

THE BEGINNING OF POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN BALOCHISTAN

Sajida Abbas

M.Phil Scholar

Dr. Surryia Bano

Research Supervisor
Assistant Professor Pakistan Studies

Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed Shahwani

Ex-Dean, Faculty of Languages,
University of Balochistan, Quetta

Abstract:

This research Article deals with the national movement in Balochistan and its background and its impacts. The basic purpose or the objects of this study is to high light different events occurred in Balochistan, Political vicissitudes, History of Balochistan from beginning till British occupation and then the movements started after occupations. Moreover, the impacts of other freedom movements which compelled Britians to leave subcontinent. All These points have been incorporated chronologically in this research thesis.

Many freedom movements were there in Balochistan during British occupation. An effort has been made in this thesis not only to make educated brains aware of such movements but to give awareness to common people and foreigners as well.

This article is written about Balochistan, the national movements, history of Balochistan and the impacts of national movements on it. The basic purpose of this research is to high light the important events, political vicissitudes, the history of Balochistan from the beginning to the British occupation on this region. It also deals with the movements which started in this region. These national movements compelled Britishers to leave subcontinent. The objects of this study are to make aware the bright brains, the common masses and foreigners of the facts regarding history of Balochistan and various national and political movements.

In Balochistan the mode of government was mostly based on ancient tribal system, Sardars and Khans of Kalat who had feudalistic thoughts. There was no strong government. All this had paved the way for international, Political movements.

These movements penetrated into the social system of Balochistan. Whether it was Iranian Baloch, Afghanistanian Baloch or the natives of Balochistan, which was their own homeland and where they themselves were the rulers, all suffered equally because of the tribal calumnies, court intrigues and such other problems. In order to strengthened the feudalism the Sardars (Chiefs) depended upon the above mentioned issues.

The intellectuals of Balochistan realized these issues sensitively they noticed that Balochistan was suffering because of political, Social and economic inequalities. More over the violation of human rights had distorted its picture. so they decided to support such political and social movements which were active outside Balochistan or with in Balochistan, start movements having sustainable political effect.

In the light of such thoughts some political movements were started. Their detail is as under.

In Russia, a movement was going on against zesar rule. Its back ground was political, social and economic inequality. There was inequality between the industrialists and working class. It created a wide gap between two parties. All these factors resulted in the form of a movement. The slogans of socialism were very attractive and heart catching. They created a tumult among the masses of Eastern Europe and Asian countries. These political movements affected their thoughts a lot.

Balochistan was not legging behind. Here too, the masses gradually became the part of such political movements which were against feudalism. An unsuccessful revolution of Russia occurred in 1905 effected the, eastern nations very badly. In 1907 the peasants mutinies of eastern Punjab effected the northern areas of Balochistan.

People of these areas were angry and aggressive because of the support of Khan – e – Kalat and other chiefs to Britishers. They suppressed their aggression but because of such political movements they expressed their views openly.

THE BALOCH MUTINIES

These political movements became powerful even in Iranian Balochistan. There, the Balochs very quickly strengthened their political vision. In 1907 the Iranian Balochs under the leadership of Mir Behram Khan Baranzai rebelled against Iranian government. They defeated the Iranian garrisons at Bampur and Kharij, dispersed Iranian army and ruled for some years. After some time Iranian army defeated Behram Khan and possessed again the occupied Bampur. Bahram Khan along with his faithfuls absconded in mountainous area.

The two big mutinies under the leadership of Hussain Khan Naroei and Behram Khan Barozai were against the extorted government of Qachar. These leaders were feudalists and the purpose of mutiny was to be the part of government. The Baloch peasants and nomads favoured them because in their point of view, these feudalists were far better than Qachars cruel people. May a time it happened that these oppressors took away the women of poor peasants because they could not pay revenue. Once they (Qachars) took away three hundred girls and sold them to Turkmans. **1 (Shah Mohammad Mri. 2000. P.245)**

In the beginning of 1st World War, 1914 another movement started from Jhalawan and a war was declared against Britishers. Noor ud Din Mengal, born in 1889 and got his early education from his area. He completed his education from Ali Garh. During this movement which was against imperialistic government, many a times he went to Iran through dangerous routes to get arms. He, and his companions camped in Salman Tank in order to attack at Britishers posts. After defeating them Noor ud Din went to Sindh to attack at more posts of English army. The Britishers second time attacked at Jhalawan and in it Guhram Khan along with his forty companions was killed (became martyrs). In this war two British colonels, one Lieutenant and 70 soldiers were killed. **2 (Ibid. P.246)**

But Noor ud Din did not withdraw from the war. He went to Kharan in order to get more arms. Mir Habib Ullah Khan, the ruler of Kharan made him arrest and handed over to Britishers. This traitor (Mir Habib Ullah Khan) was given the title of 'Nawab' by Britishers. Noor ud Din, after his arrest was imprisoned in Karachi. Afterwards he was allowed to go back to Balochistan.

Due to the 1st world war (1914 - 1918) the crisis, particularly the crisis of capitalism became more acute. This made the people of Hindustan

politically aware and freedom movement, strong. In 1917 Lenin brought socialist revolution in Russia.

Aman Ullah Khan was imprisoned in Afghanistan. He, there prepared Afghans to fight against Britishers for freedom. Turkey too, declared Jihad (war) against Britishers. In this way these political movements spread all around and people from the borders of Sindh to every nook and corner of Balochistan accepted their effects. Balochs also were engaged in mutiny on smaller scale.

In 1818 in Sibi Darbar, Lord Ramzey asked for youth from Sardars to recruit in army. The sardars agreed but in Kahan Sardar Khair Bakhsh Mari who was the chief of that area refused to do so.

BALOCHS AND BALSHAWIK REVOLUTION

In order to strengthen the Balshawik revolution in 1917, the communist leaders had to face severe problems and difficulties.

In these circumstances a Baloch leader, Sardar Karim Khan Baloch helped a lot the red army. The purpose of this help was to strengthen the communist rule and social reforms in central Asia. **3 (Ibid. P.266)**

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AND BALOCHISTAN

In 1920 a conference of eastern nations was held at a Russian state, Azarbijan. In it altogether 1891 participants from Turkey, Pershia, Egypt, India, Afghanistan, Balochistan, Kashghar, China, Japan, Korea, Arab, Syria, Palestine and Soviet central Asia participated.

Soviet Leader Lenin supported and had sympathies with the Baloch freedom movements. He ordered his ambassador, deputed at Kabul that the freedom movements of Hindustan and Balochistan against British imperialism must be helped. These instructions of Lenin were passed to ambassador through a letter who was deputed in 1919 at Kabul. There was a difference between the freedom movements of Hindustan and of Balochistan.

There were industries in Hindustan in which the labour was on wages. In these industries, there were legal organizations of labourers. They were politically very mature. As the people (Muslims) of Hindustan had been struggling since long to achieve freedom from Britishers, the soviet support enhanced their struggle. But in hindu society there was class difference inequality and such other social unjust.

More over the relationship between industrialist and worker was not cordial. Therefore the moral and practical support of soviet Union not only encouraged the freedom movements of Hindustan but the labour revolution which was to bring prosperity to working class enhanced their struggle too. The problems of Balochistan were entirely different. There were neither industries nor any workers welfare organization here. Without industries the concept of working class was nil. Moreover in Balochistan the feudalism was very strong but no organization of peasants existed. The political circumstances were under the control of very strong tribal and feudal system. Majority of peasants were non Baloch who were commonly called 'Jaat or Jadgaal'.

In a feud which occurred between Khan Abdullah Khan and Kalhor tribe, Khan Abdullah Khan was Killed. After wards reconciliation was done by Ahmad Shah Abdali between two parties. In this reconciliation the leaders of Kalhores were pardoned and their lives were guaranteed, but the agricultural lands in Kachi and Naseerabad were taken from them and after wards were distributed among those tribes who supported Khan Abdullah Khan in the feud. Therefore the feudalists, Sardars and peasants remained suppressed particularly while their own lands were snatched from them and given to Sardars. For centuries, the peasants had been leading a miserable life. In such conditions the existence of any organization was out of question even they could not be the part of any movement. This inequality was the very reason that Balshwakrevolution could not be successful. So the political movement was only in the hands of those educated Balochs who had studied in various educational institutes of Hindustan.

Following were the objectives of Baku Conference.

- To acknowledge the right of self-determination to all nations and to make an appeal for an international revolution. On the basis of points approved in conference an appeal to eastern nations, to start declare war for liberation of east to stop exploitation there. More over to set a system based on equality, without any decimation of language, color race and any religious sect.
- In Baku conference a duty was assigned to a group to translate communist literature in to Persian, Urdu, Morocco, Arminian, Georgian, Pashto and Balochi Languages.

- In Baku conference the leader and representative from Balochistan was Mir Misree Khan Kehtran. Many decisions were done by different countries and Balochistan was presented as a country.
- The communist thoughts had spread in Balochistan. The effects of Russian Balshawak revolution spread in eastern Europe and central Asian countries too the literature related to balshawak spread in families associated with politics in Asian countries.

It is very unfortunate that before and after partition in Pakistan no pro socialist leader of worker could be produced. There was no one in Pakistan who could run socialist party successfully Pakistan did not exhibit any remarkable role since its existence to the breakage of Russia. Some members of communist party afterwards joined Muslim league, people's party or some other nationalist parties and introduced themselves as bourgeois or petit bourgeois communists.

The foundation of communist movement was laid in Hindustan after Baku conference. In Hindu society the non-cooperation between capitalists and workers, in equality sectorial, discrimination and other social injustices strengthened the communist movement in Hindustan. In 1920 it came on screen as a political organization and till date the communists are ruling over western Bengal. On the other hand though the process of political awareness was slow but was alive.

Being the neighbour of Hindustan the effects of Hindustan's political movements were quite vivid on Balochistan and on its suppressed people. This was the very reason that the educated Balochs were quite aware of the politics. The effects of Balshawak revolution and Hindustans political movements kept Balochs politically very active. In such circumstances a Baloch intellect and freedom loving leader, Mir Abdul Aziz Kurd became in. He founded a political organization bearing the name 'Anjum-e-Ethehad Balochistan'. Its main objective was to protect the jobs of local people. Its initial name was 'Young Baloch'. When this organization was formed in Balochistan, in Hindustan national congress had been formulated. This underground organization of Mir Abdul Aziz Kurd was working actively. In 1929 Mir Yousaf Aziz Magsi openly declared that he would defend Balochs interests, work for freedom and would be active in establishing an independent state for Balochs. Yousaf Aziz Magsi made an article publish in a magazine of Lahore under the title Faryad-e-Balochistan. After the publication of this article, the political movements in Balochistan got

strength. His endeavours were not liked by the government, so he was arrested and sent to Jail in 1930.

Mastung has got a special importance in History. Mastung is situated at the border of British Balochistan and state of Balochistan in Kalat. During British rule almost all pacts between Balochistan and Britishers were signed here (Mastung). Before and after partition this city played a very remarkable role. It was a central place. Whenever the Pakistani leaders came here they stayed in Mastung. Many pacts were signed here in past.

The case of Yousaf Aziz Magsi was presented before the chiefs of Kalat in 1930. In Jirga, he was accused. The charges against him were set that he spread congress thoughts among people. One year imprisonment, thirteen thousand fine was his punishment. He was confined under his maternal uncle's watch in Zehri ghost. Moreover ten thousand rupees had to deposit as security, assuring that his character was unblemished.

When Yousaf Aziz Magsi was in Jail in Mastung, the representatives of 'Anjuman-e-Ethad Balochistan' used to visit him and discussed the aims and objectives of the movement. After one year he was released and was welcomed warmly by the workers of Anjuman. In Balochistan as well as in Kalat state the formation of a political party was openly declared. **4 (Yousafzai. N.D. P. 28)**

Mir Yousaf Aziz Magsi was appointed as president while Abdul Aziz Kurd was the general secretary. In those days Khan of Kalat Mehmood Khan was ill. His younger brother, Mir Azam Khan was the worst enemy of Prime Minister Sir Shams Shah. He was trying hard to be the chief (Khan) Mir Azam Khan contacted the party through Mir Faiz M. Shahwani and asked for support. He promised that after gaining power he would cooperate with the party. The party declared Khan Azam Khan the chief. The Britishers and Sir Shams Shah were desirous to transfer power to Mir Anwar Khan who was the eldest son of Mehmood Khan. After Mehmood's death a tension created between Prime Minister and the party and the party made a pamphlet published bearing the title, 'Shams Gardi' and announced agitation against the cruelty of Shams Shah.

The party was blamed that it wanted to make greater Balochistan, had its links with Afghanistan and was involved in intrigues. Moreover it wanted to topple Shams Shah's government and was active to get rights. This declaration of party became famous as Magsi's agitation. **5 (Ibid. P.29)**

The state government and Britishers sent Nawab Yousaf Aziz Magsi very trickily to London. Their objective was that in his absence his party would break or disperse but Yousaf Aziz came back after almost eight or nine months. It was early 1935 and Mir Ahmad Yar Khan had been appointed as chief of Kalat after the death of his father Khan Azam Jan. Mir Ahmad Yar Khan had good relations with Mir Aziz Kurd and Yousaf Aziz Magsi. It is very unfortunate that Yousaf Aziz could not live longer and died on 31st May 1935 in earthquake occurred in Quetta. He started his political career at an early age and served remarkably Balochs and Balochistan. After his death his party could not survive longer.

In October 1932, in Mastung an educational club was formed and its active members were Abdul Rahim Khawjakhail, Mir M. Azam Shahwani and Mir Bakhtiyar Khan M. Shehi.

On 5th Feb. 1937, a youth convention was held in Sibi. In this convention an announcement was made for the establishment of a political party named 'National Party'. It was founded in Kalat. Mir Abdul Aziz Kurd was president while Malak Faiz M. Yousafzai general Secretary and Mir Gul Khan Naseer was selected as vice president. Moreover a working committee comprising twelve members was formed.

The Main Points of party's agenda were

- To establish a responsible government.
- To bring reforms in Jirga System
- To Take back the borrowed and no borrowed areas and make them the part of Kalat.
- To develop the country educationally, economically and socially.

CONCLUSION:

Balochistan had been an independent status on world's map from 1466 – 1948. During this period it faced many ups and downs. Many governments of Khawaneen –e – Kalat had been there which were tribal in nature. There were many court intrigues and domestic strifes which kept the Governments disturbed.

The great General, Commander and King of Balochistan, Mir Naseer Khan Noori established army institutions in Balochistan. He organized the tribes socially and politically. He laid the foundation of a regular army comprising different nation of Balochistan. Mir Naseer Khan Noori himself

was the Commander of this army which always used to be under the Khan some tribes had unpleasant relations among them, Mir Naseer Khan played a vital role in reconciliation and because of his sincere efforts all tribes became united. Social and Political reforms were done. After wards many governments engaged in domestic strifes and conflicts and they did not pay attention to organize the legal army on modern grounds. Later governments had nothing but repentance. There were 13000 – 15000 persons in the army of Balochistan. Having such a strong and large army it was understood that nobody would dare to show even bad intentions towards Balochistan. But the situation was otherwise. When Britishers attacked at Kalat in 1839, Mir Mehrab Khan was the ruler of Kalat. He accepted martyrdom along with only eight companions. Now the question arises that where was that huge army which was formed by Naseer Khan. The answer is that there were such people in the court of Mehrab Khan who were always busy in court intrigues and always tried to create chasm between Khan and his subjects.

Khan Khudai Dad Khan ruled for twenty years. During his long reign there were domestic strifes at the time. To end these strifes Sandeman, a very wicked man and many some others like him interfered. The government of Khan Khudai Dad was established in 19th century. For Europe, it was a time of social, political and scientific development. But in Balochistan there was no established institution. There was neither any College or University nor any remarkable hospital. Even there was no regular army here that could protect the political and geographical boundaries of Balochistan. There were no such educational institutes where modern and technological education could be provided.

Afterwards during the reign of Mir Ahmad Yar (1933 - 1958) some reforms were done. These were social and political reforms. He laid the foundation of House of Lords and House of Commons to run the Government. Laws were made in these institutions to run the Government affairs.

It must be noted that during the Government of Mir Ahmad Yar Khan in 20th century. There was no remarkable development during his reign. There was neither any army and foreign minister nor any army pact occurred with any Country.

Freedom movements had started in Hindustan. There people had turned against Victorian reign. Mir Ahmad Yar Khan was having his own considerations. Therefore he failed badly in retaining his independent status.

He hired the services of M. Ali Jinnah and appointed him his legal advisor to save his state. Muhammad Ali Jinnah himself was the part of that movement which was struggling for an independent state, rather he was leading this freedom movement. Two leaders of Hindustan's freedom movement analyzed the political situation of Balochistan and kept themselves aloof from freedom movements of Balochistan.

REFERENCES:

- 1) Shah M. Mari, Baloch QoamEhad-e-Qadeem se Asar-e-Hazirtk, Page # 245
- 2) Shah M. Mari, Baloch QoamEhad-e-Qadeem se Asar-e-Hazirtk, Page # 246
- 3) Shah M. Mari, Baloch QoamEhad-e-Qadeem se Asar-e-Hazirtk, Page # 266
- 4) MalakFaiz M. Yousafzai, Yadaashten, Page # 28
- 5) Yousafzai, Malik Faiz Mohammad., Yadaashten, Page # 29