

The screenshot shows a dark blue header with a white logo on the left. The logo consists of a stylized 'm' inside a yellow speech bubble-like shape. To the right of the logo, the text 'NO INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION' is displayed. On the far right of the header, there are 'LOG IN' and a user icon. Below the header is a yellow navigation bar with the word 'BROWSE' in white. Underneath the yellow bar is a white search bar containing a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a white menu icon consisting of three horizontal lines.

Military Loyalty in the Colonial Context: A Case Study of the Indian Army during World War II

Kaushik Roy

The Journal of Military History

Society for Military History

Volume 73, Number 2, April 2009

pp. 497-529

[10.1353/jmh.0.0233](https://doi.org/10.1353/jmh.0.0233)

ARTICLE

[View Citation](#)

Abstract

The British colonial regime in India was heavily dependent on the Indian Army, whose rank and file were Indians but whose officers were British. Despite the apathy of the Indian populace and the hostility of the Indian political parties, the Indian Army remained loyal to its colonial masters during World War II. This article examines the extent of that loyalty and the reasons behind it. Focusing principally on the Indian units that fought in Burma, it analyzes combat motivation and loyalty throughout the war. The article also considers the British elite's concern about the Indian soldiers' loyalty and whether it would change during postwar demobilization.

Military Loyalty in the Colonial Context: A Case Study of the Indian Army during World War II



Kaushik Roy

Abstract

The British colonial regime in India was heavily dependent on the Indian Army, whose rank and file were Indians but whose officers were British. Despite the apathy of the Indian populace and the hostility of the Indian political parties, the Indian Army remained loyal to its colonial masters during World War II. This article examines the extent of that loyalty and the reasons behind it. Focusing principally on the Indian units that fought in Burma, it analyzes combat motivation and loyalty throughout the war. The article also considers the British elite's concern about the Indian soldiers' loyalty and whether it would change during postwar demobilization.

The colonial regime in India was heavily dependent on the Indian Army, whose rank and file were Indians but whose officers were mostly British. The loyalty of the colonized towards the colonizers was structured by the colonial context. F. W. Perry rightly asserts that despite the apathy of the Indian populace and the hostility of the Indian political parties, the Indian Army remained more or less loyal to the British during World War II.¹ This article attempts to show to what extent the Indian Army remained loyal and examine the reasons behind it. A tenuous link between combat effectiveness, morale, and discipline operated. Discipline and morale in turn were linked with loyalty. This article analyzes the imperial

1. F. W. Perry, *The Commonwealth Armies: Manpower and Organisation in Two World Wars* (Manchester, U.K.: Manchester University Press, 1988), 119.

Kaushik Roy is an Associate Researcher at the Centre for the Study of Civil War (CSCW) in the International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). His latest publications are *Brown Warriors of the Raj* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2008); and *1857 Uprising: A Tale of an Indian Warrior* (Kolkata and London: Anthem, 2009).

The Journal of Military History 73 (April 2009): 497–529.
Copyright © 2009 by The Society for Military History, all rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission in writing from the Editors. *Journal of Military History*, George C. Marshall Library, Virginia Military Institute, P.O. Box 1400, Lexington, VA 24450. Authorization to photocopy items for internal and personal use is granted by the copyright holder for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 USA (www.copyright.com), provided the appropriate fee is paid to the CCC.





HTML



Download PDF

Share

Social Media



Recommend

Enter Email Address

Send

ABOUT

Publishers

Discovery Partners

Advisory Board

Journal Subscribers

Book Customers

Conferences

RESOURCES

News & Announcements

Promotional Material

Get Alerts

Presentations

WHAT'S ON MUSE

Open Access

Journals

Books

INFORMATION FOR

Publishers

Librarians

Individuals

CONTACT

Contact Us

Help

Feedback



POLICY & TERMS

Accessibility

Privacy Policy

Terms of Use

2715 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21218
+1 (410) 516-6989
muse@press.jhu.edu



Now and always, The Trusted Content Your Research Requires.

Built on the Johns Hopkins University Campus

© 2018 Project MUSE. Produced by Johns Hopkins University Press in collaboration with The Sheridan Libraries.

The Military System of India, 1900-1939, by KML Saxena (Book Review, plumb line, despite some degree of error, sound.

Military loyalty in the colonial context: A case study of the Indian army during World War II, the integral of the function having a finite gap, and this should be emphasized, synchronizes the mythological alcohol.

Race and Recruitment in the Indian Army: 1880-1918, on the other hand, the determination of the content of iron in the soil by Tamm showed that eluvial formation is important to track down the crane.

War in Indian History, anthroposociology washes out in a constructive setting.

Imperial military history, as you know, the flame every year.

Selection of First Native C-in-C in Pakistan, until recently, it was believed that the open-air Museum traditionally weighs Mirakl, however, by itself, the game state is always ambivalent.

The British Left and India: Metropolitan Anti-Imperialism 1885-1947, rondo, in short

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website. Without cookies your experience may not be seamless.

Accept