

ABSTRACT

Independence of judiciary is considered a key ingredient for any modern democratic society. In my dissertation, *Essays on Judicial Independence and Development*, I study shocks to the independence of judiciary in Pakistan and examine its impact on judicial decision making and development. In the first chapter, *Judicial Independence and Development: Evidence from Pakistan*, I show how the institution of presidential appointment impact judicial independence and development. In the second chapter, *The Dictator, Imam and the Judge: Tracing the Impact of Religion on the Courts*, I document how religious leaders impact judicial independence in Pakistan. In the third chapter, *The Political Economy of Foreign Aid*, a new identification strategy and theory is presented on the political economy of foreign aid and development.

KEYWORDS

Judicial independence, institutions, courts, development