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HIST300

Module 2 - Assignment 7

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1. Military acted as the regulator of the Turkish political life during 1960-1980. After the course of Turkish politics went in a chaotic and authoritarian tendency under DP rule, military intervened with the purpose of avoiding totalitarianism and preserving republican values. The coup ended up with brutal executions of politicians. This initial intervention gave a message to politicians saying that there is an eye watching over them. The exact same message was given with the 1971 Memorandum. This time, there was chaos again, but the government was not totalitarian. Instead, it was paralyzed due to its weakness. Army conveyed the message of their dissatisfaction with the current situation and asked for resignation of the cabinet. If politicians didn’t want to be behaved as in 1960 coup, they should have act according to army’s will. Again, army regulated the behavior of the Turkish politicians as they want. This dynamic created a ‘Big Brother’ situation for the politicians and therefore a fully democratization couldn’t be achieved. I wouldn’t say the military was the most important actor of Turkish politics in 1960s and 1970s but they were definitely on of the most effective ones.