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Introduction to Essay Writing

The Genesis of the Essay

The word essay carries within it a fascinating etymological secret that reveals much about its true nature. Derived from the French infinitive *essayer*, which means to attempt or to try, the essay is fundamentally an intellectual adventure, a deliberate and disciplined effort to engage with an idea, to probe its depths, to wrestle with its complexities, and ultimately to arrive at a considered position that reflects genuine thought rather than mere regurgitation of borrowed opinions. When Michel de Montaigne, the sixteenth-century French philosopher, first used the term to describe his writings, he was capturing something essential about the form: an essay is not a definitive pronouncement but an exploration, a journey of the mind that invites the reader to accompany the writer as they navigate the terrain of a particular subject. Yet in the specific and demanding context of competitive examinations, the essay has evolved into something far more structured and rigorous than Montaigne's personal musings. It has become a high-stakes exercise in intellectual performance, a carefully calibrated demonstration of a candidate's capacity to think critically, to organize complex information coherently, to marshal evidence persuasively, and to express ideas with precision and elegance. The examination essay is not a casual exploration but a formal argument, not a personal reflection but a public demonstration of competence. This transformation from personal exploration to formal demonstration is not accidental, for the essay in the competitive examination context serves a specific purpose: it provides examiners with written evidence of a candidate's ability to engage with substantial topics, to weigh competing arguments, to organize thoughts logically, to express those thoughts in correct and sophisticated language, and finally to reach conclusions that are both defensible and insightful. In essence, the essay is the candidate's opportunity to show that they possess the intellectual equipment necessary for advanced study or professional service, the capacity for sustained thought, the discipline of structured argument, and the skill of clear communication.

The Anatomy of an Essay

Every well-constructed essay, regardless of its specific topic or type, is composed of four major components that work together to create a coherent and persuasive whole. These components are not merely arbitrary divisions but reflect the natural progression of thought that any careful exploration of a topic should follow. The first of these components is the outline, which serves as the architectural blueprint for everything that follows, the skeleton upon which the flesh of argument and evidence will be hung. An outline that is comprehensive, logically organized, and meticulously presented immediately signals to the examiner that the candidate possesses clarity of thought and the ability to plan and structure complex material. Think of it this way: before you build a house, you need a plan, for without a plan, even the finest materials will fail to produce a coherent structure. Similarly, without a well-constructed outline, even the most brilliant ideas will remain scattered and unconvincing. The outline is the first impression you make on the examiner, and as we all know, first impressions are often lasting ones. The second component is the introduction, which serves as the gateway through which the reader enters your essay and establishes the significance of the topic, defines its scope, and points toward the direction the essay will take. The introduction serves a dual function: on one level, it must capture the reader's attention and interest, a task that requires subtlety and skill, while on another level, it must provide the necessary context and background that will allow the reader to understand and appreciate the argument that follows. It must move smoothly from the general to the specific, from the broad context to the precise focus, from the universal to the particular. The third and most



structured analysis. The third type is the argumentative essay, which is perhaps the most challenging and the most rewarding of the essay types, for it requires you to prove that your opinion, stance, theory, or hypothesis about a topic is more correct or truthful than that of others, and this type of essay requires you to defend a position using evidence drawn from various disciplines, literature, political science, theology, history, psychology, and sociology. The argumentative essay is similar to the persuasive essay in some respects, but there is a crucial distinction, for in a persuasive essay, you are directly trying to convince someone to adopt your point of view, while in an argumentative essay, you are arguing for your opinion as superior to others, but you do so by engaging with opposing viewpoints fairly and demonstrating why your position is more compelling. The argumentative essay should be based on a clear statement of pros and cons, and you must support one side with solid evidence and examples, but you must also acknowledge and address the other side, and this engagement with opposing views is what gives the argumentative essay its distinctive character, for it is a dialogue with alternative perspectives, not a one-sided polemic. One important characteristic of argumentative essays is that they involve a degree of subjectivity, and examiners may have their own views on the topic, and this can make the grading of such essays somewhat unpredictable, for a well-argued essay that resonates with the examiner can receive the highest marks, but a poorly argued one can receive the lowest. The fourth type is the narrative essay, which is a description of past events or experiences in which the writer shares personal experiences, and such essays provide human interest, spark curiosity, and draw readers close to the storyteller, allowing the writer to articulate personal experiences in ways that inform and entertain others. However, it is important to note that narrative essays rarely appear in competitive examinations, as these examinations require objective analysis and academic argumentation, not personal storytelling, and candidates should therefore focus their preparation on the other three types.

The Descriptive-Argumentative Divide

In practice, the essay types discussed above can be reduced to two fundamental categories, which differ significantly in their structure, language, and purpose, and understanding this distinction is crucial for effective preparation. The descriptive essay describes concepts, ideas, events, or social issues in the form of primary and secondary statements, presenting a comprehensive analysis of a topic, breaking it down into its constituent parts and examining each in detail, and the structure is straightforward, moving from introduction to primary headings to secondary headings, if they are included, and finally to conclusion. The language is neutral and objective, and the tone is explanatory rather than confrontational, for the descriptive essay is essentially an exercise in explanation and analysis, and its purpose is to help the reader understand a complex topic by breaking it down into manageable parts and examining each part systematically, and the writer acts as a guide, leading the reader through the terrain of the topic and pointing out the significant features along the way. The argumentative essay, on the other hand, requires you to take a stance, a clear yes or no position on a controversial topic, and you must then defend this stance through reasoned argument, engaging with opposing viewpoints and demonstrating why your position is superior. The structure is more complex, moving from introduction to your stance with supporting evidence, to the opponent's stance, to refutation of the opponent's stance, and finally to conclusion, and the language is more forceful and persuasive, and the tone is critical and engaged, for the argumentative essay is essentially an exercise in persuasion, and its purpose is not merely to inform but to convince, to bring the reader around to your point of view through the force of your reasoning, and the writer acts as an advocate, building a case that will withstand critical scrutiny. The key differences between these two types can be observed in several



chronological order, spatial order, emphatic order, problem-solution order, from specific to general, or from general to specific, and the choice of organization should be driven by the nature of the topic and the purpose of the essay. The fourth essential quality is the concluding sentence, which signals that the paragraph is coming to an end and should be a summary of the previous discussion and must not introduce any new argument, and the reader should be able to identify the key points in the text by reading the concluding sentence. Concluding sentences have three crucial roles: summarizing the points you have made, which helps the reader remember what the paragraph has covered and reinforces the central idea; repeating words or phrases from the topic sentence, which reinforces the central idea and creates a sense of unity, bringing the paragraph full circle; and using linking words that indicate conclusions, such as in short, therefore, and thus, which signal that you are drawing conclusions from the previous discussion.

Introduction versus Conclusion (The Art of Beginning and Ending)

While both the introduction and conclusion serve as summaries, they differ significantly in style and content, and understanding these differences is essential for crafting effective introductions and conclusions that serve their respective purposes. The first difference lies in direction, for the introduction moves from the general to the specific, beginning with broad statements that establish context and gradually narrowing the focus until it arrives at the specific thesis statement that will guide the essay, and this movement from general to specific is natural, for it mirrors the way we approach any new subject, starting with the big picture and then focusing on the details. The conclusion moves in the opposite direction, from the specific to the general, beginning with the thesis statement, restated in different words, and gradually broadening the focus until it ends with a general statement that places the discussion in a broader context, and this movement from specific to general is also natural, for it allows the reader to see how the specific arguments of the essay contribute to a larger understanding. The second difference lies in tense, for the introduction is primarily written in the present simple tense, with occasional use of the future simple tense when indicating what the essay will discuss, and the present tense is appropriate because the introduction is dealing with general truths and established facts, while the future tense is appropriate when announcing the plan of the essay. The conclusion, by contrast, is primarily written in the present perfect and past simple tenses, with occasional use of modal verbs, and the present perfect tense is appropriate because the conclusion is reflecting on what has been established, and the past simple tense is appropriate when referring to specific points that have been made. The third difference lies in content focus, for the introduction focuses primarily on the primary or essential part of the essay, introducing the main arguments that will be developed in the body and providing only a minimal preview of any secondary content, while the conclusion, by contrast, often focuses more on secondary content, particularly solutions or implications, which may not have been directly asked for by the examiner. This difference reflects the different purposes of the introduction and conclusion, for the introduction is designed to orient the reader and establish the direction of the essay, so it focuses on the core content that will be developed, while the conclusion is designed to synthesize the discussion and suggest broader implications, so it can include content that goes beyond what was explicitly asked. The fourth difference lies in proportion, and a useful rule of thumb is that sixty percent of the content from each heading should be included in the introduction, and sixty percent should be included in the conclusion, meaning that if there are ten points under a particular heading, approximately six of them should appear in the introduction and approximately six should appear in the conclusion, with some overlap to ensure coherence. This is not a hard and fast rule but a guideline that helps ensure that both the introduction and conclusion are comprehensive enough to serve their functions, for an introduction that previews too

Expression in Essay Writing

The Essence of Expression

Expression, in its most fundamental sense, is the manner in which a writer conveys their thoughts, ideas, and arguments to the reader, and it encompasses far more than mere grammatical correctness or the accurate use of vocabulary, for it is the very soul of writing, the distinctive voice that emerges when a writer commits their thoughts to paper, and it includes the careful selection of words, the deliberate construction of sentences, the thoughtful arrangement of phrases and clauses, and the overall organization of the entire piece of writing into coherent and compelling paragraphs. Every writer, whether they are a seasoned professional or a student preparing for competitive examinations, possesses a unique style that sets them apart from others, and while this style may come naturally to some, it is, in truth, a skill that can be cultivated through conscious and sustained effort, through intensive and extensive reading, through diligent writing practice, and through the rigorous process of revision and refinement. The journey toward mastering expression is a gradual one, for it requires not only an understanding of the technical aspects of language but also a sensitivity to rhythm, tone, and nuance that can only be developed over time through consistent engagement with the written word. When a writer has truly achieved mastery over expression, their writing will exhibit eloquence, smoothness, cogency, coherence, and rhetorical impact, qualities that transform ordinary prose into something that resonates with readers and leaves a lasting impression. If these qualities are absent from a writer's work, it is a clear indication that they have not yet attained the desired level of fluency and impact, and they must redouble their efforts to cultivate the skills that will elevate their writing to the next level.

The Spectrum of Expression (From Simple to Professional)

To appreciate the full range of expressive possibilities available to the writer, it is instructive to examine how the same basic content can be rendered in vastly different ways depending on the level of sophistication applied to its expression, and by comparing these different renditions, the writer can develop an understanding of what distinguishes ordinary writing from extraordinary writing and what steps can be taken to elevate their own expression to a higher standard. Consider, for example, the simple statement of a preference for urban living, which can be articulated in progressively more refined forms that demonstrate the evolution from basic communication to polished prose, and each successive version builds upon the previous one, adding layers of sophistication that transform the basic content into something more engaging and memorable.

The simple expression, characterized by short, unconnected sentences and a lack of stylistic sophistication, might read as follows: "I love to live in the city. I have an apartment in the city. I have a wonderful view of the entire city. I can see the Golden Bridge. I can see many cargo ships pass under the bridge every day. I like the restaurants in Clifton. I can find wonderful food from every country there. But I do not like the traffic in the city." This version, while grammatically correct and perfectly understandable, lacks the fluidity and elegance that distinguish professional writing from amateur efforts, for it consists of a series of simple sentences that follow a predictable pattern and fail to create any sense of rhythm or flow, and the reader, while able to understand the content, experiences no pleasure in the reading and is left with the impression of a writer who has not yet developed the skills necessary for effective expression.

A good expression elevates this basic content by combining related ideas into more complex structures and employing a greater variety of sentence patterns, and this version reads: "I love living in the city. I have a

such as daily Prayers, Fasting, Poor-due and Pilgrimage, woman is no different from man. In fact, Islam gives ease to women by taking into account the physiological and psychological changes attached to their natural female functions an individuality. Mostly, the preaching of Islam suggests it to be the first ever religion that accepts the personhood of women and says it equal with that of men in terms of rights, duties and abilities." This version, while conveying the basic argument, does so in a way that is somewhat awkward, repetitive, and lacking in sophistication, and the reader, while able to understand the content, is not impressed by the writer's command of language. The revised version demonstrates how the same content can be expressed with more sophisticated diction, creating a more impressive and persuasive effect. Similarly, the second passage reads: "Furthermore, Islam also gives rights of women as house daughters. Islam supports the rights of house daughters and proposes them to be equal to sons. All rights are allotted to daughters as sons. Prophet PBUH had four daughters and was of opinion that daughters were considered a blessing from Allah Almighty in Islam. Dr. Hamid Ullah in An Introduction to Islam argues that taking care of daughters, educating them and training them for tomorrow and a better life, all comes under the responsibility of parents to their daughters. Hence, Islam rejected all forms of discrimination and bad treatment being practiced against house-daughters before its arrival. Islam also went on to label them as a sacred ones and guided its followers to treat them justly and kindly without giving priority to sons over them and secured their rights." The revision of this passage would involve the replacement of common words with more sophisticated equivalents, the elimination of repetition, and the improvement of sentence structures to create a more impressive and persuasive text. The writer who undertakes such exercises regularly will find that their diction improves significantly over time, and that they are able to express themselves with greater precision, elegance, and impact.

Sentence Style

As a word is the building block of a phrase or a sentence, a sentence is the building block of a paragraph and the overall text, and it is through the careful construction of sentences that a writer builds the architecture of their argument, conveying not only the content of their ideas but also their rhythm, their emphasis, and their tone, for the sentence is the fundamental unit of meaning in written language, and the writer who masters sentence construction is able to communicate their ideas with clarity, precision, and impact. A sentence can stand on its own as a complete unit of meaning, or it can merge within a text, connecting to the sentences that precede and follow it to create a coherent whole that guides the reader through the argument, and the skillful writer uses a variety of sentence types and structures to create a rhythmic flow that engages the reader and reinforces the logical development of the argument. It is commonly observed that many students rely excessively on simple sentences, using the same repetitive pattern throughout their entire essay, and this tendency not only irritates examiners but also becomes a primary reason for failure, for it demonstrates a limited command of language and a lack of stylistic sophistication, and it suggests that the writer has not yet developed the skills necessary for effective expression.

Based on their structure, sentences can be divided into three major categories, each of which serves a different purpose and contributes to the overall effect of the writing in a different way. Simple sentences consist of a single independent clause containing a subject and a verb, and they are useful for stating clear, direct ideas but can become monotonous when used excessively, for they create a choppy and repetitive rhythm that fails to engage the reader and suggests a limited command of language. Complex sentences consist of an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses joined by subordinating conjunctions,

healthcare for all), we can deal with future challenges in a more productive way. Let us look into the details of the health challenges humanity may confront in the future, including the ways to cope with them in a better way."

Cohesion (The Threads That Bind)

Cohesion, derived from the verb "cohere," meaning to stick together or to be united, refers to the grammatical and lexical links that hold a text together, creating a sense of unity and continuity that allows the reader to follow the argument and understand the relationships between ideas, and it is through cohesion that a text becomes more than a collection of disconnected sentences and becomes a coherent whole in which every part is connected to every other part. A cohesive text is one in which all the parts fit together seamlessly, where each sentence connects naturally to what precedes and follows it, and where the reader is never left wondering how one idea relates to another, and the writer who achieves cohesion creates a reading experience that is smooth, enjoyable, and effective. Cohesion is achieved through several distinct elements, each of which contributes to the overall unity of the text and each of which must be employed skillfully if the writing is to achieve its full effect.

The first of these elements is the repetition of ideas and key words, a strategy that involves repeating an idea or words interlinked with that idea so frequently that it becomes the motif of the paragraph, a recurring theme that anchors the reader's understanding and reinforces the central argument, and this technique, which has been employed by writers throughout history, creates a sense of continuity and focus, reminding the reader of the main idea even as the paragraph explores its various aspects and implications. Consider, for example, a paragraph on the concept of "dharna" in which the term is repeated multiple times and interlinked with sub-ideas, creating a web of meaning that reinforces the central argument and ensures that the reader never loses sight of the main point: "Besides questioning the control and authority of the state, a 'dharna' also imperils the state's ability to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights. For example, articles 8-28 of the Pakistani Constitution detail the fundamental rights guaranteed to the citizens of the country. A dharna, on the other hand, serves to infringe upon these rights, while proclaiming the supposed right of the organizers of freedom of speech. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 assures many other freedoms such as that of movement, of assembly and security to life. Article 26 of the same UDHR promises education, while 25-A of the Pakistani Constitution ensures the same. The closure of schools and stranding of families on roads bear testimony to the violation of these provisions stipulating these rights. A dharna, in this connection, questions the state's ability to secure the rights of other citizens, it promises, when such factions and groups ruthlessly infringe upon those rights. Another incident of a dharna in Pakistan involves containers, choking main roads, and holding the capital hostage. As the question on the writ of the state is personified in the plight of the common law-abiding citizens, a dharna erodes this very concept and weakens the state functionality."

The second element is the use of reference words, which include pronouns and certain conjunctions that refer back to something mentioned previously in the text, creating connections between sentences and guiding the reader's understanding of the relationships between ideas, and by using words such as "this," "these," "he," "she," "it," "they," and "them," writers can refer to concepts without constantly repeating their names, creating a smoother flow and a more natural rhythm while maintaining the necessary connections between sentences. Consider, for example, a paragraph on feminine oppression in which pronouns and conjunctions are used to create connections between sentences: "Furthermore, feminine oppression prevalent in Pakistani culture is actually the result of centuries of patriarchal domination. However, it is

challenging feature is the ability to say a usual thing in an unusual way, which demonstrates the writer's creativity and originality, and which makes the writing more engaging and memorable.

The following examples of best sentences written in English, taken from the work of the distinguished writer F. R. Lucas, illustrate these features in practice: "As the police put it, anything you say may be used as evidence against you. If handwriting reveals character, writing reveals it still more....Most style is not honest enough. Easy to say, but hard to practice. A writer may take to long words, as young men to beards - to impress. But long words, like long beards, are often the badge of charlatans. Or a writer may cultivate the obscure, to seem profound. But even carefully muddled puddles are soon fathomed. Or he may cultivate eccentricity, to seem original. But really original people do not have to think about being original - they can no more help it than they can help breathing. They do not need to dye their hair green." These sentences demonstrate all the features of good sentences discussed above, and they provide a model for the writer who wishes to improve their own sentence construction.

George Orwell's Six Golden Rules for Writing Better Sentences

The celebrated English novelist and essayist George Orwell, in his influential essay "Politics and the English Language," set down six golden rules for writing better sentences that have become a guide for writers throughout the English-speaking world, and these rules, while developed in the context of political writing, apply equally to all forms of expository writing, including the essays that students write for competitive examinations. The first rule is never to use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print, for such tired and overused figures have lost their power and have become clichés that detract from the quality of the writing, and the writer should always contrive, make, or create their own figure of speech that is fresh and original. The second rule is never to use a long word where a short one will do, for the use of unnecessarily long words creates wordiness and obscures meaning, and the writer should always choose the shortest and simplest word that will convey their meaning effectively. The third rule is if it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out, for concision is a virtue in writing, and every word that is not necessary to the meaning of the sentence should be eliminated, creating a more concise and effective sentence.

The fourth rule is never to use the passive where you can use the active, for the active voice is more direct, more vigorous, and more engaging than the passive voice, and the writer who uses the active voice creates sentences that are clearer and more compelling. The fifth rule is never to use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent, for such words create barriers between the writer and the reader and obscure meaning, though Orwell acknowledges that in case of some scientific or theoretical topic, the use of jargon and specific words may be necessary. The sixth rule is to break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous, for the ultimate purpose of writing is communication, and if following a rule would make the writing less effective, the rule should be broken, and the writer should prioritize clarity and effectiveness over the mechanical application of rules. These rules, while developed over seventy years ago, remain relevant and valuable for writers today, and the student who internalizes and applies them will find that their writing improves significantly.

Practical Strategies for Improving Expression

The improvement of expression is a gradual process that requires sustained effort, consistent practice, and a willingness to learn from mistakes and to revise and refine one's work, and the writer who undertakes this process will find that their writing improves significantly over time, becoming more clear, more engaging, and more effective. The first and most important strategy is to read extensively, for reading exposes the



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Will the US–Iran War Lead to the Birth of a New Middle East?

Other Possible Titels:

- Geopolitical Realignment in the Middle East.
- Will the Middle East Ever Achieve Peace?
- Iran, Israel, and the Shifting Balance of Power.
- Oil, Power, and the Struggle for Regional Hegemony.
- Pakistan's Strategic Interest in a Stable Middle East.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The 2026 US–Iran war as a potential regional watershed
2. Distinction between destruction of the old order and construction of a new one
3. Thesis: the war is accelerating a new Middle East, but its final character will depend on diplomacy, regional ownership, Iran's political future, the Palestinian question and the creation of an inclusive security architecture

Historical Architecture of the Middle East

1. Colonial boundaries, external intervention and authoritarian state formation
2. The 1979 Iranian Revolution and institutionalisation of US–Iran rivalry
3. Post-Cold War US primacy, the Iraq invasion and the rise of Iran's regional network
4. Arab uprisings, sectarian fragmentation and changing regional alignments

The 2026 War as a Strategic Rupture

1. Direct US–Iran hostilities replacing shadow warfare
2. Attacks on nuclear, missile, maritime and military infrastructure
3. Regionalisation through Israel, Hezbollah, Houthis and Gulf-based US forces
4. Collapse of assumptions about deterrence, proxy containment and American security guarantees

Possible Features of a New Middle East

1. Erosion or transformation of Iran's "axis of resistance"
2. Israel's enhanced military position but growing diplomatic and security burdens
3. Strategic autonomy and military consolidation among Gulf states
4. Emergence of Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt and Pakistan as mediating actors
5. Greater Chinese and Russian involvement and declining Western monopoly
6. Nuclear proliferation pressures and a technologically intensive arms race
7. Reorientation of energy routes, supply chains and maritime security

Why War Alone Cannot Produce a Stable Regional Order

1. Military superiority cannot resolve political grievances
2. Regime change may cause fragmentation rather than democratisation
3. Unsettled Palestinian question as the core legitimacy crisis
4. Humanitarian devastation, displacement and radicalisation
5. International-law controversies and weakening of multilateral institutions
6. Climate, water, food and youth-employment crises beyond military solutions



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external convenience. After the Second World War, decolonisation created formally sovereign states, but Western military access, control of energy routes, Arab–Israeli conflict and authoritarian governance remained central features of regional politics. The United States gradually replaced Britain as the principal external power, constructing a network of alliances with Israel, Iran under the Shah, Saudi Arabia and conservative Arab monarchies. This architecture rested on access to oil, containment of Soviet influence, protection of Israel and preservation of regimes sympathetic to Western strategic interests.

The Iranian Revolution of 1979 transformed that arrangement. The monarchy that had functioned as a pillar of American policy was replaced by an Islamic Republic that defined itself through revolutionary sovereignty, opposition to US dominance and support for the Palestinian cause. The hostage crisis, the Iran–Iraq War, American sanctions and subsequent confrontations institutionalised mutual hostility. Washington came to regard Tehran as a revisionist power threatening Israel, Gulf monarchies and freedom of navigation, while Iranian leaders interpreted the American military presence, sanctions and support for Israel as instruments of encirclement and regime change. The rivalry was consequently not reducible to the nuclear dispute. It represented a clash over regional hierarchy, political legitimacy and the right to define Middle Eastern security.

The US invasion of Iraq in 2003 unintentionally expanded Iran’s regional influence. By overthrowing Saddam Hussein, Washington removed Tehran’s most formidable Arab adversary and opened political space for Iran-aligned Iraqi parties and armed organisations. Iran subsequently developed what became known as the “axis of resistance,” linking the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps with Hezbollah in Lebanon, Syrian authorities, Iraqi militias, Palestinian organisations and the Houthis in Yemen. This network allowed Tehran to deter stronger adversaries through strategic depth and asymmetric retaliation without engaging in continuous conventional war. For the United States and Israel, however, it appeared as an expanding system of encirclement. Thus, the pre-2026 order rested on an unstable paradox: all actors claimed that deterrence preserved peace, yet each strengthened military capabilities and proxy networks that made eventual escalation more likely.

The Arab uprisings further weakened the regional system. Popular demands for dignity, representation and social justice were followed in several countries by civil war, authoritarian restoration or external intervention. Syria became a battleground among domestic forces, Iran, Russia, Türkiye, Arab states, Israel and the United States. Libya fragmented, Yemen descended into war, and Iraq struggled with weak institutions and militia politics. Meanwhile, the Abraham Accords initiated a process of Arab normalisation with Israel without resolving Palestinian statelessness. Gulf governments also began diversifying their partnerships through stronger relations with China, Russia, India, Türkiye and other Asian powers. Even before 2026, therefore, the old Middle East was under pressure from multipolarity, public disillusionment, technological warfare, climate insecurity and the gradual decline of uncontested American primacy.

The present war marks a rupture because it has replaced calibrated shadow conflict with sustained direct hostilities. Previous confrontations generally remained below the threshold of full-scale interstate war. Cyberattacks, assassinations, sabotage, sanctions, proxy attacks and limited missile exchanges were designed to impose costs without triggering uncontrolled escalation. By contrast, the 2026 conflict openly targeted Iranian nuclear, missile, air-defence and military infrastructure, while Tehran struck American forces and assets across the Gulf and attempted to exploit its maritime position. The United States formally invoked Article 51 of the UN Charter to justify its combat operations, while Iran requested emergency Security Council consideration and characterised the attacks as unlawful aggression. This legal contest

India Pakistan Water Dispute and Threats to Pakistan's Water Security

Other Possible Titels:

- The Indus Waters Treaty and Regional Stability.
- India's Hydro-Politics and Pakistan's Water Crisis.
- Can Pakistan Survive a Water War?
- The Politics of Water in South Asia.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Water as the foundation of Pakistan's food, energy, economic and human security
2. Transformation of the India–Pakistan water question from a technical disagreement into a strategic dispute
3. Thesis: India's upstream position, unilateral treaty-related actions, contested hydropower projects and climate-driven uncertainty pose serious risks to Pakistan; however, Pakistan's deeper vulnerability also originates in domestic mismanagement, weak storage, inefficient irrigation and fragmented governance

Historical Evolution of the Dispute

1. Partition of an integrated Indus irrigation system in 1947
2. Early canal-water crisis and the Inter-Dominion Accord of 1948
3. World Bank mediation and conclusion of the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960
4. Survival of the treaty through wars and recurring political crises

Architecture of the Indus Waters Treaty

1. Allocation of the eastern rivers to India and western rivers principally to Pakistan
2. Limited Indian uses of western rivers for hydropower, irrigation and domestic purposes
3. Permanent Indus Commission and data-sharing obligations
4. Graded dispute-resolution mechanisms: Commission, Neutral Expert and Court of Arbitration
5. Strengths and structural limitations of the treaty

Major Areas of India–Pakistan Contention

1. Baglihar, Kishenganga, Ratle and other hydropower projects
2. Disagreements over pondage, spillways, drawdown flushing and low-level outlets
3. Competing interpretations of run-of-river hydropower rights
4. Simultaneous recourse to Neutral Expert and Court of Arbitration
5. India's demand for modification or renegotiation of the treaty

The 2025–2026 Treaty Crisis

1. India's April 2025 decision to hold the treaty "in abeyance"
2. Linkage of water cooperation with allegations of cross-border terrorism
3. Pakistan's legal, diplomatic and security response
4. Continuing Indian position as of July 2026
5. Findings of the Court of Arbitration concerning its competence and treaty interpretation

Threats to Pakistan's Water Security



principal source of surface irrigation, major contributor to hydropower, and ecological link between the Himalayan cryosphere and the Arabian Sea. Consequently, any uncertainty concerning the quantity, timing, quality or predictability of the Indus waters is capable of affecting food prices, rural employment, electricity generation, provincial relations, urban stability and national security. The India–Pakistan water dispute has therefore acquired a significance far greater than an ordinary disagreement over canals or dams. India’s upstream position, its expanding hydropower infrastructure on the western rivers, competing interpretations of the Indus Waters Treaty and its April 2025 decision to place the treaty “in abeyance” have intensified Pakistan’s perception of strategic vulnerability. Nevertheless, a serious analysis must avoid reducing Pakistan’s entire water crisis to Indian actions. While external pressure is real and deserves a firm legal and diplomatic response, Pakistan’s vulnerability has been magnified by inadequate storage, inefficient irrigation, groundwater depletion, inappropriate cropping patterns, pollution, weak institutions and fragmented federal–provincial governance. Thus, Pakistan’s water security can be protected only through a dual strategy: resolute defence of its transboundary rights and a comprehensive transformation of its domestic water economy.

The origins of the dispute lie in the peculiar hydraulic geography created by the partition of British India. Before 1947, the Indus Basin had developed as an integrated irrigation network in which rivers, headworks, canals and command areas were administered without an international boundary separating upstream control from downstream dependence. Partition divided this system abruptly. Several canal headworks fell within Indian territory, while large irrigated areas dependent upon them became part of Pakistan. In April 1948, India temporarily interrupted water supplies from the Ferozepur headworks to canals serving Pakistani Punjab, producing an early demonstration of how geographical control could be converted into political leverage. Although the Inter-Dominion Accord restored supplies provisionally, the crisis persuaded Pakistan that informal assurances were insufficient and that its economic survival required a binding international arrangement. India, conversely, resisted any permanent restriction that it believed would limit its sovereign developmental rights. The conflict therefore involved not only water volumes but competing conceptions of territorial sovereignty, acquired use, equitable access and national development.

After approximately nine years of negotiation under World Bank facilitation, the Indus Waters Treaty was signed on 19 September 1960. The agreement represented an unusual form of conflict management: instead of establishing fully integrated joint management of the basin, it largely divided the river system. The eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas and Sutlej—were allocated for India’s unrestricted use after a transition period, while Pakistan received principal rights over the western rivers—Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. India retained specified rights on the western rivers for domestic use, limited irrigation, navigation and run-of-river hydroelectric generation subject to detailed engineering constraints. The arrangement also facilitated the construction of replacement works in Pakistan so that canals previously dependent upon the eastern rivers could be connected with the western rivers. The World Bank describes the treaty as one of the more successful international agreements of its kind because it survived wars, military crises and prolonged diplomatic hostility while continuing to regulate irrigation and hydropower development.

The endurance of the treaty resulted from institutional design rather than political goodwill alone. It created the Permanent Indus Commission, consisting of one commissioner from each state, to exchange information, inspect works and address technical questions. It also established a graded system of dispute settlement. Ordinary “questions” were to be examined by the Commission; technical “differences” could be referred to a Neutral Expert; and legal “disputes” could be submitted to a seven-member Court of

Tourism as a Catalyst for Economic Revival

Other Possible Titels:

- Can Tourism Rescue Pakistan's Economy?
- Promoting Tourism for Sustainable Development.
- Tourism, Employment, and Economic Growth in Pakistan.
- The Economic Promise of Pakistan's Northern Areas.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Contemporary economic crisis and the search for productive, inclusive and sustainable growth
2. Tourism as an export industry, employment generator and instrument of regional development
3. Thesis statement

Understanding the Economic Potential of Tourism

1. Tourism as a multidimensional economic ecosystem
2. Direct, indirect and induced contributions to national income
3. Domestic tourism, international tourism and the multiplier effect

How Tourism Can Mitigate an Economic Crisis

1. Generation of foreign exchange and improvement of the balance of payments
2. Employment creation and poverty reduction
3. Expansion of small enterprises and local supply chains
4. Regional development and infrastructure improvement
5. Investment, taxation and revenue generation
6. Economic diversification and export of services
7. Cultural preservation, national image-building and tourism diplomacy

Pakistan's Exceptional Tourism Endowment

1. Mountain, adventure and ecotourism
2. Historical, archaeological and cultural tourism
3. Religious and spiritual tourism
4. Coastal, desert, rural, culinary and medical tourism
5. Domestic tourism as an underutilized economic asset

Why Pakistan Has Failed to Convert Potential into Prosperity

1. Security concerns and negative international perceptions
2. Weak governance and fragmented institutional control
3. Inadequate infrastructure, connectivity and public services
4. Restrictive visas, poor marketing and absence of reliable data
5. Untrained human resources and an informal tourism economy
6. Environmental degradation, climate hazards and weak disaster management
7. Exclusion of local communities and women

International Lessons

1. Spain and Türkiye: integrated destination management
2. Malaysia and Indonesia: branding, connectivity and Muslim-friendly tourism



floods and disruption of access routes in northern Pakistan have demonstrated the vulnerability of tourism to climatic hazards and inadequate risk management. Consequently, Pakistan must pursue high-value, low-impact tourism: licensed trekking operators, trained guides, waste-return requirements, zoned construction, renewable energy, visitor caps in sensitive areas and scientifically determined carrying capacities. Tourism that destroys glaciers, forests and water systems is not an economic solution; it is the conversion of natural capital into short-lived private profit.

The country's historical and archaeological wealth is equally impressive. The Indus Valley sites of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa represent one of the earliest urban civilizations. Taxila preserves layers of Gandharan, Buddhist, Persian, Greek and Central Asian history. Lahore contains Mughal and Sikh monuments; Sindh possesses forts, tombs and Sufi shrines; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa preserves Buddhist remains and frontier heritage; and Balochistan contains archaeological, coastal and cultural assets of considerable importance. The supplied essay appropriately emphasizes the commercial potential of monuments such as Badshahi Mosque, Rohtas Fort, Ranikot and Mohenjo-daro, while comparing them with internationally recognized heritage attractions. The deeper lesson is that successful heritage tourism requires more than a monument. It requires conservation laboratories, interpretation centres, multilingual guides, lighting, sanitation, visitor routes, museums, transport, ticketing and links with local businesses.

Religious tourism may offer Pakistan one of its most immediate opportunities because pilgrimage is less dependent on seasonal leisure trends and is often motivated by deep emotional commitment. Sikh heritage sites at Nankana Sahib, Panja Sahib and Kartarpur attract international interest. Taxila, Takht-i-Bahi and other Gandharan sites hold significance for Buddhist communities across East and Southeast Asia. Sufi shrines, Hindu temples and Islamic heritage can support domestic and international travel when managed with dignity and inclusiveness. The Kartarpur Corridor demonstrated how a religious site can simultaneously serve faith, diplomacy and local commerce. A carefully designed Buddhist heritage circuit linking archaeological sites, museums, airports and trained guides could attract pilgrims and scholars from countries such as Sri Lanka, Thailand, Japan, South Korea and China.

Religious tourism also carries a larger diplomatic dividend. Visitors who interact with local communities acquire impressions unavailable through international news coverage. Their experiences may challenge stereotypes, humanize the country and create networks of cultural goodwill. Tourism diplomacy is therefore a form of soft power. Pakistan's presence at international tourism fairs and UN Tourism forums indicates official recognition of this potential, but isolated exhibitions must be supported by a reliable product at home. Marketing cannot compensate for inadequate sanitation, arbitrary restrictions or unsafe transport. A country's image is ultimately produced by the visitor's experience rather than by promotional slogans.

Pakistan can additionally develop coastal, desert, culinary, festival, rural, medical and sports tourism. The Arabian Sea coastline, Hingol National Park, Astola Island and the Makran coast offer opportunities for carefully regulated marine and geological tourism. Thar and Cholistan can support desert safaris and cultural festivals. Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and Multan possess distinctive cuisines that can become attractions in their own right. Local food is economically important because it increases spending beyond accommodation and links agriculture with hospitality. Medical services, traditional crafts, polo festivals, cricket events and academic conferences can further diversify demand and reduce seasonality.

Domestic tourism deserves particular attention. An excessive focus on foreign arrivals overlooks the stabilizing power of millions of local travellers. Domestic visitors sustain businesses when international demand weakens due to global recession, geopolitical tensions or health emergencies. They also distribute

The Rise of Extremism in Pakistan and Its Regional Implications

Other Possible Titels:

- Extremism and the Crisis of National Security in Pakistan.
- Sectarian Violence and Pakistan's Social Fabric.
- Can Pakistan Defeat the Resurgence of Extremism?
- Pakistan's Fight Against Extremism: Successes and Failures.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Extremism as an ideological, political and security challenge
2. Pakistan's internal crisis with transnational consequences

Understanding extremism

1. Distinction among radicalism, extremism, violent extremism and terrorism
2. Religious, sectarian, ethnic, political and digital manifestations

Historical evolution in Pakistan

1. Post-independence identity contestations
2. Afghan jihad, weaponisation and militant infrastructure
3. Post-9/11 militancy and emergence of the TTP
4. Recent resurgence after the Taliban's return in Afghanistan

Principal causes

1. Politicisation and instrumentalisation of religion
2. Weak governance and selective enforcement of law
3. Regional wars, foreign intervention and proxy politics
4. Poverty, inequality, unemployment and youth alienation
5. Educational failures and competing curricula
6. Sectarian narratives and intolerance
7. Grievances in peripheral regions
8. Digital propaganda, misinformation and online recruitment

Consequences for Pakistan

1. Terrorism, insecurity and human suffering
2. Political polarisation and erosion of constitutionalism
3. Economic losses and declining investment
4. Damage to education, culture and social cohesion
5. Threats to minorities, women and freedom of expression
6. Militarisation of governance and weakened institutions

Regional implications

1. Pakistan–Afghanistan tensions and cross-border militancy
2. Threats to China, CPEC and regional connectivity
3. Intensification of Pakistan–India hostility
4. Spillover into Iran and Central Asia
5. Refugee, narcotics, arms and organised-crime networks



continuing connection between internal security and investment relations. Militants understand this vulnerability: attacking a foreign engineer or infrastructure project produces strategic effects far beyond the immediate casualties by undermining confidence in the state's ability to protect economic partnerships.

Extremism further distorts governance by encouraging permanent emergency. When terrorism remains severe, exceptional powers expand, public oversight contracts and security institutions acquire responsibilities that civilian agencies should ordinarily perform. Some extraordinary measures may be necessary during acute crises, but their indefinite continuation weakens democratic accountability. Counterterrorism that disregards due process can generate wrongful detention, disappearances and community resentment, which militants then exploit. Conversely, excessive procedural weakness can allow dangerous individuals to escape conviction. The answer lies neither in unrestrained coercion nor institutional paralysis, but in specialised courts operating under constitutional safeguards, professional investigation, reliable forensic evidence, witness protection and transparent review.

The most direct regional implication concerns Afghanistan. The mountainous border, divided tribal communities, informal crossings and decades of conflict make complete physical control impossible. Militants can exploit sanctuaries, refugee movements, smuggling routes and differences between Islamabad and Kabul. Pakistani strikes or border closures may impose tactical costs but can also intensify Afghan nationalism and humanitarian hardship. Similarly, denial or inaction by the Afghan authorities allows the TTP issue to poison bilateral relations. A durable approach requires verifiable Afghan action against cross-border groups, sustained intelligence engagement, regulated trade, humane refugee policy and development of border communities. Pakistan must combine firmness regarding armed sanctuaries with recognition that a destabilised Afghanistan would produce even greater security, refugee and economic pressures.

China is the second major regional stakeholder. Beijing views Pakistan as an important strategic partner and a route connecting western China with the Arabian Sea. Attacks on Chinese personnel are intended to fracture this relationship, slow CPEC and internationalise Pakistan's insecurity. If such violence persists, China may demand greater operational influence over security arrangements, reduce risk exposure or shift investment towards safer alternatives. This would weaken Pakistan's geo-economic strategy. Protecting CPEC cannot mean merely surrounding foreign workers with larger security contingents. It requires addressing local grievances, ensuring fair employment, compensating displaced communities, sharing project benefits and improving governance in affected districts. Security without legitimacy can protect individual convoys, but it cannot secure an entire development corridor.

Relations with India are also shaped by militancy. Attacks linked to Pakistan-based organisations have repeatedly triggered crises between two nuclear-armed states. Even when the Pakistani state denies involvement, the continued existence of militant infrastructures enables India to portray Pakistan as an irresponsible actor and reduces international sympathy for Pakistan's position on Kashmir. A major terrorist incident could produce rapid military escalation, particularly in an environment of advanced surveillance, precision weapons, misinformation and compressed decision-making. Countering anti-India militant organisations is therefore not a concession to New Delhi; it is necessary for Pakistan's sovereignty, diplomatic credibility and crisis stability. Simultaneously, India must recognise that unresolved political grievances, human-rights controversies and maximalist security policies can create conditions that violent groups exploit. Sustainable peace demands both zero tolerance for terrorism and meaningful diplomacy over underlying disputes.

Role of the IMF and the Dynamics of Pakistan's Economy

Other Possible Titels:

- IMF Programs and Pakistan's Economic Stability.
- The Politics of IMF Conditionality in Pakistan.
- Pakistan's Economy and the Challenge of External Debt.
- IMF Reforms and Their Social Impact in Pakistan.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Pakistan's recurrent economic crises and dependence on external stabilization
2. IMF as both a lender of last resort and an agent of structural reform
3. Thesis: IMF programmes provide necessary short-term stability, but Pakistan's durable prosperity depends on transforming externally enforced adjustment into domestically owned reform

Understanding the IMF's Mandate

1. Balance-of-payments support and macroeconomic surveillance
2. Conditional lending, technical assistance and policy credibility
3. Distinction between stabilization and development financing

Structural Dynamics of Pakistan's Economy

1. Narrow tax base and persistent fiscal deficits
2. Import-dependent consumption and weak export competitiveness
3. Low savings, investment and productivity
4. Energy-sector inefficiencies and circular debt
5. Loss-making state-owned enterprises
6. Debt accumulation and external financing pressures
7. Population growth, unemployment, poverty and weak human capital
8. Political instability, institutional weakness and policy discontinuity
9. Climate vulnerability and regional geopolitical shocks

Historical Evolution of Pakistan-IMF Relations

1. Repeated recourse to IMF programmes
2. From temporary balance-of-payments support to prolonged structural adjustment
3. Political economy of incomplete reform and programme interruption

Positive Role of the IMF in Pakistan

1. Preventing sovereign default and restoring external confidence
2. Rebuilding foreign-exchange reserves
3. Enforcing fiscal and monetary discipline
4. Broadening the tax base and improving revenue administration
5. Promoting exchange-rate flexibility
6. Reforming energy pricing, SOEs and public financial management
7. Strengthening central-bank autonomy, transparency and governance



limited social insurance. Electricity and gas tariff increases can reduce household welfare and raise production costs. Petroleum levies affect transport and prices throughout the economy. Indirect taxation is passed on to consumers regardless of income. The formal middle class experiences declining real incomes, while small businesses struggle with weak demand and expensive credit.

Tight monetary policy can also impose heavy costs. High interest rates may be necessary to control inflation and prevent capital flight, but they increase government debt servicing and discourage private investment. Businesses postpone expansion, housing becomes unaffordable, and employment creation weakens. If stabilization persists without structural measures to raise productivity, the economy can enter a low-growth equilibrium in which inflation is controlled but poverty, unemployment and underinvestment remain severe. Stabilization is therefore necessary but not sufficient. A patient whose bleeding has been stopped still requires treatment for the underlying disease.

Critics also argue that IMF programmes prioritize accounting targets over development outcomes. Fiscal deficits, reserve accumulation and inflation are measurable within relatively short review periods, whereas improvements in institutional quality, education, productivity and industrial capacity require years. This can encourage governments to pursue visible short-term compliance while postponing deeper reforms. For example, increasing an electricity tariff immediately improves cash flow, but reducing technical losses, reforming distribution companies and modernizing the grid requires sustained administrative work. Raising withholding taxes is easier than documenting retail activity. Selling an asset may provide temporary receipts, but creating a competitive investment environment is more complex. Thus, programmes can meet quantitative benchmarks without fundamentally altering the economic structure.

Questions of sovereignty and democratic accountability also arise. Policy conditions negotiated between executive authorities and an international financial institution can shape taxation, energy prices and public spending without sufficient parliamentary debate. Citizens may experience major changes but lack access to the assumptions, alternatives and distributional analysis underlying them. However, sovereignty should not be interpreted merely as freedom from external conditions. Chronic dependence on creditors is itself a loss of sovereignty. The more meaningful form of economic sovereignty is the capacity to finance national priorities through domestic productivity, taxation, exports and institutional credibility. Accordingly, the answer is not to reject all conditionality but to democratize reform through transparency, consultation and parliamentary ownership.

The IMF must also be criticized where its policy framework appears insufficiently sensitive to distribution, sequencing and local institutional capacity. A technically sound reform can fail if introduced too rapidly, without compensation or without the administrative machinery required for implementation. Energy prices should reflect costs, but lifeline consumers require protection. Exchange-rate flexibility is necessary, but exporters need reliable energy, credit and logistics to benefit from it. Tax exemptions should be eliminated, but compliance systems must be simplified for small firms. Public enterprises may require restructuring, yet workers need retraining and transition support. Reform that ignores political and social feasibility may provoke reversal, thereby undermining its own economic objectives.

Nevertheless, attributing Pakistan's economic difficulties entirely to IMF prescriptions obscures domestic responsibility. The Fund does not compel the country to maintain an elite-dominated tax structure, tolerate electricity theft, protect inefficient monopolies, neglect public education or encourage speculative investment in land. Nor does it require political instability, weak contract enforcement, arbitrary regulation or recurrent policy reversals. These are domestic failures. Indeed, many IMF conditions address reforms

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Climate Change and the Politics of Flood Management

Other Possible Titels:

- Floods in Pakistan: Natural Disaster or Governance Failure?
- Who is Responsible for Pakistan's Flood Catastrophe?
- Environmental Neglect and the Flood Crisis.
- Dam Building and Flood Mitigation in Pakistan.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Floods as natural hazards transformed into human disasters
2. Pakistan's exceptional climatic exposure and institutional vulnerability
3. Thesis: nature generates the hazard, but governmental mismanagement largely determines its destructive scale

Pakistan's recurring encounter with floods

1. Riverine, flash, urban, coastal and glacial-lake outburst floods
2. Lessons from the floods of 1950, 1973, 1992, 2010 and 2022

Floods as the wrath of nature

1. Intensifying monsoon variability and extreme precipitation
2. Climate change and atmospheric warming
3. Accelerated glacial melting and GLOF risks
4. Pakistan's geography and the Indus River system
5. Cloudbursts, landslides and naturally saturated catchments

Why nature alone cannot explain the devastation

1. Unequal consequences of similar hazards across countries
2. Disaster risk as the interaction of hazard, exposure and vulnerability
3. Preventable deaths, displacement and economic losses

Governmental mismanagement as the principal disaster multiplier

1. Encroachment upon floodplains, waterways and natural drains
2. Unregulated urbanization and defective land-use planning
3. Deforestation, watershed degradation and soil erosion
4. Weak drainage, embankment and irrigation infrastructure
5. Politicized breaches, unequal protection and elite capture
6. Inadequate reservoirs, wetlands and water-storage capacity
7. Fragmented institutions and reactive disaster management
8. Weak early-warning communication and evacuation systems
9. Fiscal constraints, corruption and poor implementation
10. Failure to climate-proof development projects

Institutional and constitutional dimensions

1. Responsibilities of federal, provincial and local governments
2. Weak coordination among NDMA, PDMA, DDMA and local authorities
3. Neglected local governments and community participation

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demand for climate justice, adaptation finance and support under international loss-and-damage arrangements is consequently legitimate.

Nevertheless, the presence of climate change does not absolve governments of responsibility. A hazard becomes a disaster through the interaction of three elements: the physical event, the exposure of people and assets, and their vulnerability. Government cannot prevent clouds from releasing rain, but it can prevent housing schemes from blocking drainage channels. It cannot eliminate glacial melt immediately, but it can map endangered valleys, install sensors, communicate warnings and prepare evacuation routes. It cannot control every river flow, but it can protect floodplains from unlawful construction, restore wetlands, maintain embankments and regulate development. The fundamental question is therefore not whether nature caused rain; it is why predictable rainfall repeatedly produces avoidable death and national economic paralysis.

The clearest expression of mismanagement is the occupation of floodplains and natural waterways. Floodplains are not vacant wastelands awaiting commercial development; they are parts of a river's hydrological territory. During high flows, they temporarily store and spread water, reducing its velocity and pressure. When governments permit agricultural expansion, housing colonies, roads, industrial sites or permanent villages within these spaces, they both expose more people and deprive rivers of room to expand safely. Political influence and speculative land markets often enable encroachments to survive despite legal prohibitions. Once valuable property is established, public authorities face pressure to protect it through embankments or emergency diversions, sometimes transferring risk to poorer settlements. In this manner, private profit is accumulated in safe years while disaster losses are socialized during floods.

Unplanned urbanization creates a comparable crisis in cities. Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Quetta and other urban centres have expanded faster than their drainage networks, municipal institutions and land-use regulations. Natural depressions, wetlands and storm-water channels have been filled or narrowed. Roads and concrete surfaces prevent rainwater from infiltrating the soil, while solid waste blocks drains that are already undersized. Agencies responsible for sewerage, road construction, housing regulation, irrigation channels and municipal drainage frequently work without an integrated hydrological plan. Consequently, a few hours of intense rainfall can paralyse traffic, inundate hospitals and markets, damage electricity systems and contaminate drinking water. Such urban flooding is often described as a natural emergency even when its immediate causes lie in illegal construction, defective engineering and neglected sanitation.

Deforestation and degradation of watersheds further increase flood intensity. Trees and vegetation intercept rainfall, stabilize slopes, increase infiltration and reduce the speed with which water and sediment enter rivers. Their removal for timber, fuel, agriculture, roads and construction accelerates surface runoff and soil erosion. In mountain districts, unstable slopes release debris that blocks waterways or transforms floodwater into a destructive mixture of mud, boulders and timber. In the plains, the disappearance of riverine forests and wetlands reduces natural water storage. Plantation campaigns, although useful, cannot substitute for protecting mature ecological systems. Nor should the number of saplings announced at ceremonies be confused with survival, ecological suitability or long-term forest governance. Effective watershed management requires land records, enforcement against illegal logging, community rights, controlled grazing and sustained monitoring across entire catchments.

The deterioration of physical infrastructure is another governmental failure. Embankments, barrages, canals, drainage channels and protective walls require continuous inspection and maintenance. Silted

The AI Revolution and the New World Order

Other Possible Titles:

- Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity
- AI, Privacy, and the Erosion of Civil Liberties.
- The Ethical Imperative of AI Regulation.
- AI, Governance, and the Digital State.

Outlines

Introduction

1. AI as the defining general-purpose technology of the twenty-first century
2. From mechanical automation to cognitive augmentation
3. Thesis statement

Understanding the AI Revolution

1. Learning, prediction, reasoning and content generation through machines
2. Data, algorithms and computing power as the foundations of AI
3. Generative and autonomous AI as a new phase of technological evolution

AI as an Engine of Economic Transformation

1. Higher productivity, innovation and business efficiency
2. Intelligent manufacturing, finance, trade and entrepreneurship
3. Restructuring of employment and emergence of new skills

Transformation of Major Human Sectors

1. Precision healthcare and accelerated scientific discovery
2. Personalized education and intelligent research
3. Smart agriculture and food security
4. Autonomous transport, logistics and urban management
5. Climate forecasting, energy optimization and environmental protection

Transformation of State and Society

1. Data-driven governance and improved public-service delivery
2. AI-enabled security, defence and international competition
3. Changing communication, culture, media and personal life

Unequal and Disruptive Consequences

1. Job displacement, skills polarization and economic inequality
2. Algorithmic discrimination, surveillance and loss of privacy
3. Misinformation, deepfakes, cybercrime and democratic manipulation
4. Concentration of technological power and widening global digital divide
5. Environmental cost of data centres and computational expansion

Ethical and Philosophical Dilemmas

1. Human autonomy, accountability and machine decision-making
2. Intellectual property, creativity and authenticity
3. Limits of delegating life-affecting decisions to machines

Pakistan in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

1. Opportunities in agriculture, health, education, governance and exports
2. National AI Policy 2025 and emerging digital initiatives

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English but poorly in regional languages. Fair AI therefore requires more than removing offensive outputs. It requires representative data, independent testing, continuous monitoring and the participation of affected communities.

Another structural danger is concentration of power. Developing frontier AI demands vast computational resources, specialized talent and enormous investment. Consequently, a small number of corporations and technologically advanced states control leading models, cloud infrastructure and semiconductor supply chains. Stanford's research shows that industry produced nearly 90 per cent of notable AI models in 2024, reflecting the growing dominance of private corporations in frontier development. This concentration may allow private actors to determine the architecture of public communication, education and knowledge without sufficient democratic oversight.

The global impact will therefore be unequal. Countries possessing advanced research institutions, abundant capital, reliable electricity and skilled workers can use AI to expand productivity. Poorer countries may become consumers of foreign systems, pay for imported cloud services and surrender valuable data without developing indigenous capacity. The IMF warns that differences in technological access, preparedness and sectoral structure could widen income inequality between countries. Artificial intelligence may connect the world technologically while dividing it economically.

For Pakistan, the AI transformation contains both exceptional opportunities and serious risks. A young population, expanding digital-services sector and widespread use of mobile technology provide a foundation for participation in the AI economy. The technology can improve crop forecasting, disease surveillance, tax administration, traffic management, disaster response and educational access. Urdu and regional-language models could make public information available to citizens who are excluded from English-dominated digital systems. AI-assisted freelancing and software exports can create employment and foreign-exchange earnings, while local startups can design solutions for agriculture, logistics, health and financial inclusion.

Pakistan has begun establishing a policy framework. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication lists the National Artificial Intelligence Policy as approved on 31 July 2025. The policy direction emphasizes innovation, ethical development, economic growth and skills, while recent initiatives include AI faculty training, university-level skills programmes and integration of AI into higher education. These measures indicate recognition that AI has become a national development issue rather than a narrow computer-science subject.

However, policy declarations will achieve little without implementation. Pakistan faces unreliable connectivity in many areas, limited access to high-performance computing, weak research funding, shortages of advanced specialists and a persistent divide between elite institutions and ordinary schools. Public-sector data is often fragmented, inaccurate or inaccessible. The absence of strong privacy enforcement can discourage citizens from trusting digital services. Universities may produce graduates with theoretical qualifications but insufficient practical competence. Brain drain further reduces domestic capacity.

Pakistan must therefore follow a selective rather than imitative strategy. It cannot compete immediately with the largest powers in every layer of frontier AI. It should concentrate on areas where local needs, language and institutional knowledge create comparative advantage. These include precision agriculture, climate resilience, public health, educational technology, logistics, e-government and Urdu or regional-language applications. Public procurement can support responsible local companies, while national

Hybrid Warfare and Pakistan's National Security

Other Possible Titels:

- Pakistan's Response to Hybrid Warfare.
- Economic Security and the Threat of Hybrid Warfare.
- Pakistan's Strategic Resilience in a Hybrid War Era.
- Hybrid warfare is a challenge for Pakistan's security

Outlines

Introduction

1. Transformation of warfare from territorial conquest to multidimensional coercion
2. Pakistan's exposure because of its geography, strategic assets, internal fault lines and digital dependence
3. **Thesis:** Hybrid warfare constitutes a comprehensive threat to Pakistan's national security because it combines terrorism, cyber operations, disinformation, economic coercion, political interference and social polarization; however, an integrated, democratic and human-security-centred national response can convert vulnerability into resilience.

Understanding Hybrid Warfare

1. Coordinated use of military and non-military instruments
2. Blurring of peace and war, internal and external threats, and state and non-state actors
3. Difference between hybrid warfare, fifth-generation warfare and conventional conflict

Evolution and Instruments of Hybrid Warfare

1. Propaganda, psychological operations and strategic narratives
2. Cyberattacks, espionage, data theft and artificial intelligence
3. Proxy militancy, sabotage and irregular armed groups
4. Economic pressure, diplomatic isolation and lawfare
5. Political manipulation, social polarization and institutional delegitimization

Why Pakistan Is Particularly Vulnerable

1. Contested regional environment and unresolved disputes
2. Terrorism and instability along the western frontier
3. Political polarization and weak institutional coordination
4. Ethnic, sectarian, provincial and socioeconomic grievances
5. Fragile economy, technological dependence and low digital literacy

Major Security Dimensions

1. Terrorism and proxy violence
2. Cyber insecurity of critical national infrastructure
3. Disinformation and cognitive manipulation
4. Political destabilization and institutional distrust
5. Economic coercion and reputational warfare
6. Diplomatic, legal and informational pressure
7. Threats to CPEC and strategic connectivity
8. Societal fragmentation and radicalization

Emerging Technologies and the Intensification of Threats

1. AI-generated propaganda, deepfakes and automated influence operations

Can Democracy Survive Without the Rule of Law?

Other possible titles:

- Justice as the Foundation of Democracy.
- Judicial Independence and Democratic Resilience.
- Democracy Without Justice Is Tyranny
- Procedural Democracy Versus Substantive Justice.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Democracy as government by consent, law and human dignity
2. Justice as the moral and institutional foundation of democratic authority
3. Thesis: elections without equality, accountability and the rule of law merely legitimise organised oppression

Conceptual relationship between democracy, justice and tyranny

1. Democracy beyond periodic elections
2. Justice as fairness, equality, due process and protection of rights
3. Tyranny as arbitrary, discriminatory and unaccountable power

Why justice is indispensable to democracy

1. Popular sovereignty requires equal citizenship
2. Rule of law restrains both rulers and majorities
3. Independent institutions convert constitutional promises into reality
4. Social and economic justice make political freedom meaningful

How democracy without justice degenerates into tyranny

1. Majoritarian domination and persecution of minorities
2. Selective accountability and politicisation of law
3. Executive overreach and erosion of separation of powers
4. Suppression of opposition, media and civil society
5. Arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and denial of due process
6. Economic exclusion, elite capture and unequal access to justice
7. Digital surveillance, censorship and algorithmic discrimination

Consequences of unjust democratic governance

1. Loss of legitimacy and public trust
2. Political polarisation, extremism and violence
3. Weak economic development and institutional decay
4. Alienation of marginalised regions and communities
5. Democratic backsliding and eventual authoritarianism

Pakistan-specific perspective

1. Constitutional commitment to justice, equality and fundamental rights
2. Gap between constitutional ideals and institutional practice
3. Weak rule of law, delayed justice and selective enforcement
4. Civil-military imbalance, political victimisation and compromised accountability
5. Socioeconomic inequality and exclusion of women, minorities and vulnerable groups

Comparative lessons

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contain isolated injustices—all human institutions are imperfect—but whether democratic power is structurally restrained by justice.

Democracy and justice are linked at the level of first principles. Democracy rests on popular sovereignty: the belief that political authority originates from citizens rather than kings, armies, hereditary elites or divinely privileged classes. Yet sovereignty of the people is meaningless unless each person is recognised as an equal member of the political community. Justice supplies this equality. It ensures that the poor person's vote is legally equal to that of the wealthy, that the dissident enjoys the same protection as the loyalist and that minorities possess rights that cannot be cancelled merely because they are numerically weak. Without such equality, "the people" becomes a misleading expression concealing the domination of one class, ethnicity, sect or political faction over others.

Justice also distinguishes the rule of law from the rule of men. Under the rule of law, government is conducted through publicly known, consistently applied and constitutionally valid rules. Under arbitrary rule, similar cases receive different treatment depending on political influence, wealth, identity or proximity to power. In a just democracy, law binds the government as firmly as it binds the citizen. In an unjust democracy, law is applied downward against the weak but suspended upward for the powerful. Such selectivity destroys the moral foundation of obedience. Citizens accept state authority not merely because the state possesses coercive power but because they believe that its rules are reasonably fair and impartially administered. Once that belief disappears, obedience becomes fear, and government approaches tyranny.

Political philosophy has long warned against confusing majority rule with unlimited authority. Aristotle distinguished constitutional government from its corrupt forms, while later thinkers recognised that an elected majority might oppress minorities as ruthlessly as a monarch. John Locke's theory of limited government made the protection of life, liberty and property the purpose of political authority. Montesquieu argued that liberty required power to restrain power through institutional separation. John Stuart Mill feared the "tyranny of the majority," in which social or political majorities could suffocate individuality and dissent. John Rawls subsequently conceptualised justice as fairness, insisting that basic liberties must be equally distributed and that social inequalities require justification in terms beneficial to the least advantaged. These traditions differ in emphasis, but all reject the assumption that electoral victory gives rulers an unlimited mandate.

A contemporary constitutional democracy accordingly contains both popular and liberal elements. Its popular element consists of elections, representation and public participation. Its liberal-constitutional element consists of fundamental rights, judicial review, due process, institutional checks and restrictions on arbitrary power. Elections decide who will govern; justice determines how they may govern. The majority may choose public policy, but it may not lawfully abolish the equal citizenship of a minority, imprison political opponents without trial or convert public resources into private property. If electoral legitimacy could excuse every abuse, even the most oppressive government would need only to win or manipulate an election to obtain moral immunity.

The first sign of tyranny within an electoral order is majoritarian domination. Majority rule is a practical method of collective decision-making, not a licence for cultural or religious supremacy. When elected governments define the nation exclusively in the image of the dominant group, minorities are gradually transformed from citizens into tolerated outsiders. Their places of worship, languages, personal security and political representation become vulnerable to popular prejudice. The danger is particularly serious where political leaders mobilise religious, ethnic or nationalist emotions to win elections. Instead of



Postmodern Thought and the Erosion of Objective Truth

Other Possible Titels:

- Postmodern Ethos, A Challenge To The West
- Identity Politics and the Fragmentation of the West.
- Can the West Recover Its Moral and Intellectual Foundations?
- The Declining Influence of the West in a Postmodern World.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The evolution of human civilization and the sequential development of ethical frameworks
2. The historical trajectory of ethics: from Plato's absolute morals to postmodern ethics
3. Defining postmodernism and postmodern ethos: deconstruction, moral relativism, and the rejection of metanarratives
4. Thesis statement: The postmodern ethos—characterized by deconstruction of traditional ethics, moral relativism, capitalist exploitation, globalization, and the marginalization of religion—poses profound challenges to Western civilization by undermining its moral foundations, fragmenting its social fabric, and creating cultural and political crises that threaten the very identity and coherence of Western societies

Understanding Postmodern Ethos: Conceptual Framework

1. The meaning of "ethos" and its evolution through history
2. Postmodernism as a cultural, philosophical, and intellectual movement
3. The rejection of Enlightenment ideals and universal truths
4. Key features of postmodern ethics
 - i. Deconstruction of traditional value systems
 - ii. Moral relativism and the denial of absolutism
 - iii. The celebration of difference and fragmentation
 - iv. The collapse of grand narratives and metanarratives

The Core Elements of Postmodern Ethos

1. Deconstruction of traditional ethics
 - i. Jacques Derrida's theoretical framework
 - ii. The blurring of right and wrong
 - iii. The destruction of traditional ethical systems
2. Moral relativism
 - i. The denial of universal moral truths
 - ii. The primacy of context over absolute values
 - iii. The rise of consequentialism and hedonism
 - iv. The erosion of objective moral standards
3. Capitalist exploitation deemed as good
 - i. Capitalism as a postmodern ethical value
 - ii. The creation of vast industrial complexes



neutral authority. Thinkers commonly linked with it—including Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, and Jean-François Lyotard—differed significantly and did not always accept the label. Derrida's deconstruction examined tensions and exclusions within texts; Foucault analysed the relationship between knowledge and power; and Lyotard famously associated the postmodern condition with distrust of comprehensive historical narratives. The "postmodern ethos" refers to the wider moral and cultural atmosphere produced when these suspicions move beyond philosophy into social life. In this ethos, truth appears increasingly dependent on perspective, identity is treated as flexible and constructed, authority is continuously questioned, difference is celebrated, inherited moral systems lose their unquestioned status, and culture becomes fragmented into multiple lifestyles and narratives. Through globalization, consumerism, and digital media, this ethos has entered politics, family life, entertainment, education, and everyday communication.

One of the defining features of postmodern ethos is the deconstruction of traditional ethics or value systems. Deconstructionism, a theoretical concept advanced by Jacques Derrida, holds that the complexity of the world system renders precise descriptions impossible, and that the purpose of scholarship is to understand actors' hidden motives by deconstructing their textual statements. Deconstruction of traditional ethics has blurred the concept of right and wrong that existed in the past. It has also removed the concept of absolutism, creating a distortion in the images of traditional ethics. Postmodern deconstructionism rejects the notion of a definable human good and the existence of universally held ethical norms. It rejects the very foundation of the ethics of classicism and modernity. Classical ethics presupposes the existence of intrinsic human good as the inalienable human character, while the modern notion of good is also discarded. In short, postmodern ethos has buried traditional ethics and destroyed the traditional ethical system, replacing it with a radical skepticism that leaves society morally disarmed and fragmented.

Moral relativism is another central tenet of postmodern ethics. Moral relativism holds that there is no concept of absolutism—everything is relative; nothing is inherently good or bad, but the context in which they exist defines their relevance. Moral relativism has been espoused, criticized, and debated for thousands of years, from ancient Greece and India to the present day, in diverse fields including philosophy, science, and religion. Postmodernism has, with its radical skepticism and relativism, arguably undermined the last certaintist tendencies of the Western tradition. The concept of consequentialism has been strengthened via moral relativism, affecting the concept of right and wrong and destroying the value system or ethical framework governing society. Postmodernists deny that there are aspects of reality that are objective, that there are statements about reality that are objectively true or false, and that values reflect anything other than the preferences of dominant or elite groups. This has led to a return of relativism in the sphere of morality, spawning the threat of chaos which relativism inevitably brings.

Capitalism, too, has become a defining ethos of the postmodern age. Capitalism, the economic concept denoting a society categorized into classes with defined boundaries and the right to own property and earn according to one's efforts and talent within existing legal limits, has led to the establishment of huge industrial complexes, causing exploitation of labor and uneven distribution of wealth. It has, thus, created a huge gap between the rich and the poor, where the rich become richer while the poor remain poorer. Both liberal capitalism and postmodernism have excluded the concept and importance of morality in shaping societies. Global capitalism reflects societies' ethics and cannot be intrinsically good or bad, but morally ambivalent, its determination to be more unprejudiced depending on the willingness of individuals to be moral. Globalized capitalism may be seen as an overdeveloped order where political organization remains nationally legitimated while markets are globalized. This has led to the commodification of human life, the

New Provinces and the Future of Pakistan's Federalism

Other Possible Titels:

- South Punjab and the Demand for Provincial Autonomy.
- Resource Distribution and the Challenge of New Provinces.
- Constitutional Hurdles to Creating New Provinces.
- The Economics of Provincial Boundaries in Pakistan.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Pakistan's growing population, territorial diversity and governance deficit
2. New provinces as instruments of democratic and administrative restructuring, not ethnic partition
3. Thesis: Carefully designed new provinces can improve representation, service delivery and national integration, but success depends on constitutional consensus, fiscal viability, objective criteria and empowered local governments

Constitutional and Historical Context

1. Federal foundations of Pakistan and the consequences of the One Unit experiment
2. Existing territorial structure under the Constitution of 1973
3. Provincial autonomy after the Eighteenth Amendment
4. Constitutional procedure under Article 239(4)
5. Major demands: South Punjab, Bahawalpur, Hazara and other proposed units

Rationale for Creating New Provinces

1. Rapid population growth and unmanageable administrative scale
2. Regional inequalities and centre-periphery grievances
3. Inadequate political representation and distant provincial capitals
4. Ethno-linguistic and historical aspirations
5. Weak service delivery and uneven development

Prospects and Potential Benefits

1. Responsive and accessible governance
2. Equitable allocation of public resources
3. Better health, education, policing and disaster management
4. Greater political representation and democratic participation
5. Economic diversification and development of neglected regions
6. Administrative innovation, digitisation and data-driven planning
7. Cultural recognition without weakening national identity
8. Stronger federation through inclusion and shared ownership

Major Challenges and Risks

1. Absence of national and provincial political consensus
2. Difficult constitutional threshold and competing territorial claims
3. Ethnic polarisation and disputes over identity, names and boundaries
4. Fiscal viability and redistribution under the NFC Award
5. Division of water, assets, liabilities and natural resources

concentrated in central and northern Punjab. The Bahawalpur movement rests partly on the historical identity of the former princely state, which had provincial status for a limited period after independence before its absorption into One Unit. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Hazara movement gained momentum particularly after the province was renamed through the Eighteenth Amendment, although its roots include linguistic, political and developmental concerns. Parliamentary proposals have at different times sought the restoration of Bahawalpur and the creation of Janubi Punjab and Hazara provinces, demonstrating that these demands have entered formal constitutional politics rather than remaining confined to street mobilisation. Other proposals, including a Karachi province, a Potohar province and divisions of Balochistan or Sindh, remain far more contentious because they intersect with migration, ethnicity, urban-rural representation, natural resources and fears of demographic domination.

The strongest argument for additional provinces is administrative scale. Pakistan's population has grown from roughly 132 million in 1998 to over 207 million in 2017 and approximately 241.49 million in 2023. Yet the basic provincial map remains unchanged. Punjab alone has a population larger than that of many substantial countries. Balochistan occupies nearly forty-four per cent of Pakistan's territory, while settlements are widely dispersed and frequently separated from provincial institutions by immense distances. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces difficult mountainous terrain, security challenges and the administrative consequences of the merger of the former tribal areas. Sindh contains both one of the world's largest metropolitan centres and vast rural districts with entirely different governance requirements. In such circumstances, excessively large provinces can produce administrative remoteness even when formal political representation exists.

Administrative proximity matters because governance is experienced locally. Citizens do not judge a federation by constitutional theory alone; they judge it by the availability of teachers, medicines, police protection, land records, irrigation water, roads and timely relief during disasters. When provincial secretariats, specialised hospitals, appellate authorities and senior administrative offices are concentrated in distant capitals, poorer citizens bear disproportionate travel, information and opportunity costs. Political intermediaries become necessary for tasks that should be routine administrative entitlements. A smaller province, equipped with competent institutions and decentralised systems, can shorten the chain between citizen and decision-maker. It can allow senior officials to understand local conditions, facilitate legislative oversight and make provincial administrations more visible and answerable.

However, territory alone does not create accessibility. A provincial capital can be as distant and unaccountable to its peripheral districts as the capital of the parent province. The creation of a South Punjab province, for example, would not automatically guarantee justice to every district if its institutions, universities, hospitals and development expenditure were concentrated in a single new capital. The strongest administrative case for new provinces must therefore be connected to constitutional local government. Article 140A requires each province to establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility to elected representatives. Without genuinely empowered districts, municipalities and union councils, new provinces may merely add another tier of politicians, ministers and secretaries. Provincial multiplication without local devolution would reduce the geographical size of government but not necessarily the psychological or institutional distance between government and citizen.

New provinces could also correct regional inequalities in public expenditure. Provincial development patterns frequently display a capital-city bias because political, bureaucratic and commercial institutions

Political Consensus in Pakistan a Key to Resolve Collective Challenges

Other Possible Titels:

- Political Polarization and the Crisis of Governance.
- Can Pakistan Achieve Political Reconciliation?
- Pakistan's Challenges Require Collective Will.
- Reconciliation and the Future of Pakistani Democracy.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Pakistan's crises are interconnected and exceed the capacity of any single party or institution
2. Political consensus as principled agreement on constitutional rules and long-term national priorities
3. Thesis statement

Conceptual and Constitutional Foundations

1. Consensus distinguished from unanimity, coalition-building and political surrender
2. Democracy as institutionalized disagreement
3. The 1973 Constitution, Parliament, federalism and the Council of Common Interests

Pakistan's Historical Experience of Consensus

1. The 1973 Constitution
2. Democratic cooperation and the Charter of Democracy
3. The Eighteenth Amendment and federal restructuring
4. The Seventh National Finance Commission Award
5. National Action Plan after the Army Public School tragedy
6. Lessons from failed consensus and constitutional disruptions

Why Consensus Is Essential for Resolving Collective Challenges

1. Political stability and democratic continuity
2. Constitutional supremacy and institutional balance
3. Economic reform and policy continuity
4. Terrorism, extremism and internal security
5. Federal-provincial and interprovincial harmony
6. Climate change, water scarcity and disaster management
7. Population growth, education, health and poverty
8. Foreign policy and regional security
9. Digital governance, artificial intelligence and misinformation
10. Social cohesion, minority rights and national integration

Major Obstacles

1. Zero-sum politics and extreme polarization
2. Personality-centred and internally undemocratic parties
3. Civil-military imbalance and institutional encroachment
4. Disputed elections and weak parliamentary culture

Pakistan's federal structure constitutes another area where consensus is indispensable. The federation contains profound differences in population, resources, geography and administrative capacity. Sindh raises concerns over water and urban representation; Balochistan emphasizes resource ownership, security and underdevelopment; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa confronts border insecurity, displacement and fiscal demands; Punjab's demographic weight creates both responsibility and suspicion; Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir possess distinct constitutional and developmental concerns. These cannot be resolved through central directives or majoritarian arithmetic.

The Council of Common Interests should serve as the federation's central negotiating forum, not merely a meeting convened to satisfy a formal requirement. Regular meetings, professional secretariats, public reporting and follow-up mechanisms are essential. Disputes over energy, water, census results, higher education, regulatory authority and natural resources should be addressed through evidence-based intergovernmental negotiation. The Eighteenth Amendment's strengthening of shared supervision and federal-provincial coordination reflected precisely this need. A federation survives not because disagreements disappear, but because provinces believe they have a meaningful voice in resolving them.

Local governments must also be included in the consensus framework. Collective challenges are experienced locally: flooding, waste disposal, public transport, primary education, disease surveillance and urban expansion. Yet local bodies in Pakistan are frequently dissolved, delayed or deprived of finance by provincial governments reluctant to share power. Political parties that demand autonomy from the federation often resist devolution within provinces. A national democratic consensus should therefore include regular local elections, constitutionally meaningful tenure, predictable finance and administrative authority. Without capable local government, national plans remain distant from citizens and provincial capitals become miniature central governments.

Climate change provides perhaps the clearest example of a challenge that cannot be addressed through partisan policy. Floods, heatwaves, droughts, glacial melt, water stress and coastal degradation do not respect party boundaries. Climate adaptation requires decades of investment in drainage, resilient housing, watershed management, irrigation efficiency, early-warning systems and urban planning. Governments that treat each disaster as an isolated emergency condemn the country to repeated loss. A national climate compact should define adaptation priorities, clarify federal-provincial responsibilities, protect climate spending and establish transparent mechanisms for international finance.

Water policy requires a similar consensus. Competing provincial narratives over river flows, dams and allocation have often produced distrust. Technical questions become symbols of political domination, while population growth and climate change intensify scarcity. Any durable settlement must combine constitutional allocations, transparent real-time data, efficient irrigation, groundwater regulation, conservation and provincial participation. Secrecy deepens suspicion; shared data and independent monitoring can reduce it. No government can impose a lasting water solution upon unwilling provinces.

Population growth, education and health are equally collective in nature. Pakistan's demographic pressures affect employment, cities, schools, water, food security and maternal health. Yet population policy remains politically sensitive and administratively fragmented. Consensus among political parties, religious scholars, health professionals and communities is necessary to frame family planning as a matter of maternal well-being, child development and responsible parenthood rather than ideological conflict. The same principle applies to education. Curriculum reform, enrolment, teacher standards, digital access and technical training

Media Freedom in Pakistan and Its Impact on Democracy

Other Possible Titels:

- Media Freedom and Democratic Resilience in Pakistan.
- Can Free Media Survive in Pakistan?
- Media, State, and the Struggle for Information.
- Digital Media and the Transformation of Pakistani Politics.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Free media as the nervous system of representative government
2. Pakistan's paradox: constitutional guarantees alongside political, legal, economic and coercive restrictions
3. Thesis: media freedom strengthens democracy through informed participation, accountability and pluralism, while its suppression—and its own ethical failures—produces authoritarianism, polarization and institutional decay

Conceptual Relationship between Media Freedom and Democracy

1. Freedom of expression, press independence and citizens' right to know
2. Media as watchdog, public sphere, agenda-setter and bridge between state and society
3. Responsible freedom rather than censorship or unregulated sensationalism

Evolution of Media Freedom in Pakistan

1. Colonial legal inheritance and early post-independence controls
2. Press restrictions under successive civil and military governments
3. Expansion of private electronic media after 2002
4. Digital transformation, citizen journalism and social media politics

Constitutional, Legal and International Framework

1. Articles 19 and 19-A of the Constitution
2. Democratic significance of the right to information
3. PEMRA laws, defamation provisions, Official Secrets legislation and PECA
4. Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021
5. Pakistan's obligations under Article 19 of the ICCPR

Present State of Media Freedom in Pakistan

1. Violence, intimidation, disappearances and impunity
2. Regulatory pressure, censorship and legal harassment
3. Digital surveillance, internet disruptions and platform restrictions
4. Economic coercion, ownership concentration and precarious employment
5. Self-censorship and exclusion of peripheral regions and marginalized voices

Positive Impact of Free Media on Democracy

1. Informed voting and meaningful political participation
2. Accountability of elected and unelected institutions
3. Exposure of corruption, maladministration and rights abuses
4. Strengthening parliament, judiciary, opposition and civil society

The authoritarian period associated with General Ayub Khan demonstrated how control over information could complement centralized political power. Restrictions imposed through the Press and Publications Ordinance enabled the government to influence ownership, registration and editorial content. The purpose was not merely to prevent falsehood but to narrow the range of permissible political argument. Under General Zia-ul-Haq, direct censorship became still more intrusive. Newspapers faced pre-publication scrutiny, journalists were arrested or flogged, and publications sometimes left blank spaces to reveal material removed by censors. These practices produced a lasting institutional lesson: governments capable of controlling information can weaken opposition without formally abolishing all political institutions.

Civilian governments also displayed an ambivalent attitude toward press freedom. Although elected administrations generally allowed more space than military regimes, they too used official advertising, tax investigations, defamation claims, regulatory powers and political patronage to influence coverage. This continuity indicates that media repression in Pakistan cannot be explained solely by civil-military differences. It is also rooted in a broader political culture that equates criticism with conspiracy and regards public information as the property of the state. Governments change, but the temptation to manage narratives survives.

A major transformation occurred with the expansion of private electronic media in the early twenty-first century. The liberalization of broadcasting after 2002 created dozens of television channels and gradually ended the state broadcaster's monopoly over national political communication. Ironically, a policy initiated under military rule helped generate a more argumentative public sphere. Live talk shows, continuous news coverage and investigative reporting brought politics into homes at an unprecedented scale. During the lawyers' movement of 2007–2009, private media helped mobilize public opinion in favour of judicial independence and resistance to emergency rule. Images of police action, courtroom developments and civil-society protests weakened the state's ability to monopolize the narrative. The episode revealed that independent communication can transform isolated grievances into a national democratic movement.

Nevertheless, electronic-media expansion also created new vulnerabilities. Intense competition for ratings rewarded confrontation, speed and spectacle. Talk shows often converted complex constitutional issues into personalized conflict. Media houses became powerful corporate actors with commercial interests, political alignments and dependence on government advertising. Thus, the growth of media quantity did not automatically produce editorial independence or journalistic quality. Pakistan acquired a noisy media system, but noise and freedom are not identical. Genuine freedom requires diversity of ownership, professional security, transparent financing and the ability to investigate all centres of power without selective restraint.

The constitutional basis for media freedom is nevertheless substantial. Article 19 of the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of speech and expression and recognizes freedom of the press, subject to restrictions imposed by law in specified areas such as national security, public order, decency, contempt of court and incitement to an offence. Article 19-A, inserted through the Eighteenth Amendment, separately guarantees the right of access to information in matters of public importance, subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law. Together, these provisions establish both a negative obligation and a positive one: the state must refrain from arbitrary censorship, and it must facilitate citizens' access to public information. The official constitutional text therefore does not treat openness as a favour granted by rulers but as a fundamental right forming part of Pakistan's constitutional order.

Prerequisites for Democratic Success

Other Possible Titels:

- Is Democracy Suitable for Pakistan?
- Democracy, Illiteracy, and Political Instability.
- Can Illiterate Societies Sustain Democracy?
- Democracy in the Developing World.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The evolution of human civilization and the emergence of diverse governance systems
2. Different forms of governance throughout history and the rise of democracy as the most celebrated system
3. The paradox of democracy: ideal in theory, challenging in practice, particularly in illiterate societies
4. Thesis statement: Democracy, despite being the most celebrated form of governance, becomes the worst system for illiterate nations because illiteracy breeds political ignorance, enables manipulation by demagogues, perpetuates dynastic politics, produces incompetent governments, and undermines accountability and transparency; therefore, sustainable democracy requires universal literacy and political awareness as essential preconditions

Understanding Democracy: Conceptual Framework

1. Definition and core principles of democracy
2. The vision of Abraham Lincoln: government of, by, and for the people
3. Albert Camus' perspective: democracy as protection of the minority
4. The distinction between electoral democracy and substantive democracy
5. The prerequisites for successful democratic governance

Features of a True Democratic System

1. Mass literacy and political awareness
 - i. Education as the foundation of democratic participation
 - ii. Political consciousness and understanding of rights and obligations
 - iii. The American example of an educated electorate
2. Free and fair elections
 - i. Elections as the mechanism of public will
 - ii. Transparency and credibility in electoral processes
 - iii. Consequences of electoral manipulation
3. Frequent inter-party and intra-party elections
 - i. Regular leadership renewal and grassroots representation
 - ii. Ensuring fairness and merit within political parties
 - iii. Preventing the concentration of power
4. Devolution and decentralization of power
 - i. Local government and grassroots democracy
 - ii. Empowering citizens at the micro-level
 - iii. Efficient service delivery through decentralization

How Illiteracy Undermines Democratic Governance



ESSAY

"Democracy is not the law of the majority, but the protection of the minority." These words of Albert Camus offer a profound counterpoint to Abraham Lincoln's celebrated definition of democracy as "government of the people, by the people, for the people." While Lincoln's vision captured the aspirational essence of democratic governance, Camus perceptively recognized its inherent danger: majoritarianism imposing its will on the minority, particularly in societies plagued by illiteracy and political ignorance. Since time immemorial, human beings have lived together in groups, factions, tribes, and clans, and this factional living bred governance systems based on respective cultures, customs, traditions, and mores. With the passage of time, these simple societies evolved into complex principalities, royalties, kingdoms, and empires with myriad governance methods. History witnessed various types of governments emerging and disappearing in the ruins of time. Though analogous to all of them in the nature of administration, democracy is arguably the best form of governance that man has ever discovered. Time, however, has transformed it into a norm rather than a simple form of governance. With increasing literacy rates, the West has found it facilitating in dispensation of services. Therefore, the West always preaches and presents democracy as the most favorable form of governance. From the treatises and lectures delivered thereof, it seems highly promising, for in its essence it is public-oriented. Some factors, however, have the potential to disparage the real mandate of democracy. Illiteracy is one of them, which is a serious socio-economic issue and, at times, becomes more critical when its fallouts impact democracy. Democracy and illiteracy cannot move together. Whereas democracy means political awareness, illiteracy makes people oblivious to their political rights. It grants corrupt and shrewd leaders ways to hoodwink the illiterate masses. Their ignorance leads them to make faulty political decisions, resulting in electing incompetent demagogues to take up the top slots in governments. Therefore, illiteracy derails the public mandate delegated to the government, despite true democracy having illustrious features, and the resultant fallouts taint the fair name of this system, making it synonymous with the worst form of governance. The central thesis of this essay is that democracy, despite being the most celebrated form of governance, becomes the worst system for illiterate nations because illiteracy breeds political ignorance, enables manipulation by demagogues, perpetuates dynastic politics, produces incompetent governments, and undermines accountability and transparency; therefore, sustainable democracy requires universal literacy and political awareness as essential preconditions.

Democracy rests upon a noble but demanding assumption: ordinary citizens are capable of governing themselves through reasoned political choice. It grants each adult an equal vote irrespective of wealth, lineage, profession, or social status and recognizes the people as the ultimate source of political authority. Yet political equality at the ballot box does not automatically create equality of information, judgment, or power. Where a large population remains unable to read, interpret public information, understand constitutional institutions, or distinguish policy from propaganda, elections may preserve the appearance of popular rule while transferring real power to demagogues, dynasties, and organized elites. Democracy then risks becoming a mechanism through which citizens formally authorize their own exploitation. The proposition that democracy is the worst form of governance for illiterate nations is therefore based on a genuine political dilemma. Democracy requires informed participation, whereas illiteracy limits the ability of citizens to obtain information, evaluate candidates, and hold rulers accountable. However, the proposition becomes misleading when it suggests that dictatorship, aristocracy, or technocratic authoritarianism would serve illiterate societies better. Illiterate citizens do not lose their interests, dignity,

Justice, Fair Play And Kindness In Islam

Other Possible Titels:

- Justice and Compassion in Islamic Teachings.
- Justice, Equity, and the Islamic State.
- Human Rights and Islamic Justice.
- The Concept of Adl in Islamic Law and Society.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Justice, fair play and kindness as the moral architecture of Islam
2. Islam's synthesis of legal obligation and moral excellence
3. Thesis: an Islamic society becomes legitimate, peaceful and humane only when justice regulates power, fair play governs relationships and kindness humanises the enforcement of rights

Conceptual framework

1. *Adl*: giving every person his or her due
2. *Qist*: impartial and balanced administration of justice
3. *Insaf*: fairness and equitable treatment
4. *Ihsan*: doing more good than strict justice demands
5. *Rahmah*: compassion rooted in respect for human dignity

Qur'anic foundations

1. Justice as a universal and unconditional command
2. Justice against self-interest, kinship, wealth and poverty
3. Fair treatment even of opponents and hostile groups
4. Kindness, generosity, forgiveness and reconciliation
5. Human dignity and moral equality

The Prophetic model

1. Equality before law
2. Protection of the weak, poor, women, minorities and servants
3. Fairness in trade, treaties, warfare and adjudication
4. Conquest of Makkah as an illustration of justice tempered by mercy

Justice as the foundation of Islamic governance

1. Public office as a trust
2. Accountability of rulers
3. Independent and impartial adjudication
4. Consultation, transparency and rule of law
5. Rejection of nepotism, corruption and selective accountability

Socio-economic justice

1. Zakat, charity and social protection
2. Fair wages and workers' rights
3. Honest markets and prohibition of exploitation
4. Rights of orphans, debtors, travellers and vulnerable groups
5. Balance between private property and social responsibility

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sovereignty ultimately belongs to Allah and human authority is exercised only as a trust. This theological foundation has profound political consequences. When rulers understand themselves as trustees rather than owners of the state, citizens cease to be subjects of arbitrary power and become bearers of God-given dignity and rights. Justice is thus not a concession granted by the strong to the weak; it is an obligation imposed upon the strong. Nor is it determined merely by majority preference, political convenience or social custom. Human legislation may change, but the duty to protect life, dignity, property, conscience and lawful entitlement remains morally binding.

Several related Islamic concepts illuminate the full meaning of the subject. *‘Adl* signifies balance, rectitude and giving each person what is properly due. *Qist* conveys impartiality, especially in judgment and the distribution of rights. *Insaf*, commonly associated with fairness, requires one to rise above personal preference and assess competing claims objectively. *Ihsan* means moral excellence: doing what is beautiful and beneficial even when it exceeds the minimum enforceable duty. *Rahmah*, or mercy, is not weakness toward wrongdoing but compassionate concern for the well-being and reform of human beings. These concepts correct two opposite errors. The first is legalism without compassion, which may technically enforce rules while ignoring suffering. The second is compassion without justice, which may excuse oppression in the name of forgiveness. Islam rejects both. Mercy cannot be used to deny a victim’s right, while justice should not become an excuse for cruelty or revenge.

The Qur’an makes justice an unconditional command rather than a selective virtue. Believers are instructed to stand firmly for justice even when testimony goes against themselves, their parents or close relatives, and even when the parties are rich or poor. This injunction attacks the most persistent sources of injustice: self-interest, family loyalty, economic status and emotional attachment. It implies that truth must not be adjusted to protect one’s reputation, tribe, party, sect or social class. The poor cannot be favoured merely because they are poor, nor the rich because they possess influence. Islamic justice is therefore neither class privilege nor sentimental populism; it is principled impartiality.

The Qur’anic command becomes even more morally demanding when dealing with enemies. Believers are warned not to allow hatred of a people to lead them away from justice, because justice is nearer to righteousness. This principle is revolutionary because human beings most easily recognise injustice when they suffer it, yet often overlook it when it harms their opponents. Islam subjects anger, nationalism, rivalry and collective resentment to moral discipline. A Muslim is not permitted to fabricate accusations, celebrate collective punishment or deny due process merely because the accused belongs to an opposing group. In contemporary terms, this principle applies to political polarization, sectarian conflict, ethnic discrimination, wartime propaganda and online harassment. Justice is tested not in one’s treatment of friends but in one’s treatment of adversaries.

A particularly comprehensive Qur’anic formulation joins justice directly with excellence and generosity: Allah commands justice, good conduct and giving to relatives, while prohibiting indecency, wrongdoing and oppression. The structure of this command is significant. Justice is placed first because social order cannot survive without enforceable rights. Goodness follows because rights alone cannot create affection, gratitude or reconciliation. Generosity then converts moral concern into material support. Islam thus builds society in ascending stages. First, no one must be wronged. Second, people should be treated well. Third, those with greater resources and capacity should assist others. A society that distributes charity while tolerating institutional injustice misunderstands Islam; equally, a society that enforces contracts but abandons the vulnerable remains morally incomplete.

Issues of Human Resources Management in Pakistan

Other Possible Titels:

- Human Resource Management and Governance in Pakistan.
- Capacity Building for Effective Service Delivery.
- The Human Resource Crisis in Pakistan's Public Sector.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Human capital as the decisive source of national power in the knowledge economy
2. Pakistan's demographic potential and the paradox of underutilised talent
3. Thesis statement: Pakistan's human-resource crisis results not from a shortage of people but from weak education, poor skills, exclusion, politicised institutions, informality and the absence of an integrated employment strategy; converting the population into productive human capital requires structural reform from early education to workplace governance.

Conceptual Framework

1. Human resources, human-capital development and human-resource management
2. Difference between population growth and productive human capital
3. Strategic importance of recruitment, training, motivation, retention and merit

Pakistan's Human-Resource Landscape

1. Large and youthful labour force
2. Demographic dividend versus demographic burden
3. Predominance of informal, low-productivity and vulnerable employment
4. Unequal participation across gender, class, region and disability

Major Issues of Human Resource Management in Pakistan

1. Defective education system and weak foundational learning
2. Skills mismatch and neglect of technical and vocational education
3. Disconnect among education, industry and labour-market demand
4. Unemployment, underemployment and poor job quality
5. Informal economy and weak labour protection
6. Gender exclusion and workplace discrimination
7. Merit erosion through corruption, nepotism and politicised recruitment
8. Obsolete HR practices in public institutions
9. Weak performance management, training and accountability
10. Low wages, poor motivation and limited career progression
11. Brain drain and inability to retain skilled professionals
12. Regional, urban-rural and digital inequalities
13. Population growth, child labour and out-of-school children
14. Weak entrepreneurship and limited private-sector absorption
15. Occupational safety, harassment and mental-health concerns
16. Security instability, climate shocks and displacement
17. Technological disruption, automation and artificial intelligence
18. Fragmented policymaking and unreliable labour-market information

Consequences for Pakistan

them into productive work, protects their rights, measures their performance, rewards competence and enables lifelong adaptation. It includes education policy, vocational training, labour regulation, public administration, industrial strategy, gender inclusion, migration management, technological readiness and social protection. Effective human-resource management transforms population into capability; ineffective management transforms demographic growth into unemployment, frustration and instability.

The uploaded source correctly identifies several enduring dimensions of Pakistan's predicament, including inadequate technical training, weak infrastructure, limited opportunities for young people, corruption, nepotism, deficient political will, insecurity, an underperforming private sector and the absence of an entrepreneurial culture. It also emphasises technical education, private-sector participation and a peaceful investment environment as central remedies. These observations remain relevant, but Pakistan's present challenge is even more complex. Human-resource management must now respond not only to traditional problems of literacy, unemployment and patronage but also to artificial intelligence, climate-induced displacement, digital inequality, global competition for talent, changing patterns of work and the growing demand for knowledge-intensive employment.

Pakistan's demographic structure offers both promise and peril. A youthful population can enlarge the workforce, stimulate consumption, increase savings and accelerate innovation. This is the celebrated demographic dividend. Yet it is not an automatic gift of population growth. It materialises only when young people are healthy, educated, skilled and productively employed. Otherwise, the same youth bulge increases dependency, unemployment, crime, political volatility and pressure on public services. Pakistan's labour force is already substantial: an ILO country brief reported a labour force of about 71.76 million, while noting that only around 23 per cent of workers were in formal employment. It also placed female labour-force participation at approximately 21.4 per cent, revealing that a large share of the country's productive potential remains excluded or invisible.

The first and most fundamental failure lies in education. Human-resource development begins long before a person enters an office or factory. It begins with nutrition, early childhood development, literacy, numeracy, discipline, curiosity and problem-solving. Pakistan's education system does not consistently deliver these foundations. Unequal school systems reproduce social stratification: elite private institutions prepare one class for leadership and global competition, low-cost schools struggle with quality, public schools suffer from governance deficiencies, and many religious seminaries remain inadequately linked with modern economic skills. Consequently, educational credentials often conceal weak learning. A student may spend years in school without acquiring the ability to comprehend a complex text, apply mathematics, communicate professionally or use digital tools.

This crisis is aggravated by the exclusion of millions of children from education. Each out-of-school child represents not only a moral and constitutional failure but also a future productivity loss. Article 25-A of Pakistan's Constitution obliges the state to provide free and compulsory education to children between five and sixteen years of age. Yet constitutional entitlement has not been matched by sufficient financing, administrative capacity or accountability. The consequences enter the labour market years later in the form of low-skilled workers, child labour, vulnerable employment and intergenerational poverty. Human-resource management cannot succeed where the basic pipeline of human development is broken.

Even among those who complete schooling or higher education, a severe skills mismatch persists. Universities frequently produce degree holders whose qualifications do not correspond to market demand. Employers complain that graduates lack communication, analytical reasoning, teamwork, digital fluency

Youth Bulge a Demographic Dividend or a Demographic Bomb in Developing Countries

Other Possible Titles:

- Youth Bulge: Opportunity or Threat for Developing Nations?
- Migration, Brain Drain, and the Youth Opportunity.
- The Role of Youth in Pakistan's Political Future.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Population as neither automatic asset nor unavoidable burden
2. Global population trends: from 1 billion to 8 billion in 200 years
3. The youth bulge phenomenon in developing countries
4. Thesis statement: The youth bulge is neither an automatic blessing nor an inevitable curse; it becomes a demographic dividend when accompanied by investments in education, health, skills, and productive employment, but transforms into a demographic bomb when large youth cohorts face unemployment, poverty, and social exclusion

Understanding the Youth Bulge: Conceptual Framework

1. Definition of youth bulge and demographic transition
2. The dependency ratio and demographic dividend
3. The finite nature of the demographic window

The Youth Bulge as a Demographic Bomb

1. Broken social sectors and inadequate public services
2. Food insecurity and resource scarcity
3. Mass unemployment and low capital accumulation
4. Inequitable distribution of global resources
5. Inefficient resource utilization
6. Inflation and supply-demand imbalances
7. Crime, political instability, and social unrest

The Youth Bulge as a Demographic Dividend

1. Expansion of labour force and lower dependency ratio
2. Increased savings and investment
3. Entrepreneurship, innovation, and domestic markets
4. East Asian success stories: South Korea, China, Singapore

Conditions for Reaping the Demographic Dividend

1. Universal quality education and skills development
2. Health, nutrition, and family planning
3. Productive employment and economic opportunity
4. Good governance and institutional capacity
5. Women's empowerment and gender equality

Pakistan: A Critical Case Study

1. Demographic profile: 252 million, 2.07% annual growth
2. The demographic window: extended to 2055 but not yet capitalized



favourable, creating conditions for accelerated economic growth. However, this opportunity exists only for a finite period and may be lost if appropriate investments are not made. A country that fails to develop productive institutions during its youthful phase may grow old before becoming prosperous.

The first and most compelling argument for the youth bulge as a demographic bomb is the condition of broken social sectors in developing countries. When social services are crumbling, fertility rates remain high. Professor Michael P. Todaro of New York University argues that in countries where social sectors are deteriorating, high fertility rates persist. Education also influences the number of children per household. Educated women have fewer children than uneducated ones because educated women forgo earning opportunities when they have children. A crumbling social system triggers higher fertility rates, increasing the growth rate, while increased mortality rates in some families spread fears that families should have more children to ensure survival. In other words, the youth bulge in developing countries, coupled with a broken social sector, proves that this youth bulge is a demographic bomb.

Food scarcity in developing countries further triggers this youth bulge bomb. If existing food supplies cannot support the existing population, the youth bulge triggers fertility rates, adding to the existing population, which is likely to drain the existing food supply. According to the UNFAO, most food-insecure people live in developing countries, with 673 million people living in conditions where extreme hunger has become a part of their lives. Pakistan's Economic Survey 2024-25 states that while the agriculture sector grew at 0.56%, the population grew at 2.5%. If this huge gap continues, Pakistan is shortly going to face food scarcity issues. This simple statistical difference supports the argument that the youth bulge is going to trigger higher growth rates and resultant famine.

Although the youth bulge makes up a good labor force, in the situation of the unavailability of capital, this bulge leads to mass unemployment. John Stuart Mill argues that labor is useless unless capital complements it. In itself, it is entirely unproductive and only produces something of value when it equips itself with a machine. A huge portion of arable land in Pakistan is unirrigated. The unemployment rate in Pakistan stands at 7.1 percent. To use this surplus labor in the unirrigated lands, Pakistan needs financial capital to build an irrigation system. However, Pakistan lacks this fiscal space. Therefore, it is logical that it cannot use its unemployed labor to work in the unirrigated fields, for Pakistan does not have enough financial resources to build an irrigation system. If a country does not generate enough resources to employ its current labor force, it is unable to absorb more labor in the future with its existing financial standing.

Youth unemployment rates are double those of adults across most of the developing world. In Sub-Saharan Africa, youth unemployment averages 33%, and the continent urgently needs inclusive strategies that create decent jobs. The International Monetary Fund estimates that Africa must create 20 million new jobs annually to keep pace with its growing labor force. Over 121 million African youth are unemployed or not in education, employment, or training. The World Bank has warned that by 2035, up to 24 percent of people in Africa may be unable to find work. Without swift policy action, Pakistan's so-called "demographic dividend" risks turning into a humanitarian and economic crisis. The youth bulge theory postulates that large youth populations can become a "demographic dividend" when their potentials are properly harnessed, and it can also become a "demographic bomb" in the face of systemic socio-economic exclusion, unemployment, hunger, and family poverty.

The global resources are divided on an inequitable basis, a trend that is leading to resource deprivation in developing countries. With fewer resources and unskilled labor, developing economies will always be losers in the global market. The World Bank's World Development Report highlights that countries with young

Pakistan's Disaster Management Framework: Gaps and Solutions

Other possible Titels:

- Disaster Management In Pakistan Implications And Government Preparedness
- Disaster Management and National Resilience in Pakistan.
- Climate Disasters and Pakistan's Institutional Response.
- Community Resilience in Disaster-Prone Pakistan.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Disasters as hazards transformed into human catastrophes by vulnerability and weak governance
2. Pakistan's transition from episodic emergencies to a permanent multi-hazard crisis
3. Thesis: Pakistan has developed an extensive disaster-management architecture, but inadequate prevention, weak local capacity, fragmented governance and reactive implementation continue to convert manageable hazards into national disasters.

Conceptual Framework

1. Hazard, exposure, vulnerability, capacity and disaster risk
2. Disaster management cycle: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction
3. Shift from disaster response to disaster-risk governance and resilience

Pakistan's Multi-Hazard Profile

1. Floods, earthquakes, droughts, cyclones, landslides, GLOFs, heatwaves and forest fires
2. Industrial, biological, urban, technological and human-induced emergencies
3. Climate change, ecological degradation and unplanned urbanization as risk multipliers

Evolution of Disaster Management in Pakistan

1. Relief-oriented colonial and post-independence arrangements
2. Lessons of the 2005 earthquake, 2010 floods, COVID-19 and 2022 floods
3. National Disaster Management Act 2010 and creation of NDMA, PDMA and DDMA
4. Alignment with the Sendai Framework and contemporary national plans

Structural Weaknesses in the Existing Regime

1. Reactive rather than preventive institutional culture
2. Fragmented federal, provincial and district coordination
3. Weak and underfunded district and municipal institutions
4. Poor land-use regulation and non-enforcement of building codes
5. Inadequate risk mapping, data integration and last-mile warnings
6. Fiscal constraints, political interference and accountability deficits
7. Exclusion of vulnerable communities from planning

Implications of Disaster Mismanagement

1. Death, displacement, disease and psychological trauma
2. Destruction of agriculture, livestock, infrastructure and livelihoods



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development planning, local governance, fiscal policy and environmental management, recurring hazards will continue to become humanitarian, economic and political crises.

Modern disaster studies explain risk as the interaction of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity. A severe hazard does not necessarily produce a severe disaster if communities are protected by sound buildings, reliable warnings, evacuation arrangements and effective public institutions. Conversely, even a moderate climatic event can prove destructive where people live in floodplains, houses are structurally unsafe, drainage systems are blocked and public authorities are absent. This is why disaster management must cover a complete cycle: prevention seeks to avoid the creation of risk; mitigation reduces unavoidable risk; preparedness establishes plans, supplies and skills; response saves lives during an emergency; recovery restores essential functions; and reconstruction should “build back better” instead of reproducing pre-disaster vulnerability. Pakistan’s policy discourse has formally moved towards this comprehensive model, but its administrative practice frequently remains concentrated on response, compensation and reconstruction.

Pakistan’s geography makes it naturally exposed to multiple hazards. Its northern mountains are geologically active and vulnerable to earthquakes, landslides, avalanches and glacial hazards. The Indus River system, though essential for agriculture and national survival, exposes vast areas to riverine floods. Rapidly expanding cities face urban flooding, heat stress, fires, collapsing buildings and industrial accidents. The arid regions of Balochistan, Sindh and southern Punjab are prone to drought, desertification and water scarcity, while coastal districts face cyclones, storm surges, sea intrusion and erosion. Climate change is intensifying this exposure by altering monsoon patterns, accelerating glacier melt, increasing the frequency of extreme heat and making rainfall more erratic. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2025–2030 itself identifies floods, earthquakes, droughts, cyclones, glacial lake outburst floods, heatwaves, forest fires and shifting monsoons among the major threats requiring proactive planning, inclusive governance and technological innovation.

Yet geography explains only part of Pakistan’s losses. Human decisions continually manufacture vulnerability. Forest removal reduces the capacity of catchments to retain water and stabilise slopes. Encroachments constrict natural drainage channels. Wetlands and floodplains are converted into housing colonies. Informal settlements expand without sewage, drainage, emergency exits or fire safety. Building bylaws are either outdated or weakly enforced, while schools, hospitals and public offices may be constructed without adequate seismic or flood-resilience standards. Irrigation channels, embankments and urban drains are often poorly maintained. Development projects are sometimes approved without credible environmental and disaster-risk assessments. Thus, disasters reveal an underlying governance crisis: physical hazards expose the institutional weaknesses that ordinary political life conceals.

The history of Pakistan demonstrates the cumulative cost of such vulnerability. The 2005 Kashmir earthquake was a defining moment because it caused enormous loss of life, destroyed settlements across mountainous terrain and revealed the absence of a coordinated, specialized disaster-management system. The state responded with large-scale rescue, relief and reconstruction, but the tragedy also compelled institutional reform. The floods of 2010, however, demonstrated that institutional creation alone could not guarantee resilience. Vast areas were inundated, millions were affected, crops and infrastructure were destroyed, and coordination problems persisted. Later emergencies—including recurrent droughts, heatwaves, urban floods, locust attacks, the COVID-19 pandemic and the catastrophic floods of 2022—

Institutional Reforms for a Stable Pakistan

Other Possible Titels:

1. The Crisis of Governance in Pakistan.
2. Good Governance and Pakistan's Development Crisis.
3. Is Pakistan's State Structure Fit for Purpose?
4. Governance Reform and Economic Revival.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The foundational vision of Pakistan and the quest for effective governance
2. Defining good governance: accountability, transparency, rule of law, and citizen-centric service delivery
3. The persistent gap between constitutional aspirations and governance realities
4. Thesis statement: Pakistan's crisis of good governance is a multidimensional phenomenon manifested through rampant corruption, institutional weakness, economic mismanagement, and social sector neglect, which can only be addressed through comprehensive institutional reforms, depoliticization of state apparatus, and a sustained commitment to the rule of law and democratic accountability

Understanding Good Governance: Conceptual Framework

1. Definition and core principles of good governance
2. Governance as the bedrock of state legitimacy and development
3. The relationship between governance and sustainable development
4. International governance benchmarks and Pakistan's performance

Nature of the Crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan

1. Rampant corruption and elite capture
 - i. Systemic corruption and state capture by privileged entities
 - ii. Weak anti-corruption institutions and fragmented oversight
 - iii. Economic cost of corruption: 5-6 percent of GDP loss
 - iv. Political interference in regulatory and enforcement bodies
2. Obstructions in the devolution of power
 - i. Weak local governments and delayed elections
 - ii. Provincial reluctance to devolve political, administrative, and financial authority
 - iii. Premature dissolution of elected councils and curtailed local mandates
 - iv. Constitutional ambiguities undermining grassroots democracy
3. Mounting debt and fiscal mismanagement
 - i. Public debt reaching record levels
 - ii. Debt servicing consuming over half of federal expenditures
 - iii. Declining development spending and public investment
 - iv. Failure of fiscal responsibility commitments
4. Proliferation of poverty and social inequality
 - i. Widespread poverty despite economic potential
 - ii. Unequal distribution of resources and opportunities
 - iii. Vulnerability of impoverished populations to exploitation



These leaders were expected to protect the life and land of the people in times of war and ensure their survival in times of peace. Initially, they were men of strength, or simply clan chieftains. However, with the passage of time, more elaborate structures of governance emerged, evolving into the complex administrative systems we recognize today. The concept of good governance—characterized by accountability, transparency, participation, rule of law, and effectiveness—has become the benchmark against which modern states are measured. For Pakistan, however, the gap between governance aspirations and governance realities has remained persistently wide. The state has grappled with a multidimensional governance crisis manifested through rampant corruption, institutional weakness, economic mismanagement, and social sector neglect. This crisis is not merely administrative but existential, threatening the very foundations of the Pakistani state and its ability to deliver basic services, ensure justice, and provide security to its citizens. The central thesis of this essay is that Pakistan's crisis of good governance is a multidimensional phenomenon manifested through rampant corruption, institutional weakness, economic mismanagement, and social sector neglect, which can only be addressed through comprehensive institutional reforms, depoliticization of state apparatus, and a sustained commitment to the rule of law and democratic accountability.

Good governance is the bedrock upon which successful states are built. It encompasses the processes and institutions through which authority is exercised in the management of a country's economic, political, and administrative resources. The United Nations Development Programme defines good governance as comprising eight key characteristics: participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity, effectiveness and efficiency, and accountability. When these principles are upheld, states can effectively deliver public services, foster economic growth, protect human rights, and maintain social cohesion. When they are absent, as is the case in Pakistan, the consequences are devastating. Pakistan's performance on international governance benchmarks tells a story of persistent failure. According to the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2025, Pakistan ranks 130th out of 143 countries, with its overall rule of law score decreasing by 2.3 percent. The index further reveals that rule of law weakened in 68% of countries between 2024 and 2025, with Pakistan among those experiencing a shrinking of civic freedoms. Indicators measuring whether the judiciary limits executive power and whether civil and criminal justice are free from improper government influence declined in 61%, 67%, and 62% of countries respectively, including Pakistan. The country's score on control of corruption has remained stagnant for over a decade, placing it among the worst performers worldwide. The Human Development Index 2025 places Pakistan in the "low" human development category, with a value of 0.544 and a rank of 168 out of 193 countries. Pakistan was ranked 161 in 2020-21 and 164 in 2023-24, and has now slipped further to 168th. If adjusted for inequality, Pakistan's HDI decreases by 33.1 percent to 0.364. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only South Asian countries to finish in this low development category. These statistics are not merely numbers; they represent millions of Pakistanis denied access to justice, education, healthcare, and economic opportunity.

Rampant corruption stands as the most visible and corrosive manifestation of Pakistan's governance crisis. The International Monetary Fund's Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment, finalized in November 2025, presents a grim picture of a system marked by dysfunctional institutions that are unable to enforce the rule of law or safeguard public resources. The report reveals persistent and widespread corruption risks embedded in a heavily state-dominated economy that operates with complex regulatory environments, weak institutional capacities, fragmented oversight, and ineffective and inconsistent

Wildlife Has Lost the 'Life' Part

Other Possible Titels:

- Biodiversity Loss and the Future of the Planet.
- Pakistan's Wildlife: A Heritage Under Threat.
- Climate Change and the Decline of Biodiversity.
- A Planet Without Wildlife: The Cost of Indifference.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The paradox of wildlife surviving as a word while disappearing as a living reality
2. Wildlife reduced to specimens, commodities, trophies, exhibits and digital images
3. Thesis: wildlife has lost its “life” because human-centred development, habitat destruction, commercial exploitation, climate change and weak governance have deprived wild species not merely of existence, but of freedom, ecological function, dignity and evolutionary future

Conceptual interpretation of the topic

1. “Wild” as freedom, autonomy and existence within natural habitats
2. “Life” as more than biological survival: movement, reproduction, social interaction, ecological participation and freedom from avoidable suffering
3. Difference between keeping individual animals alive and sustaining viable wildlife populations

Evidence of the global wildlife crisis

1. Accelerating extinction and population collapse
2. Shrinking genetic diversity and ecological functionality
3. Silent forests, empty oceans and fragmented habitats
4. The “empty forest syndrome”: habitats apparently intact but biologically impoverished

How wildlife has lost the “life” part

1. Habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation
2. Industrial agriculture, deforestation and extractive development
3. Unplanned urbanisation and infrastructure expansion
4. Poaching, trophy hunting and illegal wildlife trafficking
5. Pollution, plastics, pesticides and toxic waste
6. Climate change and ecological displacement
7. Invasive species and disease
8. Captivity, entertainment industries and exotic-pet culture
9. Digital platforms facilitating illegal trade
10. Human–wildlife conflict resulting from ecological encroachment

Structural causes behind the crisis

1. Anthropocentrism and the commodification of nature
2. Consumerism and growth-oriented economic models
3. Market failure: profits are private while ecological costs are socialised
4. Poverty, inequality and livelihood insecurity

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3. Improve the quality, not merely quantity, of protected areas
4. Restore degraded forests, rivers, wetlands, grasslands and coasts
5. Harmonise wildlife laws and strengthen penalties and prosecution
6. Use satellites, drones, camera traps, environmental DNA and AI responsibly
7. Regulate zoos, breeding facilities, private possession and wildlife markets
8. Build community ownership through compensation and alternative livelihoods
9. Integrate biodiversity into agriculture, energy, infrastructure and urban planning
10. Expand conservation finance and eliminate harmful subsidies
11. Promote public education, humane values and responsible consumption
12. Strengthen regional cooperation over shared species and ecosystems
13. Recognise animal sentience and the rights of future generations

Conclusion

- Wildlife conservation is not an act of charity towards animals but a condition of civilisational survival
- Humanity must restore not only wildlife populations, but the freedom, habitats and ecological relationships that make them truly wild and alive

ESSAY

The phrase “wildlife has lost the life part” is not merely a clever play on words; it is an indictment of an age in which wild creatures increasingly survive only as museum specimens, zoo exhibits, brand symbols, hunting trophies, commodities, documentaries and images preserved on digital screens. Forests may still stand on maps while their birds and mammals have vanished. Rivers may continue to flow while dams, pollution and extraction have emptied them of native aquatic life. Animals may remain biologically alive in cages, private collections or breeding centres, yet deprived of movement, companionship, habitat, choice and ecological purpose. The crisis confronting wildlife, therefore, is deeper than the disappearance of individual species. It is the progressive removal of everything that makes wildlife genuinely wild and meaningfully alive. Habitat destruction, commercial exploitation, climate change, pollution, invasive species and weak governance have reduced living beings to isolated populations struggling within fragmented landscapes. Wildlife has lost the “life” part because humanity has confused survival with flourishing, captivity with conservation and numerical existence with ecological vitality. Restoring wildlife consequently requires far more than preventing extinction; it requires restoring freedom, habitat, ecological relationships, dignity and the possibility of an evolutionary future.

To understand the force of the statement, it is necessary to distinguish between an animal that is merely alive and wildlife that possesses the conditions of life. The word “wild” implies autonomy within a natural ecological order. A wild animal searches for food, selects a mate, migrates, raises its young, avoids predators, interacts with other species and responds freely to the rhythms of its habitat. “Life,” similarly, is not limited to respiration or heartbeat. It encompasses behaviour, social bonds, reproduction, genetic continuity and participation in an ecosystem. An elephant chained in isolation may be alive, but it does not possess an elephant’s life. A tiger confined to a breeding enclosure may exist as an individual, but it cannot perform its role as an apex predator. A river dolphin trapped between barrages may survive temporarily, yet the fragmentation of its population compromises its ecological and reproductive future. Thus, conservation that counts bodies but ignores behaviour, habitat and ecological function protects a shadow of wildlife rather than wildlife itself.

Territorial Integrity vs. Right to Self-Determination

Other Possible Titels:

- Self-Determination and International Law in the 21st Century.
- The Global Influence Towards The Right To Self-Determination
- The Politics of Self-Determination in a Changing World.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Self-determination as a foundation of human dignity and legitimate political authority
2. Persistent contradiction between universal recognition and selective enforcement
3. Thesis statement

Conceptual and legal foundations

1. Internal and external dimensions of self-determination
2. UN Charter, human-rights covenants and decolonization instruments
3. Relationship with sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention

Historical evolution

1. Nationalism and the decline of empires
2. Wilsonian principle and its selective application
3. Post-1945 decolonization and emergence of new states
4. Expansion from anti-colonial independence to democratic participation, autonomy and indigenous rights

Manifestations of contemporary global indifference

1. Prolonged denial of Palestinian statehood
2. Unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute
3. Western Sahara and incomplete decolonization
4. Kurdish aspirations across divided territories
5. Rohingya exclusion, statelessness and forced displacement
6. Restriction of Catalan and Scottish constitutional aspirations
7. Indigenous peoples' struggle for cultural, political and economic autonomy

Why the international community remains indifferent

1. Geopolitical interests and great-power rivalry
2. Economic interdependence and strategic alliances
3. Veto politics and institutional paralysis
4. Fear of separatism and territorial fragmentation
5. Ambiguity over the meaning of "peoples"
6. Refugee, security and counterterrorism considerations
7. Nationalism, authoritarianism and shrinking civic space
8. Selective media attention and digital disinformation

Consequences of denying self-determination

1. Political alienation and crisis of legitimacy
2. Militarization, insurgency and prolonged conflict
3. Human-rights violations and forced migration
4. Economic dispossession and exploitation of natural resources

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Is World Peace an Achievable Goal in the 21st Century?

Other Possible Titels:

- Can International Law Prevent Future Wars?
- The Changing World Order and the Prospects for Peace.
- Human Security in a World of Endless Wars.
- The Fragile Peace: Challenges to Global Stability.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Transition from a relatively stable unipolar order to contested multipolarity
2. Global peace as positive peace, not merely the absence of war
3. Thesis: peace appears increasingly distant because power transitions, militarisation, institutional paralysis, economic fragmentation, technological disruption and human insecurity are reinforcing one another; nevertheless, principled multilateral reform can prevent pessimism from becoming destiny

Changing World Order: Nature and Historical Context

1. Decline of unchallenged Western primacy and diffusion of power
2. Return of great-power rivalry and competitive regionalism
3. Rise of non-state, technological and transnational security threats

Why Global Peace Appears a Distant Dream

1. Intensifying strategic competition and bloc politics
2. Proliferation of wars, proxy conflicts and territorial disputes
3. Record military expenditure and revival of arms races
4. Erosion of nuclear restraint and non-proliferation mechanisms
5. Paralysis and unequal structure of the United Nations
6. Selective application of international law and humanitarian norms
7. Authoritarian nationalism, populism and democratic recession
8. Economic warfare, sanctions, protectionism and resource competition
9. Climate change, water stress, food insecurity and mass displacement
10. Cyberwarfare, artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons and disinformation
11. Terrorism, organised crime and weakening state authority
12. North–South inequality and resentment against the existing order

Consequences of a Peace-Deficient World

1. Humanitarian catastrophe and forced displacement
2. Diversion of resources from development to armament
3. Economic instability and fragmentation of globalisation
4. Human-rights erosion and normalisation of impunity
5. Threats to the SDGs and survival of future generations

Countervailing Trends and Grounds for Hope

6. Economic interdependence and the costs of total war
7. Diplomacy, regional organisations and successful reconciliation

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multiplier. In states with weak institutions, pre-existing inequality and communal tension, environmental shocks can increase migration, unemployment and recruitment by armed groups. Drought may push pastoral and agricultural communities into competition; floods may displace millions; crop failures may provoke food-price shocks and political unrest. The distinction between environmental policy and security policy has therefore become increasingly artificial.

The climate crisis also exposes a profound justice problem. Countries that contributed least to historical emissions are often the most vulnerable to their consequences. Pakistan's devastating floods have illustrated how climate disasters can destroy infrastructure, livelihoods and public finances on a scale comparable to armed conflict. When climate-vulnerable states must borrow to rebuild after disasters they did little to cause, resentment towards the international system deepens. Peace cannot be preserved through diplomacy alone while ecological disruption steadily erodes the material foundations of social order.

Technological change has created additional domains of conflict for which existing law remains inadequate. Cyber operations can disrupt electricity grids, financial systems, hospitals, communication networks and military command structures without a conventional invasion. Attribution is difficult, allowing states and proxies to operate below the threshold of declared war. A severe cyberattack may nevertheless produce physical destruction and civilian deaths, raising unresolved questions about self-defence, proportionality and responsibility.

Artificial intelligence further complicates strategic stability. AI can improve early warning, logistics, intelligence analysis and humanitarian response, but it can also accelerate targeting, automate surveillance and generate convincing disinformation. Autonomous weapons may reduce risks to soldiers while lowering the political threshold for using force. Algorithmic decision-making can reproduce errors at machine speed, while deepfakes may manufacture apparent evidence of attacks or official statements during crises. If nuclear command systems increasingly rely on AI-assisted analysis, false data or adversarial manipulation could produce catastrophic miscalculation. Technological competition is therefore not separate from geopolitical rivalry; it is becoming its principal accelerator.

The information sphere itself has become a battlefield. Disinformation campaigns can polarise societies, undermine elections, inflame ethnic tensions and destroy trust in institutions. Unlike traditional propaganda, digitally targeted content can be personalised and amplified through automated networks. The objective may not be to persuade citizens of one coherent falsehood but to overwhelm them with contradictory claims until the idea of objective truth loses meaning. Peaceful conflict resolution requires a shared minimum of facts. When that epistemic foundation collapses, negotiation becomes harder because every concession can be portrayed as treason and every verified atrocity dismissed as fabrication.

Terrorism and organised crime remain significant despite the renewed focus on great-power competition. Fragile states, ungoverned spaces, illicit finance and unresolved political grievances allow violent networks to survive. Terrorist organisations exploit local conflicts, sectarian divisions and state repression, while criminal groups profit from weapons, narcotics, human trafficking and resource smuggling. Heavy-handed counterterrorism may suppress immediate threats but generate new resentment when it disregards human rights. Durable security requires capable institutions, lawful policing, inclusive politics and economic opportunity rather than perpetual emergency rule.

Against this bleak picture, it would be analytically incomplete to declare peace impossible. The changing world order contains forces that can restrain conflict. Nuclear weapons, despite their dangers, make direct war among major powers extraordinarily costly. Economic interdependence still creates constituencies for

Online Education a Boon or a Bane for Pakistan

Other Possible Titels:

- Can Online Learning Solve Pakistan's Education Crisis?
- Online Education and Pakistan's Digital Divide.
- Online Education in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities.
- The Digital Classroom and Educational Equity.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Digital transformation of education after COVID-19
2. Online education as neither an absolute boon nor an inherent bane
3. Thesis: it can democratize learning, but under Pakistan's unequal conditions it may reproduce exclusion unless developed through an inclusive hybrid model

Conceptual framework

1. Meaning and forms of online education
2. Difference between emergency remote teaching and planned digital learning
3. Technology as an instrument, not a substitute for educational reform

Why online education can be a boon

1. Continuity during pandemics, disasters, conflicts and climate emergencies
2. Wider access for remote communities, women, persons with disabilities and working learners
3. Flexible, affordable and lifelong learning opportunities
4. Access to global knowledge, quality teachers and digital resources
5. Development of digital, entrepreneurial and employability skills
6. Improved administration, assessment and personalized learning through artificial intelligence
7. Support for national integration and Pakistan's knowledge economy

Why online education can become a bane

1. Urban-rural, provincial, class and gender digital divides
2. Expensive devices, unreliable electricity and unaffordable connectivity
3. Low digital literacy and inadequate teacher preparation
4. Weak interaction, motivation, socialization and mental well-being
5. Unsuitability for laboratories, clinical training and practical disciplines
6. Problems of cheating, plagiarism and unreliable assessment
7. Cyberbullying, misinformation, privacy violations and commercial exploitation
8. Risk of widening existing educational inequalities

Pakistan-specific structural constraints

1. Low educational expenditure and weak public-school infrastructure
2. Large out-of-school population and severe learning poverty
3. Fragmented governance after devolution of education
4. Linguistic, cultural and accessibility barriers
5. Absence of coherent quality-assurance and data-protection systems

Critical evaluation

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rural areas. Primary, lower-secondary and higher-secondary completion rates are reported at 67, 47 and 23 per cent respectively. These figures show that exclusion intensifies as learners progress through the system. Online education cannot automatically repair such structural weaknesses; without targeted intervention, it may primarily benefit the relatively educated urban population that is already advantaged.

The severity of Pakistan's learning crisis further complicates digital transformation. The World Bank estimates that 77 per cent of Pakistani children are unable to read and understand a simple text by the age of ten. Estimates of out-of-school children range from about 20.3 million to 26.2 million, with girls constituting more than half. Rural girls face the worst outcomes because poverty, distance and social constraints operate simultaneously. For children who lack basic literacy, self-directed digital platforms may be of limited value. A screen cannot compensate for the absence of foundational teaching, parental literacy and individualized support. Therefore, Pakistan must not mistake digital content distribution for actual learning.

Affordability remains another major barrier. A smartphone capable of supporting video classes, a laptop for assignments, a stable data package, electricity backup and repair expenses are beyond the reach of many households. Where several children study simultaneously, one device is insufficient. Inflation and declining household purchasing power intensify the burden. Students may switch off cameras, miss live lectures or rely on low-quality recordings to conserve data. Teachers themselves may lack appropriate devices and private teaching spaces. Consequently, educational costs that were previously borne by the institution are shifted to families, producing a regressive system in which the poor pay proportionately more for inferior access.

Connectivity is equally uneven. Mobile broadband has expanded rapidly, but nominal coverage does not guarantee sufficient speed, stability or affordability for education. Remote districts, border regions and mountainous communities frequently experience weak signals and service disruptions. Electricity shortages compound the problem. Even in urban areas, power cuts, network congestion and limited household bandwidth interrupt classes. An online system that assumes uninterrupted video access is therefore unsuitable for much of Pakistan. Low-bandwidth options, downloadable content, audio lessons, educational television and offline digital libraries must accompany internet-based instruction.

The household environment also influences learning. Schools provide more than lectures; they create structured time, peer interaction, supervision and a physical separation between study and domestic responsibilities. Many Pakistani homes are overcrowded and lack quiet spaces. Girls may be expected to perform household labour during class hours, while younger children require adult assistance that illiterate or working parents cannot provide. Interruptions, noise and family conflict weaken concentration. In poorer households, education competes directly with income-generating work and domestic survival. Thus, the physical closure of schools may transform the home not into a classroom but into a site where educational inequality becomes more visible.

Pedagogical weakness constitutes another serious limitation. Many teachers were trained for face-to-face instruction and have little understanding of digital pedagogy. Effective online teaching requires more than speaking before a camera. It demands shorter and well-structured content, interactive activities, formative assessment, prompt feedback, inclusive communication and strategies to maintain attention. When teachers merely reproduce conventional lectures online, students become passive, distracted and disengaged. Similarly, students unfamiliar with independent learning may procrastinate, remain silent or disappear from

The Palestinian Crisis and the Failure of Global Justice

Other Possible Titels:

- International Law and the Palestinian Question.
- Geopolitics, Human Rights, and the Gaza Tragedy.
- Palestine A Case Of Failing The World's Conscience
- The Struggle for Justice in an Unjust World.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Conscience as the moral capacity to distinguish justice from expediency
2. The international community as the institutional expression of humanity's collective conscience
3. Thesis: Palestine exposes a profound failure of global conscience because international law, humanitarian principles and universal rights have repeatedly been subordinated to power politics, strategic alliances and selective justice.

Historical roots of the Palestinian tragedy

1. The Balfour Declaration and denial of Palestinian political consent
2. Partition, the Nakba of 1948 and mass dispossession
3. The 1967 occupation, settlement expansion and fragmentation of Palestinian territory
4. Failure of the Oslo process and entrenchment of occupation

Palestine as a test of the contemporary international order

1. Contradiction between the rules-based order and geopolitical exceptionalism
2. Denial of Palestinian self-determination and sovereign equality
3. Failure to distinguish legitimate security from collective punishment

Gaza and the collapse of humanitarian conscience

1. Large-scale civilian deaths, displacement and destruction
2. Hunger, restrictions on relief and collapse of essential services
3. Devastation of children, women, healthcare workers and journalists
4. Destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, cultural heritage and the environment

Failure of international institutions

1. Security Council paralysis and misuse of veto power
2. Gap between General Assembly resolutions and enforcement
3. Limitations of international judicial mechanisms
4. Political attacks on UN humanitarian agencies

Selective application of international law

1. Violations of international humanitarian and human-rights law
2. Double standards in accountability, sanctions and diplomatic responses
3. Complicity through military, financial and political support
4. Inadequate protection of detainees and humanitarian personnel

Moral, political and intellectual failures

1. Dehumanisation of Palestinians in political and media discourse
2. Suppression of peaceful advocacy and selective defence of free expression



The Palestinian tragedy also carries a powerful religious and civilisational dimension. Jerusalem is sacred to Muslims, Christians and Jews, while the land contains sites central to all three Abrahamic faiths. Religion should therefore encourage humility, coexistence and protection of the sacred rather than exclusivist domination. Islamic teaching emphasises justice even against one's own interests, Christianity centres compassion for the suffering, and Jewish ethical traditions stress the sanctity of life and remembrance of persecution. The misuse of scripture to legitimise collective domination represents a betrayal of these traditions. No religious history can confer a licence to dispossess another people, and no historical suffering can be repaired by producing new suffering.

Pakistan's position arises from its anti-colonial identity, constitutional values and longstanding support for Palestinian self-determination. Successive Pakistani governments have supported a sovereign Palestinian state based broadly on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. Pakistan can contribute through diplomatic advocacy at the United Nations and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, humanitarian assistance, support for international legal processes and cooperation with states seeking a lawful settlement. However, rhetoric alone is insufficient. Pakistan should develop specialised expertise in international humanitarian law, document the economic and environmental dimensions of the conflict, support Palestinian education and medical capacity, and coordinate practical initiatives with credible humanitarian partners. Its advocacy will be strongest when it is principled, legally precise and consistent with human rights at home as well as abroad.

Restoring the world's conscience requires more than calls for restraint. The immediate priority must be effective protection of civilians, sustained cessation of hostilities, unrestricted humanitarian access and the restoration of food, water, healthcare, sanitation and shelter. All remaining hostages must be released, and all detainees must be treated according to international law. Humanitarian agencies must be protected and adequately funded. Independent investigations must examine alleged crimes by every party, and states must cooperate with competent international courts rather than applying accountability selectively.

Beyond emergency relief, the structural causes of the conflict must be addressed. Settlement expansion, annexationist policies, forced displacement and the fragmentation of Palestinian territory are incompatible with a viable peace. The Palestinian people must enjoy genuine self-determination, not a collection of disconnected enclaves dependent on external permission. A two-state settlement remains the most widely endorsed diplomatic framework, and the 2025 New York Declaration renewed international support for a sovereign Palestinian state, Palestinian institutional reform and security guarantees for both peoples. Yet recognition must be accompanied by enforceable timelines, territorial contiguity, economic viability and a just arrangement for Jerusalem, refugees and security. A state without control over borders, resources and movement would be sovereignty in name only.

Palestinian political renewal is equally necessary. The division between Hamas and Fatah has weakened national representation, governance and diplomatic effectiveness. Palestinian institutions require democratic legitimacy, accountable administration, judicial independence and freedom from corruption. Hamas must accept that armed attacks against civilians cannot be the foundation of liberation, while the Palestinian Authority must overcome the perception that it manages occupation without delivering sovereignty. International actors should support elections and institution-building rather than imposing leadership designed primarily to satisfy external interests.

Israeli society must also confront the impossibility of permanent domination. Israel has legitimate security concerns, shaped by war, terrorism, hostage-taking and the historical trauma of antisemitism. Those

Urbanization And Its Hazards

Other Possible Titels:

- Urban Sprawl, Pollution, and Public Health.
- Sustainable Urbanization in the 21st Century.
- Urban Inequality and the Rise of Slums.
- Urbanization's Toll on Quality of Life.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Cities as centers of civilization, innovation, and economic opportunity throughout human history
2. Urbanization as a defining demographic transformation of the modern age
3. Distinction between productive urbanization and uncontrolled urban expansion
4. Thesis statement: Urbanization can promote economic growth, social mobility, and modernization, but when it advances faster than planning, governance, and institutional capacity, it produces environmental degradation, housing crises, inequality, congestion, disease, insecurity, and social fragmentation; therefore, its hazards can be controlled only through inclusive, climate-resilient, and regionally balanced development

Conceptual Understanding of Urbanization

1. Meaning and dimensions of urbanization
2. Urbanization as demographic movement, spatial expansion, and socioeconomic transformation
3. Difference between urbanization, urban growth, and urban sprawl
4. Historical evolution from ancient cities to industrial and post-industrial metropolitan regions

Major Drivers of Urbanization

1. Rural-to-urban migration
 - i. Search for employment and higher incomes
 - ii. Better education and healthcare facilities
 - iii. Rural poverty, land fragmentation, and agricultural mechanization
 - iv. Climate-induced displacement and environmental insecurity
2. Natural population growth within cities
3. Industrialization and concentration of economic activity
4. Expansion and reclassification of settlements
5. Globalization, infrastructure, and digital connectivity
6. Political instability and conflict-driven migration

Constructive Potential of Urbanization

1. Economies of scale and higher productivity
2. Industrial, commercial, and technological innovation
3. Improved access to education, healthcare, and public services
4. Social mobility and expansion of the middle class
5. Cultural interaction and intellectual exchange
6. Greater opportunities for women and marginalized groups
7. Efficient infrastructure and reduced per-capita service costs
8. Cities as centers of climate action and sustainable transformation

Environmental Hazards of Unplanned Urbanization



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use reform is equally essential. Cities should adopt compact, mixed-use, and transit-oriented development instead of endless horizontal sprawl. Higher density around mass-transit stations can reduce commuting distances, protect agricultural land, and lower infrastructure costs. However, density must be accompanied by open space, schools, healthcare, drainage, and affordable housing. Unregulated vertical construction is no more sustainable than uncontrolled sprawl.

Affordable housing policy should focus on people rather than speculative construction. Governments can provide serviced land, subsidized finance, rental housing, and incremental building support. Informal settlements should be upgraded through water, sanitation, roads, electricity, and secure tenure wherever relocation is not essential for safety. When relocation is unavoidable, residents must be consulted and moved near employment and transport. A distant apartment without livelihood access is not rehabilitation; it is social displacement. Transport reform should prioritize mobility rather than vehicle speed. High-capacity buses, urban rail, integrated ticketing, and safe pedestrian networks can connect citizens more efficiently than continual road widening. Streets must be designed for children, women, elderly people, and persons with disabilities. Cycling should be treated as practical transport rather than recreation. Cleaner fuels, electric public fleets, vehicle inspection, and industrial-emission controls can reduce pollution, but technological measures must accompany behavioral and planning reforms.

Water and waste systems require a circular approach. Rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, wastewater treatment, and reuse can reduce pressure on freshwater supplies. Leakage and illegal connections must be addressed through metering and accountable management, while lifeline quantities should remain affordable for low-income households. Waste should be segregated at source, organic material composted, and recyclable material recovered through formal systems that protect waste workers. Producers should bear responsibility for packaging and electronic waste instead of transferring disposal costs to the public. Climate resilience must be incorporated into every urban decision. Natural drains, wetlands, forests, and floodplains should be mapped and legally protected. Permeable surfaces, urban forests, green roofs, and restored waterways can reduce heat and flooding. Building codes should require ventilation, energy efficiency, and disaster resistance. Heat-action plans must identify vulnerable populations, establish cooling centers, and protect outdoor workers. Risk maps should guide land-use decisions before disasters occur rather than justify evictions afterward.

Digital technology can improve governance when used responsibly. Geographic information systems can map property, infrastructure, hazards, and informal settlements. Smart meters can identify water leakage, while transport data can optimize routes. Artificial intelligence can forecast traffic, detect illegal construction, and improve emergency response. Yet "smart city" programs must not become expensive technological showcases detached from basic needs. Data collection also raises concerns about surveillance, privacy, and exclusion. Technology should strengthen democratic accountability, not replace it. Citizens must be involved in planning because residents possess knowledge that official maps cannot capture. Participatory budgeting, neighborhood councils, public hearings, and open-data portals can increase trust and improve project design. Women, informal workers, tenants, migrants, and people with disabilities must be represented because urban policies affect groups differently. A city planned solely by engineers, developers, and vehicle owners will inevitably marginalize those who experience it on foot, through public transport, or from informal employment.

Ultimately, the goals of sustainable urbanization are reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 11, which seeks inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable human settlements. Achieving this goal requires integration

Cyber Threats and the Crisis of State Sovereignty

Other Possible Titles:

- Cyber Security As The New National Security Frontier
- Securing Pakistan's Digital Future.
- Cyber Warfare And National Security In The Digital Age.
- The Human Cost Of Cyber Insecurity.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Cyberspace as the fifth domain of national power after land, sea, air and space
2. Transformation of national security from territorial defence to protection of digitally interconnected society
3. Thesis: cybersecurity is the new national-security frontier because political sovereignty, military readiness, economic stability, critical infrastructure, democratic legitimacy and citizens' rights increasingly depend upon secure digital systems; therefore, states require an integrated, rights-respecting and whole-of-nation cyber-resilience strategy

Conceptualising Cybersecurity as National Security

1. Cybersecurity beyond computer protection: defence of data, networks, institutions and essential services
2. Distinction among cybercrime, cyber espionage, cyberterrorism, cyber sabotage and cyberwarfare
3. Cyber power, digital sovereignty and technological autonomy
4. Shift from state-centric security to comprehensive human security

Evolution of the Cybersecurity Frontier

1. Early computer viruses and isolated hacking
2. Internet expansion, e-governance and digital financial systems
3. Emergence of state-sponsored cyber operations and hybrid warfare
4. Cloud computing, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence and quantum-era vulnerabilities

Why Cybersecurity Has Become a Core National-Security Concern

1. Dependence of military command, intelligence and strategic communications on digital networks
2. Vulnerability of energy, water, transport, telecommunications, healthcare and banking systems
3. Economic losses from ransomware, intellectual-property theft and supply-chain disruption
4. Threats to elections, public trust and constitutional government through disinformation
5. Exposure of citizens' identity, privacy and financial data
6. Low-cost, deniable and asymmetric nature of cyber aggression

Principal Dimensions of the Emerging Threat

1. State-sponsored espionage and strategic infrastructure penetration
2. Ransomware and organised transnational cybercrime
3. Attacks on critical information infrastructure and industrial control systems
4. Cyberterrorism and extremist use of digital platforms
5. AI-enabled phishing, deepfakes, autonomous malware and information manipulation
6. Supply-chain attacks, cloud vulnerabilities and insider threats
7. Cyber risks to nuclear command systems, satellites, drones and autonomous weapons

Distinctive Strategic Characteristics of Cyber Conflict

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Overpopulation May Become an Existential Threat to Pakistan

Other Possible Titels:

- Population Growth and Pakistan's Resource Crisis.
- Can Pakistan Survive Its Population Explosion?
- Population, Poverty, and the Cycle of Underdevelopment.
- Pakistan's Population Crisis and the Way Forward.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Pakistan's demographic expansion as a threat multiplier
2. Distinction between population size and unmanaged overpopulation
3. Thesis: Without a rapid demographic transition supported by human-capital development, reproductive rights, economic transformation and capable governance, population growth may undermine Pakistan's ecological viability, economic sovereignty, social cohesion and state capacity.

Understanding the Existential Dimension

1. Overpopulation as an imbalance between people, resources, institutions and opportunities
2. Demographic pressure as a slow-moving national-security emergency
3. Population as either a dividend or a liability

Pakistan's Demographic Predicament

1. Rapid increase from 33.7 million in 1951 to over 241 million in 2023
2. Persistently high population-growth and fertility rates
3. Population momentum, youthful age structure and future projections
4. Provincial, rural-urban and gender disparities

Principal Drivers of Uncontrolled Population Growth

1. Poverty and dependence on children as economic security
2. Female illiteracy, early marriage and restricted autonomy
3. Inadequate reproductive-health and family-planning services
4. Son preference and patriarchal decision-making
5. Infant mortality and preference for larger families
6. Religious misconceptions and weak public communication
7. Fragmented governance and poor policy implementation
8. Absence of demographic considerations from economic planning

Why Overpopulation May Become an Existential Threat

1. Economic stagnation, unemployment and declining per-capita gains
2. Educational exclusion and intergenerational poverty
3. Overburdened healthcare, malnutrition and maternal mortality
4. Water scarcity, food insecurity and ecological degradation
5. Unplanned urbanization, housing shortages and civic breakdown
6. Climate vulnerability, displacement and resource conflict
7. Youth frustration, crime, extremism and political instability
8. Gender inequality and loss of productive potential

responsibilities, but demographic outcomes cross provincial boundaries and affect national fiscal, environmental and security planning. Coordination among federal ministries, provincial departments, district administrations and healthcare systems remains weak. Population-welfare programmes are frequently isolated from maternal health, nutrition, education and poverty reduction. Budgets are insufficient or inconsistently released, frontline workers are overburdened, and performance is often measured by expenditure rather than outcomes. Pakistan has repeatedly announced fertility and contraceptive-prevalence targets, yet implementation has lagged. UNFPA's political-economy assessment notes Pakistan's commitment to raise contraceptive prevalence under national and FP2030 frameworks, but also underscores the scale of additional service coverage required to meet the 2030 target. The gap between declaration and delivery is therefore a governance failure, not simply a demographic inevitability.

The economic consequences of this failure are profound. Rapid population growth can cause aggregate gross domestic product to rise while per-capita welfare remains stagnant. If national output grows by three or four per cent but population expands by more than two per cent, the improvement available to each citizen is modest. Pakistan's development gains are consequently consumed by the need to provide additional schools, hospitals, roads, electricity connections and jobs merely to maintain existing standards. The Economic Survey projected real GDP growth of approximately 3.7 per cent for FY2025–26, but such growth remains inadequate for rapid improvement in per-capita income when demographic expansion is high. Population pressure thus creates a moving target: every achievement is diluted by the speed at which new needs arise.

Employment illustrates this predicament. A youthful population can be an asset only when the economy generates productive work at comparable speed. Pakistan's labour market, however, is characterized by informality, low productivity, underemployment and limited female participation. Agriculture cannot indefinitely absorb surplus rural workers, while manufacturing has not expanded sufficiently to provide mass employment. The result is a growing population of educated and semi-educated young people competing for a narrow range of public and private jobs. When qualifications do not lead to mobility, frustration replaces aspiration. Skilled individuals emigrate, while those without resources remain trapped in precarious work. Remittances may temporarily support the balance of payments, but the large-scale export of talent cannot substitute for domestic transformation.

A particularly severe loss arises from the economic exclusion of women. Pakistan effectively attempts to sustain a rapidly expanding population while preventing a substantial proportion of adults from contributing fully to measured economic activity. World Bank research has long found married women's labour-force participation to be exceptionally low, hovering around 18 per cent in the examined period. Social restrictions, unsafe transport, workplace harassment, unpaid care responsibilities and discriminatory hiring practices constrain participation. This produces a double demographic burden: women experience repeated childbearing while the economy loses their productive potential. Countries that achieved demographic transition generally expanded female education and employment simultaneously. When women's time acquires recognized economic value and they gain control over income, the opportunity cost of early and repeated childbearing rises, and family size tends to decline voluntarily.

Education systems face an equally daunting arithmetic. Even where the percentage of out-of-school children falls, the absolute number may remain enormous because the child population continues to grow. Pakistan must build classrooms, train teachers and improve learning quality for millions of existing children while accommodating each new birth cohort. UNICEF's estimate of 25.1 million out-of-school children

Global Warming and Our Preparation to Counter it

Other Possible Titels:

1. Floods in Pakistan: Natural Disaster or Governance Failure?
2. Climate Change and the Politics of Flood Management.
3. Who is Responsible for Pakistan's Flood Catastrophe?

Outlines

Introduction

1. The alarming rise in global temperature and sea levels: statistical overview
2. Earth as the only known planet capable of sustaining life
3. The historical context of climate change and the Industrial Revolution
4. Thesis statement: Global warming, driven primarily by anthropogenic activities including deforestation, fossil fuel combustion, industrialization, and agricultural practices, poses an existential threat to planetary ecosystems and human civilization; however, through concerted international cooperation, national policy implementation, technological innovation, and individual behavioral change, humanity can effectively mitigate its causes and adapt to its unavoidable consequences

Understanding Global Warming: Conceptual Framework

1. Definition and scientific basis of global warming
2. The greenhouse effect and greenhouse gases
3. Historical temperature and carbon dioxide trends
4. Distinction between global warming and climate change

Major Causes of Global Warming

1. Inordinate deforestation
 - i. Forests as carbon sinks
 - ii. Conversion of forests into residential and agricultural areas
 - iii. Deforestation as the second largest anthropogenic source of CO₂
2. Excessive burning of fossil fuels
 - i. Major contributor to carbon dioxide emissions
 - ii. Emission of sulphur dioxide and other pollutants
 - iii. Transportation, power generation, and industrial processes
3. Rising industrialization
 - i. Release of fluorinated gases
 - ii. Disturbance of atmospheric chemical composition
 - iii. Heavy machinery and industrial processes increasing temperature
4. Application of nitrogen fertilizers
 - i. The Green Revolution and increased agricultural productivity
 - ii. Pollution of soil and release of nitrous oxide
 - iii. Unintended consequences of intensive farming
5. Emission of chlorofluorocarbons
 - i. CFCs from refrigerators, air-conditioners, and aerosols
 - ii. Photolytic decomposition and ozone depletion
 - iii. The discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole



implementation, technological innovation, and individual behavioral change, humanity can effectively mitigate its causes and adapt to its unavoidable consequences.

Global warming refers to the long-term rise in the Earth's average surface temperature, primarily because of increasing concentrations of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. It is closely connected with climate change, a broader term encompassing alterations in rainfall, wind patterns, storms, glaciers, sea levels, and ecosystems. The greenhouse effect itself is natural and essential. Certain atmospheric gases trap part of the heat radiated by the Earth and prevent the planet from becoming too cold for life. The crisis begins when human activities increase the concentration of these gases beyond natural levels, strengthening the greenhouse effect and disturbing the planet's energy balance. Carbon dioxide is the most important long-lived greenhouse gas generated by human activities. It is mainly emitted through the combustion of coal, oil, and natural gas, as well as deforestation and cement manufacturing. Methane, though shorter-lived, is a highly potent warming agent and comes from livestock, rice cultivation, fossil-fuel extraction, landfills, and waste. Nitrous oxide is released largely through the excessive use of nitrogen-based fertilizers, while fluorinated gases originate from refrigeration, air-conditioning, and industrial processes. These pollutants accumulate in the atmosphere and trap increasing amounts of heat. Today, the amount of carbon dioxide has increased to approximately 420 parts per million, compared to 280 ppm before industrialization—a 50% increase.

Inordinate deforestation stands as one of the major reasons for climate change. Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing excessive carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, due to excessive use of wood and clearing of forests for farming, oxygen levels have decreased while carbon dioxide levels have increased. The Duke University of the United States has published a research study claiming that deforestation is the second largest anthropogenic source of carbon dioxide, following fossil fuel burning. Currently, the world loses approximately 10 million hectares of forest annually, contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. Deforestation not only releases stored carbon but also eliminates the planet's natural carbon absorption capacity, creating a vicious cycle of warming. The vast number of industries established after the Industrial Revolution in developed countries are producing fluorinated gases at a massive level, disrupting the natural chemical composition of the atmosphere. The industrial sector accounts for approximately 24% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The burning of fossil fuels for energy and transportation, including coal, oil, and natural gas, releases enormous quantities of carbon dioxide, which is the primary driver of global warming. The transportation sector alone contributes nearly 16% of global emissions, while electricity and heat production contribute about 30%.

The use of chemical fertilizers and machinery in the agricultural sector following the Green Revolution is another major reason for global warming. Farmers, forced by circumstances to produce more food for a tripling human population, have tripled the use of nitrogen fertilizers and chemicals to accelerate production, unknowingly polluting the atmosphere and causing an unintended increase in temperature. Agricultural activities contribute approximately 11% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with livestock, soil management, and rice cultivation being significant sources. Nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas 298 times more powerful than carbon dioxide, is released from nitrogen fertilizers and manure management. Emission of chlorofluorocarbons from refrigerators and air-conditioners represents another significant factor. In 1985, Joe Faiman of the British Antarctic Survey published an article showing the decrease in the ozone level over Antarctica during the early 1980s, reasoning that it was because of the use of chemicals in the agricultural sector. The Montreal Protocol, signed in 1987, has been successful in phasing out CFCs,

Critical Analysis of UNO On Its Seventieth Anniversary

Other Possible Titels:

- Can the UN Still Deliver Peace and Security?
- Reforming the United Nations for the 21st Century.
- Human Rights and the UN: Promise vs. Reality.
- The UN's Role in a Multipolar World.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The United Nations at seventy: indispensable institution yet imperfect instrument
2. Thesis: the UN's normative, humanitarian and developmental achievements outweigh its failures, but structural inequality, selective enforcement and great-power rivalry severely restrict its credibility

Historical and institutional foundations

1. Failure of the League of Nations and devastation of two world wars
2. UN Charter: collective security, sovereign equality, human rights and international cooperation
3. Contradiction between universal membership and concentrated power in the Security Council

Major achievements during the first seventy years

1. Prevention of another world war and institutionalization of diplomacy
2. Peacekeeping, mediation, decolonization and electoral assistance
3. Development of international law and human-rights norms
4. Humanitarian protection of refugees, children and vulnerable populations
5. Public-health, education and poverty-reduction achievements
6. Arms control, environmental governance and sustainable development
7. Adoption of the SDGs and Paris Agreement in the seventieth-anniversary year

Major failures and limitations

1. Genocides, ethnic cleansing and failures of civilian protection
2. Unresolved Palestine and Kashmir disputes
3. Selective implementation of international law
4. Security Council veto, representational deficit and institutional paralysis
5. Weak enforcement capacity, dependence on member states and financial constraints
6. Failures concerning terrorism, nuclear proliferation, inequality and forced displacement
7. Gender injustice, social oppression and cultural destruction

Critical evaluation

1. The UN as a mirror of world politics rather than a world government
2. Difference between organizational failure and the political unwillingness of states
3. Tension between sovereignty and humanitarian responsibility
4. Success in norm creation but inconsistency in norm enforcement
5. Greater effectiveness in development and humanitarianism than in coercive security



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cooperation on economic, social and humanitarian problems. Yet the Charter simultaneously placed primary responsibility for peace and security in a Security Council dominated by five permanent members. Under Chapter VII, the Council may determine threats to peace and authorize sanctions or coercive measures. However, any permanent member can prevent a substantive decision by casting a veto. This arrangement made the Organization politically viable in 1945 because the great powers would not have joined a system capable of acting against their fundamental interests. Nevertheless, it embedded hierarchy within an institution founded upon equality. The central contradiction of the UN was therefore present at birth: it promised universal justice through a structure that institutionalized privileged power.

Despite this contradiction, the UN's first and most important achievement was the creation of a permanent framework of international communication. It did not eliminate war, but it made diplomacy continuous, multilateral and institutionalized. Even during the Cold War, adversaries retained forums for negotiation, crisis management, arms control and political signalling. The General Assembly provided newly independent countries with an international voice, while the Security Council, the Secretary-General and specialized agencies offered mechanisms through which conflicts could be discussed before becoming uncontrollable. The absence of a third world war cannot be credited exclusively to the UN; nuclear deterrence, bipolar stability, economic interdependence and memories of global destruction were equally important. Nevertheless, the Organization supplied channels through which strategic rivalry could be moderated. Its achievement was not the abolition of conflict but the normalization of consultation.

The dramatic growth of the Organization also reflected the transformation of international society. UN membership increased from 51 original members in 1945 to 193, demonstrating both the global reach of the institution and the political success of decolonization. Through General Assembly resolutions, trusteeship arrangements and international pressure, the principle of self-determination acquired legitimacy. The UN did not single-handedly dismantle colonialism; nationalist movements, anti-colonial struggles and changing economic realities were decisive. Yet it gave legal and moral vocabulary to peoples demanding freedom. Its chambers transformed formerly colonized societies from subjects of imperial policy into participants in international law. This represented a profound democratization of global legitimacy, even though real decision-making power remained concentrated elsewhere.

Peacekeeping became another distinctive UN innovation. Although the Charter did not explicitly design the modern blue-helmet system, peacekeeping evolved pragmatically between the methods of peaceful settlement and collective enforcement. Missions supervised ceasefires, separated combatants, assisted elections, protected civilians, supported disarmament and helped rebuild institutions. UN peacekeepers received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988, recognition of their contribution to limiting conflict and facilitating political transitions. Operations in Namibia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Mozambique and East Timor illustrated how international presence could support transitions from war to negotiated political order. The uploaded source also emphasizes peacekeeping, dispute settlement, refugee assistance, child protection and environmental action as major components of the UN's positive record, while contrasting them with failures in Rwanda, Palestine and Kashmir.

Yet peacekeeping's achievements require careful qualification. Missions generally perform best when a political settlement exists, major powers are broadly supportive, parties consent to external involvement and mandates are matched by resources. They are much less effective where there is no peace to keep, armed actors reject compromise or the Security Council issues ambitious mandates without sufficient personnel and equipment. The UN has no independent standing army; it depends upon member states for

Health Challenges of 21st Century

Other Possible Titels:

- Universal Health Coverage and Health Equity.
- Pandemic Preparedness and Global Health Governance.
- Health Challenges in a Changing Climate.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Health as the foundation of human security, development and national power
2. Paradox of unprecedented medical progress amid expanding health insecurity
3. Thesis statement: twenty-first-century health challenges arise from the convergence of infectious diseases, non-communicable illnesses, climate disruption, inequality, technological change and weak governance; their solution requires resilient, equitable and preventive health systems supported by international cooperation

Changing Nature of Global Health

1. Historical transition from epidemics and high mortality to longer life expectancy
2. Epidemiological transition: coexistence of communicable and non-communicable diseases
3. Globalization, urbanization and ecological disturbance as health-risk multipliers

Resurgence of Infectious Diseases and Pandemic Threats

1. Zoonotic spillovers, rapid international mobility and densely populated cities
2. Lessons of COVID-19: inadequate preparedness, fragmented coordination and unequal access
3. Future pandemic risks and the need for surveillance, emergency readiness and public trust

Antimicrobial Resistance

1. Irrational use of antibiotics in humans, livestock and agriculture
2. Emergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis and other pathogens
3. Prospect of a post-antibiotic era and its social and economic consequences

Growing Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases

1. Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and respiratory disorders
2. Unhealthy diets, tobacco, pollution, sedentary lifestyles and commercial determinants
3. Double burden of disease in developing countries

Mental-Health Crisis

1. Depression, anxiety, suicide, loneliness, addiction and workplace stress
2. Digital overload, social-media pressures, conflict and economic insecurity
3. Stigma, inadequate services and neglect of psychosocial well-being

Climate Change and Environmental Health

1. Heatwaves, floods, droughts, air pollution and vector-borne diseases
2. Food insecurity, unsafe water, displacement and climate anxiety
3. One Health approach linking human, animal and environmental health

Inequality, Poverty and Fragile Health Systems

1. Unequal access to medicines, vaccines, professionals and health technologies
2. Catastrophic out-of-pocket expenditure and commercialization of healthcare
3. Gender, class, geography, disability and conflict-related disparities

Demographic and Social Challenges



agriculture all accelerate this process. Drug-resistant tuberculosis already illustrates the danger: an illness that is ordinarily treatable becomes prolonged, costly and potentially fatal when first-line medicines fail. The uploaded essay correctly identifies careless antibiotic use and mutant pathogens as a major future danger.

The implications of antimicrobial resistance extend far beyond infectious-disease wards. Modern surgery, organ transplantation, chemotherapy and neonatal care depend upon effective antimicrobial drugs. If routine infections become difficult to cure, the foundations of contemporary medicine will be weakened. Yet pharmaceutical markets often provide insufficient incentives for developing antibiotics because such drugs are ideally used sparingly and for short periods. This creates a policy failure in which the social value of research exceeds its commercial reward. Governments must consequently regulate antibiotic sales, strengthen diagnostic capacity, monitor resistance, improve sanitation, reduce infection in hospitals and finance research through public-private mechanisms. Because resistant organisms cross borders and move through food systems, the problem demands a One Health strategy that integrates human medicine, veterinary practice, agriculture and environmental management.

While infectious diseases retain their destructive capacity, non-communicable diseases have become the dominant source of global mortality. Cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory illness account for more than three-quarters of deaths worldwide, and a disproportionate share of premature mortality occurs in low- and middle-income countries. This epidemiological transition does not mean that developing states have defeated infections. Rather, they face a double burden: tuberculosis, malaria, diarrhoeal disease and maternal mortality persist while hypertension, stroke, diabetes and cancer expand. Health systems designed for short episodes of acute illness are therefore being asked to manage lifelong conditions requiring regular screening, medication, behavioural counselling and continuity of care.

The rise of non-communicable disease reflects changes in lifestyles, economies and commercial environments. Urbanization has reduced physical activity; industrial food systems promote products rich in salt, sugar and unhealthy fats; tobacco and alcohol industries use sophisticated marketing; and polluted air damages lungs and cardiovascular systems. Responsibility cannot be placed entirely upon individuals. A person's choices are shaped by income, education, working hours, neighbourhood safety, food prices and corporate advertising. Public policy must therefore address what scholars describe as the social and commercial determinants of health. Taxation of tobacco and sugar-sweetened beverages, clear food labelling, regulation of harmful marketing, walkable cities, cleaner transport and early screening can prevent more illness than expensive treatment offered at an advanced stage.

Mental health constitutes another defining challenge. Depression, anxiety, substance dependence, trauma and suicide diminish quality of life, productivity and family stability, yet mental-health systems remain underdeveloped in much of the world. The twenty-first century has generated extraordinary connectivity but also new forms of isolation. Social media can build communities, but it also amplifies comparison, cyberbullying, misinformation and the pressure to perform a carefully constructed identity. Insecure employment, rising living costs, academic competition, conflict, displacement and climate anxiety further intensify psychological strain. The uploaded document describes mental illness as an "elephant in the room" and links it with rapid technological and social change, a judgment that remains highly relevant.

Mental-health neglect is partly the result of stigma and partly of institutional design. Many health systems separate the mind from the body, despite overwhelming evidence that psychological and physical well-being are interdependent. Depression can reduce adherence to treatment; chronic disease can generate



Women's Rights in Islam

Other Possible Titels:

- Education and Women's Rights in Muslim Societies.
- The Role of Women in Islamic Civilization.
- Islam and Gender Equality: A Modern Dilemma.
- Revisiting Women's Rights: Islamic Reform and Contemporary Challenges.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The evolution of human societies and the historical subjugation of women across civilizations
2. The emergence of Islam as a transformative force that elevated women's status in a patriarchal world
3. The paradox: Islam's revolutionary grant of women's rights versus the contemporary struggle for implementation
4. Thesis statement: Islam, as a comprehensive divine code, conferred upon women unprecedented rights—spiritual, social, economic, political, and legal—over fourteen centuries ago, establishing a framework of dignity, justice, and equality that was revolutionary for its time; however, the gap between Islamic ideals and the lived reality of Muslim women persists due to cultural patriarchy, lack of awareness, and institutional failures, necessitating a renewed commitment to implementing these divinely ordained rights in letter and spirit

The Status of Women in Pre-Islamic and Other Religious Traditions

1. The pre-Islamic Arabian context: female infanticide, inheritance deprivation, and social subjugation
2. Christianity's historical endorsement of women as subordinate through Church teachings
3. Judaism's Halakha and the degradation of women as inferior beings
4. Hinduism's advocacy of maltreatment and heinous practices against women

The Revolutionary Rights Conferred by Islam

1. Right to spiritual equality and individual personhood
 - i. The Quranic declaration of equal spiritual worth
 - ii. Recognition of women as full moral agents
 - iii. The preservation of feminine identity and lineage
2. Right to life and protection
 - i. Prohibition of female infanticide
 - ii. Sanctity of women's lives
 - iii. Protection from all forms of violence and abuse
3. Rights of women as daughters
 - i. The blessing of daughters in Islamic teachings
 - ii. Parental responsibility for education and upbringing
 - iii. Prohibition of discrimination against daughters
4. Rights of women as mothers
 - i. The exalted status of mothers in Islam
 - ii. Paradise lies under the feet of mothers
 - iii. Kindness to parents as next to worship of God



But when Islam came and Allah made mention of them, this caused us to realize that they have rights upon us." Despite Islam being a silver lining in the dark clouds of oppression, Islamic countries today show wavering in their determination about women's rights. This essay argues that Islam, as a comprehensive divine code, conferred upon women unprecedented rights—spiritual, social, economic, political, and legal—over fourteen centuries ago, establishing a framework of dignity, justice, and equality that was revolutionary for its time; however, the gap between Islamic ideals and the lived reality of Muslim women persists due to cultural patriarchy, lack of awareness, and institutional failures, necessitating a renewed commitment to implementing these divinely ordained rights in letter and spirit.

Starting with Christianity, a glance at femininity during pre-Islamic Christian empires shows women as subservient to patriarchy with no right to own property, let alone inherit it. David Robert Mace and Vera Mace, in their phenomenal book *Marriage: East and West*, demonstrate that the Church has always labeled women as a source of evil, painting the first woman as a source of seduction on account of her role in alluring the first man to eat the forbidden fruit. Feminine beauty has been shown as a source of witchcraft and viciousness. Even, there has never been any let-up in this feminine othering of women in Christianity until the arrival of Islam. Prior to Christianity, Jewish societies, too, belittled women, relegating them to animals. Judaism's Halakha guides its followers to treat women as something impure and filthy, and to equate her to animals. Halakha and orthodox Jewish teachings instruct men to thank God for not creating them as women. Also, orthodox Judaism and Halakha demonstrated women as created to please men, having no intellectual capability. In short, even Judaism did not bless women with a respectable status in society. Equally, the earthly religions, such as Hinduism, had been hard upon women, making their role subservient to men and the elimination of this role with the death of the man. The Encyclopedia Britannica states that this subjection principle about women has been the cornerstone of Hindu philosophy, leading to female exclusion from inheritance and even causing her Sati, to burn herself with her husband in some cases. The Hindu social circle still reveres such women and such traditions. Briefly, even Hinduism has caused a blow to femininity despite its claim of being the ancient philosophy. These short excerpts demonstrate how women's status has been subject to belittling and bickering of patriarchal whims. However, Islam turned this concept of women's subjection topsy-turvy. Despite assigning responsibilities to the patriarchal structure, Islam has slapped bans on some patriarchal acts seeming hostile toward femininity and has raised femininity in the social hierarchy.

Islam has endowed women with the right to individuality. It implies that their status is at par with that of men. Khurshid Ahmed in *Islam: Its Meaning and Message* argues that the Holy Quran provides ample evidence, equating women with men in the eyes of God on the basis of rights, duties, and overall individuality. Every man and woman is equal in their humanity and dignity before God. In Islam, nobility and distinction are a function of piety, not of gender, race, wealth, or any other worldly trait. The Quran declares: "O people, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may get to know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you" (Quran, 49:13). The Prophet Muhammad also declared that "Women are the shaqā'iq (full siblings) of men." Islam provides ease to women by taking into account the physiological and psychological changes attached to their natural female functions. Truly speaking, Islamic teaching suggests it as the first religion acknowledging the personhood of women and equating them with that of men regarding rights, duties, and abilities.

Intense Polarization and Pakistan's Democratic Future

Other Possible Titels:

- Political Polarization and Democratic Resilience in Pakistan.
- Can Pakistan's Democracy Survive Its Divisions?
- Polarization, Populism, and Pakistan's Political Future.
- The Threat of Polarization to Democratic Stability.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Polarization as the conversion of political disagreement into hostile social identities
2. Pakistan's transition from competitive politics to mutually destructive confrontation
3. Thesis: polarization is not merely a symptom of democratic weakness but a force capable of producing institutional paralysis, authoritarian regression and social fragmentation; Pakistan's democratic future depends on constitutional supremacy, credible elections, civilian institutional balance, inclusive development and a renewed culture of democratic accommodation

Conceptual framework

1. Legitimate ideological pluralism versus destructive affective polarization
2. Democracy as a system of restrained competition, constitutional limits and peaceful transfer of power
3. Democratic backsliding through gradual institutional erosion rather than open coups

Historical roots of polarization in Pakistan

1. Weak political foundations and delayed constitution-making
2. Centralization, dismissal of governments and military interventions
3. The 1971 disintegration as the gravest consequence of exclusionary politics
4. Islamization, ethnic conflict and manipulated electoral mandates
5. Persistence of hybrid governance after democratic restoration

Contemporary drivers of intense polarization

1. Personality-centred and dynastic political parties
2. Winner-takes-all competition and refusal to recognize legitimate opposition
3. Civil-military imbalance and political engineering
4. Disputed electoral processes and declining institutional trust
5. Selective accountability and politicization of justice
6. Economic inequality, elite capture and weak public-service delivery
7. Religious, sectarian, ethnic, provincial and linguistic fault lines
8. Partisan media, social-media echo chambers, disinformation and artificial intelligence
9. Youth frustration, unemployment and absence of meaningful political participation

Consequences for Pakistan's democratic future

1. Erosion of parliamentary sovereignty and constitutionalism
2. Delegitimization of elections and political parties
3. Weakening of judicial independence, media freedom and civil liberties



correctly identifies aggressive rhetoric, social fault lines, institutional intervention, populism, religious extremism, media partisanship, inequality and mistrust as mutually reinforcing sources of division. Yet the problem is deeper than the misconduct of individual politicians. Intense polarization is rooted in Pakistan's historical imbalance of power, weak democratic institutionalization, unequal political economy and unresolved debate over the constitutional character of the state. Unless these structural causes are addressed, polarization may transform Pakistan's already fragile democracy into a system where elections occur but meaningful popular sovereignty, institutional accountability and political equality steadily disappear.

Political polarization is not inherently undemocratic. Democracy presupposes disagreement, ideological contestation and organized competition. A society without differences would require neither elections nor representative institutions. The danger arises when ideological polarization becomes affective polarization: citizens do not merely reject the policies of another party but dislike, fear and morally condemn its supporters. Opponents are represented as corrupt, anti-state, foreign-sponsored, irreligious or fascist; political identity begins to override professional, familial and civic relationships; and public debate is reduced to a binary conflict between absolute virtue and absolute evil. Under these conditions, constitutional restraint appears irrational because each side believes that its rival, once empowered, will destroy the state. Political actors therefore justify exceptional measures against one another, including exclusion, censorship, arrests, manipulated coalitions and institutional pressure. Democracy then loses its essential quality as a system of regulated uncertainty in which no party knows who will win the next election, but every party trusts that it will be allowed to compete again.

This distinction explains why elections alone do not guarantee democracy. A democratic order requires credible electoral competition, fundamental freedoms, an impartial administration, judicial independence, responsible opposition, parliamentary oversight and acceptance of peaceful alternation in power. When incumbent elites weaken these safeguards while preserving the outward form of elections, democratic backsliding occurs. Contemporary democratic erosion usually proceeds through legal, administrative and informational mechanisms rather than sudden constitutional abrogation. The V-Dem Democracy Report 2026 records a continuing global autocratization trend, with autocracies outnumbering democracies and many electoral regimes becoming progressively more repressive. Pakistan has been categorized within the broader regional pattern of electoral autocracy, illustrating that the existence of elections can coexist with serious weaknesses in political equality, civil liberties and institutional checks. Pakistan's crisis must therefore be understood not as an isolated national abnormality but as part of a global democratic recession intensified by populism, misinformation, socioeconomic insecurity and the concentration of executive power.

Nevertheless, Pakistan's polarization has distinct historical foundations. At independence, the new state inherited limited administrative capacity, massive refugee pressures, territorial insecurity and a political party inadequately institutionalized outside the struggle for Pakistan. The early deaths of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan deprived the country of nationally authoritative leadership, but personal loss alone cannot explain subsequent instability. Constitution-making was delayed for nine years because political elites remained divided over federal representation, the place of religion, provincial autonomy and the distribution of power between the executive and legislature. Frequent changes of government, bureaucratic dominance and the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly weakened the principle that political disputes must be settled through representative institutions. The 1956 Constitution was abrogated

Can Pakistan's Education System Produce Future-Ready Graduates?

Other Possible Titels:

- The Mismatch Between Education and Employment in Pakistan.
- Education System Of Pakistan Has Failed To Produce Efficient Human Resource
- The Crisis of Education and Human Capital in Pakistan.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The evolution of societies and the pivotal role of education in national development
2. The significance of education in shaping human capital and driving economic progress
3. Pakistan's persistent failure to translate educational expansion into productive human resource development
4. Thesis statement: Pakistan's education system has fundamentally failed to produce efficient human resource due to structural deficiencies including irrelevant curriculum, chronic underinvestment, acute teacher shortages, gender inequality, and a deep disconnect between academic outputs and labour market demands; this failure manifests in technological backwardness, poverty, unemployment, corruption, and poor governance, necessitating comprehensive reforms focused on skills development, quality improvement, and institutional strengthening

The Concept of Human Resource Development and Its Importance

1. Defining human resource and human capital
2. Education as the primary instrument for human capital formation
3. The link between quality education and national economic growth
4. International evidence: successful transformation through education investment

Evidences of the Failure of Education System to Produce Efficient Human Resource

1. Absence of technological innovations and industrial stagnation
2. Poor economic growth and low Human Development Index ranking
 - i. Pakistan's HDI ranking at 168 out of 193 countries
 - ii. Human Capital Index of 0.41, below South Asian average
3. Deficiency of Research and Development (R&D) capacity
4. Unemployment explosion among educated youth
 - i. Youth unemployment at 12.5 percent
 - ii. Higher education graduates facing 11.7 percent unemployment
5. Mass poverty with nearly 45% population below poverty line
6. Visible bad governance and institutional decay
7. High-level corruption and weak accountability
8. Lack of skilled workforce across all sectors
9. Political polarization and social fragmentation
10. Extremism and intolerance in society

Reasons for the Failure of Education System

1. Irrelevant and outdated curriculum
 - i. Rote memorization dominating pedagogical approaches



percentage mostly goes to salaries and infrastructure upkeep, leaving little for technological support. Education spending fell to Rs962 billion in FY2025, down from Rs1,251 billion in the previous year, reflecting a 23 percent decline in nominal spending and a near-halving of education's share in the national economy. During July–March 2025–26, education expenditure declined sharply to Rs356,499 million, a staggering reduction of Rs543,120 million compared to the previous year—a fall of more than 60.4 percent in education spending within a single year. Therefore, this argument that poor economic growth of Pakistan plays its role in the failing education system in terms of producing efficient human resource seems substantiated.

Similarly, the deficiency of Research and Development in Pakistan is another factor playing its role toward the failure of the education system. Developed countries like America and Japan use R&D for competitive advantage over other developed countries. Not only does it enhance their efficiency, but it also improves productivity of their manufacturing sectors. Pakistan, on the other hand, lags far behind in this sector. The reason is the existing human resource capital of the country is inadequate to deal with the complexities of R&D. R&D is still not a priority for the government; government does not offer R&D specialists any incentives. Most of these masters do not have experience of R&D know-how. This reality highlights the inability of human resource capital, having led to the deficiency of R&D in Pakistan. Then this inadequacy in R&D emphasizes the failure of the education system of Pakistan to produce efficient human resource. Pakistani universities allocate minimal funding to research and development, limiting innovation and industry collaboration. Weak research ecosystems reduce the country's ability to adapt to global technologies or develop locally relevant solutions.

Another primary evidence of the failure of the education system in Pakistan is the level of unemployment. Since business schools in Pakistan fail to produce entrepreneurs, the result is the mob they churn out of young people seeking jobs with limited opportunities in the Pakistani job market. According to the Labour Force Survey 2024-25, the overall unemployment rate is 7.0 percent for individuals aged 15 years and over. The youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) increased from 11.1 percent to 12.5 percent. Even more alarming is the unemployment rate by education level: persons with no education have the lowest unemployment at 4.7 percent, while the rate increases with higher levels of education, reaching 12.6 percent for those with intermediate education, 10.9 percent for degree holders, and 11.7 percent for those with Master/M.Phil/PhD. For females with intermediate or higher education, the unemployment rate exceeds 24 percent. Every year, Pakistan's universities award nearly 800,000 degrees, yet families' hopes for a bright future are often short-lived. Several months after graduation, many young men and women find themselves still unemployed and frustrated. According to the Labour Force Surveys, there are around six million jobless youth in Pakistan. Economists describe this situation as Pakistan's "education paradox"—the country produces degree holders faster than it creates meaningful jobs for them. The Asian Development Bank has estimated that the mismatch between education outcomes and market needs costs Pakistan about two to three percent of its GDP every year. This means that billions of dollars are lost because young people are not trained in the right skills.

Poverty in Pakistan, too, leads to the failure of the education system to produce efficient human resource. Poverty is the scarcity or the lack of a certain amount of material possessions or money. It is a multifaceted concept that includes social, economic, and political elements. According to recent government and World Bank reports, nearly 45 percent of Pakistanis live below the poverty line. And it is a result of substandard education provided in the country. The literacy rate stands at 63 percent, meaning approximately 37 percent



The United Nations in an Era of Great Power Rivalry

Other Possible Titels:

- Is the United Nations Still Relevant Today?
- The UN and the Challenge of Global Governance.
- Can the UN Prevent 21st-Century Conflicts?
- The United Nations and the Rise of Authoritarian Populism.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The UN as the institutional centre of post-war multilateralism
2. Transformation of threats from interstate wars to interconnected global crises
3. **Thesis:** The principal challenge confronting the UN is not the absence of legal principles or institutional machinery, but the widening gap between its universal mandate and the selective political will, unequal power structure, inadequate resources and rapidly changing realities within which it must operate.

The UN's continuing relevance in a transformed world

1. Maintenance of peace, development, human rights and international cooperation
2. Unique legitimacy derived from universal membership
3. Limits of an organization dependent upon sovereign states

3. Geopolitical rivalry and the return of power politics

1. Strategic competition among major powers
2. Proxy conflicts, sanctions, military blocs and diplomatic polarization
3. Paralysis of collective security mechanisms

Structural weaknesses of the Security Council

1. Outdated composition and unequal representation
2. Misuse of the veto and selective enforcement of international law
3. Under-representation of Africa, Latin America, the Muslim world and developing countries

Protracted conflicts, occupation and humanitarian catastrophes

1. Ukraine, Palestine, Sudan, Yemen and other conflict zones
2. Failure of conflict prevention and political settlement
3. Civilian protection, accountability and humanitarian access

New security threats

1. Terrorism, violent extremism and transnational criminal networks
2. Cyberwarfare, disinformation and hybrid warfare
3. Artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons and militarization of outer space
4. Nuclear proliferation and erosion of arms-control regimes

Climate change and ecological insecurity

1. Climate-induced disasters, displacement, food insecurity and resource conflict
2. Climate justice and unequal historical responsibility
3. Weak enforcement of environmental commitments

Developmental and economic challenges

1. Slow progress towards the SDGs



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contemporary threats and the nationally fragmented, politically unequal system through which collective action must be organized. The UN still possesses unmatched legitimacy, legal authority and convening power, yet its effectiveness is undermined by great-power rivalry, an unreformed Security Council, selective application of international law, inadequate resources and a growing deficit of trust between the Global North and the Global South.

The continued relevance of the United Nations must first be acknowledged, because criticism detached from institutional reality can become misleading. No other international organization combines near-universal membership with mandates covering peace and security, human rights, development, humanitarian relief, public health, refugees, labour, education, culture, food security and environmental cooperation. The Charter assigns the Security Council primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, while requiring it to act according to the purposes and principles of the organization. The UN has helped negotiate peace agreements, supervise elections, coordinate disaster relief, eradicate or control diseases, develop international legal standards and support states whose administrative capacity is weak. Its agencies often remain operational where national diplomacy has collapsed. The issue, therefore, is not that the institution has become irrelevant; it is that the demands placed upon it have expanded far more rapidly than the authority, unity and resources available to meet them.

This tension arises from the UN's basic constitutional design. It is not a world government standing above states, but an organization created by them. It has no independent army, sovereign taxation power or automatic capacity to enforce its decisions. Even where the Charter provides legal authority, implementation depends upon member states, particularly the most powerful. This creates a persistent paradox: the UN is most needed when relations among states become hostile, but it is least capable of decisive action precisely when the states controlling its machinery are themselves divided. The uploaded material correctly identifies power rivalries, Afghanistan, occupied territories, climate change, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, gender inequality and institutional roadblocks as major concerns. It also emphasizes that the interests of permanent Security Council members frequently impede impartial action. However, some of its examples and statistics reflect the immediate post-Covid and early-2020s context and therefore require expansion to include the accelerating crises of artificial intelligence, cyber insecurity, sovereign-debt distress, record displacement and the broader erosion of multilateral trust.

The return of intense geopolitical competition is perhaps the most visible challenge. The post-Cold War expectation that economic interdependence would gradually produce strategic convergence has proved overly optimistic. Major powers increasingly combine trade restrictions, sanctions, technological controls, military alliances, proxy relationships and information campaigns in pursuit of geopolitical advantage. Strategic competition between the United States and China extends from the Indo-Pacific to advanced semiconductors, artificial intelligence, maritime routes and global institutions. Russia's confrontation with Western powers has revived territorial war, sanctions politics and nuclear anxiety in Europe. Middle Eastern rivalries continue to intersect with conflicts in Palestine, Yemen, Syria and the wider region. These divisions enter the Security Council, where diplomatic positions are often determined less by universal legal principles than by alliances and strategic interests. The result is not merely disagreement but institutional paralysis: resolutions are diluted, blocked or selectively implemented, while humanitarian crises deepen. Such rivalry also changes the nature of international cooperation. Economic interdependence, once treated as a force for peace, is increasingly weaponized. States use access to finance, energy, data, technology, markets and critical minerals as instruments of coercion. Sanctions may impose costs on aggressors, but

Building Climate Resilience in Pakistan

Other Possible Titles:

- The Human Cost of Climate Disasters in Pakistan.
- Can Pakistan Survive the Climate Emergency?
- Pakistan's Climate Agenda: Adaptation or Extinction?
- Climate Change, Disasters And National Resilience Pakistan's Urgent Agenda

Outlines

Introduction

1. Global climate crisis and its intensifying impact on vulnerable nations
2. Pakistan's paradoxical position: negligible emissions but extreme vulnerability
3. The cascading nature of climate disasters and their threat to national survival
4. Thesis statement

Climate Change as a Catalyst for Disasters

1. Rising temperatures, glacial melt and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)
2. Extreme weather events and shifting monsoon patterns
3. Sea-level rise and coastal vulnerabilities
4. Infrastructure failure due to cascading climate impacts

Socioeconomic and Environmental Implications

1. Economic losses and development setbacks
2. Human health, displacement and social fragility
3. Environmental degradation and ecosystem fragility
4. Urban-rural disparity in disaster exposure and resilience

National Resilience Strategies

1. Enhanced disaster preparedness and early warning systems
2. Climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure
3. Policy, governance and financing mechanisms
4. Data, research and innovation for resilience

International Cooperation and Forward-Looking Agenda

1. Regional and global collaboration
2. Capacity-building, technology transfer and human capital
3. Public awareness, civil society and community empowerment
4. Future-proofing and sustainable development synergy

ESSAY

The Earth does not belong to us—we belong to the Earth. This ancient wisdom has never felt more urgent than today, as climate change drives disasters of unprecedented intensity across the globe. Global warming, extreme rainfall, melting glaciers and shifting weather patterns are leaving visible marks on landscapes and societies, turning once-predictable seasons into uncertain cycles that threaten food systems, water security and human settlements. In Pakistan, these global forces collide with existing vulnerabilities: mountainous terrain, rapidly expanding cities, dense rural populations, weak infrastructure and institutional limitations all heighten the risk, making the country far more exposed than many other regions.

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change is both paradoxical and deeply unjust. Despite contributing less than one percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan has been ranked as the most climate-



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under the Resilient Recovery Framework. By late 2025, roughly \$2.8 billion had been disbursed—a 28 percent disbursement rate, two and a half years on. Most pledges came in the form of loans and project finance; grants were scarce (\$0.54 billion). The imbalance matters for a country already servicing debt with more than half of its federal revenues.

Data, research and innovation are vital for evidence-based decision-making. The NDMA's technology-driven transformation includes early warning systems, real-time data integration and the Pakistan Disaster Lens 2026—a risk-informed preparedness mechanism that integrates satellite remote sensing and risk mapping to help identify high-risk areas and prioritize interventions. Pakistan has also launched a \$10 million World Bank-backed project to modernize its early flood warning and weather forecasting network. Senator Rehman stressed the importance of ICT-based environmental protection and the need to safeguard natural ecosystems like Margalla Hills, addressing rampant deforestation.

International cooperation and community engagement further strengthen resilience. Pakistan's engagement in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, access to climate finance mechanisms and cross-border river basin management enhance technical expertise and resources. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (NDRRS) 2025-2030 serves as Pakistan's primary strategic roadmap for transitioning from a reactive, response-centric model to a proactive, risk-informed governance framework. The NDMA chairman highlighted how the new inclusive early warning system strengthens the country's capacity to respond to climate-related hazards, ensuring that critical information reaches those who have historically been excluded from disaster preparedness efforts.

Capacity building and technology transfer strengthen human and institutional capabilities through training personnel in disaster management, adopting modern forecasting systems and using resilient construction materials. The structural diagnosis is not complicated: fiscal responsibility for climate funds sits at the federal level; implementation sits in the provinces; the two are connected by systems never designed for climate finance at scale, staffed by departments never given the technical capacity the task requires. The 18th Amendment devolved the environment to the provinces in 2010, but it transferred responsibility without transferring fiduciary systems, technical staff or the institutional capacity required for climate finance access.

Public awareness, civil society engagement and community empowerment are essential for creating a culture of resilience. Educational campaigns, media outreach and community-led projects promote risk awareness and preparedness. Local innovation, volunteer networks and participatory hazard mapping strengthen social cohesion and adaptive capacity. Engaging citizens ensures that resilience is not solely government-driven but a collective societal effort, reinforcing national preparedness. The National Monsoon Contingency Plan 2025 was successful in KP, Gilgit-Baltistan and the northern areas due to its focus on flash floods, urban flooding, landslides and GLOFs, which are common in those regions. Ultimately, the NDRRS 2025-2030 aims to safeguard lives, protect critical infrastructure and foster a culture of national resilience that ensures no vulnerable community is left behind in the face of an evolving global climate crisis.

In conclusion, Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters demands an urgent and comprehensive national resilience agenda. This essay has shown that climate change acts as a catalyst for frequent and severe disasters—from glacial floods and cloudbursts to urban and rural inundation—directly threatening lives, livelihoods and economic stability. The 2025 floods in Punjab and KP highlighted the socioeconomic and environmental consequences of these events, including massive agricultural losses,



AI, Privacy, and the Erosion of Human Agency

Other possible Titels:

- Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity.
- Is Artificial Intelligence a Blessing or a Curse?
- Artificial Intelligence and the Crisis of Global Governance.
- The Ethical Dilemmas of Artificial Intelligence

Outlines

Introduction

1. Artificial intelligence as the defining general-purpose technology of the twenty-first century
2. Transformation of AI from specialized scientific experiment into economic, social, political, and strategic force
3. The central paradox: AI can expand human capabilities while simultaneously weakening human autonomy, equality, privacy, and security
4. Thesis statement: Artificial intelligence is neither inherently a blessing nor inevitably a curse; its ultimate impact will depend upon whether societies can combine innovation with human-centred governance, ethical accountability, inclusive development, and effective regulation

Conceptual and Historical Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

1. Meaning and scope of artificial intelligence
2. Distinction among narrow AI, generative AI, and hypothetical artificial general intelligence
3. Evolution from rule-based computing to machine learning, deep learning, and generative models
4. AI as an instrument of augmentation rather than an independent moral agent
5. The growing convergence of data, algorithms, computing power, robotics, and digital networks

Major Merits of Artificial Intelligence

1. Revolutionizing healthcare
 - i. Early and more accurate diagnosis of diseases
 - ii. Predictive analytics and personalized treatment
 - iii. Drug discovery and biomedical research
 - iv. Remote healthcare and support for underserved populations
 - v. Improved hospital administration and public-health surveillance
2. Enhancing economic productivity and innovation
 - i. Automation of repetitive and hazardous tasks
 - ii. Reduction in production costs and operational delays
 - iii. Data-driven decision-making and business transformation
 - iv. Creation of new industries, occupations, and markets
 - v. Higher productivity in manufacturing, finance, logistics, and services
3. Mitigating climate change and supporting environmental protection
 - i. Satellite-based deforestation detection and environmental monitoring
 - ii. AI-optimized energy systems, renewable integration, and smart grids
 - iii. Climate prediction, risk assessment, and evidence-based policy formulation
 - iv. Carbon emission tracking and sustainable development initiatives
4. Transforming transportation and urban management
 - i. Development and deployment of autonomous vehicles ensuring safety
 - ii. AI-enabled traffic management, congestion reduction, and route optimization
 - iii. Enhancing logistics efficiency and supply chain management
 - iv. Predictive maintenance and accident prevention systems



robotics, and digital networks has accelerated AI's development, making it an increasingly pervasive force in contemporary life.

The medical field has perhaps witnessed the most immediately life-saving applications of artificial intelligence, transforming healthcare from a reactive to a proactive discipline. Through extraordinarily precise procedures, AI algorithms scan medical data and help predict whether a patient is susceptible to heart attacks or strokes, enabling early intervention that can mean the difference between life and death. Machine learning models have demonstrated significant potential in cardiovascular risk prediction, with studies showing that AI-powered cardiovascular assessment systems improve prediction accuracy by thirty-eight percent compared to traditional clinical scoring methods. These systems analyse thousands of data points—blood pressure, cholesterol levels, family history, lifestyle factors, and even subtle patterns in electrocardiograms that escape human detection—to generate risk profiles with remarkable precision. This capability is not confined to hospital settings; it extends into the daily lives of individuals through smart watches, wristbands, and other wearable devices that monitor heart rate, sleep patterns, and physical activity. The more personal data these algorithms are fed, the better they understand a user's unique physiological profile, enabling healthcare professionals to spot potential anomalies before they manifest as emergencies. The electronic health record—an electronic version of a patient's medical history maintained by providers over time—has become an indispensable tool, encompassing demographics, progress notes, medications, vital signs, past medical history, immunizations, laboratory data, and radiology reports. This integration of AI into healthcare has fundamentally transformed the approach to medicine, shifting it from reactive treatment to proactive prevention. Generative AI models are further revolutionizing personalized healthcare, improving diagnostic procedures, forecasting disease evolution, and recommending personalized treatment strategies based on an individual's genetic makeup, lifestyle, and environmental factors. In diagnostic radiology, AI algorithms can now detect subtle abnormalities in medical images with accuracy surpassing that of experienced radiologists, particularly in the early detection of cancers, where timely intervention is critical. The pharmaceutical industry has also benefited enormously, with AI accelerating drug discovery by predicting molecular interactions and identifying promising compounds in days rather than years, potentially saving millions of lives through faster development of life-saving medications.

Beyond the healing arts, artificial intelligence has emerged as a formidable engine of productivity and economic growth, fundamentally reshaping the contours of global commerce and industry. Accenture forecasts that by 2035, AI could double annual global economic growth rates, fundamentally changing the nature of work and creating a new relationship between man and machine. This growth is driven through three important channels: first, a robust increase in labour productivity of as much as forty percent, as innovative technologies enable a more efficient workforce; second, the creation of a new virtual workforce capable of solving problems and self-learning; and third, the diffusion of innovation throughout the economy, generating new revenue streams and accelerating economic expansion. The impact of AI technologies on business is projected to boost labour productivity by fundamentally changing the way work is done while reinforcing the role of people to drive growth. For the United States, AI could increase its annual growth rate from 2.6 percent to 4.6 percent by 2035, translating to an additional \$8.3 trillion in gross value added. Japan has the potential to more than triple its annual rate of GVA growth, while Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, and Austria could see their growth rates double. This economic transformation is not merely about aggregate numbers; it represents a fundamental restructuring of how value is created, distributed, and sustained in the twenty-first century. AI-powered customer relationship management systems gather customer data across multiple communication channels—email, phone, and social media—to help improve and automate marketing and sales processes. Platforms like Salesforce have implemented AI that helps small business owners analyse customer feedback and automatically adjust marketing and lead generation strategies based on the information provided. Both product and service-based small businesses are using chatbots on their websites to initiate customer communication and answer questions, improving customer engagement while reducing operational costs. AI tools streamline the hiring

Populism a Challenge to Real Democracy

Other Possible Titels:

- Populism a challenge to real democracy
- Majoritarianism vs. Pluralism in Contemporary Politics.
- The Global Rise of Populism and Its Consequences.

Outlines

Introduction

1. Contemporary democratic recession and the populist resurgence
2. Thesis: populism may expose democratic failures, but its anti-pluralist logic, institutional hostility and politics of exclusion ultimately undermine real democracy

Conceptual framework

1. Populism: “the pure people” versus “the corrupt elite”
2. Real democracy beyond elections: constitutionalism, pluralism, rights, accountability and rule of law
3. Populism’s distinction from legitimate popular politics

Historical evolution of populism

1. Early agrarian and redistributive movements
2. Fascist and authoritarian mass politics
3. Post-Cold War neoliberal discontent and contemporary populism

Principal drivers of modern populism

1. Economic inequality, unemployment and regional deprivation
2. Elite failure, corruption and weak public-service delivery
3. Cultural insecurity, migration and identity politics
4. Globalization, pandemics and declining trust
5. Digital media, disinformation and algorithmic polarization

How populism challenges real democracy

1. Monopolization of the concept of “the people”
2. Delegitimization of political opposition
3. Executive aggrandizement and erosion of separation of powers
4. Attacks on courts, media, civil society and bureaucracy
5. Majoritarianism and marginalization of minorities
6. Personalization of power and weakening of political parties
7. Manipulation of elections and public information
8. Policy simplification, economic irresponsibility and diplomatic isolation

Comparative manifestations

1. United States: polarization and distrust of electoral institutions
2. India: majoritarian nationalism and pressure on civic freedoms
3. Hungary, Türkiye and Venezuela: gradual institutional capture
4. Brexit and exclusionary European populism
5. Latin America’s inclusionary and authoritarian experiences

Pakistan-specific analysis

1. Elite capture, dynastic politics and governance deficits as enabling conditions

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danger arose when political discourse questioned the legitimacy of adverse electoral outcomes, portrayed institutions as valid only when they served one leader and intensified hostility toward journalists, judges and civil servants. International IDEA's 2025 assessment warned that developments in the United States were shaking assumptions about democratic resilience and identified executive overreach, pressure upon dissent and weakened due process among contemporary concerns.

India presents a different but related configuration: electoral legitimacy combined with majoritarian nationalism and pressure upon pluralist institutions. The political rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party cannot be explained solely by communal mobilization; it has also benefited from organizational strength, welfare delivery, development narratives, opposition weakness and the appeal of decisive leadership. Nevertheless, democracy is diminished when national identity is defined in ways that make religious minorities feel conditionally accepted, when dissenting voices are stigmatized, or when media independence weakens. The Indian case demonstrates that elections may remain competitive while the liberal and egalitarian dimensions of democracy deteriorate.

Hungary under Viktor Orbán became a paradigmatic example of gradual democratic erosion through legal and electoral mechanisms. Constitutional changes, media restructuring, patronage networks and institutional appointments enabled the ruling party to entrench power without formally abandoning elections. Venezuela under Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro similarly illustrates how popular mobilization against oligarchic exclusion may initially broaden participation but later deteriorate when executive concentration, politicized institutions and economic crisis destroy accountability. Türkiye offers another case in which electoral legitimacy, nationalist mobilization and executive centralization have combined to narrow institutional autonomy. These examples show that contemporary authoritarianism often emerges not through military coups but through elected governments that progressively disable democratic restraints.

Brexit must be treated with greater nuance. A decision to leave an international organization is not inherently undemocratic; the referendum expressed a valid public choice involving sovereignty, regulation and accountability. Yet aspects of the campaign demonstrated populist tendencies: complex trade-offs were reduced to absolute promises, experts were dismissed as enemies of the people, immigration was framed through cultural threat and parliamentary efforts to scrutinize implementation were sometimes depicted as betrayal. The lesson is not that voters should have been denied their choice, but that referendums can be democratically dangerous when binary decisions are accompanied by misinformation and presented as an unlimited mandate overriding all subsequent deliberation.

Populism also weakens democracy through poor governance. Because it constructs politics as a struggle between virtue and conspiracy, policy failure is rarely admitted. Leaders blame bureaucrats, judges, international institutions or internal enemies rather than revise unrealistic programmes. Economic policy may favour spectacular subsidies, protectionist gestures or abrupt institutional changes that generate immediate popularity but impose long-term fiscal and productivity costs. Empirical research covering populist leaders across numerous countries has associated prolonged populist rule with weaker long-term economic performance and institutional degradation, though outcomes naturally vary according to context, ideology and institutional strength.

Foreign policy may likewise become theatrical. Diplomatic compromise is portrayed as weakness, while hostility toward multilateral institutions is celebrated as sovereignty. Yet modern challenges—including climate change, pandemics, migration, financial instability, cybercrime and transnational terrorism—cannot

Deglobalization And Its Implications In 21st Century

Other Possible Titels:

- Deglobalization and the Fate of Developing Nations
- The Retreat of Globalization and Its Consequences.
- Deglobalization and the Crisis of Multilateralism.
- Is the World Entering a New Era of Protectionism?

Outlines

Introduction

1. Globalization as the organizing force of the post-Cold War international order
2. The vision of transnational harmony and the global village
3. Defining deglobalization as the reversal and reconfiguration of integration
4. Thesis statement: Deglobalization—driven by geopolitical rivalry, populist nationalism, economic inequality, technological competition, and the widening North-South divide—poses profound implications for the twenty-first century, including slower economic growth, weakened multilateral institutions, heightened security risks, exacerbated climate change, and intensified socio-economic crises, demanding a balanced approach of strategic diversification rather than complete isolation

Conceptual and Historical Foundations

1. Meaning of globalization and its historical evolution
2. Meaning of deglobalization and geoeconomic fragmentation
3. Distinction between deglobalization, decoupling, de-risking, reshoring, nearshoring, and friend-shoring
4. The first age of globalization before 1914 and interwar protectionism
5. Post-1945 multilateral economic order and hyper-globalization after the Cold War
6. Contemporary transition towards guarded interdependence

How Deglobalization is Happening

1. The rise of ultra-nationalism and inward-looking ideologies
2. Increasing election of populist leaders across the globe
3. Outflow of capital from developed to developing countries
4. Dithering attitudes toward refugees and migrants
5. Negative effects of social media: the age of fake news and propaganda
6. The exponential increase in the North-South divide
7. Strategic competition and the weaponization of interdependence
8. COVID-19 pandemic exposing fragile supply chains
9. Russia-Ukraine war and energy, food, and financial disruptions

Economic Implications

1. Slower global growth and reduced productivity
2. Higher production costs and consumer inflation
3. Disruption of global value chains
4. Duplication of industries and inefficient allocation of resources
5. Reduced foreign direct investment



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North-South divide—poses profound implications for the twenty-first century, including slower economic growth, weakened multilateral institutions, heightened security risks, exacerbated climate change, and intensified socio-economic crises, demanding a balanced approach of strategic diversification rather than complete isolation.

Globalization refers to the intensification of cross-border flows of goods, services, capital, technology, information, culture, and people, accompanied by growing economic and institutional interdependence. Its modern roots lie in industrialization, steam navigation, railways, telegraphy, and colonial trade, but it acquired unprecedented depth after the Second World War through institutions such as the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. The fall of the Soviet Union, China's growing integration into world markets, advances in container shipping, and the digital revolution initiated a period of hyper-globalization from the late twentieth century onward. Firms divided production across numerous countries, locating every activity where cost and efficiency appeared most favourable. Finance crossed borders rapidly, multinational corporations expanded, and international trade grew faster than global output. Deglobalization may therefore be defined as a sustained reduction, redirection, or politicization of cross-border interdependence. It includes tariff barriers, investment restrictions, sanctions, export controls, immigration limitations, and policies that bring production back home or move it towards neighbouring and allied states. Reshoring means returning production to the home country; nearshoring means relocating it closer to the consumer market; friendshoring means shifting it towards politically trusted states; decoupling implies a broader separation between rival economies; and de-risking seeks to reduce excessive dependence without ending most commercial relations. These distinctions matter because contemporary governments rarely seek total economic isolation. They want the benefits of global trade while limiting vulnerabilities in strategic fields such as energy, semiconductors, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, defence, and critical minerals.

History demonstrates that globalization is neither linear nor irreversible. The international economy before 1914 witnessed extensive trade, migration, and investment, yet the First World War shattered it. The interwar period brought tariffs, competitive devaluations, economic nationalism, and the Great Depression. The protectionist Smoot-Hawley Tariff in the United States became a symbol of policies that deepened contraction by provoking retaliation. The post-1945 order was consciously designed to avoid such destructive rivalry. Open trade was embedded within domestic welfare systems, while multilateral institutions provided rules and mechanisms for cooperation. Contemporary deglobalization consequently raises an uncomfortable historical question: can the world correct the excesses of hyper-globalization without repeating the fragmentation that contributed to economic depression and international conflict?

The rise of ultra-nationalism and nationalistic proclivities in the politics of several countries stands as a leading cause of deglobalization. Ultra-nationalism is a narrow conceptual approach toward world affairs through which a person or a nation focuses exclusively on its own existence and well-being, often at the expense of others. Since globalization emphasizes the overall well-being of the global populace, it directly clashes with nationalism and ultra-nationalism, for these proclivities damage the very conceptual framework underlying globalization. The world is witnessing a phenomenal rise of such leaders possessing nationalistic or populist tendencies—Donald Trump in the United States, Narendra Modi in India, and Boris Johnson in the United Kingdom. Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again" encapsulates the inward-looking sentiment that characterizes contemporary populism. This trend of looking inward leads to populism, which in turn fuels the fires of deglobalization. Populism employs wide popular political

The South China Sea and the Crisis of Regional Order

Other Possible Titels:

- The South China Sea: A Test for International Law.
- Geopolitics, Trade, and the South China Sea Dispute.
- Pakistan's Strategic Interests in the South China Sea.

Outlines

Introduction

1. The South China Sea as the strategic maritime center of the Indo-Pacific
2. Thesis: the dispute persists because unequal power, incompatible claims, weak regional institutions and great-power rivalry have converted economic interdependence into strategic insecurity

Strategic and Economic Significance

1. Vital sea lanes, energy transportation and global supply chains
2. Fisheries, hydrocarbons, seabed resources and digital infrastructure
3. Geographical link between the Pacific and Indian oceans

2. Historical and Legal Foundations of the Dispute

1. Overlapping claims over islands, reefs, shoals and maritime zones
2. China's historical-rights position and the dashed-line claim
3. UNCLOS, exclusive economic zones and the 2016 arbitral award

Principal Claimants and Competing Interests

1. China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei
2. Indonesia's concerns around the North Natuna Sea
3. Strategic interests of the United States and other external powers

Nature of the Regional Imbalance

1. Asymmetry between China and smaller Southeast Asian states
2. ASEAN's consensus problem and economic dependence on China
3. Unequal military capabilities and fragmented threat perceptions
4. Conflict between legal equality and geopolitical inequality

Militarisation and Grey-Zone Competition

1. Artificial islands, coast guards, maritime militias and surveillance
2. Freedom-of-navigation operations and alliance-based deterrence
3. Cyber, space, artificial-intelligence and autonomous maritime systems

Wider Consequences

1. Risks to global commerce, energy security and international law
2. Fisheries depletion, ecological destruction and human insecurity
3. Arms competition, alliance polarisation and danger of accidental war

Prospects for Regional Cooperation

1. A binding and enforceable ASEAN-China Code of Conduct
2. Crisis communication, incident-prevention and military restraint
3. Joint resource development without prejudicing sovereignty



exclusionary regional order; ASEAN seeks stability without being compelled to choose between major powers; and commercial actors seek predictable access to uninterrupted sea lanes.

Its economic importance extends beneath and beyond the surface. The South China Sea contains significant, though often uncertain and politically exaggerated, hydrocarbon potential. More immediately important are its fisheries, which support the food security, employment and cultural traditions of millions of people. For many coastal communities, maritime boundaries are not abstractions drawn by diplomats but questions of daily livelihood. The sea also hosts submarine communication cables through which financial, governmental and commercial data move. Future competition may therefore concern not only oil rigs and fishing vessels but also cable routes, offshore renewable energy installations, oceanographic data, seabed minerals and digitally integrated maritime infrastructure. Strategic geography is being enlarged by technology.

Historical narratives have complicated the legal picture. China bases its position partly on long-standing discovery, use, administration and historical connections with islands and adjacent waters. Taiwan maintains claims derived from the earlier cartographic position of the Republic of China. Vietnam refers to historical administration of the Paracel and Spratly islands. The Philippines grounds much of its case in geographical proximity, effective occupation and rights arising under the modern law of the sea. Malaysia and Brunei rely principally on continental-shelf and exclusive-economic-zone entitlements, while Indonesia is not generally considered a claimant to the disputed islands but rejects any overlap between China's expansive dashed-line claims and Indonesia's exclusive economic zone around the Natuna Islands. The geographical features themselves are scattered and often physically insignificant. They include the Paracel Islands, the Spratly Islands, Scarborough Shoal, Pratas Island, submerged banks, low-tide elevations, reefs and rocks. Nevertheless, their legal classification carries enormous consequences. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a coastal state may claim a territorial sea, an exclusive economic zone extending up to 200 nautical miles, and continental-shelf rights subject to the Convention's rules. However, not every maritime feature generates the same entitlement. Islands capable of sustaining human habitation or economic life of their own may generate an exclusive economic zone, whereas rocks may generate only a territorial sea, and low-tide elevations cannot independently generate maritime zones. UNCLOS therefore transforms seemingly minute questions of geology into major questions of jurisdiction and resource control.

The 2016 South China Sea arbitration initiated by the Philippines was a landmark attempt to clarify these legal questions. The tribunal did not decide sovereignty over the islands, because territorial sovereignty fell outside the specific scope of the proceedings. It instead examined maritime entitlements, the status of contested features, environmental damage and the compatibility of claimed historical rights with UNCLOS. It concluded, among other findings, that there was no legal basis for claiming historic rights to resources within the relevant parts of the dashed line beyond the rights permitted by UNCLOS, and that none of the Spratly features considered by the tribunal was capable of generating an exclusive economic zone of its own. It also found that certain Chinese activities had infringed Philippine sovereign rights and caused severe environmental harm.

The award represented a victory for legal clarification but also exposed the limitations of international adjudication. China rejected the proceedings and the award, arguing that the tribunal lacked jurisdiction, that the dispute concerned sovereignty and delimitation, and that matters should be addressed through negotiation. China's official position emphasises bilateral consultation, prior political commitments and