Rational-Democratic Capacity, State Effectiveness, and Governing Elite‘s Dilemma

The tripartite relationship between rational-democratic development, the state‘s effectiveness, and political instability has been discussed in this chapter. The evolution of rational-democratic development in the country was tempered with and interrupted through manipulation and coercion by the governing elite despite their intentions and claims of making Pakistan a stable, democratic, and developed state. This is especially true for the military regimes, who with the self-assumed responsibilities and mission, have been attempting to restructure the polity at grass-root level. However, at the end of every military regime, either the status quo prevailed or the situation became worse with regard to rational-democratic development.

To understand the constraints that hampered the evolution of a democratic culture and institutionalization of rational norms, the processes of political structuring and their outcomes have been examined with reference to the governing elite‘s framework for governance under which they took decisions. Since, the governing elite must maintain the impression of democratic legitimacy, so these

regimes remained cautious about the level of political mobilization. Similarly, because of the nation state discourse the governing elite‘s assigned task was to develop the country. While pursuing this task, the governing elite were primarily oriented towards and dependent on advanced western countries since they were a part of the nation state system. Therefore, their development programs (economic policies and related political programs) were attuned to the prevalent international development discourse of the time. Thus the governing elite‘s personal orientation, the prevalent international development discourse and level of political mobilization set the context for the elite‘s framework of political governance.

## POPULAR PERSONALISTIC RULE TO BUREAUCRATIC CONTROL

**The Ruling Elite’s Evolving Concept of a Strong State**

As the decolonization narrative itself was the product of the rational-democratic discourse, hence anti-colonial leaders were presenting the vision of new states as an independent state which would not only empower but would also improve the living conditions of the common man. The Pakistan Movement was also based on the rational- democratic discourse thereby envisaging better opportunities, empowerment and the welfare of its citizens, however, its struggle was not directed against colonial masters but against possible Hindu domination that could deprive the Muslims in minority areas from post- independence benefits of better opportunities, empowerment and welfare. The post-independence scenario

presenting an ominous prospect for the Muslims in minority areas with little sensitivity about possible Hindu domination and limited exposure to rational-democratic discourse in Muslim majority areas, led to the shaping of the elite‘s preferences for the future state, Pakistan.