

## **Political movements in Balochistan their achievements and losses: (A case study from 1920 to 1948)**

**Pervez Ahmed**

Lecturer Pakistan study centre  
 University of Balochistan

**Shazia Jaffar**

Lecturer Pakistan study centre  
 University of Balochistan

**Muhammad Zakir**

Lecturer Sociology Department  
 University of Balochistan

**Waheed Razzaq**

Lecturer Balochistan study centre  
 University of Balochistan

### **Abstract**

*The state of Balochistan has not been luckiest ones in the world. As geo strategic and political important has been considered by entire world but people of this home land always been in the shadow of cruelty and blood shedding. From Aryan attacks till modern era is the evidence of the Baloch exploitation the purpose of writing this paper is to find out and introduce political history of Balochistan and also mention the time when political awareness gained by Baloch people and how the joined peaceful and political way of struggle to achieve their goals. The evolution of political events and policies will be described. Baloch almost fought four hundred battles against British. The Britain ruled Balochistan under different policies such as forward policy close border policy, policy of portioning of Baloch land but among these the worst impact of geography of Balochistan was the consequence of partition policy. Every nation learns with the passage of time and farsighted visionary leader having great leadership qualities can be a great fortune for a nation. Because right decisions on a right time is a partial victory in terms of policies.*

**Key words:** Agitation, Awareness, Baku, Balochistan, Cabinet, Conference, Convene Resolution, Constitution, Establishment, Kalat, Migrate, Political Movements, Throne, Treaty,

## **Introduction**

Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan its total area is 347190 sq Km.(Marri, 2000) According to Syed Abdul Wadood 2003, this province is bounded by the Arabian Sea in the North by Afghanistan in the east by Sindh in the north east by Punjab in the west Iran and in the North west N.W.F.P ( KPK).

As for Baloch land is concerned where Baloch are living in majority extending from Indus river to Kirman, from Baloch Coast to Helmand along with the Baloch Corridor touching Turkmenistan is an estimated 690,000 sq Km. Baloch land is geographically not a part of the Indian sub-continent nor middle east or central Asia. It is even out of monsoon region. Baloch is also not part of Indus Valley civilization.

Russian forces and its players of the Great game moved to central Asia, while British forces moved towards Balochistan and Afghanistan. In Balochistan the Baloch forces were defeated in 1839 and the Khan of Kalat Mir Mehrab Khan who was leading also killed in battlefield.

From 1839 British ruled Balochistan under the cover of the agreement and was experimenting various policies such as backward policy to forward policy to close border policy. Most harmful policy for Baloch was the

partitioning of Baloch land under the cover of Gold Smith and Macmohan line which the British did unilaterally moving those as border agreement.

Baloch never compromised with British direct or indirect rule there were always organized or spontaneous insurgencies including political movements for Baloch independence. Baloch participated in Baku conference in 1920 and established a political party as well. Mir Yousaf Aziz Magsi organized two All India Baloch and Balochistan conferences in 1932 and 1933 at Jacobabad and Hyderabad.(Khan,2014)

The area of Balochistan is 340000 sq. miles.(Baloch, 1987) This region was important to the Portuguese the Russian, the British and by world allies from the point of view of trade and strategy. Balochistan lay on the crossroads of the routes joining central Asia, the south Asia and Middle East. In past several attacks were made to control the Region but failed, the British were successful in their attack to Balochistan.(Khan,1977)

The British Army entered in Kalat in command of Gen-Walshir to battle started early in the morning. Baloch king Mehrab Khan was defending the homeland along with his tribe soldiers.(Bugti,1994)

After the martyrdom of Mehrab Khan and friends the British brought Balochistan under their control and divided it into two parts. First under direct Governance of British and the other one constituting the union of Kalat states administrated by the new Khan of Kalat through Tribble Chiefs. British Balochistan consisted of the entire Pathan area and Baloch Districts of Chaghai, Jacobabad and Bolan. And the other part comprising Kalat, Kharan, Makran and Lasbela and excluding areas of Marri and bugti are the real specimen of Baloch tribe system.(Qadous, 1990)

Although after the martydam of Mehrab Khan the Britishers were directly involved in Kalat affairs but it also raised the passion of nationalism in Baloch people.(Marri, 1980)

The resistance which started in 1839 against British Army continued time to time.(Qaisrani,1994)This Resistance almost continued more than a century. The early resistance could not assume the form a national struggle. In September 1920 a conference of the people was held in „Baku“ the delegation of Balochistan was headed by Misri Khan Baloch. He also met with Lenin and other top leaders of Soviet Union.(Baloch,1987)

This conference was attended by Turkey, Egypt, Persia, India, Afghanistan, Kashgar, China, Japan, Korea, Arabia, Syria, Palestine, the countries of Soviet Central Asia and Balochistan.

The Bolsheviks commanded campaigns to spread the revolutionary idea and proletarian revolutions to the colonies and semi colonies of east and appeal from the congress to the workers of the west.(Breseege,2004)

The delegation of Balochistan helped the Bolshevik against Basmachis. All these revolutionaries were not communists but indeed were sympathetic to communism for its social and cultural revolutions.

Y.Z surites was appointed as a first Soviet representative in Afghanistan by Lenin in 1919.

He maintained diplomatic relations with people of Afghanistan, tribes of Balochistan and with the people of India fighting for their liberation.(G. Bondarvski,1977)

Baloch participants of Baku conference came to Kabul where they decided to establish a revolutionary party. At that time the communist party of India was established in Tashkent in 1920(Mari,2000)

The activities of the participants of Baku conference were strictly checked by the British, the internal condition of Balochistan was not suitable for them. Undoubtedly their revolutionary thoughts had an impact on the politics of Balochistan.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the political movements begins to take shape. The western educated people begin to feel that they should more active part in the country administration. Whatever, they have learned through English education now they were transforming it in constitutional and representative government.

### **Establishment of young Baloch**

„ Young Baloch“ was established by Mir Abdul Aziz Kurd who was a son of a civil servant of Kalat. This political movement was remaining underground till 1929. (Baloch, 1987)

When, Hijrat movement started in India. Many people left India and left to turkey and those who could not entered in turkey they stayed in Taskand and Moscow and joined communist party of India when they were moving back to India to work for the party. They were arrested from Chitral and other places and moved to Peshawar where Peshawar conspiracy case was Oprepared.(Harikishan,2003)

In 1931 Government servant, School Teacher and traders, could be found in Baloch people but still they were deprived from political rights and class conflicts were arising.(Marri, 1987)

Yousaf Ali Khan Aziz Magsi son of a tribal chief started his political career in 1929 by writing a article, the Faryad-e-Balochistan.(Cry of Balochistan) which was published in Lahore newspaper „Masawat“. In this article an appeal was made to Baloch to organize themselves for the rights of Balochistan. He criticizes the policies of the British government and the prime minister of Kalat state sir Shams Shah. He also demanded for constitutional demands.

Faryad-e-Balochistan was the first Baloch literary document for the cause of Baloch nationalism. (Inyatullah, 1987)

### **Formation of Anjuman-e-Itha-e-Balochan**

The un united struggle of Baloch people till 1930 as realized them that they should struggle unitedly (organization for the unity of Baloch) to avoid failures. The Anjuman-e-Itha-e-Balochan was found in 1930 in Mastung. (Marri,2000)

The Anjuman called for political and constitutional reforms within the khanate and ultimate unification of all Baloch lands into an independent state. The Anjuman started to work openly in 1931, promoting different ideas of reforms within the state and advocating the need for more representative institutions. (Bezinjo, 1989)

Nawabzada Yousaf Ali Khan was released from Mastung jail in August 1931. Magsi became the president and Abdul Aziz Kurd General Secretary. After words he published a book late entitled Shams Gardi, criticizing the policies of British Government and the Prime Minister of Kalat State. Sir Shams Shah. He also demanded for constitutional reforms, responsible government with an assembly of representative, elected democratically by the people, and with legal cabinet or Ministry. The aim of this organization was to work for a united independent Balochistan as well to demand reforms in Balochistan.(Baloch, 1984).

After words Magsi agitation was initiated to bring prince Azamjan on thrown and remove Prime Minister Shams Shah.

Thousands of people from Jhal Magsi migrated to Sindh and Punjab to force Shams Shah into resigning. The Magsi migration put great impact on the Baloch Tribe Rind, Mengal, Raisani and Bugti revolved against their chiefs who were the supporter of shams. The British agreed to nominate Prince Muhammad Azam Jan.

Finally, on December 1931, Prince Muhammad Azam Jan became the Khan of Kalat with the support of the anjuman. It was the first victory of modern

democratic rule in Baloch society and the first political loss of British in Balochistan. But in December 1931, Azamjan invited Yousaf Ali Khan Magsi and Abdul Aziz Kurd to present their demands that, meeting was in conclusive and they were asked to stop the political activities.(Naseer, 1982) The aim of the Anjuman remained unfulfilled even after the new Khan of Kalat came into power. In 1932 the Anjuman leaders decided to convene the Balochistan and all India conference at Jacobabad in December 1932. The Baloch were properly aware with Democratic principles but our nation is being affected by foreign influences. They declared their objectives as: unity of Baloch, Education, Protection of rights, Religious Education and legal Reforms. They were hopeful that nation makes the conference a successful one. (Daily Zaimandar, 22 october 1932)

The three days conference began in December 27. Delegates from all over Balochistan and India participated. (Mohammad, 1988)

Mir Ali Nawaz the ruler of Khairpur state called the Baloch for unity in his presidential address. Various resolutions were passed in conference, aiming to create a social base for Baloch nationalism.(Maggasi, 1933)

The Balochistan and All India Baloch conference was a great opportunity for Baloch nationalists of different areas to communicate the views about the destiny of Baloch nation.

In 1933, Yousaf Aziz Magsi published a pamphlet „Balochistan kiAwaz“ (the voice of Balochistan) especially for the British parliament. (Awan, A.B. 1985)

Khan of Kalat Muhammad Azam Jan was died on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1933. His son Mir Ahmed Yar Khan ascended to the throne of Kalat on December 20, 1933. New Khan was a great supporter of Anjuman, conditions became more favourable for Anjuman's work. Some important reforms were carried out in Balochistan, e.g, Education budget was raised, and Scholarships were given

to students to study in India and foreign universities. Preference was given to Baloch in employment and Judiciary system was improved. (Khan, 1975) Yousaf Aziz Magsi was died in the Quetta earth quake in 1935 at the youthful age of twenty seven. His death was a great loss for Baloch national movement. In 1936 Abdul Aziz Kurd proposed to reorganize the Anjuman which was rejected by the right wing of the Anjuman, led by Bunde Ali Talpur. The right wing wanted to cooperate with the British administration in order to bring reforms in Balochistan. But they were blamed as British agents by left wing of the party.

However, the Anjuman was renamed as „ Kalat State National Party“ in 1937 at Sibi. Mir Abdul Aziz Kurd was elected as its first president. (Mohammad, 1988)

In 1936 an organization was established in Kalat State named „ AnjumanIslamiaRiasat-e-Kalat.

Although it was a non-political organization and aim was to do some social welfare activities for poor and needy people of Balochistan but it was banned due to Terrorism allegations. Mir Gul Khan Naseer was the president of this organization. (Naseer, 1982)

In the same year another political party was established British Balochistan and the objectives were to bring constitutional reforms in British Balochistan like other states and provinces of sub-continent.

Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai was elected the first president of this party. He also laid the foundation of „ Istaklal“ newspaper. (Bugti, 1994)

First Balochi national song was published in, 1937 by Muhammad Hussainunka. And different articles were published from Karachi: like, young Balochistan, Kalmatulhaq, Aftab, Nijat, Haqeeqat, Balochistan and Bolan. (Marri, 2013)



Kalat State National Party openly opposed the British Government plan to lease rights to port of Jewny. The party wanted a sovereign state for the people of Balochistan. The party leaders wanted a separate identity for Baloch there for tried to gather huge support of Educated people to fight for Democracy not only in house of common but on side Assembly as well. (Jalib, 2006)

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 1939 National Party called a three day convention to explain their stand of different political issues, Question of Baloch National identity and Demand for Social reforms, convention was attended by large number of people but on second day of convention a tribal lashkar with the support of Government attacked to this meeting at Mastung and convention was called off. The tribal Sardar demanded to ban Kalat State National Party. Dewar, 2007)

This demand was fulfilled on July 20, 1939 and the Prime minister of Kalat State banned the party and its activities. Abdul Rahim Khiya Khail, Mir Gul Khan Naseer, Abdul Kareem, Mulla Hussain, Ghaus Bukshs Bizanjo and large number of workers were imprisoned. (Dewar, 2007)

All india Muslim league was found in Balochistan in, 1939 by Qazi Esa. (Shah, 1992)

He also became the first president of Muslim League in Balochistan. It was 1938 that QaziEsa met Quaid-e-Azam at Bombay and accepted his institution to form and organize Muslim league in Balochistan. (Awan, A.B 1985)

The activities of Kalat State National Party were not acceptable to Government therefor Muslim league was formed in Balochistan by Government. (Awan, A.B 1985)

A delegation from Balochistan participated in the Annual session of All India Muslim league in Lahore in March 1940. Where „“ Pakistan Resolution was passed on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. (KosarInamulhaq, 1998)

President of Muslim League Balochistan Qazi Muhammad Esa also spoke in favour of Resolution. Quaid-e-Azam also visited Balochistan in 1943 and 1945 along with his sister Fatime Jinnah and collected Donations from Khan of Kalat and people of Balochistan. (Qasarani, 1994)

British cabinet Mission came to India in March 1946. The case of Kalat State was presented to Viceroy and members of Cabinet Mission in the form of Memorandum by Quaid-e-Azam. In this Memorandum the historical and constitutional position was explained.

1. The Kalat state is an independent sovereign Government. Whose relations with the British government are governed by the Treaty of 1876?
2. Kalat is not part of India.
3. If the British Sovereignty ends, the Kalat will revert to its status as an Independent state. (Bugti,1994)
4. On the 9<sup>th</sup> January 1946, a delegation headed by Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali, presented on application the delegation of British Parliament in which they demanded provincial Autonomy for Balochistan. (Kausar,1998)

The members of Municipal Committee and Shah; Jirga unanimously elected Nawab Muhammad Khan Jomezai as member of constitutional Assembly on special seat of Balochistan in election held in 1946 and he defeated Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai nominated by congress.(Kausar,1998)

In 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1947 the British government announced the partition of India into two independent sovereign States, India and Pakistan. The Muslim dream of a sovereign State was fulfilled. (Qasarani, 1994)

The ruler of other states of sub-continent had been given rights to merge with Pakistan or India according to the choice of their nation and Geographical position.(Qasarani, 1994)

The idea of accession of Balochistan to Pakistan was strongly opposed by Kalat State National Party. This political party worked for an independent state throughout its existence. Khan wanted the approval of Assembly for a decision making. A meeting of parliament was called on December 13<sup>th</sup> 1947. The proposal was rejected by Kalat State National Party. The plane of merger was rejected by upper house on 4<sup>th</sup> January. After the Khan's on lateral declaration of unconditional accession to Pakistan, the Kalat State National Party reaction was one of the bitter opposition and deep shock. Soon after the merger the party leaders were arrested and banned form the Government. After ban on party its leaders have joined other political grout but their stand remained unchanged. (Baloch, 1984)

In short Kalat was declared on independent state on 12 August 1947 and became part of Pakistan on 27 March 1948.

### **Conclusion**

Balochistan has been known as a Historical place for its vast area, Geographical position and two famous ways Bolan and Mulla. Geographically it is a part of central Asia and politically its attachment is with south Asia. This dual attachment gives her great merchants. Travellers and conqueror like Muhammad bin Qasim, Alexander the great, Changaiz khan, Arabs and British came to Balochistan. In the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century when Russia moved central Asia occupy Asian Muslim countries. The British were ruling over sub-continent. They left it dangerous for themselves and decided to occupy Balochistan and Afghanistan in order to stop the Russian not to move towards India. Therefore they attacked to Balochistan in 1839, and killed the ruler of Balochistan, Khan Mehrab Khan and occupied the

Baloch home land. The Baloch people were not very educated and were not having the political awareness to deal with the super power of that era. They fought various battles to take the control of Balochistan Back but all in vein. They could not achieve their Goals. Finally a time came when political personalities could be seen in Baloch people, like Misri Khan and other Baloch participated in „Baku“ conference, established Young Baloch in 1920, by Baloch Youth. That was the time when political way of thinking based in Baloch society. Further the formation of Anjuman-e-Ithad Balochan and publication of pamphlets, newspapers and Articles gave hope to Baloch people that they will not be exploited

socially, economically anymore and they will get their rights back, like their protest became successful against the Prime Minister of Kalat and they got rid of Shams Shah. The All India Baloch and Balochistan conference gave an international recognition to Baloch nation. The Balochistan issue became a topic for international discussions. People came to know the importance of political reforms in the region. Therefore Kalat State National Party soon after establishment got a huge public support for favour their programmes. Even though the tribal chiefs were not in favour of political parties and political awareness in Balochistan that was the reason they demanded to ban Kalat State National Party. And Government fulfilled their Demand; an order was released to ban Kalat State National Party. Although party leaders could not achieve their entire goals such as basic rights, education reforms, political reforms, employment for local people and others but they became successful in spreading political awareness in the people of Balochistan, they got a way to think, they learned how to think and how to manage and start a movement to get their rights. Today we know Baloch politicians have a great fame nationally and internationally and they are playing a vital role in politics.

## References

- Awan A.B, Balochistan, Historical and Political processes, New century publishers,London,1985, pg 165
- Abdul Qudoos, Syed, The Tribble Balochistan, Feroz sons pvt limited, Lahore,1990, pg 89,90
- Baloch, Inayatullah, The Problems of Greater Balochistan, 1987, pg , 148, 150, 158
- Baloch, inayatullah, Mir Muhammad Yousaf Ali Khan Aziz Magsi, Azad Balochistan, 1984, pg 19
- Bezinjo, Tahir, Balochistan KyaHuaKyaHoga, Pakistan Adab,Karachi, 1989, pg 121
- Breseege, Taj Mohammad, Baloch Nationalism, Its Origin and Development, Royal Book Company, Karachi, 2004, pg 166
- Bugti Aziz, Tareekh e Balochistan, spinzer printers, Quetta, 1994 pg 47,87
- Dehwar, Muhammed Saeed, Malik, Tareekh a Balochistan, Balochi academy,Quetta,2007, pg 266, 270
- G. Bondarvski, Bolshevik Policy and The People of East, 1977, pg 34
- Harikishan Sarbajeet Singh, The Marxist, Volume 12 no. 3, CPI, New Dehli India, pg 12
- Kausar Inamul Haq, Tehreek e Pakistan Mai Balochistan kaHissa, pg 38
- Khan, Ahmed Yar, Mir, Inside Balochistan, Royal Book Company, Karachi, 1975, pg 126
- JalibHabib, Baloch, Balochistan state hood and Nationalism, Quetta, 2006, pg 202
- Magsi, MureedHussain, Ruidad, All India Baloch and Balochistan Conference, 1933, pg 2,3

- Mari, Shah Muhammad, Baloch kaumqadeemahed se asr e  
 hazirtak, Takhlekat Lahore, pg 286,290, 269,268,271
- Mari, KhudaBux, Justice, Balochistan Tareekh Kay Aenay Mai, Nisa Traders,  
 Quetta, 1980, pg 396
- Muhammad Jan, Essays on Baloch National struggle in Pakistan, Gosha e  
 Adab, Quetta, 1988, 169
- Sardar Khan, Muhammad, History of Baloch Race and Balochistan, Gosha e  
 Adab, Quetta, 1977, pg 26
- Naseer, Gul Khan, Balochistan Qadeemaur Jadeed Tareekh Ki  
 Roshni Mai, Nisa Traders, Quetta, 1982, pg 139
- Shah, Mehmood Ali, Dr, Sardari Jirgah and Local Government System in  
 Balochistan, Qasim printers, Quetta, 1992, pg 18
- Qaisrani, Shaheen, Balochistan Tareekh o Mazhab, Idara a tadrees, Quetta,  
 1994, pg 142
- Zamindar Daily, 22 October, 1932