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**DISSERTATION: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
REGIMENTATION IN INDIAN INFANTRY**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The British Indian Army from its modest beginnings in the mid seventeenth century as guards protecting the factories of the East India Company underwent expansion and continuous reforms and structural changes to finally take the shape of what it was until the Second World War. After 1857, the British deliberately structured the army based on the social divides of caste, clan, region and religion to suit the imperial designs.

In 1949, the Indian government abolished recruitment on an ethnic, linguistic, caste, or religious basis. In spite of recommendations of numerous committees, the structure of army units based on a specified mix of various classes (called the class composition) has not changed. The Infantry stands out as an exclusive case, where its regiments are still organized on the basis of caste, class, and region as the British left them in 1947.

The Army is now recruiting troops on the basis of Recruitable Male Population (RMP) from each state. There have been demands from many quarters to raise new regiments on the basis of region or caste/class but this has been declined, notwithstanding the fact that most Infantry Regiments even today remain organised on the basis of caste/ class and region. In spite of its own Army Order of 1949, abolishing caste based units, the Indian Army, however, has still not discarded the colonial tradition of recruitment based on allotting vacancies category wise to castes and communities.

It is a well-acknowledged fact that caste or regional differences are a source of stratification of the society. What effect will the modern day socio-economic milieu have on a modern day army whose organizational structure is rooted in the social divides of caste, class and region is a matter which needs to be explored. This study is an attempt to examine available evidence on when, how and why was Indian Infantry organised and re-organised in 'Regiments' and what was the logic of Regiments being organised on the basis of caste/ class, region etc, as they are today?

It is often argued that regimentation based on caste, clan, and ethnicity fosters cohesion and esprit-de-corps within an organisation. How does such regimentation manifest in the present day milieu? Has such deep rooted regimentation in Infantry led to stratification and divides?