

Failure of Democracy

Pakistan has had a tumultuous history with democracy, and there were several factors that contributed to the failure of democracy before the Ayub Khan era.

One of the key factors was the deep-seated political instability that plagued the country in the early years after independence. Pakistan's founding father, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, died just a year after independence, leaving behind a power vacuum and a weak political structure that was unable to provide stable governance.

Another major factor was the inability of Pakistan's political elites to create a broad-based, inclusive democracy. The country's first Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, struggled to establish a strong democratic system that could accommodate the diverse interests of the country's various regions and ethnic groups. Instead, power remained concentrated in the hands of a small elite, with little representation for the broader population.

Additionally, Pakistan's political parties were plagued by infighting, corruption, and a lack of political maturity, which made it difficult to establish a stable democratic system. The country's early years were marked by a series of coups, with military leaders intervening in politics to restore order and stability.

All of these factors contributed to a lack of faith in democracy among the Pakistani people, who saw the system as ineffective and corrupt. This created an environment where military leaders like Ayub Khan were able to gain popular support by promising to modernize the country and restore stability, even at the cost of democratic freedoms.

Ayub Khan **Biography**

Ayub Khan (1907-1974) was a Pakistani military officer and politician who served as the second President of Pakistan from 1958 to 1969. He came to power in a military coup in 1958, overthrowing the civilian government of Prime Minister Feroz Khan Noon.

Ayub Khan's rule was marked by his vision of modernizing Pakistan's economy and society through a series of sweeping reforms. Under his leadership, Pakistan

experienced a period of economic growth and development, with the introduction of the "Green Revolution" and the establishment of large-scale industries.

During his time in office, Ayub Khan also implemented a number of political reforms, including the introduction of the "Basic Democracy" system, which aimed to decentralize political power and provide greater representation to ordinary citizens. However, this system was criticized as being undemocratic and authoritarian.

Ayub Khan's foreign policy was marked by close ties with the United States, which provided significant economic and military aid to Pakistan during the Cold War. However, this also led to increased dependence on foreign aid and the United States' influence over Pakistan's domestic and foreign policies.

In 1969, Ayub Khan's government was toppled by widespread protests and demonstrations, leading to the end of his presidency and the beginning of a new chapter in Pakistan's history. Despite his achievements, Ayub Khan's legacy remains controversial, with some seeing him as a transformative figure who modernized Pakistan, while others view him as an authoritarian ruler who stifled political freedom and human rights.

The Ayub Era refers to the period of time in Pakistan's history that was dominated by the rule of General Ayub Khan. Ayub Khan came to power in a military coup in 1958 and ruled the country as its President until 1969. During his time in office, Ayub Khan implemented a series of sweeping reforms that aimed to modernize and industrialize the country.

One of the most significant reforms undertaken during the Ayub Era was the implementation of the "Basic Democracy" system, which aimed to decentralize political power and give more representation to ordinary citizens. However, critics argued that the system was undemocratic and merely served to consolidate Ayub Khan's own power.

Another notable achievement of the Ayub Era was the establishment of close ties with the United States. This led to an influx of American aid and investment, which helped to fuel Pakistan's economic growth during the 1960s. However, this

also led to increased dependence on foreign aid and the United States' influence over Pakistan's domestic and foreign policies.

Despite some of his achievements, Ayub Khan's rule was marked by increasing political repression and economic inequality. In 1969, his government was toppled by widespread protests and demonstrations, leading to the end of the Ayub Era and the beginning of a new chapter in Pakistan's history.

Development in Ayub Era

The Ayub Era, also known as the "Decade of Development," was a period of significant economic growth and modernization in Pakistan, which took place during the presidency of General Ayub Khan from 1958 to 1969.

During this period, Ayub Khan implemented a series of sweeping reforms aimed at modernizing Pakistan's economy and society. These included the introduction of the "Green Revolution," which saw the adoption of modern farming techniques and the cultivation of high-yield crops, leading to a significant increase in agricultural production.

Ayub Khan also established large-scale industries, including steel mills and chemical factories, which helped to diversify Pakistan's economy and reduce the country's dependence on agriculture. The government also invested heavily in infrastructure development, including the construction of new roads, railways, and airports, which helped to improve connectivity and facilitate trade and commerce.

In addition to economic development, Ayub Khan also implemented political reforms, including the introduction of the "Basic Democracy" system, which aimed to decentralize political power and provide greater representation to ordinary citizens. However, this system was criticized as being undemocratic and authoritarian.

Overall, the Ayub Era was marked by significant progress in economic development, with Pakistan experiencing high rates of growth and industrialization during this period. However, these gains were accompanied by

increasing political repression and economic inequality, which ultimately led to widespread protests and the downfall of Ayub Khan's government in 1969.

During the Ayub Era, several reforms were introduced in an effort to modernize and transform Pakistan's economy and society. Some of the key reforms implemented by Ayub Khan include:

1. **Land reforms:** Ayub Khan introduced several land reforms aimed at redistributing land to small farmers and improving agricultural productivity. These reforms included the abolition of the jagirdari system and the introduction of the Land Reforms Regulation of 1959.
2. **Basic Democracy:** Ayub Khan introduced the Basic Democracy system in 1959, which aimed to decentralize political power and provide greater representation to ordinary citizens. Under this system, local councils were established at the district, tehsil, and union levels, and members were elected through an indirect electoral process.
3. **Industrialization:** Ayub Khan's government established several large-scale industries, including steel mills and chemical factories, in an effort to diversify Pakistan's economy and reduce the country's dependence on agriculture. These efforts were supported by a range of policies aimed at attracting foreign investment and promoting industrial growth.
4. **Education reforms:** Ayub Khan introduced several education reforms aimed at improving access to education and increasing literacy rates in the country. These reforms included the establishment of new universities and the introduction of the National Education Policy of 1959.
5. **Foreign policy:** Ayub Khan pursued a policy of non-alignment in international affairs and sought to improve relations with neighboring countries, including India. He also strengthened ties with the United States, which provided significant economic and military aid to Pakistan during the Ayub Era.

While these reforms brought significant progress and development to Pakistan, they were also criticized for being undemocratic and failing to address issues of

social inequality and political repression. Ultimately, the limitations of these reforms contributed to widespread dissatisfaction and unrest, leading to the downfall of Ayub Khan's government in 1969.

Weaknesses in Ayub Era

While the Ayub Era was marked by significant economic growth and modernization, there were also several weaknesses and challenges that emerged during this period. Some of the key weaknesses of the Ayub Era include:

1. **Political repression:** Despite Ayub Khan's efforts to introduce political reforms, his government was criticized for being undemocratic and authoritarian. Political opposition was suppressed, and many civil liberties were curtailed, including freedom of speech and assembly.
2. **Regional disparities:** The benefits of economic development were not distributed evenly across the country, and there were significant regional disparities in terms of economic growth and infrastructure development. The rural areas and less developed regions of the country were largely left behind, leading to increased inequality and poverty.
3. **Dependence on foreign aid:** Pakistan became increasingly dependent on foreign aid and loans during the Ayub Era, which led to significant levels of external debt. This dependence on foreign aid created a vulnerability in the country's economy and made it difficult to pursue independent economic policies.
4. **Social unrest:** Despite the economic progress made during the Ayub Era, there was also growing social unrest and political dissatisfaction. Many people felt excluded from the benefits of development, and there were increasing tensions between different ethnic and religious groups in the country.
5. **Military dominance:** The Ayub Era was marked by the growing dominance of the military in Pakistani politics. This trend began with Ayub Khan's own military coup in 1958 and continued through subsequent military regimes,

leading to a weakening of democratic institutions and an erosion of civil liberties.