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The Tyranny of Elections: After the Coup in Pakistan

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Some political commentators have been adamant in the position that nothing can justify the recent political coup in Pakistan. The commentators assert this solely because the former Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, was the duly elected leader of Pakistan, and the current Pakistani leader, General Pervez Musharraf, is not.

Such a stance is but another variant of the 20th century tragedy of reifying abstract Utopian concepts, ideas, and ideologies regardless of concrete human consequences. To join the line of protectors of the corrupt, the murderous, the grossly incompetent, and even the insane purely in defense of procedural justice subverts procedure's very purpose--substantive justice.

Must the 21st century continue in this vein? (See Jones, F.F. (1998). Pay procedures and voluntary turnover: Does procedural justice matter? *Psychological Reports*, 83, 475-482; Justice on trial in Pakistan. *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com>; Pearce, J.L., Bigley, G.A., & Branyiczki, I. (1998). Procedural justice as modernism: Placing industrial/organizational psychology in context. *Applied Psychology: An International Review*, 47, 371-396; Tudor, K. (1998). Untangling procedural and distributive justice: Their relative effects on gainsharing satisfaction. *Group and Organization Management*, 23, 477-493.) (Keywords: Elections, Ideology, Pakistan.)