CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Material for reconstruction of a connected history of what is now known as State of Himachal Pradesh is scanty, vague and ill authenticated. All the known authorities were collected by Dr. J. Hutchison, of the Church of Scotland Mission, Chamba and Dr. J. Ph. Vogel, Archaeological Survey of India, Northern circle. The history of Punjab hill states that they compiled is a combination of wide research, patient observation and brilliant conjecture. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the British administrators did the commendable work of compiling district and state gazetteers. These provide very rich insights into the local history and culture of the region. Besides this, the British administrators also carried out fairly extensive land revenue settlements in almost all the districts and hill states. These remarkable documents throw sufficient light on the socio-economic history of the region and are an extremely useful source of information.

The history of Himachal Pradesh is, in fact, the history of the people settling in the Himalayan wilderness
from time to time. Sometimes this was in search of new pastures but more often than not out of compulsions. Whenever there was an outside attack or religious persecution the vanquished or the oppressed often fled to the hills in search of security.\(^1\) With the passage of time, and the repeated influx of people, the region acquired a distinct identity of its own in the field of history, culture, language and customs.

The early history of Himachal Pradesh is shrouded in mystery though in recent researches attempts have been made to throw some light on it. It is only in the epics and Puranic literature that we come across an era of some sort of tribal republics referred as *Janpadas*. Extant Sanskrit literature (*Mahabharata* C.1000 B.C.) and *Panini* (C.500 B.C.) speaks of them. Numismatic evidences\(^2\) discloses the names of many tribal republics, which flourished in different parts of the hilly region between Yamuna and Ravi rivers in the centuries immediately preceeding and following the commencement of the Christain era. The important *Janpadas* of the region were - Audambaras, Trigarta, Kuluta and Kulindas.

The political unification of Northern India achieved under the Suzerainty of Harsha (606-647 A.D.) did not hold when the cohesive force of his personality was withdrawn by his death in 647 A.D. It soon split up into a number of small states. Thus the unified history of a large empire lost itself in local annals. The foothills of the Himalayas lend themselves admirably to such small kingdoms owing to the nature of the country. The 9th century saw the rise of a number of hill states, some of which maintained their identity if not their independence until recent years, despite their wars with each other and the frequent raids from the plains. States such as champaka (Chamba), Trigarta (Jalandhar), Kuluta (Kulu)\(^3\) and Bashahr, Kinnaur managed to remain outside the main areas of conflict in the northern plains.

The most outstanding feature of this period was the rise of the Rajputs. Right from the 8th century to 15th century there was a constant inflow of Rajput tribes. They founded several small states which stretched from the duns to the lesser Himalayas and often beyond to the higher Himalayas.\(^4\) Such states, to name only the important among them were Nurpur, Suket, Mandi, Bilaspur, Nalagarh, Baghal, 

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Baghet, Keonthal, Jubbal, Kumarsain, Balson, Sirmur and a score of other small hill states.

Most of these states were founded before the eleventh century. They were about 45 big and small states spread between the mountainous region lying between Ravi and Yamuna rivers. These states were divided into two groups.

The first group comprised Jalandhar or Trigarta (Kangra) and the various small states between the Ravi and Sutlej and the second group of Shimla Hill States and Sirmur state occupied the mountainous area and a portion of the Dun between Sutlej and Yamuna.

The following list includes the name of various states associated with Kangra, forming the western group.\(^5\)

1. Kangra
2. Guler
3. Kotla
4. Jaswan
5. Siba
6. Datarpur
7. Nurpur
8. Chamba
9. Suket
10. Mandi
11. Kulu
12. Kutleh
13. Bangahal
14. Shahpur

The eastern group or popularly known as Shimla hill states group lying between Sutlej and Yamuna could be further divided into two separate circles. In circle one were those states which were considerably large in area, population and income. These were:

1. Bashahr
2. Bilaspur
3. Sirmur
4. Nalagarh

The second circle included Athara and Bara Thakuraies. The principalities of the Bara Thakurai were as under:

1. Keonthal
2. Bhagat
3. Baghal
4. Kothar
5. Kumarsain
6. Bhajji
7. Mehlog
8. Dhami
9. Koti,
10. Madhan
11. Kunihar
12. Mangal

The following 18 were denominated as Athara Thakuraies.

1. Jubbal
2. Kotgarh-Kotkhai
3. Balson
4. Bawingarh
5. Khaneti

Tributaries of Beshahr


The following were the important states that existed down to British time.

Trigarta-Kangra was the oldest among the hill states. Its traditional history goes back to the long time anterior of the Christian era. Upto the beginning of the Gupta period it was a Gana. Gradually, their elected rulers and leaders became hereditary and independent. The powerful rulers subdued the Petty Ranas and Thakurs and founded Jalandhar Trigarta kingdom.

From 1806 to 1809 it was seized by the Gurkhas of Nepal. After the expulsion of the Gurkhas it passed into the hands of 'Maharaja Ranjit Singh who annexed the state of Kangra to his kingdom in about 1828 A.D. On the termination of first Anglo-Sikh war, the hill tracts between

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8. Panini Ashtadhyayi (V.3.116) as mentioned by Dr. Vasudev Sharan Aggarwal in India as known to Panini, Lucknow, 1953. p. 95.
the Sutlej and the Beas were under the treaty of the 9th March, 1946, ceded to the British Government, and Kangra and other hill states, thus came directly under the British control. On very strong military considerations it was decided to annex to the British Indian Empire the entire portions of Kangra and Kulu. From Kangra sprang the offshoots of Jaswasn, Guler, Siba and Datarpur.

To the far north west of Kangra was the state of Chamba. Its ancient capital was Brahmpur in the upper Ravi valley. For many centuries the state was subject to Kashmir, but regained its independence in the middle of 12th century. From 1770 A.D. it become a tributery to the sikhs. Finally after the first Anglo-sikh war of 1845-46 it came under the control of British Government in 1847 A.D.

A portion of the Chamba state was made over by inadvertance to Maharaja Gulab Singh of Kashmir in 1846, but was recovered from him in the following year and the whole conferred upon Raja Sri Singh, the rightful owner and his male heirs in perpetuity by a sanad of 1848. In 1863 at the request of Raja Sri Singh a British Political Officer was appointed to assist in the administration and by

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the introduction of various reforms inaugurated an era of prosperity, which made the state one of the most progressive in the western Himalayas.

In 1864 the forests of the state were leased\textsuperscript{13} to the Government for ninety nine years which resulted in one increase in income upto 6 lakhs of state. In 1908 the Government restored the management to the state.

Chamba state was situated in the western Himalaya. A sanad to Chamba was granted on 6th April, 1846. Afterwards the state was in political relations with the Punjab Government through the Commissioner of Lahore until the establishment of the Punjab state Agency in 1921, when it was placed in direct relation with the Government of India through the Agent to the Governor-General Punjab states.\textsuperscript{14}

Kutlehr state was spread in Jaswan Dun and was found by one Jaspal in the 11th century A.D.\textsuperscript{15} After 1786 Kutlehr was seized by Raja Sansar Chand but during the Gurkhas invasion all his territory was restored. From 1809 the state was subject to the sikhs.

\begin{itemize}
\end{itemize}
Baghal state was in Bara Bangahal hills between Kangra and Kulu. From the founder of the State, Prithi Pal was the 21st ruler who was murdered about 1720 A.D. After his death a large portion of state was annexed by Kulu and Mandi. After the death of Man Pal the 1st ruling chief Kangra and Guler seized all that was left of the state.

In the upper Beas valley Kulu was an old principality in the western Himalayas and was known as Kuluta in the ancient period. The state was founded by Behangmani Pal. Its earliest capital was Nast or Jagat Sukh. The sikh army invaded Kulu in 1840 A.D. and brought it under sikh control.

The founders of Suket, Mandi and Keonthal states were descendents of a common ancestor who belonged to the sen dynasty of Bengal. Local tradition records that Rup Sen of this dynasty, reached eastern Punjab, where he settled at Ropar at the foot of Shimla hills and gave to the place his name. His three sons subsequently established themselves in separate principalities Vir Sen the eldest son founded Suket State in 1211 A.D. with his capital at

16. Ibid., p. 491.
17. Ibid., p. 491-492.
18. Ibid., p. 475.
19. Om Prakash Gautam, Vansavali or Historical Record of the Chandravansi (Lunar Dynasty) Maharajas of India Sundernagar. (Suket Darbar) 1940, p.10.
Pangana in the mid of Sutlej valley Bahu Sen founded Mandi State and Giri Sen founded Keonthal State with capital Chauri in Ashwani Nadi valley Madan Sen, the descendent of Vir Sen shifted his capital to Lahore in Bahl valley.

Suket and its off-shoot Mandi have rarely been on friendly terms and their history is mainly a record of quarrels with one another over the merest trifles. The Sikhs subjugated Suket in 1839. But in 1846, the Suket Chief, Raja Ugar Sen turned against the Sikh and joined with the Raja of Mandi in expelling the Khalsa garrisons from their strongholds in the hills. In return for these services the colonial government awarded him the rights of a chief in his territories, under the usual restrictions by a Sanad granted in October 1846 after the British annexation of the Jallandhar Doab. The last ruler of Suket was Lakshaman Sen who succeeded to the Gaddi in 1919 A.D.

During the reign of Ruder Sen, people rebelled against his oppressive policy. At length the condition of things became so serious that the commissioner of Jallandhar had to intervene. After inquiry, punishments were awarded.

20. Ibid., p. 15.
Ruder Sen was deposed by the British Government in 1879. Again in 1924 a rebellion broke out in Suket State. The administration of the state was temporarily taken over by an officer of the Punjab P.C.S. under the general control of the Agent to the Governor General, Punjab States.

The state was in political relation with the Punjab Government through the Commissioner of Jallandhar until the establishment of the Punjab states Agency in 1921, when it was placed in direct relations with the Government of India through the Agent to the Governor General of Punjab States.

Mandi was an offshoot of Suket. Ajbar Sen founded in 1527 A.D. the town of Mandi. The separation of Mandi from Suket was followed by frequent wars between two states. The country eventually fell under Sikh supremacy in 1841 A.D. This territory was taken over by the British Government under the treaty of Lahore in March, 1846 A.D. In that year itself full sovereignty was conceded to Raja Balbir Sen and his heirs under a Sanad dated 24th

After 1846, therefore, the British Government possessed large powers of interference in the affairs of Mandi, and settlement in the state was carried out by H.W. Emerson in 1917. Forest settlement was carried out by Mr. H.L. Wright in 1918 and the forests were managed on British lines.

The State remained in political relations with the Punjab government through the Commissioner, Jallandhar until the establishment of Punjab states Agency in 1921, when it was placed in direct relation with the Government of India through the Agents of the Governor General, Punjab States.

In the lower Sutlej valley, Kahlur (Bilaspur) and Hindur (Nalagarh) were two important states founded by an adventurous Chandel Prince. The founder of Kahlur Bilaspur state came on a pilgrimage to Jawalamukhi. After the worship his sons retreated in different directions. Bir Chand the eldest son retired to the Sutlej valley where he conquered a territory from the local rulers and settled on the left bank and founded the state of Kahlur in C. 900 A.D. Raja Dip Chand founded the town of Bilaspur in about

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1654 A.D. On the left bank of Sutlej, Raja Mahan Chand of Bilaspur sought the intervention of Gurkhas who defeated Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra and occupied the fort of Kangra. But the invaders were compelled to retire by the army of Ranjit Singh in 1809 A.D. The Gurkhas however, continued to occupy Bilaspur and the states of Shimla Hill till 1815 when with the help of British they were compelled to leave the country.

Thus the state came under the protection of the British Government and a Sanad was granted to Raja Mahan Chand on 6th March, 1815 by Lord Moria, the Governor-General.²⁸

Until the establishment of the Punjab states Agency in 1921, the state was in political relation with the Punjab Government through the Superintendent, Hill States, Shimla, but afterwards it was placed in direct relation with the Government of India, through the Agents to the Governor General, Punjab States.²⁹

The principality of Hindu (Nalagarh) was an offshoot of Kahlur. Kahan Chand was the eleventh ruler of Kahlur, had three sons. One of them was Ajai Chand resolved to carve out a principality for himself. Having raised a force, he invaded the territory of Handu. The cruel Thakur of Handu was defeated and Ajai Chand established the state of Hindus in about 1100 A.D. One of the more important rulers of Nalagarh was Ram Saran Singh (1778-1848). The Gurkhas also over ran the state but after their defeat in 1815 A.D. the state came under the protection of the British. In that year Raja Ram Saran Singh was confirmed by a Sanad dated 20th October, 1815 in possession of his territories with the exception of the fact of malaun in lieu of which the Thakurai of Bharanli (near Kotkhai) was conferred on him, but later on this Thakurai was passed on to Belson on the payment of Rs.8,500.

Nalagarh was in political relation with the government of India through the political agent, Punjab Hill States Agency, and one resident for the Punjab states.

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The territory of Bashahr was the largest in extent of all the Hill States. In the north it extended up to the Tibetan border and in the south to the Tons river. The greater part of it lay within one drainage area of Sutlej river.

The early history of Bashahr is generally based on legend and traditions. According to tradition, the Bashahr dynasty was founded by Pardhuman, the son of Lord Krishna.\(^3^2\)

Capt. Charles Pratt Kennedy, Superintendent Shimla Hill States while submitting his report on the states to the government mentions that this Rai was founded by an emigrant Rajput from the Daccan in Sambet 472 (412 A.D.) by one named Dunber Singh.\(^3^3\)

A significant development during the 17th century A.D. was the rise of Raja Kehri Singh (1639-1696) of Bashahr. He was the most powerful chief of his time. He sided with Tibet in its war against Ladakh in 1681-83 A.D.\(^3^4\) The importance of his role in this war is evident from a contemporary document discovered at Namgya near Shipki.

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Pass in Kinnaur. Tibet rewarded him for his help by giving him all of upper Kinnaur. It also signed a commercial agreement conferring on Traders from Bashahr the right of free trade and movement in Tibet.\textsuperscript{36}

Bashahr was held under subjugation by the Gurkhas from 1810 to 1815.\textsuperscript{37} But on the expulsion of Gurkhas in 1815 the British Government by a \textit{Sanad} dated 6th November, 1815 confirmed the Raja of Bashahr in possession of all his territories.\textsuperscript{38} Thus the Bashahr state came under the British Government.

On the conclusion of the Gorkha war, Raja Mohinder Singh was granted a \textit{Sanad} on 8th February 1816. It gave Khaneti and Delath \textit{Thakurais} to Bashahr, and a part of Rawin, which was a district of the state was transferred to Keonthal, Kumarsain was constituted a separate \textit{Thakurai}. The chief of Bashahr was to afford subordinate military cooperation whenever called upon and to furnish \textit{begaris} for the construction of roads throughout his territory besides a tribute of Rs.15,000/-.\textsuperscript{39} The tribute was, however, reduced to Rs.3945/- as a compensation for the abolition transit duties in 1847.

\begin{footnotes}
\item[37] \textit{Ibid.}, p. 277.
\end{footnotes}
In 1850 Shamsher Singh, a boy of eleven, succeeded to the throne. During the mutiny of 1857 the Raja kept back his tribute and offered no aid to the British Government. This behaviour of the Raja during the mutiny displeased the colonial rulers though it was ultimately over-looked. In 1914 Padam Singh was confirmed as the Raja of Bashahr on 13th November. He assumed full ruling powers in 1917. He died in April 1947.

Although a scheme for taking over the forests of Bashahr state was prepared in 1850, it could be effected only in 1864, when the Raja of Bashahr leased his forests to the British Government for a period of fifty years. In 1929 a fresh agreement in regard to forests was made. Annual payment to the Raja was raised to Rs.1,00,000.

The state was formerly in political relation with the Punjab Government through Superintendent, Shimla Hill States. On 1st October, 1936, however, it was included in the newly created Punjab Hill State Agency and was in relation with the Government of India, through the Political Agent, Punjab Hill State Agency.

42. Ibid., p. 528.
The tract of the country lying between the rivers Sutlej and Tons, the former bounding it to the north west and north, the later to the south east was divided into a variety of large and small states, governed by chiefs more or less independent, in proportion as they were recognised under the appellation of the Bara Thakurais or twelve Lordships and Phasa Thakurais or eighteen lordships. The twelve Thakuraies or principalities were spread in the lower Shimla hills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Principality</th>
<th>Founders</th>
<th>Area (sqm.)</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Keonthal</td>
<td>Founded by Giri Sen a Bengali adventurist in C.1211 A.D.</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>25,560</td>
<td>1,50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Baghal</td>
<td>Founded by Ajab Dev Parmar who came from Ujain in C.14th Century A.D.</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>26,352</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Baghat</td>
<td>The Founder of the State Basant Pal came from Dharanagar in Deccan in C.14th century A.D.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>1,50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Beja</td>
<td>Founded by one Garab Chand who came from Ujain, the date of which is not known.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
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<th>Area (sqm.)</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Bharoti</td>
<td>After the Gurkhas war of 1814-15 Bharoti was retained by the British as the family to which it originally belonged was extinct.</td>
<td>35,914</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Bhajji</td>
<td>Charu, the founder came from Kutlehr in Hoshiarpur Hills</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>15,413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Dhami</td>
<td>Govind pal came from Delhi after the invasion of Shahbudin Gori.</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5,232</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Koti</td>
<td>Chand who founded Koti principality came from Kutlehr.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9,228</td>
<td>94,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Kunihar</td>
<td>Abhoj Dev came from Akhnur in 12th century.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2,168</td>
<td>6,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Kuthar</td>
<td>Surat Chand, the founder from Rajauri in Jammu.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Mangal</td>
<td>The founder of Mangal was Atri Rajput from Marwar.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Mehlog</td>
<td>Hari Chand the founder is said to have come from Ayodhya</td>
<td>47 1/2</td>
<td>8,155</td>
<td>47,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **Athara Thakuraies** were located in Himalayan valleys of the Sutlej, Giri and Pabar rivers. The principalities were as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Founder</th>
<th>Area (sq.m.)</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Jubbal</td>
<td>Founded by Karan Chand at the end of 12th century</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>8,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. No.</td>
<td>Principality</td>
<td>Founder</td>
<td>Area (sq.m.)</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Sari</td>
<td>Founded by Mool Chand, the younger brother of Karan Chand in the 12th century (extinct in 1864)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Rawingarh</td>
<td>Founded by Duni Chand, the youngest brother of Karan Chand in the 12th century AD</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Balson</td>
<td>Alok Singh, the founder of Balson, was an offshoot from Sirmur State. It was founded in the later half of the 12th century.</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>6,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ratesh</td>
<td>Founded by Rai Singh, a scion of the house of Sirmur in the early 17th century.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Ghund</td>
<td>Founded by Janjan Singh Chandel in the upper Giri Valley.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Madhan</td>
<td>Founded by a Chandel adventurist in the mid 17th century in upper Giri Valley.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Theog</td>
<td>Founded by Jais Chand in the mid 15th century in the upper Giri valley</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>6,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Kumharsain</td>
<td>The founder of the state. Kirat Singh came from Gya about 1000 AD.</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>12,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Khaneti</td>
<td>Founded by Uggan Chand who related with the founder of Kumharsain</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Delath</td>
<td>Founded by Priti Singh, a brother of the Kumharsain progenitor Kirat Singh</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Among the Athara Thakurais, some were of considerable importance, particularly Jubbal. Before the 12th century AD the ancestors of the rulers of Jubbal were rulers of Sirmur. A heavy flood in the Giri river completely washed away Sirmuri Tal, the capital of Sirmur. Raja Ugar Chand was drowned in the flood, while his three sons were away in Hatkoti. When Raja Salivahana of Jaisalmer who was at pilgrimage at Haridwar learnt about the destruction of Sirmuri Tal, he at once asked his son Sobha to march on Sirmur. Thus a second dynasty of Bhatti Rajputs was

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established in Sirmur in 1195 AD.\textsuperscript{46} The three sons of Ugar Chand, Karan Chand, Mool Chand and Duni Chand then respectively became the founders of the States of Jubbal, Sari and Rawingarh in Pabar and Giri basins. \textsuperscript{47}

Balson, too, was an off-shoot of the ancient Sirmur state.\textsuperscript{48} Ratesh was another off-shoot of Sirmur. Ghund, Madhan and Theog were founded by the three sons of a Chandel Rajput of Jaipur.\textsuperscript{49}

Similarly the five states of Kumharsain, Khaneti, Delath, Karangla and Kotkhai also had a common origin. These states were founded by Kirat Singh.\textsuperscript{50} Darkoti in the upper Giri valley was founded by one Durga Singh. Tharoch formerly constituted a part of the Sirmur State, and was bestowed as a gift on Krishan Singh, the descendant of Deokaran, one of the Maharaj Kumar of Udaipur. Dhadi in lower Pabar valley was an off shoot of Tharoch. Sangri originally belonged to Bashahr and was taken from that state by Raja Man Singh (1688-1719) of Kulu sometime during the first half of the 18th century. Later on, it came to be known as Sangri state of Athara Thakurai.\textsuperscript{51}

\textsuperscript{46} \textit{Punjab State Gazetteer, Shimala Hill States - Jubbal State}, Lahore, 1911, p.4-5.
\textsuperscript{47} \textit{Gazetteer of Shimla District}, 1888-89, p.21.
\textsuperscript{48} \textit{Gazetter of Shimla Hill States}, 1934 - Theog State - Lahore, 1935, p.1
\textsuperscript{49} \textit{Gazetteer of Shimla District}, 1888-89, p.20.
\textsuperscript{50} \textit{P.S.G. Shimla Hill States}, 1910, Kumharsain, p.1.
The Shimla hill chiefs appear to have enjoyed almost complete independence ever since their first establishment in these hills. They were apparently too insignificant to arouse the jealously or attract the averteries of the Delhi emperors and they had the wisdom, while fighting freely almost themselves, to avoid giving offence to all powerful Muslim neighbours at whose mercy they would have been, had annexation been deemed necessary or desirable.

During the end of the 18th century and the beginning of 19th century, the Gurkhas of Nepal extended their dominion from Kumaon to Kangra. By 1810 AD they occupied the Bara and Athara Thakuraies and Bashahr state also. Their general Amar Singh Thapa established his capital first at Rampur and in 1813 at Arki. They also conducted raids in the foothill areas which were under the protection of the British. The British Government was constantly protesting to the Nepal Government against the raids, but with no effect. The hill people were also tired of their harsh and tyrannical rule. Therefore, on November, 1st, 1814 the British declared war against the Gurkhas and the hill people were encouraged to make an attempt to drive out their oppressors. The British also addressed a proclamation to all. The hill chiefs of the region, offering reinstatement under British guarantee in return for aid against the Gurkhas. In 1815-16 the Gurkhas were defeated and compelled to leave the country.
The help by the Britishers turned out to be a trap for them. They compelled the local rulers to sign certain treaties according to which the paramount power passed from the hands of these rulers to the British Government in India.

These states were placed under the supervision of the Assistant Political Agent/Political Agent at Sabathu to the Governor General through the Commissioner of Delhi. The first Assistant Political Agent was Capt. Ross and in 1822 he was succeeded by Capt. C.P. Kennedy who remained on this post up to 1835. The last political Agent was Mr. Edwards. It appears that the Political Agent was also the administrator of the British Illaquas of Shimla, Bharauli, Subath, Kotkhai and Kotgarh as we do not hear anything about the District administrative Officer of Shimla. It is only after 1850 we find references about the Deputy Commissioner, Shimla who was also designated as Superintendent of Shimla hill states. Thus the incumbent had a dual charge. This position remained up to 1936. When a separate office called 'Shimla Hill State Agency' under a political Agent was created with headquarters at Shimla. This position remained up to 15th August, 1947 when the British left India.