

Observation no: 86 – India (First Kashmir War)

Country-year: 1947

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

No.

At the outbreak of war with Pakistan in 1947, the political leadership of India had just inherited political control from Great Britain.

2. Has the country ever experienced a military coup?

No.

India was a newborn country in 1947, and had not experienced a military coup.

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

No.

The prime minister of India in 1947 was Jawaharlal Nehru, a civil servant and politician.

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

No.

The British created India's military system in the mid 19th century. The basic structure for the army's recruitment, composition, and command has remained resilient over 200 years. Members of the infantry were recruited "on the basis of religious, regional, or caste quotas. The British called these different recruitment groups 'classes' (essentially ethnic groups) and the term is still in use...Each class has an elaborate tradition anchored in the 'martial' history of the particular caste or ethnic group, and the different classes engage in friendly competition...These diverse castes and classes were held together by a British officer corps, subsequently replaced in India (and in Pakistan) by indigenous officers within a few years of partition. They are still English-speaking officers, recruited nationally and competitively, and drawn largely from India's vast middle class. They received a modern military education and viewed the army as a long-term professional commitment. Thus, the armed forces, especially the army, represent the melding of ancient practices, recently invented traditions, and modern professional norms."¹ In sum, the Indian army in 1947 was a highly professional organization without strict ideological or political requirements for entry, and military training did not involve ideological indoctrination.

¹ Cohen, Stephen Philip. *India: Emerging Power*. Brookings Institution Press, 2002: 21-22.

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

No.

See 4.

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

No.

See 4.

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

No.

See 4.

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

Yes.

In 1947, Pakistan's partition from India unleashed widespread communal violence and mass migration of Muslims and non-Muslims. The Indian army was instrumental in repressing dissent and restoring internal security.

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

No.

India was created in 1947 as a parliamentary democracy under civilian control.

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

Yes.

In addition to the armed forces, India also has a substantial paramilitary force. These various paramilitary organizations conduct a wide range of internal and external security operations. The Assam Rifles, for example, reported directly to the Ministry of Home Affairs but was led by Indian Army officers and performed many roles.

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

Yes.

The intelligence services of India are best conceptualized as a cluster of agencies with competing and overlapping services: the roots of the Intelligence Bureau stem back to the 19th century and became the core agency used to gather internal and external intelligence (as well as perform counter-intelligence and counter-terrorist operations with the Indian Policy Service and the armed forces), and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was formed in 1941 as the primary internal police and investigatory agency. The Intelligence Bureau reports directly to the prime minister.²

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

No.

India was a newborn country in 1947, and had not experienced a purge of the officer corps.

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

Yes.

India is parliamentary democracy. As such, its foreign and security policy process is coordinated and led by the prime minister and the cabinet. The various ministries and bureaucracies include the Indian Civil Service (ICS), the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), a multitude of intelligence agencies, and the armed forces and paramilitary forces. "At the highest levels, foreign and security policy processes are dominated by civilians who are generally free of corruption."³ The civilian bureaucrats exert tremendous influence over the military and security agencies. "The most remarkable fact about the decisionmaking process is that the military plays almost no role in it. This is not to say that military factors (whether in terms of hardware or strategy) are not considered. Rather, in no other middle or great power is the military's advice so detached from political and strategic decisions."⁴

² Cohen, 76.

³ Cohen, 71.

⁴ Cohen, 76.