# International Relations · GS - II

**Examine the economic and political factors contributing to social unrest in Europe. How can democratic governments address public grievances while maintaining social stability?**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026 | GS - II | International Relations |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Cost-of-living crisis, inflation, inequality, pension reforms, corruption, public accountability, peaceful assembly, participatory governance, social protection, institutional trust.**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Social unrest in Europe reflects diverse national circumstances, but economic insecurity and dissatisfaction with governance can act as common drivers. Protests over pension reforms, corruption and living costs illustrate the relationship between public policy and social trust.

### Factors Behind Social Unrest

1. **Economic pressures:** Inflation, housing costs and stagnant incomes can reduce household purchasing power.
2. **Inequality:** Unequal access to opportunities may deepen social divisions.
3. **Governance concerns:** Perceived corruption and inadequate accountability can weaken trust in institutions.
4. **Policy dissatisfaction:** Reforms affecting pensions, employment or welfare may generate resistance when citizens consider them unfair or inadequately explained.

**Measures to Address Grievances**

- **Inclusive policymaking:** Consult affected groups before implementing major reforms.
- **Social protection:** Support vulnerable households through targeted assistance and accessible public services.
- **Transparency:** Strengthen anti-corruption mechanisms and independent oversight.
- **Constructive dialogue:** Facilitate negotiations among governments, trade unions and civil society.
- **Rights-based policing:** Protect peaceful assembly while responding lawfully and proportionately to violence.

**Conclusion**

Sustainable stability requires more than controlling demonstrations. Responsive governance, equitable economic policies and credible accountability can address underlying grievances and strengthen democratic legitimacy.

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