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An Analytical Study of British Interests in British Balochistan

Muhammad Asif ¹⁶¹²

Dr. Asghar-Iqbal **Abstract:**

The histories of Balochistan are rich in several trustworthy view points, but all in cannot be explore in a single task. Here the British rule in Balochistan is focused in a sense of political awakening in the region. Moreover, this paper has additionally discussed the questionable diffusion of

¹² M.Phil. Scholar and lecturer, Department of History, University of Baluchistan, Quetta. ¹⁶ Assistant

Professor, Department of Kashmiriat, University of Punjab, Lahore.

Balochistan into Pakistan. The study also concentrates on some dynamic issues such as; British arrangements and methodologies towards Balochistan for the accomplishment of their geo strategic and Political goals and the Khanate reactions to these difficulties. Similarly, the part of various political associations and identities making a domain of national, political, and social, arousing and educated popular conclusion is also a key concentration. The aim of this work is to enrich the value of multiple developments during the British rule in Balochistan. For this research, the method of researcher is analytical and takes interests in qualitative data, which have base on research base reports and authentic literature.

Key words: *British Rule. Baluchistan. Pakistan. Political Associations.*

Introduction:

This paper shines lights over British rule in Baluchistan in trustworthy perspective. Numerous political advancements are highlighted that introduced a period of political arousing in Balochistan. The paper has additionally talked about the questionable proliferation of Balochistan; as a province of Pakistan (Awan.1985). This study also concentrates on the dynamic issues in the region. This paper will deal with the following prospects.

- The arrangements made by British for manifestation of their strategic goals and the reaction of inhabitants of Balochistan.
- The interests of different political groups and the awakening of political consciousness in Balochistan.
 - The political position of Balochistan under British and the merger of Kalat States into Pakistan. **1.**

Political history of Balochistan in the reign of British rule

a. The Demography of Balochistan.

Principally the British administration of Balochistan was known as the Khanate of Kalat, which comprised of the state of *Lasbela, Kharan, Makran* and *Kalat*. Moreover, the British based Balochistan comprised over all those regions, which were surrendered by Afghan government to British under „Treaty of *Gandamak*“ in 1880 (Luni.1994).

b. Establishment of the Confederacy of Khanate at Kalat

The records of the political History of Balochistan revealed that, the Khanate of Kalat was founded by the tribal chief of Brahui tribe Mir Chakar Khan in mid of seventeenth century (1666). However the Khanate under Ahmad Khan in eighteenth century saw the unification of Baloch tribes under the Kalat tribal confederacy. The political attachments produced sentiment of patriotism amongst the tribal Balochs (Malik.1988). The fourth Khan of Kalat; Abdullah Khan (1714-1734), extended his authority from Kandahar (South-Eastern Afghanistan) upto the Mekran zone and Bandar Abbas (Southern- Eastern Iran) and grasp his rule to D.G. Khan Region. Naseer Khan Noori's role (1749-1795) is restrained as „the golden period of Khanate of Kalat“. The establishment of standing Army and financial management of Naseer Khan were of most imperative in the history of Balochistan. However due to his efficient administration he once again consolidated whole of the Baloch area under his rule. He established the chain of cooperation among the tribes by recruiting tribesman from all tribes in the standing army of Khanate of Kalat. His administrative division of the Khanate strengthens the Sardari system and engaged the Sardars in the affairs of the Khanate (Khan.1975).

c. The reign of Chaos and Anarchy in Khanate:

The passing of Naseer Khan set in a time of emergency. It was supposed that there were distinctive causes that created disorder and political agitation in the Khan of Kalat. The khans upheld medieval framework. The Tribal

Chiefs were unyielding to supplant it with distributed association. Lavish way of life had been referred to as another reason for the disorder (Nasir.1954).

d. British interference under Mahrab Khan

The introduction of Shah Shula's to the thrown of Afghanistan was prerequisite of the British policy for safe rule in India. Mahrab Khan (1817-1839) consented to give and encourage safe section and to buy prerequisites for the English army on their turn to Afghanistan through Baluchistan during Anglo-Afghan Wars (1939-1942)". After extraction from Kandahar, the British Army attacked Kalat. The Mahrab Khan was scolded and was murdered for not permitting the bargain signed with the British (Caroe.1976). Shah Nawaz, a fourteen year old removed relative of the Khan, was selected by British, as Khan of Kalat, to secure their interests in Balochistan. Kechi and Mustung were included into the Afghanistan and some parts of Balochistan were amalgamated into Sindh. This division was also intended to meet the interests of British in Balochistan (Mandokhail. 1989).

e. Establishment of British-Khanate Relationship

The British diplomacy in western India required Balochistan a buffer zone with inclination toward British, to safeguard their frontier with Persia. This required a competent but trusty personality of British. For this purpose they injected Naseer Khan as the new Khan. "The Khan, thus, submitted to the English organization. The settlement of 1841 was inked between the two gatherings under it. Kalat was viewed as a vassal condition of Afghanistan and English troops could be positioned in any piece of Kalat" (Awan.1985). This was a forward way of British diplomacy to assign the authority rights to Afghan King, which provided security in Afghanistan against the Russian interference. However, the bargain of 1854 provided a free status for the Khanate of Kalat (Qadoos.1990).

f. British Shut Outskirt Methodology

British were extra ordinary in their managements, as they always came with new and verity of administrative ideas. For the purpose of the control over the people of Northern and Western India the British came with two schools of thoughts. The shut outskirts system school was one of these, which pronounced that British interests could be guarded by establishing and promoting friendly picture of British in northwestern areas of India. The plans of the outside residents could be upset by setting up framework and exchange of these areas administratively. They supported the development of neighborly north-western states so that they would rely on the British protection. They strengthened their control over these states by assuring that the safety and sovereignty is dependent over British. The British adopted this policy from 1854 till 1872. **g. British Sent Outskirt Strategy**

The conservationists in England rejected the peripheral strategy as they wanted direct control over NorthWestern parts of India, if not possible then control of these areas by the representative of the British. Real Roberts Sandman was assigned to inject indirect impact over the political administration in Balochistan. Sandman started to implement the Sent Outskirt Strategy, by connecting with tribal chiefs and assigning them authorities. This direct connection and bargain with tribal chiefs allow the British to detour the authority of the Khan of Kalat. As a result of Sandamanization policy, Quetta came under the direct control of British after the Second Anglo-Afghan war. Similarly direct bargain with tribal chiefs granted the British areas of Quetta, Chaghi, Bolan, as well as regions of Bughti and Murri Tribes (Axmann.2008). The regions of Pishin, Chaman and Sibi were surrendered to British, under the treaty of Gandamak by Afghan Government. The main tools of the British control were the privileged Sardars, through which they were able to exploit Balochistan for their interests.

2. Political Awakening in Balochistan

The British interference in Balochistan undermined the political authority in Balochistan which was brought into vestiges through Sandamanization of Balochistan. However, the international political changes in the form of World War First, disintegration of *Khilafat-e-Umania* and the Idea of Self-determination followed by the Russian revolution inspired the political consciousness in Balochistan. This time their political awakening argued them to modernize political structure to protect the political status and rights of Balochistan. Some of the main development in the field of politics that took place is being discussed here.

- Firstly, „Young Baloch“ was a group of workers of the Kalat governments; under the leadership of Mir Aziz Kurd, which was established in 1920. The Young Baloch led for the future political developments. In 1927, Abdul Aziz and Nasir Alwi worked for the establishment of newspaper from Dehli with the name of Balochistan for propagation of the political concern among the people of Balochistan.
- Secondly, Yousaf Ali Khan established „*Anjuman-e-Ithihad-e-Baluchan wa Baluchistan*‘, on the remains of Young Baloch. Anjuman was also backed by Khan of Kalat, which struggled for the formulation of a platform to struggle for the autonomy of Khanate of Kalat. They struggled for the abolishment of Sardari System in Balochistan, but due to the lack of Khan support they could not succeed to meet their goals of autonomous Kalat.
- Thirdly, on 27th of December in 1932 at Jacobabad and on December 1933 at Hyderabad; two grand political conferences were held to generate support for the idea of autonomous Balochistan. These conferences are of great importance as for the first time it brought Baloch and Pashtun politicians on a single page. These conferences also agreed both Pashtun and Baloch leadership for joint action for the autonomy and rights of Balochistan (Ahmad.1975). The British were very quick in response and they arrested the political leadership of Anjuman, to subdue their activities in Balochistan.
- Finally, the decay of Anjuman resulted in the formulation of All India Baloch and Balochistan Social associations at Baloch side. Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai, on the Pashtun side founded his own political party with the name of „Anjuman-e-Watan Party“ in 1938. on the question of Indian legislation Anjuman-e-Watan showed inclination for Indian National Congress (Luni.1994). Anjuman-e-Watan was demanding on rational basis, which not only marked deviation in the political struggle of Pashtun and Baloch but marked the political struggle between them.

3. All India Muslim Alliance surfaced on the changed political scene of Balochistan

The political developments of 1920s surpassed the old tribal political structure of Khanate as; modernized political groups were struggling for the political rights of Balochistan. A Pashtun Legal Counselor, Qazi Muhammad Essa of Pishin, established a political framework of the alliance in a Mosque. Qazi Essa joined Quaid-i-Azam at Bombay in 1938, to negotiate and bargain for the political rights of Pashtuns of Balochistan. The efforts of Qazi Muhammad Essa resulted in the inclusion of political reforms for Balochistan in Delhi recommendations of 1927, which were also highlighted in the famous Fourteen Points of Quaid-i-Azam in 1929 (Affairs.1977). Thus the efforts of Qazi Essa brought Pashtuns of Balochistan into central politics in 1939, with establishment of Balochistan wing of Muslim League at Quetta. Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah also paid visit to Baluchistan in June 1943, who was warmly welcomed by the people as well by political leadership of Balochistan including Khan of Kalat.

Quaid-i-Azam again visited Balochistan to get support for the creation of Balochistan. He remain successful be accomplishing greater support for the creation of Muslim state. Nawab Mohammad Khan Jomezai and Meer Jafar Khan Jamali assured Quaid-i-Azam for unconditional support (Baloch.1965). However, on the question of joining Pakistan, the Khanate of Kalat were required the decision of Khan of Kalat but the Pashtuns of Balochistan showed their willingness as the Pashtun representatives Mohammad Khan Jomezai and Abdul

Samad Khan Achekzai accepted to join Pakistan; which they perceive in the provision of Pashtuns of Balochistan (Awan.1985).

4. Status of Khan and Khanate under British

The Khanate of Kalat was given dominant status by British under Mehrab Khan Mehrab Khan in 1839. The Khan equally enjoyed the control over Kalat in regard of the security of British interests in Kalat. Furthermore, notice was identified with the arrival of the rented territories (Quetta, Nasir Abad, and Nushki). "It was completely clear that the Khan and the Baloch Patriots needed to get Kalat as a free substance announced by the English before their flight. The Khan may have anticipated the expanding enthusiasm of the new-conceived conditions of India and Pakistan about the Geo-strategic and geo-monetary significance of the Baluchistan" (Ahmad.1992). Article 3 of the arrangement of 1854, provided the status of autonomous state for Khanate and ruling rights for the Khan but Khan was also required for cooperation to British. Thus the authority of Khan and the autonomy of Khanate were dependent upon the fulfilment of the assignment for the security and interests of British. The ignorance of the interests of British could cast the autonomy of Khanate and the authority of Khan (Bruce.2002).

The government of Pakistan viewed itself as the political, legitimate and protected authority after the withdrawal of British from India. As earlier mentioned that the Pashtuns of Balochistan warmly welcomed the Muslim League and supported the idea of Pakistan. The northern parts of Balochistan which are inhabited by Pashtuns were under the direct control of British from 1893. The political and tribal leadership of British Balochistan accepted unconditional merger with the newly state of Pakistan. The states of Kalat were asked for the question of joining but at the time being they accepted joint policy on foreign front, currency and defense with Pakistan (Khan.1975). Pakistani administration being aware of the geostrategic importance of Balochistan appeared to be aspiring to make it a piece of Pakistan.

5. Political Advancements Prompting to Merger to Pakistan

Shahi Jirga was the authoritative political body of the British Balochistan. On the other hand Khan wanted British Balochistan to be returned to Kalat, as it was asserted that these areas were rented to British not to Pakistan. The British were supporter of democracy that is why they asked the representatives of British Balochistan. In June 1947, the members of "Shahi Jirga" officially gave its decision for joining Pakistan. The authenticity of the decision has included talk between Pakistani creators and Nationalists leader. But it was rejected by some Baloch Nationalist as they fought that a plan was brooded between the British and the leaguers against the Baloch Nation. They asserted that space of the Shahi Jirga did not stretch out to genuine parts of the Khanate (Bukhari.1987).

The Government of India Act of 1935 opened a new window for limited and controlled political activities. This act had treated Kalat State as an Indian state by providing representation for it in the federal legislation. The Khan submitted a protest to the government of India against what he considered to be violation of the treaty of 1876 (Baloch: 2000, 170). In 1945, When Labor Party win the election in Britain, they decided to send cabinet mission for the transfer of power in India. Kalat state memorandum was forwarded through viceroy of India by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In which the Khan demanded the "British to review promises of status of the Kalat. In 1946, I.I Chundrigar wrote a memorandum in which he clearly declared that Kalat is not an Indian state so we and the British should declare the independence of Kalat (Janmahmad: 1982, 179). In the same year Mir Ahmad Yar Khan and Tribal chiefs of *Marri*, *Bugti*, *Mazari* and *Leghari* tribes demanded the independence of unified Balochistan.", (Awan: 1985, 85).

The Khan had promulgated a constitution through what was called the Government of Kalat state act 1947. The Khan becomes the supreme and absolute ruler while appointing Muhammad Aslam Khan the Prime

Minister and Englishmen Mr. D. Pell the foreign minister. The written constitution “consisted of two chambers, *Dar-ul- Umara* (the house of tribal chiefs or upper house) and the *Dar-ul – Awam* (the House of Commons, or lower House)”, (Baloch: 2000, 59).

The written constitution paved the way for election which resulted in the victory of KSNP, “which managed to get 39 seats out of 51 seats in the House of Commons. It was believed that, the election was the great achievement of the democratic forces in Balochistan, who had insistently worked for the democracy and an independent greater Balochistan. To discuss the issue of leased area, which was under the control of outgoing British government, Khan of Kalat sent prime minister and foreign minister to Karachi” (Baloch: 2000, 69). Meeting did not bear fruit. Later, Khan visited Karachi on the invitation of M.A Jinnah to discuss the future relation of Khanate and Pakistan. Visit was solely confined to the matter of accession with Pakistan.

Khan put the proposal of accession in front of the Parliament. From 12th to 15th December 1947, the proposal was debated in the several session of *Dar-ul-Awam*. As the house was dominated by the staunch nationalist members, they positively responded the proposal and aimed for the independent and sovereign Kalat state. The prime minister explained of M. A. Jinnah about the hesitancy of parliament to the proposal of accession of Kalat into Pakistan. After returning back, M.A Jinnah again dispatched a letter to Khan for accession of Kalat. Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited *Sibi* on February 12, 1948; where a meeting took place between the heads of the both sates (Baloch: 2000, 185).

According to the 3rd June plan; the states like *Kalat* were required to seek accession to either Pakistan or India (Axman: 2009, 234). There were four states in Balochistan namely *Kalat*, *Kharan*, *Mekran* and *Lasbela* (Ahmad: 1992, 67). *Kharan*, and *Mekran* signed the “Instrument of Accession on 17th March 1948, while *Lasbela*, state signed it on 7th March 1948”, (Ahmad: 1992, 136). As the three Baloch state had already signed the Instrument of Accession to Pakistan, so there were no other options for the Khan of *Kalat*. On 27th march 1948 Khan signed the unconditional merger documents with Pakistan. Khan told that, he did so because the very existence of Pakistan was at danger (Ahmad: 1992, 182).

Conclusion

Mir Chaker founded the basis of Kalat tribal confederacy in mid seventeenth century, which was consolidated by latter Khans. The strategic location of Balochistan attacked British power in Balochistan to safeguard their interests against Persia and Russia in India. British dealt Balochistan as a buffer princely state, in which Khan was kept puppet in their hands. For the sustenance of their authority they exploited the rivalries of Baloch tribal chiefs against one another, which forced Khan to get British assistance. With conditional support the British were successful for their interference and safeguarding of interests in Balochistan.

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