CHAPTER – TWO
CHAPTER TWO
POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE HARYANA REGION
DURING 1707-1857

This chapter presents, in a detailed manner, the political history of the Haryana region during 1707-1857, i.e., the period of our study. The detailed analysis has been carried out here in terms of following three sub-periods.

Period I : 1707 to 1761
Period II : 1761 to 1803
Period III : 1803 to 1857

Period I commences with the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 till the third battle of Panipat in 1761. Period II begins soon after the battle of Panipat till the taking over by the Britishers the Haryana in 1803. Period III gives an account of British administration their relationship with declining Mughal power in Haryana and the revolt of 1857.

INTRODUCTION

After the death of Aurangzeb in March 1707, at the age of 88, Mughal Empire faced very serious problems on all fronts. The war of succession among his three sons ensued that served to weaken the Mughal empire. There had been some fourteen Mughal emperors after Aurangzeb to Bahadur Shah Zafar (See chart), the last Mughal Emperor. Several of them served only titular head of the Mughal Empire. Most of them were indolent, dissolute and incompetent rulers incapable of evoking either respect or fear. They were always busy in their luxuries, opulence and intrigues and nothing to remedy the evils that had crept into the Mughal polity. The decline of Mughal Empire and its ultimate fall had repercussions on Haryana region as anywhere else in India. Then the persecution of Hindus and oppressive measures by the Mughal and later by the Britishers was another very common practice witnessed in the region during the period under review. The systematic and deliberate policy against Hindus during the later
Mughal period was much in evidence. British power that emerged during the period also continued their oppressive policies against Hindus and Muslims of this region. The faulty economic policies accompanied with frequent famines, prolonged wars and repressions led to great misery, impoverishment and bankruptcy of the people. This situation led to alienation of the people of this area against Mughals as well as British power during this period. All these repressive policies pursued by Mughals and later by the British with an urge to build up their own independent kingdom, the people of this area, and religious organizations took cudgel with authorities. As a result, several new centres of power came up in different parts of the region which did not acknowledge the Mughal and British authorities. Local power of Jats, Sikhs, Ahirs, Marathas, Rohillas etc. attempted to exercise power in a manner that involved and affected a much larger population of the region. Not only that, there was intense mutual rivalries and conflicts among these powers as they were keen to set up their own independent kingdom or pocket of influence.

Not only the local and people from other parts of the country were lured to capture Haryana region but also attracted invaders from foreign lands. Nadir Shah and Ahmed Shah Abdali invaded this part of the country, plundered and looted everything they could lay their hands upon. The third battle of Panipat probably the bloodiest battle in Indian history was fought in Haryana in 1761. These invasions and battles left indelible mark on the people and society of this region.

Besides, the European trading companies from Portugal, France, Britain and Holland which established their ventures and influence in India also had their interest in Haryana region. The decline of Mughal authority provided a great God-send opportunity to them and Britishers took lead and penetrated into this region. George Thomas and Charles Metcalfe made efforts to establish regular administration in Haryana. And East India Company acquired the Haryana region in 1803. The British administration took various steps to lower the position of Mughal Emperor. Slowly the British had consolidated their position in Haryana and had became the real masters of the territory. The revolt of 1857 which
Chart

GENEALOGY OF LATER MUGHALS

ALAMGIR I (AURANGZEB)

M. Sultan Muazzam, M. Azam M. Akbar M. Kam
(executed 1676) Bahadur Shoh I (d. at Jajau, d. in Persia Bakhsh 1707) Shoh Alam I
(acc. 1707 ; d. 1712) Bedar Bakht
(d. at Jajau) Neku siyar
(1707) (acc. & d. 1719)

(2) Jahandar Shoh Azim-ush Shahn Rafiu-ush Shahn Jahann Shahn
(acc. 1712 ; murdered 1713) (d. in battle) (d. in battle)

(3) Faukhi siyar
(acc. 1713 ; murdered 1719)

(6) Rafiu-d Daulat
(acc. & d. 1719)

(7) Muhammad Shahn
(acc. 1719 , d. 1748)

(9) Ahmad Shahn
(acc. 1748 ; deposed 1754)

(10) Alamgir II
(acc. 1754 ; murdered 1759)

(11) Shahn Alam II
(acc. 1759 ; d. 1806)

(12) Akbar II
(acc. 1806 ; d. 1837)

(13) Bahadur Shahn II
(acc. 1837 ; deposed 1857)

(1) or

(5) Neku siyar
(acc. 1707)

Shah Jahan
(1720)
engulfed the entire state was also finally crushed by the British, and Haryana was annexed with Punjab in 1858. British continued to rule Haryana till 1947 when India won its independence.

Period I: Later Mughal Period- I - 1707 to 1761

With the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the Mughal rule in India ceased to exist to be an effective force. The death of Aurangzeb was followed by a period of decline, confusion and disorder throughout northern India. And Haryana, which was included mostly in Delhi Subah and partly in Agara Subah was no exception. Due to religious bigotry of Aurangzeb, the peasants of Haryana became rebellions at the beginning of the 18th century.

(i) Emergence of Banda and Sikhs

The Sikh movement which was started by Guru Nanak to reform the religious beliefs and strengthen the Sikh brotherhood, changed into a political movement during the 18th century. The Sikhs posed a very serious challenge to the Mughal imperial authority. Guru Gobind Singh’s conflict with Aurangzeb is well known as is Banda Bahadur’s rebellion against Aurangzeb’s successors. The origin and antecedents of Banda still remain a matter of difference of scholarly opinion. According to one opinion, Banda was originally a native of a village either Pandor in Jullundhar or Rajauri in Puchh3 and intimately connected with Guru Gobind Singh and his family. H.R. Gupta is of the opinion that Banda belonged to Sirmour state of Nahan district of Himachal Pradesh. K.C. Yadav is of the opinion that he was a resident of Haryana and Kharkhoda may be considered as the native town of Banda Bahadur4. After the death of Guru Gobind Singh, the Sikhs rallied around the leadership of Banda Singh Bahadur. Banda with the help of Sikhs and also Hindus took up cudgels against the tyranny of Mughals. The prominent Sikhs of the Punjab flocked around him with their followers. A large number of them assembled in two to three months5.

As far as Haryana is concerned, he first appeared in the town of Kharkhoda near Sonepat and Delhi. He attacked Sonepat, routed its faujdar and forced him to flee to Delhi6. Then he captured the town of Sadhaura dominated by
Muslims, a place about 26 miles east of Ambala. He devastated the entire town, many inhabitants of the town were killed and their houses plundered. In many villages which he plundered, he appointed thanadars and tehsildars to collect the revenues of the neighbourhood for him. The people of Haryana sided with Banda Bahadur as he emerged a secular leader. He commanded the faith and loyalties of Haryanvis. He reinforced his army by fresh recruitment from Sonepat to Kaithal and from Kaithal to Samana. The people of Haryana supported his cause. He looted the imperial treasury without much resistance. He further plundered Kunjpura, Mustafabad, Ambala, Kapuri, Chhal and Banur.

Encouraged with the success, Banda them attacked Wazir Khan, the faujdar of Sarhind who had murdered Gobind Singh’s sons. A bloody battle took place and ultimately Sikhs triumphed. Wazir Khan and other Muslim leaders were slain. The old prosperous town of Sarhind was plundered and even women and children were not spared. After Sarhind fell, a Sikh named Bar Singh was appointed Subahdar of Sarhind. Banda sent out expeditions in all directions and occupied nearly the whole of Sarhind Sarkar of Subah Delhi. In Haryana he occupied Kaithal, Sadhaura, Ambala, Shahbad, Thanesar etc. Mainly, the area between rivers Satluj and Jaumna, was seized by Sikhs. It is quite surprising that the governor of Delhi Subah did nothing to restore order in the region. However, the responsibility to resist the Sikhs onslaught beyond Thanesar was taken up by Saradar Khan, a Muhammadan Rajput Zamindar but for whose exertions the Sikhs could never have been stopped in their advance to the imperial capital.

Then ultimately Emperor Bahadur Shah on coming to know about the activities of Banda in Punjab including Haryana region came to deal with him and the Sikhs. On 22nd October 1710, the Mughal army reached Sonepat. Passing through Panipat, Karnal, Thanesar and Shahbad, the royal forces attacked Lohgarh, the capital of Banda government at the foot of Shivalik to the east of Sadhaura. Despite hardships of the campaign, the imperial forces, subsequently, succeeded in capturing Lohgarh. Banda finding it difficult to stand against the imperial forces, slipped away from Lohgarh during the night into the Sirmour.
hills and from there to Chamba. On Feb. 22, 1713 Abdus Smad Khanwas was appointed governor of Lahore by Farrukh-siyar who ordered the former to expel Banda from his hideout or destroy him altogether. But when Abdus-Samad Khan arrived, Banda again managed to escape and took position at the earthen fort at Gurdaspur. The imperial forces besieged Gurdarspur, stopped its supplies of corn and fodder and thus starved Banda and his followers into surrender on December 17, 1715. He along with his disciples was captured and the new Emperor Farukhshiyar ordered maximum disgrace and humiliation to Banda and his soldiers were tortured to death on June 19, 1716. His sucking son was also executed.

Banda reign of Haryana region was quite popular with the inhabitants. He took particular care to protect the interest of the cultivators and abolished the age-old Zamindari system. The people of Haryana sided with Banda as he emerged as a secular leader. From the beginning upto the end, he remained unchallenged leader of the Haryana and Punjab. He commanded the faith and loyalties of Haryanvis. He was the first empire builder for the Sikhs. In the words of Khuswant Singh, “The movement to infuse the sentiments of Punjabi nationalism in the masses received a set back with Banda death”. With Banda’s death, Haryana which was lost to the Sikhs was regained by the Mughals. After Banda’s death in 1714, the Sikhs in general, remained silent for a very long period.

(ii) Rise of other Local Powers and their Contours

The repressive policies pursued by Mughals were opposed by the local people. Besides Sikhs, as mentioned above, Jats, Ahirs and Marathas all were keen to set up their own independent kingdom or pocket of influence and tried to exercise power either within the ambit of authority framework or without it.

Jats: Jats were formidable force that gave a good and determined fight to Mughals. Jats an agricultural class, were concentrated around Delhi-Agra area. Over the time period, they turned out to be so strong that they shook the stability of the core area of Delhi of the Mughal Empire and tried to establish an autonomous kingdom. Rajaram Jat of Mathura fought against Aurangzeb with 20,000 youths and lost 4,000 of them in the expedition. After the death of
Rajaram, the leadership passed on to Churaman Jat. He took part in the campaign against the Sikhs and the Mughal army. Churaman was one such Jat leader who remained in charge of the royal road from Delhi to the Chambel and had secret blessings of Saiyyid brothers who were on a very dominant position at the imperial court. Churaman continued to harass the Mughal government and his son Mukham Singh killed Nilakhan the Nagar, the deputy of Saadat Khan, who was then the governor of Agra. As Badan Singh, the nephew of Churaman sided with Jai Singh, Mukham Singh could not face and fled. Thereupon, Badan Singh consolidated his position in next 20 years and built the fort of Baharatpur, Kumbhar and Dig. His successor Surajmal was a shrewd ruler and outstanding statesman who expanded his rule in south Haryana. He captured Faridabad and its nearby places. Among all the Jat rulers, Surajmal, who wielded Jat power and also ruled a big area in Haryana from 1756 to 1763, was the most influential. The defeat of the Marathas in Panipat provided an opportunity for Surajmal to extend his kingdom. He had special interest in Haryana as he was married to Rani Kishori belonging to a Jat family of Hodal. Surajmal’s Jat Kingdom was spread up to Ganga in the east, the Chambal in the south, Delhi in the south and Agra in the west, including present large areas of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Unfortunately, his rule was short lived and his death on December 25, 1763, in a battle field near the river Hindan, was a blow to the Jat state, and his son Jawahar Singh and others were not equal to him.

Gopal Singh Jat was another leader of Jats who was accepted Chaudhary of Faridabad during Farukhsiyar’s region and was allowed a revenue of one anna after every rupee. Later, his son Charan Das refused to accept the authority of Delhi throne and so was his son Ballab Singh (Ballu Jat). Ballab Singh captured nearly whole of the area between Delhi and Faridabad. He got a fort constructed at Ballabgarh and established his capital at this place. Then in the year 1753, the combined Mughal and Maratha army invaded Ballabgarh and later assassinated Ballab, his son and other persons on November 29, 1753. Raja Surajmal wrested Ballabgarh from Mughal but it was not a force to reckon with.
Ahirs: Next to Jats, Ahirs came up to rule southern part of Haryana around Rewari, Jhajjar, Gurgaon and Narnaul area. The state of Rewari was established by a Ahir Subedar Nand Ram of village Garhi Bolni during the reign of Aurangezeb. After Nand Ram’s death his elder illustrious son Bal Krishna succeeded him. He was awarded a mansab of 2,000 by Aurangzeb and later king Muhammad Shah bestowed upon him the title of Sher Bachacha Samsher Bahadur. Balkishan faced Nadir Shah very bravely in Karnal and laid his life there. As noted by Man Singh, the author of Abhira Kula Dipika, his valour and bravery even drew the attention of Nadir Shah who paid rich tribute to him.

Rao Gujar Mai, younger brother of Balkishan was appointed Faujdar of Rewari after latter’s death. He received the Jagir of twelve villages from the Mughals. But then the conflict arose between his neighbour, Dalel Khan, a favourite of Farukhsiyar and Hakim of the territory comprising most of the present Gurgaon district. Dalel Khan – a Bilauch founded the city of Farrukhnagar which became the centre of his power. Gujarmal was more strong and could add Hisar and Jhajjar to his expanding estate. His territories formed comprising Hisar, Jhajjar, Hansi, Dadri, Bhiwani, Kanod and Narnaul, and the Rewari served as capital. Gaajaramal was assassinated by Bahadur Singh – son of Hatti Singh, treacherously, in 1750. Gujarmal was friendly with Badan Singh, the Jat chief of Bharatpur. With the death of Rao Gujarmal, ended the glorious period of the history of Rewari state. After his death, Bhawani Singh became Raja of Rewari. But he was incompetent and Rewari under him was encroached upon by the neighbouring states- Jaipur, Farrukhnagar and Jhajjar and he was left with only 23 villages around Rewari.

It is seen that towards the middle of eighteenth century, Haryana was out of control of the rulers of Delhi. It was mostly parcelled out among the local chiefs. For example, Raja Surajmal of Bharatpur occupied Faridabad and its adjoining area. Madho Singh of Jaipur had taken control of Kanod and Narnaul, Ahir rulers were in saddle in Rewari. Karmonagar Khan Baluch, the governor of Farrukhnagar held a vast territory comprising the whole of the districts of Rohtak and Hisar, parts of Gurgaon, Jind and Patiala. Qutab Shah, usurped parts of...
Panipat and Sarhind districts west of Jammuna; Najahat Khan Ruhela held parts of Kurukshetra and Karnal. Muhammad Amin and Hasan Khan took possession of Fatehabad, Rania and Sirsa. while Bahadur Khan was granted the Jagir of Bahadurgarh. Other minor chiefs of Haryana Asadulla Khan and Hasan Ali Khan were the rulers of Tauru and Jhajjar respectively.36

**Marathas:** Besides Jats, Ahirs and Sikhs, Marathas were also eager to expand the sphere of their political influence in Haryana region. The Marathas’ entry into the Delhi politics dates back to the times of Shahu. Balaji Vishvanath, the first Peshwa, marched to Delhi in 1718, to obtain approval of the Emperor Farrukhsiyar for the peace treaty agreed between Shahu and Husain Ali. The final confirmation of the treaty by the emperor in March 1719 opened up new doors to Marathas.37 They realized that the splendid structure of Mughal empire was crumbling and was a prize worth attempting and worth fighting for. It widened the outlook of Marathas and ensured campaigns for the conquest and expansion beyond Narmada. Then for another five years from 1719-1724, was period of unprecedented confusion in the history of the Mughal empire.

In Delhi, four Mughal kings were made in course of a single year one after the other. Taking advantage of these troubles, the Marathas embarked upon a resolute policy of aggression in respect of Mughal territory. Ambaji was appointed as the *faujdar* of Sonepat on behalf of Mughal Emperor at Delhi to subdue the Gujars around Delhi. Baji Rao’s sudden appearance before Delhi on March 28, 1737, visited Rewari. In fact the first phase of Maratha ascendancy at Delhi court may have actually began from the death of Wazir Qamr-ud-din and Emperor Muhammad Shah in 1748 and continued with short intervals till the battle of Panipat in 1761.39 Marathas established their supremacy in Haryana for a short while and had to retreat from the region after crushing defeat in the third battle of Panipat.

Notably, the Mughal Empire was completely at the mercy of Marathas and therefore they had to shoulder the responsibility of the defence of India against the interval uprising and the external invaders like Ahmad Shah Abdali. At occasions, as the Marathas did not get the promised price for their assistance to
the Mughals, they took recourse to plundering Delhi and its adjoining region. The Marathas soldiers started harassing the villages in the north of Delhi in 1754. The farmers of Jalalpur and other villages near Narela retaliated and made surprise attack on Marathas. Malhar Rao fought and attacked three villages-Jalalpur, Nahra and Nahri and several other villages in the vicinity. And the complaints to imperial authority against these outrages were of no avail. The Mughal emperor surrendered Kurukshetra to Peshwa and Muslim officers were withdrawn. Raghunath Rao after crossing the Jamuna returned via Badarpur, Gurgaon, Jhajjar, Narnaul, Singhana to Pushkar, while Malhar Rao followed the route via Naraina, Rewari and Pataudi districts levying tributes from Gujar and Baluch landlords of Haryana. Malhar Rao also plundered Taraori and Karnal and collected a tribute of Rs. five lakhs from Kunjapura. They had certain other movements in Punjab and Haryana during this period and their entanglement in these areas would further be discussed while taking up Abdali’s invasion in the region subsequently in the Chapter. However, it can be surmised that after Panipat, Marathas returned leaving the Sikhs and Jats to fill the void as they felt that they could not be political successor of the Mughals in the region.

**Rohillas**

Rohillas and Rajputs did not lag behind in consolidating their position by taking advantage of the disintegration of Mughal emperors. They were the Indian Pathan who came to India during the 17th century due to political and economic disruption in Afghanistan. And in due course of time they set up a petty kingdom, Rohilkhand. This was the area of the Himalayan foothills located between Kumaon in the north and the Ganga in the south. They suffered at the hands of Jats, Marathas and the British. Mohammad Khan Bangesh, an Afghan, had set up an independent kingdom to the east of Delhi. Politically, the role of Afghan was negative which only accentuated the decline of the Mughal by subduing Awadh, which could have checked British expansion.

**(iii) Foreign Invaders : Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali**

Not only the local and people from other parts of the country were lured to capture Haryana region but also attracted aggressors from foreign lands. Nadir Shah from Persia and Ahmad Shah Abdali from Afghanistan invaded this part of
the country, plundered and looted everything that they could lay their hands upon. Nadir Shah, a Persian Turkish monarch attacked India in 1738-39. He soon conquered Lahore and the Mughal army was defeated at Karnal on 13th February 1739. The battle was over in less than three hours but the loss to Mughal army was terrible. Nadir Shah then captured Mughal Emperor Mohmmed Shah and Delhi laid waste and helpless. During Nadir’s advancement to Delhi, Panipat, Sonepat and other towns lying on the way were similarly sacked. Nadir’s invasions left Delhi (a stay of 57 days at Delhi) and the surrounding areas worse-off and as a crying city. Besides, a cash of Rs. 70 crore, he also looted the two most priced items: The Peacock Throne and the Kohinur diamond. The wealth extorted by Nadir represented a big draw on the resources of the country. On his way back, Nadir Shah moved to Sonepat via Narela where the people overtook his army. The peasants of the area looted Nadir’s luggage from behind. He lost 1,000 transport animals, camels and horses before reaching Thanesar. In anger, he ordered massacre here and some other towns on the way. The indignation and humiliation to which the emperor, the court and the people were put was the saddest chapter in the history of those times. Then Nadir Shah, moved towards Mathura, and fort of Ballabgharh was taken on the way. Its Jat garrison, headed by Jawahar Singh, Surajmal’s son, resisted fiercely but the stronghold was stormed and its garrison put to sword. The soldiers were given orders to kill and destroy whatever lay in their path, and to retain all that they seized. Then suddenly cholera had broken out and weather becoming more and more uncomfortable, Nadir Shah abruptly abandoned his mission and returned to Afghanistan after handing over to Ahmad Shah Abdali or Durrani an important General of Nadir Shah. Nadir Shah’s invasion hastened the process of disintegration of the Mughal Empire. And Haryana which remained an integral part of the empire for a long time had also to undergo tremendous sufferings. Its peace, prosperity and industry were completely destroyed and people were forced to flee to safer places or resign to the will of God.

After Nadir Shah was assained, Ahmad Shah Abdali, leader of Durrani Afghans, was made the king. On June 9, 1747, he attacked Lahore and captured
it on January 12, 1748. At the time of Abdali’s invasion, Emperor Muhammad Shah was suffering from an attack of paralysis.

Ahmad Shah invaded north India many times between 1748 and 1767. The most well-known was his victory over the Marathas in 1761, which is known as the third battle of Panipat. The battle lasted 6-7 hours from about 9.00 in the morning to about 3.30 p.m. Panipat’s probably the bloodiest battle in Indian history where 30,000 dead bodies were counted on the field of battle and many more Marathas and others were massacred who were hiding in the city and suburb. And nearly 20,000 were taken prisoners. And by 1761, the Mughal Empire was an Empire only in name. In fact “The Mughal rule began and ended on the field of Panipat”. Abdali, the victor of Panipat battle wrote letter to Raja Madho Singh of Jaipur describing battle of Panipat “The enemy distinguished themselves and fought so well that it was beyond the capacity of other races. Gradually, the fighting passed from the exchange of cannon and rocket fire to the discharge of muskets from which it produced to the stage of combat with swords, daggers and knives. They grabbed each other by neck. The dauntless blood-sheders (the Marathas) did not fall short in fighting and doing glorious deeds. Suddenly, the breeze of victory began to blow and as willed by the Divine Lord, the wretched Deccani suffered utter defeat. Forty to fifty thousand troops and infantry men of the enemy became as grass before our pitiless swords. All the enemy’s artillery, elephants and property have been seized by my men”. The war ended on January 14, 1761 and Abdali returned to his highlands early in March 1761, leaving dismantled provinces of the Mughal Empire to be appropriated by various powers that were now contending for ascendency in India.

Mughal power in India was finally extinguished on the soil of Haryana from where it was lit in 1526 by Babur, the first Mughal Emperor in India by winning the first battle of Panipat against Abrahim Lodhi. The doom of the empire which was weakened from within, as shown above, was sealed by the fateful invaders namely Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali. This also ended the Peshwa’s dreams of establishing the Marathas ascendancy over all of India.
including this region. The effects of these invasions left indelible mark on the people and the society of this region.

No doubt, Marathas fought for a glorious cause but they were the only power that faced the main brunt of the Abdali’s attack, while others sided with the enemy or kept aloof. Marathas were defeated in the battle of Panipat because of inferior leadership, lack of food supply too large and heavy artillery, tactical mistakes and war diplomacy. Panipat remains a subject of special interest of the historians and a place of reverence for the people. It is befitting that the government of Haryana has erected memorial in memory of those Indians who laid their lives to defend their mother land from the foreign invaders. The memorial site is six km. from Panipat. The site was marked by black mango tree (Kula Amb) which has since disappeared. The site is marked by a brick pillar with an iron rod at the top, while the white structure is surrounded by an iron fence (See Appendix Plate No. 20). The pillar bears an inscription in English and Urdu. The English version reads: “This pillar marks the site of the black mango tree near which was fought the Third Battle of Panipat between Ahmad Shah Abdali and Maratha confederacy in 1761”.

Period II: Later Mughal Period-II 1761-1803

After the debacle of Panipat, Marathas were demoralized whereas Jats and Sikhs felt encouraged. In 1760, Shah Alam II was declared the new emperor of Delhi after dethroning emperor Shah Jahan II. But as the Shah Alam II stayed in Allahabad till 1772, Najib-ud-Daula, the wazir became the de facto master of Delhi during long 12 years.\(^{49}\) Nazib had extended his area upto Ballabgarh in South after expelling Jawahar Singh. On Dec. 25, 1763 Surajmal - the Jat Raja of Bharatpur was killed and the western districts of Hansi and Hisar also came under Najib.\(^ {50}\) And the Baluchi areas in south-west of Delhi such as Jhajjar, Bhadurgarh, Farrukhnagar and Taoru also cooperated with Najib. Gohana, Rohtak and Dadri also came under Najib for the sake of their defence against the Jats. And nearly whole of Haryana region came under Najib’s regime by 1775. It may be stated here that Sikhs who were fighting against the Mughal tyranny did not make permanent impact on Haryana territory as their activities were confined to
the north of Ghaggar which formed the northern boundary of Haryana. The leaders of Phulkian Misal, the chief of the houses of Patiala, Nabha and Jind alone carried their arms to Haryana for offensive and defensive measures against the Bhattis and the Rohillas.

(i) Distribution of Territory of Haryana:

It is interesting to see that whereas southern part of Haryana was with Mughals, the north west was occupied by Sikhs and local leaders Raja Gajpat Singh was the leader who founded Jind State. He, with the help of Dal Khalsa, seized a large tract of district Jind, Safidon, routing Panipat and Karnal. After the death of Raja Gajpat Singh, Raja Bhag Singh – a middle son of Gajpat Singh succeeded who died in 1819. And at the time of his death, Jind state was composed of three tehsils – Jind, Dadri and Sangrur. He was a prominent figure among Mulwai Sikhs.

Kaithal was annexed by Bhai Desu Singh in 1767 and declared Sikh rule over it. Bhai Desu Singh extended his territory to Chika and Pehowa and also built the fort of Kaithal. He died in 1781. Behal Singh, a son of Desu Singh was also awarded the Jagir of Gohana and Kharkhoda by Lord Lake. Ambala and part of Chhachhrauli were seized by a Sandhu Jat member of Karora Singhai Misal. Similarly, Gurdit Singh and Sahib Singh two brothers captured Karnal, Ladwa, Indri and Babain. Both the brothers were prominent figures in Sikh politics at that time. Jagadhari and Busia were under Lachmi Narain who was an officer of Zain Khan. Mehar Singh Sandhu seized Shahbad and Ismailabad.

From the above, it becomes evident that the people of this area allowed Sikhs to penetrate in this region to rule over them. The reasons are obvious. For a long time, the Sikhs wanted to rule their homeland and the area of this region was fertile. Besides, the area was in immediate neighbourhood of their homeland. The peasantry of the region belonged to Jat community, and mostly the Sikhs who came here as rulers, were also from the Jat community. However, they did not extend their cooperation to the Jat Raja of Bharatpur because in their south, there were Marathas and Mughals to oppose the Jats of Bharatpur.
Encouraged by the circumstances, Sikhs raided the territory of Najib-ud-dulah in Sonepat and Panipat districts in April 1766 and 1770 and crossed the Jamuna, plundered every village up to Delhi and also ravaged the territory of Jats of Bharapur. Again in March 1776, the combined forces of Sikhs and Rohillas advanced to Delhi and reached at the gates of Delhi. Shah Alam deputed Najab Khan who entered into a defensive alliance and succeeded in isolating the Rohillas from the Sikhs and at last there Sikhs were badly defeated on 14 Sep. 1777\(^6\). Then again in the year 1783, a band of Sikhs soldiers led by Sardar Bhagat Singh of Thanesar crossed the Jamuna and lay encamped at Sarai Chat, 16 miles north of Delhi in March, 1783. They devastated the Rohilla territory on their way to Delhi as the latter sided with the Mughals earlier. The Mughal Emperor came to agreement and granted permission to Bhagat Singh to build four Gurdwaras at historical places in the territory of crown land and was allowed to collect octroi of Delhi\(^57\).

In order to contain Sikh power in check, a treaty was concluded in 1785, between Sikhs and Marathas. According to this treaty, their unity of interest and of friendship was established. However, the British saw in their treaty a danger to the political interests of East India Company and the original treaty somehow was changed. It was included in terms of definitive treaty that the Sikhs will not create disturbances in the territory of the English and the Nawab, as they are the friends of Sindhia\(^58\). Annoyed with the changed treaty, the Sikhs broke with British and started depredation in Doab and territory near Delhi as previously. Sindhia appointed several Maratha officers to check Sikhs’ activities between 1790 to 1794. But they were not successful. Mahadji Sindhia died on Feb. 12, 1794 at Poona leaving his mission incomplete. This encouraged the Sikhs and with the death of Sindhia, their incursion became more extensive than ever before\(^59\).

And ultimately in 1794, a large army of Marathas under Anta Rao and Lachhman Rao crossed the Jamuna and marched towards Patiala. Bibi Sahib Kaur with the help of Bhanga Singh, Mehtab Singh of Thanesar and Bhag Singh of Jind rushed to check the Marathas a few miles to the north-west of Ambala.
Anta Rao retired towards Karnal. But ruler of Kaithal at this juncture submitted
to the Marathas.

Like Marathas, Rohillas also made inroads. Mirza Najaf Khan, one
Rohilla Sardar who won the confidence of Shah Alam was given paragans of
Hansi and Hisar and also attached Gurgaon, Rewari, Jhajjar and Bahadurgarh.
He also made inroads in 1774 to the territory of Karnal, Jind, Shahabad,
Thanesar and Ambala which were under the Sikh chiefs, but, ultimately,
Rohillas had to leave Haryana. The Satnamis (or followers of the true name of
God) were a strange sect with the stronghold at Narnaul, south west of Delhi and
Mewat. Satnamis started collecting taxes from the villagers and established posts
of their own. They were finally tackled and controlled.

(ii) Haryana Under George Thomas

George Thomas, an Irish, known in Haryana as Jahaj Sahib, was
appointed commander of the battalion by Begaum Samru in her army in 1787.
This was the reward for Thomas for rescuing the Shah Alam II at the behest of
Begum Samru. Then the Begum appointed Thomas to control Sikhs in Doab
area. Thomas invaded Sirsa and expelled the Bhattis from there. Thomas
performed his duty admirably and Sikh incursions into her territory decreased.
In 1792, Thomas was thrown out of the Begum’s favour and he had to leave her
and joined the services of Bapu ji Malhar, the Maratha Governor of Saharanpur.
The governor sent Thomas to set the Sikhs right as they were trying to over­
throw the power of the Marathas. He crushed Sikh power and reached Haryana
and conquered certain places in Haryana like Jind, Kaithal Thanesar and Sirsa
from 1798 to 1801. Then after he was dismissed by the governor, Thomas who
had acquired his own troops numbering 3,000 by then started plundering towns
and cities in the neighbourhood of Delhi. His constant successes gave him an
idea of setting himself as a sovereign over some territory. In the intervals of his
personal raids, he and his band of ruffians hired themselves out to any party that
would pay them. Consequently, before the close of 1798, George Thomas
carved out an independent principality for himself in a tract always covered with
green grass. He was now a Raja of a kingdom which was bounded in the north by
the territories of Raja Sahib Singh of Patiala, in the north-west by country of Bhattis, in the west by Bikaner to the South by Jaipur in the south-east by Dadri, in the east by districts adjoining Delhi and in the north-east by Rohtak and Panipat. There were in all 800 villages that brought him income of Rs. 2,86,000 per year. Hansi was his capital. In order to resume the water scarcity in the area, he sunk 30 wells and encouraged merchants to settle there. He established a gun factory, mint and issued coins in his own name.

Then the Sikh chiefs united to oppose Thomas. In the initial attempt, Thomas subjected them to heavy artillery fire and they fled back. But then more Sikh forces arrived, Thomas left Jind and hurried to Hansi. Thomas was asked to subject himself to the authority of Sindhia which he declined to do. General Person’s army ultimately defeated him in the battle of Beri near Jhajgarh (Georgegarh). He abandoned his conquests and retired to the British territory in the year 1801, where he died soon afterwards.

Period - III Later Mughal Period III – Haryana Under British Administration 1803-1857

On December 30, 1803, Daulat Rao Sindhia whose ancestors had occupied Haryana in days of declining Mughal Empire, ceded region of Haryana to the British East India Company vide a treaty of Sirjianjan Goan. It was included (a great part of the region) in the Presidency of Bengal with a resident to administer it. It was according to this treaty that Sindhia relinquished his hold over Haryana and several other territories. Rest of the region was settled with different chiefs and sardars. By 1809, the whole of Haryana was under the control of British and had quelled all opposition in the region.

In 1806, Archibald Seton a Resident assisted by Charles. T. Metcalfe, made the first effort to establish regular administration. He was full of wisdom and patience. An essential step for this was to make a proper settlement of land. He carried out certain reforms also in Haryana. He revised the autonomous village system which Metcalfe put to best use. He gave to the territory a novel system of administration – the Delhi System, ‘a combination of native practice.
and regulation spirit. Metcalfe made serious efforts to prevent sati, abolition of capital punishment and the gradual abolition of corporal punishment. He also restored the ancient canal system of Delhi and by 1825 the old Firozshah canal was in working order which improved agriculture in the region. But in the early years of British rule, there was a lot of chaos and disorder. For some decades it had not seen any orderly government. Every village was a den of thieves who RAIDed and plundered all around up to Delhi. Hence it was not easy to restore order and normalize the administration. Resultantly, it produced many stresses and strains and bred discontent and unrest among the people.

In 1833, north-western Province was formed to which Haryana was included after taking it away from Bengal, with its headquarters at Agra. North-west province had six divisions. Delhi being one, Haryana was included in it. This division was further divided into five districts of Panipat, Hisar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Delhi, each under a district magistrate-cum-collector. The administration of upper parts of Haryana, i.e., the present districts of Karnal and Ambala, was conducted through the official designated as superintendent of political affairs and agent of the government in the territory of protected Sikh and hill chief at Ambala until 1849, when they were placed under the charge of Punjab government and all the chiefs falling in Haryana with some exception were deprived of all civil, criminal and fiscal jurisdiction. There were some principality states of Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Dujana, Pataudi, Loharu, Ballabgarh, Farrukhnagar and Jind, which were ruled by the local prince under the superintendence of the Resident. It can be said that British had consolidated their position in Haryana and had became the real masters of the territory.

The people’s response to English establishment in Haryana treated it like other invader and continued their resistance wherever possible. The Sikh chiefs of Ambala, Karnal and Thanesar were the first to oppose the company rule. Resident of Delhi sent a big force under Colonel Burn in 1805 to subdue these Sikhs. The Sikhs first fought with valour but soon left the field. However, the company did not occupy the conquered territory. It remained under the control of the original chiefs under the treaty of Sirjanjan Gaon.
It is seen that Sikhs were able to maintain territorial integrity to some extent till 1845. But after that, Sikh dominian, was subjected to the British Imperial system and it was fully annexed to the British empire in 1849. On the whole, Sikh emergence has a vast impact on the life of the people of Haryana region. They gave a clear message to rural and urban population that they can be drawn into the apparatus that created scope for individual and group initiative for independence. The peasants, artisans and traders experienced a novel experience of acquiring independence, though it is another matter that during this period no significant technological or structural changes took place in the region. Punjab under Sikh rule remained rooted in medieval Indian polity and society.

The second opposition of the British rule came from the inhabitants of the southern Haryana which included the districts of Gurgaon and Mahendergarh inhabited by Meos, Ahirs, Jats and Ranghars. The British forces could crush their rebellion also. Similarly, the Muslim Bhatti Rajput of the western Haryana took a tough attitude. The company after subduing them distributed territory among the nawabs of Jhajjar, Loharu and Dujana. It is evident that by the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century, the British had consolidated their position in Haryana and had became the real masters of the territory. Though the British controlled the Delhi territory completely by 1809-10, the opposition did not completely subside. The mismanagement and the absence of judicial administration, coercive methods adopted for the land settlements and maltreatment of the chiefs by the British encouraged antagonism between the rulers and ruled. A series of disturbances and revolt took place during the East India Company’s tenure.

In fact, the British did not find it easy to administer Haryana. Though they wanted to improve the lot of rural masses through various welfare programs and projects, but the Haryana being of a somewhat independent nature did not accept the English authority. Even the land revenue could not be collected without the support of the army. People reactions to the Judicial system invited hatred as the new administration had destroyed the local institutions like Panchayats. Resultantly, the people felt insecure and unhappy. Similarly, the
government dues collected through ‘Kampany Bahadoor’ was nothing short of robbery. The government dues in most of these cases were more than 50 per cent of the gross produce. These dues were fixed arbitrarily. It completely shattered the peasants’ economy.

The brave people of Haryana who were not accustomed to tolerate such impositions, should have felt like doing away with such a raj. But because of strong hold of the rulers they could not do much to rise as a body organization. But whenever any opportunity of this kind occurred to them, they did not hesitate to strike. Chhachhrauli, in the present tehsil of Jagadhari in Yamuna Nagar district was the first trouble spot for the British after the death of its chief, Bungail Singh (1809). The British Resident at Delhi did not agree Jodh Singh to be the heir of Bungail Singh. The people sided with Jodh Singh and tried to defend him (Oct. 1818). But Arnold and his army defeated Jodh Singh and the territory was annexed to the British raj. Soon after Chhachhrauli, Rania (Sirsa) was in arms. Nawab Zabita Khan did not care for the British authority as he encouraged his people (Bhattis) to carry as regular plundering expeditions into the British territories adjoining his state. But then the Delhi government sent a force and the state was confiscated and brought under the direct control of the Kampany Bahadoor. In 1824, the peasants who were undergoing several exploitative measures of the government in the matter of revenue assessment and its collection were in arms against the British and brave Jat peasantry of Rohtak led this movement and finished off all the vestiges of the Feringhee rule from their land. Murder of Fraser, a cruel and licentious resident of Delhi (1835) was reflection of people revolt against British Raj. Fraser had subjected Sham Suddin Nawab of Loharu’s cousin sister to his seductive designs. The Nawab got him killed on March 1835. Nawab was hanged on October 1835 and this annoyed the Muslims. Since the existing press did not glorify his death this gave birth to Urdu press: The Delhi Akhbar.

Disturbances of Chhachhrauli in the present tehsil of Jagadhari in Yamuna Nagar district, trouble in Rania (Sirsa), the Peasant Revolt in 1824, murder of Fraser – as detailed above and Partap Singh revolt in Jind in 1812,
challenge from Sangat Singh, Balawali were important events. In Mewat, Mewatis came out in large number and formed a *dhar* to finish the British rule. Ajit Singh revolted at Ladwa. Sikh chiefs' opposition in the Cis-Sutlej tract of first Anglo-Sikh war, 1845-6 are some prominent events that amply prove that the people of Haryana wanted to throw foreign yolk. There is no denial that these outbursts were suppressed but spirit of people remained alive. They were impatient to rise up against the British reign. And look, they got an opportunity with the outbreak of 1857 revolt to overthrow English *Raj*.

**The Revolt of 1857 and Aftermath**

We have seen that the British rule of a little more than a century from 1803 to 1857 generated disaffection, discontentment among the masses in Haryana due to their exploitative policies. This misrule among other factors, like terrible famines and deadly epidemics in the region, had made the life of people quite miserable and prepared the ground for revolt against the British. The opportunity was provided by the sepoy mutiny at Ambala, and Meerut on May 10, 1857 and at Delhi on the 11th of May. The influential leaders of the uprising in Haryana were feudal chiefs like Rao Tula Ram of Rewari, Nahar Singh of Ballabhgarh, Ahmed Ali of Farrukhnagar, Abdur Rehman of Jhajjar, Bahadurjang Khan of Delhi, Hasaan Ali of Dujana, and Nur Mohamad Khan of Rania, and Ammuddin of Loharu and Akbar Ali of Pataudi. District-wise details of uprising would reveal that the 60th Native Infantry (NI) stationed at Ambala initiated the revolt that spread to Meerut, Delhi and other places. And practically the whole of Haryana was in revolt by the end of May 1857.

As noted, the first bugle of the 1857 revolt was blared at Ambala on 10 May 1857 by 60th NI and the 5th NI. The English soon suppressed these by the superior European forces. As a result, the 'rebels' failed to transform their intentions into a working reality. Civil population sympathized and rose to the occasion against the British due to strict measures applied by the authorities with the help of troops of Patiala, Nabha and Jind. They were not successful. Sardar Mohar Singh was the leading figure in and around Rupar near Ambala.
HARYANA IN 1857
The mutineers of Meerut and Delhi attacked Gurgaon on 13th May 1857 and all the British officers worth the name fled away to Mathura. Then the Mewatis rose in great numbers. They attacked Tauru, Sohna, Ferozepur-Jhirka and there was no resistance. The loyalists and the British troops fought well, but they were completely routed by Mewatis. In Aahirwal, Rao Tula Ram - who waged a struggle against the British from 1857 to 1863, captured Rewari. In this revolt, he supported Bahadur Shah against the British. But then he was subdued. He later died soon on September 23, 1863 due to illness at a young age of 38 in Afghanistan. He was the first Indian to plan the over throw of British imperialism with foreign help when the great revolt petered out. He expressed his happiness on hearing the news of the fall of British at Delhi on 11 May, 1857. He expressed his happiness by writing to Emperor Bahadur Shah. Nawabs of Jhajjar, Dadri and Farrukanagar were arrested and sent to Delhi.

In Rohtak, similar things happened. On hearing the news of the fall of Delhi, all the Jat clans rose up and finished off all vestiges of the British rule from their localities. The Ranghars of Rohtak also revolted under the able leadership of Bisarat Ali of (from Kharkaiuda) and Babur Khan. The Ranghars under these two leaders freed the whole of their local people from the British control. Rohtak rebels also joined but Haryana ‘light infantry’ from Hansi, Hisar and Sirsa suppressed them. Lt. WSR Hodson, was sent with a small force. The rebels were evacuated from Rothak and went to Bassi, six miles from Hansi in considerable diminished number. Hodson left Rohtak for Delhi, leaving the district and its important towns, such as Kharkhaudah, Sampla, Sonepat, Meham, Gohana etc. under the care and watch of the raja of Jind and some local chaudhris.

The revolt also spread in Hisar, Hansi and Sirsa. Their local leaders were Muhammed Azim, a descendant of royal family of Delhi, Hukam Chand Jain, a businessman of Hansi, Nur Muhammad Khan of Rania. In Hisar, the Deputy Commissioner, along with several other European, was killed. The officers stationed at Sirsa fled away. Then in June, General Van Courtland, reached
Hisar and created a havoc among the people. Prime Muhammad Azim again fought but was not successful.

In Panipat district, the people fought under the leadership of the Imam of the Shrine of Bu Ali Kalandhar (priest) but they were defeated and the Imam was arrested and hanged. At Bullah village, the Jats under his leadership of Ram Lal opposed Captain Hughes. Like Panipat, the people of Thanesar district revolted. In Karnal also people revolted but the British made tight security arrangements to control the G.T. road. However, the peasants of this area refused to pay land revenue. Similarly, the people of Ladwa, Pehowa, Pundri, Kaithal and Assandh also revolted.

The impact of this revolt was stupendous. Almost the whole Haryana had been independent of the British rule. And everywhere it was a civil populace that destroyed the remnants of foreign domination in the region. An uprising of this type could not be dismissed as mutiny by any stretch of imagination. In Haryana, it was nothing short of popular upsurge of the common people. But, unfortunately, in the absence of able leadership and resources they could not sustain this for long. On the 16th Sept. 1857. Delhi fell. Bahadur shah and his wife Zinet Mahal, his two sons and a grand-son surrendered. Captain Hodson, shot princes with his own hands, and the king was tried before the martial court. He was held guilty of declaring war against the Queen and the massacre of the British residents. He was, therefore, sent to Rangoon with his family where he died on 7th September 1862.

The British, after the revolt was over, made great territorial changes in Haryana. Except three small states of Pataudi, Dujana and Loharu, all the other important states like Jhajjar, Dadri, Farrukhanagar, Ballabhgarh, Buria, Kalsia were confiscated. And the principle of rewarding to those who helped the British Raj and punishment to others who revolted was adopted. Most of the Jagirdars in Haryana helped in British and consequently, they were rewarded for their loyalty. On the other hand, prominent feudal chiefs of Haryana, namely. Abdur Rehman of Jhajjar, Ahmed Ali of Farrukhananger and Nahar Singh of Ballabhgarh...
were tried and hanged in full public view in Chandni Chowk, Delhi all in the
month of January 1958 for spearheading revolt.

In Gurgaon and Hisar districts, more than 368 people were hanged or
transported for life imprisonment. In Rohtak, a collective penalty of Rs. 63,000/-
was imposed on the people. At Thanesar Rs. 2,35,000/- and at Ambala Rs.
2,53,591/- were forcibly collected as fines.

The region as a whole suffered a lot. It was detached finally-as a
punishment measure, from the north-western province and tagged with Punjab in
February, 1858. Some of the districts and tehsils of the region were
reorganized. On the whole, the region remained neglected and become a place
for frequent famine, epidemic and an open field for the Charistian missionaries to
undertake their dubious activities. In short, the people were reduced to a
deplorable and helpless condition. The British left the starving peasantry of
Haryana with the only choice of joining the British armies in order to subdue
their spirit of patriotism and nationalism. The revolt, however, fostered better
communal relationship between Hindus and Muslims. It cut across ethnic and
religious and caste boundaries and continued to pose a real challenge to the
British Raj. They lived or fought and perished like brothers for a common cause,
against a common enemy. There is not a single case where a Muslim was
involved to desecrate a temple or a Hindu to destroy a mosque. Because of
communal harmony, people stood united. The revolt in fact was a serious effort
for the independence of India. However, Bhahadur Shah, a representative of
composite culture in the history of India, his heart was not in struggle that was
waged by the brave sepoys. He even rebuked the mutineers when they called him
in Delhi on May 11, 1857.

The British crown took administration of India directly into its hands a
year later in 1858. British continued to rule Haryana till 1947 when India won its
independence. For about long 143 years since 1803, British exploited the region
to satisfy their colonial greed and imperial designs. They maltreated the people
and spared no weapon to their armory to break the brave and indomitable spirit
and down their manly morale. Though Haryana helped the British government
by providing recruits and by contributing money and material during war times, (first and second world war), yet the British government paid no attention towards their hardship. The wars completely upset the economic condition of the region. Then several other happenings in the country: Rowlatt Bill agitation in 1917, Gandhi’s arrest at Palwal in 1919, again the massacre at Jallian Wala Bagh in Amritsar in the same year, the ‘khilapat’ and non-cooperation movement, civil disobedience movement (1930-34), the Quit India movement (1942), all had great impact on the people of this region. The region also saw the several religious and social movements during this period for the revival of old religious and social values which will find mention in the thesis at an appropriate place in chapter five. Another great catastrophe which Haryana region struck with was the civil war in 1947-48. It was in the shape of communal riots and displacement of people during partition times. Communal riots occurred mainly in the districts of Karnal, Gurgaon and Rohtak, where Muslim population was considerable, resulting in killings of people91.
References

6. Ibid., p.94.
7. Ibid., p.95-97.
10. See W. Irvine, op.cit.
11. Ibid., pp. 95-96.
12. Ibid., p. 96.
13. Ibid., p. 97.
15. Ibid., pp.
23. Ibid., pp.63.
28. Ibid., 94.
29. Ibid., 94.
30. Ibid. p.94-95.
31. Ibid., p. 95.
33. Ibid., op.cit; pp. 122-123, 136.
35. Ibid., p. 106.
38. Ibid., p. 151.
41. Ibid., II, p.13.
43. See J.N. Sarkar, op.cit.
45. See J.N. Sarkar, op.cit.
50. Ibid., pp.262.
52. Lepal. N. Griffin, the Rajas of the Punjab, pp.59.
53. Ibid., pp. 69.
60. Ibid., p. 77.
62. Ibid., p. 235.
66. For his life and work at Delhi, see D.N. Panigarahi, Charles Metcalfe in India.
67. Ibid.
69. Indu Banga, Social Mobility.
71. Hisar District Gazetteer, 1910, p.34.
73. Hisar District Gazetteer, op.cit. p.34.

58
76. Chopra (Ed.), *History and Places of Interest*, p.56.
78. George Campbell, *Memoes*.
84. File R/131, it contains a long list of such local Chaudhris from prominent castes such as Jats, Ranghars, Mahajans, Bhat, Brahman etc. who extended timely help to Hodson and they were rewarded handsomely.