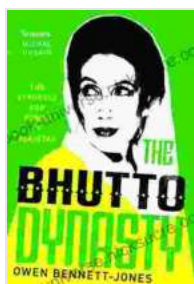


# The Struggle for Power in Pakistan: A Long and Winding Road

Pakistan has been plagued by a long and tumultuous history of political instability. Since its independence in 1947, the country has been ruled by a succession of military dictatorships, civilian governments, and periods of martial law. The struggle for power in Pakistan has been marked by violence, corruption, and a lack of accountability.

The roots of the struggle for power in Pakistan can be traced back to the country's early history. Pakistan was created in 1947 as a separate homeland for the Muslims of British India. However, the country was soon divided by ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences. The first few years of Pakistan's independence were marked by a series of political crises, including the assassination of Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan in 1951 and the imposition of martial law in 1958.



## The Bhutto Dynasty: The Struggle for Power in

**Pakistan** by Owen Bennett-Jones

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The first military dictatorship in Pakistan was led by General Ayub Khan. Ayub Khan ruled Pakistan for 11 years, and during his time in power he oversaw a period of economic growth and stability. However, Ayub Khan's regime was also marked by authoritarianism and corruption. In 1969, Ayub Khan was overthrown by General Yahya Khan. Yahya Khan promised to hold free and fair elections, but these elections were ultimately rigged, leading to widespread protests and the secession of East Pakistan in 1971.

After the secession of East Pakistan, Pakistan was ruled by a series of civilian governments. However, these governments were often weak and unstable. In 1977, General Zia-ul-Haq seized power in a military coup. Zia-ul-Haq ruled Pakistan for 11 years, and during his time in power he imposed a strict Islamic law. Zia-ul-Haq was assassinated in 1988, and was succeeded by a series of civilian governments.

The 1990s and 2000s were a period of relative stability in Pakistan. However, the country continued to be plagued by corruption and political instability. In 1999, General Pervez Musharraf seized power in a military coup. Musharraf ruled Pakistan for nine years, and during his time in power he oversaw a period of economic growth and stability. However, Musharraf's regime was also marked by authoritarianism and corruption. In 2008, Musharraf was forced to resign after a series of protests.

The 2008 elections were won by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The PPP formed a coalition government with the Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N). However, the PPP government was weak and unstable. In 2013, the PML-N won the elections and formed a government. The PML-N government has been more stable than the PPP government, but it has also been plagued by corruption and political instability.

The struggle for power in Pakistan is a complex and multifaceted issue. There are a number of factors that have contributed to the country's political instability, including ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences; a weak and divided political system; and a powerful military that has often intervened in politics.

The prospects for a more stable and democratic future in Pakistan are uncertain. The country continues to face a number of challenges, including terrorism, corruption, and political instability. However, there are also a number of positive signs. The Pakistani people have a strong desire for democracy, and there is a growing civil society movement that is working to promote democratic values. If the Pakistani people can overcome the challenges they face, then there is a good chance that the country will be able to achieve a more stable and democratic future.

### **Key Players and Factors in the Struggle for Power in Pakistan**

The struggle for power in Pakistan has been shaped by a number of key players and factors. These include:

- **The military:** The Pakistani military has been a major player in the country's politics since its independence. The military has often intervened in politics, and has ruled Pakistan for a total of over 30 years.
- **The political parties:** Pakistan has a number of political parties, but the two most important are the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N). These two parties have dominated Pakistani politics for decades.

- **The ethnic and linguistic groups:** Pakistan is a diverse country, with a number of different ethnic and linguistic groups. These groups have often competed for power, and this competition has contributed to the country's political instability.
- **The religious groups:** Pakistan is a Muslim-majority country, but there are also a number of other religious groups in the country. These groups have often competed for power, and this competition has contributed to the country's political instability.
- **External powers:** Pakistan has been influenced by a number of external powers, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and India. These powers have often intervened in Pakistani politics, and this intervention has contributed to the country's political instability.

## **Assessing the Prospects for a More Stable and Democratic Future in Pakistan**

The prospects for a more stable and democratic future in Pakistan are uncertain. The country continues to face a number of challenges, including terrorism, corruption, and political instability. However, there are also a number of positive signs. The Pakistani people have a strong desire for democracy, and there is a growing civil society movement that is working to promote democratic values. If the Pakistani people can overcome the challenges they face, then there is a good chance that the country will be able to achieve a more stable and democratic future.

Here are some of the key challenges that Pakistan faces:

- **Terrorism:** Pakistan has been plagued by terrorism for decades. The country has been the target of a number of terrorist attacks, and the

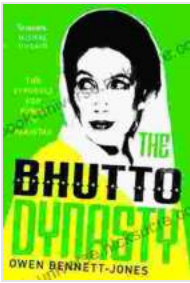
Pakistani military has been fighting a war against the Taliban and other terrorist groups for years.

- **Corruption:** Corruption is a major problem in Pakistan. The country is ranked 117th out of 180 countries on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index.
- **Political instability:** Pakistan has a history of political instability. The country has been ruled by a succession of military dictatorships, civilian governments, and periods of martial law.

Here are some of the positive signs for Pakistan:

- **A strong desire for democracy:** The Pakistani people have a strong desire for democracy. This was demonstrated by the large turnout in the 2013 elections.
- **A growing civil society movement:** There is a growing civil society movement in Pakistan that is working to promote democratic values. This movement is made up of a number of different organizations, including human rights groups, women's groups, and labor unions.
- **Support from the international community:** The international community has been supportive of Pakistan's transition to democracy. The United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries have provided financial and technical assistance to Pakistan.

If the Pakistani people can overcome the challenges they face, then there is a good chance that the country will be able to achieve a more stable and democratic future

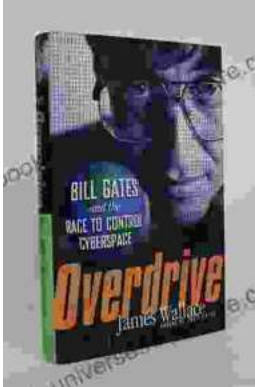


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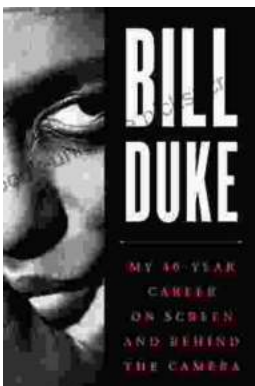
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