

Muslims Under Sikh Rules During 19th Century: A Study Of Punjab Till Annexation

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Abstract

The Muslims of Punjab remained under Sikh Rule for almost thirty-five years, during the regime of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Muslims were not only appointed on higher positions but they had also a great influence on the religious and political affairs of the state. After the death of Ranjit, all the successors could not be able to run the empire like him which created a turmoil situation to invite the British to come across the border of Sutlej to annex the Punjab. British always wanted to annex to the entire area of Punjab, that way was provided by untrained Sikh rulers, who couldn't be able to handle the situation of a Punjab or to save it from any external or internal aggression. East India company and Sikh had fought two battles, resultantly, the British had completely occupied the Punjab and used it as not only for army ground but also as the Buffer zone. These wars also put impact on the life of Muslims as they also came under the rule of British. The current research is qualitative in nature which is based upon descriptive and analytical approaches. This research is based upon both primary and secondary sources which includes books, memoirs, eBooks and articles. The main objective of this research work is to carried out the conditions of Muslims during Sikh rule and point out the circumstances which led towards the successful annexation of Punjab.

KEYWORDS: Sikhs, Punjab, East India Company, Anglo Sikh Wars, British.

INTRODUCTION

In South Asia, Sikhism and the Muslim Mughal Empire both developed concurrently. In general, both Sikhism and Islam uphold the principles of monotheistic, equality, tolerance, and love for all people. These parallels gave the two faiths a very solid foundation for cooperation, therefore Sikhism's message of "tolerance and religious coexistence" was widely welcomed by both Sikhs and Muslims, including saints and many sages.

The bulk of the Sikh Gurus were well treated by the Mughal kings. The relationships between Sikhs and Muslims were cordial from Babar to Akbar, but they started to deteriorate after Arjun's death in 1605. The relationships between Sikhs and Muslims were cordial from Babar to Akbar, but they started to deteriorate after Arjun's death in 1605. The intricate web of intrigue woven by the Mughal monarchs, courtiers, and opportunists disguised the conditions that shaped the

fundamental nature of the interaction between the two groups. Sikh Gurus were killed during this time for a variety of causes, which led to the Sikhs harboring intense animosity against the Mughal emperors. Yet while in power, Ranjit Singh made an effort to improve the strained Sikh-Muslim ties he had inherited. These incidents and confrontations ultimately determined the destiny and circumstances of Muslims living under Sikh rule. Up to the annexation of Punjab, relations were at various degrees.

The Sikh Raj in Punjab was founded by Maharaja Ranjit, who, by proclaiming himself Maharajah of the Punjab in April 1801, gained sovereignty over the entire geographical region¹ and, while he was not yet undisputed master of all the jealously which came under Sikh chieftains, he now had the right to demand revenue from all who had previously paid it to Lahore, to expand his empire. By conquering the Afghan region and city of Multan in 1804 he expanded his control in the west.² The Sikhs of Panjab were seen by the British Rulers of the Indian subcontinent as courageous and freedom loving. This mentality had already turned the tide of history on the Indian subcontinent. Two different times both met to solve the issues between both, the first Anglo-Sikh Treaty was signed in 1806 and the second, which formed a clearer alliance, was signed in 1809 at Amritsar.³ This kind of deal would leave Ranjit with his older lands south of the Sutlej, where he would be permitted to keep soldiers for law enforcement reasons.⁴ He was not to meddle with cis-Sutlej Sikhs, while the British promised to stay out of the provinces north of the Sutlej. These two phrases are crucial in light of the following conflict between the British and the Sikhs. The deal clearly fell well short of the British initial desire for a contract that would allow them to traverse Ranjit's region at any time in defense of India, thereby depriving him of all independence. Ranjit was able to flee, but only at the cost of a British protectorate over the cis-Sutlej lands. The British may argue that they were

fairly rewarded for what they did not get. They also have a priceless covert dossier on the Punjab that would undoubtedly come in handy in the future.⁵

A nation like this would be difficult to rule for extended periods of time, but it would be a great ally. Consequently, an Anglo-Sikh companionship developed, which was only challenged when one side went too far. After Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780 – 1839) died, the first test was conducted. There was no one who could succeed him who had the essential leadership skills, and those in positions of authority in the Maharaja's family were split. Traitors to the Sikh cause emerged, and they began collaborating with British spies in covertly. In late 1845, the British began to build up their army near the Panjab border. Enraged, the Khalsa army crossed the Sutlej River to defend the Sikh realm from a perceived British danger.⁶ Early 1846 saw the start of the first conflict, while early 1849 saw the start of the second. During these battles, there were many skirmishes, three of which were crucial. The most notable was the Battle of Chilian Wala, which took place on January 13, 1849.⁷

The Khalsa army that remained made a last-ditch attempt. The Sikhs were so valiant in prior engagements, despite the betrayal of their own generals, that a Muslim Panjabi poet, Shah Mohammad, wrote, "We won the battle, but we lost the war." Even British generals appreciated the valiant Sikhs' bravery and fighting abilities. The British planned to establish Sikh battalions to join the Indian Army of the British Raj soon after the invasion of Panjab on March 29, 1849. Sikh religious and cultural identity, as well as Sikh martial tradition, were all maintained and nurtured by the British.⁸ Sikhs were also given important positions in the Indian Civil Service and were recognized as British Raj stockholders. Some argue that the British used the Sikhs to protect the British Raj. It's also worth noting that

at the time, India was not yet a single nation. In actuality, it was the British Raj who brought the Indians together in some way. The Anglo-Sikh friendship benefited both the British and the Panjabis. Sikh nation, however, was once again in the forefront when the true battle for Indian independence started in the initial part of 20th century because of heightened political consciousness.

Because there was no one strong and talented enough to follow him after the first War, the Sikh empire began to crumble quickly. There were no devoted Sikhs at the top of the executive structure to protect it against British intrigues. It presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the crafty and wise British to engage in conspiratorial intrigues that they couldn't accomplish during Ranjit's lifetime.⁹ His offspring were unable of dealing with such a serious situation since they were all killed one by one with the assistance of the Dogras and Brahmins. Because of the second War between both, the Raj grew further weaker, eventually collapsing. These Anglo-Sikh wars were a watershed moment in the Sikh dynasty's history since they completely altered the political landscape of Multan and Punjab. After the second war, the British Empire took direct control of the Punjab and Multan, destroying the Sikh kingdom that Ranjit Singh had built after a long battle.¹⁰

RANJIT SINGH AND HIS DEATH

On 13th of November 1780, he was born in Gujranwala. During that period Punjab was ruled by authoritative peoples, who allotted the nation into Misals or separate republics of the Sikh Confederacy, which developed after the Mughal Empire broke apart in the 18th century in Punjab area.¹¹ By defeating feuding Misls, Ranjit Singh brought the Sikhs together. He was given the moniker Lion of Punjab for successfully rescuing Lahore (his capital) from Afghan invaders. He combined all capabilities of the ancient Khalsa army with western fighting successes to create

Asia's most powerful indigenous force at the time. He also enlisted the help of a significant number of European commanders, mainly French officers, to train his men. He picked French General Jean Francois Allard to modernize his army.

how large the empire was Ranjit Singh's trans-regional empire, which covered numerous nations, included the formerly Mughal provinces of Lahore and Multan, as well as a portion of Kabul and all of Peshawar. From Ladakh in the northeast, through the Khyber Pass in the northwest, and all the way down to Panjnad in the south, where the Indus and the five rivers of the Punjab converged, were the boundaries of his dominion.¹² The Maharaja was respected for his fair and nonsectarian form of rule. Under his durbar, Muslims and Hindus had equal power. He covered the Harimandir Sahib, or Golden Temple, in Amritsar. He is also credited with aiding in the construction of the Gurudwara Hazor Sahib in Nanded, Maharashtra, which is home to Guru Gobind Singh's burial.¹³

It's the end of The Lion of Punjab. Maharaja Sahib was paralyzed by a stroke in May 1839. In Lahore and Amritsar, he received the best medical attention from a variety of specialists. The British government also sent a medical specialist, but it had little effect. As his illness became worse, so did his physical state. He held one final Darbar at Hazor Bagh, inviting all of his ministers, Sardars, warriors, military leaders, and close relatives because he knew his time was running out. The courageous lion of Punjab, who had frightened his foes and won the adoration and love of his people, lay helpless in a palanquin.¹⁴ His courtiers were powerless to contain their sorrow and tears as they witnessed his pitiful predicament. Tikka Karak Singh was chosen by Maharaja Sahib to succeed him in 1816. "Karak Singh will be the Maharaja in my place, and you (Dhian Singh Dogra) shall be his Minister," he said after crowning him as king and entrusting

him to Raja Dhian Singh Dogra. "I'll look after him,"¹⁵ Raja Dhian Singh pledged his allegiance to Maharaja Karak Singh and the realm by taking Geeta's oath. Maharaja Kharak Singh received gifts from the Sardars and other courtiers. The treasury doors were then opened, as requested by Maharaja Sahib, and donations were given to the less fortunate. Cash was distributed totaling 25 lakh rupees. He then ordered that the Koh-I-Noor and other gems be presented to Sri Harmandir Sahib after Raja Dhian Singh and Jamadar Khushal Singh were questioned. In the meanwhile, Maharaja Sahib had a second heart attack and passed out. This was how the Darbar came to an end. The Maharaja Sahib's palanquin was returned to his palace. The famed warrior, courageous soldier, capable administrator, gentle monarch, statesman, and liberator of Punjab from foreign rulers fell suddenly on June 27, 1839, as his sickness became worse. The country was hit by a tidal wave of grief and loss. The Punjab had allegedly become an orphaned and widowed society. The next day, he was cremated in Hazoori Bagh, close to Gurdwara Dera Sahib. Later, a sizable sepulcher was built.¹⁶

TREATY OF AMRITSAR 1809

The Maharaja Sahib discovered that Jaswant Rao Holkar, an Indore-based Maratha Chief who had been thrashed by British forces in 1805 while he was preoccupied with fighting Multan, had escaped to Punjab. He had come in search of protection and assistance. The British Army's Lord Lake was following him closely. Maharaja Sahib, who hastened to Lahore, coordinated Holkar's stay in Amritsar.¹⁷ The Maharaja responded to Holkar's request for assistance by saying he would make a decision after meeting his council of ministers. Maharaja didn't want to start a conflict without a reason since Holkar had taken refuge in Punjab, nor did he want Holkar to feel abandoned. He decided to negotiate a settlement that would bring Holkar and the British together as a result. He wrote to Lord Lake

after taking Holkar into his confidence.¹⁸ The Maharaja Sahib discovered that Jaswant Rao Holkar, an Indore-based Maratha Chief who had been thrashed by British forces in 1805 while he was preoccupied with fighting Multan, had escaped to Punjab. He had come in search of protection and assistance. The British Army's Lord Lake was following him closely. Maharaja Sahib, who hastened to Lahore, coordinated Holkar's stay in Amritsar.¹⁹ The Maharaja responded to Holkar's request for assistance by saying he would make a decision after meeting his council of ministers. Maharaja didn't want to start a conflict without a reason since Holkar had taken refuge in Punjab, nor did he want Holkar to feel abandoned. He decided to negotiate a settlement that would bring Holkar and the British together as a result. He wrote to Lord Lake after taking Holkar into his confidence. According to the Maharaja Sahib, Jaswant Rao Holkar, an Indore-based Maratha Chief who had been defeated by British soldiers in 1805 when he was concentrated on fighting Multan, was discovered in Punjab.

He had traveled here in search of safety and assistance. The British Army's Lord Lake was pursuing him closely. Maharaja Sahib, who hastened to Lahore, coordinated Holkar's stay in Amritsar. The Maharaja responded to Holkar's request for assistance by stating that he would make a decision after conferring with his council of ministers. The Maharaja didn't want to launch a conflict without justification because Holkar had taken refuge in Punjab, nor did he want Holkar to feel abandoned. He decided to negotiate a deal that would bring Holkar and the British together. He wrote to Lord Lake after taking Holkar into his confidence.²⁰ After S. Tara Singh Dale Wala passed away, the Maharaja bought his land. These Sardars gathered at Samaan in 1808. Patiala's hamlet chose to support Maharaja Ranjit Singh instead of the British. An ambassador was sent to Delhi to aid in their decision-making. The Russian Czar or Napoleon,

according to British authorities, may strike India. They wish to keep Maharaja Ranjit Singh as a friendly neighbor.²¹ Maharaja was aware of their predicament. The Maharaja rejected Sir Charles Metcalfe's requests despite offering a number of counterproposals. Metcalfe's administration did not provide him the authority he needed to change the terms and conditions.

As a result, he sent the Governor General of Kolkata these counterproposals. Maharaja Sahib was aware of the possibility of the British annexing the Malwa kingdoms. To maintain control of them, he thus marched into Malwa. At Malerkotla and Faridkot, he erected police stations and stationed his troops. They stopped worrying about Napoleon's invasion at that point. The Maharaja was told in a letter from the Governor General that the British government had assumed control of the states south of the Satluj River. A significant army that had been stationed at Ludhiana was simultaneously deployed via Boorhia and Patiala across the Jamuna River. This infuriated Maharaja Sahib. He began getting ready for combat. Phillaur was the target of his artillery. Amritsar's perimeter fortifications were bolstered. As required, the ammo was accessible. All Sikh Sardars received the order to prepare. In a short period of time, a thousand-man army had formed in Lahore.²²

Although the Maharaja was incensed, he avoided taking actions that may have drawn him into a fight. He understood that he still had to set up his throne. He was still surrounded by rival rulers on parts of his kingdom's borders. When he saw the situation, he realized that if there was a conflict with the British, these unfriendly chiefs may also rise up against him. He held down his rage as a result. Reached an understanding with the British government. In the meanwhile, Sir Charles Metcalfe published a new set of recommendations. The conditions were as follows:

- They wouldn't interfere in their area to the north of the Satluj River
- The Maharaja would continue to be considered by the British administration as one of India's most revered monarchs.²³

Effects of the Treaty on Politics are that This treaty had a substantial effect on the political climate in Punjab.²⁴ The Maharaja's domain's southerly growth was halted. The British had little trouble capturing the regions between the Jamuna and Satluj rivers. The Maharaja's effort to form a single, strong army by uniting the Sikh nations failed. One thing that worked in the Maharaja's favor was the fact that he was no longer being assaulted from this side.

RANJEET SINGH AND MUSLIMS

Maharaja Ranjit Singh was well aware that in order to keep his hold on the Punjab, strong connections with the local Muslim and Hindu populations needed to be kept and strengthened. Without substantial freedom to exercise their beliefs and pursue economic possibilities, this would not have been conceivable. Maharaja Ranjit Singh attained immense success and glory thanks to his military prowess and political acumen. During his life, he engaged in several conflicts and overthrew numerous kings, yet he always treated them all with openness and tolerance. Like any great king, he was very kind and kind to his defeated foes.²⁵ He never murdered any vanquished kings or their families; instead, he looked after them and gave them enough lands and money to live well. Even the British and Muslim historians who publicly denigrated Ranjit Singh admitted that he gave jagirs to several deposed Muslim and Hindu kings and treated them well. He honored the customs and traditions of his Muslim people and did not forbid them. During holy days like Eid 167, he often gave gifts to the ulamas and nobility. Hardly any family of the overthrown

kings was left without Ranjit Singh's assistance.²⁶ He showed remarkable generosity in his victories against rulers of other faiths while keeping an eye on the Sikh sardars. He treated the losers with tolerance and compassion after a victory or the seizure of a fortress, and many defeated chiefs who had received adequate pay could be found at his court. Ranjit Singh was prepared to fight anybody who dared to undermine his plans to create a vast empire for himself, regardless of race or religion. His behavior was excellent during his reign despite his love of wealth and power. He would assume control of the administration after annexing any region. He would carefully choose administrators to simplify the flow of income, according to the records kept by the previous rulers. Usually, the overthrown king was given a jagir to run his life; if he consented to serve the Maharaja's interests, he was given a bigger jagir.²⁷

POST RANJEET SINGH RELATIONS WITH MUSLIMS

The fight for succession among Ranjit Singh's heirs began after his death in 1839.²⁸ The state was badly undermined by internal conflicts and political wars. In 1849, the British East India Company successfully took advantage of this opening and launched battles against the Sikhs to fulfill their long-held ambition of occupying the Punjab. His successors lacked political sagacity and leadership skills, in contrast to Ranjit Singh. Instead of advancing the state, they were more concerned with maintaining their hold on power.²⁹ Hindus from the Dogra region rebelled and began to challenge the Sikhs' dominance. The majority of Muslims, however, showed little interest in any of these changes in the early years of the decade.³⁰ Muslims were obedient subjects and made no attempt to rebel during this time of crisis and battle for the continuation of Sikh rule. Likewise, the government did not deny Muslims access to their basic freedoms. However, the British and their Hindu allies were able to take

advantage of the predicament and seize and incorporate the Punjab into the British Raj. In this article, an effort has been made to look at how the Sikhs adopted their communal policy, notably towards the Muslim community during this time, and how the Muslims responded to the Sikh rule in the Punjab's waning years and to their policies.

ANGLO SIKH WARS

Maharaja The name of Ranjit Singh's reign was 'Sarkar-e-Khalsa,' and the currency was Nanak Shahi.³¹ Singh Sahib should be his sole name. The Sikh state consisted of all of these elements. However, he did not devote much effort to establishing the Sikh state as his successional domain and elevating Sikhs to positions of power in the state.³² He died on June 27, 1839 at Lahore, after a mild episode of paralysis. During Ranjit Singh period Muslims were given many facilities along with Hindus but after the death of Ranjit Singh, things were not only started to change for Muslims but also for Punjab as soon as the Sikh monarchy started to crumble on a social and political level after his death. In 1849, two wars resulted the overthrow of the Sikh military forces and the seizing of their kingdom. Their social decline started about the same period. He had seven sons¹ who were the offspring of several spouses. However, since there was no one strong and talented enough to follow him, the Sikh authority began to crumble quickly. There were no devoted Sikhs at the top of the executive structure to protect it against British intrigues. It presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the crafty and wise British to engage in conspiratorial intrigues that they were not accomplish during Ranjit Singh's lifetime

Ranjit's successors were unable of dealing with such a serious situation since they were all killed one by one with the assistance of the Dogras and Brahmins.³³ Multan has often been a target of foreign invaders and dictators engaged in insurgency operations. These foreign powers not only exploited but also split the country's valiant,

industrious, daring, and dauntless people. They recruited locals motivated by a desire to make money and enlisted them in the army with the express purpose of preparing them to attack their supposed opponents. These visitors came from many faiths, cultures, and geographical regions. Multan, too, has been ruled by Muslims for three centuries. It maintained its social, political, and religious positions throughout this time, but following the death of the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb Alamgir in 1707, the empire started to disintegrate. Ranjit Singh finally captured Multan in 1818.³⁴ The political situation remained very fluid, and geopolitical shifts were frequent. Consequently, two Anglo-Sikh Wars erupted, causing Ranjit's kingdom to fall apart.

THE FIRST ANGLO SIKH WAR

BACKGROUND

Significant changes occurred in the Punjab, where the Sikhs ruled throughout the first part of the nineteenth century. But for a variety of reasons, following Ranjit Singh's passing, his successor was unable to maintain it. For instance, the Anglo-Sikh Wars completely destroyed the Sikh Kingdom. During the specified time frame, Sikh dominion was about to end, and the new British authorities were seeking to conquer the whole Subcontinent. The current inquiry looked at the factors that contributed to the fall of Sikh rule. In addition, it emphasizes the most important details and outcomes of these conflicts. Its primary goal is to look at the reasons for and effects of these disagreements on the legitimacy of Sikh leadership. Ranjit bestowed the title of Maharaja to his oldest son, Kharak Singh.

Ranjit, on the other hand, was fully aware that he would be revealed as a conspirator to his son, his family, and to the Sikh raj in the near future. Aside from that, Kharak Singh lacked the necessary expertise to address challenges that arose at a key point.³⁵ As a consequence, Dhian Singh planned to appoint his son, Hira Singh, as

the leader of the Sikh state. He and his brother, Gulab Singh, attempted all they could to grab all of the Maharaja's power, but they were unsuccessful. Chet Singh Bajwa was Maharaja Kharak Singh's point man in the administration. He paid little attention to the Dogras or Kharak Singh's son, Nau Nihal Singh. As a consequence of the betrayals, Nau Nihal Singh was the proclaimed king on the 10th of August 1839, and his father was imprisoned in castle.³⁶

Nau Nihal Singh, on the other hand, refused to play into the Dogras' hands. He acknowledged both his ability to govern and his ambition to lead the nation. He disappointed the Dogras as a result of this action and regained control of the military.³⁷ Kharak Singh died on 5th November 1840, and the following day, when Nau Nihal Singh entered the fortress, the roguish fell over, severely injuring his head with the stone block. He died as a consequence of the brick smashing into his skull. In a nutshell, he was unable to become Maharaja, but he had shown that he was worthy of the distinguished title. If he hadn't died so suddenly, he may have done a better job of ruling the kingdom and prevented plots against the Sikh state.³⁸ Kharak Singh and Nau Nihal Singh's killings set off a cascade of events that not only harmed the state but also provoked domestic discontent. Chand Kaur, Nau Nihal Singh's mother, took control of the state. Sher Singh and Chand Kaur were two claimants, since Sher Singh was the son of Maharaja's first wife's and Chand Kaur was the Maharaja's second wife's son. In terms of physical health, he was a better administrator. He ran for the throne with the help of Dhian Singh, whilst Chand Kaur was supported by the Sandhawalia lords. Sher Singh was installed as Maharaja on November 9, 1840, but Chand Kaur ousted him after just 23 days. She seized power on December 2, 1840 and called herself Malika Mukaddas (Queen Empress). Between 5th November, 1840 to 18th January 1841, a bloodstain emerged, and Sher Singh declared himself Maharaja. Maharani gave up all

royal rights in exchange for a Jagir of 9 lakh rupees each year.³⁹ From 20th January 1841, until 15th September 1843, Sher Singh was in charge.

PLAIN OF WAR

The Sikh leadership and the British Empire in the area had received him with open arms. He was much too fragile and nervous to be kept in check. He caused grave alarm not just for the Durbar of Lahore, but also for the British, who predicted total pandemonium. In these circumstances, some British officials suggested sending a force of 12000 troops to Lahore to defend the Maharaja against Sikh forces. He was unable to command the warriors despite announcing himself as a king.⁴⁰ The troops were well-behaved and did not show any symptoms of rebellion. The Maharaja depended on Dhian Singh's goodwill for a while, but when he overstepped his authority, he called the Sandhwalias. They hadn't forgotten about their humiliation.⁴¹ As a result, the British offered them refuge. Ajit Singh, an anti-Dogra and pro-British commander, was appointed to the armed forces in November 1842. He and his uncle, Lehna Singh, assassinated Dhian Singh, Sher Singh, and his son, Partap Singh, on September 15, 1843. They had a plan to take control of the state. However, Hira Singh murdered both in retaliation for his father's killing, and Dhian Singh's death was in the best benefits of the Sikhs.⁴² The army's authority was given to the chaotic army after Sher Singh was slain. On September 15, 1843, Dalip Singh was proclaimed Maharaja in front of his three living brothers. Rani Jindan, Dalip Singh's mother, had a crucial part to play but was unable to maintain the connection between her family and the Sikh Sardars. The Sikh army was connected with by Pashaura and Kashmira Singh. Along the way, they ran upon Bhai Bir Singh, a former soldier whose Dera was destroyed by the Sikh army. Attar Singh, Kashmira Singh, and Birr Singh were killed by the Sikh army. When Pashaura Singh fled to the British Empire, the Sikh

kingdom was severely split. To assassinate Rani Jindan's persona, the Sikh warriors then went to Hira Singh. He attempted to leave the Sikh dynasty but was also assassinated. With the help of her brother, Jawahar Singh, Rani Jindan assumed control of the government's operations. Pashaura Singh was assassinated by the Sikh troops after he took over the Attock fort and declared himself Maharaja. Jawahar Singh was summoned before the Khalsa army Panchayat when it deemed him to be in error. When he appeared before the Army Panchayat on September 21, 1845, he was already dead.⁴³

The Sikh administration, on the other hand, was unaffected. Multan's rulers and officials were aware of the situation but stayed mute. The story ends with Ranjit's death and the tough Anglo-Sikh Wars, which saw his kingdom fall into the hands of his heirs. More than a quarter-century after the Sutlej Treaty was approved, the first strain in Anglo-Sikh relations emerged. It supported an Anglo-Sikh combined operation in Afghanistan to keep Shah Shuja alive in Kabul.⁴⁴ The British were attempting to assess the strength of the Sikh military forces, so the need for troops was not as obvious as it seemed, but the abuse of charity was to go much farther. In 1841, the British claimed Lahore Durbar's assistance in sending troops to Kabul. The Lahore Darbar persuaded them to send a force under the leadership of Gulab Singh, but the British had own plan so that they endeavored to buy him.

PROCEEDINGS OF WAR

British internal councils acquired special note of the opening combat of the Initial War, because it was clear from the start that both success and disaster had come at a terrible cost.⁴⁵ Against 13th December 1845, the British declared war against the raj, claiming that the land beyond the Sutlej would likewise fall under their control. Between December 18, 1845, and February 10, 1846, five engagements were fought: Mudki, Ferozshah, Buddowal, Aliwal, and Sobraon. The Sikh armed

forces were able to capture Ferozepur after defeating the British army. The British were also backed by the leader of the Sikh armed forces. On December 18, 1845, Sikh and British armed forces clashed on the battlefields of Mudki and Ferozshah.⁴⁶

He and 5000 Sikh soldiers left the front lines at Mudki by giving the order for the Sikh soldiers to leave the battle just as the army was about to win. The Sikh chiefs at Ferozshah followed the British's plan of attack. The Sikh armed forces confronted the British on January 23, 1846, at Sobraon, but the fight was already lost before it started since the Sikh leader had handed the British information about the Sikh battlefield. He anticipated that the Sikh forces would fall into a trap and lose. While still in combat, the Sikh forces were shocked to find sand in the ammunition pouches. How could the armed forces succeed in such a dangerous environment? With over 15,000 Sikhs slain, it was the apex of treachery and adultery. Money, food, and war munitions owners aided the British in defeating the enemy and supported the adversaries in establishing their government in Lahore. Deep competitions and selfish motives among Sikh Sardars were plainly to blame for such tragedies. Lal Singh communicated with Capt. Nicolson, and also provided the information of the Sikh setup. Lawrence on 7th February 1846. Major General J. Littler crossed the Sutlej in the dead of night on 12th February 1846 and seized the stronghold of Kasur without resistance.⁴⁷ On 15th of February 1846, the raja with some Sardars met with the Governor General at Kasur. They were promised that Dalip Singh's sovereignty would be preserved, but that the subjugators would rule the areas between the Bias and the Sutlej.

TREATY OF LAHORE

As the punishment of war the Sikh had to pay £150,000 in insurance to cover the costs of the battle. On February 20, 1846, the British armed force landed in Lahore⁴⁸, the Sikh capital,

reluctantly agreeing to the demands. Tej Singh was appointed as the Minister of Defense and Chief of the Armed Forces, while Dalip Singh was crowned Maharaja of Punjab.⁴⁹ It is a wonder why their schemes were not exposed to the Sikhs and why they were not prosecuted for such horrific acts. How these few mischiefs managed to destabilize such a vast empire and make the noble Sikhs subject to their machinations is unrivaled. The British were allowed to arrive at Lahore on 26th February 1846, as scheduled, because of their treachery.

The Sikh ruler and the British came to an arrangement on March 11, 1846, in which the whole Sikh kingdom was partitioned into three parts.⁵⁰ In exchange for his assistance as a Sikh conspirator in the region between the Sutlej and the Bias, Gulab Singh Dogra got the territories of Jammu and Kashmir from the British. The Sikh State was established after Maharaja Dalip Singh's domain included the whole province of Punjab. The British authorities agreed to keep an eye out for Dalip Singh till he turned 18 on September 4, 1854. Given that Ranjit Singh had been in power for almost a century, the British had not attempted to invade the Punjab. Throughout the first war, Multan and its king remained mute and gave the impression of being neutral, refusing to help or oppose either side. This served as the defense since Mulraj was getting ready to go and wasn't worried about the circumstance. The fact is that he would have surrendered if he had the chance.⁵¹

SECOND ANGLO-SIKH WAR

BACKGROUND

Even in the zone set aside for Dalip Singh, the British pre-empted their deceptions with the help of the deceivers. If the goal was to make the Punjab successful, inaccessible operations to cover Peshawar and Multan had to be the goal. They staged armed uprisings in Multan to achieve this goal, with the goal of pressuring their troops

to join them. Multan's insurrection was propagated through the locals. In reality, the Sikh armed forces had banded together with Multan's alleged rebels to foil British plans. The Sikhs were enraged at the Multan Rebellion, which had been suppressed by the British. The British soldiers were sent to Multan and Hazara to put down the insurgencies. It was the pinnacle of nefarious schemes, yet no one had the ability to foil it. The Punjab was selected by the Indian government to achieve a tipping point.⁵² Diwan Mulraj resigned from his position on November 21, 1847. Mr. Agnew and Anderson were directed to Multan, along with Kahn Singh, who had to work as the new Diwan's commander. They were accompanied by a small army of 530 irregular soldiers. Mulraj's followers attacked and murdered both of them. As a result, it was decided to dispatch a force to punish this act of defiance. In July 1848, it was decided to launch a swift attack on Multan's stronghold with the assistance of the Nawab of Bahawalpur and Edwards' forces in order to overthrow Diwan Mulraj. Mulraj was sentenced to death on July 22, 1848, for his disobedience and deception in the assassination of British officers.

EVENTS OF WAR

Lord Dalhousie launched war on the Sikhs because he wanted to destroy Sikh power. He said that it was the second war, and that they were not only on the brink of but were in the throes of the Sikh dynasty.⁵³ On 18th of August 1848, Major General marched with 7,000 men and camped near Multan Fort. He issued a proclamation to the inhabitants on September 6, 1848, and a war conference was convened to consider assault tactics. Other actions commenced once the region was blasted. On 14th of September 1848, Sher Singh and his army marched out of Multan, while General held a council in which it was agreed to withdraw from the barrier and wait for reinforcements.

On the 18th of November 1848, the Viceroy declared that British military troops had invaded the Punjab regions and would remain there until every rioter had got the proper penalty. The campaign to disarm all armed opposition has been ongoing for three and a half months. The Bombay regiment, led by Brig. D. Dundas, arrived on December 27, 1848, and attacked the enemy's defenses with a mortar round. The enemy's main magazine exploded, destroying several residences also as a magnificent mosque. soon Six thousand men and four cannons captured Dulipgarh, and the Nazims of Multan abandoned their futile battle to conclude the war in this region of Punjab. Between January 22 and January 22, 1849, 1198 individuals were injured or lost their lives. General Whish is to blame for the siege's successful end because he practiced extraordinary caution without running the risk of defeat. The second notable confrontation was the Battle of Chillianwala, which occurred on January 13, 1849. Chatter Singh, a Hazara Nazim, had been charged by the British. As he was hauled out of the office, his Jagir was seized from him. He made the decision to oppose the British as a result, capturing Attock and Haripur. Sher Singh and his soldiers were forced to escape the British after Col. Canora was slain during this fight. He made no apologies for the mistreatment and brutality he received from the British.⁵⁴

On January 10, 1849, Lord Gough learnt of Attock's death. He also discovered that Chatter Singh, with his military, was a subordinate of Sher Singh. Sher Singh along with his father were in charge of the Sikhs stationed in the jungles surrounding Chillianwala.⁵⁵ The Sikhs were outclassed in the battlefield until their numbers reached 10,000. They then launched an assault against the British, which lasted the whole day. Four British brigade guns and three colonels were arrested by the Sikhs. It was the British's most humiliating defeat since seizing control of India. As a result, 2446 troops and 132 police officers were killed. Three thousand British officers are

alleged to have been killed or wounded by Sikhs. On the 4th day, the British troops withdrew to the Chenab River. The British horse regiment was broken apart by the Sikh, who killed their riders.⁵⁶ Sikh armed troops had abducted George Lawrence and released him on the condition that he depart the Punjab and recognize Dalip Singh as an undisputable Maharaja. Lord Dalhousie wanted to fight the Chillianwala, hence the British were dissatisfied with this compromise. He sought to separate the Sikh state from India's essence and create British administration in the Subcontinent by occupying the Punjab. The acceptance of Dalhousie was welcomed, since the development had been stymied by Britain's upper crust. Despite the fact that the Punjab's takeover was opposed by a large majority of Londoners. The British felt that if they won this fight, they would be able to govern India⁵⁷, thus they chose to capture Gujarat with the ultimate goal of expansionism. On February 21, 1849, another important war erupted in the area between Gujarat and the Chenab River. The British army comprised 56636 infantries and 11569 cavalry, while the Sikh army had 20000 men. Despite the fact that a bloody battle had taken place, the Sikh military's ammunition had run out. They exhibited such courage that they were acknowledged by the British.

On 11th of March 1849, Sher Singh with his father surrendered in Rawalpindi. Some Khalsa warriors were clearly unwilling to surrender down their weapons. Some people couldn't control their emotions, while others wore hatred and disdain on their faces. This was how the dispute came to an end. As though they were villains, the Sikhs battled. When they were stabbed, they rushed straight towards the knife blade, colliding with their assailants.⁵⁸ "Strategy prohibited me from freely chronicling my feelings on our dead adversary's mind-boggling valor, or from recording the heroism demonstrated not just unconnectedly but also collectively by the Sardars and the British,"⁵⁹

This situation will be enough for these people to show their exceptional courage. The tenacity with which they stayed at their posts despite the fact that the surroundings around them was being pummeled by British artillery beggars explanation. According to mythology, they never retreated, but fought bravely with their swords till end.⁶⁰ They were also reported to have launched an attack on British soil. They didn't assault their distant cantonments or even enter their domain. If individuals are given the choice of starting wars, Dalhousie believes that the Punjab would never be calm and peaceful. My accreditation for India's peace will not be given until he has advocated the total overthrow and elimination of the Sikhs.⁶¹ Although the dispersion of the Sikh army may be necessary for self-defense, how can we justify the takeover of our companion's land, which aided us in retrieving our assets in the face of adversity? The Sikh state's volatility developed as a result of the battle. The Sikh armed forces attempted but failed to acquire control of Sikh affairs since the military lacked total power over the Sikhs. After the war, Harding only accomplished a partial annexation of the Punjab, whilst Dalhousie completed the whole annexation.⁶²

ANNEXATION OF PUNJAB AND END OF SIKH RAJ

On 10th of March 1849, Sher Singh sideways with his father, and few Sardars went to meet Lord and they all surrendered there. The British took them on March 11, 1849, and quickly realized that no Sikh needed to be scared of them anymore. Later, the British took control of the whole Sikh royal kingdom. Maharani Chand Kaur and Dalip Singh lived in exile in England. On a marble stone set on the Sheesh Mahal's wall, this tale was written. The terms of the agreement were as follows:

- Maharaja Dalip Singh cedes all of his rights and privileges with regard to the Punjab and hands the whole province to the British as compensation for the

enormous sums of money that the British spent throughout the battles.

- Ranjit Singh gives the ruler of Kabul the costly stone Kohinoor, which she then gives to the Queen of Britain.
- The British would offer Dalip 450 thousand rupees every year. In 1854, his other belongings were stolen from him, and he was transported to England.

After the Punjab's capitulation. All the Nanakshahis were taken from the treasure. Every transaction, including the wages and pay of the soldiers, was funded by the Company's financial resources. Lord Gough's reputation was restored during the War of Chillianwala, and Sir Charles Napier succeeded him as the Commander. The Khalsa Army was destroyed at the Battle of Gujarat.

AFTERMATH OF THE WAR

The membership of Punjab was authorized by Parliament, and the British populace. Lord Dalhousie referred Foreign Secretary Henry to Lahore in order to win his support for the British's plan to overthrow Late Ranjit Singh's rule.⁶³ He also claimed that Punjab would be annexed by the British government to Tej Singh and Diwan Dina Nath. Since the Punjab's annexation brought administrative difficulties, the first difficulty after its annexation was to establish a governance framework for the new provinces. The first tool for continual community oversight was a Board of Administration. Additionally, throughout India's history, a very effective system was created there. However, the Council and Governor of a Presidency were granted the right to create a code of Regulation when a region was annexed to that Presidency by conquest or negotiation. The Punjab was not designated to any Presidency and was only tied to the British colony. Interventionism initially appeared during the Regency era. It speaks of a society that is friendly to both its people and its

leaders. Punjab was divided into the following seven divisions. On the east bank the Cis-Sutlaj Division, on the west bank was the Trans-Sutlaj Division, and in the center was the Lahore or Central Division. But Mooltan was close to the river and its tributaries on the southern bank of the Indus. The fifth separation was known as the Sind Sagar Doab Division. The following four focus groups or commissionerships were created from newly acquired territory.⁶⁴

- The upper Ruchna and Bari Doabs, which comprised Ranjit Singh's Monarchy's political center Lahore as well as the viable centre Amritsar, formed the Lahore Division.
- The Jhelum Partition included the Sind Sagar Doab's Chuj Doab and the Salt Range (Hazara) zone, as well as three districts: Multan, Jhang, and Pakpatan (Fatehpur Googian).
- The Sind Sagar Doab was located by the Leia Division, which comprised the whole Derajat, South of the Salt Range, and Trans-Indus Zones up to Karabagh's latitude. Leia was divided into four districts: Leia, Dera Ghazi Khan, Khangarh, and Dera Ishmael Khan, which included Bannu. On the other side, Peshawar, Kohat, and Hazara districts were included in the fifth division, which was formed later. Each Division was commanded by a Commissioner, who was aided by subordinates as needed.⁶⁵

Dy. Commissioners, who served as appellate judges and had intimate access to people's lives, were overseen by commissioners. They also functioned as magistrates, tax collectors, and judges in both civil and criminal matters. Other strategies were created to replace the government-imposed Sikh tax collecting system since it had entirely failed. After the Battle of Gujarat, ameliorative measures were in an

attempt to pacify the Punjab. With the accession of the Punjab, the British Empire's borders drew nearer to the Himalayan Mountain range. It had a significant influence on British relations with Kabul and the politics of Central Asia. Prior to the arrival of the British, the tribes were battling each other by violent means, while the Nazims of Multan and Derajat retained the spoils.⁶⁶

Once the battle in Gujarat was over, British soldiers launched an assault on Peshawar. Due to British authorities' influence over tribal elders, many of them sided with them during the Multan Revolt. The former group was in responsible of monitoring the town, surrounding villages, and ward that fell under civil authority. The latter, on the other hand, was made up of 8100 troops entrusted with using military force to prevent crime and apprehend criminals. They oversaw keeping an eye on the area and ensuring safety. The police were tasked with, among other things, preventing anti-social crimes including burglary, dacoit, and Thuggee⁶⁷. The second distinguishing element of the police establishment was the best local security measures. Soon all the old issues of Punjab were solved. Within the boundaries of Punjab, life and property have been safeguarded. Reconciliation and alliance went hand in hand in the Punjab. The Punjabis were disarmed and freed in opposition to any British attempt to control the area. The practice began in 1845, when the Treaty of Lahore restricted and dissolved the Khalsa army. This trend remained during the years 1848 and 1849. In order to consolidate British administration, a new army and police apparatus was built.

CONCLUSION

Muslims in not only Punjab but in Subcontinent faced worse phases during the decline of Mughal Empire. During the 19th century they not only tolerated the Sikhs but also the British rule. Although they were given many facilities along with Hindus but after the death of Ranjit Singh, things were not only started to change for

Muslims but also for Punjab. when the Punjab the area with its legacy is still famous. Not only Sikh but many dynasties put their impact on this area. When Ranjit died, he had left no such king like him. All those came after him were unable to run a state like Punjab, so the annexation became easy which causes not only of two back-to-back wars but also the end of rule Because there was no one strong and talented enough to follow him afterwards to the first War, the Sikh empire began to crumble quickly. There were no devoted Sikhs at the top of the executive structure to protect it against British intrigues. It presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the crafty and wise British to engage in conspiratorial intrigues that they couldn't accomplish during Ranjit's lifetime. His successors were unable of dealing with such a terrible situation since they were all killed one by one by the Dogras and the Brahmins.

The Sikh Kingdom suffered consequences from the second Anglo-Sikh War, which ultimately caused it to fall. Because they drastically altered the political landscape in Multan and Punjab, these wars were a rotating point in the history of Sikh dynasty. When British Empire immediately took control of Multan and the Punjab during the second Anglo-Sikh war, it shattered the Sikh empire that Ranjit Singh had built during a lengthy fight. It is convinced that Ranjit Singh contributed to the fall of the Sikh monarchy whereas his successors did not. Dogras and Brahmins had been given key positions despite having no involvement in the Sikh state's formation or devotion to it. The Sikhs suffered horrible repercussions as a result of these errors. Also without justification, the confederacy leaders were expelled from the Sikh State's executive branch. He may have been able to prevent this tragedy if he had left the Dogras and Brahmins in charge of the government rather than giving the competent and trustworthy Sikh Sardars leadership of the civil administration.

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