

Observation no: 204

Country-year: 1994

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

Yes.

President Fujimori was democratically elected in 1990 elections, though he utilized military support to conduct his autogopole (self-coup) in 1992.¹

2. Has the country ever experienced a military coup?

Yes.

The military initiated coups in 1962 and 1968 and ruled over the country from 1968-1978.²

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

No.

Fujimori had no experience in the military before taking over as head of state.

4. Is the military officer corps largely closed to those who do not share the leader's ethnic or sectarian background?

No.

I found no evidence of ethnic or sectarian requirements for membership in the military officer corps.

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

No.

I found no evidence of ideological requirements for entry into the senior officer corps.

¹ Maiah Jakowski, "Civilian Control of the Armed Forces in Democratic Latin America: Military Prerogatives, Contestation, and Mission Performance in Peru," *Armed Forces and Society*, vol. 38, no.1 (2012:70-91).

² David Mares and David Scott Palmer, *Power, Institutions, and Leadership in War and Peace: Lessons from Peru and Ecuador, 1995-1998*, (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012), pg. 92.

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

No.

I could find no evidence of party membership requirements for the senior officers.

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

No.

I could find no evidence of systematic political education or ideological indoctrination in military training.

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

Yes.

Fujimoro used the Peruvian armed forces in a counter-guerilla campaign against Shining Path and greatly increased the power of the military to conduct these operations.³ In addition, the military was in charge of antinarcotics missions and protest control.⁴

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

No.

Peru from 1989-1994 was governed by civilian authorities.

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

No.

I found no evidence of a separate Fujimori paramilitary organization. However, there is evidence to suggest that a group existing within the military (Grupo Colina) acted as a paramilitary unit and assassinated/murdered civilians and Shining Path members with the sanction of the Fujimori government.

³ Maiah Jaskoski, *Military Politics and Democracy in the Andes*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 2013), pg. 27.

⁴ Ibid, pg. 47.

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

Yes.

Fujimoro used the Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional to watch members of the military and ensure their loyalty to Fujimoro.⁵

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

Yes.

Fujimori forced retirement of over twenty army general officers and placed as head of the armed forces a Fujimori loyalist.⁶

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

Yes.

The National Defense Council was tasked with national security objectives and included both civilians and military representation, though many of the core national security taskings were moved to the civilian controlled Civilian of Ministers in the late 80s.⁷

⁵ Jaskosi, *Military Politics and Democracy in the Andes*, pg. 26.

⁶ Mares and Palmer, *Power, Institutions, and Leadership in War and Peace: Lessons from Peru and Ecuador, 1995-1998*, pg. 93.

⁷ Wendy Hunter, "Continuity or Change? Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Argentina, Chile, and Peru," *Political Science Quarterly* vol. 112, no.3 (1997: pg. 464).