

Political Leadership Crisis in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences

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Abstract

The main objective of this study is to highlight the causes and consequences of Pakistan's political leadership crisis. The implications of the 21st century definition of the state is rooted in the dilemma of the structure and institutional system. To throw a Qualitative methodology to explore the fragility of democracy, the crisis of family dysfunction, and the instability among political family systems. The elites either lack leadership at the grassroots level or the struggling elected government is taken over by unelected institutions. The implications of this crisis extend beyond one aspect, resulting in economic stagnation, social unrest, and institutional degradation for various sectors. A key response to the emerging leadership paradox in this era of crisis is to facilitate inclusive, accountable, visionary leaders who will prioritize national interests over private interests. When society is molded by its own idiocy, there can be no solution. Exploring the background of the Pakistani economy, military, and judiciary, this paper contextualizes it with Pakistan's current political framework to establish the importance of reforms and sustainable political stability in the country.

Keywords: Dilemma, Pakistani Politics, Leadership Crisis, Democracy.

Introduction

Leadership is inextricably linked to political stability. It is true that no country can advance without sincere and imaginative leadership. Political stability is critical for real democracy, which is unattainable without a dynamic leadership. The cohesive States has a multiethnic and multicultural society, but it is more cohesive and works for the good of the country. In Pakistan, the situation is reverse. Political leaders failed to bring the splintered community together because they lacked actual leadership (Memon, 2011).

Pakistan's political environment has long been marked by a leadership crisis that affects the governance of the country and has far-reaching consequences. Over decades, dynastic politics, military power in civilian government, and systemic corruption had given way to this crisis, with no effective leadership and no fix in sight. From inception, Pakistan has failed to breed leadership that could grapple with the multidimensional challenges the country faced, and as time passed by, Pakistan's governance model gravitated away from national interest towards individual/family interest.

In the modern world, leadership is a fundamental phenomenon that defines all organizational levels. It also turns into one of the key elements of Pakistani politics. Since its founding, Pakistan has struggled with leadership issues. This study's primary focus is on the role Pakistan's political leadership has had in the country's democratic transition. Either it helps to introduce, shape, stabilize, smooth, and strengthen democratic standards in the nation, or it

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does damage to them. The study focuses on the patterns and themes of developing a leadership function and character in Pakistan's democratic process between the following year and that year.

Literature Review

The rise of non-elected institutions such as the military and civil service was caused by inefficiency as well as internal conflicts and politics leadership rivalries. The Pakistan's political leadership, following the death of its founder, was largely incompetent and inexperienced in managing state affairs, which allowed non-elected institutions to gain leverage in political issues and eventually ascend to the position of supreme authority. Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was inspired to assume the leadership role of Muslim India by his innate strength, aptitude, morality, and captivating personality (Sikhawat & Ullah, 2023). Pakistani leadership has not been able to exercise command-in-chief in this situation. It is damaged in terms of morale and ethics. It has become prevalent in Pakistan. While the being had evolved into an embodiment, the psychological suppression practices in Pakistan are unmatched. The initial notion that Jinnah formulated did not gain traction. The legal mind was satisfied with the deal, not the political one. He believed the case was won because he was a lawyer, but the tale did not end there. Take the year 1971, for instance, when a failure split the country in half (Rehman, 2011).

A lack of political will and the incapacity of the civilian leadership, would eventually result in bloodshed, destruction of property, and loss of life. While attempting to trying to reduce corruption has made the legislative and the executive weaker. The current elected leadership is having both at the federal and provincial levels, which is ultimately calling into question the legitimacy of the administration. It will make an effort to evaluate any potential long-term effects on Pakistani politics of such incidents (Bhattacharjee, 2018).

To investigate the perceptions of effective academic leadership and an effective academic leader among academic professionals. Autocracy and dictatorship are the foundations of Pakistani leadership. And academic establishments are no different. The demonstrates that academics have insight into the issues facing the system, and happily, they have also provided (Yasin et al., 2019).

The poor leadership sustained by a strong elite embroiled in a power struggle was the fragmentation of East Pakistan in 1971. The National Assembly was dissolved in 1985, the first consensus-based constitution from 1973 was annulled, and Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo was removed from office. The civilian leadership attempted to restore democracy following Zia ul Haq's death, but the political elite clashed over control of the government. The nation was still ruled by a dictatorship from 1999 till 2008. Even after there was no longer any direct military engagement, Pakistan's political leadership continued to be hesitant to realize the country's goal of having effective governance (Chattha, 2023).

A policy option may, in some circumstances, be better for the majority of residents but less beneficial for the incumbent leader's political survival. A different option may benefit a larger number of citizens but pose a greater risk to the incumbent's political survival. The incumbent typically chooses the latter course of action in such circumstances. Revolutionary transformation is perceived as varying in degree rather than being fundamentally distinct from other internal obstacles. In every society, being a leader is a sought-after and competitive role, and those in positions of leadership worry about challenges to their authority (Malik, 2010).

Pakistani politics places a lot of focus on institutional imbalances and situational analysis, but it pays very little attention to the country's transition to a multiparty system. The potential effects of these innovative innovations on internal politics in Pakistan. A noteworthy element has been elevating middle-class individuals to leadership roles. The foreign policy landscape, which remains unaffected by political administrations (Wu & Ali, 2020).

Leadership assistance at various levels, such as political and presidential leadership, international leadership, and community leadership, in handling emergencies and creating and Policies must be put into action during emergencies. This is similar to the multi-level and multi-layered nature of governance and collaboration. We need to update and enhance our worldwide response mechanism. The international humanitarian system's leadership is inadequate to handle more than one major catastrophe per year (Kapucu, 2014).

Political instability has plagued Pakistan since gaining independence in 1947. Numerous studies and investigations have consistently brought attention to the serious shortcomings in its political system, especially with regard to the leadership. Pakistan's development of a peaceful and progressive society was greatly impacted by the absence of an efficient constitution and democratic system, as well as by a committed and disciplined leadership that truly worked for the country's advancement. Political instability has always existed in the nation as a result of Islamic radicalism, a high rate of corruption, and an uneven power structure. Pakistan is in danger of becoming a failed state in the globe as a result of its severe leadership crisis. In order to create a stable and peaceful society, the current administration and other political organizations must cooperate to improve the political system and enact useful laws (Yasin et al., 2019).

Pakistan has experienced a number of severe political crises in 2007, which culminated in the death of former prime minister and prominent opposition figure Benazir Bhutto on December 27. Bhutto had returned to Pakistan after suffering from self-Placed into exile in October. Bhutto's death in what appears to have been a gun and bomb attack (the specifics are still up for debate) has been referred to be a national tragedy for Pakistan and severely jeopardizes the nation's already shaky attempts at democratization. Considering these and additional occurrences that represent significant defeats for U.S. strategy over Pakistan. While thousands of political activists who had been jailed in the past have been freed, the majority of the about 100 high court justices who declined to take an oath of office again are still under house arrest

Political Leadership in Pakistan

Leadership

Leadership is defined as "the function of knowing yourself, having a vision that is well communicated, building trust among colleagues, and taking effective action to realize that vision. This definition establishes a lot more emphasis on the individual competence of the leader. Your personal capacity for leadership. There is a connection between social, emotional, and cognitive intelligence and leadership. It has been demonstrated that our opinions of how effective a leader is heavily depending on these emotional intelligence abilities. It has been demonstrated that group dynamics require the ability to handle socioemotional connections. In terms of relationship management, some of us are more adept than others. We can raise our emotional intelligence in this situation as well, according to the research. The process of becoming a modern man or woman is a complicated one, but the dynamics of change are not only shaped by personal goals and aspirations but also by a society's leadership, which is vital in shaping shared values, channeling social energies, and establishing a course of action for the community. Each person's capacity can lead to success for many individuals, even in the most unfavorable situations. However, for a nation to pursue public goods, it needs institutions, laws, leadership, and freedom (Memon, 2011).

Early Period: 1947–1958

The Indian Independence Act of 1947, specifically clause 8, granted Pakistan freedom. At the time, the Government of India Act, 1935, was in existence and monitored India. As the first Governor General of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah assumed office. Creating Pakistan's first parliament and writing the country's constitution were the goals of the Constituent

Assembly of Pakistan. August 1, 1947 was its inaugural meeting, held on August 15, 1947, just before the British Empire ended. From the time of his election till his passing on September 11, 1948, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah served as the first President of Assembly. The constituent assembly had 69 members at first, but after ten more were added, the total number of members was reached. Of these, 44 were from eastern Bengal, 22 from Punjab, 5 from Sindh, 3 from NWFP, and 1 from each of the states of Baluchistan, Bahawalpur, Khairpur, and the tribal areas of NWFP. Unfortunately, because of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's passing, Pakistan's first constitutional parliament was unable to draft a constitution. Subsequently, during a public assembly in Rawalpindi in 1959, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, the country's first prime minister, passed away. After Liaquat Ali Khan Khawaja Nazimuddin was appointed prime minister, he attempted to draft a national constitution. However, Governor General Ghulam Muhammad removed him from office and named Mr. Muhammad Ali Bogra, a Pakistani ambassador to the United States, as prime minister. Mr. Bogra presented a draft constitution on October 17, 1953, and the country was scheduled to announce its new constitution on December 25, 1954. However, on October 24, 1954, Governor General Mr. Ghulam Muhammad called a first constitutional assembly.

The main reasons for not establishing the constitution were the basic divergence on two major issues. That is, the function of Islam in the recently formed state, as well as the connections between provincial and the main government. Reconstituted on May 28, 1955, the Constitutional Assembly served until March 23, 1956, when Pakistan became a Republic and the new constitution proceeded to effect. Under the new constitution, elections could not be called by the government. One cabinet after another was dissolved. The Prime Minister, Mr. Muhammad Ali, tendered his resignation on September 8, 1956. Section 8 of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 gave Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy Pakistan's independence. The Government of India Act, 1935 was in effect at the time and governed India. As Pakistan's first governor general, Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah assumed office. The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan was established to draft the country's first constitution and act as its legislature. It met for the first time before it ended on August 11, 1947.

General Muhammad Ayub Khan 1958 -1969

Three generals General Azam Khan, General K. M. Sheikh, and General Burki were assigned by Muhammad Ayub Khan on October 27 to request the resignation of the President. Thus, on October 27, 1958, President Iskandar Mirza was overthrown and replaced as Pakistan's head of state by Muhammad Ayub Khan, the administrator of martial law. Muhammad Ayub Khan met with Mr. Nur-ul-Amin of East Pakistan and Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan after imposing martial law. Presidents were not Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan's preferred type of government. Nur-ul-Amin said nothing. In 1959, Ayub Khan instituted a new political system known as "Basic Democracy." He nominated 80,000 basic Democrats as the electoral college for the National and Provincial Assemblies as well as the presidency of Pakistan. On February 17, 1960, these assemblies elected Ayub Khan to the presidency. There are five levels of institutions in the Basic Democracies. Union councils made up the lowest but most significant tier; there was one for each group of villages with a population of about 10,000 people. Ten members, known as Basic Democrats, were directly elected to each union council, while the remaining five members were appointed.

The tehsil (subdistrict) councils made up the next layer and were responsible for coordination. Most themselves, the chairmen of union councils were among the nominated official and nonofficial members of the district (zilla) councils, which were presided over by the deputy commissioners. The district councils were tasked with both required and voluntary responsibilities related to education. After electing Ayub Khan as president in 1960, the union council members established an electoral college in accordance with the 1962 constitution to

choose the president, the National Assembly, and the provincial assemblies. He proposed an agenda of reforms, including land reforms, public office disqualification ordinances, electoral body disqualification ordinances, economic and social reforms, etc., to justify his illegal government. Ayub Khan's authority declined. His resignation in March 1969 was forced by agitation movements sparked by subsequent political and economic complaints. General Agha Mohammed Yahya Khan, the army's commander in chief, assumed presidential duties and was designated as the Chief Martial Law Administrator.

East Pakistan's Separation into Bangladesh

In December 1970, General Yahya Khan held the general elections. In order to obtain a majority in all of Pakistan, the Awami League, which supported autonomy for the highly populated East Pakistan, won all of the East Pakistan seats. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the former foreign minister of Ayub Khan, formed and led the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which won most of the seats in West Pakistan. However, the country remained divided, with no major party having any support in any other region. The coalition government formation talks failed. The People's Republic of Bangladesh was proclaimed independent on March 26, 1971, by Bengali nationalists in response to a brutal crackdown by the Pakistan Army. Approximately 10 million Bengalis found defense in India as hostilities between the army and the Bengalis intensified. The Indian military entered East Pakistan in November 1971 to intervene on behalf of the Bangladeshis after Bengali nationalists established a temporary government in a region that borders India on April 17, 1971. Bangladesh was formed on December 16th, following the capitulation of Pakistani forces in Dhaka. Yahya Khan then bid farewell to the country and gave Bhutto, who was elected as the country's first civilian Chief Martial Law Administrator, command of the country's western region.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (1970–1977)

Bhutto adopted a prominent foreign policy, leading the country in Third World and Islamic conferences, and took bold action to rebuild national confidence. Even though Pakistan didn't formally join the Non-Aligned Movement until 1979, the Bhutto administration's stance was generally in line with that of the non-aligned countries. Bhutto nationalized the banking system and large businesses while pursuing a populist agenda at home. He gave up the president to become prime minister in 1973 and enacted a new constitution that was embraced by the majority of political factions. Bhutto kept up his socialist and populist rhetoric, but he depended more and more on Pakistan's rural landlords and urban industrialists. As Bhutto's economic policies changed frequently, the economy became stagnant over time, mostly due to the disruption and uncertainty they caused. The opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) disapproved of Bhutto's declaration of victory in the national elections held in March 1977 and called for fresh polls, branding the results as rigged. PNA and Islamist leaders had discussions with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Bhutto was scheduled to sign the deal, which was ultimately signed in June 1977, on July 5. Even still, several PNA leaders were not quite convinced by the deal, despite the negotiating team's enthusiasm. In response, Bhutto rejected authorities and detained PNA leaders.

General Zia ul-Haq 1977 to 1988

The soldiers became restless as anti-government protests increased. The military overthrew Bhutto on July 5, 1977, detained him, imposed martial law, and suspended some provisions of the 1973 Constitution. General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, the Chief of Army Staff, assumed the role of Chief Martial Law Administrator and pledged to arrange fresh elections in three months. Bhutto became permitted by Zia, who also declared that he may run in the October 1977 elections. Zia then put off the elections and started looking into the top PPP leadership's illegal

activities once it became evident that Bhutto's popularity had endured beyond his tenure. Bhutto was subsequently found guilty of plotting to kill a political rival and given the death penalty. On April 6, 1979, Bhutto was hanged despite international petitions on his behalf. After taking power, Zia announced that elections will be held in November. Zia, however, prohibited political activity in October 1979 and delayed national elections out of fear of a PPP victory. Additionally, he signed the Hudood Ordinance into law, which imposed severe penalties derived from the Quran for breaking Shari'a (Islamic law). The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) was founded in 1980 by the PPP and the majority of center and left parties. The MRD called for Zia's resignation, the lifting of martial law, fresh elections, and the restoration of the pre-Zia Constitution. Early in December 1984, President Zia announced that his "Islamization" program will be the subject of a countrywide referendum on December 19. Following non-party elections for the National and Provincial Assemblies in 1985, Muhammad Khan Junejo was named Prime Minister by President Zia. He subtly connected support for "Islamization" to the need for him to stay president. The MRD led Zia's opponents in their boycott of the polls. Many observers questioned the government's claim that 63% of voters participated in the referendum, with almost 90% voting in favor of it.

Benazir Bhutto's Civilian Governments, 1988–1990

All people on board the aircraft that crashed on August 17, 1988, while returning from a military equipment demonstration near Bahawalpur included President Zia, American Ambassador Arnold Raphel, U.S. Brig. General Herbert Wassom, and 28 Pakistani military officers. As per the Constitution, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Chairman of the Senate, assumed the role of Acting President and declared that the November 1988 elections would take place. Parties participated in the elections. The PPP was on one side and an eight-party alliance was on the other. Out of 207 seats, the PPP secured 94 seats, while the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) secured 54. Muhammad Khan Junejo's home constituency was lost. In order to form the government, the president has to invite the PPP. But Khan waited two weeks to do so, so that the IJI could get backing from other organizations. The president ultimately requested that Benazir Bhutto, the co-chair of the PPP, form a cabinet. Benazir Bhutto's PPP was able to bring together a number of minor parties, including the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), to create a coalition government. Social and economic reform initiatives were severely restricted by conflicting interpretations of constitutional authority, arguments about the federal government's versus the provinces' authority, and the hostile relationship between the Bhutto administration and opposition governments in Punjab and Balochistan. These issues were made worse by ethnic violence, particularly in the province of Sindh. A major breakdown in law and order coincided with the disintegration of the ruling coalition and the military's unwillingness to back an administration that considered corrupt and ineffective. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed the Bhutto administration in August 1990, dissolved the national and provincial assemblies, and called for fresh elections, all while asserting his authority under the Constitution's eighth amendment. In October 1990, new elections were held; IJI prevailed in both the national and provincial legislature elections and had the backing of President Khan and the armed forces. The National Assembly chose Muhammad Nawaz Sharif as prime minister. The PML is the largest party in the IJI.

Nawaz Sharif, from 1990 till 1993

From the mid-1970s until now, Sharif has been Pakistan's most stable and capable prime leader. IJI won numerous significant political triumphs during his leadership. Pakistan's economic performance and business climate significantly improved under Sharif's economic reform program of privatization, deregulation, and encouraging private sector economic growth. For most of Pakistani society, the IJI government was deemed legitimate when a

Shari'a bill allowing for extensive Islamization was passed into government in May 1991. Nawaz Sharif, though, was unable to bring the disparate goals of the IJI's member parties together. Due to its opposition to what it saw as PML control, the largest religious party, Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), left the coalition. The military's repression of the MQM, which had formed an alliance with the IJI to counter PPP influence, and accusations of corruption leveled against Nawaz Sharif further undermined the administration. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan overthrew the Sharif government in April 1993, citing "maladministration, corruption, and nepotism" as well as the encouragement of political violence. But the National Assembly and the Nawaz Sharif administration were restored by the Pakistan Supreme Court the next month. The Chief of Army Staff facilitated an agreement that recognized the resignations of the Prime Minister and the President in July 1993 as a result of ongoing tensions between Sharif and Ghulam Ishaq Khan, which caused a constitutional crisis. Moeen Qureshi became the leader of an interim administration that was tasked with holding October elections for both national and local assemblies. The Qureshi government implemented political, economic, and social reforms that garnered significant support from the home populace and recognition from other countries, despite its brief tenure.

Benazir Bhutto Second Term 1993-1996

After the PPP's victory in October 1993 elections, Benazir Bhutto was urged to form a government with a majority of the members in the National Assembly. But because it failed to secure a majority in the National Assembly, the PPP's hold on power relied on the ongoing backing of multiple independent parties, most notably the PML/J (Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo). The PML/N (Pakistani Muslim League-Nawaz) movement led by Nawaz Sharif posed a formidable opposition, the unstable provincial administrations created severe challenges for Prime Minister Bhutto's government, and the unfavorable conditions surrounding PPP rule made coalition government maintenance essential. In November 1993, Prime Minister Bhutto's power base grew despite these obstacles when her close ally, Farooq Leghari, was elected president. President Leghari removed the Bhutto administration in November 1996, accusing it of mismanagement of the economy, corruption, and involvement in extra judicial executions in Karachi. He also declared fresh elections for the national and local legislatures.

Nawaz Sharif Second Term 1997 to 1999

Nawaz Sharif had encouraged to form a cabinet by President Leghari after the PML/N won resoundingly in the February 1997 elections. The National Assembly overwhelmingly approved Sharif's amendment to the Constitution in March 1997, which took away the President's ability to dissolve the government and placed the President's authority to name province governors and military service chiefs on the "advice" of the Prime Minister. An additional amendment forbade elected officials from voting against party positions or "floor crossing." Along with a long-running battle with the judiciary, the Sharif regime also staged a coup against President Leghari in December 1997, leading to supporters of the ruling party storming the Supreme Court and organizing the Chief Justice's overthrow. Rafiq Tarar, the newly elected President chosen by Parliament, was a close personal friend of the Prime Minister. Opposition politicians and regime critics were singled out in an anti-corruption effort. In a similar vein, the administration ordered the arrest and beating of well-known journalists as well as measures to limit press criticism. When internal opposition to Sharif's government grew, on October 12, 1999, Sharif made an attempt to remove General Pervez Musharraf from his position as Chief of Army Staff and replace him with Lt. Gen. Ziauddin, a family loyalist who directed the Service Intelligence Directorate. The army moved swiftly to overthrow the Nawaz Sharif government, and although though General Musharraf was abroad at the time and on his way back, his plan was denied to arrive at Karachi airport. Instead, General Musharraf

landed at the airport and declared martial law throughout the nation. After serving time in prison, Nawaz Sharif and his family were later sent to Saudi Arabia as part of a ten-year arrangement.

General Pervez Musharraf (1999-2008)

After the military-led government overthrew Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government on October 12, 1999, through a peaceful coup, the regime declared its aim to reform the political and electoral processes. Declaring a state of emergency and promulgating the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) on October 14, 1999, General Pervez Musharraf named himself as the Chief Executive, suspended the federal and provincial Parliaments, and proclaimed the Constitution temporarily suspended. With a civilian Cabinet, a National Reconstruction Bureau to develop structural reforms, and an eight-member National Security Council made up of both military and civilian appointments, Musharraf established Pakistan's highest executive body. Musharraf was given three further years of executive and legislative authority on May 12, 2000, when Pakistan's Supreme Court overwhelmingly affirmed the October 1999 coup. Musharraf proclaimed and took the oath of office as president on June 20, 2001. The National Reconstruction Bureau's recommendation led to the Introduction of a new local government system known as "devolution of power to gross rout level" through the Local Government Ordinance of 2001. This changed the colonial administrative structure by abolishing the positions of assistant commissioner, commissioner, and deputy commissioner and granting powers to elected representatives. Provincial departments were also devolved to the district level. Women, labor farmers, and religious minorities were given representation in local government institutions. On April 30, 2002, a vote was conducted to increase Musharraf's term in office by an additional five years. In November 2002, parliamentary elections marked the transition from military to civilian government, and Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali was named prime minister. In late 2004, General Musharraf gave notice that he will continue to serve in the army, despite his earlier declaration that he would resign and become a civilian president. Shaukat Aziz adopted office as prime minister in August 2004 after winning a parliamentary vote of confidence with 191 out of 342 votes, with the opposition withdrawing.

The 17th Amendment to the Constitution, which General Musharraf supported and which gave the Military Government constitutional cover for all its actions, was supported by the Muslim Magna Carta Alliance, which was formed by all of Pakistan's religious parties during the 2002 election. The alliance ran on the platform of the MMA and went on to become the country's second-largest parliamentary force. It also formed provincial governments in the NWFP and Balochistan. Musharraf was selected to serve as president for a five-year term on October 6, 2007. He proclaimed a state of emergency on November 4, suspending the nation's Constitution and dismissing Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, the chief justice of the Supreme Court. Additionally, Musharraf gave up his army position in November 2007. Following her assassination in Rawalpindi, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's election was postponed for a few months, and Asif Ali Zardari assumed the role of co-chairman of the Pakistan People's Party. (Khalid, 2012).

Pakistan People Party Regime in 2008 -2013

In February 2008, there were general elections. Asif Ali Zardari led the Pakistan People's Party to become the country's largest legislative party, and it forged a coalition government with the MQM, JUI, and other minor parties. After joining the PPP administration and rising to the position of second largest party in parliament, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz faction left the government to form the opposition in Punjab Province a few months later. After the elections, the PPP and other former opposition parties formed a coalition government, and on March 24, 2008, Yousuf Raza Gilani was chosen as prime minister and head of state. On

August 18, 2008, Musharraf tendered his resignation as president while the Parliament got ready to begin the impeachment process. By the end of 2008, five of the 13 Supreme Court justices that Musharraf had fired in November 2007 had been reinstated by the new administration with new oaths of office. Five judges stayed off the bench, while three judges either retired or resigned. Restrictions on media enacted during the 2007 state of emergency and limitations on unions imposed by Musharraf have been replaced by the newly elected government. On September 6, 2008, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari was selected as the nation's president after General Musharraf's resignation.

The multiparty government headed by the PPP advanced long-awaited constitutional revisions. Specifically, the 18th Amendment to the Pakistani Constitution was signed into law by Zardari on April 19, 2010. In order to realign executive authorities, the amendment essentially undoes the constitutional modifications that previous President Musharraf enacted in order to enhance the president, restoring the prime minister as the top civilian authority and reverting the presidency to its more ceremonial function as head of state. Along with eliminating the two-term restriction on prime ministers, the reform package also reorganizes center-province relations and limits the president's authority over judicial nominations. Enabling the chief ministers to be chosen by provincial assemblies. The name Non-West Frontier Province was likewise changed by the alteration to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Concurrent lists were removed from the Topics were given to the provinces under the new constitution

Asif Ali Zardari's leadership of the Pakistan Peoples' Party from 2008 to 2013 provided a model for future Pakistani leadership because he had complete control over his parliamentary group both before and after the 18th amendment was inserted. It had become, in a sense, a quasi-presidential system of governance, but unlike the US system, Zardari was not only involved in the drafting of laws but also served as the head of the majority party, giving him complete control over the entire process from formulating policies to putting them into effect. It was an example of history repeating itself because, in the first PPP government (1971–1977), Z.A. Bhutto also disregarded federal and parliamentary principles by allowing Mumtaz Bhutto and Ghulam Mustafa Khan to wield real authority as chief ministers and provincial governors. He also disregarded federal principles by making decisions regarding provincial affairs, especially those concerning Punjab and Sindh. During his time at the President House, Mr. Zardari adopted his cards very carefully. The Pakistan Peoples' Party could have collapsed like a house of cards following the abrupt death of Miss Benazir Bhutto in December 2007, but Mr. Zardari's reconciliation tactics paid off, and the party successfully finished its tenure in office (Shafiq et al., 2020).

Political History of Pakistan 2013 to 2018

On June 7, 2013, Nawaz took office as prime minister for a historical third term. From liberal conservatism to social centralism, Nawaz led Pakistan during his third term. He approved of the Punjab government's stance prohibiting Tablighi Jamaat from giving sermons in school settings and signed a bill setting up a hotline for women to report maltreatment at home. In February 2016, he additionally proclaimed public holidays for the Christian holidays of Easter and Diwali and Holi, as well as Mumtaz Qadri, the Hindu festivals. For the religious minorities in the nation, this was a significant step. Between 2013 and 2018, the private sector failed to generate sustainable activity with the more than RS. 14,000 billion borrowed from foreign donors. The Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) of the government has been the primary driver of economic activity in Pakistan, but it has failed to create a pro-business environment in a nation where a small number of multinational corporations have a monopoly. The energy and infrastructure industries accounted for the majority of the new projects launched under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistan signed on to UN

efforts like the Sustainable Development Goals, however the country's socioeconomic status did not improve.

The PML-N government's greatest achievement was made possible by Pakistan's attempt at moderation. The effective action against Taliban armed groupings resulted in a discernible improvement in the nation's state of law and order. Implementing energy and infrastructure projects, mostly as part of CPEC, was another success. As a result, the country's persistent energy shortage situation was somewhat improved by these initiatives. Early in 2018, the economy began to slow down, and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) gained support from people after accusations of corruption against the PML-N leadership. In the 2018 general elections, the people chose to remove the former and elect the latter (Mamoon, 2018).

Political History of Pakistan 2018-2022

In Pakistan, a new political party identified as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) took over both the national and local levels of government in 2018. Pakistan's political system has historically been dominated by two major parties, the Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League (N). In fact, PTI's election to power was a novel Overview into Pakistan's complex political landscape. It looked like a new wave to some and like a traditional political party to others. Imran Khan is determined to combat corruption, end poverty, and advance public welfare and prosperity initiatives throughout his stormy political career. Prior to the 2018 general elections, Prime Minister Khan and the PTI party emphasized these public welfare concepts. PTI's five-year tenure is half completed, thus it's time to assess the organization's performance in government. To address this, an effort is being made to investigate the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Government Policies for Socioeconomic Uplift of Pakistanis. Previous empirical study on PTI government policies has mostly focused on public perception and satisfaction, and this has not been thoroughly researched. The public's perception and satisfaction with PTI government policies are also examined. Through the administration of a questionnaire, public impression and satisfaction are guaranteed.

BISP has provided financial aid to the underprivileged since the PPP government. Similar to the PTI government, it continued unhindered by the PML(N) government. According to the prime minister, the government has expanded the Benazir Income Support Program to help four million families. This new program is called the "Ehsaas Program". The government would provide cash aid to lessen their poverty. The prime minister declared that the state would soon become a model of public welfare in Pakistan and that the government is devoting all of its attention to community welfare initiatives during the opening ceremony of the Shelter House for the" reserving and Homeless of Pakistan at the Lahore Railway Station. The government has been in power for three years, although it has not succeeded in any of its objectives. Bureaucracy and regional autonomy are viewed by the federal government as barriers to the advancement of PTI rule. The government says the main reason it is having trouble coming up with pro-poor measures is that family income resource data is not fully available. The government ought to allocate funds for project management and Increase the number of initiatives that aim to meet fundamental humanitarian requirements. The function of bureaucracy needs to be examined if the present PTI government is to be transparent and effective. It is also essential to look into how social assistance programs at the federal and provincial levels might be combined in order to support national integration (Hussain & Asghar, 2021).

Political History of Pakistan 2022-2024

After the fallout of a vote of no confidence, Imran Khan was removed from office as prime minister in April 2022. After gaining the most seats in the 2018 election as part of a coalition, his PTI party took office for the first time. Considering a significant decline in living conditions

due to growing inflation and other economic issues, Mr. Khan lost the support of his coalition partners. He was also said to have had disagreements with the military establishment, which still has a significant political influence in the nation. The PTI's ascent to power in 2018 is partially attributed to military assistance. Imran Khan continued to enjoy widespread popularity and a significant, committed support despite Pakistan's economic woes and his dismissal from power. During the months following his removal, he organized large-scale gatherings and advocated for early elections, which were not scheduled until October 2023. They were declined to be presented by the PDM administration. Imran Khan sustained a right leg injury and another person was killed when a shooter opened fire on his vehicle on November 3, 2022. Imran Khan charged military authorities and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of orchestrating an attempt on his life the day following the shooting. Both firmly denied having any part. Imran Khan declared that he would win provincial elections in January 2023, therefore he dissolved the two provincial assemblies that his party controlled in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. IN addition to being charged of corruption, Imran Khan is the subject of investigations in an increasing number of other court proceedings. July 2023 claimed that there were more than 150 of these. According to the former prime minister, all of these were a part of a political effort to keep him and his party from taking office in the future. Imran Khan was detained on May 9, 2023, while appearing in court on allegations of corruption. This arrest had nothing to do with the other case. His fans staged widespread rallies across the nation in response to his detention, some of which turned violent and resulted in multiple fatalities as a result of altercations with the police. Unprecedented rioters broke into military buildings, and a senior army general's Lahore home was damaged. After the rallies turned violent, hundreds of PTI supporters were taken into custody, and some were sent to face charges in military tribunals. The ECP announced In September that the final week of January 2024 would see elections. Concerns were expressed that no precise date had been announced and that the polls would be postponed once more. Some pointed to the history of Punjabi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial elections, which were never held in in addition to the President and Supreme Court's urging. Because of the former requirement, the PTI would not be able to win reserved seats in the National Assembly, which consists of 336 directly elected parliamentary members plus 60 seats set aside for women and ten for non-Muslims. The percentage of votes each party received in the several Provinces determines which seats are awarded. Imran Khan was found criminal in two legal hearings over the final two days of January. He first received a 10-year prison sentence for disclosing official secrets, and he and his spouse Bushra Bibi were then given a 14-year sentence for selling state gifts without authorization. In addition, Mr. Khan was barred from running for political office for ten years. Held barely over a week before the elections, Mr. Khan claimed his lawyers were unable to cross-examine witnesses and that the proceedings were being rushed (Ali & Sha, 2021).

Causes of Pakistan's Leadership Crisis

Disintegration

Every nation's leadership has a responsibility to change its citizens. Like any other human civilization, we are a composite nation made up of many different ethnic hues united by overlapping ties to history, culture, and political destiny. Nothing about our national character is lacking, and there is nothing that the human race cannot do. As some colonizers and racist people did, it is utterly ridiculous to create a caste system among nations and give each one unique traits and personalities. I believe that social environments and living circumstances of a given moment shape the behavior of individuals as well as populations as a whole. Those who were confined to the lowest levels of caste or the social ladder would have stayed in their preconceived positions if we accept racial and ethnic stereotyping. We can all see how the tools of contemporary science, education, and business have dispelled all the previous

misunderstandings about various ethnic and social groupings. The extensive records of the modern era, together with the struggles and victories of modern nations, provide us with an excellent environment in which to search for the components essential to societal transformation, advancement, financial prosperity, and peace.

Wrong Selection

A few years ago, someone who taught at a management institute in Karachi asked his young Executive MBA students in a leadership lecture who, after Quaid-e-Azam, they thought was the best Pakistani leader. It is noteworthy that a significant proportion of students identified Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto (ZAB) as their preferred national leader. Nonetheless, there were alternative names as well as Benazir Bhutto, which some female students chose. The instructor requested an explanation from the pupils who had selected ZAB as their preference. It was surprising to learn that the kids' primary reasons for choosing him were his impassioned speeches and captivating demeanor. Since they were young, the kids were unaware of ZAB's historical context. The majority of them had never read any of ZAB's novels and hardly knew what he had stood for throughout his lifetime. They could only recall a handful of the most memorable video clips from ZAB's lectures. On television occasionally. Interestingly, they were unaware that beneath the same roof was a hall where ZAB launched his first political campaign and a surviving rostrum where ZAB had inscribed his fist during an address. They were unaware of ZAB's detrimental actions made while he was in office or had never examined his style of leadership.

Lack of political advancement in leadership

I find it impossible to ignore a poor state of our leadership when I consider our political failures and insufficient successes in the social, cultural, and economic spheres. People generally believe that we have never had political leadership that embodies the values of many of our great founding fathers, including Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. They were forward-thinking individuals who deeply cared about our Communities and held contemporary views on human relations, governance, education, and the law.

Lost Leadership Heroes

A modern Muslim nation-state that regarded modernity as a human gift that should be pursued by all ethnic and religious groupings was the goal of modernist Muslims, who saw Pakistan as their ideal. Unfortunately, we have lost sight of that and have turned away from the causes and ideals they fought for. For what reason, then, have we not been able to develop leadership with the same level of dedication and drive to serve the public with moral obligation and integrity? The prevailing top class's social structure and the military's frequent political interventions may hold the key to our understanding.

Role of the Military

In Pakistan's history, no civilian administration has ever managed to serve out its entire term. Will the first be the Zardari government? The growth of the relationship between the military and the civilian population can be divided into three categories: growing military dominance, maintaining the status quo, or democratic consolidation. A coup is unlikely; instead, the military will probably keep things as they are and find other means of exerting influence. The current army commander would probably rather stay in the background given the lack of public support for a military takeover at this time. Nonetheless, it seems improbable that Pakistan would witness the formation of long-lasting democratic institutions outside the family fiefdoms that support the two major parties, the Zardari-Bhutto PPP and the PMLN. Pakistan's constitution is likely to remain a hybrid of democracy and despotism, as described by Aristotle.

Considering that neither of the two major political parties has produced a new leadership in more than 20 years, it is possible that in the future a charismatic populist will emerge from a new urban-based party with the backing of the working poor who are migrating to the cities and skillfully use the mostly unregulated media to craft a message that is anti-American, nationalistic, and blames the outside world. The absence of a similarly compelling leader since Zulfikar Bhutto's ascent almost forty years ago points to an intriguing contradiction in Pakistani politics: despite Pakistan's extraordinary resistance to the totalitarian drive, the country has not been able to achieve true democracy. But there's always going to be a first. Military leaders who overthrown the government and governed the nation as a whole for roughly thirty years, or half the time that our nation-state was being formed, portrayed themselves as superior leaders and claimed to be messiahs who understood Ways to direct, govern, and progress Pakistan. Not institution building, which involves methods for attracting and integrating new leaders and developing them into capable leaders all aspects crucial to efficient governance was their main focus. Instead, stability was their top priority. Political dissent has been suppressed, political mobilization has been somewhat controlled, and military leaders, who are tenuously positioned and lacking in legitimacy, have a tendency to dominate power. Pakistan has experienced numerous military regimes that have been characterized by a lack of peaceful, orderly, and institutionalized handover of power, which has resulted in a political dilemma for the nation. These regimes did not prepare for a change in power or develop alternative political leadership. When comparing civilian administrations with military regulations, they really don't fare very well. Any higher on any good governance index. The entire political community is still left wondering if they could have governed with greater integrity and cleanliness.

Feudal System

The dynastic leaders from governing castes, tribes, religious groups, and other social classes exist on the opposite end of the political spectrum. Their claim to political positions is based more on ancestors' associations than on their own accomplishments. As if they are holy characters with a divine right to reign due to family heritage, we have witnessed the same families and their offspring dominate leadership roles throughout the previous sixty years. Any society would be retrogressive and backward in its social orientation if its leaders were primarily focused on maintaining and defending the status quo. Our large tribal and rural periphery's class of leadership has purposefully hampered societal progress, but it has gone unchallenged. It requires only sixty years to establish that our goals and the common dream have not been completed by the military's convenient union with the feudal classes. Our middle classes would provide the alternative, modernist leadership.

Global Influence in Pakistan

It is demonstrated that America governs Pakistan to the same measure that it does Iraq and Afghanistan. The US can operate more covertly because of their control over Pakistan's political institutions; as a result, American troops are not typically visible on Pakistani streets. They are under intense threat in Afghanistan and Iraq and have lost a great deal of people. Pakistan is able to maintain its troops at the front to Battle against their own people when American directives are being given. Is there a better arrangement they could ask for? The level of foreign interference in internal matters in Pakistan has once again been made clear by Benazir's death. A military-feudal coalition that is beholden to the West and more focused on their own interests than the well-being of Pakistan's long-suffering people will continue to control the country whether or not the elections are held.

Political Unrest in 2007

Pakistan resulted in significant political unrest in 2007 as President Musharraf's flimsy governance framework buckled. Because the army has shown itself incapable of preserving security and stability in major cities as well as in the western provinces of Baluchistan and the North West Frontier, criticism of the military, which is generally one of the most respected institutions in the nation, and its role in governance has become much more widespread among ordinary Pakistanis. A large portion of the Pakistani populace seems to be growing more and more displeased with an electoral process that seems to be arbitrary and maintains the dominance of a corrupt elite that shows little real concern for the issues facing common people. Furthermore, there has been a concomitant and pervasive shock among Pakistanis. Furthermore, Pakistanis have expressed broad dismay at what they see as open U.S. involvement in their political system, involved that, in their opinion, only serves to maintain corruption.

Constitutional Crisis

A serious threat was President Musharraf's brief suspension of Chief Justice Chaudhary over allegations of nepotism and corruption. To Musharraf's control. Since the accusations against him proved unfounded, Chaudhary has returned to the bench, and the Court has continued to rule against the government under his leadership, issuing decisions that allow former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan, among other things. In addition, he issued an order suspending Inspector General Syed Marwat Ali Shah and two other high ranking police officers due to the manner in which the police handled protests by journalists and attorneys against Supreme Court and Election Commission decisions that permitted Musharraf to run for president without resigning from his army post. In addition to making life extremely difficult for Musharraf and the government, these verdicts have increased tensions inside Pakistan. The Chaudhary legal dilemma brought together disparate groups who were previously divided and heightened the discussion of constitutionalism, democracy, and the military's position in Pakistan. Opposed to one another historically (attorneys, Pakistan Peoples' secular Party, and Islamists)⁴² opposing Musharraf's alleged autocratic tendencies. To put it plainly, the country has been split between supporters of Musharraf and the Court for more than a year, with the division occurring particularly after Chaudhary's return to the court. President Musharraf's swift departure of the nation's Chief Justice, Iftikhar Chaudhry, in March 2007 on allegations of nepotism marked the beginning of a legal crisis. And misbehaviour. Regarding Chaudhry's rulings, which demonstrated independence and defied government expectations, analysts generally conclude that Musharraf attempted to eliminate a potential obstacle to his prolonged responsibilities as president and army head. Pakistani lawyers were instantly incensed by the move, and opposition groups' street demonstrations surged in number as a result. The imbroglio developed into a serious political issue by giving anti-Musharraf sentiments a platform to come together. The Chief Justice, who was removed from office, shot to political fame overnight. When Chaudhry traveled from Islamabad to Lahore in May to address the High Court there, tens of thousands of fans lined the streets. Activists of the regionally aligned Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) party reportedly prevented Chaudhry from departing the airport when he later took a flight to Karachi. Following that, on May 12, at least 40 people mostly PPP members were killed in street fights between MQM militants and opposition demonstrators. Many observers accused the government of being complicit in the bloody rioting because of reports that local police and security officials watched helplessly as the MQM attacked anti-Musharraf protestors. When Chaudhry was majority cleared of all charges and returned to office by the Supreme Court in July, it was largely perceived as a significant political setback for Musharraf. When Musharraf apparently got very close to establishing a state in August. Of pressure, Secretary of State reportedly made a successful attempt to talk

him down by calling Islamabad late at night. More evidence emerged in August that the Supreme Court would not submit to military control and may thwart President Musharraf's political ambitions. The court's decision to allow former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan after seven years of exile was particularly noteworthy (Shafiq & Shah, 2020).

Consequences of Leadership Crisis in Pakistan

Due to the leadership crisis in Pakistan, several effects have immensely impacted political stability, economic performance, and social cohesion in the country. In this section, we explore the main consequences of this crisis and the ways in which they are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

Political Instability

situation, it is a political instability which is an immediate result of the leadership crisis in Pakistan. The coalition government which keeps changing has also come up with no political mandate resulting in uncertainty and unpredictability. For example, Imran Khan's ouster as prime minister in 2022 led to similar protests and chaos from Khan's supporters. Both major political parties are too absorbed in their power struggles to do anything to unify the nation or resolve important issues facing the country. Consequently, the governance process becomes erratic due to the political crisis. More often than not, crucial reforms are stalled or abandoned entirely

Economic Decline

The crisis in leadership has also led to a sharp slump in the economy. As political groups have spent more time battling for power than the country's governance, it has been unable to formulate the economic policies it so desperately needs. An alarming economic scenario has developed, characterized by record-high inflation, increasing national debt, and decreasing foreign deposits. Most citizens, especially those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, have found it increasingly difficult to afford basic necessities such as food and fuel¹. Poverty and unemployment levels have increased due to a history of weak leadership that never allows for long-term planning or investment in essential sectors such as education or infrastructure to improve the economy. As a result, Pakistan's economy is still on shaky ground, struggling to navigate the compounded crisis of bad governance and political instability (George, 2023).

Social Discontent and Polarization

The leadership crisis has contributed to growing social discontent and polarization. The nation has become increasingly agitated as economic difficulties deepened and the capacity of the ruling establishment to govern was increasingly challenged. Dissatisfaction with the country's political and governance structure has manifested in large demonstrations and uprisings. Importantly, even young people are dissatisfied with the establishment, sensing that them and any possible management opportunities. Indeed, many individuals view dynastic administrations as nothing more than an affront to democratic governance since they squander personal power. The political class is solidifying its position and engaging in increasingly tough rhetoric, making discussions pointless. Dissatisfaction with the country's political structure and ruler polarization is a major concern that Pakistan will need to address to prevent long-term social disintegration. It links the protesters' cries with the country's lack of unity and the possibility of mobilizing against the perceived injustice because it concentrates on specific divisions of leadership (Raja, 2022).

Conclusion

Political leaders' legitimacy is weakened by extensive corruption which also reduces public confidence in the government. A lack of responsibility and responsiveness to the needs of the general population is a result of ineffective government. Power conflicts among various factions and parties lead to political instability and infighting. Ineffective economic management increases social inequality and fosters public dissatisfaction. The political environment may become even more unstable due to regional disputes and outside intervention. Political instability undermines foreign investment and impacts on economic growth. Social cohesiveness may be threatened by demonstrations and civil unrest associated with dissatisfaction with the leadership. Extremist organizations may take advantage of political unrest to target weak points and compromise security. Insufficient finance and governance reduce economic progress and enhance poverty. The unresolved political climate in Pakistan may make foreign partners not interested to engage with it.

Recommendations

- To maintain transparency and accountability, support democratic institutions and the rule of law.
- In order to prevent corrupt behavior, contributed strong anti-corruption measures in place and enforce the law.
- Establish communication and collaboration among political parties, as well as across ethnic and geographic barriers, in order to establish agreement on matters of national importance.
- Reduce social unrest by putting measures to use that will increase economic growth, generate jobs, and reduce poverty.
- Promote regional cooperation and stability by having positive interactions with international partners and neighboring nations.
- Encourage civic engagement and hold the government responsible by supporting media freedom and civil society organizations.
- The population's well-being and long-term development should be emphasized by engaging in people's development.

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