

Observation no: 158

Country-year: 1973

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

No.

Both Prime Ministers in power in 1973 were leaders of democratically elected parties, though Ferit Melen, Prime Minister from May 1972 to April 1973 was appointed to his position after the previous Prime Minister died in office. Melen's appointed government was heavily supported by the military.

2. Has the country ever experienced a military coup?

Yes.

The Turkish military launched coups in both 1960 and 1971 as well as smaller failed coups during that time.¹

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

No.

Neither of the Prime Ministers in 1973 were former military officers.

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 entry to the military officer corps.²

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

Yes.

¹ Momayezi, Nasser. 1998. Civil-military relations in turkey. *International Journal on World Peace* 15, (3) (09): 3-28, <http://search.proquest.com/docview/219274470?accountid=11243> (accessed April 20, 2015).

² Lerner, Daniel, and Richard D. Robinson. "Swords and Ploughshares: The Turkish Army as a Modernizing Force." *World Politics* 13, no. 01 (1960): 34.

The senior officer corps was devoted to the protection of Kemalism, the official ideology of the Turkish republic, named after Attaturk.³

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

No.

I could find no evidence of a party membership requirement for entry into the senior officer corps.

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

No.

I could find no evidence of extensive political or ideological education in military training. This is despite the fact that I found numerous references to technical and professional military training.

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

Yes.

Turkey was under martial law and the military was used to put down urban violence since 1971.⁴

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

No.

Though Turkey was technically not governed by the military, the military was heavily influential in supporting political parties and also put forth retired military officers as party leaders (some served as President).⁵

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

Yes.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Nye, Roger P. "Civil-military confrontation in Turkey: the 1973 presidential election." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 8, no. 02 (1977): 209-228.

⁵ Ibid.

There is a gendarmie that reports to the Ministry of the Interior and is used to ensure internal security.⁶

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

No.

The internal intelligence apparatus is dedicated instead to watching the government and other internal threats to the republic.⁷

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

No.

In fact, civilian authorities have little control over senior military promotions—despite attempts to control what was seen as military promotions leading to President.⁸

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

Yes.

The National Security Council provided a venue for military leaders to communicate recommendations to civilian officials and for the head of state to issue orders to the military.⁹

⁶ Solyamez, Kadir. *A Qualitative Analysis of the Turkish Gendarmie Assignment Process*. (Monterey: Naval Post Graduate School, 2005).

⁷ Sakallioğlu, Ümit Cizre. "The anatomy of the Turkish military's political autonomy." *Comparative politics* (1997): 151-166.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Momayezi, Nasser. 1998. Civil-military relations in turkey. *International Journal on World Peace* 15, (3) (09): 3-28, <http://search.proquest.com/docview/219274470?accountid=11243> (accessed April 20, 2015).