CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

History is the record of the life of societies of men, of the changes which the societies have undergone, of the ideas which determine the actions of these societies, and of the material conditions which have aided or hindered their development. Study of history would be meaningless without the appreciation of social significance.

In recent times a lot of attention has been paid by the researcher to explore the regional past of the country. An extensive amount of research is being carried out to study the political, social and economic aspects of life at the regional level. Even though these attempts are problematic and beset with difficulties, nevertheless, it is imperative to know them.

It is important to know about the people living in different parts of the country, their socio-cultural peculiarities and political-economic background, for studying the irrational similarities and dissimilarities and for having a better and more precise understanding of the national past of the country.

India itself is a vast country and hundreds of studies have been made on different aspects of the country by using a variety of inter-disciplinary and informal approaches. Himachal Pradesh has been put under the microscope of
analysis-cum-examination due to its importance as a hill state and examination also because it falls in the Western-Himalayas. However, detailed studies have not been conducted and this thesis is a modest attempt to do so from 1815 to 1947. The literature on today's conditions is abundant. But the past of this hill state is hardly known to people at large. Therefore, to study the social history of this reputed hill state needs attention, in order to uncover the gap between the past and the present and the link of the past and present status of Simla State, which remained relatively unstudied by a few historians who otherwise conducted research on comparatively less important aspects, concentrating more or general nature research. These works are *Kinnar Desh* by Rahul Sanskritiayayyn, *Kinnaur in the Himalayas* by S.C. Chib, and *Polyandry in the Himalayas* by Y.S. Parmar. The second category of work pertains to the history of Himachal Pradesh in general and provides just a glimpse other works of this kind are *Himachal Pradesh Past, Present and Future* by S.K. Gupta and others, *History of Himachal Pradesh, Art and Architecture of Himachal Pradesh* by Mr. Mian Goverdhan Singh, *History and Culture of Himalayan State* by S.C. Charak, *Party Politics in Himalayan State* by Ranbir Sharma and *History of Himachal Pradesh* by M.S. Ahluwalia. This particular study pertains to the Social History of Simla Hill States during the colonial period. The thesis is divided into a total of six chapters. This introduction discusses the geographical features and people.
The second chapter focuses on the history, highlighting the popular movements during 1815-1937. The third chapter discusses the general social life during that particular period. The fourth chapter focuses on social reforms and welfare work during this period. The fifth chapter is exclusively related to the status of the women.

General Survey

The Western Himalayan tract lying between Tons river, a tributary of Jamuna in the east and Sutlej in the west, was known as Simla Hill States before the formation of Himachal Pradesh in April 1948. This region was occupied by 28 large and small states and Thakurais were spread between 30° 20' and 32° 5' north latitude and 76° 30' and 79° 1' east longitude. The area of these States was about 4800 square miles and according to the 1881 census the total population of these States was 5,02,853.

Before the coming of the Britishers to these hills, the region was known as Athara Thakurais or eighteen lordships and Bara Thakurais or twelve lordships. The former Thakurais were situated in the upper hills and the latter in the lower hills. After the expulsion of Gurkhas from these hills in 1815 the Britishers retained some posts as military posts in the hills. Subathu was one of them. Here, later on, a political agent who was given control of all the hill States was appointed and
the post was held by one Lt. Ross (1819-22). His headquarter was Subathu. In 1819 A.D. he built a log hut near a village called Simla and made it his summer residence. After him in 1822 A.D., Capt. P.C. Kennedy (1822-35) built a house at the same site which later came to be known as Kennedy House. Subsequently, the village of Simla became a summer headquarter of Political Agent-cum-the Superintendent, Hill States. Their example was followed by many British officers and armymen and, much lay by 1826, the new settlement had acquired a name, so much so that after the name of Simla these Hill States came to be known as 'Simla Hill States'.

Survey of Literature

The earliest visitor to this region was an English man, James Baillic Fraser, who visited this area in 1814-15. He was a civilian with the army of general Martindell which entered the hills in November 1814 to upulse the Gurkhas. He extensively travelled the area and recorded in detail the geography, history, social and economic life of the people at the time. He was followed by Alexander General, surveyor in the East India Company. General was perhaps the first European to visit Kinnaur. He traversed from Subathu, his observations of Simla village being mentioned in his travel account. It is a valuable monograph on the upper Kinnaur and Spiti area as is his companion William Lloyds. Victor
Jacquemont, the intrepid French explorer visited Sirmour, Simla Hills and Kinnaur during the years 1829 and 1830 when Captain P.C. Kennedy was Political Agent and Superintendent, Hill States.

Major Archer and Capt. Mundy, who were A.D.C. to Lord Combermere, the commander-in-chief in 1828 A.D. toured Simla Hills with the latter. They have recorded very interesting accounts of the land and people of Simla Hills. These books provide a vast panorama of princely states and people of the hills. George Powell Thomas's account of 1840-46 is an important work for its details of land and life of the region around Simla. Similarly, the diary of William Howard Russel a war correspondent of 'London Times' throws sufficient light on the political and economic conditions in the Simla hills after the mutiny of 1857 when William Hay was Superintendent of Simla Hill States.

The other important explorers who left immensely valuable information on a variety of subjects were Thomas Thomson, Andrew Wilson, a free lance journalist; and Van Der Slean, a Dutch adventurer and many others. The explorers, travellers and adventures have left for us very valuable information on the geography, history, and social, cultural and economic life of the people of Simla hills in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
Besides, during the British period land settlements were carried out almost in all the hill States. Reports of these settlements and wajili-ul-vrij were prepared and published. These settlements reports speak of the social and economic condition of the people. These reports are mostly in Urdu.

The great revenue surveys of the middle of the nineteenth century made some attempt in this direction and gave sketchy accounts of social life in this region. Lt. col. E.G. Vace conducted the settlement of Simla District from 1881-83, and published the final report on the first regular settlement of the Simla District in Punjab dated 1881 from Calcutta in 1884. J.D. Anderson again conducted the land settlement of Simla district in 1915-16 and published its findings under title "Final Settlement Report on the Simla District 1916" and it was printed by Government Printing Press, Lahore in 1918.

Simultaneously regular settlements were carried out in Simla Hill States. Some of important settlement reports are as under:


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Since 1881, regular census were conducted in these hill States after every 10 years. To study the social history of any country, region or particular area, census reports are very important source material. Besides, the census operation department brought out 18 reports, on Kothi, Nichar and Kanam of Kinnaur District, Shakrori Gijari, Shathla, Chirgaon, Chauri, Chaupal of Simla District; Batal and Basal of Solan District; Dabhla Dari and Deoli of Bilaspur District; Pangna, Ranjana, Moginand and Kolar. These villages monographs contain most valuable data on the social history of Simla Hill States. The gazetteer, entitled 'Simla District-Gazetteer', a mine of information was first published in 1888-89 from Calcutta. Its revised and enlarged edition was published from Lahore in 1904. The Gazetteer of the Simla Hill States was first published in 1911 from Lahore and its abridged edition in 1939.

Besides, some large states used to issue annual reports on the administrative activities of the State. In addition to this the village records of Patwaris and Kanungos are very valuable sources of material for the study of social history of the people of Simla Hills.

Geo-Physical Setting

Physiographically, Simla Hills can be broadly divided into three zones.
(i) The Siwaliks; (ii) The Outer or Sub-Himalaya; (iii) and the Mid-Himalaya. The Greater or trans-Himalaya is in the far north. The outer Himalaya or Siwalik range, the youngest and comparatively low stretches from Kangra to Sirmour, sometimes in a single fold, sometime double. The Siwalik ranges are composed of highly unconsolidated deposits which easily lend themselves to erosion. These are now thus highly deforested and eroded.

Secondly, the inner Himalayas or Mid-mountains a complex older zone, are of the average height of 4,500 mts. at the summits. This is a thinly populated country of high mountains and narrow valleys. The landscape is always interesting and there is an endless variety to charm the eye. The tree-line reaches up to 3,500 mts. The hills and valleys of the lower ranges stretch far into the distance. Dense tropical forests cover the lower slopes of the mountains in the east, and westward their place is increasingly taken by magnificent coniferous forest the pride of all being the deodars of Bashahr and Jubbal. On the outer fringe of the sub-Himalaya, facing the Indian plains, are hill station like Simla, Solan, Kasauli, Dagshai, and others, altitude varying from 1500 to 2,200 meters. The highest peak in this zone is Choor peak (3647 mts).

The third zone is greater-Himalaya or Alpine zone. This zone remains under snow for about five to six months in the year and this compels the inhabitants to become migratory.
The highest peaks of this zone are Shipki (6,791 mts.) and Paldang (Kannaur Kailash (6,500 mts.).

Simla region is a hilly and mountainous tract. Geographically, it forms part of the western Himalayas and thus presents an intricate pattern of mountain ranges, hills and valleys.

Mountain system

The mountains of the Simla Hill States form a continuous series of ranges ascending from the low hills which bound the plains of Ambala to the great central chain of the Eastern Himalayas. This central chain terminates a few miles south of the Sutlej in the most northern of the States, that of Bushahr which is broken on its northern frontier by spurs from the snowy hills which separate it from Spiti and on the east by similar spurs from the range by which it is shut off from the Chinese territory. Starting from the termination of the Central Himalayas a transverse range - the last to the south of the Sutlej runs south-west throughout the length of the Simla States, forming the water-shed between the Sutlej and the Jamuna, in other words, between the Indus and the Ganges. A few miles north-east of Simla, it divides into two main branches. One following the line of Sutlej in a north-west direction and the other continuing south-east, intel at few miles north of Sabathu, meet at right angles the mountains of outer
or sub-Himalayan system. The whole range for the sake of convenience, will hereafter be referred to as the Simla range. South and east of Simla, the hills lying between the Sutlej and the Tons centre in the great Chor mountain, 11,982 feet high, is itself the termination of a minor chain that branches southwards from the main Simla range.

The mountain system of these States can be mapped out into three portions as follows:

1. The Chor mountain and spurs projecting from it, occupying the south-east corner.

2. Simla range extending from the Central Himalayas to the neighbourhood of Sabathu.

3. The mountains of the sub-Himalayan series, running from north-east to north-west and forming the boundary of the Ambala plains.

Valleys

The region of Simla Hills is endowed with magnificent valleys. The most notable among them are - Pabbar valley, Giri valley, Sangla valley, Sutlej valley and Saproon valley. Since early times these Himalayan valleys have given shelter to the pressed people from all sides, mainly from the Indian mainland.
Drainage System

Simla region has the unique distinction of providing water to the Indus and Gangetic plains, as the latter flow, into the Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal.

The principal rivers by which the drainage of these hills is carried off are the Sutlej, the Pabbar, the Giri, the Ghamber and the Sirsa.

Sutlej

The Sutlej enters the Bashahr state from Chinese territory by a pass between peaks, the northern of which is 22,183 feet above the sea level and flows south-east through Bashahr, receiving the drainage from the central Himalayas on the one side and Spiti Hills on the other, till it reaches the border of Kullu a few miles above the town of Rampur. Just next to Rajput, it is joined by the Nogli stream. From Rampur it forms the western boundary of Simla States with Kullu, Suket and then with Kangra. It leaves the hills of Bhakra and enters the plains of Punjab.

Pabbar

Pabbar is one of the principal feeders of the Tons and therefore, of the Jamna rises from Burenda Pass, referred to by
local inhabitants as Baren ghatti in the State of Bashahr, having feeders on the southern slopes both of the central Himalayas and the transverse Simla range. It flows southwards and passes into Gharwal, joining with Tons of Tuni.

**The Giri**

The Giri Ganga rises from Kupar peak in the hills north of the Chor mountain range, and collecting the drainage of the whole tract between that mountain and the Simla range flows south-west until meeting the line of the outer Himalayas, it turns sharply to the south-east and passing through the whole length of the State of Sirmur empties itself into the Jamna about ten miles below the junction of that river with the Tons. Ashani is an important tributary of Giri and rises from Mahasu hills near Simla. Gambhar and Sirsa are the streams of lower hills rising from Dagshai and Dun of Nalagarh respectively.

Only the Sutlej is snowfed. During the monsoons these rivers become raging torrents carrying an enormous quantity of water and in winter, when snow hardens and water freezes at the higher attitudes, the glaciers sizes shrinks considerably and alarmingly.

These rivers have been playing a very significant social, cultural and economic role in the inhabitants life of the people of the region.
Lake

The green hills are studded with beautiful lakes, the ones worth quoting are as follows:

Chandra Nahan Lake

This lake is at a height of 4,267 metres on Chanshal Peak in Rohru Tehsil, source of the Pabbar river.

The Karali lake is on the Chhota Shali hillock just on the other side of Shali peak visible from Simla.

Nako Lake

Nako lake is at Nako village of Pooh sub-division at a height of 4300 mts. above sea level. It freezes in winter and the local people enjoy skating on it. Bradonsar lake is at a height of 17500 feet above sea level in between Dadrakawar and Sangla valley of Kinnaur.

Simla region is endowed with magnificent valleys. The most notable among them are Pabbar valley, Shalwi valley, Sutlej valley especially below Rampur, Baspa valley in Kinnaur, Kunihar valley and Saproon valley. Since early times these valleys have given shelter to the oppressed people from all sides, mainly from the Indian mainland.
Climate

Simla Hills States are a mountainous region with elevations ranging from 350 to 7000 meters. The climatic conditions here accordingly vary from the semi-tropical to the semi arctic. The climate of lower hills like Solan, Baghal, Nalagarh, lower Pabbar and Sutlej valley is severe in summer but winter is pleasant and bracing with only a moderate variation between day and night temperatures. Snowfall is rare. The climate in the mid or lesser Himalayan ranges is pleasant in summer and quit semi-arctic in winter, the snowfall being heavy. In Kinnaur valley, climate is temperate in summer and semi-arctic in winter. Snowfall normally begins in October and after December the whole valley is under snow till March or April. Communication remains cut off and the villages become almost isolated. In winter the inhabitants move to lower hills.

Flora

Simla Hill region has a diversified and rich flora because of the existence of a variety of climate and a wide range of altitudes. Every type of Western Himalayan flora from Himalayan meadows and high level fir and rhododendron down to tropical scrub and bamboo forests of the low foothills is found. There are three climatic altitudinal zones of natural vegetation as follows:
1) Tropical and sub-tropical (300-1525 net)

2) Temperate (1525-3650)

3) Alpine (3650-4650)

Fruit Trees

The peach, the nectarine, the Himalayan apricot, the greengage and wild pear are the commonest trees. Apples and pears are sometimes grown. But the native of Simla Hills are not successful fruit-growers and irresponsibly cut down according to fruit trees without scruple to make an axe handles. The cherry rus berry, blackberry, barberry, strawberry, medlar, and edible fig are to be found in the more remote tracts, but are practically ignored by the native.28

Fruit ripens in the later end of May and in June. Kela, Kimu, Arti, Alucha and Poja.29

Forest Trees

The forests of the tracts are its most valuable assets as well as its most interesting and picturesque feature. The deodar grows at elevations between 7,000 and 8500 feet, and is seen at its finest in the forests of Bashahr, Jubbal and Throch. Large areas in these States and in Balsan and Kumharsain are verdant in which the Himalayan spruce predominates. The handsome
tree grows to a great height but its timber is inferior and almost unsaleable currently. As a result, many huge trees are seen girdled and left to die to make room for other more lucrative species. The Himalayan spruce extends to a higher elevation than the deodar, as does the pand-rao a slightly more valuable wood. The blue pine is often mingled with the deodar, while on hill slopes from 2000 or less to 6000 feet high the chil is in many places the most distinctive tree. Of the two the Kali produces the better timber. The edible pine is common in Bashahr. The roasted seed of the chil is often eaten and is sometimes mistaken by European travelers for the edible pine nut.

Of oaks the one found highest is the kharsu which often grows above the range of pines. The mohru, which grows at a slightly lower elevation, is one of the most valuable fodder trees in the higher hills. The leaves are stripped once every three years. Both the kharsu and the mohru bear a fruit consumed during scarcity. The ban is used extensively for making charcoal. It also provides stout rafters, and hard wood for making oil presses.\(^30\)

In the lower Hills the bamboo grows extensively. The shisham, sail, bor, pipal and sambhal are also found. The mango tree is common, but bears fruit of poor quality.\(^31\)
Now to highlights of fauna

No other State in India can boast of such a variety of fauna, due chiefly to the different climates found in the tropical dums, the shiwaliks and other hills, long river basins and alpine heights.

Wild Animals

The more remote forests abound with panther and Himalayan Black Bear. The later do considerable damage to crops, often destroying whole fields of buckwheat and will even enter houses in search of food. Leopards are a constant menace to flocks browsing on the uplands. The only valid protection against them are the fierce dogs kept by all who own cattle. One such dog protected by an iron spiked collar will often put a leopard to flight. Snow leopards are hunted in Bashahr. The Brown Bear is found on the snowy hills of Bashahr but is rare. Hyenas are not uncommon as are wolves in sparses numbery with in the States adjoining the plains.

The Burrhel is found at elevation over 10,000 feet in Bashahr. The Serow is much commoner and is known to frequent the higher hills near Simla. The Gto Goral and the muskdeer are found throughout the tract. The Sambur sometimes wanders up to the Pabbar valley and temples in the little State of Rawin are full of Sambar horns. The Ibex is
found in the higher portion of Bashahr. Its horns are considered peculiarly appropriate for the adornment of temple walls and gables. The Tahr is abundant in the Rohru tehsil of Bashahr.

As a rule, the boar is the animal most carefully preserved as a rule by the chief when he is a hunter. In Baghal, Bilaspur and Nalagarh, such boars are numerous and cause rampant crop destruction. ³⁴

Birds

The white-crested pheasant is common between 5,000 and 10,000 feet. The Koklas and Chair pheasants are slightly less so. The Monal is found above 10,000 feet, particularly on the Chor mountains and on the hills above Narkanda. The Chor is a haunt of the Himalayan snow-cock. The Chakor are common, especially in the hills to the north of Jubbal. Black and gray partridges and jungle fowls are found throughout the valleys and the lower hills.

In the winter, the woodcock is often seen in the valleys of Nalagarh, Bilaspur and Baghal. Duck frequent the rivers all the year round. Pochard have been seen on the Giri in June. ³⁵
Fish

The Giri is well-stocked with mahseer of moderate size. The fishing has been poor of late years. The upper reaches of the river are continually poisoned, dynamited and netted. The Pabbar contains larger, but apparently fewer, masheer. It is full of bachwa. There are very large masheer in the Sutlej, but the peculiar colour of the water renders angling unsatisfactory. Fair sport is accessible in the Gambhar, near its junction with the Sutlej. All the rivers and streams hold the so-called Hill of Indian trout, and the Sutlej Pabbar and Giri containing goonch. In the Sutlej, the native use the cast-net chiefly for fishing but also angle for masheer with paste. In the shallow streams the fish are driven into narrowness and killed with sticks. On the Pabbar, nooses are attached in number to strings, laid across the river at short intervals and efforts made to drive the fish upstream into them.36

Inhabitants

Simla Hills have been inhabited by many castes and tribes. The settlers came from all the surrounding areas, but principally from the Indian plains. They came for a number of reasons. The most important of these reasons was the location of holy places in and around the Himalayas and also the people from India and central Asia have always felt drawn to the
Himalayas. Other important reasons for (migration) comprised trade, politics and security.

The kolis are considered to be the original inhabitants of the hills. Probably, they came from the original stock of the Kolirian race which once inhabited the whole of the western Himalayas. Perhaps Koli, Hali, Chanal, Dom, and like others are the descendants of that race. The other allied castes are Chamar, Rehar, Badi Channal, Lohar, Sunar, Thathera, Kumhars, Dhaki or Turi, and like others. The distinction between the Kolis and other menial castes is merely occupational. These people are mostly artisan and work as cobblers, basket makers, iron smiths, carpenters, weavers, drummers and tailors. Most of them cultivate land.

The distinction between a Koli and other menials is mainly occupational. Ethnically they are all of the same Jati. Today, with the spread of education and communication, the younger generation has started shunning their ancestral professions and is shifting to agriculture, horticulture, salaried employment and business on a relatively large scale. Therefore, it can be said that the various scheduled castes such as Koli, Dangis, Channals, etc. belong to the indigenous stock, which in the course of time underwent certain changes in their original attitudes and qualities.

The second and perhaps the most important element in the population of Simla Hills is its Khasha complex. The
Khashas, originally from the Aryan race, entered western Himalayas through the north-western passes during early Indian history. They settled and established their colonies in the mid-Himalayan belt, stretching from Kashmir to Nepal. Simla hills formed the central part of their expansion afterwards, they being driven deeper into the interior hills by the succeeding waves of immigrants from the Indian plains.

These people were without caste and class distinction. But with the passage of time and under the alien influence, they split into several sub-section and classes. Kanets are one of the important sections. They are identified as Kunindas or Kulindas in ancient classes. The other classes were Rathis and Thakurs.

Khashas are generally tall and handsome and have fair complexion, hazel eyes, and regular proportional features. The following proverbs represent their characteristics.

"Khashascha Khashapatrasche Khash pratyaksh rakshasa, sanlushta jawa mushta kashtascha pran ghattha."

"A Khash and the son of a khash is a devil, pleased he gives a handful of barley, displeased he kills." 

The main occupation of these people is agriculture and livestock. Horticulture is also becoming very popular among them. The educated are now taking to other profession like
trade and industry. A fraction of their population is also going in for technical and white collar jobs.

Rajputs and Brahmins emerged much later on the racial arena of Simla hills. They came from the Indian plains, from time to time for a number of reasons, sometimes as an adventure or at times in search of security. The other important reason of such immigration was the location of holy places in and around Simla hills.

The descendants of these Rajputs are now known as 'Mians' in Simla Hills. They fall into an upper and lower class. The former do not plough their fields themselves. Their farm work is done either by hired servants or by tenants. The later work in their fields and are called lalbahu. However, under the compulsion of the present day economic strains, the majority of land-owners have been forced to take to agricultural and horticultural work.

The Rajputs according to some, are indifferent cultivators, and are extravagant and indolent. They are strict and orthodox in their customs and prefer employment to other occupations.

Side by side, the Brahmins also followed the Rajput to the hills to find safer places from the intruders from the north-west in the early medieval period. They are divided into different gotras. They form the chief priestly caste. They avoid agriculture and refuse to handle the plough. Some have taken
to trade and service. There are some agriculturist Brahmins who are looked down upon by those of the higher classes. The Brahmins are indifferent cultivators but owing to their miscellaneous earnings, say as priests of the village gods, they are generally in fair circumstances.

The high caste Hindus like Khatris, Kaisthas Mahajan, Suds, Bohras and like others migrated to the Simla hills during the Muslim invasion of northern India from the 12th to 17th centuries. These are classes are mercantile. The territorial distribution of these people is very well marked. They mostly live in towns and large settlements where they can carry out their business. These people are generally found in towns like Simla, Solan, Arki, Suni, Theog, Rampur, and Nalagarh.

The main tribes of Simla hills are Kinnauras and Gujjars. The Kinnauras are inhabitants of Kinnaur region. The people are locally referred to as Kanawaras or Negis. They are a pastoral tribe. Their main occupation is rearing sheep and goat, the former for wool. Many people are, however, engaged in agriculture and horticulture too. The Kinnauras were wise traders and engaged in brisk trade with Tibet before 1962.

The Gujjars of Simla Hills are mostly pastoral nomads. They entered these hills at a relatively late period. The Gujjars comprise both Hindus and Muslims. A Muslim Gujjar is a nomad and, therefore, has no settled home in any part of this
region. The Hindu Gujjars mostly lead a settled life, having largely abandoned the nomadic mode.

The wealth of Gujjars consists of buffaloes. They live in the skirts of forests and live exclusively by selling milk, ghee and herbal products. During the scorching summer they move to hills and in winter to low valleys for pasture of their domestic animals.

In addition, there are records of other scheduled castes and tribes in Simla hills. The majority of the population of these hills are Hindu, yet those who are Buddhists (especially in Kinnaur), Jains, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians, also enjoy equal respect there. The people of all groups enjoy perfect freedom to pursue their own way of life, customs, conventions and beliefs.

Fraser noticed that there was some difference in character and disposition between the people of Jubbal and Sirmur. According to him the people of Jubbal possessed a certain degree of superior smartness of appearance and those peculiar manners usually attributed to highlanders, in comparison to the inhabitants encountered by him in Sirmur. "Jubbal is famous for the beauty of its inhabitants; and the Runah and his minister, who came in the evening according to promise, both do justice to its fame. The chief himself is only about twenty five years of age, nearly as fair as European, with very handsome features, 'immeasurably large' eyes that give a
The inhabitants adjoining the Parala village in the Theog, Mundy States, are handsome and stocky, they are remarkably cheerful and have contented dispositions, saluting the chief smilingly as per occasion. The women that he noticed, on the contrary, were 'dumpy' and for the most part grumpy."

Describing the inhabitants of Kumarsain as peaceful, Gore (1890) writes, "The peacefulness of these hill men is wonderful. They are much more like dwellers upon the plains than mountaineers, and though they have probably never even seen a soldier, and certainly have never heard a shot fired in anger, yet they accept the white man's orders with meek submission and obedience. The carrying of arms or weapons of any sorts is a thing never dreamed of in these hills, for they have no danger from external enemies, and are too cowardly by nature to fight amongst themselves. It is difficult to account for this want of manly vigour, which spreads through the Himalayas from Kashmir to the boundary of fighting Nepal. Probably they were originally plainsmen, who have gradually spread up the valleys, where protected from all external foes, they have never been forced by any increasing want to forage for their needs."

The people of Kotgarh, William Lloyd observed, were not as fair as he had expected. The men were not infrequently
tall, all of them were strong, but few of them handsome. Many of the women were pretty.4

Captain J.D. Herbert (1819), has mentioned briefly about the people of Jaka which is the last village of Chohara in Rohru through which he crossed while on his way to Kinnaur via Gunas pass as under. The village was not large and the inhabitants appeared ill looking and dirty.4

People of Kinnaur

In lower Kinnaur the people were of Aryan origin. In upper Kinnaur Mongolian origin was more prominent. "In lower Kunawar (Kinnaur) they seemed to be a gentle and rather timid people who spoke an Aryan dialect though the Tartars of the upper portion of Bussahir (Kinnaure) were of rougher and stronger character, yet they were quite and friendly enough."46

Herber writes that the people of Kinnaur were tall and rather handsome, with expressive countenances, they were not however, so fair as he had expected to find them in so cold a climate. Their manners were good and they were open and communicative without being deficient in respect.47 Describing the Tartar women of Kinnaur, Herbert further informs us that, "We noticed the tartar women to be much fairer than any we had before seen. They had also rosy complexions that might emulate those of Europe, and their countenances, though
possessing all the peculiar features of that race, yet exhibited variety of character and expression which is not to be seen in Hindustan. The women of the lower mountains possess it also, but in a less degree, no doubt owing to the mixture of tartar blood. 

Settlements in Simla Hills

Except for a few towns, there is hardly any urban life in the hills, though of late urbanization is a fast growing trend and the people live mostly in the villages consisting of a few hamlets dotted over the fields. The villages are found wherever an area of arable-land exists, sufficient to support a few families. Occasionally, a solitary house, locally called dochhi or doagri, may house a family and it may stand on a small patch where there is no room for more.

Each village stands in the midst of its farm area of cultivation. In the flat lands, the houses are generally on the same level, higher up they are arranged in tiers, one above another. The houses are generally square or rectangular in shape. In the lower hills, houses are usually single storeyed with thatched roofs while in the upper regions, there are generally two and more storeyed houses with slate roofs.

The villages are generally self-sustained units. Every village has a temple where people congregate for common
worship. The village gods are carried in palanquins, on a number of occasions, to places of religious interest. When in trouble, the people go to the deities to seek their guidance and help. The village god is supposed to watch over the destiny of the village. He protects, rewards, threatens and punishes the people, while they in turn worship him by singing and dancing. 

THE INTRODUCTION has given a detailed presentation of Simla Hill states, its geography, its river and lake system, its forest, flora and fauna, finally its inhabitants from times immemorial to the present to enable the reader to place the social history in its extensive and variegated setting. History has to be seen geo-politically, ethnically, culturally to save it from surface historism which thrives on a recital of events and happenings in a linear graph. The social history of Simla has, therefore, been unfolded in the stream of historicity.
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