A. PHYSIOGRAPHICAL INTRODUCTION OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The physical setting of a particular region provides us with the background to understand human reaction, their adaptation to environment, the way the activities and the culture of man has progressed through the ages.

The Himalayas are the greatest of all mountain systems. Tucked in the western Himalayas no other portion of the Indian union, with the single exception of Jammu and Kashmir, extends as far north as the state of Himachal Pradesh; located between Ravi and Yamuna river, its greatest length is 355 Km and maximum width 270 Km from north west to north east and north to south.\(^1\)

Topographically, it extends for nearly three latitude degrees and longitude between 30°, 20N and 30° north, 75°, 45 to 79° east.\(^2\) The geography of Himachal Pradesh is fairly compact on account of mountainous terrain. Total area of the state is 55,673 Sq Km,\(^3\) and has 51,11,079 total population according to 1991 census.

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1. K.L. Joshi, Geography of Himachal Pradesh, (Delhi, 1984), p.1
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
Physiographically Himachal Pradesh can be divided into three zones: i.e. Outer Himalayas or the Shiwaliks, Inner Himalayas or Mid-mountain and the Greater Himalayas or the Alpine zone. The area stretching from Kashmir to Himachal Pradesh is one of the most complicated geological regions of the Himalayas. The region falls into four broad stratigraphical zones.2 i.e. Outer or sub-Himalayan zone, lower Himalayas zone, Higher Himalayan zone and Tibetan Himalayan zone.

Himachal Pradesh is bound by certain famous passes which are marked out as important amongst the physical features of the region. It is therefore worth mentioning mountain passes of Himachal Pradesh.3 It can rightly be said that Himachal Pradesh is a small world in itself having beautiful valleys with slopes covered with pine and typical temperate mountain flora.4 There are large number of permanent valley type glaciers but there are four major concentrations of glaciers in Himachal Pradesh which feed


3. For complete list of mountain passes in (H.P) see separate Appendix No.1 in the last of chapter I.

4. M. Postel, Antiquities of Himachal, Project for Indian Cultural Studies, (Bombay, 1985), vol.1, Ch.I, p.3.
regions, valley and five rivers i.e. Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Yamuna and Chenab. Besides these there are two natural lakes; Prashar in Mandi district and Khajjiar in Chamba district and two artificial lakes of Govind Sagar in Bilaspur district and Pong Dam in Kangra district. The other offshoots lakes are Ghada Saru in Bilaspur, Lamba in Chamba, Manimahesh in Bharmour, Dal lake in Kangra, Karesi Lake in Dharamsala, Kumarwah in Mandi, Chandra Nahan in Shimla, Tanu Jubbal in Narkanda, Karali in Shimla, Nako in Sirmour and Renuka in Nahan.¹

The climate of Himachal Pradesh presents a uniform picture with little variations, different aspects and elevation have given rise to various micro-climatic zones. Himachal is popularly divided into three seasons i.e. (Barsat) or rainy season from July to September, (Hyund) i.e. winter season from October to the end of February and the (Jaunda) or summer season begins in the month of March.

Geographical formation of Himachal Pradesh dates back to earliest phases of earth formation. Soil formation in this regions is marked by difference in character in five under mentioned zones.² Low hill soil zone, Mid hill soil zone, Hill soil zone, Mountainous soil

zone and Dry hill soil zone. Infact Himachal Pradesh is a land of young and strong mountainous soils, varying greatly in composition even in areas of uniform climate and land forms. Their profiles, depth and characteristic change as soon as there is a change in the grade of slopes.

Etymologically Himachal stands for the region which lies in the slopes and foot hills of new Himachal. Before 1948 A.D. this region was known as Punjab Hill States. Before 1966 A.D. this state was divided into two parts i.e. Old Himachal and New Himachal. It is bordered by the plains of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab on the south and on north west by Kashmir and on the north east by Tibet.

Administratively, Himachal Pradesh has 12 districts. There are different types of Pahari dialects. Apart from Hindi, English, Urdu and Punjabi are also spoken in the state. The physiographical features like the mountains system, the rivers, geology, geography, glaciers, climate and etymology, which constitute the permanent basis of every nation's history, are the major determining factors of the historical growth and evolution

1. These states were Bhaqal, Bhaqat, Balson, Bhaiji, Beja, Bushahr, Chamba, Darkoti, Dhami, Jubbal, Keonthal, Kumar-sain, Kunihar, Kuthar, Mehlog, Mandi, Mangal, Sangri, Sirmour, Suket, and Tharoch, M.S.Ahluwalia, History of Himachal Pradesh, op.cit., p.29. FN.10.

2. These are Solan, Kinnaur, Mandi, Chamba, Sirmour, Bilaspur, Shimla, Kangra, Kulu, Lahul and Spiti, Una and Hamirpur.
of people.¹

The influence of geography can be seen not only in the economic prosperity but also in political and military spheres as well. The lack of natural barriers to protect the region from the onslaughts of invaders also accounts for the series of invasions of the Turks, Mughals, Gorkhas, Sikhs and the Britishers. The history of Himachal may be considered as the history of several petty principalities each centering around a particular hill tract and equipped with a fort on it. These hill forts provided safety to the personal wealth of the people who took refuge in it in times of anarchy and disorder during ancient to the medieval period.

B. A SURVEY OF SOURCE MATERIALS

For a proper study of ancient and medieval period the foremost requirement is the availability of relevant sources and evidences on which such a study should be based. The study of Himachal's history and especially that of Kangra is full of folk-lore, legends and traditional accounts. The ancient and medieval history of Himachal Pradesh has so far remained neglected and no scholar has attempted a comprehensive monograph perhaps for want of adequate source material. There is a dearth of historical material on the political history of the

¹ K.M. Panikkar, Geographical Factors in Indian History, (Bombay, 1959), p.9.
Pradesh. The available sources for ancient and medieval Kangra may be classified into following categories:

1. Religious Literature.
2. Persian Histories concerning the Sultanate and Mughal period.
3. Numismatic sources.
4. Epigraphic records.
5. Traveller's accounts.
6. Secondary sources, including modern works, Catalogues, Newspapers Gazzetteers, Archaeological Survey Reports and Research dissertations etc. and sources dealing with various types of forts.

1. RELIGIOUS LITERATURE

In the first category, the Hindu religious literature mostly forms the source material for the history of ancient Kangra. In the absence of proper historical material the history of ancient Himachal Pradesh is entirely based on the religious literature in Sanskrit consisting of the four Vedas, which throw some light on the various tribes which settled along with the Himalayan foothills about 2000 B.C.

Another source of the ancient Kangra is contained in Puranas, Epics, the Kalhana's Rajatarangini and
Vishnu Purana in which we find the description about the old tribes of Kangra and about Katoch rulers of Trigarta. The Vishnu Purana also mentions the people of Kulu called Kuluta which once formed a part of the Jalandhar. The Mahabharata and the Puranas also mention several religions and people of Kangra state.

The Ramayana and the Brihat Samhita also mention the Kuluta, Trigarta, Kangra and Jalandhara, which were once a part of the Trigarta kingdom of Susarma Chandra, the traditional founder of the Kangra, and an ally of the Kauravas against Pandavas during great Mahabharata battle which finds mention in the Mahabharata and Padam Purana. The Puranas also describes Jwala Mukhi Temple in Kangra Valley. The Mahabharata and the Brihat Samhita describe an ancient tribe called Audumbara's, who inhabited the Kangra, Nurpur, Pathankot and Chamba hills. Panini mentions in Ashtadhyayi about the "Trigarta-Shastha" i.e. the league of six Trigartas. Brihat Samhita, Vishnu Purana and Markandeya Purana are also relevant sources for Kangra and study of its different tribes.

In the list of the secular Sanskrit literature mention may be made of Kalidasa's drama particularly the


Raghuvansham, Viasakhadutta's Devichandra Guptan Kautilya's Arthashastra, Mudrarakshasa and Harascharitra. The Rajatrangini is a history of Kashmir written by Kalhana. It informs us about the nature and influence of Lalitaditya (724 AD 760 AD) over the Trigarta Kangra and over the western hills. In this way these are the relevant sources of the Kangra Valley and its ancient history.

2. PERSIAN SOURCES: There are several persian sources which describe about the Muslim Sultans and their different expeditions over Kangra fort. A large number of Persian chronicles refer to Sultan Mahamud's invasion of Nagarkot or Bhim Nagar or modern Kangra, which was then famous place of Hindu pilgrimage. Its temples were renowned for containing unfold treasure which allured them. The account given in the Tarikh-i-Yamini or Kitabul-i-Yamini\(^1\) (1024 A.D) in Arabic is followed by Khawand Mir's Habibus-us-Sivar\(^2\) and Farishta's Tarikh-i-Ferishta.\(^3\)

\(^1\) Al-Utbi, Tarikh-i-Yamini, tr Elliot and Dowson, History of India As Told by its Own Historians, (Allahabad, 1978), vol.II.

\(^2\) Khawand Mir, Habibus-us-Siyar tr Elliot and Dowson op.cit, Vol.IV.

In the thirteenth century A.D., a number of Persian chronicles refer to the Turkish penetration into the Shiwalik hills. Many rebel nobles and chiefs took refuge in the Himalayan foothills. The two contemporary writers Minhajuddin Siraj's *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*¹ and Ziauddin Barani's *Tarikh-i-Ferozshahi*² mention about the rebels finding shelter in the foothills of the Himachal Pradesh. Incidentally the foundation of the hill states of Kangra, Dhameri (Modern Nurpur) is ascribed during the same period. It may be the repeated onslaughts of the Turk which compelled the Hindu rulers of the Punjab Hill States to seek shelter in the hills.

The first detailed reference to the penetration of the Turkish forces in the Kangra fort is found during the Tughluq period in Badr Chach's *Qasaid-i-Badr-i-Chach*³ under the title *Fateh-Qila-i-Nagarkot*. Ziauddin Barani has also referred it in his book about the Nagarkot campaign led by the Muhammad bin Tughluq personally.

The campaign is believed to be a part of the bigger campaign of Qarachil, written as 'Himachal' by

Ferishta and Nizammudin. The siege and conquest of Nagarkot fort by Sultan Ferozshah Tughluq is found in later Persian sources such as Ziauddin Baranis Tarikh-i-Ferozshahi, Shams Siraj Afif’s Tarikh-i-Ferozshahi and also in Sultan Ferozshah’s Futuhat-i-Ferozshahi. There is also indirect reference in the non-Persian sources such as the Rajatarangini and the Dharam Chand Natak. The Mongol invader Amir Timur (1369-1414 AD) after plundering northern India in 1398 AD, returned to Central Asia via the Shiwalik hills. The main source of his campaign is known from his own autobiography called Mulfuzat-i-Timuri, in which he refers to Raja Ratan Sen as a Raja of great rank, and power in the Shiwalik hills. The Raja of Nalagarh Alam Chand is also said to have surrendered before Amir Timur.

During the Afghan period Rizaqulla Mushtaqi in his Wagiati-Mushtaqi gives an account of the conquest of the

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1. Nizammuddin Ahmad, Tabagat-i-Akbari, (Calcutta, 1931).
5. Dharam Chand Natak, by Manik Chand in 1526 The Bard of Raja Dharam Chand.
7. Rizaqulla Mushtaqi, Wagiati-Mushtaqi, tr. Elliot and Dowson, op.cit., Vol.IV.
Kangra and its adjoining hills by the Afghan rulers. The other equally important Afghan sources are Ahmad Yadgar’s *Tarikh-i-Salatin-i-Afghana*—Niamatullah’s *Tarikh-i-Khan-i-Jahani-Makhzan-i-Afghani* and Abdulla’s *Tarikh-i-Daudi*.

These accounts, although highly exaggerated, present a fairly trustworthy picture of the Kangra and the other hill states during the Muslim rule in India. During the Mughal period Emperor Akbar’s expansionist policy compelled the Rajas of Kangra, Guler, Chamba and others to bow before the paramount power. The account of the campaign to annex Himachal during Akbar’s period is found in the works of many Persian historians. Among these mention may be made of Abul Fazl’s *Akbar Nama* and *Ain-i-Akbari*, Abdul Qadir Badauni’s *Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh*, Nizamuddin Ahmad’s *Tabaqat-i-Akbari*. For Jahangir’s Kangra campaign his own autobiography, the *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri* is an important contemporary source. A detailed description of the Kangra fort is available in the *Shash Fateh-i-Kangra*. During the reign of emperor Shahjahan and Aurangzeb, Kangra and its adjoining territories, remained under the possession of the Mughal Subedars and Giladars.

1. Niamatullah, *Tarikh-i-Khan-i-Jahani Makhzan-i-Afghani*, tr. Elliot and Dowson, *op.cit.*, Vol.VI.


3. NUMISMATIC SOURCES

Numismatic sources have also been found very useful in unearthing the remote past of Kangra valley of Himachal Pradesh. Numismatic sources are useful in knowing about the political unity, social achievements as well as the economic prosperity of the area around the find spots of the coins. Though comparatively scanty in the hills yet these sources are very valuable. Kangra, Kulu, Chamba and Mandi state had each its own coinage in former times. The earliest coins found in Pradesh referring to Trigarta which show the political status of Trigata from a solitary copper coins is the tezicographer of the Trikanda Sesha, referring to 'Trigarta' Kangra as 'Behika' or 'Vahika'. It also included the coins of Menandar, Antimachus, Antialkidas, Pheloxenus and Lysias along with some worn silver punch marked coins which were found in Kangra and Arki in Solan district.

Another hoard having quite a large number of silver Indo-Greek coins, kept in a pot was found in 1870 A.D. near the village 'Lochori' in Chamba district. Only 15 coins of the hoard could be rescued which are now in the Bhuri Singh Museum Chamba. They disclose that the hoard included coins of Menandar, Antimachun and Apollodotus. They were found in 1874 A.D., from the village 'Sarol'.

near Chamba and included the coins of Menander, Antimachus II and Antialkidas.¹

The Indo-Greek coins were mixed with the local tribal coins of the 'Kunnidas', the old tribe of Himachal which most probably was related to Kangra. From Jwala Mukhi in Kangra were found three silver coins of Kunnidas and one of Audumbaras. In 1892 A.D. at Tappa Mewa in Hamirpur district coins were found regarding the Audumbaras. There was one silver and seven copper coins found in Pathankot which once formed a part of Jalandhar and Jwala Mukhi in Kangra Valley.

The legend on the Audumbara coins (both silver and copper) is uniformly in Prakrit written on one side in Brahmī and on the other in Kharosthi/script. A large number of the Shahi silver and copper coins of Horseman and Bull type have been found in the region of Kangra Valley which were related with the old Hindu Katoch Shahi rulers of Kangra. The silver coins have the legends spalapati or samantadeva. There is another gold coin which has the legend 'Shahi Sri Binadeva on one side and Gunanidh Sri Samantadeva on the other Sharada script.

The silver coins issued in the later period (during the time of Jayapala or early years of Anandpala) gradually turned into copper. Such coins are also well known from various places in Himachal and have been found

¹. These coins are available in State Museum, Shimla.
either alone or in association of the coins of the Katoch rulers of Kangra. These coins show the Shahi impact on the Kangra region.

The Katoch rulers of Kangra have their origin in the remote past. It is only with the beginning of fourth century A.D. that we have the numismatic evidence of the Katoch rulers of Kangra. One of them is Thakura Pheru, who was the incharge of the Delhi mint during the reign of Alauddin Khalji. It presents a vivid picture of the currency during Katoch ruler of Kangra. He also mentions the four varieties of coins of the Katoch rulers.

The coins bearing the names of later Kangra rulers were discovered from the hoard in 1892 A.D. at Patasalian in Tehsil Palampur in Kangra district. It contained 82 coins of Kangra rulers. The other numismatic evidence found in the Kangra is about the Ghazanavi's occupation of Kangra. It finds support from coins of the Ghazanavi Shiah-ud-daula Maudad (1041-1053 A.D.), Issa-ud-daula (1050-1053 A.D.), Jamal-ud-daula Farukhzad (1053-1059 A.D.), Zahir-ud-daula Ibrahim (1059-1060 A.D.) and the coins of Khusrau Shah (1152-1160 A.D.) and Khusaru Malik (1160-1186 A.D.) which are occasionally found in and around Kangra. These coins show the early Turkish attack on Kangra fort. The coinage of the rulers of Kangra have

1. Parmeshwari Lal Gupta, op.cit., p.39. These coins are available in State Museum, Shimla and Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba.

14
been found in largest series. They copied, "The steed bull and horseman" type introduced by the Hindu Shahis of Kabul. The names of some ancient kings of these tribal republics have been discovered which include Dharaghosha, Sivadasa, Rudradasa and the Rudraverman of Audumbara tribes, Bhuti of Kunindas and the Kuluta king Virayash and it dates back to the first century A.D.¹

4. EPIGRAPHIC RECORDS

Fortunately a large number of the epigraphs have been found in various parts of Himachal Pradesh, which have considerably helped in the reconstruction of the history of ancient Himachal Pradesh. The inscriptions may be broadly categorised under three hoardings: commemorative, donative and dedicative. These have been written in various scripts such as Kharosthi, Brahmi, Sharda, Sidhamatrika and Bhoti Tibetan. The earliest inscription in the hills are those of Pathyar and Kanhiyara rock in Kangra district, which date back to the rule of emperor Ashoka which are bilingual in Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts. ²

The Mehrauli pillar inscription of 'Chandra Gupta II' also deserves some consideration in the present context. This pillar was brought to the present site of

1. Sukhdev Singh Charak, History and Culture of Himalayan States (Delhi, 1978).

Mehrauli by the Tomar ruler Anandpala in 1052 A.D. The pillar according to its own testimony was originally erected at a place situated on the Sudaman Hills in the Behika (Kangra).

A catalogue of various types of source material was prepared by J.Ph.Vogal in 1909 A.D. The source material available in the museum includes, stone inscriptions sculpture, metal inscriptions, wood carvings, embroidery's, paintings and archival documents in Persian, Tankari and Punjabi. These inscriptions are mostly in Sharda script. Some Jain inscriptions have also been found in the Kangra region. The earliest is dated 1240 A.D. found in Baijnath temple and refers to the teachings of Svetambara faith in Kangra.

The important eulogies of Baijnath have been found in an inscription of Gupta period. These epigraphic records concerning Himachal are very common in the hill areas. Mostly these inscriptions occur on stone, brass, copper, silver, gold or wood cutting. They are named as rock inscriptions, slab inscriptions, image inscriptions and copper inscriptions according to the object on which they are engraved.1

There are also chronicles in vernacular (mostly in manuscripts form). A few of these have been printed and published some of these have been got written at the

request of the rulers like *Tarikh-i-Rayagan-i-Pathania* by Raghunath Singh Thakur. There are many outstanding works following in this category which have been published though many yet lie in the custody of former ruling families in the form of manuscripts.¹ The erstwhile Thakurai of Kunihar, district Solan and the priestly families of the Jwala Mukhi temple at Kangra are also in possession of a few Persian documents.

4. THE TRAVELLERS' ACCOUNTS

In addition to the literary and numismatic sources we have the accounts left by several foreign travellers who visited hill areas. The earliest and the authentic historical account of the Himalayan Hill States is found in the travelogue left by Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese traveller, who visited India during the period of Harsha in 630 A.D. and has made important observations about the Jalandhara, Kuluta and Srughna in his book "Si.Yu.Ki" i.e. "Buddhist Records of the Western World". A number of European travellers have left very important account of their tours which they made through different areas of Himachal Pradesh. Among them the most important who left the relevant sources regarding the Himalayan foothills area and other Himalayan ranges are: J.B. Fraser, *Journal of a Tour in the the Snowy Ranges of The Himalaya*


There are other works which have recently been written or analysed by various modern scholars. Some of these are:


These accounts have made important observations about the affairs in the Punjab hill areas including Kangra fort and its valley. Some of these accounts also deal with courts of the native Himalayan princes and their relations with other outside powers.

THE SECONDARY SOURCES

The secondary sources for the history of the Kangra in medieval times include modern works concerning the Sultanate, the Mughals period, Punjab and Himachal
histories, Catalogues Gazetteers. Research dissertations and other Periodical, literature on the hill states also give important informations about the history of Kangra valley and its fort.

A number of monographs have been written on the erstwhile hills states of Punjab including Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. The first poineer attempt in this direction was made by J.Ph.Hutchison and J.Ph.Vogel, who produced a monumental work entitled, *History of the Punjab Hill States* (Lahore, 1933, reprinted Shimla, 1982).

HISTORICAL OUTLINE

A. ANT IGUITY The word 'Himachal' derives its origin from the two Hindi words 'HIM' and 'ACHAL' meaning 'SNOW' and 'LAP' respectively. Thus etymologically, Himachal stands for the region which lies in the slopes and foot-hills of snow i.e. the Himalayas. Himalayas is supreme amongst the mountains of the world. In Kumar Sambhavam, Himalayas are described as Devatama Himalayas whereas in the Bhagavad Gita, "Amongst the immovable "I am the Himalayas."2

Historically the term Himachal appears to exist from very ancient times. References have been found in ancient Sanskrit literature i.e. the Puranas, the Rigveda, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. In Skanda Purana the


reference is given about the glory of Himachal.¹

The *Rigveda* also refers to the Himachal as abode of snow range in general which evidently is meant by the snowy "Himavantah mountain."² The *Ramayana* refers it as among the mountains Himavan (Himachal) is the most important lord of mountains.³ The *Mahabharata* informs us about the Himachal region that 'Bharata' is said to be as much a mine of gems as the illustrious ocean of the Himalaya.⁴

Himachal is also known as *Deva Bhumi* a "Mansion of the Gods."⁵ The *Skanda Purana* refers that he who thinks of Himachal though he may not behold it, is greater than

1. That Himavan which forms the northern boundary of Bharatavarsha and extends from the eastern sea to the western sea representing the string of a bow, is noted for the sanctity. The king of mountain Nagadhiraja glittering white with its brilliance is described as a divine creation comprising the sacred 'Ganga' as well as many sacred spots. The divine abodes, and various beautiful spots. It is the abode of Lord Siva who dwells here during the summer and autumn. We are also told that it was a rich treasure house of precious stones.


he who worships in Kashi and he shall have pardon for all his sins, who while dying thinks of its snow are freed from their sins. The Garuda Purana mentions that Himachal is the name of Himalaya.

The ancient name Jalandhar (Jalandhara) had a geographical connection, `Jalam Dharyati' or Jalandhar. That which holds or carries water is called `Jalandhar' and this fact is very aptly applied to mountainous Himachal, in which the four great rivers and their tributaries originate. This is why the ancient geographers called this region as Jalandhar. The above description of Himachal in different literary works leaves no doubt that the region of the Himalayas known to be ancient Jalandhar was indeed Himachal Pradesh.

B. EARLY POLITICAL HISTORY The early political history of Himachal Pradesh is not fully known. This is mainly due to the lack of the adequate archaeological and

literary sources pertaining to this region. Some recent explorations and researches however, have thrown significant light on the political and cultural history of the Aryan period. Few archaeological and literary remains of early historical period have so far been found in Himachal Pradesh. These remains clearly point out the human existence in the area. It is believed that whole of the Himalayan foothills were inhabited by the Kalorian race which spread all over the western and central Himalayas. ¹ The ruins of these races are still found in Kinnaur.

During the Rigvedic period these Kalorian race were called Dasas and Dasyus ² or Anaryas. However, it is believed that the original migrants to Himachal hills from western Himalayan are known as Kolis. ³ They had already captured the entire area before the advent of the Aryans. Some of these tribes migrated towards the north after being defeated by the Aryans. The Khasas, a second branch of the Aryans come to be known as Kshatriyas, i.e. worrier tribes.

The Dasas were treated as Mlechhas by these Aryans because of farmer's non observance of rituals on which later based their entire life system. Mlechhas elected an

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2. M.S.Ahuwalia, op.cit., p.42.
3. Ibid., p. 44.
individual head called Mavi, or Mavane and their small units called Mavanas which later developed into tribal republic called Janapadas. The Mahabharata provides the earliest reference to the people who inhabited the present Himachal by naming several Janapadas or tribal Kingdoms some are Audumbaras, Trigartas, Kulutas and Kunindas. These Janapadas are located on the slopes of the Himalayan tribes mostly named after the groups of people or territorial units had their specific political identities and own administration were inhabiting in the different parts of Himachal.

The Trigarta was the most ancient tribe in the state. Trigarta means 'Three pits' or three valleys the earliest reference to Trigarta is found in Panins Ashtadhyayi. In the Mahabharata the founder of Trigarta is mentioned as Susarma Chandra an ally of Kaurvas during Mahabharata war, who retired from Multan to Jalandhar region where he finally settled and built the strong Nagarkot fort. The Trigarta existed from the Mahabharata times down to the middle centuries of Christian era. But the Trigarta

3. Ramashankar Bhattacharya, op.cit., p.491. mentions six groups of Trigarta which were Kaudoparatha, Dandaki, Kraustaki, Jalamani, Brahmagupta and Janaki.
kingdom seems to have lost its plains of Jalandhar during 8th and 9th century A.D., when it became subject to the Hindu Shahis of Kabul.

C. FROM GUPTAS TO RAJPUTS

In the period between the downfall of the Kushanas and the emergence of the imperial Guptas, the country between the Himachal mountains and the Marbada river was divided into various independent monarchoias as well as republics which did now owe allegiance to any sovereign power. The tribal coins bore the names of their Rajanya called Raja and later days as Rahun and Apathakura. The numismatic and literary evidence indicate the rise of several monarchies in Himachal. The Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang refers to sixteen Mahajanapadas.2

Another important event that took place in the history of Himachal related to Greeks invasions. In the 4th century in 327 B.C. Alexander's advance was resisted by these republics or Janapadas of Himachal. After the departure of Alexander, the Mauryan king Chandragupta and his advisor Chanakya took full advantage of the political situation in the parts of Himachal Pradesh and restored it to Malayaketu, son of Parvataka king of his state who


2. These were Anga, Magadha Kasi, Kosala, Vriji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Matsya, Surasena, Asvaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kamboja, each named after the people who settled there or colonised it.
probably ruled as Mauryan vassal.¹

During the same period Kachchagupta the younger brother of Samudragupta is stated to have conquered the territories leading to the door of Kashmir i.e. Kangra of Himachal. From Chandragupta II to Kumargupta fight for conquest in Himachal continued which is known from the coins which depict god kartikeya mounted on peacock. These figures on the coins tell us the saga of the Yaudheya, Audumbara and Kuninda tribes of Himachal tribes.² The political instability in the Punjab plains and adjoining hills come to an end with the rise of Vardhana dynasty. The account left by Hiuen Tsang in 629 A.D. shows that Harsha Vardhana held sway over the different parts of Himachal and appointed Samudramana as a provincial governor.

After the end of the imperial Vardhana dynasty in northern India, Himachal was once again divided under small new groups of petty chiefs known as the Ranas and Thakurs who exercised authority either independently or under the paramount power. Their territories were called Ranhun and Thakuri or Thakurai,³ Ranas are indicated by names of Rajanka. The Brahma Purana makes a reference that

² P.V.Kane, The Harshcharita of Bana Bhatta, (Delhi, 1965), Int.Ch.

27
these groups of Kshatriya princes were known as Rajava.\(^1\)

The man who had strong personality and qualities might have assumed the title of Thakura and later Thakur. They exercised independent powers in their territory. The territory between the river Sutlej and Yamuna of Himachal hills was divided into number of small and big states known as Bara Thakurais, (twelve lordships) spread in lower Shimla hills and Athara Thakurais, (eighteen lordships)\(^2\) in upper hills.

After the decline of the Gurajara Pratiharas in the later half of the 10th century A.D., it is supposed that some adventurous Rajputs penetrated into the western Himalayan hills. These Rajput chiefs invited their counterparts from plains and established matrimonial alliances. Most of the hill states were founded before the 11th century A.D. Trigarta or Kangra is considered as the oldest among the hill states.\(^3\) From the period of Turkish invasions Trigarta comprised almost the entire area in the outer hills. Jaswan, Guler, Siba and Datarpur are offshoots of Kangra family. Nurpur, Chamba, Kulu, Suket, Mandi, Bilaspur, Hindur, Kutlehr, Bhangal, Sirmour and Lahaul and Spiti were other Rajputs states of Himachal


2. For complete list of Thakurias See Appendix II and III in the last of this chapter.

3. For more details see Supra p.25.
Pradesh. The complex topographic features of Himachal rendered it impossible for any ruler internal or outsider to establish a major empire over the whole region.

(3)

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF KANGRA

The Kingdom of Jalandhar Trigarta or modern Kangra was, before its extinction a large state with an area of 18 miles long and 35 miles wide. It was bound on the south west by Hoshiarpur and on the north west by the Gurdaspur districts respectively, on the north by the native state of Mandi and Bilaspur, on the south by Jaswan, Kutlehr, Datarpur and Siba and on the west by Guler. It lies between north latitude at 30° 24' and 32° 30' and east longitude 75° 39' and 77.4°.

The gigantic range of the mountains which bound Kangra to the north deserve more than passing description. The Dhaula Dhar also called as Chamba range along with Shiwalik ranges on the right bank of the Beas, makes sudden bend towards the town of Mandi. It then turns and makes a sudden bend towards the west and passing through 'Jaluga Bhangal' comes out above the Kangra valley and assumes the name of Dhaula Dhar and forms the position of

1. "The word Kangra means 'Fort of the Ear' and the tradition about the demon Jalandhar is that he falls on his side with the right ear upwards the head in the Kangra valley the ear, mouth at Jwala Mukhi the back at Jalandhar and feet at Multan".
the Palampur tehsil in Kangra district.\(^1\)

The most strongest part of Kangra Valley is its fort\(^2\) called 'Fort of Kangra' situated at 2494 feet. Nagarkot, a village is situated in the centre of valley.

The fort of Kangra was the centre of warfare activities and is said to have been invaded by several invaders from time to time such as the Turks, Mughals, Sikhs, Gurkhas and the Britishers.\(^3\) In the early medieval period Kangra's limits were restricted by the foundation of new principalities\(^4\) or the independent states like Suket and Bhangal in the east, Pathankot or Nurpur on the west.\(^5\) Situated on island like mound formed by Banganga and Manjhi rivers, it stands even today, an unsurmountable citadel preserving in itself several episode of its hoary past.

The above information gives an idea about the geology, geography and other related facts for the study and main concern of this thesis. To move further we shall be focussing on the various invasions and rulers, who


\(^2\) It is said that in the spot where the fortress stand i.e. the fort at Kangra, The Demon (Danava) Jalandhar met his death, and his head is said to have fallen on the spot. hence the fort was named, 'Kan-garh'.

\(^3\) Sukhdev Singh Chark, op.cit., vol.1, pp.29,30.

\(^4\) These principalities were Jaswan, Guler, Siba and Datarpur which were all are offshoots of Kangra.

\(^5\) Hutchison and Vogel, op.cit., p.99.
reigned and enjoyed the lavish heritage of the Kangra and Kangra fort. A brief account of different periods broad and detailed study of fortification with amazing measurement of the fort will be taken up in our next chapter.
### Appendix -I

#### Mountain Passes in Himachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Pass</th>
<th>Height in meters</th>
<th>Range in which situated</th>
<th>Areas connected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Kunzamla</td>
<td>4520</td>
<td>Great Himalaya</td>
<td>Lahaul and Spiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Baro Lacha La</td>
<td>4883</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Lahaul and Ladakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pin Parvati</td>
<td>5319</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Kulu-Spiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Shipki La</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>Trans Himalaya</td>
<td>Tibet-Spiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Hamatah</td>
<td>4336</td>
<td>Pir Panjal</td>
<td>Kulu-Lahaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Rohtang</td>
<td>3978</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Kulu-Lahaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sach</td>
<td>4395</td>
<td>Pangi Range</td>
<td>Chamba-Pangi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Chobia</td>
<td>4934</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Lahaul-Brahmour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Drati</td>
<td>4720</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Chamba-Pangi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Tamsar</td>
<td>4575</td>
<td>Dhaula Dhar</td>
<td>Kangra-Bara Banghal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Jalori</td>
<td>3135</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Seraj-Kulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Basodan</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Chamba-Bhattiyat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Chuari</td>
<td>3150</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Chamba-Kangra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Jalsu</td>
<td>3658</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Kangra-Brahmaur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Bhubu</td>
<td>2895</td>
<td>Ghogar Dhar</td>
<td>Jogindernagar-Kulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Dulchi</td>
<td>2788</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Mandi-Kulu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. K.L. Joshi, p.cit., p.17, Table 1.
Appendix II

List of Bara Thakurais and Athara Thakurais

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bara Thakurais</th>
<th>Athara Thakurais</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Keonthal</td>
<td>1. Jubbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Baghal</td>
<td>2. Balson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Bhajji</td>
<td>5. Rawingarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Mehlog</td>
<td>7. Tharoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Koti</td>
<td>8. Morni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Theog</td>
<td>11. Saree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another list given by Captain C.P. Kennedy is as under, who was the superintendent of Hill States from 1822 to 1835. This list included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bara Thakurais</th>
<th>Athara Thakurais</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Keonthal</td>
<td>1. Jubbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Baghat</td>
<td>2. Katgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Kuthal</td>
<td>4. Rawin, retained by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Kumarsain</td>
<td>5. Kuaneti British are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Bhajji</td>
<td>6. Karangla tributories and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Mehlog</td>
<td>7. Delath incorporated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Dhami</td>
<td>8. Saree with Bushahr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Kunihar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Mehlog</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A this list was later added to the **Athara Thakurais** by Capt. R. Ross who was authentic political Agent Appointed for these Thakurais. The list Included fourteen **Thakurais** to the first two existing ones. This is thus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bara Thakurais</th>
<th>Athara Thakurais</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Keonthal</td>
<td>1. Jubbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bhajji</td>
<td>2. Kotgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Bhagat</td>
<td>4. Rowingarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Dhami</td>
<td>5. Khaneti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Kunihar</td>
<td>7. Theor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Mahlog</td>
<td>8. Ghund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>