

Studies into how the Pakistan military successfully built its powerful institution and retained its culture over six decades and three distinct military rulers remains unengaged. Remarkably while juntas came and went, an institutional culture that began in the late colonial era continues to the present. Studying the three major military education networks, its network of primary schools, its two networks of secondary schools, and its academy level schooling will help show how the military successfully competes with other institutions in recruiting candidates but also how many graduates of these schools enter prominent positions in civil society, spearheading segments of popular support to the military. More significantly, a study of these schools can help show why viewing the civil-military relationship through a binary missis key area of overlap but also shows how the establishment of these schools in restive regions enables the military to legitimize and secure a role in supporting the governance of Pakistan. These questions and answers are engaged with through physical visits to these schools, geographic analysis, oral interviews with former students and faculty, and archival research with school records, student journals, and colonial archives to trace the motivations behind these schools and their ultimate impacts on Pakistan, both planned and inadvertent. Such a social history approach can move the study of the military away from studying its elite elements or higher echelons but instead look at it and Pakistani society from across multiple perspectives and positions from the 1930s to the present.