

Observation no: 176 – 177 Falkland Islands

Country-year: United Kingdom 1981

1. Did the current regime come to power in a military coup?

No.

Margaret Thatcher was democratically elected.

2. Has the country ever experienced a military coup?

No.

3. Is the country's top leader a former military officer?

No.

Margaret Thatcher was a student at Oxford during World War II.¹ She was a career civil servant and politician.

4. Are ethnic, sectarian, or racial criteria used to exclude segments of the population from the officer corps?

No.

The *Race Relations Act, 1965* outlawed discrimination on the basis of "colour [sic], race, or ethnic or national origins."²

5. Are there strict ideological requirements for entry into the senior officer corps?

No.

In common with most Western democracies during World War II, it was unlikely that someone with pro-Communist ideology would receive the security clearance necessary for such a position. However, it does not appear that there were strict ideological requirements.

6. Is party membership required for entry into the senior officer corps?

No.

¹ Batson, Judy G. *Her Oxford*, Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press, 2008, p. 268.

² Hepple, B.A. (1966). "Race Relations Act 1965". *Modern Law Review* 29: 806.

7. Does military training involve extensive political education or ideological indoctrination?

No.

8. Has the military been used to repress internal dissent in the last five years?

No. That said, the British Armed forces were stationed in Northern Ireland, under "Operation Banner," from August 1969 through July 2007, largely in support of police operations against the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA). In 1980 there were about 11,000 troops in Northern Ireland.³

9. Has the military been used to govern the country in the last five years?

No.

The United Kingdom has been a democratic, civilian-led, constitutional democracy since the 18th or 19th century.⁴

10. Is there a paramilitary organization separate from the regular military, used to provide regime or leader security?

No.

11. Is there an internal intelligence apparatus dedicated to watching the regular military?

No.

The Intelligence Corps of the British Army and Defence Intelligence are military intelligence services that provide information about activities relevant to armed forces' activities abroad.⁵

12. Has a purge of the officer corps occurred in the last five years?

³ "Police in N. Ireland take over for British Army as terrorism declines," *Christian Science Monitor*, 1980, accessed May 27, 2014, [http://www.csmonitor.com/1980/0904/090454.html/\(page\)/1](http://www.csmonitor.com/1980/0904/090454.html/(page)/1).

⁴ The exact point at which England democratized has been disputed. For example see, Sheri Berman. "How Democracies Emerge: Lessons from Europe," *Journal of Democracy*. Vol. 18, No. 1 (2007): 28-41.

⁵ Gill, Peter and Mark Phythian. *Intelligence in an Insecure World*, Cambridge, United Kingdom: Polity, 2006, p. 50; Clayton, Anthony. *Forearmed: A History of the Intelligence Corps*, London: Brassey's, 1993.

No.

13. Is there an institutionalized forum through which civilian leaders and military officers regularly exchange information?

Yes. The Ministry of Defence Act of 1946, created a separate cabinet seat for the Minister of Defence.⁶ A unified ministry of Defence was created in April, 1964, and the Defence Select Committee (in its current form) in the British House of Commons was established in 1979 to oversee operations at the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces.⁷ It is also worth noting that in 1967 the government downgraded the service ministries and briefly eliminated them in 1970, causing them to be greatly weakened.⁸ In 1970, service chiefs were subordinated to the Chief of Defense Staff and service ministers were dismissed as the British endeavored to privatize many formerly military functions.⁹

⁶ Jerry Brookshire, *Clement Atlee*, (Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 1995).

⁷ "Defence Committee – Role – UK Parliament," *UK Parliament*, Accessed May 21, 2014, <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/defence-committee/role/>; "Thirty Years of Parliamentary Select Committees" *UK Parliament*, accessed May 21, 2014, 2014, ["http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2009/06/30-years-of-departmental-select-committees/](http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2009/06/30-years-of-departmental-select-committees/).

⁸ Colonel Hector E. Pagan, "Defense Reorganization, the Road Ahead for the 21st Century," USAWCS Strategy Research Project, April 7, accessed June 1, 2014, <http://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=458446> , p. 10.

⁹ Ibid.