CHAPTER -1

Constituting "The Two Fateful Years"
1.1. The Scope of the Work -

The present research focuses on the specific spatial region - North Kokan/Konkan (spelled hereafter as Konkan) on the Western coast of the India and the particular temporal period: 1737 - 1739 A.D. in the North Konkan (at present comprising of Southern portion of Valsad District in Gujarat, Union Territory of Daman, Districts Palghar, Thane, Mumbai Suburban, Mumbai and Raigad in Maharashtra) which witnessed perhaps the longest running concentrated military cum political campaign fought on the multiple fronts in the 18th century between the powerful Western European mercantile trading entity cum ruling polity entrenched firmly on the Western coast of India - the Portuguese Estado da India and the native ruling polity, here in this case, the Maratha confederacy, This extensively recorded confrontation of immense geopolitical significance ended in the conclusive victory in favor of the Maratha confederacy led Chhatrapati Shahu I (referred hereafter as Chhatrapati Shahu), his Prime Minister Bajirao Ballal, better known Peshwa Bajirao I (referred hereafter as Peshwa Bajirao I) and his younger brother Chimajaji Ballal better known as Chimaji Appa (referred hereafter as Chimaji Appa). By the time this war was conclusively and bitterly fought between the Portuguese Estado da India with its two operational command centers - Goa and Vasai and the Maratha confederacy with its two operational command centers - Satara and Pune, the Portuguese Estado da India was already counting its existence on the coastal strip of Northern Konkan for almost two centuries and five years which had earned the name of "Firangan" ("फिरंगाण") due to its Portuguese occupation. Portuguese were the major players in the race of colonialism in 15th and 16th century in India. After snatching the hegemony of Indian ocean from the Arabs, Portuguese maintained this domination with restrictions elsewhere unheard of, along with their key fortified settlements at strategic and prime locations. The famous cartaz system is the manifestations of Portuguese hegemony over the sea and even the imperial Mughals couldn’t escape from it. In the 18th century, the Maratha confederacy had come to occupy a high place in the contemporary geopolitics of the Western coast and Deccan. Portuguese controlled their largest and richest colonial possession in India in the form of "Provincia do Norte" (Province of the North), as it was called by them, in the North Konkan from 1534 A.D. to 1739 A.D. from its capital at Vasai (called Bacaim by Portuguese and Bassein by British), referred by them as "Corte da Norte" (The Court of the North). The Province of the North, at its zenith, covered the area of approximately
190 K.M. long and 31 K.M. wide on the Western coast in the North Konkan. The province included the principal port cities of Chaul (at present in Taluka -Alibag, District - Raigad), Vasai (at present in Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar) and Daman (at present a Union Territory in the Republic of India) and many towns and villages. On the Eastern side, they were bordered from time to time by the local Koli kingdom of Rampur and Jawhar, the regional Ahemadnagar Sultanate (16th and 17th century), the Bijapur or Vijapur Sultanate (17th century), the Mughal empire (17th century) and later on from the 17th century onward by the territory possessed by Chhatrapati Shivaji, Chhatrapati Sambhaji and the Maratha confederacy. Though the major ruling polities (the Sultanates of Ahmednagar and Bijapur and later on the Mughal empire) did engage the comparatively smaller trading cum regional ruling Portuguese polity from time to time on the Western coast, it can be observed that they were not much concerned to capture their region of influence in Goa and North Konkan (to be specific of the Western coast) and made them to submit to their sovereignty from time to time during their numerous imperial campaigns in the region. At the same time, they attempted to align the technologically and militarily advanced Estado da India on their side whenever they found it necessary to achieve their regional geopolitical ambitions. The smaller local kingdoms such as the Koli kingdoms of Rampur and Jawhar were not of any match to contest the regional claim of Portuguese supremacy except conducting occasional raids in the border regions and to which Portuguese also retaliated heavily. They were able to extract a form of tribute called "Chauth" (of which payment proportion varied than its actual connotation) as a measure to maintain peace in the Eastern border region of the Province of North but they never were any serious challenge to Portuguese existence in the North Konkan. The newly emerging Maratha polity, first under Shivaji and Sambhaji attempted to take on Estado da India in the North Konkan but the same could not be concluded to its victorious end due to the numerous contemporary geopolitical and financial reasons. It was only in the period of relative stability and prosperity in the Deccan achieved by the descendant of Bhosale royal family - Chhatrapati Shahu I (the son of Chhatrapati Sambhaji) with the help of his able ministerial council operating from his headquarter in Satara (presently a district headquarter in Maharashtra State) after the start of Mughal empire's disintegration in the first quarter of the 18th century that the regional Polity in the form of a Maratha confederacy could manage to pull up the resources and finance of colossus scale to capture the Portuguese controlled Province of the North after two years long arduous military
and political campaign in 1739 A.D. While the Maratha confederacy, especially the office and family of Prime Minister (Peshwa) of Chhatrapati Shahu - Peshwa Bajirao I and his younger brother Chimaji Appa (the commander in chief of Vasai campaign 1737 - 1739 A.D.) celebrated the capture of Firangan and counted it as their major victory, the Portuguese Estado da India had nothing but to mourn for long the loss of their most prosperous, fertile, rich and strategically important sphere of control and influence in the North Konkan.

Portuguese are credited to introduce a form of European origin and inspired art and architecture in India, especially in the North Konkan which deeply touched the various spheres of art and architectural activity at the national and regional levels and also in the spheres of economics, polity, administration and culture. The field which came of utmost importance to them was the defense architecture and management through which they controlled their area of control and influence in the North Konkan. Equally is notable the Maratha war strategy and the structural interventions in the Province of the North which they planned and executed during their attack on the Province of the North. Thus, the aspects - structural defense management which the Portuguese managed in accordance to the geographical spread of their area of control in the North Konkan during the Vasai campaign (1737 - 1739 A.D.) and the Maratha response to them in the same category, form the crux of the present research.

1.2 The Area under the Research (Map - 1, 2 and 3) -

North Konkan in which the Province of the North existed, at present broadly consists of Southern portion of Valsad district in Gujarat, the Union Territory of Daman, Thane, Mumbai Suburban, Mumbai and Northern portion of Raigad Districts in Maharashtra. From the North to South, it is drained by many rivers, important among them from the North to South are Kollakh, Damanganga, Sanjan, Vaitarna, Ulhas, Amba and Kundalika etc. Being in the Northern part of Konkan, it is benefitted with the fertile plains drained by the rivers originating mostly from the Sahyadri hill ranges situated on the Eastern side and which finally meet the Arabian sea on the Western side. The strip of land is approximately 60 K.M. wide at the maximum with somewhat shallow sea on the West and it is interspersed with the numerous bays, creeks, sandy Beaches and the famous natural harbors like Mumbai or former Bombay. From the point of social-cultural and architectural history, being located in a strategic place as a melting pot for the Eastern and
Western cultures, this area boasts of its definite cultural history from the days of the celebrated Mauryan Emperor Ashoka (273 - 239 B.C.) (Khobrekar 2002) and has the recorded phase of human existence in the Prehistoric period (Dhavalikar 2012). It housed the famed port of ancient Surparaka as the regional capital of *Aparanta* with the other renowned cities of trade and wealth such as ancient Kaliyana (the modern Kalyan, District - Thane) and Chemula (the modern Chaul, District - Raigad). A continuous line of political dynasties from the early historical period (3rd c. B.C) to the medieval period (16th century) such as the Maurya, Satavahan, Kshatrap, Abhira, Traikutak, Kalachuri, Konkan Maurya, Chalukya, Rashtrakut, Shilahar, Yadav, the Delhi Sultanate, the Bahamani Sultanate, the Bijpaur Sultanate, the Ahmednagar Sultanate,, the Gujarat Sultanate ruled this region.

1.3. The Objectives -

The research focuses on the specific spatial and temporal category in the 18th century with the following objectives as a case study of Archaeology of European Expansion/Colonial Archaeology -

1. To understand the settlement pattern and extent the Portuguese Province of the North in the North Konkan
2. To know and understand the structural defense management in the Province of the North in the North Konkan and military strategies adopted by the Estado da India for defense of the Province of the North during Marathas' Vasai campaign (1737- 1739 A.D.)
3. To know and understand the Maratha structural responses and interventions to the Portuguese structural defense management in the Province of the North during the Vasai campaign (1737 - 1739 A.D.)
4. To know and understand the origin and phase-wise development of the Marathas' Vasai Campaign (1737 - 1739 A.D.)
5. To form the proper chronology of the Vasai campaign by the critical analysis of the Julian, Gregorian and Islamic calendars. (1737 - 1739 A.D.)
1.4. The Research Methodology -

The research methodology to carefully investigate the issues under research assumes a form of three fold operation here. Knowing by the carefulness and meticulousness of maintenance of records and documents by the Portuguese Estado da India and also equally structured administration of Maratha confederacy, the study and analysis of extant contemporary records is a one part of the research. The both primary and secondary textual records and publications have been consulted. A large corpus of published primary Portuguese, Maratha and British documents covering the events of the period in question are available in the printed form and the same are carefully consulted. In addition, the primary unpublished archival material from the Mumbai Archives has also been utilized here. The Archives of Lisbon, Portugal and the British Library, London are consulted for the purpose of research.

The second and most important part of the present research is to conduct archaeological exploration in the region to identify, discover, document and understand the defense structural remains (and also of other categories - religious and civil) in the former Province of the North belonging both to the Portuguese and Marathas. For conducting village to village exploration in the study region (the Union Territory of Daman, Valsad Taluka of Valsad District in Gujarat, Districts Palghar, Thane, Mumbai Suburban, Mumbai and Uran and Alibag Talukas of Raigad in Maharashtra) the tools like GPS is used to obtain the exact geocoordinates of the explored site and accordingly the primary photographic documentation of the sites and monuments is done. The documented sites and monuments are thereafter plotted on the Google Earth to form the understanding of their location pattern. The sites and monuments are measured (wherever possible) and their to the scale plans have been made. It has helped in building the database of sites and monuments of the period in question for their comprehensive historical and architectural analysis. The initial field work in the region has brought to fore the high level of urbanization (mostly unplanned) of the modern period in the North Konkan and how much it has threatened the existence of the sites and monuments of the medieval and late medieval period in the both categories - protected and unprotected and how it has limited the scope to conduct an excavation or scientific debris clearance in the already disturbed and damaged sites which are mostly located in the villages/towns. Considering the critical and endangered condition of the visible unprotected sites and monuments which as written above, belong mostly to the time
spectrum of the early to late medieval period, the first and immediate task is to document them properly and the same is successfully attempted in the present research. The observations made from the scientific debris clearance in the Vasai Fort, a Nationally Protected Monument of Archaeological Survey of India during the structural conservation of some of the monuments present therein, are utilized here with all due care. While analyzing the structural remains of the period surviving in the form of forts, fortresses, bastions, fortified structures etc. attention to careful observation of its architectural stratigraphy is paid and which has resulted in forming many interesting observations and helped in understanding the evolution of the site and monument and how it has attained its present identity. From such studies conducted on the sites and monuments of the period under reference, it is found that more nuanced understanding of the monument formation process has helped to discard many popularly held opinions by the local History enthusiast community and more importantly to form evidence based generalizations which are further corroborated by the textual or graphic records of the contemporary period.

The third and most important part of the research methodology is to correlate them and to arrive at a better understanding to form a general observation of the temporal period and spatial event in question. Thus, it is the synthetic combination of field and textual studies which are attempted here to form the balanced observations.

1.5. The Previous Studies -

1. Archaeology of European Expansion/Colonial Archaeology -

The Previous Studies -

The well defined and problem oriented archaeological works in the medieval and late medieval period are not new, despite its scarcity in comparison to the archaeological investigations in other periods. In Indian scenario, with the development of Archaeology on the conceptual and methodological fronts, the fellow practitioners and scholars have begun to initiate studies in the domain of Medieval Archaeology. The survey, explorative works and subsequent excavation in the years 1970-71 to 1972-73; 1974-75 and 1975-76 at Champaner (presently a World Heritage Site) in Panchmahals district of Gujarat (the twin city built by Sultan Muhammad Begda in 1483
A.D. which served as the capital of Gujarat Sultanate. It came into prominence during 15th and 16th c. A.D. and finally ravaged by the Mughal emperor Humayun in 1535 A.D.) was done under the guidance of Prof. R.N. Mehta of the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda and this work may be taken as the notable expression in this regard (IAR 1970 - 76). The remains and monuments of Vijayanagara empire at Hampi (presently a World Heritage Site) were subjected to exploration, clearance, excavation, documentation and conservation by Archaeological Survey of India and Karnataka Department of Archaeology and Museums from 1975 to 1987 (IAR 1975 – 87) and again from 1991 to 1995 (IAR 1991 – 95). In the year 1977, under the National Project, examination and excavation at Fatehpur Sikri (presently a World Heritage Site) in Agra district of Uttar Pradesh (the city built in 1570 A.D. by the Mughal emperor Akbar and served as the capital of Mughal empire from 1571 – 1585 A.D.) started after the initiative of Dr. Nur’ul Hasan (then the Education Minister of the Government of India and former Head of the History Department, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) (IAR 1977 – 89). This work was jointly done from 1978-88 under the supervision of Prof. R.C. Gaur (Head of the History Department) of Aligarh Muslim University and Shri. W.H. Siddiqi from Archaeological Survey of India. Prof. R.C. Gaur has published a volume entitled “Excavations at Fatehpur Sikri” summarizing the results of his works in this royal city (Gaur 2000). In order to get a “better insight into the life and times of Deccan Sultanate”, Prof. M. S. Mate of Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune and Archaeological Survey of India, did systematic survey, exploration and excavation at Daulatabad (Dist. Aurangabad, Maharashtra) in the years 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1984-85 to 1988-89 and this project too has left a standard mark in the domain of Medieval Archaeology (Mate 1985: 110) (IAR 1980 – 89). The next prominent and exemplary research work is of Vijayanagara Research Project directed by Dr. George Michelle (Britain) and Prof. John M. Fritz (University of Pennsylvania, U.S.) concentrating upon the ruins of Vijayanagara empire at Hampi (District -Bellary, Karnataka). This interdisciplinary international project in its overall period of twenty years from its inception in the year of 1980, has become an icon in the field of Medieval Archaeology by involving numerous international, national scholars and researchers from varying fields and well known agencies like Archaeological Survey of India and Karnataka Department of Archaeology and Museums, for exploring, surveying, mapping, excavating and documenting the cultural wealth of the Vijayanagara empire at Hampi (Fritz et al 2001). The
recent and fresh research work in this direction is of Dr. D.V. Sharma from Archaeological Survey of India, whose learned work, “Archaeology of Fatehpur Sikri – New Discoveries” has set up an effectual stake in the Archaeology of Medieval and especially that of the Mughal era. In continuation of the earlier work done at Fatehpur Sikri by Prof. R.C. Gaur and W.H. Siddqui, Dr. Sharma has done an intensive field work in the area measuring 25 K.M. surrounding the Fatehpur Sikri in order to trace its antiquity, excavated a site named Birchhabili Tila, Sikri village from 1999-2000 and has done a refreshing work on the medieval period of Fatehpur Sikri through his archaeological study of Akbar’s Fatehpur Sikri, especially that of Akbar’s Ibadat-Khanah (1576 – 82 A.D.) and archaeological investigations of Anup Talao through his excavation at the Talao (Sharma 2000). In spite of these appreciative beginnings in the domain of Medieval Archaeology, systematic investigations in the field of Archaeology of European Expansion/Colonial Archaeology, with much regret are lacking at various fronts. The scholarly and meticulous work of Alexander Rea, then the Superintendent of Archaeological Survey of India, Madras, “Monumental Remains of the Dutch East India Company in the Presidency of Madras” published in New Imperial Series, Volume XXV, 1897 of Archaeological Survey of India can be considered as the pioneering work in the regard of Colonial Archaeology or Archaeology of the European expansion in India. In his well illustrated and much researched work, Rea has described and explained about the structural remains of the Dutch occupation in India by referring forts, residential structures, warehouses, churches, tombs (especially epitaphs), sites and coinage in the Madras Presidency (Rea 1995). However, in this work, there is no use of the term Archaeology of the European Expansion/Colonial Archaeology despite his decent description of the monumental remains and well factual treatment of the theme. The published literature containing a comprehensive and problem oriented archaeological field perspective work is mostly unnoticed after Rea’s exercise (except of the some excavations, debris clearance etc. undertaken by Archaeological Survey of India in Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, West Bengal etc. of which information is confined only up to Indian Archaeology – A Review), as the overall medieval and late medieval period was subjected to only textual study and research. The fresh beginning in the regard of Colonial Archaeology is made by Prof. D. K. Chakrabarti (based then at Cambridge University) through his erudite and seminal publication “The Archaeology of European Expansion in Gujarat c. 16 th - 18 th Centuries”. This work was a product of his joint fieldwork in December-January 2000-01 with Dr. C. J. Scarre, Deputy Director of the
MacDonald Institute for Archaeological Research of Cambridge University and his wife Dr. Judith Roberts, a senior Archaeologist from Cambridge Shire. The main thrust of his work was on the European, especially the British activities in 16th – 18th century Surat. By considering evidences from Bharuch, Ahmadabad, Cambay, Diu, Daman and after its identifications, it was desired further to explore the possibilities of excavations in the potential areas (Chakrabarti 2003).

2. Archaeological and Historical Researches on the Portuguese period in the North Konkan

The Previous Studies -

There are some resourceful publications and studies in English, Portuguese and Marathi dating back to the British rule on the Indian subcontinent in the 19th century and 20th Century which have tried to focus on the specific issues of the Portuguese presence in the North Konkan from 16th to 18th centuries and also on the Maratha's Vasai campaign (1737 - 1739 A.D.). The first pioneering study on the Portuguese presence in the North Konkan was done by Dr. Gerson da Cunha, originally a medical practitioner by profession but who rose to become an Orientalist, Historian, Linguist and Numismatist by authoring publications such as "Notes on the History and Antiquity of Chaul and Bassein" (1876) and "Origin of Bombay" (published posthumously in 1900). The first publication was intended to be a travel book divided into two parts for the interested tourist visiting the old and desolate Portuguese settlements in Chaul and Bassein (Vasai). It is the first serious study on the Portuguese presence in North Konkan which comes with consulting the Portuguese chronicles dealing with the colonization of the North Konkan by the Estado da India in the first quarter of 16th century and of its later expansion. His work and scholarly articles forms the base of the Portuguese section of the Gazetteers of the Bombay Presidency for the Districts of Thane (1882), Kolaba (1883) and Bombay City and Island (1909).

F.C. Danvers, originally a Clerk in the East India Company's establishment in England who rose to become the Assistant Secretary in the Public Works Department and was later chosen for the post of Registrar and Superintendent of Records by Lord Kim Barley. During his tenure in the Records Office, he was directed to examine the Portuguese records archived in Lisbon on the
anticipation of the occasion of four hundred years anniversary of Vasco da Gama's voyage to India and to prepare a report on it. The report which he submitted to the Secretary of State in 1892 A.D. later formed the base of his well known work "The Portuguese in India : Being a History of the Rise and Decline of their Eastern Empire" published in two Volumes in 1894. The book contains a small section on Portuguese lose of Province of the North to Marathas (Danvers 1894 : 402 - 413).

Dr. Pandurang S. Pissurlekar, a doyen in the field of Indo-Portuguese studies who is credited for publishing a range of scholarly works on Portuguese and medieval polities in Portuguese language while he was the Director of Department of Historical Archives, Nova Goa in the Portuguese rule. His major works originally published in Portuguese language on the Portuguese and Maratha relations in a series of fourteen articles published from 1926 - 1939 in the bulletin of the Instituto Vasco da Gama titled "Portuguese e Marathas" were translated into English by Prabhakar Ramkrishna Kakodakar and were published in a single title "The Portuguese and Marathas" by Maharashtra State Board for Literature and Culture in 1975. The work contains valuable and informative chapters based on the contemporary Portuguese documents on the Maratha offensive on the Province of the North from 1737 - 1739 A.D. His lectures delivered on the topic in Pune University were also published by the host Institute in Marathi titled "पोर्तुगीज मराठा संबंध" in 1967 and contains many important references for the Vasai Campaign.

Govind Sakharam Sardesai originally employed in office of Baroda Princely State, could consult many historical documents available in the Royal Library of Baroda Princely State and could expand his interest in the history of Marathas. In the fourth volume of "मराठी रियासत" (an eight volume book project on the History of Marathas by G.S. Sardesai), we find a section on Vasai campaign of Marathas. His another monumental contribution is the editing and publication of the records of Peshwa's office, called popularly as "पेशवा दफ्तर" on the request of Bombay Government when a noted Historian Sir Jadunath Sarkar suggested the name of G.S. Sardesai for the task to the Bombay Government. In forty five volumes of "पेशवा दफ्तर", the volume no. 16 published in 1931 and the volume no. 34 published in 1933 deals specifically with the Vasai campaign of Marathas in the Province of the North and altogether contains 401 contemporary documents.
The another important publication on the Marathas' Vasai campaign of comes from Y.N. Kelkar who published an historical account based on the contemporary Maratha documents on Vasai campaign in 1934 in his pioneering publication "वसईची मोहीम". He has extensively borrowed his sources from volumes 16 and 34 of "पेशवा दफ्तर" and some published works of Dr. P. Pissurlekar for the topic of his study.

Braz Anthony Fernandes, originally a Mechanical Engineer by profession with an avid interest in History wrote a guide book on the ruins in Vasai Fort titled "A Guide to the Ruins of Bassein" (1941) and in which he described the structural remains in the Vasai Fort.

After independence, it is Dr. Regin D'silva from Vasai who is credited for delving into the Portuguese history of Vasai by consulting the Portuguese archives. He did his Ph.d from the Department of History, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda under the guidance of Prof. K.S. Mathew on the topic "Bassein under the Portuguese (1534 - 1640) - A Socio Economic Study" in 1985.

While the all above research works mainly deal with the political and war history solely on the basis of contemporary documents from the historical perspective, Bhalchandra Kulkarni of Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra has published his work "मुंबई परिसरातील अर्थात एकेकाळांच्या फिरंगणातील किल्ले" in 2009 after combining his field trips in Palghar, Thane, Mumbai Suburban and Mumbai districts and documentary evidences gathered mainly from Y.N. Kelkar's "वसईची मोहीम". The work mentions the known Portuguese and British sites and monuments in the North Konkan and also some newly discovered Portuguese period sites.

1.6. Forming the Conceptuality and Limitations of the Case Study of Maratha-Portuguese War (1737 - 1739 A.D.) in the Province of the North for the Archaeology of European Expansion/Colonial Archaeology -

The main contribution of the above cited work of Prof. D. K. Chakrabarti is his ensuing conceptual discussion on the term of “Colonial Archaeology” and its applicability in the Indian context. While describing the archaeological investigations aimed for revealing information of the periods of European contacts and expansion in Canada, North America, Central and South America, Europe (especially Britain), Africa and Australia under the broad domain of Historical
Archaeology, Post-Medieval Archaeology, the Archaeology of Colonialism; Prof. Chakrabarti is of the opinion that except the Portuguese possessions of Goa, Diu, Daman and the Western coast, in India, the term of Colonial Archaeology is apt from the mid-18\textsuperscript{th} century onwards which “witnessed the positive steps towards British paramountcy in India” and it’s up to 1947 A.D. that the period may be considered as the investigating domain of the Colonial Archaeology (Chakrabarti 2003: 1). According to him, except of the Portuguese settlements in India, the rest of the European settlements do not fall under the “technical category of colonial settlements”, therefore, the period of one hundred and fifty years before the mid 18\textsuperscript{th} century may be taken as the investigating domain of the “Archaeology of the European Expansion” in the Indian context. He further stress that the above mentioned domains are one of the components of the Archaeology of this broad period which “otherwise remains basically the Archaeology of the Mughal era” (ibid). Agreeing honestly upon the lack of systematic archaeological research in this period which has remained till now a major constituent of the historical studies, Prof. Chakrabarti points out on the crucial lacunas in forming the coherent picture of this phase of Indian history due to the lack of archaeological perspective (ibid : 26). Regarding the scope of this domain, Prof. Chakrabarti opines that "...it may be broadly consisted of identification of corresponding sites and structures, most important being the European trading establishments, a critical analysis of the trade network and its correlation with geographical and historical issues and to know the thrust of European penetration in India becomes one of the important scopes of study..." (ibid: 26-27).

Against this background and conceptual discussion initiated by Prof. Chakrabatri, this novel beginning may be taken further. But at the same time, with a due respect of his work, it may also be stated that a critical assessment of the term of the Archaeology of European Expansion/Colonial Archaeology along with its scope and methodology must be done with its applicability in the Indian context. While assessing the character of the European monarchies with the monarchies of India in general and contemporary condition of the Indian feudal monarchies in particular, a conscious, holistic, analytic, scientific approach and methodology should be adopted, failing of which it may lead to disastrous inferential blunders and subsequent deductions drawn thereof, which will either result in highly exaggerated chauvinistic claims or unrealistic radical conclusions. At the same time, a broad difference in the present term and entities of the State, Nation or Country as per the present Capitalistic context and that of those
existed in the Medieval Feudal context should be kept in mind. This delineation of the overall complex societal process should take into consideration the economic base of the society primarily analyzing forces, mode and relations of production and then focusing upon the ideological apparatuses, political institutions, social, religious institutions, thoughts, beliefs, arts, aesthetics and culture etc. The inherent dialectical influences and especially autonomous functions of both these parts and finally primacy of the base over the superstructure (notwithstanding the tremendous influence which superstructure can exert over the base which may become a contradictory material force by itself) need to be taken into the account. Therefore, while discussing and examining this period too, this basic analytic methodology is need to be adopted. Throughout this research, the basic approach of culture as a dynamic system with its interrelated constituent and its dominant material base despite the autonomous influence and strength of ideological (cognitive, symbolic) superstructure has been maintained. Keeping in view of the limited space, some issues which may help in defining the basic premises of this investigating domain which can further facilitate discussion on the conceptuality, aims, goals and scope are briefly discussed below.

The multiple factors which enabled the European feudal monarchies and its merchant class to sail in Indian ocean and Arabic sea in search of markets and colonies in 15th and 16th centuries were the inevitable outcome of its own complex societal process. There were many imperceptible synchronic events of the far reaching consequences during this period which involved within itself an intricate series of events and therefore thorough treatment of the overall theme is not possible as it requires a separate deliberation. It may be also noted that these breakthrough events didn’t appear suddenly but were consequences of its longue duree societal events. The improvement in the production techniques, such as the heavy wheeled plough (suitable to till fertile heavy soil), Asian technique to harness horse (which allowed peasants in replacing much slower oxen in plowing), the use of beans and other legumes to replenish the soil etc. had a decisive impact on the overall food production. The well known French Historian on the Medieval peasantry, Georges Dubey thinks that the cumulative effect of basic innovations in the production techniques resulted in the double grain yields by the 12th c. A.D. The surplus production extracted and appropriated through peasants facilitated this course of events to move further with its embodiment material phenomena and its definite outshoots in the form of the development of new social classes with their new aspirations. The innovations and use of new
techniques like water mills, eyeglasses, the spinning wheels in 12th c. A.D were impactful, while the discovery of compass in 12th c. A.D, the replacement of steering oar with rudder in 13th c. A.D. with new methods of ship building and rigging, horse stirrup, advances in armor production, the cross-bow, stone-thrower and then gunpowder and cannons (first used in 1320 A.D.) revolutionized the navigation and warfare. The advent of printing press by 15th century too had an unimaginable result (Bois 1995). These basic but most important developments were responsible to prepare a background for the Market Feudalism and New Monarchies (especially that of Charles VII and Louis XI in France, Henry VII and Henry VIII in England, joint Monarchs Isabel and Ferdinand in Spain, Manuel I of Portugal) of 15th and 16th century (Harman 2005). The successful antecedents from 10th c. A.D to 14th c. A.D. in the form of the establishments of universities away from the clutch of monasteries at Oxford, Paris, Prague etc., rising literacy, influential secular literature of the figures like Alighieri Dante, Giovanni Boccaccio, Geoffrey Chaucer, scientific investigations of Roger Bacon, Peter of Maricourt etc. paved the way for humanity’s one of the most striking, cherished and intellectual churning accomplishments; the Renaissance. As beautifully portrayed by Guy Bois; this overall superstructure with whatever merit and de-merit had become possible due to change in the structure of property and social relations in the form of feudalistic serfdom which proved to be more dynamic mode of production to that of its forerunner slave labor (Ibid). This feudal organization of production went into two different directions in the subsequent period, where at one level, the old ways to strengthen serfdom with the help of force, coercion, violence etc. continued, where at the another level, leasing off the chunks of lands to the go-ahead segment of peasants on the fixed rents and for long time was followed by the another section and thus it helped to form the backdrop for the lands farmed in the Capitalist manner. However, this overall process should never be considered as very smooth and without contradictions. The same economic expansion; the dictates of juvenile markets coupled with changes in production, political events of afar regions and unforeseen natural hazards and calamities had to decide the future of its participants. The result was the obvious. There was a gradual decline at various degrees in the Balkan countries of Eastern Europe, Barcelona, Florence and the well known Hanseatic countries of Northern Europe as a result of the enhanced serfdom whereas Netherlands, Southern Spain, South-East Germany and England began to prosper in 16th century (Harman 2005). In the Political Economy terms of Adam Smith and Karl Marx, this
transformation of production from its “Use Value” to “Exchange Value” was the precursor for the Market Feudalism which propelled the European powers towards the region outside of Europe. Therefore, considering the main outline of this dominant process, the arrival and motives of the European powers like Portuguese, Dutch, Danes, French and British who arrived in Indian subcontinent from 15th to 17th c. A.D. has to be cautiously checked and scrutinized. These European powers had considerable differences with their trading precedents who had primarily trade motives and were one of the responsible factors for carrying out the brisk trade in this region. In due process, some of them settled in the Indian subcontinent in a course of time. Those earlier merchants had no support or very negligible support from their respective states. In contrast, the European powers in India from 15th to 17th c. A.D. were well coalesced trade companies with joint stock venture supported politically and militaristically by their respective states and had a substantial support from their parent rulers, being the representatives of its parent states. The superior naval power, military organizations was their boosting strength and it is with the help of these deciding factors that they were able to compete with each other and with other rival monarchial polities; to maintain suzerainty over the regional geo-politics.

From the early beginning, these European powers started to establish fortified trading posts and settlements which were mostly immune from the local political powers and in the subsequent period majorly resulted in cherishing the territorial and imperialistic ambitions from their behalf. A critical inquiry is needful in the pattern of their sales, purchases and organization. As rightly observed by Raychaudhari and Habib, it was out of the European participation in India’s trade that the future colonial system emerged (Raychaudahri et al 2009: xiv). Despite the debate among the scholars regarding the exact nature of feudalism in the Medieval India, it is certain that property and social relations were dominated by the feudal mode of production. Except of the shifts in the balance of power, there was a rather gradual continuity in the economical apparatus instead of any radical or fundamental change. India too at the outset of European power's arrival in the 15th to 17th century was torn with internal strife. The Portuguese travelers who visited Vijayanagara empire in 1522 A.D. were astonished with its prosperity and even compared the capital to Rome (Smith 1985: 312). The North and Western India under the respective Indo-Islamic Sultanates was paralyzed with constant political upheavals, whereas in the Deccan, struggle for power was going on among the remnants of the Bahamani Sultanate. In the South too, there were local chiefs who were looking after the regional affairs after the
destruction of Vijayanagara empire. After the arrival of Mughals too in the geo-political scene of the Indian subcontinent, except of its earlier prosperous days, condition remained same. The hierarchies of officials, zamindars were eager to extract as much as surplus from the peasants and even most of the time nothing was left to them. The cost of urbanization was being paid in the constant stagnation of the country side as whatever was appropriated for the maintenance of luxury and pomp of the ruling class, even minimum was not given in return to the class which supported it primarily. The popular religious movements’ way back from the early medieval period majorly represented the voice of the oppressed section. The advocates of these movements came from the downtrodden section of the society, used vernacular languages for the propagation of their ideas, challenged the Brahmanical religious ideology and preached the lessons of equality, brotherhood and humanity. Besides these issues, the prolonged war campaigns, famines, droughts were adding more fuel to distress. These natural calamities which certainly affected the overall situation are according to some scholars proved fatal to the overall scenario (Dhavalikar 2004). Jats, Sikhs and Marathas rose one by one against the dominant imperial powers. The oppression of exploited classes resulted into revolts but they were largely unorganized. But the influential merchants and artisans class centered in the urban cities didn’t take the responsibility to influence the peasants like their bourgeoisie counterparts in Europe did. Thus, reacting on the downfall of Mughal Empire, well known Historian Irfan Habib aptly comments that “…the Mughal empire had been its own grave digger” (Habib : 351).

Therefore, besides identifying the European settlements during their contacts with India, their spread, penetration, trade network, their impact on the overall socio-economic set up of India, their adaptation to the regional ecological conditions and geo-politics, their subsequent spread till their hegemonic suzerainty over India as reflected through their material record becomes the broad faced aims and goals of Archaeology of the European Expansion/Colonial Archaeology in India. The investigations aimed to glean information from the holistic synthesis of the material remains and textual records about the contemporary socio-economic circumstances, religious institutions, beliefs, aesthetic traditions, art, architecture, and mortuary practices etc. enhances the scope of this domain. In comparison to Indo-Portuguese studies in Goa, despite richness of documentary records and availability of material remains of the Indo-Portuguese period, this field of study has not attracted much attention of the research community, especially of archaeologists in the North Konkan, where the Portuguese presence is recorded as early as in
1518 A.D. and where they stayed in the capacity of the ruling polity up to 1739 A.D. The Western coastal region of India, especially the coastal area of South Gujarat and Western Maharashtra is associated with one of the earliest late medieval Indo-European structural remains in the country and is even more rich in nature as par their counterparts in Goa, Kerala and Eastern coast of India. As far as the present historical event of great significance is concerned, there is absolutely no work available at present in English in the disciplines of History or Archaeology in which the critical and comprehensive analysis of the contemporary Maratha, Portuguese and British documents in the historical perspective and its correlation with the material remains existing in the region is presented. The present research attempts to analyze the available Portuguese, Maratha and British period documents (both published and unpublished) to make concrete understanding of the contemporary period in relation to the Vasai campaign (1737 – 1739 A.D.) in particular and the settlement and defense pattern of the Portuguese Province of the North in general. For this purpose, the extensive data of Portuguese documents made available by Dr. P.S. Pissurlekar from the Portuguese archives in Goa and Portugal, more than four hundred documents related to Vasai campaign made available by G.S. Sardesai from the records of Peshwas and a good section of the contemporary British period documents made available by G.W. Forrest from the Bombay Archives are critically analyzed to form the comprehensive account of the Vasai campaign and to correlate these documents with the actual field findings. The earlier studies on this topic were entirely relied on the textual references and had laid extensive stress on either Portuguese or Maratha documents which had formed one sided narrative of the event. In this study, the all available documents are cross-examined to form comprehensive phase-wise account of the event with its revised chronology as the most of the dates calculated in the volumes 16 and 34 of Peshwa Records related to Vasai campaign by G.S. Sardesai and Y.N. Kelkar are found to be erroneous after their cross examination with the Islamic and Hindu calendars and dates provided in the Portuguese documents. So, revised dates are formed for the respective Maratha documents and the same are mentioned in the next chapters. The present study is confined only to the Vasai campaign (1737 – 1739 A.D.) and the defense and settlement pattern of the Portuguese province of the North and it is within these conceptual parameters that the present research is structured.
1.7. The Arrangement of Chapters -

1. Constituting "The Two Fateful Years"

The first chapter will describe in detail the scope, objectives, research methodology, study region and the previous studies.

2. With Swords and Diplomacy - Founding the Province of North (1534 A.D.)

The second chapter will describe how Portuguese established the Province of the North in North Konkan in 1534 A.D. and its subsequent expansion.

3. Crossing the Swords - What Caused the Vasai Campaign (1737 - 1739 A.D.)

The third chapter will describe the geopolitical reasons and circumstances behind the Vasai campaign of Marathas.

4. The Vasai Campaign - The Historical Outline (5th April, 1737 - 16th May, 1739 A.D.)

The fourth chapter with the help of revised dates and chronology of the campaign will discuss in detail the various phases of the Vasai campaign, military strategies adopted by Marathas and Portuguese, structural interventions of the Marathas in the Portuguese Province of the North.

5. Where Valor Matters - The Battle Field in the Province of North (1737 - 1739 A.D.)

The fifth chapter which provides information of the field findings of the author in the North Konkan is divided into two sections. The first section provides detailed information of the sites and monuments which are specifically mentioned in the Portuguese and Maratha documents related to the Vasai campaign. The sequence of these sites and monuments is kept in this section according to the available sequence of Maratha offensive and the larger sites and monuments
where this confrontation lasted for a long are mentioned at the end of the list. The sites of Daman, Sanjan, Revdanda and Korlai are not included in the description as they were not attacked by the armies of the Chimaji Appa during the Vasai campaign (the unsuccessful attacks on Korlai and Revdanda were led by Manaji Aangrey in 1739 A.D.). The second section contains the list of Indo-Portuguese sites and monuments explored and documented by the author in the North Konkan. Though no sufficient textual records for these sites and monuments are found in the contemporary Maratha and Portuguese documents related to the Vasai campaign, they are relevant for the present research to form comprehensive understanding about the Portuguese defense architecture and settlement pattern in the Portuguese Province of the North.

6. Observations and Conclusion

The sixth chapter presents the observations of the author and conclusion of the thesis on the issues related to the Vasai campaign, the settlement pattern and the defense management of the Portuguese Province of the North.

References

This section will give the list of publications (both printed and digital) and archival material (both printed and digital) consulted for the purpose of present research.

Plates containing Maps, Images and Plans

In this section, the maps of the study area and images and plans of the selected sites are provided due to space limitation.