**Constitution Of 1956**

The process of constitution-making in Pakistan saw various committees, including the Basic Principles Committee, chaired by Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan. The committee's interim report in 1950 was criticized due to its incompleteness and was asked to be revised. The second report of basic principle committee was presented to Khawaja Nazimuddin in 1952, but this report was also rejected.

The constitutional process gained momentum under Prime Minister Chaudhry Muhammad Ali.

The Constitution of 1956, comprised 234 articles with significant Islamic provisions:

**1. Parliamentary System:** Executive authority vested in the President, advised by the Prime Minister. The President had limited powers. The President would be of 45 years of age, Muslim and qualified to be a member of National Assembly. He was to be elected by the National Assembly (NA) and Provincial Assemblies.

**2. Prime Minister:** Appointed by the President. The President would be its sole judge, removable if lacking majority support in the National Assembly.

**3. Unicameral Legislature:** National Assembly as the sole house with 300 members plus 10 reserved seat for women. The President could return, reject, or sign bills. NA had all powers, but they could not vote on Consolidated Fund List. Salaries of President, judges, federal service commission, etc. were to be paid through Consolidated Fund. The National Assembly could control the Executive.

**4. Federal System:** The constitution provided three lists: (Federal, Provincial, Concurrent) and There were two Provinces (East and West Pakistan) in the federation of Pakistan.

**5. Provincial Structure:** Elected Assemblies at the provincial level, with real powers vested in Chief Ministers and his Cabinet. Central Government had some overriding powers and some Emergency powers too.

**6. Independent Judiciary:** Independent judiciary working without political and economic pressure. Supreme Court at the center, High Courts in provinces, and subordinate courts working under high courts.

**7. Fundamental Rights:** Civil and political rights provided, with provisions for suspension during emergencies.

**8. Directive Principles of State Policy:** Guiding principles for policymaking, including Islamic practices, welfare, non-discrimination, and fulfilling basic needs.

**9. Islamic Character:** Pakistan declared as an Islamic Republic, with laws conforming to Islamic teachings. A commission examined existing laws.

**10. Sovereignty of Allah:** Objective Resolution included in the preamble, asserting sovereignty belongs to Allah.

**11. Organization of Islamic Research:** Established to research legislation and enforcement of Islamic principles.

**12. Protection to Minorities:** Rights protected; minorities allowed to practice their religion and culture.

**13. Relation with Muslim Countries:** Emphasis on establishing good relations with other Islamic countries.

**14. Welfare State:** Pakistan aimed to be a welfare state, addressing poverty, illiteracy, and providing basic facilities like food, shelter and cloth.

**15. End of Racial & Provincial Discriminations:** The government will try to eliminate Racial, Provincial, Communal and other discriminations.

**16. End of Illiteracy:** The government will take steps to eliminate illiteracy, with free and compulsory education.

**17. Compulsory Teachings of the Holy Quran:** The government should take steps for the compulsory education of the Holy Quran.

**18. Free Judiciary:** Independent judiciary working without political and economic pressure.

**19. Separate Electorate:** Separate electorate would be provided to the minorities.

**20. National Language:** Urdu will be the national languages of the country.

**Cancellation of the Constitution of 1956**

The Constitution of 1956, which was established after nine years of struggle from 1947 to 1956, faced an abrupt end when Chief of Army Staff General Ayub Khan dismissed it in 1958, invited by the President Iskandar Mirza. The constitution had been in effect for only two years and seven months. General Ayub Khan not only dismissed the government but also ousted the President of Pakistan, Iskandar Mirza, imposing the first Martial Law in the country.