

Observation no: 86 – Pakistan (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 India in 1947, the nascent political leadership of Pakistan had just inherited political control from Great Britain.

2. Has the country ever experienced a military coup?

No.

Pakistan was a newborn country in 1947, and therefore had not experienced a military coup. (Note that military coups would become a consistent pattern in the subsequent development of political-military relations in Pakistan.)

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

No.

The top leader of Pakistan in 1947 was Mohammed Ali Jinnah, a political who helped negotiate the partition of India and Pakistan with the British, and led the prominent Muslim League political party at the birth of Pakistan.¹

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

Yes.

Pakistan was partitioned from India with the core purpose of creating a state for Muslim South Asians. The Pakistani army originated as the British Indian Army before partition. Many units in the British Indian Army were mixed in religions, ethnicity, and castes. The partition plan allocated the British Indian Army to India and Pakistan according to a 70:30 split. Thus, "a battalion ordered to join the army of Pakistan would retain only its Muslim company or companies and those headquarters' officers and men of the same religion."² Although Muslim identity was required to join the military officer corps, many different ethnic groups exist within Pakistan. The Pakistani military has always been "extremely cagey about releasing figures for ethnic proportions in the military," though Muslims from

¹ Anatol Lieven, *Pakistan: A Hard Country* (PublicAffairs, 2011).

² Brian Cloughley, *A History of the Pakistan Army: Wars and Insurrections* (Oxford University Press, 2006), 2.

the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province regions traditionally outnumber and dominate Muslims from Sindhi, Mohajir, and Baloch.³

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

No.

In 1947, the nascent Pakistani army did not yet have ideological requirements for recruitment and entry into the senior officer corps. All of the officers came from the British Indian Army. (Note that the Pakistani army did develop a unique geo-strategic ideology over time.)

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

No.

At the birth of Pakistan, the dominant political party (the Muslim League) was distinct from the military branch, and entry into the senior officer corps did not require political membership in the Muslim League.

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

No.

Again, in 1947, the military training of the Pakistani Army originated from the secularism of the British Indian Army.

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 inchoate political structure of Pakistan could do little to protect its new citizens and quell violence. Since the Muslim League was "ineffective in providing relief and rehabilitation aid," the core task of "protecting and caring for the émigrés hence fell to Pakistani bureaucrats and young army officers."⁴

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

No.

³ Lieven, 179.

⁴ Stephen Philip Cohen, *The Idea of Pakistan* (Brookings Institution Press, 2004), 47.

Pakistan had just been created in 1947 under separate political and military leadership. The military had not been used to govern the country (though this would certainly change over time).

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

No.

Although several infamous paramilitary organizations eventually developed in Pakistan during the decades after partition, the security and military institutions in 1947 were direct imports from the British Indian Army.

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

No.

See 10.

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

No.

See 10.

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

Yes.

In 1947, the political and military leadership of Pakistan consisted of Governor-General M.A. Jinnah, prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan, and the British commander-in-chief, General Sir Frank Messervy. These leaders met regularly, exchanged information, and made the key political-military decisions of Pakistan.⁵

⁵ Cloughley, 5.