

Observation no: 169 – 171 Ugandan-Tanzanian

Country-year: Tanzania 1977

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

No.

Julius Nyerere, the President of Tanzania, was elected in an election in 1962.¹

2. Has the country ever experienced a military coup?

No.

Although opposition political parties were banned, Tanzania conducted regular elections and Nyerere remained President since 1962.

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

No.

Nyerere was a teacher prior to becoming President.²

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

No.

Upon independence, Tanzania/Tanganyika “conceived of unity by agglomeration; there was no feeling that the civil service or military had to be radically remodeled right away or removed.”

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

No.³

¹ Lea, David and Annamarie Rowe. “A Political Chronology of Africa.” Florence, KY: Taylor & Francis, 2001, p. 425.

² Muravchik, Joshua. “Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism.” Jason, TN: Encounter Books, pp. 201-202.

³ Note, questions 5 through 13 are based upon information provided by Charles Thomas at West Point, spring 2013.

Ideological education was a precondition (through party membership, the required National Service before joining the military, and the provision of commissars), but oral testimony from officers during the period in question seems to stress pragmatism over dogma where Nyerere's ujamaa ideals were concerned.

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

All members of the military underwent training in the National Service before admission in the TPDF. National Service not only involved capacity building public works and militia training but also extensive political education.

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

No.

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

No.

Juius Nyerere has been President since 1962.

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

No.

The militia and the National Service were used as feeder systems into the TPDF and were rolled into the TPDF in the reorganization of 1974

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

No.

There are commissars involved with watching the ideology of the military, but for the most part the TPDF is open in its self-criticisms and self-correcting of its personnel

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

No.

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

Yes.

There are often large meetings between members of all ranks as well as political leaders. The TPDF also has a rather unique structure, wherein officers in the TPDF are also members of the CCM and are the party reps for their units. Officers are also allowed to stand for election for governmental positions. If elected, the officer must set aside his or her commission for as long as he or she serves as an elected representative. At the end of their service, they may reclaim their commission. This created a robust interaction between the political class and the military one.