



RESEARCH PAPER

Socio-Political Factors of Political Instability in Pakistan: An Analysis of Structure, Processes and Institutions- A Case Study of General Pervez Musharraf Era (1999- 2008)

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ABSTRACT

The political system of Pakistan is so complex and unpredictable due to a major rule of its establishment or military leadership in the internal and the external politics of the country. This research work have tried to have a deep look of the political situation, in the country and the factors that led to the perpetual political instability. Political engagement is necessary for a state's development, while institutionalization is required for political participation. This study investigates Pakistan's socio- political factors from 1999 to 2008 in relation to the function of political and economic system by using a questionnaire survey. It also emphasizes how, as a result of the military regime's changes, the culture of political parties changed dramatically during the Musharraf era. The outcomes of the study suggests that instead of having intensive power and a long duration of regime military occupants has not done much to make the country economically and politically stable.

KEYWORDS Economic Factors, Modernization, Musharraf Regime, Political Stability, Role of Judiciary and Military Rule, Socio-Political Institutions

Introduction

The precariousness of government, deficiency of philosophical get-togethers and powerless political aware make the situation for a politically instable state. Political flimsiness has become a huge issue particularly for the creation and adolescent states. This matter is associated with a growth of issues in different fields. The issue of political instability makes more authentic for a public community which is different cultural, having persons of assembled social credits (Aslam, 2011). Pakistan's creation for Islamic vote based state, before long the autonomy is moving in a mutilating way according to substitute points of view, for example, like association in Pakistan, political conditions, control of political pioneers, military execution likewise the beginning of standard assessment (Zahoor, 2020). In advance, Pakistan has gone through from various difficulties and emergency because of its erratic inside nearby legitimate issues and because of the resistance of the various administrators in distributing any protected turn of events. Pakistan's dispersal and disparity joins various factors such its social, serious, ethnic, commonplace and general issue and conditions (Waseem, 2022). In the philosophical space, Pakistan has financially and politically conflicting new turn of events. Pakistan's public progress is essentially subsidiary and unable and its chance is gotten by the social gathering of everybody, Kashmir issue and different contentions with India, the helper given by the outside nations unequivocally USA, and Afghan revolt (Aziz, 14, 1-18.).

Political reliable quality is straightforwardly connected with money related turn of events and thriving for nations like Pakistan on of the guideline factor for monetary headway is political steadiness (Mustafa, 2017). Political insecurity is worked with and obfuscated exercises like fights, strikes, hostility, fast in and out fight, lootings and commotions by a party of individuals centered against government or different parties, causing breakdown of social surface, changing, under empowering conditions, into ethnic purifying or ordinary battle or shifting the direction of history through a disturbance. It is all around started by money related issues, which on an exceptionally fundamental level are desperation, ungainliness of pay, yet besides of collected abundance comparatively as consent to land, getting ready, business and avoidance from dynamic solicitation (McCown, 2021). Through martial law Musharraf became the chief executive of the country and suspended the 1973 constitution by over throwing the elected government of PML-N. The conflict between the PML-N and military regime emerged after the 1999 Pak- India war at Kargil which ended in the result of martial law because the army started this operation without the consent of civil government and the civil government was interested to make a complete inquiry of this operation (Hagerty, 2020).

In the view of the above discussion the research tries to understand the reasons for the political instability in the country due to the military role in the politics. It will focus to analyze the institutional and procedural causes of political instability during General Musharraf rule; to evaluate the effects of military rules with special focus on Musharraf era on overall political, social and economic development in the country; and to examine the Socio-Political and economic implications and its promotion of political stability in the country.

Literature Review

Musharraf system dared to extend its delicate picture to the entire world and took different procedures keeping that in mind (Begum, 2024). Musharraf needed to extend himself as an edified and generous pioneer to become authenticity inside the nation and acknowledgment from the rest of the world. Afterward, he additionally set forth his concept of "edified control" to come nearer toward the western world. His administration attempted to further develop country's common freedoms record by offering portrayal to and enabling ladies, minorities and regular workers in the recently presented neighborhood government framework in 2001. Prior, the public authority likewise set up a common freedoms show in April 2000, however least advancement was made to accomplish its objective (Kim, 2017). The human rights condition in the state remained bleak at the time of army regulation of General Musharraf (FAROOQ, 2015). No critical change occurred regardless of progress to a non- military personnel rule (and rebuilding of a vote based system) to the extent that the country's general circumstance of common freedoms was concerned. The paper looks at the initial five years of Musharraf time (1999-2004), i.e., three years of direct military rule and two years of its roundabout rule in the country. The significance of green infrastructure in reducing environmental susceptibility is pressing. It is essential to mitigate temperature variation within the microclimates of Lahore to have an overall positive impact; this can be reached by the integration of green infrastructure within the urban planning of Lahore to achieve environmental sustainability.

The political history of Pakistan has not remained very even. It has seen many political upheavals during its 76 years' history. Intermittent interventions by bureaucracy and military in the power corridors since the very existence of the country in 1947 adversely affected the growth of democracy. Institutions could not be flourished

in an appropriate manner. Political instability was witnessed throughout the history of the country (Noareen, 2021). The situation got worsened during military rule. Most of the part of the history of the country military rulers remained in power (Dent, 2023). It can safely be narrated that during the 76-year history of the country 33 year's military rulers remained in power. General Musharraf was the latest among them to rule the country for eight long years. He came to power on October 12, 1999 after deposing the democratic government. This study is an effort to analyze the situation during Musharraf era. The status of political institutions, social development, economic situation, the state of basic human rights, so-called political government installed during Musharraf rule are discussed and analyzed in this study (Ahmed, 2023). Structure and institutional development is thoroughly assessed and reasons for political instability are searched out (Zahur, 2020). It can be best defined as "Any critical change in measures of atmosphere, (for example, temperature, moistness, precipitation, or wind)". The United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its Article 1 describes climate change as: "Change of atmosphere which is credited specifically or in a roundabout way to human action that adjusts the arrangement of the worldwide air and which is notwithstanding normal atmosphere changeability saw over equivalent eras".

The paper incorporates four areas, first being presentation. The following part transiently structures Pakistan International and authentic obligations about human. The third segment gives a Nitti gritty evaluation of the political freedoms circumstance during the initial long term (1999-2004) of Musharraf period (Razzaq, 2023). The last segment closes the study with investigation of the discoveries of the review. Political instability has become a real and compromise problem, especially in emerging and young countries. It is creating enormous problems and impeding the progress of these countries. The subject of this article revolves around the character and validity of Pakistan's political vitality in emergency situations. Political strength expects a colossal part in keeping society worked with and in remaining mindful of validness entire countries. It is a vital for the money related new development, social coordination, and uniqueness of regulation in a state. The security of political system impact tricky affects the instances of nation and state building. These both require stable political structures for their new turn of events and succeeding. The improvement of nation and state without firm and worked with plan of conclusive issues is impossible and government ends up just this way and that among various vested social events (Khan M. M., 2021). Altogether, article endeavors to inspect the normal conditions and eventual outcomes of political dubiousness in Pakistan (Aslam, 2011). The change in a political framework with respect to number of gatherings is a critical peculiarity which makes adequate justification for academic talk. The Pakistani political framework saw an adjustment of the party legislative issues where it changed from a two-party framework to a three-party framework in a generally brief time frame period (Alam, 2020). The close by philosophical social affairs have anticipated that an essential part should add to the trouble of condition. The area social gatherings have their own stakes and they do everything to accomplish those interests. The association is by and large low profile and parochial. Since it isn't useful for them to accomplish some conspicuous spot in the public regulatory issues, they appeal to the local theories of the larger part and upset the standard and ethnic issues to remain in news features. They challenge races subject to provincial issues, and therefore, cause individuals to feel terrified through the clear dangers to the area and even to its constancy (Ahmed, State Civil Society during Musharraf Era in Pakistan: An Appraisal., 2023).

Material and Methods

This is a positive appraisal for which a blended structure has been gotten. Both enthusiastic and quantitative frameworks have been followed. Essential and aide information have been amassed and reviewed. Major information aggregated from the get-togethers with political a pioneers, social prepared experts, standard inhabitants, instructors, trained professionals and political researchers. While gathering the authentic information was hazardous about political unsteadiness in Pakistan, since greater piece of individuals are clueless about political strength and precariousness. The information amassed from essential source was expressly dissected. Optional information recalled the open materials for the subject as books, articles, research papers, diaries and get-togethers with the prepared experts. In any case, it was irrefutably hard to gather satisfactory information regarding the matter. Immaterial information could be made accessible about the political flimsiness in Pakistan and its socio-political parts. Appraisal of whatever making accessible was also done to depict and analyze the socio-political fragments of political precariousness in Pakistan unequivocally. Review would be passed on among 100 people. The information amassed would be dissected through SPSS programming. A delineation of the review is given around the culmination of the evaluation.

Musharraf era if attracts criticism on the one hand for abrogation of the constitution and introducing a dictatorial rule its wins praise for a number of political, economic and development reason. There is a great diversity in the opinion of the masses about the rule of Musharraf. In order to analyze the rule of Musharraf and political stability during the period and representative survey was conducted to get some real time data.

Results and Discussion

Primary and secondary data have been collected and analyzed. Primary data was collected through interviews with political leaders, journalists, social workers and common people. Questionnaires were distributed among 100 participants through representative sample method. Sample of the questionnaire is given at the end of the study.

Table 1
Political stability during Musharraf era

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	15	14.7	15.0	15.0
Highly agree	10	9.8	10.0	25.0
Not agree	60	58.8	60.0	85.0
Don't know	15	14.7	15.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0	
Total		102	100.0	

Experts from different walk and life along with common people were approached and were asked some close ended questions regarding the nine years of Musharraf regime which resulted the above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement Do you believe Pakistan was politically stable during Musharraf era? According to the collected data given in table 1, 14% respondents said that they believe Pakistan was politically stable during Musharraf era? 10% are highly agree of political

stability during Musharraf era while 60% said that they have not agree and interestingly 15% respondent said that don't know about the statement.

Table 2
Political instability during this period (1999-2008)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	53	52.0	53.0	53.0
Highly agree	19	18.6	19.0	72.0
Not agree	15	14.7	15.0	87.0
Don't know	13	12.7	13.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

The second question of the research was the continuity of finding out the stability and instability factors and opinion of respondents. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statements. The country was political unstable during this period (1999-2008) According to collected data in the table2, 53% respondent are agree, 19% is highly agree, 15% are not agree and 13% are don't know about the Musharraf period.

Table 3
Martial laws imposition in the country

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	23	22.5	23.0	23.0
Highly agree	16	15.7	16.0	39.0
Not agree	44	43.1	44.0	83.0
Don't know	17	16.7	17.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

Imposing Martial law and suspension of constitution is on the major criticism on Musharraf. The critics think that military takeover is a huge embarrassment for state which destroys state intuitions but the followers of Musharraf believes that public thinks that martial is good for national interest. According to the collected data in the table 3, 23% respondent are agreed, 16% are highly agreed, 44% are not agreed and 17% respondent don't know about the above statement.

Table 4
Life standard of common man

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	22	21.6	22.0	22.0
Highly agree	11	10.8	11.0	33.0
Not agree	40	39.2	40.0	73.0
Don't know	27	26.5	27.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

It is very common observation in the third world countries that basic necessities of life are more important than the moral values and democratic norms. To find out the

accurate answer of question regarding public life standard responded were approached. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement. Do you think life standard of common man improve during the Musharraf government. According to the collected data in the table 4, 22% respondent are agreed, 11% are highly agreed, 40% are not agreed while 27% respondent don't know about the above statement.

Table 5
Country economic situation

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	39	38.2	39.0	39.0
Highly agree	8	7.8	8.0	47.0
Not agree	33	32.4	33.0	80.0
Don't know	20	19.6	20.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

To analyze a regime economic situation of that era is an important contributing factor for judgment economic situation also shows stability because political stability and economic stability are interrelated. According to the collected data in the table 39% respondent are agreed, 8% are highly agreed, 33% are not agreed and 20% don't know about the statement of Do you agree that country economic witnessed adverse effected during the Musharraf rules.

Table 6
Health care system in the country

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	30	29.4	30.0	30.0
Highly agree	20	19.6	20.0	50.0
Not agree	36	35.3	36.0	86.0
Don't know	14	13.7	14.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

The concept of health care and education is connected to the public welfare of public. If a ruler has an approach of public welfare he must have concrete plan of health care system and education. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement —Healthcare system in the country improves during the Musharraf rulel. According to collected data in the table 6, 30% respondent are agreed with the statement, 20% are highly agreed, 36% are not agreed while 14% respondents don't know about the health care system during Musharraf era.

Table 7
Education policies

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	40	39.2	40.0	40.0
Highly agree	22	21.6	22.0	62.0
Not agree	18	17.6	18.0	80.0
Don't know	20	19.6	20.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	

Missing	System	2	2.0
Total		102	100.0

One the key tool of development is education. Education policy of a regime clearly indicate that how this regime want the future of the state. That is way question regarding the educational polices were asked from the respondents. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement Education policies were up to the mark. According to the collected data in the table 7, 40% respondent are agreed, 22% are highly agreed, 18% are not agreed and 20% respondents are don't know about education policies on that time.

Table 8
Activates inside the country

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	25	24.5	25.0	25.0
Highly agree	7	6.9	7.0	32.0
Not agree	41	40.2	41.0	73.0
Don't know	27	26.5	27.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0	
Total		102	100.0	

Business friendly regime is considered to good regime which makes the country progressive and developing. Business community is also one of the main stake holders in the society that is way public were asked about the business environment to closely analyze Musharraf era. The answer of statement "Business activates inside the country flourished". According to the data collected in the table 9, 25% respondents are just agreed with statement, 7 % are highly agreed, 41% are not agreed and 27% are don't know about the given statement.

Table 9
Improvement of International trade

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	17	16.7	17.0	17.0
Highly agree	22	21.6	22.0	39.0
Not agree	21	20.6	21.0	60.0
Don't know	40	39.2	40.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0	
Total		102	100.0	

Intentional trade is a dominant factor in social and political stability as well as for trade balance. Third world countries have always the problem of international trade and trade balance. Intentional trade also shows that intentional community wants to have good relations with a state. Majority of the big powers insist on democracy that is why international trade was a big challenge for Musharraf. The answer of statement International trade improved, According to the data collected in the table 9, 17% respondents are agreed, 22% are highly agreed, and 21% are not agreed while 40% don't know about the given statement.

Table 10
Foreign investment in the country

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	33	32.4	33.0	33.0
Highly agree	13	12.7	13.0	46.0
Not agree	11	10.8	11.0	57.0
Don't know	43	42.2	43.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

In capitalist system foreign investment gives a huge boost and stability to state economy, foreign investment not only creates job opportunities but also ensure technology transfer. The economic team of Musharraf was much more focused on direct foreign investment. Foreign investment also improves the life standard. Data table shows the answer of statement Foreign investment in the country promoted, According to the data collected in the table 10, 33% respondents are agreed, 13% are highly agreed, 11% are not agreed and 43 % are don't know about the statement of foreign investment in the country promoted.

Table 11
Diplomatic ties with neighbor countries

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	26	25.5	26.0	26.0
Highly agree	22	21.6	22.0	48.0
Not agree	27	26.5	27.0	75.0
Don't know	25	24.5	25.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

The above frequency distribution table 11, shows the answer of statement Diplomatic ties with neighbor countries good. According to the collected data in table 11, 26% respondents are agreed with stamen, 22% are highly agreed, 27% are not agreed, and 25% are don't know about the given statements.

Table 12
Law and order situation in the country

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	19	18.6	19.0	19.0
Highly agree	16	15.7	16.0	35.0
Not agree	60	58.8	60.0	95.0
Don't know	5	4.9	5.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

Law and order in specific regime have many dimensions and players. The war on terror and situation in Afghanistan were big challenges for Musharraf regime to find out public opinion regarding law and order the question of law and order were asked form the respondents. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement Law and order situation in the country was good. According to the data collected in the

table 12, 19% respondents are agreed, 16% are highly agreed, 60% not agreed and 5% don't know about law and order situation in the country was good.

Table 13
Joining the war on terror

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	23	22.5	23.0	23.0
Highly agree	17	16.7	17.0	40.0
Not agree	48	47.1	48.0	88.0
Don't know	12	11.8	12.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

After the 9/11 majority of the public were in the favor of Afghan Taliban because anti-American element and sentiments were having strong roots in the society and state were not in the position to go against US. Joining the war or terror proved good for the country. According to the data collected in table 13, 23% respondents are agreed, 17% are highly agreed, 48% are not agreed, 12% don't know the answer of this question.

Table 14
Effects of war on terror

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	47	46.1	47.0	47.0
Highly agree	22	21.6	22.0	69.0
Not agree	17	16.7	17.0	86.0
Don't know	14	13.7	14.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

Becoming the part of war on terror was not that sample it were having strong effects on our society. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement. The war on terror left adverse effect on overall life in the country. According to the collected data in table 14, 47% respondents are agreed, 22% are highly agreed, 17% are not agreed, and 14% don't know about the given statement.

Table 15
Effects of war on Pakhtoon dominancy

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	56	54.9	56.0	56.0
Highly agree	12	11.8	12.0	68.0
Not agree	13	12.7	13.0	81.0
Don't know	19	18.6	19.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

Pakhtoons across the Durand line have close ties with each other and US war against terrorism made the pakhtoon belt destabilize which effected Pakhtoons across the line. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement. The Pakhtoon dominant built adjustment to Afghanistan was specifically affected adversely by the so-

called war. According to data collected from respondents in table 15, 56% are agreed, 12% are highly agreed, 13% are not agreed, 19% are don't know about the given statement.

Table 16
Role of political parties for promotion of democracy

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	38	37.3	38.0	38.0
Highly agree	13	12.7	13.0	51.0
Not agree	27	26.5	27.0	78.0
Don't know	22	21.6	22.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

Democracy is not only a system but also a culture in which the political parties are the main stakeholders, now it is interesting that public and political parties did not showed their full resistance against the Musharraf martial law. The question here arises is that what role the political parties played in the strengthen of democratic culture. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement. The role of political parties for promotion of democracy was satisfactory. According to data collected from respondents 16, 38% are agreed, 13% are highly agreed, 27% not agreed, and 22% respondents are don't know about the given statements.

Table 17
Judiciary for revival and promotion of democratic system

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	35	34.3	35.0	35.0
Highly agree	17	16.7	17.0	52.0
Not agree	20	19.6	20.0	72.0
Don't know	28	27.5	28.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

The judiciary is responsible for the protection of constitution and convocational rights. The role judiciary for revival and promotion of democratic system was encouraging in the initial years of Musharraf rules. According to collected data in table 17, 35% respondents are agreed, 17% are highly agreed, 20% are not agreed, and 28% don't know.

Table 18
Role of judiciary in the final years of the Musharraf regime

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Good	31	30.4	31.0	31.0
Very good	15	14.7	15.0	46.0
Bad	21	20.6	21.0	67.0
Don't know	33	32.4	33.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

The judicial crisis and judicial activism was also one the main problem which was faced by the Musharraf regime without analyzing the role of judiciary it is not possible to elaborate the era of Musharraf. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement. How do you see the role of judiciary in the final years of the Musharraf regime? According to collected data in the table 18, 31% responded that Musharraf regime was good, 15% said very good, 21% said bad, and 33% respondent don't know about the given question.

Table 19
Human rights situation during Musharraf rule

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Good	28	27.5	28.0	28.0
Very good	24	23.5	24.0	52.0
Bad	27	26.5	27.0	79.0
Don't know	21	20.6	21.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

This very interesting to know the study the status of Human Rights in Musharraf era because the constitution of Pakistan is very clear that democracy is not only a system but a fundamental human right. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement. Human rights situation during Musharraf rule was. According to the answer of the given question in table 19, 28% are said that human rights situation during Musharraf rule was good, 24% are said very well, 27% are said badly, 21% are said don't know about the given statements.

Table 20
Media development during Musharraf rule

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	35	34.3	35.0	35.0
Highly agree	23	22.5	23.0	58.0
Not agree	22	21.6	22.0	80.0
Don't know	20	19.6	20.0	100.0
Total	100	98.0	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.0		
Total	102	100.0		

Human rights, democracy, freedom of expression and freedom of press are inter-related. The media revolution and its contras with marital law is part of Musharraf era. The above frequency distribution table shows the answer of statement Media development during Musharraf rule proved the best omen for political development in the country. According to collected data in table 20, 35% respondents are agreed, 23% are highly agreed, 22%not agreed, and 20% don't know about the given statements.

Conclusion

Data were gathered from numerous respondents during this research study through in-depth interviews covering five main study areas: Education, Media, Research, Social Welfare, and Law. The modern world emphasizes Human Rights, with states tasked to safeguard them for societal peace and progress. Historical analysis shows dictators misusing democracy for prolonged illegal rule, such as Ayub Khan introducing

"basic democracies" and Musharraf exploiting local government for rigging elections (Sohail, 2021). Pakistan's judiciary has often supported dictatorships, though Chief Justice Interventions since 2005 led to a power struggle with the executive, culminating in Musharraf's removal of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, sparking the lawyer movement and the 2007 emergency (Khan M. S., 2023). Bilateral relations between Pakistan and the U.S. have historically been positive, with Pakistan supporting U.S. interests during the Soviet-Afghan war, fostering fundamentalism and extremism. Post-9/11, Musharraf shifted policy, aligning with the U.S. against terrorism, impacting Pakhtun regions severely (Nawaz, 2021). Despite criticisms, Musharraf's era saw advancements in press freedom, especially with the growth of electronic media, though media faced challenges under military and civilian rule. Political instability, particularly prevalent in developing and poorer nations, presents serious obstacles to progress (Hameed, 2023). This study focuses on Pakistan's identity and legitimacy crisis within the context of political stability. Maintaining stability is essential for social cohesion, governmental credibility, economic advancement, and upholding the rule of law. The process of nation and state-building relies heavily on political stability; without it, governance becomes a struggle among competing interest groups (Kelemen, 2022). This article aims to explore the causes and consequences of political instability in Pakistan.

The Pakistani military has wielded significant political influence since the country's inception. Husain Haqqani describes a "mosque-military alliance" as a key mechanism shaping policy (PC, 2020). Over time, military rulers have used religious parties and organizations to Islamize the nation in exchange for support of their domestic and international objectives. The killing of the deputy speaker during a political altercation in East Pakistan's provincial parliament led to the nation's first military takeover (Rahim, 2023). The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) provided refuge to left-wing critics of the regime (Gohar, 2022). Zia expressed a desire for a swift return to electoral democracy, but after his death, democratic processes were hindered by military interference. Musharraf manipulated the constitution and judiciary to consolidate power, subjecting them to executive control. He targeted political opponents using state institutions like the judiciary, police, and intelligence agencies. Opposition leaders were imprisoned without charge and then prosecuted for serious offenses. Musharraf used the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and other agencies to coerce loyalty and suppress dissent (Hussain, 2021).

Under Musharraf's rule, political leaders and activists faced mistreatment, torture, and false charges, with restricted party activities and curtailed civil rights. He seized power through a sham referendum in 2001 and manipulated subsequent elections to install puppet governments. Despite a transition to civilian government, military influence persisted, with generals controlling key policy decisions and appointments (Beliakova, 2021). Musharraf retained power over major policy matters, sidelining elected officials and undermining democracy (Bashir, 2022).

In summary, the transition to civilian rule under Musharraf did not substantially improve democratic rights, with military influence remaining pervasive and democratic processes undermined. Three military regimes in Pakistan failed to implement lasting economic strategies, leading to unstable growth. Economic plans were short-term and benefited only a small segment of the population, worsening economic disparity. External debt soared without repayment plans, jeopardizing Pakistan's financial stability.

General Musharraf's rule saw economic stability but increased poverty and sectarianism due to political instability and lack of democracy. Pakistan's support for

terrorists and separatists backfired, leading to forced policy shifts like abandoning Taliban support and hosting US military bases. Musharraf's promises to combat extremism went unfulfilled, contributing to insecurity and political challenges.

The study concludes that Musharraf's regime showed that military rule isn't effective for Pakistan's governance. Political parties endured and adapted during this period, but overall political instability negatively impacted long-term economic prospects. The judiciary crisis further exacerbated political instability during Musharraf's era.

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