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Abstract

The period from 2013 to 2018 in Pakistan was marked by significant political developments and reforms that shaped the nation's trajectory. Methodologically, this research study was qualitative and purely based on secondary data which was collected from the Dawn newspapers of the above mentioned era. Resultantly, it has been found that the beginning with the landmark 2013 general elections, which saw Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) emerge victorious, the era witnessed a dynamic interplay of electoral contests, constitutional amendments, and geopolitical shifts. The Panama Papers scandal and subsequent Supreme Court verdict disqualifying Nawaz Sharif in 2017 underscored efforts towards accountability and transparency. The introduction of the National Action Plan (NAP) following the 2014 Peshawar school massacre aimed at combating terrorism reflected broader challenges in security and governance. Constitutional reforms such as the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments, along with the merger of FATA with KP, sought to enhance provincial autonomy and address regional disparities. Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rose to prominence, culminating in its electoral success in 2018 and subsequent formation of government, signaling a shift in political dynamics. Amidst economic challenges and civil-military complexities, these developments highlight Pakistan's ongoing journey towards political stability, democratic consolidation, and socio-economic progress.

Introduction:

Initially, the Greek philosophers and intellectuals viewed that political growth is absolutely necessary component of the society. Nowadays, almost the studies focus on the comprehensive understanding about the political change and development with the passage of time. Similarly, the economists and sociologists first used the phrase "political development" in an effort to better understand how societies change and adapt changes in response to changing needs, aims, and ambitions. A society must be able to adapt in order to function well and meet the ever-changing requirements of its members (Naseemullah & Adnan 2023). Later, Political scientists used the idea of political development to investigate the complexity of various political institutions and systems. In order to ensure that individuals have a voice in decision-making and are involved in determining the course of their society, democracy is a fundamental tenet of political progress. Democracy encourages openness, responsibility, and inclusion, allowing people to openly voice their ambitions and concerns (Muhammad & Irfan 2019). Political progress also requires the vitality of

societal change. Societies are dynamic organisms that constantly change in response to both internal and external factor. Political progress recognizes the necessity of adaptation and flexibility in government to take into account societal developments. A strong political system should be able to react to new possibilities and challenges and deal with problems as they occur. Various facets of social, economic, and political life are included in the multidimensional elements of societal change. Political development is to guarantee that advancements take place in all spheres of society. It acknowledges the interconnection of many industries and the significance of encouraging harmonious growth for the benefit of everyone. Political development is also not constrained to a particular paradigm or strategy. Depending on the historical, cultural, and geographic settings of a society, it may take multiple forms in that society. The fundamental idea of ensuring that government meets the needs and ambitions of the people it serves has remained constant. In conclusion, political growth is crucial in changing civilizations because it helps people adapt, advance, and accomplish new goals. Its focus on democracy, societal transformation, and all-encompassing development highlights the significance of efficient government and sensitivity to public demands. A dynamic and inclusive society that thrives in the face of change may be produced through a well-functioning political system that supports political development (Khan & Danish 2020). Since 2006, Pakistan has also witnessed significant political development which led to the democratization, strengthening of institutions and dismantling of terrorism in Pakistan. One of the most significant developments occurred in the political history of Pakistan when the two leaders at exile, late Benazir Bhutto (Chairman of Pakistan People Party) and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif (Chairman of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz, met at London and signed a famous history deal in 2006 known as charter of democracy. The historic agreement between Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif in 2006 in the form of Charter of democracy has led to the restoration of the parliamentary democracy .It was because of the charter of democracy that led to the passage of eighteenth amendment by Pakistan People Party with the help of friendly opposition adopted by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz. Under the plate form of COD both the parties agreed to respect popular mandate and to not approach the military establishment for their political settlements. They agreed to solve their problems politically through political settlement rather than to engage in staging unconstitutional means. They agreed to end the military rule jointly, to abrogate Legal Framework Ordinance (LFO) 2002, to revisit National Finance Commission (NFC) and to diminish concurrent list (later on witnessed in the 18th amendment). The success of the COD has been witnessed when Pakistan People Party successfully completed its five-year tenure for the first time in the political history of Pakistan that a government has completed its tenure and peaceful transfer the government to Pakistan Muslim League as a result of 2013 elections after winning a popular mandate. Now, Pakistan has witnessed three successful democratically elected governments which is a major Political development.

Statements of Problem:

The constitutional and political history of Pakistan is marked by significant legislative milestones. Pakistan's first constitution, adopted in 1956, lasted only two years. President Ayub Khan then introduced the second constitution, which granted him extensive powers, but it too was short-lived, remaining in effect for seven years until Yahya Khan implemented the Legal Framework Ordinance. In 1973, Pakistan adopted its first representative constitution, which was unanimously

accepted by all parliamentary parties. Over the years, this constitution has undergone several amendments, with the eighteenth amendment being particularly notable and impactful. Between 2013 and 2018, Pakistan experienced major political developments that shaped its democratic landscape. Despite progress toward democratic consolidation, the country continues to grapple with challenges such as political instability, governance issues, electoral irregularities, and the influence of non-state actors. Therefore, this study will critically analyze and understand the effects of political developments during this period on Pakistan's democracy, Pakistan's democratic governance, electoral procedures, and general political stability.

Research Methodology:

This research is qualitative in nature. The sources used in this study are of secondary nature as best suited the nature of the topic. Help of different books written by prominent writers has been taken for the proper elaboration of the research. In addition to books, newspapers, articles, journals and different websites are also used as secondary sources to augment this research. Data collection, documentary analysis review and analyze official documents, policy papers, electoral reports, and media coverage relevant to political developments during the study period.

Significance of Study:

This study will enhance our study regarding the political developments took place in Pakistan from 2013 to 2018. This study will help us to understand the reasons behind the many political developments like charter of democracy which was signed in 2006 in London between late Benazir Bhutto Shaheed and Mian Nawaz Sharif and National Action Plan which has rooted out the terrorism from Pakistan to a higher extent. This study will enhance our understanding regarding the multidimensional role the 25th amendment. Studying political development in Pakistan between 2013 and 2018 provides valuable insights into the country's democratic evolution, political stability, and institutional growth, offering lessons for future political and economic development.

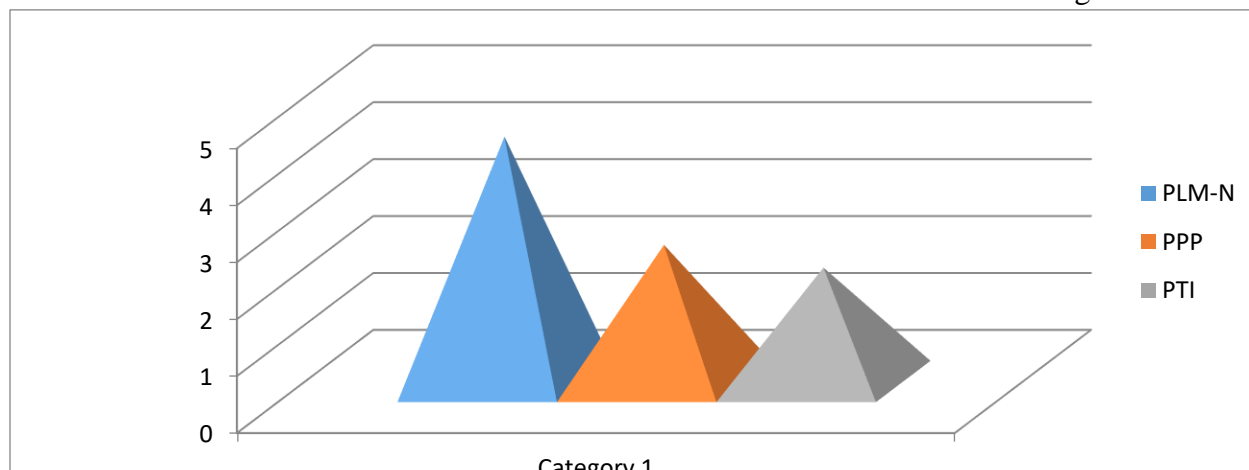
Theoretical Framework:

Since the time of ancient Greeks, the concept of political development has been viewed as an integral part of the society. Political development has its focus and consideration mainly on three things: importance of democracy, vitality of the change and the impacts of that change in society. Political development is perceived as a mechanism through which new objectives, goals and demands are fulfilled in a very flexible manner. The central elements of development process include symbol's flexibility, of institutions, of establishing and ensuring and meeting goals and demands. System secularization, cultural growth, structural – functional attributes, capability and adaptability, participation and mobilization are considered as the basic indicators of the political development (Ayub & Karim,2020). Political development has been applied to the study of various political systems by political scientists. Lucian Pye has been viewed as the first political scientist who explained the concept of political development in a very detail. He has given his famous eleven aspects of the political development. Out of those eleven aspects four has been applied in this study on the political development in Pakistan. Lucian Pye viewed political development as legal and administrative development in one of his aspects. It actually means that political development in a society will take place with the introduction of new laws and regulations

to meet the needed changes, to establish new public offices, institutions, to bring reforms in the existent system of a society to facilitate people (Aaqil & Amna 2023). In another aspect of political development, Lucian Pye viewed political development as mass mobilization and participation. It means that political development in a society take place when people living there became active citizens of the state by participating in different political, economic and social activities. Further, development in a society takes place when people are mobilizing enough and they have the know-how of their rights and obligations and they have the courage and morale to raise voice against the injustices. Lucian Pye in another aspect of political development viewed political development as stability and orderly change. A change in a society takes place when there is functional specialization and all the institutions perform those functions effectively which are assigned to them. Further, political development in a society comes with an orderly change based on proper deliberation and mutual consensus. Lucian Pye further viewed in another aspect of political development that political development as the building of democracy. He viewed that political development will take place in a society which are democratic in nature, There is equality, equity, rule of law, transparency and popular sovereignty (Smith, J. (2023).

General Election 2013

Though the May 2013 elections marked a significant watershed, bringing in a successful civilian transition, civil-military relations in Pakistan remained fraught during the last year and are likely to remain troubled in the foreseeable future. The State in Pakistan, as a modern institution suffered a long-term downward spiral, moving from a reasonably modernist leadership (Jinnah) to an arch-traditionalist one (under Zia). In a parallel transition, instead of separating religion and politics, and promised religious tolerance, Pakistan has moved towards Sunni majoritarian nationalism and concomitant persistent sectarian strife (Shafqat, Saeed 2019). In a sense, the 2013 electoral verdict was pleasing for conservative forces in the Pakistani Establishment, both within the Military and the civilian bureaucracy as left of center or centrist parties like the PPP, ANP and MQM(A) could neither canvass forcefully, nor did well except in Sindh. The Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) won 118 of its 129 National Assembly seats from Punjab alone, accentuating ethnic, the turn out reasult of the 2013 election show in figure 1.1



General elections were held in Pakistan on Saturday 11 May 2013 to elect the members of the 14th National Assembly and the four Provincial Assemblies. The three major parties were the Pakistan

Muslim League (N) (PML-N) led by Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by President Asif Ali Zardari and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led by Imran Khan. Prior to the elections, the ruling PPP formed an alliance with the Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and Awami National Party, while the main opposition party, the PML-N allied with the Pakistan Muslim League (F) and Baloch parties. The PTI led by cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, also emerged as a key-player. All 342 seats in the National Assembly 172 seats needed for a majority Turnout 55.02% (ECP, 2013).

	First Party	Second Party	Third Party
Leader	Nawaz Sharif	Asif Ali Zardari	Imran Khan
Party	PML(N)	PPP	PTI
Last election	89 seats	118 seats	Boycotted
Seats won	166	42	35
Popular vote	14,874,104	6,911,218	7,679,954
Percentage	32.77%	15.23%	16.92%

Figure No.2

Allegations of rigging:

The 2014 Tsunami, also known as the Azadi movement, was a protest march in Pakistan from August 14 to December 17, 2014. The march was organized by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party to oppose Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, alleging systematic election rigging by the Pakistan Muslim League (N) in the 2013 general election. This led to a reelection in which PTI won one of the three disputed seats. Key events include PTI leader Imran Khan announcing the plans for the August march from Lahore to Islamabad during a PTI rally in Bahawalpur on June 27, 2014. The protest march lasted for 126 days, concluding on December 17, 2014, a day after the 2014 Peshawar school massacre, when Khan called off the protest (Saeed, M 2020).

NACTA's, National Action Plan and formation of military courts

After the attack on Army Public School, Peshawar, in December 2014, all political parties agreed to work together to find a national approach to dismantle terrorism. NACTA (National Counter Terrorism Authority) and the Ministry of Interior collaborated to produce a 20-point National Action Plan (NAP) for combating terrorism and extremism, which was adopted on December 24, 2014. Pakistan's National Action Plan lays out a detailed strategy for combating terrorism. Nawaz Sharif called an all-party meeting a week before the attack, at which the leaders of all major parties agreed on a 20-point strategy. One of the most significant outcomes of the conference was a unified agreement by all political parties present to eradicate terrorism and extremism from the country. At the second all-party conference convened a week later on January 2nd, 2015, military commanders were invited to give their input on the establishment of military-led courts for the prosecution of terrorists. The Prime Minister said on television, "A line has been drawn. The terrorists are on one side, and the entire nation is on the other." Additionally, the Prime Minister went into great depth about the National Action Plan's twenty odd points. The NAP was soon pursued by the government. The parliament enacted a constitutional amendment to protect the

military-led courts, one of the NAP's 20 objectives. Several bodies have been established to monitor the implementation of the NAP. A core committee, chaired by the prime minister and consisting of nine cabinet members, as well as fifteen subcommittees, offer policy guidelines for the various parts of the NAP (Wahab, 2021). Each province has an "apex committee," which serves as the primary organizational structure. There are a number of people that serve on this committee, including senior military and intelligence officers as well as provincial bureaucrats, who are tasked with a variety of duties, including referring cases from the interior ministry to military courts for adjudication. As outlined in its 20-point plan, most of NAP's recommendations are aimed at enforcing already enacted laws and constitutional prohibitions, such as preventing banned organizations from operating or reorganizing under new names; preventing terrorist financing and communication networks; prohibiting private militias; combating religious extremism and the dissemination of extremist literature. Additionally, NAP asks for controlling the madrasa sector, rehabilitating internally displaced people (IDPs), reforming administrative and development policies in FATA, and empowering the Baluchistan government to lead in "political reconciliation" with "full ownership" by all stakeholders (NACTA, 2014). Those convicted of terrorism should be sentenced to death, according to the National Anti Terrorism Policy of (NAP). The administration lifted the moratorium on the death sentence for all condemned convicts to emphasize the message. Since then, 65 death row inmates have been put to death. Only 22 of the convicted terrorists were executed, although the remainder (43) were sentenced to death for other offences. Terrorist groups aren't even included among the 22 executed terrorists. Given that hate literature, terrorist propaganda, and the glorification of terrorists all contribute to radicalization, the NAP has pledged to take tangible actions to counter these forms of propaganda. Despite this, there has been virtually little success in monitoring hate speech distributed via different platforms of media. To combat terrorism, the National Action Plan (NAP) proposes to develop a counter-terror force that will be deployed around the country. FATA's long-term stability hinges on sweeping changes to the region's outdated legal system and governance structure, as many players acknowledged. Tribal people must be reconciled with the rest of Pakistan's population and given the same rights as Pakistanis in other regions of the country." Reduction in violence, the establishment of state writ in tribal areas and incorporation into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province were all concrete results of the National Action Plan's first phase (Wahab, 2021).

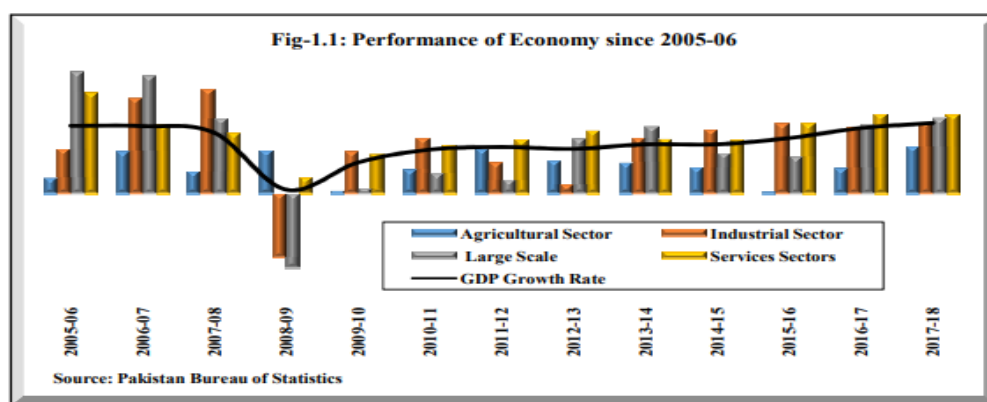
The TTP and other militant groups in Pakistan were decimated by military operations like as Zarb-e-Azb (2014) and Radd-ul-Fasaad (2017). In order to carry out the National Action Plan, Operation Radd-ul-Fasad was launched. Instead of relying just on a military offensive, a multipronged strategy was implemented, including the establishment of military courts, nationwide intelligence-based operations, combatting urban terrorism, and a focus on reducing terrorist finance.. Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad adopted a 'whole-of-nation approach' to countering violent extremism, which emphasized that 'every Pakistani is a soldier' and that every citizen had a role to play (Saffee, 2015). The implementation and establishment of national action plan was a legal and administrative necessity to counter and dismantle the roots of terrorism. Lucian Pye viewed that political development take place when there is legal and administrative development. In the context of Pakistan both the legal and administrative development have been witnessed from the establishment of military courts to punish the terrorists with a speedy trial and the establishment of national action plan to dismantle the terrorism and extremism from the grass root level. Pakistan

has got success in establishing peace in the country to a higher level. Through the national action plan terrorism has been uprooted from the country to a satisfactory level which has led to peace and stability, a sign of political development

Economic developments

Pakistan's economy has been growing steadily since FY 2014. The GDP growth has reached the lowest percentage of 0.36 percent in fiscal year 2009. Afterward, it remained volatile, with an average of 2.82 percent during fiscal years 2008 and 2013. Since fiscal year 2014, Pakistan's economy has experiencing an amazing turnaround in GDP Growth exceeding 4% in a tough environment. Despite the hurdles, the government remains committed to achieving Higher, inclusive, and sustainable growth adopted significant structural adjustments in all financial sectors. Consequently, the growing impetus began to take up, and the economy started growth on an extensive basis across many fields. At first 3 years of the government, actual GDP growth remained 5% (FY Report, 2018). The government aims to increase productivity across all areas of the economy through various measures. In agriculture, attempts were made to improve the supply of quality seeds, particularly hybrid and high yielding types, as well as timely provision of fertiliser and pesticides. In the fiscal year 2018, financing to the agriculture sector increased by 197.6 percent to Rs 1,001 billion (budget projection), up from Rs 336.3 billion in FY 2013. Farmers also received Rs 341 billion in relief under the Prime Minister's Kissan package. All these measures helped in achieving 13 years high growth of 3.8 percent in agricultural sector during 2017-18 (Finance division GoP, 2018). The government had also shown commitment to industrial sector including manufacturing by providing undisrupted energy supply, higher infrastructure spending, ample liquidity in the banking sector and investment friendly low interest rates. Efforts were made to develop vibrant and competitive markets in order to accelerate and sustain economic growth through productivity, competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurship. These were some of factors that fuelled for accelerating growth of large scale manufacturing (LSM) in particular and industry in general. During FY 2018, Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) recorded an impressive growth of 6.13 percent which is the highest in eleven years. On the back of it, overall industrial sector growth improved by 5.8 percent which is highest in ten years. Over the last four decades, the composition of Pakistan's GDP has undergone considerable change as the share of services sector in GDP has increased. The government remained committed in providing business friendly environment in order to attract foreign investment in the country, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a milestone in this regard. In 2017-18, services sector maintained the growth momentum by recording a growth of 6.43 percent. (Fig-1).

Pakistan Economic Survey 2017-18



After the 2013 general elections in Pakistan, a significant development was the initiation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Announced in 2015, CPEC is a major infrastructure and economic development project aimed at enhancing connectivity and cooperation between China and Pakistan. The project encompasses a range of initiatives, including the construction of highways, railways, and energy projects, with an investment of approximately \$62 billion. CPEC is considered a game-changer for Pakistan's economy, promising to create jobs, boost trade, and improve the country's infrastructure (Khan, 2017). During the FY years 2013 to 18, the economy continued to benefit from growth oriented initiatives, including higher development spending, low inflation, vigilant monetary policy, and CPEC related investment providing impetus for economic recovery. On the external side, export growth is improving and the extension of the GSP plus status for next two years by the EU is a positive development. Exports growth during nine months of current year maintained positive trend. Similarly worker's remittances not only stabilized but also recorded a positive growth. Likewise, FDI continued to show encouraging growth. Global developments had positive spillover effects on the economy. The outgoing year witnessed a global recovery and the future outlook remains optimistic. However, in this era, economies have become more interrelated, thus failure of one presents greater risks to all. Therefore, the adverse effect can be mitigated only through timely comprehensive adjustable policies. To keep the economy on growth trajectory, supportive policies including better governance, rule of law, higher productivity through investment in human capital, reducing cost of doing business and accelerating domestic savings are required to mitigate against adverse effects of external and domestic vulnerabilities, which may rise due to unfavorable international environment (Ministry of Finance [Survey 1](#)).

Merger of FATA and 25th amendment

Following a string of quick legislative moves, President Mamnoon Hussain signed and sealed the 25th Constitutional Amendment on May 31, 2018, putting an end to the British colonial legacy called the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The Amendment ally put the region on the way to mainstream integration through the merger with the north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. The merger of seven (ex-FATA) agencies and six frontier regions generated new political, territorial and demographic dynamics and required new administrative structures to take care of the additional population from the ex-FATA regions. It necessitated several administrative, and constitutional measures such as:

1. Replacement of the draconian Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR), a special set of laws enforced in the early 20 century, with the law of the land.
2. Adjustments in the number of seats in the federal and provincial assemblies; 66 seats for KP in the National Assembly, 96 seats in the Senate – the upper house – while the KP Assembly members of parliament rose from 124 to 145 after the addition of 21 seats. These included 16 general seats and four reserved. Creation of new district administrative structures for a population of about 17,743,645. KP's population has swollen to 20,919,976 spread over 101,741 square-kilometers.

One of the most significant constitutional reforms during this period was the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. FATA had long been governed under a separate legal and administrative framework, which was seen as

inadequate for addressing the region's developmental needs and integrating its residents into mainstream Pakistani society. The merger, completed through the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the Constitution in 2018, aimed to extend the full range of constitutional rights and governance structures enjoyed by other Pakistanis to the erstwhile FATA region (Dawn, 2018).

Amendments in the constitutions

On January 7, 2015, the twenty-first amendment had been adopted. This amendment created military courts with a quick trial process for terrorist offences, atrocities committed against Pakistan, and acts that endanger Pakistan's security. These courts operated for two years, ending on January 7, 2017. On June 8, 2016, the Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act 2016 was passed. The criteria for being eligible for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) were changed by this constitutional amendment. Following this amendment, retired senior administrators and technocrats were also eligible to be appointed as Chief Election Commissioners or Commission members, in addition to former Supreme Court or High Court judges. One representative from each province must be chosen in order to provide representation for all of the provinces. A member must be at least 65 years old to be appointed Chief Election Commissioner, and the maximum age is 68. The Twenty-third amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan was passed in 2017 by the Parliament of Pakistan by a two-thirds majority. It was introduced to extend the time period of military courts. The working time period of military courts was two years, which ended in 2017, and after that, a bill was introduced in parliament to extend the working time period of military courts by two years. This amendment was passed by the Parliament on January 7, 2017, and it got presidential assent from President Mamnoon Hussain in March 2017. This act extended the working time period of military courts until January 6, 2019, and after that time period, the amendment had to expire and be removed from the constitution automatically. This is all because the trials of terrorists were not properly taking place in the other courts, and the terrorists were getting benefits from the loopholes in the court system and were not properly punished. This act extended the time period of those courts and made the terrorist trials efficient. Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2017 was passed Based on the census conducted in 2017, allowed an adjustment in the number of seats in the Parliament. With Sindh having the same number of seats, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa adding seats, and Punjab loss seats, the total number of seats in the National Assembly stayed the same. On January 16, 2018, it was approved.

Disqualification of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

The Panama Papers, leaked in 2016, exposed how politicians and wealthy individuals worldwide used offshore companies to conceal assets and evade taxes. Nawaz Sharif and his family were implicated for allegedly using offshore accounts and companies to acquire properties and assets in the Middle East and the United Kingdom, which were not disclosed in their financial declarations to Pakistani authorities. In a landmark decision on July 28, 2017, Pakistan's Supreme Court disqualified Nawaz Sharif from holding public office. The court ruled that Sharif had been dishonest by not disclosing earnings from a Dubai-based company in his nomination papers for the 2013 general elections. The verdict recommended corruption cases against Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz, his son-in-law Capt. Muhammad Safdar, and his sons Hassan and Hussain, along

with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. This decision, termed a "political earthquake," marked a significant moment in Pakistan's history of holding its leaders accountable for financial misconduct and non-disclosure of assets (Salman, 2017).

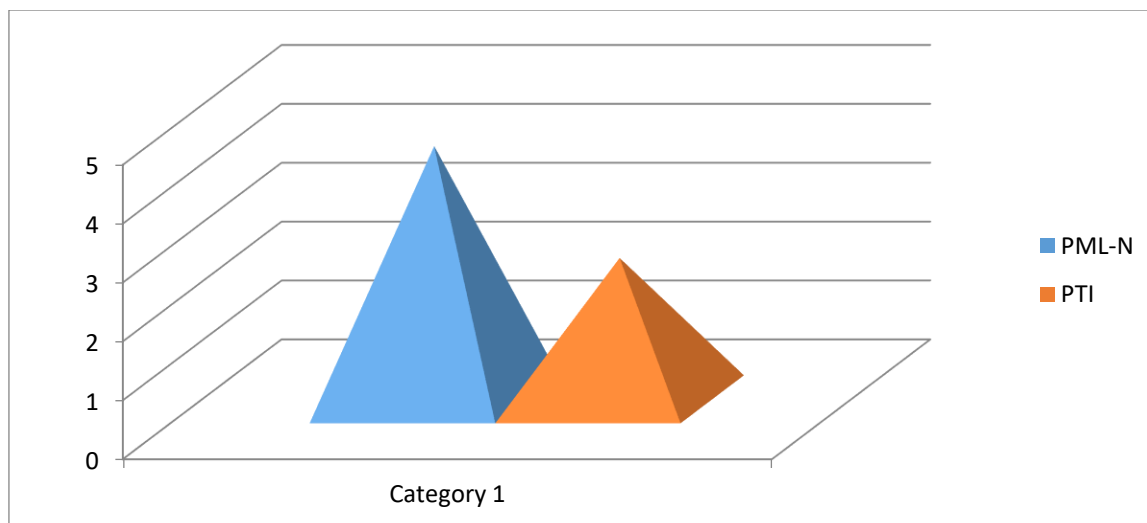
Political and Economic Ramifications:

The disqualification of Nawaz Sharif had profound political implications in Pakistan, where dynastic politics has long dominated. His party loyalists sought to maintain control by electing his brother, Shahbaz Sharif, as the new leader. However, the ruling also raised questions about the future of other political leaders, including opposition figures like Imran Khan, whose own financial disclosures were under scrutiny by the courts. The verdict highlighted the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional integrity and the rule of law, despite potential implications for political stability and governance. Pakistan continues to face significant economic challenges despite decades of IMF-supported reforms. Issues such as food, water, and energy shortages severely impact business operations and agricultural yields. Corruption remains a major obstacle, affecting both domestic and foreign investments and diminishing public confidence and international aid. The United States has aimed to support a stable, democratic, and prosperous Pakistan since 2001, crucial in stabilizing neighboring Afghanistan. Pakistan's role in the Belt and Road Initiative with China further complicates international responses to its economic crisis. In 2018, Pakistan witnessed its second-ever democratic transfer of power, with Imran Khan becoming Prime Minister. His government inherited economic challenges, including a currency crisis and budget shortfalls exacerbated by loans for infrastructure projects. Discussions with the IMF for a new lending program highlight ongoing economic uncertainties (Chandio, Khalid Hussain. (2018).

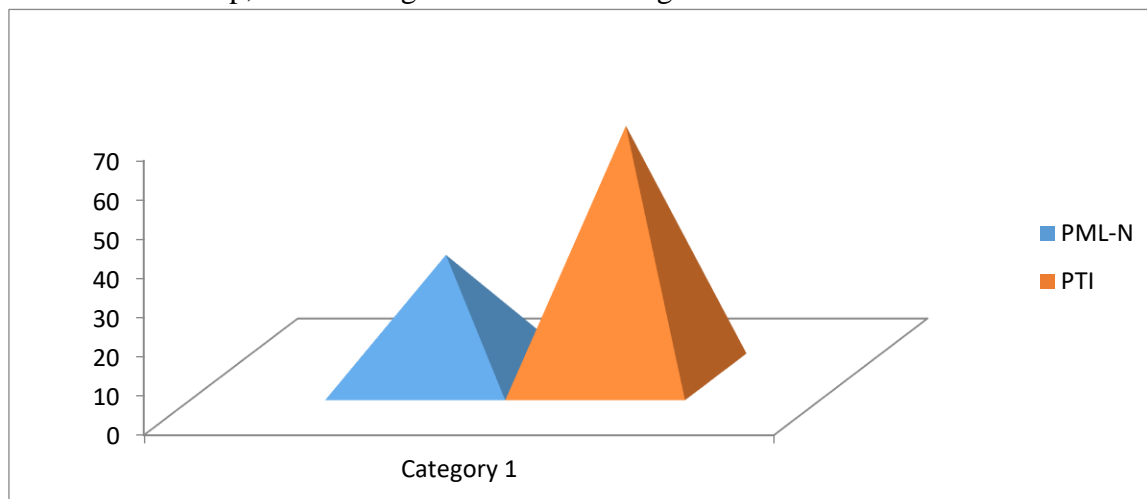
General Elections 2018

The 2018 general elections in Pakistan were highly anticipated and closely contested. The two major contenders were the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), led by Nawaz Sharif's brother Shehbaz Sharif after Nawaz Sharif's disqualification, and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), led by Imran Khan. PML-N had been the ruling party at the federal level before the elections and had a significant presence in the Punjab province, which is crucial due to its large population and electoral weight. The competition between PTI and PML-N was intense, reflecting broader political dynamics in Pakistan. PML-N, under Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, campaigned on its record of infrastructure development and economic growth during its tenure. On the other hand, PTI, led by Imran Khan, focused on anti-corruption rhetoric, promises of institutional reform, and social welfare programs. The election campaign was marked by rallies, speeches, and media campaigns aimed at mobilizing voters across the country.

During the 2018 elections, PTI garnered significant support from certain sections of the media, which played a crucial role in shaping public opinion and electoral outcomes. Media coverage often highlighted PTI's promises of change and reform, while also scrutinizing the performance and controversies surrounding the PML-N government. PTI's message resonated with segments of the population disillusioned with traditional political parties, portraying PTI as a fresh alternative.



In the 2018 elections, PTI emerged as the largest party in the National Assembly of Pakistan. PTI won a total of 116 seats out of the 272 directly elected seats. While this fell short of an outright majority, PTI was able to secure the support of independent candidates and smaller parties to form a coalition government. This marked a significant shift in Pakistani politics, as PTI, under Imran Khan's leadership, took charge of the federal government for the first time in its history.



Findings

- In May 2013, Pakistan held its general elections, marking the first-ever democratic transition from one civilian government completing its full term to another. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), led by Nawaz Sharif, emerged victorious.
- The 2013 elections highlighted fragmentation among political parties, with PTI emerging as a significant player challenging traditional parties like PML-N and PPP. This fragmentation underscores the diversity of political ideologies and regional dynamics in Pakistan.
- The 2014 Azadi movement and subsequent electoral reforms reflected widespread allegations of electoral rigging. This highlights challenges in ensuring electoral transparency and public trust in the electoral process.

- In April 2016, the Panama Papers leaks revealed offshore wealth owned by Nawaz Sharif's family. This led to widespread protests and legal challenges alleging corruption and dishonesty. The Panama Papers revelations and subsequent Supreme Court actions against political leaders underscored efforts to enhance accountability and transparency in governance.
- In July 2017, the Supreme Court of Pakistan disqualified Nawaz Sharif from holding public office over corruption charges stemming from the Panama Papers. He was removed from office, and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi became the interim Prime Minister.
- Significant constitutional amendments, such as the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments, aimed at enhancing provincial autonomy, electoral transparency, and governance reforms. The merger of FATA with KP also marked a significant constitutional change.
- Despite democratic transitions, civil-military relations in Pakistan remain complex and influential. The military's role in national security and governance continues to shape political dynamics.
- Following the 2014 Peshawar school massacre, the NAP was launched to combat terrorism. It showcased a multi-dimensional approach involving military operations, legal reforms (like military courts), and socio-economic measures to counter extremism.
- Pakistan's foreign policy evolved, notably with initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), aimed at enhancing economic ties and regional connectivity, impacting both domestic development and international relations.
- Pakistan faces persistent economic challenges, including inflation, energy shortages, and corruption, influencing governance priorities and public discontent.
- Imran Khan's government faced challenges related to economic stability, inflation, and governance issues. Efforts were made towards reforms in various sectors, including anticorruption measures and social welfare programs.

Recommendation

- Focus on strengthening the judiciary, election commission, and other democratic institutions to ensure they operate independently and effectively.
- Encourage political parties to prioritize national interests over partisan interests, fostering stability and continuity in governance.
- Implement robust mechanisms for accountability and transparency in governance to combat corruption and enhance public trust.
- Accelerate the devolution of power to local governments to empower communities and improve service delivery at the grassroots level.
- Undertake comprehensive electoral reforms to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections, addressing issues such as voter registration, electoral violence, and irregularities.
- Prioritize policies that promote inclusive economic growth, poverty alleviation, education, and healthcare improvements to uplift the standard of living for all citizens.
- Strengthen the rule of law by ensuring equal protection under the law, judicial independence, and swift dispensation of justice.

- Safeguard freedom of expression, media independence, and civil liberties to uphold democratic values and pluralism.
- Foster constructive relationships with neighboring countries and global partners based on mutual respect, cooperation, and diplomacy.
- Encourage political dialogue and consensus building among diverse stakeholders to address national challenges and promote inclusive decision-making processes.

These recommendations aim to promote political stability, democratic consolidation, and socioeconomic development in Pakistan during the specified period. Each suggestion underscores the importance of fostering an environment conducive to progress and prosperity for all citizens.

Conclusion:

Between 2013 and 2018, Pakistan underwent significant political developments that shaped its democratic landscape. The period began with the historic 2013 General Elections, marking the first democratic transition between civilian governments in the country's history. Nawaz Sharif's victory and subsequent tenure as Prime Minister focused on economic initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, his term was cut short by the Panama Papers scandal, leading to his disqualification in 2017 and highlighting ongoing challenges of corruption and governance accountability. Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged as a major political force during this period, capitalizing on anti-corruption rhetoric and promises of reform. PTI's electoral success in 2018 marked another democratic transition, with Khan assuming the role of Prime Minister. These political shifts underscored public discontent with traditional political elites and a growing demand for transparency in governance. Meanwhile, Pakistan continued to confront security challenges, including terrorism, prompting the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to enhance security measures and counter extremist threats. Economic growth remained sluggish amidst energy shortages and fiscal deficits, impacting development efforts despite infrastructure projects under CPEC. Overall, the years from 2013 to 2018 were pivotal in Pakistan's democratic journey, marked by electoral milestones, governance reforms, security imperatives, and economic challenges that continue to influence its political landscape. Further new strategies and administrative measures were adopted in the form of National Action Plan by National counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), a political development while applying one of the aspects of Lucian Pye of legal and administrative development, which led to dismantling terrorism and restoration of peace in Pakistan. Reforms in former FATA through the twenty fifth amendment by merging it with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a major political development which will have positive impacts on social, economic and political development in tribal areas and the stability and peace in Pakistan. Pakistan has a complex constitutional history characterized by multiple amendments and periods of military rule. Since its inception, Pakistan has seen three constitutions and several military interventions, leading to instability in its democratic governance. The Constitution of 1973, the current framework, has undergone significant alterations, particularly during the military regimes of Zia ul Haq and Pervez Musharraf, which shifted the balance of power away from parliamentary structures. Despite attempts at restoration, such as the Charter of Democracy in 2006 between PPP and PML-N, challenges remain in fully reinstating the original parliamentary intent. The 18th Amendment in 2010 marked a notable effort to restore the

parliamentary system and devolve power to the provinces, addressing some concerns but leaving others unresolved, including military influence and electoral transparency.

In conclusion, Pakistan's political landscape from 2013 to 2018 witnessed significant shifts and challenges, reflecting the country's ongoing democratic evolution and socio-economic dynamics. The period began with the landmark 2013 elections, which marked a successful civilian transition but also underscored deep-seated issues like civil-military relations and ethnic divisions, particularly highlighted by the dominance of Punjab-based parties. Imran Khan's PTI emerged as a formidable force, challenging traditional political elites with promises of reform and anti-corruption initiatives, culminating in its victory in the 2018 elections. Economic challenges, including energy shortages and fiscal deficits, persisted amidst infrastructure developments like CPEC. Additionally, Pakistan faced substantial security threats, prompting the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to combat terrorism and extremism, demonstrating the state's efforts to maintain stability and security. Overall, this period was pivotal in shaping Pakistan's democratic journey amid complex political, economic, and security dynamics. Finally, The 2013 general elections in Pakistan marked a significant milestone with the first peaceful transfer of power from one civilian government to another, led by Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Despite this democratic achievement, the elections were marred by allegations of rigging, prompting protests and the 2014 Azadi movement. Subsequent revelations from the Panama Papers in 2016 implicated Nawaz Sharif in corruption, leading to his disqualification by the Supreme Court in 2017. Constitutional reforms during this period, including the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments, aimed at enhancing provincial autonomy and electoral transparency, while the merger of FATA with KP in 2018 marked a significant institutional change. Economic challenges persisted, influencing governance priorities under Imran Khan's government, which focused on stability, anti-corruption measures, and social welfare. Moving forward, Pakistan's path entails strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring electoral integrity, fostering political stability, and advancing socio-economic development to sustain progress and enhance public trust in governance.

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