



RESEARCH PAPER

A Historical Approach towards Baloch-British Contact: An analysis of Baloch Wars with the Colonial forces (1839-41)

Mohammad Javed*¹ Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain²

1. PhD Scholar, Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan
2. Chairman, Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author**

javedsarparah@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Balochistan, due to its strategic position, has faced a myriad of invaders such as Persians, Mughals and finally the British. British contact with Kalat was initially established in the late eighteenth century by British travelers, who were sent by the British Indian Government to gather ample information about Balochistan. By 1830's the British in India were eager to expand their borders into central Asia. Therefore, the British embarked on a strategy to install friendly governments in their northwest frontier that would provide a buffer zone to protect their Indian Empire from foreign enemies. Balochistan, lying at the frontier of British India, came under British consideration. In 1838; British Empire in India anticipated establishing relation with the state of Kalat in Balochistan. Finally, British concluded a treaty with Mehrab Khan subsequently, the ruler of Balochistan during the first Anglo-Afghan war for safe passage through its territory. In contrary, British army faced much resistance and trouble while advancing towards Afghanistan. This created anger among the British policy makers resultantly, Kalat was assaulted. Throughout Balochistan occupation of Kalat created civil resistance on an unpredicted and unprecedented scale. They revolted against British interference and fought against them, which resulted in their submission to the rule of Nasir Khan II. This paper is an attempt to continue the history of the British contact with Baloch and the events of the war which occurred betwixt 1839 to 1841.

KEYWORDS Bolan Pass, Civil Resistance, Kahan, Kalat State, Khanate

Introduction

British paid little attention to the north-west frontier since they were more focused on the south of India than the north until the end of the eighteenth century. They started concentrating when the dissolution of authority in north-west which promoted the security of the British India, but they were haunted by fears of more distant threats. The first of these was the French during Napoleonic times. The British shifted the French danger in their minds from the South of India to the North-West as a result of the Napoleonic Wars in Europe, his Egyptian expedition and known fascination with East (Das, 2016). Meanwhile, the British authorities in India planned to explore independent states in the north-west of the Subcontinent that might provide them to defend the British-Indian Empire from the invasion. Accordingly, the agents were posted into the areas to discover the workable ways of an invading force and the means of trade with Central Asia. The British-Indian authorities Commissioned people to acquire

information at the economic and political situations prevailing with inside the huge regions that lay beyond the empire (Axmann, 2008).

British contact with Baloch developed in different span of time and phases. British interest in the region firstly started in 1793 when British sent one of its agents, named Ghulam Sarwar, from Luknow to Balochistan and Afghanistan for purpose of collecting information. After accomplishment of his mission in 1795, he was awarded with the Rs 14,500. He provided numerous geographical, political, social, military and economic information along with the intelligence report regarding the regions. The intentions of the British spies are clear from their own writing which they produced (Baloch, 1987, Baloch, 2018 , Baloch 2012).

Accordingly, the second phase of the British interest developed in 1809-1810 when the British sent Captain Grant, Charles Christie and Henry Pottinger for its secret mission towards different regions of Balochistan. Captain Grant was given the task to explore the coastline of Makran and the main object of his mission was to determine whether a hostile army would be able to advance towards India by this route (Grant, 1839). In 1810, the two British officers Henry Pottinger and Christie were sent to another mission to scout the area between India and Iran. They left for destined journey and entered into the depths of Balochistan, much of which was then governed by the khans of Kalat. The mission's primary goals, according to the two members of the Anglo-Indian secret service, officers of the fifth Bombay regiment, were to gather data on roads and other transportation options for troops and to research the local political circumstances (Baloch, 2011). They initiated their marathon journey of Balochistan. They disguised themselves as horse dealers and Muslim pilgrims. Kalat was the capital of the Balochistan of course it was the main target of their travel. When they reached Kalat on 9th February, Mehmood Khan then the ruler of Kalat along with the family had left for Cutch Gandava to avoid the severity of the winter however; they contacted Mustafa Khan the brother of ruler of Kalat (Pottinger, 1816). Whatever their intentions might have been, they availed the opportunity of visiting the whole the capital except the palace 'Fort Miri'. They conducted a furtive survey of the area as they travelled, taking careful note of all the routes, the distances between wells, and the moods of the local tribes, as Pottinger relates, "I had not an opportunity of seeing the inside of the palace; but, looked from the outside." (Pottinger, 1816). Thus, the Policy makers in India relied on Pottinger's information to define their policy towards Balochistan and it marked the start of the British colonial power's investigation into Balochistan.

The dynamics globally in general and in the region particular were totally getting changed. Russia had now replaced Napoleon's France as England's chief rivals among the European imperial powers. This Russian-British rivalry was the impetus behind the British explorations Afghanistan, Balkh and Bukhara.

Sind, having borders with Balochistan, was surrounded by three ambitious neighbours; Shah Shuja the Afghan, their nominal overlord, Ranjit Singh of Punjab, who wanted to observe the Shikarpur area, and the British, who were interested in Sind for its commerce, and as a buffer against Russia. Hoping that an alliance with British authorities would discourage Sikh and Afghan aggression, the Talpur rulers of Sindh entered into a treaty with the British in 1832. According to the said treaty no British military would pass through without the permission of Amirs. But lord Auckland had the dubious distinction of violating this treaty during first Afghan war (Panhwar, 2010).

Meanwhile, the British wanted to have their policy towards Afghanistan so that they can protect their Indian borders from Russia. Therefore, it was essential to bring

Dost Mohammad then the Ruler of Afghanistan into confidence. The British Authorities in India sent Alexander Burnes to Kabul as an envoy but the negotiation failed as the Afghan ruler was claiming the areas of Peshawar which were under the domain of Ranjeet Singh one of the allies of British. After having no fruitful results, now British decided to replace Dost Mohammad Khan with Shah Shuja who was in British refuge in India. The British offered to help Ranjeet Singh to replace Dost Mohammad with Shah Shuja, who had been attempting to regain the Afghan throne for the last few years. The Sikh ruler expressed enthusiasm this plan, but left the British should the burden of its excursion (Roberts, 1921). In addition, British, the exiled Afghan ruler Shah Shuja, and the Sikh ruler formed a tripartite agreement. The treaty stipulated that going forward, the friends and foes of any of the three signatory nations would also be those of the other two. The treaty's prime objective was to put Shah Shuja back on the throne of Kabul. Shah Shuja renounced all claims to the Sind as well as to the former territories in the Punjab. In other words, with the help of the Sikh Army and British financial assistance, Shah Shuja was to gain Kabul at the expense of Sind. Nevertheless, a friendly administration in Afghanistan was considered essential to forestall the growth of Russian influence in central Asia and with this object the British espoused the cause of Shah Shuja. (Jackson 1907).

Literature Review

Baloch, 1987, the occupation of Balochistan one of the last British conquests in India, has been studied by different researchers. According to author, the perceived French and Russian threats to British India, was one of the reasons why the British occupied Balochistan. This book evaluates the factuality of the claim and inquires whether British interest in Balochistan was a response to external pressures, such as French and Russian Imperialism in the nineteenth century and the consequent need to defend India's north-west frontier, or whether ambitious British officials and their subordinates considered Balochistan to be a strategically and geographically significant for Britain. The book also considers the ways in which Balochistan's domestic politics, the state's political structures and the internal intrigues might have contributed to British success in Balochistan (Baloch, 1987).

Spooner, 2013, has mentioned that over a century has passed since several researchers first became interested in the Baloch, and the researchers focus has shifted. Nothing in the literature about the Baloch provides an explanation for their transformation. There is no connection between the situations described in different publications, and each one describes an event rather than a process. By drawing on scholarly literature and the author's own ethnographic fieldwork. This article provides a context for understanding contemporary global events through the lens of Baloch history (Spooner, 2013).

Heathcote, 2015, has a different approach on colonial Balochistan. He has discussed the entrance of British army in the Kalat state in 1839 and a period of resistance which began against the colonial power by the Baloch ruler and tribes. Further, he elaborates though having strong resistance from the Baloch tribes how British achieved its aim by utilizing its policy to win over the local rulers and tribes of the Baloch region, particularly through binding treaty relations with Baloch rulers. It was the approach and pattern that British adopted during Great Game in a competition with Iran, Russia and the other European empires. Lastly, this book presents historical overview of the geographical importance of Baloch land, which made it a part of great game of big powers of the world in nineteenth century (Heathcote, 2015)

British Passage through Balochistan

British in accordance with their itinerary wanted their army to pass through the Balochistan region without any resistance or hindrance while marching towards Afghanistan, and in this matter they considered it very important to get the support of Mir Mehrab Khan then the ruler of Balochistan (Dehwar, 2007).

The political picture of Kalat at the advent of British

The first political and diplomatic interaction between the Khanate of Kalat and the British Government of India took place in the beginning in the year 1838, when Lieutenant Leech was sent to Kalat to make negotiation on the subject of provisions for the army about to proceed to Afghanistan (Leech, 1843). By the time British finalized its plan to advance towards Afghanistan, the political situation of Kalat state was quite alarming. The state depicted the picture of internal intrigues and displeased subjects because of the mal-administration of the predecessor of Mehrab Khan the Kan of Kalat. Therefore, the new ruler found himself surrounded by a group of courtiers and advisers who engaged in constant intrigue to depose or replace his master (Khan, 1958). The arrival of British, on this critical occasion those who were present in Khan's court could not be trusted. Apparently Mulla Mohammad Hassan, Akhund Mohammad Siddique and Syed Mohammad Sharif were among the confidants of Khan but in the background everyone was playing dual game and fully against him (Baluch, 1975, Dehwar, 2007). It is worth mentioning here that most of the affairs of the Khan was led by one Mohammad Hassan, a sharp and determined figure who had elevated himself to the position of chief minister of the Khan via assassination, deceitful murder, and plot. As will be seen hereafter, this man had aspirations of becoming the Prince of Kalat in his own person and had probably already started courting and intriguing for that reason. When Mehrab Khan and Robert Leach were making agreements for the safe passage it was Mullah Mohammad Hassan who created the abhorrence between them and Leech left the Khan in rage. Eventually, the visit failed. After the departure of Lieutenant Leech, Alexander Burnes addressed angry letters to Mehrab Khan, and the latter was most unfairly blamed of seizing or destroying divers stores of grain collected by order of Lieutenant Leech, for the use of the British army (Redaelli, 1997). According to the decided plan When Shah Shuja, W. MacNaughten, and the British troops arrived in Sind (with also the pretender to the Khanate of Kalat, Shah Nawaz in their camp), Mehrab Khan desired to send an envoy to express his good wishes and it was Mohammad Hassan who selected himself for this duty. Mohammad Hassan accordingly set out to meet the advancing army, and was met by W. MacNaughton at Bagh. He showed himself the great friend of British while presented Mehrab Khan the great enemy who was full of conspiracies and plots. He tactfully not only deceived MacNaughten but also Alexander Burnes. Nevertheless he was considered as a British friend and was dismissed with instructions to endeavour to prevent his Prince from becoming our enemy (Yapp, 1980, Tate, 1896). On his return to the capital, Mohammad Hassan depicted another picture of British. He told Mehrab Khan that the British were making plan to harm him; the only chance of safety lay in open opposition. Meanwhile, Mohammad Hassan having, the Khan's seal in his possession, addressed Beejah Khan Doombkee (one of the chiefs) to sabotage the British convoys and oppose the march of their army passing through Kachi. (Thomas, 1855).

Before the situation would get worse MacNaughten understood the dynamics and political scenario prevailing in the region, he sent Alexander Burnes as an envoy to Kalat. In short, Alexander Burnes had managed to persuade Mehrab Khan and a treaty was signed between them in 1839 (Havelock, 1840). The terms and condition of treaty were that the Khan would provide safe passage for the army and supplies, in return

British agreed for the payment of a very substantial fee (an annual subsidy of a lakh and a half of rupees, payable by half-yearly installments, commencing from the date of the treaty and continuing as long as British troops were in his country) Moreover, the British would consider the khan as an independent. Khan would pay homage to Shah Shuja. At the same time, Mehrab Khan made it clear to Burnes that in his view the whole expedition was doomed to failure (Havelock, 1840). As it was quite obvious from his (Shuja's) previous attempts that he lacked public and general support in Afghanistan which was a question mark on his popularity and fame.

British and Mir Mehrab Khan's agreements soon ran into difficulties. Several chiefs opposed it, and few of them sabotaged it by waylaying Burnes on his way back to Quetta, stealing the document and making out that they were acting on the instructions of the khan. Resultantly, on one hand the courtiers deceived Alexander Burnes, he was assaulted, robbed and the draft of the treaty which was signed by Mir Mehrab Khan was stolen. On the other hand they made the Khan believe that the English intended to imprison him if he visited Quetta therefore, the khan delayed his visit. (Tate, 1896). Actually this was a poor time for Khan who relied on networks that involved contact with British power. Meanwhile, most of the tribes owing loyalty to Kalat were provoked by Mohammad Hassan and his company to plunder and infuriate the British in every way. Thus, the British claimed that the attacks were a breach of treaty and used this pretext to launch an expedition on Kalat (Quddus, 1991).

As the problem of tribal raids grew, it provided an opportunity to British officials and Alexander Burnes now became indignant and a part from him the political agents agreed with one accord, without shadow of doubt that Mehrab Khan was responsible for the innumerable robberies, murders and raids suffered by the British on the march from Shikarpur and Quetta. MacNaughten ordered that an example should be made of the perfidious ruler and he should be penalized when convenient. "The khan of Kalat", Remarks MacNaughten "is our implacable enemy, and Sir John Kean is burning with revenge. There never was much treatment inflicted on human beings as we have been subjected to our program through the khan's country." (Khan 1958). In fact, the conduct of Mehrab Khan was willfully misrepresented to the British authorities.

Kalat Storm: The First Anglo-Baloch Confrontation

The large contingent of British Army which was sent to Afghanistan as a result Qandahar was captured in April 1839 (Kaye, 1851). Later on, Shah Shuja and the British army appeared before the walls of Kabul, and entered the capital in August 1839. The restoration of Shah Shuja to the sovereignty of Afghanistan had thus been outwardly accomplished after thirty years exile (Kaye, 1851). After Shah's installation on the throne; it was quite clear from the prior intentions of the British officials to punish Mehrab Khan. Realizing that it was hopeless to look for supplies from Kalat, he turned a deaf ear to all croaking and gave orders to advance. While returning to India, General Willshire was ordered to have a punitive expedition to Kalat (Swidler, 2014). The British Army comprised of 1049 men Under the Command of Major General Wilshire and well equipped with modern artillery reached Kalat on 13th November 1839.

| State of the Corps engaged at the' storming of Kalat on the 13 th November, 1839 Under the Command of Major General Wilshire | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------|
| | "Major Generals" | "Brigadier" | "Aide-de-Cam" | "Act. Deputy. Gen" | "Act. Qtr. Mr. Gen" | "Dy. Asst. Qr. Mr. Gen" | "Brigade Major" | "Sub Asst Comsy. Gen" | "Lieutenant Colonels" | "Majors" | "Captains" | "Lieutenants" | "Ensigns" | "Adjutants" | "Quarters Masters" | "Surgeons" | "Assistant Surgeons" | "Native Officers" | "Sub-Conductors" | "Sergeants" | "Drummers" | "Farriers" | "Rank and File" | |
| "Staff" | 01 | 02 | 05 | 01 | 01 | 01 | 02 | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| "Detachment 3d Troops Horse Artillery" | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| "1 st Troops of Kabul Artillery" | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 58 |
| "H.M.'s 2 nd or Queen's Royal Regiment" | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 10 | 0 | 290 |
| "H.M.'s 17 th Regiment" | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 02 | 04 | 13 | 02 | 0 | 01 | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 09 | 0 | 0 | 336 |
| "Slat Regiment Bengal Native Infantry" | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 01 | 01 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 30 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 329 |
| Total | 01 | 02 | 05 | 01 | 01 | 01 | 02 | 01 | 01 | 4 | 9 | 26 | 05 | 02 | 02 | 02 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 100 | 34 | 1 | 0 | 1049 |

(Outram 1840)

On the other hand Mehrab Khan's field force was consist of some 2,000 men, five guns. The few of the sardars from various parts of the Khanate assembled at Kalat's fortress to guard their ruler. In addition, that the son of Mehrab Khan had been expected to join him from Nushki with a further reinforcement (Heathcote, 2015). However, facing a huge power in the shape of British, Mehrab Khan did not surrender and kept fighting for the sovereignty of his state and people. During the battle British used its cannons and entered in the fortress of Kalat and the place was taken by storm. Mehrab Khan made a desperate resistance by defending his motherland was martyred along with his esteemed chiefs and soldiers. Mehrab Khan gave his life for the independence of his nation and sovereignty of the country. The death of Mehrab Khan is considered one of the tragic events in the annals of Balochistan (Janmahmad 1989).

The loss of the both side can be imagined as Willshire narrates, *"I regret to inform you that the enemy must have suffered greatly, but I am unable to estimate how many killed and wounded they sustained. This will be evident from the attached return. There were several hundred captives arrested, from whom the Political Agent chose those he felt should be kept in custody for the time being; the remainder were freed."* (Baloch H . 2011).

In the affairs and assault of Kalat which cost British thirty one deaths and one hundred and seven wounded (Fortescue, 1927). It was a gigantic loss for a force which was well equipped with modern tools of warfare. On the other hand hundreds of Baloch soldiers including Khan, some tribal chiefs and officials were killed by British force while

attacking Kalat (Naseer, 2007). Further the details of casualties from the both side are described in the below tables.

“Return of Casualties in the array under the command of Major General Wiltshire C.B.

Employed at the storming of Kalat, on the 13th November, 1839.”

| Corps | Killed in War | | | | Wounded in War | | | | | | | | | | Horse | | |
|--|---------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | “Lieutenants” | “Subedars” | “Rank and File” | “Total” | “Captains” | “Lieutenants” | “Engineers” | “Adjutants” | “Jemadars” | “Sergeants” | “Drummers” | “Rank & File” | “Regt. Bheestees” | “Total” | “Total killed & Wounded” | “Killed” | “Wounded” |
| “Detachment 3 rd Troop Horse Artillery” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | None | | |
| “1 st Troop Kabul Artillery” | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 02 | 0 | 02 | 02 | 0 | 06 |
| “Kabul Artillery Attached with Gun Lasears” | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 01 | 0 | 01 | 01 | 0 | 0 |
| “H.M.’s 2 nd or Queen’s Royal Regiment” | 01 | 0 | 21 | 22 | 02 | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 02 | 0 | 40 | 0 | 47 | 69 | 0 | 01 |
| “31 st H.M.’s 17 th Regiment” | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 03 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 33 | 39 | 0 | 0 |
| “31 st “Regiment Bengal N.I” | 0 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 01 | 0 | 0 | 02 | 02 | 02 | 01 | 14 | 01 | 22 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| “Sappers, Miners and Pioneer” | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 01 | 01 | 0 | 0 |
| “2 Resillas of the 4 th Bengal Local Horse” | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 01 | 0 | 01 | 01 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 01 | 01 | 29 | 31 | 04 | 02 | 01 | 02 | 02 | 08 | 01 | 87 | 01 | 107 | 138 | 0 | 07 |

(Outram,1840)

“Names of Officers killed and wounded”

| Killed | Remarks |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Corps, | Rank and Names. |
| “H.M.’s 2 nd or Queen’s Royal Regiment, 1 Corporal since dead” | “Lieut. P. Gravatt, |
| Wounded | |
| “H.M.’s 2 nd or Queen’s Royal Regiment” | ““Capt. W.M. Lyster, severely” |
| “H.M.’s 2 nd or Queen’s Royal Regiment” | “Capt. T. Senleny ,severely” |
| “H.M.’s 2 nd or Queen’s Royal Regiment” | “Lt. T.W.E. Holdsworth, severely” |
| “H.M.’s 2 nd or Queen’s Royal Regiment” | “Lt. D. J .Dickinson, slightly” |
| “H.M.’s 2 nd or Queen’s Royal Regiment” | “Adj. J.E. Simmons, severely” |
| “H.M.’s 17 th Regiment” | “Capt. L.C.Bonschier severely” |
| “31 st Regiment Bengal N.I” | “Capt. Lawrin, slightly” |
| “31 st Regiment Bengal N.I” | “Ensign Hopper, severely” |

(Outram 1840)

“List of Baloch Sardars killed in the attack of Kalat, on the 13th November 1839”

| NAMES. | REMARKS |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| “Mir Mehrab Khan” | “Chief of Kalat” |
| “Mir Wali Mohammad” | “Mengal Sardar of Wadh” |
| “Abdul Karim” | “Raisani Sardar” |
| “Dan Karim” (Dad Kareem) | “Shahwani Sardar” |
| “Mohammad Ruzu” | “Nephew of the wazir Mohammad Hassan” |
| “Khysur Khan” (Kaisar Khan) | “Ahsehiee Sardar” |
| “Deewan Bachah Mall” | “Financial Minister” |
| “Noor Mohammad and Tajoo Mohammad” | “Shahgassees Sardars” |
| Prisoners | |
| “Mohammad Hassan” | Wazir |
| “Mullah Rahim Dad” | Ex-Naib of Shawl(Quetta) |
| With several others of inferior rank | |
| (Outram, 1840) | |

Resistance and Conflict against British Colonial Power

After the fall of Kalat, the British authorities found evidence that confirmed the innocence of Mehrab Khan (“*Many of these letters fell into the hands of Mr. Bell, the Political Agent in Upper Sind, and were esteemed as conclusive evidence against Mehrab Khan, though he had no hand in their issue, and knew not of their existence*”) yet they enthroned Shah Nawaz Khan, a fourteen year old rival claimant to the Kalat throne. Shah Nawaz requested Willshire to appoint a British officer in Kalat. Accordingly, Lieutenant Loveday was assigned the task of a political agent as new ruler in Kalat. Shah Nawaz Khan accepted the supremacy of British and Shah Shuja. In return, Shah Nawaz surrendered Shal (Quetta), Mastung, Kachi and Gandava to Shah Shuja (Awan, 1985). Relations between British and Baloch emerged in a new dimension. It is pertinent to mention here that the both Sardars of Sarawan and Jhalawan lost many men in war with the British and they had very fertile lands in the areas which Shah Nawaz handed over to Shah Shuja. Thus, infuriated the Sardars and their discontent with Shah Nawaz was publicly displayed.

After such acts resistance was inevitable and the peril was naturally magnified in the minds of British authorities. Throughout Balochistan occupation of Kalat created civil resistance on an unpredicted and unprecedented scale. The sardars revolted and sent a message to Nasir Khan II who was then a fugitive in Kharan for full support and help. Naseer Khan with his army arrived Mastung with some of the Sardars marched towards Kalat. British authorities asked the sardars who were with Naseer Khan II to acknowledge Shah Nawaz Khan as their sovereign. All refused to pay allegiance to Shah Nawaz. They considered Naseer Khan II their sovereign ruler (Balochistan, 1877).

Defence of Kahan: The Anglo-Marri Confrontation

Meanwhile, stirring events were taking place in Upper Sind; British authorities had to face another danger in Kahan. Kahan is the chief town of Mari tribe. Mari tribe is considered the strong, bold and resistant tribe of Balochistan. The erstwhile history of

the tribe is obscure but this tribe is organized on a system suitable to the predatory transaction in which they were generally engaged in earlier times. The Bolan pass, for ages, has been route for traders and invaders remained a raiding ground for Mari tribe. The Mari tribe first came in contact with British 1839 when the Indus army was advancing through Balochistan to install the Shah Shuja on Kabul throne, the Marri tribe attacked the army in Bolan Pass and the Indus army suffered a lot due to Marri's attacks. Meanwhile, a force under Major Biillamore penetrated their hills and after temporary success left the hills. The game was not over here. British wanted a permanent solution of it. It was decided by the British authorities in India, Mr. Ross Bell then Political Agent in Upper Sind, decreed that the principal fort of Marri at Kahan should be permanently captured and occupied. In April 1840, a small detachment was sent under Captain Lewis Brown and Lt. Clarke, to advance through the passes of Nafsak and Surtoof in order to capture Kahan and protect the lines of communication with Afghanistan; but it was invested for five months and two reliefs were beaten off. Eventually, British met with great loss of men and material (Williams, 1886). The victorious Marri went in pursuit of Clarke, overtake him, and after an obstinate struggle put him and almost all his troops to the sword, a handful only escaping to the plains. (Marri, 2015).

During August same year Major Clibborn of the Bombay army, was dispatched to the relief the fortress of Kahan with a force comprised about thousand men of all arms, with a large convoy of supplies. Owing, doubtless, to a foolish contempt of the opposite side, the detachment was moving onwards without any adequate precaution or order. When it reached Nafsak Pass, they were at once assailed by a large body of Mari Baloch, with their traditional style. The Marri-Balochs, however, were in an advantageous position as they were fully aware of the military routes and the tactics best suited to a terrain consisting of mountains. The flank companies retreated; the Baloch fighters pursued them; and before the main body could be formed in a good defensive position, the Baloch fighters were upon them chaotic (Lambrick, 1960). A desperate engagement now ensued, which ended in the entire discomfiture and flight of British troops. The number of the Mari-Baloch is said not to have exceeded five-hundred; and they consisted of though undisciplined, before whom, however, an English detachment, almost double in number, had fled. The immediate result of the action was most disastrous; all the guns, camels, and provisions were captured; four British officers, two native officers and 178 men killed and 92 wounded (McConaghey, 1907).

It was one of the most catastrophic defeats, to which British has been subjected for many years, occurred during Kahan expedition. After the failure, British troops, which were beleaguered in fortress, started negotiating with the Mari chiefs for the safe return and was concluded to provide security to the beleaguered British troops. Thus, they returned peacefully as Charles Reynolds Williams narrates, "The most civilized nation in the world could not have acted a nobler part than the Murrees did from the time Kahan was abandoned until the arrival of its garrison in the plains." (Williams, 1886).

British-Baloch Confrontation at Dhadur and Kotra

Emboldened by the Mari uprising, the people of Sarawan mobilized themselves against the occupation forces. Meanwhile, the insurgents reached Kalat and besieged it. After strenuous fight, Shah Nawaz and his supporters were defeated. In result of Kalat occupation, Lieutenant Lovedy and Charles Masson were made captives of the war. At this juncture, General Nott Brigade arrived Quetta from Qandahar. Orders were issued to occupy Kalat (Buller, 1907). Having obtained information about the intended move of British, the insurgents avoided an encounter by moving into northern Kachhi. General

Nott marched towards Kalat and occupied it unopposed on 3rd November. He left for Qandahar leaving General Stacy in place of Lovedy as a political officer in Kalat. Meanwhile, several encounters took place between Naseer Khan II and the British troops at Dhadur, Kotra and other places. (Heathcote, 2015).

The Baloch Army under the command of the Khan crossed Bolan Pass and attacked the British cantonment in Dhadur. However, the act was repulsed and the expedition failed due to British counterattack. The forces of Khan were pushed back and they entrenched themselves in the mountains near Kotra (Branch, 1910).

The next confrontation between the Baloch forces and the British took place at Kotra in December 1840. Khan assembled considerable force in Kotra on other hand British under the command of Colonel Marshall proceed to attack Khan. British having 900 bayonets, native infantry, 60 irregular horse and two guns attacked the Khan force. The Baloch Army was defeated when confronted by a combined and much bigger British force. In a bloody battle, more than five hundred fighters and four princely chiefs among the Khanate forces were killed, and the surviving force fled. It was a gigantic achievement for British but great loss for Khan and his army. (Fortescue, J 1927). The reason behind the defeat of Baloch force was the misconduct and mismanagement of the common people. They were joining the chief of Kalat without any proper planning.

The crises in Kalat State rising on regular basis and the prevailing situation were turning from bad to worse. It was high time a policy could be adopted for the Balochistan. Mr. Ross Bell, the Political Agent Upper Sind, was now considering of three possible political systems. The first was that Kalat could nominally be annexed to Afghanistan, but would actually be under British control and exercised through treaties with individual chieftains; Bell opposed this policy on the basis that it would cause confusion and chaos; rather preferred his second policy of reinstalling Nawaz to the throne, but ultimately rejected the idea as Nawaz Khan was not famous among the masses. His third option, which Bell adopted in January 1841, was that he would recognize Nasir Khan as chief of the Kalat if he pays his submission to the British authorities. Mr. Bell was very much puzzled regarding his policies that which policy should be adopted. Before adopting and implementing any of the policies, he was dismissed (Yapp, 1980). And the resistance, violence and chaos prevailed all over Balochistan until Mr. Bell was replaced by James Outram. The British authorities appointed Colonel Outram in August 1841 and the management of Sind and Balochistan was assigned to him. Following up on the advice of Outram, the English Government switched its previous policy. In addition, Colonel Stacy, who was Political Agent at Kalat, was entrusted with task of inducing the Nasir Khan to come in to the British authorities. After a series of meetings and exchanges of emissaries between the Khan and Colonel Stacey, the later succeeded with the most consummate ability. (Baloch, H. 2011, Thomas, 1855). Finally, the long lasted struggle and resistance of Nasir Khan bore fruit and was enthroned on the throne of his father with complete power and sovereignty. Moreover, a Treaty was concluded between Major Outram, on behalf of the Government of India, and Mir Nasir Khan II, Chief of Kalat, on his own party (Lambrick, 1960). The main terms of the treaty were:

Firstly, Nasir Khan shall be bound to acknowledge himself as the vassal of the king of Kabul.

Secondly, British authorities will restore the three districts namely Shal (Quetta), Mastung and Kachi to the chief of Kalat which had been dismembered and handed over to Shah Shuja in 1839.

Thirdly, The British and Shah Shuja would have the power of stationing their troops in Kalat when necessary.

Fourthly, Nasir Khan would be advocated by the advice of British Resident (Goldsmid, 1880).

Fifthly, safety would be provided to merchants, and no undue exactions made.

Sixthly, the ruler of Kalat would not carry any type of negotiations with foreign powers, without the permission of British and Shah's Government.

Seventhly, Assistance to be rendered by British Government, if judged necessary, in the event of external aggression or dispute

Lastly, Provision secured for the maintenance of Shah Nawaz Khan, the former chief named by British Government (Aitchison, 1892).

Thus, this treaty established friendly relations between the two powers after an interminable resistance and events of wars.

Conclusion

The British influence in Balochistan began during early nineteenth century while realizing its strategic location. In the earlier phase, British scouted out its agents in Baloch territory to explore and gather information about Balochistan. The British spies left no stones unturned to fulfill their duties. When they returned, they had collected ample data and knowledge about the strategic importance regarding Balochistan. This information, in fact, paved the way for their future advancement. In the next phase, British involvement in Balochistan was to safeguard the Indian Empire from the Russian paranoia. What bothered the British at that time was the refusal of Afghan ruler to expel the Russian envoys from Kabul. Thus, the British felt military solution of it for this, a safe passage through Balochistan was imperative. This required control over the areas of Balochistan bordering Afghanistan. Therefore it was considered essential to have the ruler of Balochistan into confidence. Meanwhile, British signed a treaty with Mehrab Khan then the ruler of Balochistan for safe passage unfortunately, British troubled and were harassed during their march to Afghanistan and Mehrab Khan was made responsible for this devastation. Soon after British authorities planned to penalize Mehrab and they stormed Kalat during defence Mehrab Khan died along with many of his fighters. Throughout Balochistan the capture of Kalat created civil resistance on an unexpected and unparalleled level. When disturbances broke out in Kalat and Quetta both were successfully defended by British forces; but, after several failures, Nasir Khan II attempts on Kalat succeeded. Simultaneously, British faced another danger in Kahan. In beginning the British force under Clarke triumphed temporary but ahead during their Kahan campaign proved to be the most arduous one with the passage of time, the British force suffered heavy loss of men and materials. In short, the tide expedition turned into the favor of Marri tribe. Thus, after an agreement with the Marri tribe, British sought safe arrival from hills to the plains. Meanwhile, Nasir Khan along with his supporters was engaged with British in different encounters for his legitimate throne. While the encounters were taking place, British commenced negotiating with Nasir Khan. Eventually, the dialogues were successful. British signed a treaty with Nasir Khan II in 1841. According to the treaty, British recognized Nasir Khan II as an independent ruler of Balochistan under several terms and condition. Thus, this ended the interminable resistance and wars between the two powers.

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