

Q

Role of military in Turkish politics.

Answer 1

Introduction

"Military is a supervisor of the country and its people."

(- Hasky)

Military was powerful in the Ottoman Legacy. In fact, military also played an important role post 1924. However, current status of military is changed due to some reasons:

2.

The State and the Military:

The Ottoman Legacy

"Military was an iron hand in

the Ottoman Legacy."

(- Hasky)

The Ottoman legacy had a powerful army - But, unfortunately, post the World War I, military was defeated.



Post WWI, Mustafa Kemal  
 Atatürk rescued Turkey →  
 kicked away European  
 and revived military  
 in Turkish politics. Thus,  
 the Ottoman Legacy had  
 a powerful army.

Post WWI → Military Fall

Mustafa Kemal → Revival of Military

### 3- Role of military - an overview

Role of military  
 was increased in Turkish  
 politics. Constitutional amendm-  
 ent was done.

"Military is as

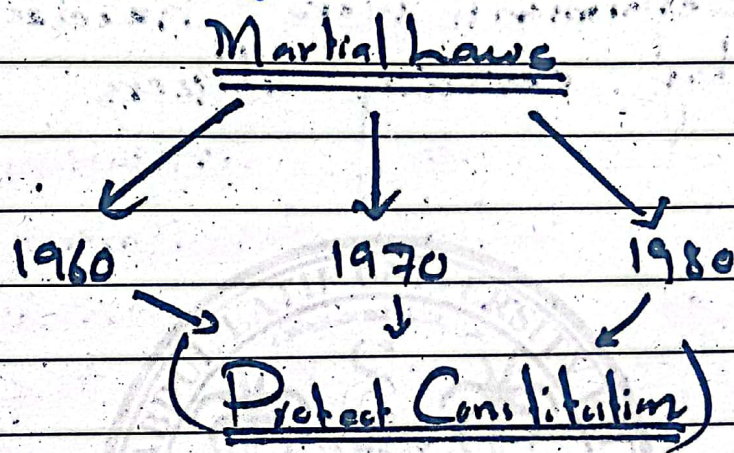
'guardians' of  
 constitution."

(→ Turkish Constitution post  
 WWI)

Therefore, military was regarded



as 'constitutional' guardian.  
 Moreover, 1960s, 1970s, and  
 1980s Martial Laws were  
 in the favour of military  
 as 'guardian of constitution'



#### 4. Military Court Trials

According to the  
 National Security Commission,  
 trials of civilians were  
 dealt by military judges.  
 In fact, all trials of  
 civilians were under  
 military courts. According to  
 the NSC and Association  
 Participation Documents  
 'civilian trials are  
 under military  
 courts and  
 were dealt by



military officers."

Thus, military courts were handling civilian trials.

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Institutions of Civilian Departments were headed by serving officers

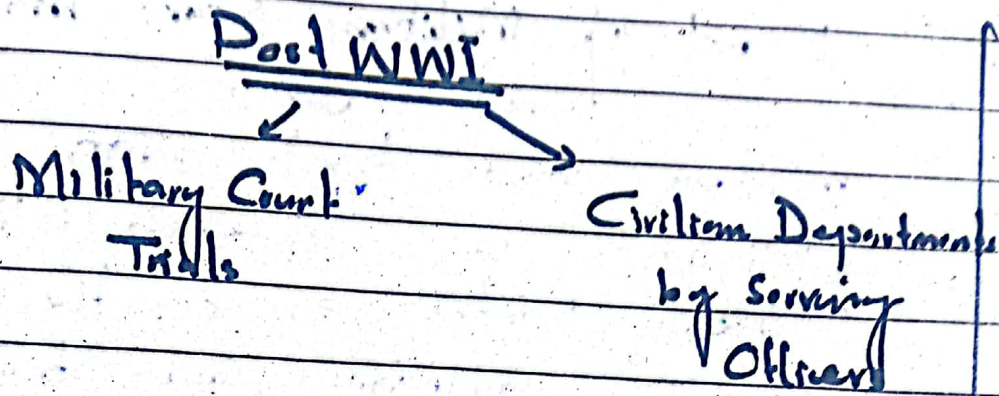
Moreover, institutions of civilian departments were headed by serving officers. Post WWI, the scenario was changed and military and serving officers had a major control.

"Turkish Civilian Departments were under direction and safety of serving officers."

(- Professor Hasik)

Therefore, institutions were under serving officers after WWI.





6- Current Scenario of military in Turkish politics

Following is the status of military today:

a) Shifting of military power to parliament

Military role was given under Parliament authority. In fact, powers of military will be regulated by Parliament.

"Military is not the guardian of constitution, but parliament will control military powers."

(- Turkish constitution)

Therefore, powers were handed to parliament.



b) End of Military Court-Trials  
 Moreover, end of  
 military courts trials was  
 described in Turkish politics  
 Turkish politics ended the  
 term of military court trials.

"In 2004, civilian  
 trials were removed  
 of military  
 courts."

Therefore, civilian trials  
 will no further handled  
 by military courts.

c) Supremacy of parliament was  
enhanced

Further, supremacy of  
 parliament was enhanced.

Any member of parliament  
 is liable and there  
 will be no chance of  
 rebellion.

"Loyalty to the state  
 is loyalty to the  
 constitution."

(- Meleku hakki)



Therefore, supremacy of parliament was enhanced.

### Current Scenario of Military

Military under parliament

End of Military Courts Trials

Supremacy of Parliament

7 What were reasons of military shifting?

Following are reasons:

9) Military Agreement

Military agreed on shifting powers. In fact, it was done on the behalf of Turkish membership in European Union. Today, Turkey is a member of NATO, if not a member of EU.

"Military facilitated powers shifting due to condition of EU membership."



Therefore, military agreement led to shifting of powers.

b) People perception changed  
 Further, people perception changed about political status. In fact, fear of WWI and Europe was not gone and people realized same.

"The scenario changed and people were away from fear."  
 This, people perception led to shifting of powers.

c) Conclusion

"Military is a safe helmet of its state."

(- Toqeer Hussain)

Military was powerful in the Ottoman Empire. Unfortunately, its status was decreased during WWI. But, post WWI, role of military was revived that is changed today, too.