**Ayub Khan Era**

**Introduction:**

On October 7, 1958, President Iskander Mirza abrogated the Constitution and declared Martial Law in the country. This was the first of many military regimes in Pakistan’s history. The Constitution of 1956 was abrogated, ministers were dismissed, Central and Provincial Assemblies were dissolved and all political activities were banned. General Muhammad Ayub Khan, the then Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, became the Chief Martial Law Administrator. The parliamentary system in Pakistan came to end. Iskander Mirza was ousted by General Ayub Khan, who then declared himself President. This was actually welcomed in Pakistan as the nation had experienced a very unstable political climate since independence.

Despite economic growth, continuing economic and social inequalities, the disadvantaged position of East Pakistan, and limitation of civil liberties provoked increasing dissatisfaction with his regime. Ayub Khan used two main approaches to governing in his first few years. He concentrated on consolidating power and undermining the opposition. He also aimed to establish the groundwork for future stability through altering the economic, legal, and constitutional institutions.

Certain reforms were made for different filed which are as follows

**Government Reforms:**

Many in the Civil Service of Pakistan and Police Service of Pakistan were investigated and punished for corruption. Corruption had become so widespread within the national and civic systems of administration that Ayub Khan was welcomed as a national hero by the people.

* The new military government promised that they would carry out reforms in the entire government structure and would cleanse the administration of the rampant corruption
* EBDO (elective body disqualification order)

The politicians who were alleged to be corrupt they were given two options either to face trial under the EBDO or voluntarily leave politics for 6 years.

* PODO (public office disqualification order)

The corrupt bureaucrats were disqualified under this order.

**Land Reforms:**

Ayub Khan introduced land reforms in West Pakistan.

* It was meant to reduce the power of groups opposing him.
* A person could not own more than 500 acres of irrigated and 1000 acres of unirrigated land, and 150 acres of orchard land.

**Agricultural Reforms:**

Ayub khan introduced certain reforms in the field of agriculture.

* SCARP (salinity control and reclamation program) this was intended to control the problems of water-logging and salinity
* Tube wells were installs to extract the excess water out of the land.
* Tractors were introduced
* ADBP (agricultural development bank of Pakistan)
* Provided loans to the peasants.
* In 1960, Indus Water Treaty was signed as a result of which Mangla, Warsak, and Tarbela Dam was constructed. Indi gave compensation money and world bank also provide funds.
* Hybrid seeds were introduced.
* Pesticides and insecticides were introduced

**Educational Reforms:**

Ayub khan introduced certain reforms in the field of education.

* It was meant to raise the literacy level and trained manpower in Pakistan.
* He made technical education mandatory.
* Two year degree program was extended to three years.
* Civil Defense training was made mandatory in the schools and colleges.

**Family Law Ordinance:**

* All marriages need to registered by the government
* A man who want to divorce his wife must go through the conciliatory procedures of the union council.
* A man want to remarry need the written permission of the first wife
* Minimum age for marriage was decided

**Labor Reforms:**

Ayub showed interest to work for the betterment of the labor class.

* It was made mandatory for the factory owners to recognize the elected union council and to consider its opinion in all the issues.
* A law was passed about the basic daily wages of the laborers.

Conclusion:

Ayub’s policies of concentrating political power in his own hands, his control over the press and media, imposing state of emergency in the country, and his interference in religion were also responsible for his downfall. By the end of 1968, the public resentment against the Ayub’s regime touched a boiling point and an anti-Ayub movement was launched by the urban-middle class; including students, teachers, lawyers, doctors, and engineers. Law and order broke down and Ayub was left with no other option but to step down.