

ABSTRACT

◦ Since the inception of Pakistan, political leaders and the people desired to create a state offering economic and social equality, but their dream remained mar. This desire gave rise to populism; a thin ideology, a style of leadership and a form of political mobilization Two waves of populism emerged in Pakistan; the first one was led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of PPP whose populism was a hybrid of right- and left-wing policies while second wave is currently being led by Imran Khan of PTI and his populism style is right-wing oriented.

This research is a comparative and historical analysis of populist politics of these two leaders adopting qualitative methodology. This study explores the dynamics of political situation that allowed populists stance to grow and salient features that are common in both the leaders.

Populism is not a definite ideology and there are no established universal and generalized theories which exist for populism. Hence, a hybrid model is designed to study the populist politics of Pakistan by using these universal determinants. The study concluded that Bhutto strengthen the political system of Pakistan by political socialization and participation, by formation of constitution, by institutionalization, by limiting the role of military establishment in politics. But due to inherent faults of populism, Bhutto exhibiting authoritarianism by refusing negotiations with opposition which resulted in the derailment of political system and the process of democratization not only stopped but remained shattered in ninety's decade. The populist politics of Imran khan strengthen the political system by political mobilization and political participation has been increased, 11 percent more turn out in 2018 election than 2013 election. Imran Khan's populist style helped him to get the power, but he failed to bring sustainable changes to political system of Pakistan.