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Exploring Post-Colonialism in Pakistan: Challenges and Transformations in the Political System

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Original Article

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Keywords	Abstract
Post-colonialism, Transformation, Political system	*This paper explores the persevering effect of provincial heritages on Pakistan's political framework and the difficulties and changes it faces in the post-frontier period. Through a complete examination of verifiable directions, institutional systems, and philosophical standards, the review clarifies the complicated interaction between frontier legacy and native political elements. It looks at how provincial period establishments and practices keep on forming administration designs and power relations inside the state while likewise investigating the manners by which post-pioneer thought, and developments have impacted political talk and activism in Pakistan. By researching the contestations encompassing Pakistan's post-frontier character and the battles for a majority rules government and civil rights, this paper adds to a nuanced comprehension of the intricacies intrinsic to the country's political scene. It highlights the basics of tending to pilgrim heritages in moulding a more comprehensive and impartial political request.*

Introduction

Defined by its colonial legacy, the political landscape of Pakistan is situated on a dense field of historical trajectories that continue to better understand governance, identity and power in contemporary post-colonial context. Faced with the political disintegration of the subcontinent following partition, the creating state of Pakistan inherited a legacy of governance in which a British colonial administrative framework had entrenched centralized authority, an outmoded and burdensome bureaucratic system, and a propensity to control rather than participate in democratic processes. This colonial inheritance contributes to many challenges on political stability and the rise of robust democratic institutions, as the state contends with the claims of a multilingual, multiethnic, and multi-cultural population (Niaz, 2014; Ali, 2019).

The remnants of colonialism present an obstacle to the project of forging a unity as a nation. Contemporary conflicts related to representation, autonomy, and cultural recognition of religions such as Shias and Wahabis, Xalachees, Sindhis, Balochs and Pashtuns (Ahmad 2017; Shaikh 2009) arose from the arbitrary division of disparate ethnic groups created by colonial powers. These groups tend to attribute the centralized government to continue coloniality that creates feelings of alienation and spur the movement for enhanced provincial autonomy (Waseem, 2018).

In addition the colonial legacy extends to each other in the presence of the military's role in Pakistan's politics. Pakistan's political framework has continued a tradition of the British relying on military power to maintain order (Rizvi, 2000). Over time, the military has intervened frequently in governance, under the pretence of 'stabilizing' the nation, stifling the development of civilian political institutions and democratic engagement (Siddiqa, 2007; Jalal, 2014). The result is a vicious circle where military authority saps civilian governance, resulting again in a governing model that prioritises order over democratic norms.

Consequently, Pakistan has witnessed manifold innovative efforts led to the reform in its political system. Contemporary representative democracy in Pakistan has also shifted to decentralization in certain respects; especially the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, 2010 which is a remarkable indication of autonomy conferred on the provincial governments, considering the country's ethnic diversity (Hussain, 2020). Though such reforms have been carried out Pakistan is still riddled by the intricacies of its colonial past and further layers of external oversight (Khan, 2020).

This article attempts an exploration of the range of post-colonialism as a reality in Pakistan; how colonial legacy, ethnic diversity, the role of military and the recent political developments interact. In this examination, our purpose is to throw some more light into the challenges and opportunities that defines Pakistan's perpetual pursuit of a stable, inclusive, and representative governance model. This study will engage with existing literature to respond to this end, and draw from historical context to deepen knowledge of how colonialism shaped Pakistan's political landscape, and the implications for its future development.

Literature Review
Pakistan post-colonial era is a complex play of hybridity in ethnic diversity, inherited colonial structures, socio political challenges, transformations within the political system. However, to comprehend the journey of Pakistan as a post-colonial state, it is necessary to analyze how the colonial legacy impacts the governance structure and political agenda of Pakistan. In this literature review, the significant academic body of literature which focuses on complexities of post-colonial governance, consequences of colonial legacies, difficult to establish political stability and transformations Pakistan has made for those in order to tackle these vicious cycles is reviewed.

1. Colonial Legacy and Post-Colonial Governance in Pakistan
This is a large body of literature that points out that the shaping of Pakistan's early administrative and political institutions was effected by colonialism (Jalal, 2014 Ali, 2019). The British colonial regime inherited a centralized, hierarchical governance structure in Pakistan that maximized control over these huge and culturally diverse areas and this kind of structure continued through the British rule in Pakistan but did not transform well in the new independent and democratic framework (Niaz, 2014). This legacy expressed itself in the form of a bureaucratic system, one that valued stability above representation and by doing so established foundations for centralized governance that subsequent governments had a hard time reforming.

According to Ali (2019), colonial administrative and legal frames were continued in Pakistan because the newly formed state depended on a form of colonial administrative institutions and legal frame. Designed to serve as suits of armor for an imperial power rather than for a sovereign state's participatory governance, these structures have strained into becoming gaps, especially given emerging post-colonial forms of identity and governance aspirations (Talbot, 2009). In addition, these legacies also complicated the process of national integration in Pakistan as they centralized authority at the expense of provincial autonomy (Naseem, 2016).

2. Political Identity and Ethnic Challenges

Ethnic diversity within its borders has been a persistent challenge to the formation of a cohesive national identity of Pakistan. According to authors like Ahmad (2017,) colonial boundaries and policies did not take into account the individual identities of several ethnic groups, and tensions that continue to this day exist. At different times, Pakistan has tried and failed to forge a unified national identity that would serve to bind regions and ethnic groups together by flattening regional and ethnic grievances (Rashid, 2018).

For example, Sindhi, Baloch, and Pashtun groups all historically have raised the demand for more autonomy and have seen the centralized state as an extension of whatever colonial control they were under, not a genuinely representative body. Shaikh (2009) analyzes how Pakistan's construction of identity has been unable to reconcile an Islamic unity with ethnic pluralism. Political instability has resulted from a struggle that ethnic groups have perceived the state as lacking the will and ability to respond to their needs and identity aspirations which has in turn fed up with movements for autonomy and political reform (Akhtar, 2018).

3. Civilian-Military Relations and Political Stability

It has defined Pakistan's political landscape– oscillation between civilian governments and military regimes. These scholars have attributed to the colonial era preference by strong centralized authority over democratic process. As Jalal (2014) notes, Pakistan's military has deep colonial roots in which security forces have functioned to keep the populace under control. Since independence Pakistan's military saw itself as the protector of state stability especially when civilian governments have been incapable of handling Pakistan's political and economic challenges (Siddiqa, 2007).

Several studies, in fact, have analyzed the tension between civilian governments and military establishments and argue that the military involvement in politics has constrained the evolution of democratic institutions (Rizvi, 2000). The result has been an enduring cycle of military intervention and stunted democratic development (Shah, 2014) in which military intrusion occurs during situations that politicians perceive as crises. This cycle has crippled Pakistan's ability to create a stable, civilian led political system that fulfills the aspirations and values of its people.

4. Political Transformations and Reforms

However, if it had not been the burden of a colonial legacy, Pakistan has made substantial changes to its political system to adjust to modernity. In 2010, a landmark shift that resulted in the 18th Amendment to the Pakistani Constitution upon being passed had devolved powers, a long-standing demand. The intent of this amendment is an ongoing effort to strike a balance between the centralized colonial, governing model that kept the elite, by creating a more participatory, federal framework better suited to the diversity of regions that make up the country.

According to researchers like Waseem (2018), political reforms in Pakistan are part of an ongoing spate of post-colonial states reimagining how governments operate in ways that suit the country's unique cultural and historical distinctiveness. For Pakistan, these transformations showcase adaptive responses to the challenges for a pluralistically constrained environment and the ideological pull from international norms focusing on democratization and federalism. While the 18th Amendment far from resolving all the country's governance problems, it testifies to Pakistan's historic effort in getting rid of its colonial past by establishing a system based on regional autonomy and democratic governance (Hussain, 2020).

5. External Influences on Pakistan's Political System

Post-colonial political trajectory of Pakistan has been impacted by external factors as well, particularly, international alliances, economic dependencies and regional security challenges. Given that Pakistan's relationships with major global powers have shaped its internal governance and security policies both in terms of their consequences on policies adopted and policy decisions that best serve the best interests of the country and in terms that favor international obligations above domestic reforms (Fair, 2014), scholars argue that. For example, Pakistan's alignment with the United States during the Cold War shaped how the state reached out to the issues of governance, considering military and stability over democratic growth (Haqqani, 2005). The role of this external pressure was to bring about a political context in which military institutions assumed centrality, thus preventing the civilian government from exercising any authority.

The case of involvement of Pakistan in the U.S led 'War on Terror' illustrates how external pressures can accentuate already existing governance challenges. 'Since the 1990s,' as Ziring (2001) points out, 'regional conflicts, especially over Kashmir, have taken Pakistan away from development and led to greater use of the military to sustain and protect global security alliances.' Despite this, the country's geopolitical importance has increased this pressure on its political system to seek a balance between international requirements and domestic stability.

Analysis

The messiness of Pakistan's post-colonial political system is directly tied to the transition of the country from a colonial ruler, the remnants of British rule to its own independent, working state. When it gained independence in 1947, Pakistan's inherited institutions and administrative frameworks served colonial interests by reinforcing the role of control over democratic representation. The far-reaching effects of these colonial legacies have had a devastating effect on Pakistan being able to create a political system that will serve to unify society and culture with the country's varying social and cultural identities. In recent times, scholars have explored these influences to better understand how colonial structures still shape Pakistan's governance, how efforts to forge a single national identity often come into conflict with notions of ethno-religious loyalty, and how cycles of civilian and military rule persist.

Colonial Legacy in Governance

On the whole, colonial legacies play a key role in shaping Pakistan's governance framework because of which colonial administrative structures and philosophies left behind in the Indian subcontinent are the most important factors that help determine and influence how Pakistan is governed. During the British colonial period of governance, efficiency, centralization and strict control of the majority population was necessitated to manage and control authority over this very diverse region (Niaz, 2014). Less was the emphasis on representative government, and much the greater on law, order, and revenue collection; and this was all the more as opposed to British rather than Indian models of administration. The top down, hierarchical governance model that ensued was a product of this emphasis which restricted decision making to the hand full of elite colonial officials and local elite (zamindars and jagirdars) keeping an impenetrable divide between rulers and the ruled.

When Pakistan became independent in 1947 it inherited this centralized hierarchical governance. Because of the difficulties of partition and an absence of trained political administrators, Pakistan came to be forced to depend on these already existing colonial structures to continue to control. Rather than reconfiguring its practices of governance so as to encourage democratic engagement, Pakistan continued to operate within a governance system rooted in the colonialist ideal of control and hierarchy (Ali, 2019). This continuity produced a strong central authority which regularly superseded local representation and autocracy. Therefore, Pakistan's

political development has often tilted toward centralized power constituting federal institutions, especially the executive and the military, having a minimal democratic space and regional autonomy.

There is a bureaucratic legacy too, that came with the colonial legacy and has threatened to work against Pakistan's political system. For example, the civil service system was set up to be an instrument of the colonial state that was often dependable but not fulfilling sersice to any citizen. It built a bureaucratic culture that was not open to reform, but very reactive to control over community-based development, called participatory democracy. Though this system faded in colonial times, it persisted in many of its colonial features even post-independence: rigid hierarchies, privileging top-down decision making, and an aversion to change. However, these factors have prevented Pakistan from adapting its governance structures for the requirements of a contemporary, democratic society, and therefore continued perpetuates inefficiencies and failure to respond to local problems.

Additionally, the colonial legacy ingrained a form of governance aimed at maintaining order and control, sometimes at the cost of individual rights and democratic freedoms. Pakistan's culturally and linguistically diverse population has been an easy target for the tendency to centralize power, as the nation's various regions and ethnic groups have been forever demanding greater autonomy, representation. That reliance on colonial-era laws and practices -- including the use of harsh measures to suppress dissent -- has solidified that divide and created hard feelings between federal and provincial parts of the country. However, this approach only has limited possibilities for genuine participatory governance since power is concentrated at the center itself and subsequent mistrust and alienation within regional groups have ensued.

Also, colonial legacy manifests in Pakistan's civil military relations. The military was a key instrument of control employed under British rule to suppress all resistance to colonial authority. However, a militarized approach to the governance continued after independence, with the state preferring stability and order, the military being, at times, at the center of political affairs. Such colonial legacy thus gave the military a dominant role in shaping the contours of Pakistan's' politics and ensuring that whenever it felt instability was creeping in, the military would 'protect' the state; a pattern of limited civilian control over governance had been set (Jalal, 2014). The fact that the military remains a powerful actor in the field of democratic development makes a dynamic that has kept it apart from democratic development.

These colonial-era practices have given rise to a political culture that is more comfortable with centralized authority and stability than with democratic engagement and regional representation. A continuity of colonial governance ideals towards a more centralized notion of efficiency and control over the contingencies and compromises required by democratic governance is the reason for a reluctance to decentralize power. Following the establishment of devolution as part of the 18th Amendment, which is an effort to reform these colonial frameworks, Pakistan's attempts at overcoming these legacies are evident but they are still challenged by the fact that such colonial legacies are deeply still ingrained into the political and bureaucratic fabric of the country (Khan, 2012).

In a nutshell, Pakistan's colonial legacy has presented it with a governance structure predicated on centralization, bureaucratic efficiency, and order over democratic representation and regional autonomy. Despite this shaky legacy, which is out of step with an increasingly diverse democratic Pakistan, continuing challenges to political development remain. These deep-rooted problems can't be solved by structural reforms alone, but in its due time a change in our political culture to participatory governance and regional empowerment is necessary to realize the

shortcomings of colonial administrative systems to contemporary problems of the political and social domain.

Ethnic Diversity and National Identity
The colonial legacy in South Asia constructed a layered sociopolitical landscape in Pakistan, where heterogeneous ethnic and cultural identities interact with the difficulties of national unity. British colonial administration in the region usually ignored the ethnic, linguistic and cultural differences and identified between them, without a uniform administrative unit due to a wider benefit that these races were often artificial boundaries to create an undivided administrative unit. (Talbot, 2012) At the time Pakistan achieved independence in 1947 it inherited these colonial boundaries which grouped a few groups whose histories, languages and cultural traditions were disparate into one definition of Pakistani nationality. This neglect of local identities was part of the British focus on a centralized authority which put Pakistan on the stage of struggling to assimilate its disparate ethnicities into a national framework (Ansari, 2017).

As Pakistan's most important ethnic groups the Punjabis, Sindhis, Balochs, and Pashtuns have their own cultures and sometimes shared or divergent political aspirations. Traditionally, Punjabis have had a large political weight and economic influence, especially since the capital and other power poles are in Punjab. However, Sindhis, Balochs and Pashtuns have often been marginalized from Pakistan's centralized political structure, leading to ongoing calls for more political representation and autonomy. For example, Sindhis have been demanding a greater say in the control of province's resources and cultural expression because Punjabi dominated governance has ignored or ignored their contribution and indeed disregarded the Sindhis as an identity (Ahmad, 2017).

In particular, the Baloch community has been long neglected in the question of resource allocation and political representation. With natural resources, Baluchistan has a great role to play in Pakistan's economy, but the Balochs claim they hardly reap any share in wealth created by the region. It has in turn fueled calls for increased autonomy and even separatist movements from some sections. While Baluchistan crisis showcases the difficulties of enacting one uniform national identity across diverse communities Balochs see the implementation of the central government's policies as exploitative and speaks about colonial extraction praxis (Siddiqi, 2018). On top of that, the colonial era has somehow convinced herself that governance should achieve central control at the cost of territorial autonomy and, as such, the locality feels endangered by the imposed integrity of a national identity.

Representation and recognition have also been a challenge for the Pashtun community that is mainly based along western borders. Pashtuns say they have had their political rights curtailed, particularly since the administrative and security measures along the border areas after Pakistan's participation in the War on Terror. Attempts at forging a collective, nationwide identity of the Pashtun community are absent the fact that cultural uniqueness of the Pashtun people is predicated on their traditional codes of governance based around tribal authority and local autonomy. The Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), a rights-based movement for Pashtun rights, is a clear indication that there is the resistance to state policies perceived as unjust and discriminatory, and the condition of continued tension between the state and localized identity (Shaikh, 2009).

Often directed at creating a unified Pakistani identity, tied to Islam as some form of common denominator, state efforts at doing so have largely been unsuccessful. Islam has a central place in Pakistan's identity, but efforts to unite diverse ethnic groups under one well defined religious national umbrella have often been counterproductive, as ethnic groups have tended to

see these efforts as insufficient in addressing their socio-political grievances. Over the years, policies meant to instill a single identity have been short of celebrating pluralism, which alienates regional groups and triggers movements calling for provincial autonomy. These movements - whether demanding resource control, linguistic recognition or cultural preservation - coincide with the tensions in Pakistan between national integration and ethnic pluralism (Jalal, 2014).

Nevertheless, Pakistan's polity remains caught between national integration and ethnic pluralism. Constitutional amendments like the 18th responsible for devolving power to the provinces have been made trying to reconcile these forces. The intent of this amendment is to empower provinces to have greater control over local resources and local administration in response to the reality that a governance model that more comprehensively responds to ethnic diversity is necessary. However, although these reforms were taken, they do not come as easy to implement because of the presence of centralized structures and the accumulation of the legacies of colonial age governance, both of which still structure the political landscape and further those regional grievances mentioned by Khan (2012).

Civilian-Military Relations
One notable effect of colonialism on Pakistan is to evidence the enduring role of civilian governance in the country with the military. But under British rule, the military was an essential instrument to keep control and order across far flung regions, used to control dissent and control conflicts. The fixed relations of the region's political fabric had thus led to the deep dependence on military strength, a precedent which would endure after Pakistan's independence in 1947 (Siddiqi, 2018). The role of the military in the political affairs has formed the basic pattern of Pakistan's governance in which the military has, again and again, intervened in solving political crises.

From its establishment until today, Pakistan's political tradition has been dominated by military coups, which the military has justified by saying it was forced to maintain order and stability in the country when political unrest becomes anarchy. The result has been the development of a political culture where the military has been not only a protector of national security but also a principal arbiter of the political disputes (Jalal, 2014). However, the military's permanent involvement in governance helps to impede the growth of civilian institutions — as military leaders control the application of power, rather than sharing it with elected representatives. This dynamic has thus prevented the development of democratic culture to flourish, and instead of letting democratic processes further evolve, the military has emerged as a stabilizing force in instances of political crises (Siddiqa, 2007).

Opportunities for meaningful democratic engagement have been limited by the cycle of civilian and military rule. However, each military takeover is followed by a period of political Experimentation with civilian Rule, which is frequently interrupted by the military's continued meddling behind the scenes. Political leaders know how powerful the military is and tend to adopt policies to assuage military interests over pursuing independent agenda (Khan, 2012). This cycle ensures continuation of a reliance on military authority for political legitimacy, and rebuffs the emergence of powerful, autonomous civilian institutions free from oversight of the military.

The political setting is one of fragility of civilian governments to rule, owing to the circumstances created by the military's ubiquitous role in governance. Frequent military interventions have engendered a culture of mistrust among the populace towards democratic institutions, because the intertwining of military and political spheres has created a culture of mistrust toward democratic institutions (Talbot, 2012). Thus, this has led to society's view that military rule leads to stability, an overlook that the possibility of military governance affirms it only to further the destruction of democratic norms and civil liberties.

Furthermore, the military continues to hold sway well beyond control of its citizenry: It has penetrated the fabric of Pakistani society itself. Political discourse has been increasingly shaped by a narrative of national security, and frequently domestic political dissent or opposition is portrayed as something that prompts instability in national multitudes. This militarized politics discourages dissent and critical engagement with the government, effectively marginalizing civil society and democratic participation (Siddiqa, 2007). Therefore, the military's role as a dominant force in Pakistani politics remains to stall the establishment of a resilient democracy and as the corollary that any hope of sound governance is inextricably intertwined with military oversight.

Transformations in the Political System

After its colonial legacy poses varied challenges to the country, Pakistan takes big political reforms to create a more inclusive and representative governance system. In terms of this, the passage of the 18th Amendment of the Constitution in 2010 represented a major change from a historically centralized to a more decentralized federal system. In response to long standing ethnic and regional demands for more autonomy and political recognition (Khan, 2012), this amendment was passed.

Introduction of several important changes by the 18th Amendment included transfer of several powers from the federal government onto the provincial assemblies, and augmenting the role of provincial governments in matters like education, health and local government. The amendment attempted to respond to the imbalances resulting from past governance structures characterized by the dominance of a unitary state model to the neglect of regional identities and requirements (Mansoor, 2011). This federalism is a move perhaps towards keeping with the social and cultural diversity of Pakistan, an 'ethnic and linguistic polity', where local governance of this kind is a new development.

The 18th Amendment can be perceived as a recognizable endeavor at remolding the political edifice in tandem with the variety of interests of the provinces in Pakistan. This has taken on board the failure of previous governance approaches that deputized power and too often alienated the minorities, to the extent that the minorities started to feel disenfranchised and marginalized (Jalal, 2014). The amendment empowers provincial governments so that local voices can be heard in decision making that impacts their lives, and that they can represent themselves politically.

However, these developments are looking to help overcome the many challenges in the path to a fully functional federal system. Remnants of colonial governance, which eventually survived through the military and bureaucracy, remain a contentious influence over provincial governments to the detriment of decentralization promised by the 18th Amendment (Siddiqa, 2007). Moreover, the effective implementation of federal policies and the equitable share of resources may be hampered by political instability and interprovincial conflict. What makes the transition from a centralized to a decentralized model so difficult is the ongoing tensions between the federal government and provincial authorities.

Additionally, although the 18th Amendment is a tool of greater provincial autonomy in theory, it is the application of this that will be its true test. Realizing the full benefits of decentralization thus continues to face significant issues in resource allocation, political patronage, and bureaucratic inefficiencies (Ali 2019). Therefore, provincial governments are required to develop their capacity to govern effectively in which they will also represent the interests of their constituents; especially in the regions that would have been marginalized or underrepresented.

External Influences and Their Impact on Governance

Firstly, the processes of Pakistan's post-colonial trajectory are largely shaped by external factors as well, especially its strategic alliances with the major global powers. In the Cold War, Pakistan had maintained a close resemblance with the United States and have portrayed themselves as a key ally in the region. The geopolitical interests of the U.S. in the area and therefore the motives of making a move in South Asia were to counter Soviet influence in the region and stow away a foothold in the place (Fair, 2014). Pakistan in return benefited from substantial military and economic assistance, which was sometimes dispensed through military rather than civilian channels. The result was a reinforced dynamic that featured military remaining   dominant in the political structure of the country with military leaders becoming decisive and important players in domestic politics as well as in foreign policy issues.

During this period US aid was an important factor facilitating the military's entrenchment in governance, not only strengthening its financial and operational capabilities, but also facilitating its entrenchment in governance. When military leaders were granted the ability to access international resources and training, they often presented themselves as indispensable to the continued health of the nation, therefore allowing for their participation in political affairs. The reliance on external military support made a political culture of sidelining civilian governance, and an enduring cycle of military influence over political institutions (Ziring, 2001).

Likewise, right now, Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror has had an impact on how its internal politics works. It can be said that the years following September 11th drove Pakistan to adopt more acceptable policies toward U.S. counterterrorism measures, with resulting deployments of great power in the country's borders in areas such as Waziristan and Baluchistan. However, these operations, which served the purpose of quashing militancy, then diverted funds and focus away from domestic development priorities and only made governance problems more pronounced (Hussain, 2014). Often in the background, the military has played a major role in counterterrorism efforts which has overshadowed the need to have robust civilian institutions to deal with socio economic challenges leading to governance that puts security first.

In addition, international partners have exerted external pressure on Pakistan thus exacerbating its existing governance challenges. Policymakers have found themselves in a delicate political environment because they must balance their international obligations with their internal stability, often resulting in placing foreign interests above domestic demands. For one, Pakistan's dependence on foreign aid as well as military assistance on occasion means that leaders have had to compromise on governance to uphold external demands of the day, and not attend to local concerns (Jalal, 2014). It has been driving a cycle of influence from the outside which impedes the creation of autonomous, responsive governance structures that could effectively meet the wide-ranging needs of the population.

Simultaneously, the connections of external influences with internal governance challenges also reveal weaknesses of Pakistan's political system. Overdependence on military channels to avail foreign assistance has created demographics that position the military as an important player not just in defense matters but in qualitative platform of the overall political contestation in Africa. But these efforts to build civilian institutions and develop a vibrant democracy are handicapped by this perception, which allows the military to have a considerable voice in the political discourse.

Pakistan's post-colonial experience is characterized by an amalgam of colonial practices inherited; ethnic diversity; internal and external related pressures; and evolving political changes. The colonial legacy left in Pakistan a governance model that does not fully suit the country's diversity. Pakistan's attempts at political and political transformation including 18th Amendment are

attempts to respond to these challenges through creation of a more enlightened, culturally more aware and democratic system, one which is more inclusive of provincial autonomy. But the penetration of military influence and the impact of international alliances show where Pakistan continues to struggle to build enduring civilian political system.

Today's political system in Pakistan is fundamentally a product of historical legacies and contemporary adaptations, a legacy of colonial rule so enduring and contemporary adaptations to address the needs of a distinct social and cultural landscape. The importance of further research into postcolonial states' responses to legacies of imperialism, notably with plural populations, and this examination of Pakistan's post-colonial political challenges and transformations highlights the importance of conceiving post-colonial states responsive to pressing historical demands as well as more contemporary exigencies.

Conclusion
The afterlife of colonial structures, the obstacles to ethnic diversity, the influence of military interventions and the importance of external pressures characterize Pakistan's post-colonial political journey. From building a democratic and inclusive political system, Pakistan's colonial legacy of centralized governance and bureaucratic control have complicated it. In recognition of a pattern of military interference in civilian governance, efforts to construct a national identity have often conflicted with regional or ethnic identities to the point of creating tensions. However, Pakistan has managed to dent these challenges considerably, including through legislative reforms such as the 18th Amendment which has marked a significant change from a centralized approach to devolution and regional autonomy.

This also shows how inherited colonial structures interacted with adaptations to the unique needs of Pakistan to demonstrate the complexities of post-colonial state building. Geopolitical dynamics and external alliances have also played a role in shaping the political landscape of Pakistan, leading to a governance model that seeks to appease domestic demands and international obligations. Embattled by continuing obstacles, Pakistan's nascent political development reveals an earnest effort to divorce itself from its colonial shackles, assimilate multiple cultures, and set up a civilian based government. Continued reforms and stress on an inclusive governance are the basic requirements for Pakistan to achieve a fully political system in line with the aspiration and diversity of its people. The knowledge of Pakistan's political trajectory allows you to understand broader struggles and transformations of postcolonial states which develop cautious, representative and resilient governance frameworks.

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