CHAPTER II
POLITICAL SCENARIO IN RAJASTHAN AND THE LOCAL ELITES

The declining Mughal authority after the death of Aurangzeb was given a death blow to the already decaying empire and its administrative authority by Nadirshah's invasion. The Mughal control in Rajasthan thereafter existed only in name. The Rajput rulers now became de-facto independent of the Mughals and a major power vacuum was created in Rajasthan which opened the way for internal strife and inter-state conflicts. This new political situation gave the Marathas an opportunity to interfere in the internal affairs of the Rajputs. They began to replace the Mughals as the arbiters in interstate disputes and eventually emerged as the dominant power in Rajasthan. The Maratha penetration into Malwa brought them face to face with the Rajput rulers thus paving the way for the Maratha entry in the bordering states of Kota, Bundi, Banswara, Dungarpur and Udaipur.

The Rajputs also invited them to settle score with their opponents the reason for which were embedded in the clan dominant Rajput polity marked by inter and intra-clan rivalries. These features of the Rajputs polity resurfaced following the decline of the Mughal authority which exercised paramount power over the Rajputs chieftains. The weakening control of the Mughals encouraged some prominent Rajput rulers to interfere in the internal affairs of the other state. The other important political development in the 18th century Rajput states was the growing tussle for succession to the gaddi which led to civil wars in which standing invitations were extended to the Marathas to intervene in these disputes. In order to get an insight into the nature of Maratha intervention in the internal affairs of the Rajputs in early 18th century it is pertinent to highlight some of these disputes.
There was a longstanding rivalry between Jodhpur and Bikaner which could not find an overt manifestation due to Mughal paramouncy. Hostility between two states began to flare up following the absence of any effective check from the Mughal in the 18th century. Maharaja Abhay Singh of Marwar who was appointed as the Mughal governor of the Gujarat waged a war against Bikaner in 1733. Despite the orders from the Mughal wazir to go back to his post in Gujarat he decided to continue his engagement in Bikaner. However, he had to conclude peace with Bikaner in the face of the increasing Maratha threat.

Sawai Jaisingh's involvement in the affairs of Bundi led to the Maratha intervention which offered them the opportunity to meddle in the affairs of Bundi. Rao Raja Budh Singh of Bundi had married the half-sister of Sawai Jai Singh. His second wife was from Begum in Mewar. She requested Jai Singh to advise the Salumbar chief to offer the coconut for her son Bhawani Singh. Salumbar chief agreed and Jai Singh on behalf of his nephew accepted the offer. When Maharao Budh Singh who did not like his wife from Jaipur came to know about this development, he told the Salumbar chief not to settle the marriage without his permission. He informed Jai Singh that the child was not his legitimate offspring. On being questioned Budh Singh vowed in support of his charge and consented to give in writing that Bhawani Singh was not his son. Upon receiving the charge in writing Jai Singh offered to do away with the child. The child was put to death by Jai Singh in order to fulfill his promise. Subsequently Budh Singh withdrew his charge and the Kachhawa queen agreed to forgive her husband. As per the understanding with Jaisingh Budh Singh was to hand over to Jai Singh any male child born of her other queens but he broke the agreement. Jai Singh decided to remove Budh Singh from the throne of Bundi and install Dalel Singh in his place. None of the Rajput rulers gave any indication that he is not in favour of Jai Singh's move. Hence Dalel Singh's installation to the Bundi throne was carried

---

1 Parihar, G.R., *Marwar and the Marathas* PP 33 – 49
out without any problem. Subsequently these developments caused much complication. Budh Singh's move to recover Bundi was foiled by Jai Singh's troops and he had to retreat. The battle ended all chances of reconciliation between Budh Singh and Jai Singh and brought the Marathas into the picture who were invited by the Kachhawa wife of Budh Singh to restore Bundi to her husband on payment of six lakhs of rupees as expensess. The Marathas entered Bundi in April, 1734, captured the fort and proclaimed Budh Singh as the ruler.1

But no sooner the Marathas had returned the Jaipur army restored Bundi to Dalel Singh. So long as Jai Singh lived Dalel Singh was not disturbed. However, Ummed Singh, the son of Budh Singh continued the struggle and in 1748, he succeeded to the throne with the help of Malharrao Holker. Ummed Singh promised to pay him ten lakhs of rupees in return for his support.

Jaipur-Marwar Relation

After 1728 the relations between Sawai Jai Singh and Maharaja Abhay Singh of Marwar deteriorated rapidly. This was largely due to their difference over approach to the Marathas. While Jai Singh was in favor of maintaining cordial relations with the Marathas but Abhay Singh supported the Mughal faction which advocated tough policy towards the Marathas. Moreover, Abhay Singh's unprovoked attacks on Bikaner also annoyed Jai Singh. Abhay Singh was also opposed to Jai Singh's attempts for getting jagirs in Shekhawati region.

On receiving Bikaner's appeal for help against Abhay Singh, Sawai Jai Singh decided to intervene decisively to stop Jodhpur's aggression forever. He also received help from Abhay Singh's brother Bakhat Singh, Maharana Jagat Singh and Rao Durjansal of Kota. Abhay Singh realized that he could not face this formidable combination against him, decided to make peace with Jai Singh who offered severe terms of agreement. Extraordinary severity of

1Bhatnagar V.S., Life and Times of Sawai Jaisingh, PP 213-222
the terms prompted Bakhat Singh to rejoin his brother and put up a heroic fight against Jai Singh’s much superior army. Out of 5000 Rathor’s who fought Jai Singh’s army only sixty of this band could survive, Bakhat Singh was persuaded to leave the battle field. Maharana Jagat Singh brought about reconciliation between Jai Singh and Abhay Singh1.

Succession dispute in Jaipur and Jodhpur

The Maratha penetration into Rajasthan began during Jai Singh’s time. The breakdown of the imperial authority gave the Marathas ample scope to extend their power in many parts of Rajasthan. The succession disputes offered the Marathas golden opportunity to squeeze the Rajput state regularly by imposing the obligation of tribute payment as well as war expanses.

Two principal Rajput states Jaipur and Marwar were torn by civil commotions following the death of their respective rulers Sawai Jai Singh and Abhay Singh. Ishwari Singh’s succession to the throne of Jaipur after the death of Sawai Jai Singh was disputed by Madho Singh, Sawai Jai Singh’s son by a Mewar princess. He invoked the agreement of 1705 by which the son born of the Mewar Princess was to succeed Sawai Jai Singh in preference to all other sons from different queens. Sawai Jai Singh before his death had ensured Ishwari Singh’s succession. As his health began to deteriorate he gradually passed on the affairs of the states to Ishwari Singh. In 1734, at formal darbar he announced him as his successor and also obtained the Mughal emperor’s approval to Ishwari Singh as the crown prince. In 1741, Sawai Jai Singh also obtained in writing a solemn commitment from the leading nobles of Mewar that they would not seek the emperor’s help or that of Marathas to support the candidature of Madho Singh and in case Madho Singh made any attempt to acquire Jaipur then the Mewar nobles would not extend their support to him. Sawai Jai Singh in order to avoid any confrontation between Ishwari Singh and Madho Singh on the issue of succession to the gaddi had granted Madho Singh the parganas of Rampura,

1 Bhatnagar V.S., Life and Times of Sawai Jaisingh, PP 258 – 262
Tonk, Fagi and Malpura. He made the Maharana grant him the jagir of Rampura-Bhanpura in Mewar territory\(^1\). But Madho Singh was not contented with this agreement. Maharana Jagat Singh decided to support the cause of his nephew, Madho Singh. Ummed Singh of Bundi and Maharao Durjan Sal of Kota also sided with Madho Singh. Rana Jagat Singh turned to the Marathas and received favorable response from Malharrao Holker in 1746. However, the combined forces were badly defeated by Ishwari Singh’s commander Har Gobind Natani at the battle of the Rajmahal in 1746.

Now Maharana Jagat Singh turned to the Peshwa and convinced him to support the cause of Madho Singh. The Peshwa, who was financially hard pressed, agreed to side with Madho Singh. A Maratha army led by Malhar Rao Holker entered Jaipur territory and defeated Ishwari Singh in the battle of Bagru in 1748\(^2\). He bought peace by offering to surrender some Jaipur paraganas to Madho Singh and promised to pay war expanses to the Marathas.

Madho Singh and Maharana Jagat Singh reluctantly accepted the peace proposal. They found an opportunity to win over the Marathas again when Ishwari Singh could not pay up the promised amount to the Peshwa. The Maharana offered to pay Rs. 64 lakhs to the Marathas in return for their military help against Ishwari Singh. Holker reached Jaipur in 1750. Ishwari Singh was not in a position to face the Maratha army; in desperation he committed suicide. This was the beginning of incessant Maratha incursions into the Rajasthan. In James Tod’s words “a dose of poison gave Madho Singh the gaddi, Holkar his bribe and the Marathas firm hold over Rajasthan\(^3\).

As discussed earlier the tussle between Dalel Singh and Budh Singh for the gaddi of Bundi brought the Marathas to Bundi in 1734. After the death of Budh Singh his son Ummed Singh succeeded to the gaddi with the help of

---

\(^1\) Tod, James, *Annals and Antiquities of Rajputana*, vol II, PP 298–99
Malharrao Holkar whom he promised to give Rs. 10 lakhs in return for military help. Out of this 2 lakhs were paid in 1749, 3 lakhs were to be paid to Shinde and Holkar to be shared equally and the rest of amount was to go to Stara Raja along with the payment of Chauth due from Bundi and Nehwa.

Rao Durjansal of Kota antagonized the Maratha as he had participated in the Mughal campaign under Khan-i-Duwan to oust the Marathas from Malwa. Peshwa Bajirao on his way from Poona to Delhi in 1736 by passed Kota. Maharao Durjansal adopted a posture of friendship and provided ample supply of material to the Maratha army. The Peshwa was also not interested in demonstrating any hostility at this movement. However, on his way back to Poona he attacked Kota. The Seize dragged on for forty days. Thereafter negotiations for settlement were initiated. Maharao Durjansal agreed to pay Rs. 10 lakhs to the Peshwa out of which 8 lakhs were paid immediately and the balance amount of Rs. 2 lakhs was promised in the form of bonds¹.

This expedition did not deter the Kota ruler from persuading anti Maratha policy. Durjansal again joined the Nizam against the Marathas in 1738 but was defeated by the Maratha army led by Holkar and Jaswantrao Panwar. The Maratha attacked Kota, the fort was besieged and the adjoining territory was plundered by the invaders. The Maharao had to accept the supremacy of the Marathas and agreed to pay Rs.10 lakhs. The Marathas decided to keep an agent in Kota to look after the Maratha interest and realize the dues; Balaji Yashwant Gulgule was deputed for this work. Maharao Durjansal again gave the Marathas an opportunity to attack Kota. In 1743 he decided to help Ummed Singh to occupy the gaddi of Bundi. The Kota forces helped Ummed Singh in getting back the gaddi of Kota, but the real power remained with Maharao who asked Ummed Singh to accept a pargana for his maintenance as he is too young to handle affairs of a big state like Bundi. Ummed Singh who was unhappy with Maharao’s

¹ Saxena, R.K., Maratha Relations with Major States of Rajputana, P 26
domination entered into negotiation with the rulers of Jodhpur and Udaipur for their support to put an end to Maharao’s control. Maharana Jagat Singh also wanted Ummed Singh’s support for Madho Singh’s claim to the gaddi of Jaipur against Ishwari Singh. They solicited the help of Holkar by promising to pay Rs. 20 lakhs. Ishwari.

Singh also tried to entice the Marathas and got the help of Jayappa Shinde. They attacked Kota and plundered it to punish Maharao Durjansal as he happened to be one of the main supporters of Ummed Singh. Shinde imposed a heavy fine on Kota but eventually agreed to accept Rs. 4 lakhs as war expanses from Durjansal. The Marathas invaded Kota even though it had been paying tribute to the Marathas. They continued their attacks on Kota to press for the payment of outstanding dues of tribute. Thus, by mid 1740’s the Marathas had already set up their base at Kota and dominated Kota and Bundi states. Their agents were posted in Kota to oversee the realization of tribute as per their respective shares. They were also trying to regularize revenue collection in the bordering parganas of Kota and Bundi.1

Maratha Domination and Control in Rajasthan

The expansion of Maratha power in central India paved the way for the emergence of the Marathas as a dominant force in Rajasthan since 1740. The period witnessed stiff opposition from the Rajput chiefs, individually as well as collectively to the Maratha penetration and incessant demands for tribute which placed considerable financial burden on the Rajput states. The Maratha presence in Rajasthan had adverse impact on almost all sections of the society. With the exception of Bikaner and Jaisalmer all the major and minor Rajputs states bore the brunt of Maratha inroads. The Marathas concentrated their penetration in Eastern and Southern Rajasthan which was relatively fertile and yielded good revenue.

The Maratha-Rajput interaction gained momentum in the 1740’s after

---

1 Sarkar, J.N., The Fall of The Mughal Empire, Vol. I, P 180, Shindeshahi Itihasachi Sadhne, No. 7,18,24, 26, 29, 30, 32
the establishment of Maratha power in Malwa. The control over Malwa not only brought the Marathas very close to the bordering states of Udaipur, Kota, Bundi and Jaipur but also facilitated campaigns against Rajputs rulers as they used it as safe base. Even during Sawai Jai Singh's tenure as governor of Malwa in 1732-33, the Marathas reached very close to the Rajasthan borders as they first approached Dungarpur and Banswara by the end of 1732. In early 1733 Malharrao Holkar and Ranoji Shinde reached very close to Rajasthan borders when they encircled Sawai Jai Singh at Mandsor. The Maratha forces came right up to Rajasthan borders and cut off the supply of grain and water to Sawai Jai Singh's camp. In 1734 the Marathas made their first formal entry into Rajasthan on invitation from Pratap Singh Hada, the ruler of Bundi. They attacked Bundi and captured the fort. In 1735 the Marathas defeated the Mughal army led by Sawai Jai Singh and Khan-i-Dauran on Malwa-Rajasthan border. Jai Singh had to rush back to the Jaipur as the Maratha army led by Ranoji Shinde and Malharrao Holkar were hardly 20 miles away from Jaipur. It was for the first time that any Maratha army invaded area far deeper into Jaipur territory. However, the Peshwa at this stage was keen to maintain friendly relations with Mewar and Jaipur. The Peshwa's mother Radha Bai passed through Mewar and Jaipur on her visit to holy places in Rajasthan in 1734 – 35 and very well looked after. Peshwa himself showed high regard for the Maharana of Mewar during his visit in 1736.

Bajirao met Maharao Jagat Singh near Udaipur and signed an agreement which made Mewar liable of paying an annual tribute of Rs. 1,60,000 to the Marathas. In 1738, the Marathas led by Shinde and Holkar invaded Kota to settle score with Durjansal who helped Nizam against the Marathas. They also made Jai Singh agreeable to pay tribute for Rampura located on Malwa–Rajasthan border. The pargana was assigned by the

---

Maharana of Mewar to Jai Singh's Son Madho Singh who was born to the Mewar princess.

The Marathas made a formal entry into Rajasthan when they were made party to settle succession dispute between Ishwari Singh and Madho Singh after the death of Sawai Jai Singh. Sawai Jai Singh died on 3rd October, 1743 and his elder son Ishwari Singh who was then at Jaipur occupied the gaddi of Jaipur. His succession got formal recognition not only from the Mughal emperor but also by neighboring Rajput rulers. Even Baji Rao Peshwa sent his representative to Jaipur to offer presents and greetings to Ishwari Singh, the new ruler of Jaipur. The Maharana was not at all happy with this development as he wanted Madho Singh to succeed Sawai Jai Singh. He decided to dethrone Ishwari Singh with the help of Rao Durjan Sal Hada of Kota. However, fight between the rival groups was avoided and an agreement was signed between Ishwari Singh and Maharana according to which Ishwari Singh agreed to transfer pargana Tonk to Madho Singh in Jagir. Madho Singh was not satisfied with this agreement and persuaded the Maharana to march against Ishwari Singh, who was at that time in Delhi. He returned to Jaipur and sought the support of the Marathas which came readily. The Maharana in order to save his army promised compensation to the Marathas. Malharrao Holkar offered to get for Madho Singh a pargana worth Rs. 5 lakhs. Ishwari Singh now decided to repudiate earlier agreement and resumed pargana Tonk which further complicated relations between Ishwari Singh and Madho Singh.

The Maharana was still hopeful of the Maratha support for Madho Singh. In 1746 he sent his vakil Kani Ram to obtain the help of Peshwa. The vakil offered to pay Rs. 15 lakhs in return for effective military help that could get Madho Singh territory worth Rs. 24 lakhs in Jaipur state. Holkar was also approached by the Maharana for military help. Holkar sent his son Khande Rao to prevail upon Ishwari Sihgh to give parganas Tonk, Toda,Malpura and Niwai to Madho Singh. The forces of Kota also joined the Maharana's army. Ishwari Singh took the initiative and attacked the invading forces at
Rajmahal. The battle was won by Ishwari Singh in March 1747. The Maratha forces under Khande Rao Holkar did not participated in the battle but indulged in plundering the territory without any hesitation.

The Maharana now started making efforts to secure the combined support of the Marathas. In order to settle the dispute the Peshwa entered the Jaipur territory. Madho Singh met the Peshwa at Niwai to present his case but Ishwari Singh also sent his vakil to meet the Peshwa. An agreement made to the effect that parganas Tonk, Toda, Malpura, some villages of Fagi and Barwada would be given to Madho Singh as his share in the patrimony on the promise that he would pay the Marathas a nazir of Rs. 10 lakhs. It was also agreed that Ishwari Singh would pay Rs. 2 lakhs the Peshwa.

Madho Singh’s desperation to secure the gaddi of Jaipur is evident from the fact that he was consulting the fortune tellers to predict whether or not he was destined to obtain the throne of Jaipur. A Jain monk Santosh Ram in Malharrao Holkar’s presence had prophesied that Madho Singh is destined to secure the state of Jaipur. Madho Singh promised to reward the monk with alnd grants in the event of his prediction proving true. Madho Singh was requested to honour his promise after he ascended on the gaddi.

But Ishwari Singh did not respect the treaty and confiscated pargana Tonk. This action led to war in which Madho Singh was supported by the Marathas. Ishwari Singh lost the battle at Bagru in August 1748. However, the Jaipur minister Keshavdas convinced Holkar to forgive Ishwari Singh on the promise of payment of heavy penalty. As per the agreement the territory granted to Madho Singh was restored to him. The state at this time was under severe financial strain. Hence, Ishwari Singh could not arrange to pay money promised to the Marathas. The Peshwa therefore sent Holkar to force

2 Karauli- Jaipur Kharitas, Maghishri Sudi, V.S. 1811, 1754.
Ishwari Singh to pay up. Ishwari Singh for want of resources was not at all prepared to face the Maratha menace and in desperation he committed suicide\(^1\). Holkar captured the city of Jaipur without any resistance and invited Madho Singh for occupying the vacant gaddi. The new ruler surrendered four Jaipur parganas besides pargana Rampura and a large amount of money to the Marathas as the price of securing gaddi. This was the beginning of the long drawn out conflict between the Marathas and Rajputs on the question of the payment of tribute as well as regarding control over territory surrendered to the Marathas. The Maratha involvement in the succession dispute of Jaipur saw Madho Singh becoming the ruler of Jaipur after Ishwari Singh's suicide. It was the beginning of a new phase in Maratha-Rajput relations marked by exorbitant Maratha demands for money from Madho Singh.

The Maratha interference in Jodhpur stated in similar circumstances after the death of Maharaja Abhay Singh in 1749 as his son Ram Singh and Bakhat Singh had a dispute over succession to the gaddi of Jodhpur. Even during Abhay Singh's life time Bakhat Singh clamored for the gaddi of Marwar and rebelled against his brother. But he could not succeed as a result of Malharrao Holkar's intervention in favour of Abhay Singh in 1748. Abhay Singh befriended Holkar and secured the moral support of Holkar for his family. When his son Ram Singh ascended the gaddi in 1749, Holkar recognized his authority as the ruler of Marwar and sent presentations at the time of coronation\(^2\). Bakhat Singh refused to accept Ram Singh as the ruler of Marwar and started preparation for ousting him with the support of Bikaner ruler Gaj Singh\(^3\). This succession dispute divided the Rathor Sardars of Marwar into two armed camps. Some of the leading nobles who were dissatisfied with the behavior and certain actions of Ram Singh defected to Bakhat Singh. Efforts were made by both rivals to enlist the outside support. Ishwari Singh of Jaipur showed inclination to support the cause of Ram Singh whereas his rival

\(^1\) Sarkar J.N., A History of Jaipur, P 240
\(^2\) Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 27, L 40.
\(^3\) Dayal Das Rikhayat, Vol. 2 PP 72 – 73
Madho Singh readily agreed to help Bakhat Singh\(^1\). Now came the question of securing Maratha help. Madho Singh had already promised Bakhat Singh of getting the support of Holkar. Ram Singh requested Ishwari Singh to bring the Maratha help. Through his efforts Ram Singh got the support of Peshwa and Holkar\(^2\). Bakhat Singh managed to get the support of the Mughal emperor who deputed Bakhshi Salabat Khan to join Bakhat Singh. The battle between the rival forces remained inconclusive. As the Marathas started deserting Ram Singh he opened negotiations with Salabat Khan and agreed to pay Rs. 7 lakhs as tribute to the Mughal emperor. Bakhat Singh could not gain anything out of this agreement\(^3\).

Bakhat Singh was not happy with this settlement and continued to make fresh preparations to fulfill his ambition. He continued reminding Madho Singh who by now had become the ruler of Jaipur to get him the Maratha help against Ram Singh. He wrote to Madho Singh that he should use his personal influence to see that Ram Singh is not able to secure Holkar's support. If Holker was not willing to support him, he should ensure that he remains neutral\(^4\). Ram Singh also made all efforts to enlist Holkar's support on consideration of family friendship. Holkar decided to remain neutral, left Jaipur and proceeded towards Mathura\(^5\). Taking advantage of the situation Bakhat Singh defeated Ram Singh at Merta and occupied Jodhpur in 1751. Holkar's neutrality proved to be a decisive factor in turning the situation in Bakhat Singh's favour.

However, this was not the end of dispute. Ram Singh sent his agents to Madho Singh to secure his help. Similar efforts were also made by Bakhat Singh through his envoy. Madho Singh who was apprehensive about Bakhat Singh's aggressive policy decided to support Ram Singh. As he himself was

\(^{1}\) Kharita from Madho Singh to Bakhat Singh, Kati Sudi II, V.S. 1806/1749.
\(^{2}\) Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol 21, L 25.
\(^{3}\) Parihar, G.R., Marwar and the Marathas, P 65–66
\(^{4}\) Kharitas from Bakhat Singh to Madho Singh Posh Sudi II. V.S. 1807/1750
\(^{5}\) Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol 27, L 64–65
not in a position to offer much in terms of men and money, he tried to buy the help of Shinde and Holkar. Jayappa Shinde was persuaded by Ram Singh's agent to come to the aid of Ram Singh. Holkar did not help Ram Singh as he was promised payment of Rs. 2 lakhs by Bakhat Singh's agent. Shinde attacked Ajmer and occupied it, but he had to rush to Poona as his presence was required there. However, he left his commander Sahiba Patel to look after the affairs of Ram Singh.

On receiving invitation of the Maratha occupation of Ajmer, Bakhat Singh left Jodhpur with his full Rathor contingent to meet the Maratha challenge. He was also joined by Bikaner ruler Gaj Singh. Bakhat Singh attacked the combined forces of Shinde and Ram Singh and defeated the enemy. The Maratha forces after a short while left for the Deccan.

Even after this victory Bakhat Singh was fully aware of the fact that the Maratha menace is not yet over. Hence he made fresh attempt to form a united front of the Rajput rulers to keep Maratha army away from Rajasthan. He got favorable response from Jodhpur and Shahpura. Bakhat Singh also suggested to Madho Singh that they might divide Malwa after driving Marathas across Narbada. He also pointed out that through joint action they can humiliate both Holkar and Shinde. In order to give a final shape to this plan Bakhat Singh met Madho Singh in September, 1752. This meeting of the rulers of Jodhpur and Jaipur was perceived by the Maratha vakil Antaji Mankeshwar as the joint action plan of Bakhat Singh and Madho Singh to uproot the Maratha power from North India. However, this plan could not be finalized due to Bakhat Singh's death on September 21, 1752. Bakhat Singh tried hard to minimize the Maratha interference in Jodhpur succession dispute. It was not as persistent and active as in Jaipur over the succession dispute between Ishwari Singh and Madho Singh from 1743 to 1751.

---

2 *Marwar Khayat* Vol. II PP 18 –185
3 *Marwar Khayat* Vol. II P 185
The succession disputes were an opportunity for the Marathas to extend their power in Rajasthan as the Rajput rulers were badly divided. Sarkar aptly narrates the prevailing political scenario when he says "Rajputana again became a mere geographical expression a bundle of warring atoms less than ten years after Sawai Jai Singh’s death\(^1\). Internal feuds amongst the Rajput elites offered the Marathas enough scope to gain much more beyond the collection of tribute. The Maratha presence in Rajasthan at the time of domestic disputes also gained some legitimacy as they intervened on the invitation of a particular section of the ruling family who bought their support by heavily bribing them. The inability of the Rajputs to pay up the promised amount and the Maratha effort to realize it further complicated the relationship between the Rajputs and the Maratha. The Peshwa asked the Maratha vakil to put pressure on Ishwari Singh for the payment that he promised to the Marathas which he could not arrange. Shinde and Holkar were deputed to collect the unpaid amount from Ishwari Singh which led to his tragic end on December 14, 1750. Madho Singh who took over as the new ruler of Jaipur in early 1751 also failed to satisfy the Maratha demand. Jayappa Shinde demanded the surrender of one third or at least one fourth of the territory of Jaipur principality in lieu of outstanding amount. It did not go well with the new ruler. Local resentment against the Marathas grew to such an extent that within the walls of Jaipur city about five thousand Maratha soldiers were killed. Finding themselves at the receiving end at that time Holkar and Shinde opened negotiation with Madho Singh who agreed to pay compensation for the loss of men power and property to the Marathas in addition to their previous demand.

The Maratha involvement in the succession issue of Jaipur badly damaged the good old relations between the Marathas and Jaipur state build over a period of time through the efforts and pro Maratha attitude of Sawai Jai Singh. The end of civil war and Madho Singh’s installation to the gaddi of

\(^{1}\) Sarkar, J.N., *A History of Jaipur*, p 201
Jaipur created a fresh point of discord which concerns transfer of Jaipur territory to the Marathas as demanded by the Peshwa and his Sardars Holkar and Shinde. The issue of tribute payment was still pending. These issues could not be sorted out to the satisfaction of either the side even after the blood bath in Jaipur city. This was used by the Marathas as a pretext for continuous intervention and raids by Holkar and Shinde in Jaipur territory during the reigns of Madho Singh and his successors. The claims of both sides regarding these issues and ways and means adopted to resolve these are vividly depicted in the correspondences of Shinde and Holkar with the Jaipur rulers.

There was a perceptible change in the Maratha attitude towards the Rajputs after the end of Jaipur succession issue which saw Madho Singh taking over as Jaipur ruler. Madho Singh’s acquisition of Jaipur gaddi with the active help of the Marathas encouraged both Holkar and Shinde to exploit the situation to their maximum advantage. Now they started to demand tribute on a regular basis from the Rajput rulers to finance their military adventures in North-India. They even expected support from the Jaipur rulers for their military ventures against their rivals in other regions by invoking past ties. Madho Singh was time and again reminded of his father Sawai Jai Singh’s friendly relation with the Marathas. In their correspondence the Peshwa, Holkar and Shinde repeatedly emphasized upon the past relationship in order to gain goodwill for future. The disunity and rivalry among the Rajputs rulers encouraged the Maratha presence which the Rajput rulers did not mind so long as it did not threaten their sovereignty in their respective principalities. Initially the Maratha designs in Rajasthan were limited to securing financial gains in return for military help but subsequent developments and the growing Maratha involvement in the North Indian politics led to the modification of Maratha policy towards the Rajputs.

1 Gwalier Kharita, No. 195, Posh Sudi 2, V.S. 1825/1768; Indore Kharita No. 69, Magh Sudi 11, V.S. 813/1756; Gwalier Kharita No. 199 Posh Vadi 2, V.S. 1825/1768.
As a price for the Maratha support Madho Singh had agreed to transfer control of parganas Toda, Tonk, Malpura, Fagi and Barwada in pargana Niwai to Holkar. He also promised to pay a nazar of Rs 10 lakhs to the Maratha King. Madho Singh gave a written undertaking to the Peshwa to clear it in four installments during 1749-50. Holkar was allowed to take possession of some Jaipur parganas to ensure the timely payment\(^1\). The problem arose when Holkar started asserting his claim over the territory promised by Madho Singh and demanded payment of money that was to be paid in lieu of the support he provided against Ishwari Singh in the battle of Bagru in 1748. In his letter of 1749 Holkar reminded Madho Singh of the promises that he had made. He demanded the payment of money which became due now as well as control over pargana Tonk\(^2\). Holkar had already taken control over pargana Rampura which the Rana of Mewar had earlier given to Madho Singh. The parganas actually belonged to Udaipur state.

The period following the enthronement of Madho Singh witness a regular dispatch of letters from Holkar to Jaipur court. This correspondence continued till 1761 when the Marathas marched to North India to face Abdali. The tone of letters both from Malharrao and his Khanderao Holkar is such if Madho Singh was a subordinate ruler\(^3\). The pressure on Madho Singh was constantly mounting as he had also agreed to compensate the Marathas for the losses that they suffered when the Maratha soldiers were attacked and killed in large number in the city of Jaipur in 1751. The Maratha pressure for payment of tribute was also growing year after year. In one of his letters of 1754 Malharrao strongly urged the Jaipur ruler to speedily clear all outstanding dues. He also made his displeasure and disgust over response of the Jaipur court to his repeated reminders for payment to be made. He also stressed the point that it is not desirable to make repeated requests and send reminders one after the other.

In 1754 Holkar was fighting with the Jats and in a battle near Kumbher he

---

\(^2\) Indore Kharita No. 1, Kartik Sudi 13, V.S. 1806/1749.
\(^3\) Indore Kharita No.3 to 78.
lost his son Khanderao. In 1755 he went back to the Deccan but kept pressure on Jaipur for the payment of outstanding dues. Asserting his right to collect the promised amount he wrote to Madho Singh that I am proceeding to my homeland (Desh) and you will be informed by your Diwan Kani Ram about the location of my camp and you manage to send all remaining dues. However, the situation in the following years did not change. Delay in the payment of outstanding dues, nonpayment of tribute due in the current year and local resistance to the Maratha authorities in territories given to Holkar continued. Holkar’s persistent pressure for payment of all dues failed to produce desired results.

From 1756 onwards the Marathas collectively pursued the issue of payment of dues rather more seriously which is evident from the letters of all three Maratha leaders- Peshwas’s uncle Raghunathrao, Holkar and Shinde who began to use threatening language. In one of the letters on behalf of Shinde Madho Singh was reminded that he is supposed to rule over Jaipur in alliance with subedarji (Holkar) and Patel (Shinde). He was warned that this is not fair on your part to have delayed in payment without bothering to inform or explain the reason for delay, please keep our suggestion in mind. Holkar’s agent Satwaji was sent to Rampura and Bhanpura to put pressure for payment and ask Madho Singh to ensure that no disturbances are made in Holkar’s jurisdiction in Rampura territory. Peshwa’s representative wrote to Madho Singh in 1757 from Delhi and reprimanded him for his failure to pay installments of due amount as per the agreement. He warned Madho Singh remit the amount quickly that will be better for you.

Not only that the Jaipur rulers failed in his promise to pay tribute and other dues throughout the decade of 1750 but the Marathas were also facing hostility of the local authorities in Jaipur territory. However, the Marathas could not take any strong action against the defaulting Rajput chief. The Maratha pressure

---

1 Indore Kharita No.62, Jeth Vadi 13, V.S. 1812/1755
2 Indore Kharita No.66, Kartik Sudi 13, V.S. 1813/1756.
3 Indore Kharita No.72, Kartik Sudi 10, V.S. 1814/1757.
continued in the form of veiled as well as open threats all these years. The Maratha's attention was diverted to political development in North India particularly the arrival of Abdali in Punjab which forced the Marathas to move out of Rajasthan. Thus till the battle of Panipat in January 1761 the Jaipur ruler did not have to face any direct military action by any of the Maratha sardars. Jayappa Shinde's involvement around this time in Jodhpur succession issue and his murder by the Rathors also seem to have saved Jaipur from any action from the side of Shinde.

Shinde like Holkar also aspired for gaining foothold within Jaipur territory after his participation in the Jaipur succession dispute between 1746-1751. We have already noted that both Ishwari Singh and Madho Singh competed with each other to get the Maratha support for the throne of Jaipur and finally it was Madho Singh who occupied the throne in 1750 when Ishwari Singh committed suicide. It may also be noted that it was Jayappa Shinde's force which suffered maximum casualty when the Marathas were attacked in Jaipur city in the year 1751. Shinde's relationship with the house of Jaipur started from 1750 which is evident from correspondence with the Jaipur ruler. Throughout the latter half of the 18th century the major issue raised in the letters from Shinde concerns the payment of tribute. The other question discussed in the communication between the two sides related to the control over territory in Jaipur that was passed on to the Marathas in lieu of payment of tribute. Madho Singh's subtle resistance to these demands continued even though he agreed to meet the Maratha demands. Also he tacitly approved the hostility of local zamindars and jagirdars towards the Marathas. Madho Singh in defiance of the Marathas, made attempt to occupy Bundi and Nenwa with the support of Kishan Singh Hada. Shinde strongly disapproved of Madho Singh's attempt to encroach upon Bundi and Nenwa which he claimed to be his territory. Madho Singh nevertheless did not reconcile with the Maratha presence in the neighboring territory of Jaipur i.e Kota and Bundi.

Jayappa Shinde did not take any harsh measures against Madho Singh

---

1 Gwalier Kharita No. 155, Jeth Sudi 7, V.S. 1808/1751.
2 Gwalier Kharita No. 155, Jeth Sudi 7, V.S. 1808/1751
even though his troops had suffered maximum loss of men power in the massacre of the Marathas in Jaipur city. He expressed gestures of friendship and cooperation whenever Madho Singh promised to pay tribute in time\(^1\). Shinde also solicited military help from the Jaipur ruler in the campaign against the Rathors of Jodhpur in 1754-55\(^2\). Jayappa Shinde was murdered by the Rathors at Nagor after he made a derogatory remark against them. Jayappa Shinde also failed to recover payment of due from Madho Singh who kept him satisfied only with false promises of dispatching hundis for the payment of tribute and other outstanding dues.

Jayappa's son Jankoji Shinde who was proclaimed the chief of Shinde army after the murder of his father concluded negotiation with Jodhpur. He now turned his attention on Madho Singh and demanded payment of tribute. Jankoji was receiving support from the other members of Shinde family particularly Dattaji, Kedarji and Mahadji. They also came on the forefront of the Maratha affairs in North India and started getting involved in Jankoji's dealings with Jaipur state\(^3\). Kedarji and Mahadji Shinde asked Madho Singh to hand over the possession of Ajmer and 12 village of pargana Borade to Shinde's official Govindrao\(^4\).

This was the period when the leaders of Shinde family were facing acute financial problem. They were also under pressure from the Peshwa who badly needed money as his treasury was empty. In 1758 Shinde demanded payment of Rs 3 lakhs, the outstanding amount of tribute. He pressed for immediate payment and dispatched troops to collect this amount from Madho Singh who was instructed to arrange the money from the bankers. The Jaipur ruler was directed to handover the amount to Shinde's vakil who was present in Jaipur court so that he could send it to Shinde by way of a hundi prepared by a banker. It is obvious from Shinde's letter that he urgently needed money for payment of salary to his

---

\(^1\) Gwalior Kharita No. 156, Kati Sudi 13, V.S. 1808/1751; Kati Vadi 13, V.S. 1809/1752.
\(^2\) Gwalior Kharita No. 158, Kati Vadi 7, V.S. 1811/1754; Jeth Sudi 5, V.S. 1812/1755.
\(^3\) Gwalier Kharita No. 162, Falgun Sudi 1, V.S. 1812/1755.
\(^4\) Gwalier Kharita No. 162, Falgun Sudi 1, V.S. 1812/1755.
However, Madho Singh had no intention to meekly submit to these demands and continued to defy the Marathas despite persistent pressure from Shinde’s side for quick payment and the presence of the Maratha troops in the neighborhood of Jaipur territory. Shinde’s officials who were posted in the outlying area as tax collectors with the formal sanction of the Jaipur ruler also faced difficulty in realizing revenue. Attempt by Shinde’s thanedars to gain a foothold the Jaipur territory was strongly resisted by the local Rajputs. It was reported to Shinde that the local officials have ousted the Maratha collectors from Chhain and other thanas as they were opposed to the presence of the Marathas in Jaipur territory. Jankojii demanded the restoration of these thanas back to the Marathas and warned Madho Singh be prepared to face the Maratha attack. Jankojji who was desirous of gaining control over strategically important fort of Ranthambhor in 1758 reprimanded Madho Singh for unauthorized possession of the fort and disturbance created there by his troops. It is clear from the letters of Shinde that Madho Singh was reluctant to fulfill his promises of regular payment of tribute and transfer of some pocket of Jaipur territory to the Marathas. Madho Singh merely acknowledged the legitimacy of the Maratha claims without yielding much to the Marathas.

Jodhpur and the Marathas.

It has already been noted that Bakht Singh of Jodhpur who died in September 1752 had planned to form a combined front of the Rajputs, Jats and the Mughal wazir to dislodge the Marathas from northern India. However, this objective could not be achieved because of Bakht Singh’s death. His successor Bijay Singh could enjoy relief from the Maratha inroads for a period of one and a half year as the Marathas were busy in Delhi affairs. The civil war for the gaddi

---

1 Gwalier Kharita No. 169, Posh Sudi 11, V.S. 1815/1758; No. 172, Posh Vadi 10, V.S. 1815/1758; No. 171, Magh Sudi 10, V.S. 1815/1758; Sarkar, JN, Fall of the Mughal Empire, Vo. 2, PP. 135-136.
2 Gwalier Kharita No. 173, Falgun Sudi 7, V.S. 1815/1758.
3 Gwalier Kharita No. 166, Posh Vadi 10, V.S. 1815/1758.
of Jodhpur was again revived by Ram Singh who met Raghunathrao through Jayappa Shinde to seek help against his cousin Bijay Singh. Raghunathrao asked Shinde to go to Marwar and place Ram Singh on the gaddi of Jodhpur\(^1\). Shinde was later on joined by his son Jankoji and brother Dattaji. The kota ruler also extended armed help to the Marathas.

Bijay Singh and his Rathor nobles were determined to meet the Maratha danger and accordingly made preparation for the mobilization of Jodhpur army. Bijay Singh received wholehearted support from the rulers of Bikaner and Kishangarh who personally led their army to join Bijay Singh at Merta\(^2\). Madho Singh also instructed his commander Rao Mohan Singh to block the march of Maratha army through Jaipur territory. The Rathor contingent of five thousand soldiers was sent to Ajmer to face the Marathas outside Marwar frontier. However, the Rathor contingent could not face the superior Maratha army. They retreated to Merta with a view to offer stiff resistance to the Marathas. Soon they were joined by the forces of Bikaner and Kishangarh. Shinde occupied Ajmer without much difficulty. Thereafter he along with Ram Singh and his contingent marched on to Merta. The combined Rathor army was defeated by the Marathas. Bijay Singh and the rulers of Bikaner and Kishangarh left the battle field, paving the way for Jayappa's entry in the city of Merta\(^3\). Despite his defeat Bijay Singh did not give up and positioned himself in the strong fort of Nagar. He was followed by Shinde who cut off all means of communication and supply of essentials to Nagar. Sindhia also saw to it that any help coming to Bijay Singh from Jodhpur he effectively obstructed. The Maratha forces led by Jankoji Shinde reached Jodhpur and attacked the fort. A Maratha force along with Ram Singh's contingent was sent to capture the fort of Jalore. Jayappa Shinde expected the fall of Nagar and surrender of Bijay Singh in a few days\(^4\).

\(^1\) Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 27, L. 104.
\(^3\) Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 27, L. 68, 79, 108.
\(^4\) Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 21, L. 67, 69; Vol. 27, L.105, 107
However, the Peshwa was not in favour of a prolonged struggle with Bijay Singh and Maratha presence in Marwar as he did not expect much profit from arid Marwar in comparison to fertile Doab. Raghunathrao was already sent to realize money from the rich subas of Awadh and Allahabad and the Peshwa needed to strengthen Raghunathrao so he wrote to Shinde to wind up the Marwar campaign and proceed to join Raghunathrao. He advised Shinde to call off Marwar campaign and divide Marwar equally between Ram Singh and Bijay Singh. Shinde assured the Peshwa that he would conclude the Marwar campaign soon and thereafter follow his instructions. The Marathas despite having captured Ajmer and Jalare and closely inverting Jodhpur could not achieve desired success. The odds were against Bijay Singh as the drought condition led to the scarcity of water and exceedingly high prices of food and fodder. As pressure mounted on Bijay Singh he opened negotiations with Shinde but nothing could be settled and the siege continued.

The situation took a different turn with the approach of summer. It was reported to Shinde that Jalore was recaptured by Bijay Singh’s men and Rathors have so far defended Jodhpur. The Maratha were pressed hard as they were not able to take Nagore. The Rathors too could not drive the Marathas out of Marwar. Eventually the Rathors decided to murder Jayappa Shinde through a plan devised on July 24, 1755. The murder of their leader did not dampen the spirit of the Marathas. The situation was brought under control by installing Jankoji Shinde, son of Jayappa as the leader of Maratha army. Reinforcement was also requisitioned from Antaji Mankeshwar who was in Bundelkhand and asked to rush to Marwar. Antaji rushed to Nagor with a contingent of ten thousand.

Bijay Singh made serious attempt to make a common cause with the Mughal emperor, the Jats, the Rohillas and the other Rajput rulers against the Peshwa.

---

1 Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 27, L. 106
2 ibid L. 116.
3 Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 21, L. 70.
Marathas. He sent his vakil to Delhi to plead with the emperor to take the field against the Marathas along with the Rajput forces. He also opened negotiations with Ahmadshah Abdali inviting him to join the anti Maratha front and drive them out of North India. However, Bijay Smgh managed to get help only from Gaj Singh of Bikaner and Madho Singh of Jaipur. Madho Singh deputed his commander Anirudh Singh Khangarot to join Bijay Singh. He along with the forces of Shahpura, Roop Nagar, Karuali and Bundi - the joint strength of which was 25000 to 30000 soldiers and strong artillery proceeded to Ramgarh to join Bijay Singh. The Maratha's failed the attempt of the Rajput allies of Bijay Singh to join him at Nagor defeating first the army of Madho Singh and thereafter Bikaner army which tried to join forces of Madho Singh. Bijay Singh’s forces were also routed by the Marathas near Jalore. Realizing the weakness of Rajput coalition Madho Singh decided to open peace negotiations with the Marathas and refused to extend help to Bijay Singh any further. Bijay Singh again tried to involve the emperor but without any luck. He rejected Madho Singh’s offer to mediate between the Marathas and Marwar. Having failed to get any help Bijay Singh reopened negotiations with the Marathas and concluded an agreement in February 1756.

As per agreement Ajmer was surrendered to the Marathas and Bijay Singh agreed to pay Rs. 50 lakhs as war expenses, out of which Rs. 25 lakhs were to be paid within the year and the remaining amount in two yearly installments. Annual tribute of Rs. 1.5 lakhs was imposed on Bijay Singh. Ram Singh was given half the territory of Marwar which included Jalor, Sambhar, Maroth, Sojat, Parbatsar and Kekari. Jodhpur, Nagor and Merta remained with Bijay Singh who was required to keep a contingent for the defense of Ajmer and bear its expenses. A separate agreement was made between the Marathas and Ram Singh according to which the Maratha Kamvisdars were to remain in Ram Singh’s territory for the collection of custom dues to be shared equally between

1 Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 27, L 119.
2 ibid
3 Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 21, No. 77, 80.
4 Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 21, No. 82, 84; Vol. 27, No. 128
the Marathas and Ram Singh.

The long drawn out struggle between Ram Singh and Bijay Singh witnessed the presence of Marathas in Marwar for almost four years, the end result of which was the division of Rathor state of Marwar into two parts. Marwar became the tributary state to the Marathas. War with the Marathas had a disastrous impact on the economy of Jodhpur. The war expenses made treasury empty, there was hardly any flow of revenue to the state exchequer as the lands remained uncultivated due to migration of peasants. The income from taxes on trade and commerce also declined due to the insecurity. The agreement with the Marathas placed Bijay Singh in precarious situation as he had lost the territory that was yielding maximum revenue which included Sambhar and fertile land of south-east Marwar. What he got was the capital town Jodhpur and the deserted part of Marwar territory. He had to pay a heavy price for purchasing peace from the Marathas. The payment of first installment in itself was a tall order for Bijay Singh and payment of next two installments was undoubtedly beyond the capacity of Bijay Singh. Hence he started approaching the Maratha leaders for the readjustments of the installments on revised basis. Jankoji Shinde thought of proceeding to Marwar in September 1758 to force Bijay Singh to pay up. However, he was told not to proceed to Marwar and instead reach Delhi. Shinde decided not to proceed further from Pushkar and waited for long period to collect the promised amount of tribute from Jodhpur. The Jodhpur vakils tried hard to convince Shinde for relaxation of the terms of payment but in vain. Bijay Singh had no alternative but to accept the earlier term as he feared that further hostility with the Marathas might encourage Ram Singh to bring the Maratha attack on Jodhpur once again¹.

In 1759 Ahmad Shah Abdali crossed the Indus river and proceeded towards Doab. He sent message to Madho Singh and Bijay Singh to join him against the Marathas. He asked Bijay Singh to bring a contingent. The Marathas knew about Abdali-Rathor overtures and that Bijay Singh was more inclined to

¹ Parihar, G. R., Marwar and the Marathas, PP 90-92.
serve Abdali than the Marathas. In Nov, 1759 the Maratha commander Sadashivrao Bhau was informed about Bijay Singh’s intention to join Abdali in the event of his coming to Delhi and overthrow the Maratha power in the North. The Marathas did not realize the potential of Afghan danger till Dattaji Shinde fell fighting Abdali at Barari Ghat on Jan 7, 1760. Shinde’s representative immediately contacted Bijay Singh send help to the Marathas. Taking advantage of the situation Bijay Singh sent his vakil Barhat Karnidan to negotiate terms of help but at the same time he assured Abdali that he would stand by his promise to join him.

Taking full advantage of the situation Bijay Singh decided to regain the territory that was lost to Ram Singh. He knew that the Marathas at this juncture would not be in any position to help Ram Singh. Bijay Singh gradually started taking over territory that was parceled out to Ram Singh as per the agreement of 1756. He had already overcome opposition from Madho Singh by adopting common policy towards Abdali. An agreement was also concluded between Bijay Singh and Madho Singh not to help each other’s enemies.

In the meantime negotiation between Shinde and Jodhpur vakil Karnidan was concluded. Jankoji Shinde promised not to help Ram Singh in return for Bijay Singh’s support to the Marathas against Abdali. He also agreed to come to Jodhpur’s support in the event of Abdali’s attack on Marwar. However, despite repeated reminders to join the Maratha army Bijay Singh remained neutral in the third battle of Panipat as he decided not to offend either of the superior power. The total rout of the Marathas in the battle of Panipat had its repercussion for Jodhpur. Abdali did not stay for long in India and left in March 1761. This provided an opportunity to Ram Singh to revive his hostility towards Bijay Singh. With the support of Madho Singh he

1 Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol 21, No 101.
2 ibid Vol. 40, No. 126.
3 Arzi Bahi No. 4, Magh Vadi 11, V.S. 1816/ Jan 1760.
4 Arzi Bahi No. 4, letter Asarh Sudij 9, V.S. 1816/1760
5 Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol 21, No 101.
prepared for attack on Bijay Singh in May 1761. Both solicited the help of Marathas. In the meantime Madho Singh's hostility to the Marathas increased to such an extent that the Peshwa had to write to Malherrao Holkar to organise an expedition against him with the help of Bijay Singh. Holkar defeated the army of Madho Singh in the battle of Mangrol in November 1761\(^1\). Despite the setback of Panipat, the Marathas proved to be more than a match for the Rajputs. This also brought to an end the conflict between Bijay Singh and Ram Singh. Ram Singh left Marwar for good and spent the rest of his life at Jaipur, where he passed away in 1772.

The end of civil war provided Bijay Singh much needed space to consolidate his power and even aspired him to reoccupy Ajmer. However, he failed in his attempt and had to agree pay an amount of Rs 3 lakhs to the Marathas as compensation. Bijay Singh's attack on Ajmer prompted Shinde to strengthen the defense of Ajmer against any attack in future. Henceforth Bijay Singh tried not to antagonize the Marathas and complied with their demand of sending Jodhpur contingent. When Holkar visited Jaipur in 1764, Madho Singh requested Bijay Singh for help but Bijay Singh did not agree\(^2\). He also turned down Holkar's request for help against the English as the Marathas were be more than a match for the Rajputs. This also brought to an end the conflict between Bijay Singh and Ram Singh. Ram Singh left Marwar for good and spent the rest of his life at Jaipur, where he passed away in 1772.

The major part of Rajasthan suffered from political turmoil as a result of the interstate conflict as well as succession disputes between contenders for the gaddi. The Marathas were invited by one or the other party to settle the score in favour of the contender who sought the Maratha help. The Marathas fully utilized the situation and intervened in return for substantial financial gains. The growing competition for the purchase of Maratha support prompted the

\(^1\) Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 29, No. 27.
\(^2\) Arzi Bahi No. 4, letter Sawan Vadi 4, V.S. 1821/1764
Rajputs to accept even unrealistic financial burden on the state exchequer. The Marathas were promised part payment of the amount agreed upon on the spot and rest of the amount was payable in installment. Invariably the Rajput rulers were unable to raise the amount needed for payment to the Marathas. The resultant delay in payment led to renewed Maratha inroad into their territory. All major Rajput states were badly affected by the Maratha demand of annual tribute and occasional supply of armed contingents at their cost. The rulers had no other option but to raise the amount by imposing fresh taxation on the raiyat and borrowing it from the bankers at high rate of interest.

The Maratha inroads and their exorbitant demands had completely alienated the Rajputs from the Maratha which is evident from the negotiations of Madho Singh and Bijay Singh with Ahmad Shah Abdali. Abdali informed Madho Singh about his intention to crush the Maratha power. He also required him to keep engaged the Maratha soldiers who were stationed in his territory so as to prevent them from joining the main Maratha army. Madho Singh’s resentment is evident from the deed which he got signed by the seventeen kachhawa sub clan leaders. In the deed the kachhawa nobles were to be excommunication if they sided with the Marathas in their battle with Abdali. It seems that he was aware of the inclination of a section of his nobility to support the Maratha cause. Despite repeated attempts by the Marathas to get the support of Madho Singh and Bijay Singh, the Rajputs decided not to become a party in the Maratha-Afghan conflict and watched the outcome of the third battle of Panipat in detached manner. It may however, be noted that even on earlier occasions Madho Singh did not entertain the Maratha requests for military support against other powers. When Malharrao Holkar left to Delhi to reach the Deccan to install Ghazi-ud-din Khan II as the of Nizam of Hyderabad he requested Madho Singh to send his force to support the Marathas and join the Maratha campaigns in the Deccan. Both Holkar and Shinde wrote to the Jaipur ruler for military help in 1752. Holkar's vakil Gangadhar Yashwant also wrote to Madho Singh reminding him of the desire of both the subedars and the Peshwa to assemble and send a force to the Deccan. However, response from
the Jaipur ruler was not at all encouraging. The resentment of the Rajputs against the Maratha proved costly for the Marathas as the Rajputs stayed away from the third battle of Panipat.