CHAPTER II

THE REGION IN ITS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Introduction:

A region takes its own shape through history and adjusts itself in response to the endogenous and exogenous events. The region of Mewar has witnessed the eventful political history of India at large and that of itself in particular since the early days but more specifically the socio-political events during the Mughal period in India. The basic problem of Mewar's history is its changing boundary or the command area under different political set-up and it involves the identification of those ancient places which still bear the testimony of the past. The real recorded history of the region starts from the period of Mughal in Delhi and Rana's in Mewar. By and large civil administration was more important in the region than socio-economic development throughout the history as has been described in this comparatibly terraincognita.

In this chapter, we have tried to unfold the politico-economic history of the region in the context of its location on the trade routes of the past. This study has been divided into three parts - first the ancient period, then the medieval period and lastly the pre-Independence period. In each period of history, the region had experienced a pattern of growth to be drastically modified in the successive stage. The name and fame of the region had always been related with such growth
grothepattern like the scenes of a drama although many events had been autochthonous and left memorable imprints in its social and physical scene.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

I. Ancient Period:

Historically Mewar\(^1\) is one of the oldest region in India. Originally perhaps it was a small area around Nagda\(^2\) (Not far from the city of Udaipur where Guhils originally began to rule) but the region had been occupied by early settlers since long ago*.

In 326 B.C. When Alexander invaded India. The Sibies who were the original inhabitants of Punjab had migrated towards Rajasthan and settled around Madhyamika (Modern Nagri) near Chittorgarh, an ancient city known to Patanjalis Mohabhasya. Thus the territory adjoining Chittorgarh was termed as Sibijanapada. Incidentally Madhyamika is referred also in Mahabharata in connection with the conquest of the vatadhanas by Nakula. It is evident that Madhyamika, the capital of Sibies in the C.2nd B.C. retained its importance also in the succeeding centuries.\(^3\)

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1. Another name of Udaipur region (state) which was one among the eight political charges into which Rajputana was divided. (Sahai - Jawala (1905) "Introduction to Rajputana" pp.108-9.)


* To throw some light on its earliest situation several attempts have been made, for example, the work of G.H. Ojha, Kaviraj Syamal Das, Jams Tod, Jagdish Singh Gahelot, V.N. Misra (1967), Dasharatha Sharma (1966), and Kailash Chandra Jain (1972). The Mewar, the land of sacrifice tells us its glorious history.

Factors in the early history of Mewar:

In the latter phase of early history of the region, several kingdoms came into being like Moryas (C.272-232 B.C.), Guptas (C.4th A.D.) Harsha (C.640 A.D.) and Guhils (C.647-1000 A.D.) and one another Kingdom "Vagada" founded in C. 9th A.D. by Parmara Chiefs and Arthena was made its capital city (Fig. 2.2) but the Guhilots of Mewar along with many dynasties sprang up in northern India (during C.647-1000 A.D.) was the most important one. The dynasty was founded by Bappa Rawal (Kal Bhoj) of the Guhilot family in Mewar in C.728 A.D. He collected the Ehills of Aravallis around him and made his kingdom strong. His son Guhila conquered Chitor and made it his capital city. Abul Fazal mentioned in his Ain-i-Akbari that the chief of Mewar formerly called Rawal, but for a long time past, had been known as Rana. He also argued that Guhilot clan descended from Noshirwan of Berar.

5. Ibid. p.19
6. Ibid. p.21
7. Vagada probably originated from vaggala, which means forest. The Vagada province of Rajasthan comprised the districts of Dungarpur and Banswara as well as the southern part of Udaipur district (Jain, K.C. (1972) pp.32)
12. It is asserted that a daughter of Noshirwan whose queen was a daughter of Maurice of Constantine pole married to the Udaipur royal family. (ibid).
II. Medieval Period: (Based on Ain):

After 10th century A.D. the fort of Chittor which was the
fame of the Moryas, Parmaras, Solankies, Chouhans, and the Gahils,
the center of their power and founten of Ranas Power as well as
their dominion\textsuperscript{13} got a peculiar strategic importance, and had
also been recognised by the ruler of neighbouring areas. The
powerful Hindu King of Gujarat, and Malwas always wished to
have this fort under their control. After the establishment of
Muslim power in India, the Sultan of Delhi (Allaudeen) attacked
and conquered it and changed its name as Khijirabad\textsuperscript{14} after the
name of his son Khijir-Khan who was made the subedar of Chittor
in 1326 A.D. But Rana Hamir again captured it, since then the
descendants of Hamir had been ruling over the land of Mewar.\textsuperscript{15}

After Temur's invasion the independent Muslim Kingdom of
Malwa and Gujarat made repeated attempts to capture it. Soon
after consolidating his position Akbar conquered it in 1968
A.D.\textsuperscript{16} Mughals were interested in this area because it was on
the Agra-Surat route and connected by link routes with Ajmer\textsuperscript{17}

\textsuperscript{13} Abul-Fazal - The Akbarnama, Trns. H. Beveridge. Vol. II.
Calcutta (1907), pp.464.

\textsuperscript{14} Guhilot, G.S. (1962) - "Mewar Rajya ka Kendriya Saktiyon
se Sambandh". pp.4.

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid. 4-5.

\textsuperscript{16} Mathur, H.N. (1973) "Muslim attack on Chittor". A.I.H.R.
pp.29.

\textsuperscript{17} Which was the headquarter of the suba of Ajmer, Situated
at the pinnacle of the plateau had always been considered
pre-emptly used by very imperial power. In order to keep
control over the rulling chiefs of Rajasthan, the Mughal
a spine of control to all over the land. Lastly they were interested in this area since all Rajput Kingdoms of Rajputana were under the repression of Mughal power except Rana Pratap who did not recognise Mughal's sovereignty. After Akbar's occupation of Chittor in 1568 it was constituted as a Sarkar of Ajmer Suba with number of parganas. (Fig. 2.3).

Administrative Units formed by Akbar:

Two Sarkar's were formulated in the area of Mewar. One of them was Chittor covering almost part of Mewar, and was fully dependent on it. Its length was 40 Kos by 30 in width and it has three famous fortresses namely Chittor, Kumalmer and Mandal. Second one was Sirohi Sarkar which was partly under the area of Mewar. Moreover only two big parganas namely Dungarpur and Banswara were mainly under Mewar, although these parganas were included in the Suba of Ajmer for revenue purposes, but politically they were attached with the suba of Ahmedabad (Gujarat). These two parganas were separately indentified in Ain-i-Akbari as independent administrative units (Fig. 2.4).

Extent and Boundaries of the Sarkars:

The boundaries of the Sarkars have been drawn taking physical as well as political information into consideration. Thus the river courses and mountain crests have been recognised as the boundary lines. The above respective Sarkars were situated in the southern part of the suba of Ajmer, and have been demo-

DELINEATION OF CHITOR AND SIROHI SARKARS (1550-1605)

FIG. 23
Rectated in the north by Khari and Sukri river, west by Arawalli crest on the one hand and the Rann of Kutch on the other; in south by political boundary of Rajputana and east by Chambal river. Politically both Sarkar's were surrounded by north and north-west by the Sarkar of Ajmer and Jodhpur, east by Sarkar of Ranthmbhor of the suba of Ajmer, and by the Sarkar of Mand-sor of the suba of Malwa, in south by the Sarkar of Pattan, Ahmedabad, Sounth, Champaner of the Suba of Gujrat and by an independent territory identified as Ider (Fig. 2.4).

The two respective parganas of the Sirohi Sarkar (Dungar-pur and Banswara) appears in the south of Chittor Sarkar, and were extended east to west between the fringe of Chittor Sarkar on the north and south by the Suba of Gujrat.

Both the Sarkars were extended astronomically between 23°15' and 26°30' north latitudes and 71°31' and 74°40' east longitudes. They covered an area of about 60,000 sq. kms.

Administrative Structure:

In the region of Akbar, northern India was divided administratively into number of Subas, Sarkars* and Parganas*. The division of a state into units of administration was in vogue since the early medieval days. After Akbar's occupation on Chittor (1568), it was made a Sarkar and was subdivided into number of parganas. Prior to Akbar's administration the administrative units were grams, Mondals and Durg with head of

* Subas are subdivided into Sarkars while Sarkars into Par-ganas (revenue units).
Gram styled as the Gramin, Mandalidhipati for Mondals and Durgadhipati for Durgas.

Pargana Administration:

The word pargana was corrupt form of the Sanskrit word pratijagaranaka or protigana. It was an aggregate of a certain number of villages. The Chittor and Siroki Sarkars were divided into 26 and 6 parganas respectively (Fig. 2.6).

Oldham, gave the definition of pargana as group of villages and a sub-division of a district. In the early days of Mohmedan Empire pargana appeared as a cultivated space in the forest occupied generally by a single, but some times by more than one fraternity or clan. It is evident that there were parganas in ancient India consist of a group of 100 villages or less than that, and these continued to exist throughout the Sultanat period under various names. Akbar improved the pargana administration. First of all he divided sarkars into number of parganas and their boundaries were fixed. The head quarter of each pargana was called as Mahal. The information about the topography and spacial feature of their histories, inhabitants and land tenure system of each pargana were collected and recorded. Every pargana under Akbar had a Shiqdar, an Amin, a Treasurer, a Kanungo and writer or Karkem, each of them had his official establishment.

The Shiqdar, who worked under the supervision and

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS
CHITOR & SIROHI SARKARS
(1550–1605)
AS IN AINI-AKBARI

FIG. 24
control of the Faujdar of the Sarkar, was incharge of the general administration of the pargana. He was responsible for law and order and for the administration of original justice. He was thus the executive officer of the pargana and also its Magistrate. The Amin was directly concerned with the assessment and collection of revenue of the pargana.

In fact they were required to work as a team and their assistants were paid in common. The commission of one dam per bigha of land was charged. The Kanungo kept the revenue record. In this period as already noted that the Chittor was in the Mughal hand and attempts were being made to introduce order by means of measuring land revenue and dividing the Mughal possession into districts. According to Ain-i-Akbari in the Sarkar of Chittor there were 26 parganas with their respective Mahals including Mandalgarh, Mandal, Bednor, and Shahpura etc. The whole Sarkar measured about 1,678,800 bighas and 17 biswas, the revenue was estimated to be about 30,047,649 dams.  

**Indentification of Mahals:**

Ibul-Fazl had given information in his Ain for the Sarkar of Chittor and Sirohi (Appendix 1) with respect to the Mahals or Parganas in detail. The administrative seats of Mahals were located almost at the geometric centres of the Parganas or Mahals and also on the trade routes so as to main-

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

REVENUE PER BIGHA
(Chitor & Sirohi Sarkara)
(1550-1605)
DATA BASED ON ABU-I-AKABARI

JODHPUR

PATTAN

MANDSOR

DATA NOT AVAILABLE FOR SIROHI SARKAR
tain linkage with each other and for coordinating the revenue administration. The Parganas used to acquire the name by those centres sometime inter-changeably used to denote both the area or place.

**Levels of Agricultural Efficiency of Mahals:**

The agricultural productivity of each Mahal has been calculated on the basis of revenue data (per bigha Fig. 2.5). However, the general pattern that emerged by this analysis of data, indicates that places located in and around the river basins having fertile soils were able to pay higher revenue than those located on plateaus or in the hilly areas. Thus the Mahals situated along the Chambal, Banas and Khari rivers paid much more revenue like Rampura, Badnor, Banera, and Jeran, than those Mahals situated in hilly or rugged areas, such as Chittor, and Begun.

Among all the Mahals of the Chittor Sarkar, Rampura paid much revenue which contained about 7,000,000 dams and least revenue paid by Chittor to be 800,000 dams.

On the whole, the Sarkar of Chittor seems to have been very productive area since Medieval period as Abul-Fazal says in his Akbarnama that the area supplied sufficient for several years.22

**Locational Analysis of Mahals:**

The technique (N.N.D.) has been attempted to find out the

nearest neighbours of each Mahal of the respective Sarkars. The variables such as number of Mahals, total area, actual distance, and expected distance have been chosen for the purpose.

The first attempt of this exercise is to find out \( \bar{r}_a \) value that is equal to \( \frac{\bar{r}_e}{n} \), which is defined as the mean of actual distance observed, worked out to be 38.03. Second step is to find out \( \bar{r}_e \) value i.e. the mean of expected distance and has been calculated to be 0.0005, by applying the formula:

\[
\bar{r}_e = \frac{1}{2/P}
\]

Where:
- \( \bar{r}_e \) = Mean of expected distance.
- \( P \) = No. of Total points divided by total area.

N.N.D. or "R-N" value which shows the degree of departure from random to even or clustered distribution of settlements is the ratio of \( \bar{r}_a \) to \( \bar{r}_e \). The formula for N.N.D. is given below:

\[
R = \frac{\bar{r}_a}{\bar{r}_e}
\]

Where:
- \( R \) = Degree of departure from random
- \( \bar{r}_a \) = Mean of actual distance observed
- \( \bar{r}_e \) = Mean of expected distance.

Applying the above formula, the "R" value of the Mahals has been worked out to be 1.7008. The result shows a tendency to be more regular (1.7008) than random distribution (Fig. 2.6). The regularity in the distribution of the headquarters of parganas...
MAHALS AND THEIR NEAREST NEIGHBOURS (1550 - 1605)
CHITOR AND SIROHI SARKARS
BASED ON N.N.D.
RN = 17008

FIG. 26
was not a chance factor; their location was decided by the trade route connections and the geographic centrality of revenue administration. Besides, the spatial regularity was the essential part of Akbar's political administration common to most of the Sarkars and parganas of his time. These Pargana headquarters had great strategic importance from where the invasions were launched against any unruly and cessationist Jagirdars or Subedar.

**Strategic and Military Significance of Mahals:**

In medieval period, the strategic importance of the Mahals were significant in the sense that all Mahals of the Chittor Sarkar were the centres of Rajput clan, hence, the establishment of the authority gave immense prestige to the Muslim power and it made the task of subjugation of Rajputana easier.

All stone forts were located on the border of Sarkar (Chittor), such as Bednor, Phulia, Mandalgarh, Bhinsrorgarh and in the centre at Basi and Chittor. In the same manner the stone forts were established in Sirohi Sarkar at Sirohi, Jalor and Banswara. The location of the fort of Chittor increased its strategic value in order to establish their (Mughals) way over Malwa and Gujarat, and subsequently for deccan rulers of Delhi, who passed through Rajputana. It was essential for them to capture Ranthambhor and Chittor. The strategic importance of the forts in the route of Gujarat and Deccan also permitted
STRATEGIC AND MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF MAHALS (1550-1605)
CHITOR & SIROHI SARKARS
AS IN AIN-I-AKBARI

LEGEND
- CAVALRY
- INFANTRY
- MAHALS WITHOUT FORT
- MAHALS WITH A STONE FORT
- MAHALS WITH A BRICK FORT

FIG. 27
Allauddin to undertake an expedition against Chittor. The conquest of Chittor was essential for Akbar's policy of the expansion of his empire. In 1562 A.D. he had entered into a matrimonial alliance with Raja Bharmal, the Kachawa ruler of Akbar. He (Akbar) expected that other Rajpur rulers would soon accept his sovereignty; he soon, however realised that Mewar was not going to make such a more attempt. He therefore, decided to undertake an expedition against Mewar. According to Abul-Fazal, Akbar objected to invasion of Mewar to punish Ranas. Akbar started his expedition on 19 Sept., 1567. He occupied Shivpur and reached Gagrun on the border of Malwa and Mewar. The total force of the Sarkar of Chittor was estimated about 22000 cavalry and 42000 infantry, and the Sirohi Sarkar contained about 7500 cavalry and 4200 infantry. (Fig. 2.7).

Major Routes:

As mentioned in Akbarnama that there were several routes between Agra and Gujarat, and Agra-Chittor-Udaipur and then toward Malwa, but Agra to Ahmedabad was main trunk route (Fig. 2.8). Akbar himself travelled between Agra and Gujarat twice performing onward and homeward journeys. As recorded in Akbarnama that during the second expedition of Gujarat, Akbar came at Ajmer and then marched toward Merta-Jaitaran-Sojat-Bhagwanpura-Jalor-Disa-Balisara-Cotana and Ahmedabad. On his homeward journey, Akbar came back at Dholka-Kadi-Sidhpur-Sirohi-

MAJOR ROUTES
CHITOR AND SIROHI SARKARS
(1530-1605)
AS IN AKBARHAMA

FIG. 28
Sojat-Jaitaran-Merta and then Ajmer (Fig. 2.8). It is interesting to note that the alignment of the major trunk route was guided by the alignment of Aravalli rather than the valley and followed the range. The route Ajmer to Sojat and Bhagwanpura was common on both ways, however, the onward journey was through Jator. Besides it, there were several link routes passing through Mewar. Abul-Fazal says in his Akbarnama that there was a regular route from Ajmer to Mandalgarh and from there to Gogunda and Khamnor; from there it crossed Haldighat and led to Idar - Panarwa and Ahmedabad stage by stage. Another link route was from Ahmedabad to Udaipur. Man Singh came Gujarat by this way of Idar to Dungarpur and thence to Udaipur. Raja Bhagwan Das also took the same route and reached Gogunda near Udaipur. This route was connected with Agra. According to Abul-Fazal, Malwa was connected with Udaipur through Dungarpur and Banswara. This route was adopted by Akbar and his Generals several times in the course of their invasions of Mewar.

Aspects of Economic Geography:

Although there was no valuable information recorded by Abul-Fazal in his Ain-i-Akbari and Akbarnama regarding economic conditions of the respective Sarkars, some hints are found here and there; like about mineral resources, Abul-Fazal says, that in the village of Chadar there is a copper mine which is extremely

24. Var. Chawar, Chaura, Jawara, Chowra, in the I.G. (Under Udaipur) Jawar 24 miles south of Udaipur is said to have possessed zink mine.
profitable.\textsuperscript{25} In other places he also says that at Udaipur there is a mine of Copper. Thus it seems that the copper was the main raw material in those days. Agriculturally there were also some cultivated tracts and large grain fields, meaning wheat crops grown specially around Udaipur. Nensi also referred that in this region fertile areas as Oses. Wheat, Gram, Mung, Oilseeds and Cotton were grown; Wheat and Gram were grown in Uparmal, Wheat, Rice, Gram and Pulses were sown in Mewar. Thus the economy of the inhabitants was mainly based on Agriculture and was the dominant activity of the living beings.

\textbf{Modern Period :}

After the end of Mughal ara, the Maratha power became strong over the land of Mewar. They wanted to rule over it so there were many disputes over the parts of Nimbahera, Begun and Bhinsrorgarh, which some time came under Maratha power and some time under Mewar. Since the end of Mughal period until the advent of British Raj in India, the Mewar region experienced a period of turmoil and many old documents have been looted or destroyed. Repeated insurrection of Marathas led the Pargana rulers who rose to princets status because of decline of the ruling power in Delhi, to join hands with the British for two reasons - first to maintain their princely status, secondly to get military protection of the British Empire against Marathas. These princely states of Mewar entered into treaty with the

British in 1818. After the treaty a political agency known as Mewar Agency was created with its headquarter at Nimach. The territory of Mewar Agency consist of the state of Udaipur, Dungarpur, Banswara, Partapgarh, and Kushalgarh, and one chief of Shahpura and one pargana of Tonk (Nimbahera).

In 1860-61 the headquarter was transferred to Udaipur when the designation of political charges was changed from Agency to Residency. (Fig. 2.2). At the time of the formation of Matsya union, Dungarpur, Banswara, Partapgarh and Shahpura merged into it on 25 March 1948, and a month after Udaipur also joined the union; there after it (Mewar) became a part of the state of Rajasthan in Independent India.

The historical description has been made here to understand the past political, economic and strategic dimensions of this region. The main emphasis in this context has been given to the Medieval period, because of the adequate information is available in Ain-i-Akbari, Akbarnama and in Tuzuk-i-Jahan-giri. The Mahals of the Chittor and Sirohi Sarkar of the Suba of Ajmer were evenly distributed and they were heaving their specific strategic importance with respect to their location. So far as their economic base is concerned the parganas which were extended over the revenue tract were more productive, that is why they paid much more revenue than the others which were extended over the hilly and plateau tracts. The major trunks and link routes followed physiographic as well as river courses
directions and they were connected at major strategic places (Chittor, Kumbhalgarh and Mandalgarh Forts) and Haldighati etc. etc. The entire area of the study was ruled by Sisodia clan from C. 7th A.D. to the 1947, except at some invasion times by the rulers of Delhi.

The present day Mewar is the amalgam of the princely states created and persisted in the British period. Most of these states were under-developed except a few and the princes were busy in keeping their status quo relation with the British Raj at Delhi rather than developing their states economy. At the time of their merger with Independent India there was no resistance but keen willingness. This very fact shows that they were not economically sound at this stage.

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