AN ABSTRACT

Key Note Words: Paramountcy; Dissolution; Integration; Masterly inactivity; Federation; and Imperialism / Colonialism (Economic).

Historical Survey: What led to the establishment of political paramountcy of the British in India; the biggest upsurge against the British-upto then most serious challenge to the British Imperialism and Colonialism in India is given. During this upsurge the relation of the paramountcy and Princely States, particularly the states in East Punjab has been highlighted. Economic and political aspects of these relations are given.

Concept and implications of the paramountcy or discussed. Origin and evolution of the paramountcy and its relation with the Princely states during the period of the study have been examined-Paramountcy was a historical phenomenon that emerged from the Military and Political Supremacy and than economic interest of the British. Paramountcy was the outcome of the military supremacy and the outstanding feature of this relationship was also military supremacy-Paramountcy backed by the inaccessible forty ponder train. Non interference with the internal affairs of the states, proved to be only platitudinous and its violation rather than observance became the rule.

How did Paramountcy deal with the socio-economic, honour and foreign affairs of the Princes keeping in mind the British interest and intervention in these matters of the Indian States. Treaties and duties of Subordinate Co-operation was the main feature of the paramount power. Relations of the British with the Princely states were established in different walks of life, such as communication, transportation, road-building, trade in commerce etc. The theory of federation, its implementation, federal solution, process of unification, round table conferences, report of the Linlithgow committee, Chamber Session of 1937 and the federal proposal, Federation Scheme till 1938, Revised Draft of Instrument of a session, political department activities and the act, Hydari Committee Report; Prince's Aid-Memoir, Proposal for a white paper on Federation are the main characteristics of the issues of Federation, discussed and examined critically. These ultimately led to the process of integration with the Indian Union by bringing pressure upon them to reduce the administrative disparity existing among the states and the provinces.
Role of Princes during the second world war has been examined analytically—Genesis Co-operative Grouping; Eastern States Agency and Co-operative Grouping, Outbreak of the second world war; Appointment of Zorawar Committee and its recommendation; Co-operative Grouping in Central India and other regions, India and war, particularly the participation of the Princely states: Cripps offer, States and the Cripps proposals and finally the failure of Cripps proposals have been examined. Attachment scheme, Indian States in 1945, Chamber of Princes and Constitutional reforms etc., also form the important part of this study. No doubt the princes failed to comprehend the growing aspirations of their subjects. Dissolution of paramountcy—various factors that led to it and the integration of Indian States under the leadership of Sardar Patel into the Indian Union are other two major part of the present study. Finally the integration of the princely states thus acted as a synchronizing phenomenon and set up a state of balance between chaos and segmentation and solidarity of the newly born Indian Union.

British Paramountcy and the Chamber of Princes in connection with its relation with the Indian States constitute the conclusion/final findings of the present study.

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PARAMOUNTCY, PRINCES AND SARDAR PATEL
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