

## Abstract

Contention and democracy are interconnected and continuous process. Democracy is an incomplete phenomena while contention reflect the existence of democracy. Democracy is a progressive process which may have the risk of reversal. Pakistan is post-colonial democratic country which has not yet travelled through the phases as the democracy of West. It has hardly gain the electoral momentum which is merely a single sign of democratic phenomena. Pakistani Political History is full of Contention and opposition. Contention happened in an authoritarian regimes and democratic regimes. Contentious politics is apparent and intensely being practiced in the authoritarian context of General Ayub Khan, General Zia ul Haq and General Pervez Musharraf. Contentious politics consequently resulted in motion of electoral process in every instance and hence restored democracy in the country.

This research examines contentious politics such as Lawyer Movement after Musharraf take over in 1999 through military coup. It also examines contention started by Imran Khan and Tahirul Qadri in the democratic context when Musharraf regime change and democracy returned after general election in 2008. These movements are analyzed by engaging theory of social movements such as Resource Mobilization, Political Opportunity and Framing. In this regard, researcher present conclusions about its consequences and its impacts on the Pakistani society and politics. In the shadow of the above mentioned theories, these movements' dynamics and patterns are also analyzed. Researcher also highlight the success and failure of these movements.

Lawyer Movement against the Musharraf shows immense success with clear objectives and sheer resolve. It is one of the longer contention in which people from all walks and class participated. Masses and political parties' shows immense solidarity with judiciary and legal fraternity and ultimately the battle for the independence was win. The organization structure of Lawyer particularly bar, electronic and social media and the events in Pakistan help the movement to triumph. Judges restored, electoral process returned and democratic process begin.

After the return of the democracy in Pakistan, when PPP emerge as a victorious party in election in 2008. Lawyer movement remained active because the deposed judges were not restored and ultimately restored judiciary independence. Imran Khan emerged as new political player and started contending the government and opposition. Imran Khan mobilized

the masses with the ideology of revolution and change and by contending incumbent government.