

Q Critically evaluate the role of Military in Turkish politics ?

### INTRODUCTION.

Military has always been very active in politics, since the time of Ottoman empire. Even after the fall of the Ottoman empire the military has shown its influence in politics. Military has caused 6 coups in the country since 1960, because the military thinks itself as a guardian of the country and constitution. On 27 May, 1960 first coup happened when civilian govt. was arrested and tried for treason charges. In March 12, 1971 military intervened and prime minister was forced to resign. At another time in 1980 Sep, 12 when right and left groups were in conflict with each other military intervened causing the arrest and execution of many citizens. Then on 28 Feb, 1997 again military tried to capture political power.

pressurizing PM to resign in NSC. In April 27, 2007 an E-memorandum was released on the website of military which was the general staff statement that turned out to cause election crisis in country. Last instant of this nature happened in July 15, 2016 when a group of military personnel tried to attempt a coup but this attempt was failed as a people of Turkey resisted.

## THE MILITARY AND THE STATE: THE OTTOMAN LEGACY:-

In the ottoman Empire, the military played a central role in both governance and expansion. The ottoman army, known for its elite janissary corps, safeguarded the empire's borders, maintained internal order, and executed the ruler's directives. Military conquest were instrumental in territorial expansion, contributing to the empire's dominance

Additionally, military campaigns were instrumental in expanding and maintaining the empire's territories. However, interference in political matters occasionally led to power struggles and instability.

## MUSTAFA KAMAL AND HIS REFORMS:

After World War I, Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) emerged as the country's political and military leader. He and other leaders transformed the Ottoman Empire into a modern nation state and drove Turkey into a secular state.

In other words, Turkey's modernization process was led by the military.

Secularism included the reform of Law:

- Abolition of religious courts and schools. (1924)
- Adoption of a purely secular system of family law.
- Substitution of the Latin alphabet for

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- the Arabic in writing Turkish.
- The adoption of Gregorian calendar.
  - The replacement of Friday by Sunday as the weekly holiday (1935).
  - The Adoption of Surnames (1934)
  - The abolition of the wearing of the fez. (1925)

## **KEMALISTS POLICIES AND TURKISH ARMY:-**

The Turkey military see themselves as legally mandated to maintain security. It is their duty to protect the legal system from any internal and external danger; and they claim to safeguard the constitution, promote the unity - and even existence of the nation as well as to serve all national interests, whether in political, social, cultural or economic terms.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MILITARY COUP IN TURKEY :-

The military, claiming to preserve the legacy of the state founder, toppled three governments.

### 1960 TURKISH COUP D'ETAT :-

The military intervened to end political unrest, leading to the overthrow of the government. The coup resulted in the execution of Prime Minister Adnan Menderes.

### 1971 TURKISH COUP D'ETAT :-

The military again intervened, citing political instability. This coup led to a memorandum that forced the resignation of the government and a shift in power dynamics.

### 1980 TURKISH COUP D'ETAT :-

The most

impactful coup, resulting in prolonged period of military rule. It was triggered by political polarization and violence. The military ruled until 1983, when civilian governance was restored.

### CAUSES OF WEAKNING OF MILITARY:-

- i Strong positional of AKP.
- ii Political & social support of population.
- iii Political stability & economic growth adding the population & electoral support.
- iv It were more about demilitarization of politics than civilianization of civil military ties.

Even if the military was weakened as a political factor, it was still not fully subjected to civilian control & oversight. e.g TSK retained a high degree of autonomy in the education, peacetime force deployment,

the allocation of budgetary resources.

## IMPUGNATION OF THE COUP:

- It was transition from a parliamentary to a strong presidential system of Government.
- The chain of command at the top has been changed. The chief of defense will now be appointed directly by the president. The Gen staff will be attached to the Ministry of National Defense instead of defunct DM's office.
- In addition, the president will be able to give orders directly to the commanders of Turkey's land, air & sea force without having to go through any <sup>other</sup> office or authority.
- The Supreme Military Council has also been relieved of many of its previous functions leaving all

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

major decisions concerning the armed forces, including promotions & assignment of colonels & generals to the president.

- A new board of security & foreign policy, one of nine consultative bodies attached to the presidency.

## CONCLUSION:-

The role of the military in Turkish politics has been historically significant. Traditionally, the military saw itself as a guardian of Turkey's secular identity, intervening in politics to protect this principle. Now, there has been a shift towards civilian control, with the military becoming less directly involved in politics.

---

---