Muhammad Shah and his predecessors had pursued a policy of conciliation towards the Rajput princes. High ranks, riches and honours were bestowed on Jaipur and Marwar princes. But the weakness of the central government and the intrigues of rival factions at the court stimulated their ambition and desire for independence. Raja Jai Singh wanted to set up an independent state stretching from the river Jumna to the banks of Narmada.

All the pent-up personal ambition and inter-state rivalries, now burst forth without fear or check, and Rajputana became a zoological garden with the barriers of the cages thrown down and keepers removed. With the gradual crumbling down of central authority, the Marathas, the Sikhs, the Jats and the Afghans raised their heads in a bid to found principalities. The Rajputs were too much engrossed in their domestic affairs and clannish jealousies to combine amongst themselves with the result that they play a secondary role in the shifting political scene.

The Revolt of Raja Ajit Singh.

On the accession of Muhammad Shah, Raja Ajit Singh of Jodhpur, who had acquired great power under the patronage of the Saiyid Brothers, did not make the customary submission to the new Emperor. He resented the royal favour lavished on the Kacchwa Prince. While he had not only been dismissed from the subedari of Gujrat, but even Ajmer was taken away from his

charge. At the head of thirty thousand horse, he marched from Jodhpur, entered Ajmer and forbade the performance of Muslim ceremonies. Muhammad Shah, despatched a contingent of twenty thousand horse under the command of Muzaffar Ali Khan. Raja Ajit Singh made peace with the government. Ajmer was left in his charge while Gujrat was promised to be given to him at a later date. Nahar Khan was appointed as the Diwan of the province with the Faujdari of Sambhar, but he was assassinated by the Rathor chief.

Muhammad Shah appointed one Sharfud-Daulah to conduct a campaign against the Rathors. Raja Jai Singh, Muhammad Khan Bangash and Raja Girdhar Bahadur were ordered to assist the new imperial commander. Before Sharfud-Daulah could open his operations, he was replaced by Haider Quli Khan. On 28th February, 1723, the imperial Farman was received by Raja Jai Singh, and in the next month he was informed that Haider Quli Khan had been appointed governor of Ajmer. The Raja was asked to join the royal army at Narnol, and act according to arrangements agreed upon amongst the royal commanders.

1. T.M. p. 259.
3. T.M. p. 262.
   Warid. p. 575.
Raja Ajit Singh marched towards Sambhar without risking an encounter with the imperial forces; and when Haider Quli Khan and other nobles entered Sambhar, he marched further towards Jodhpur. On 8th June, 1723, the new governor captured Ajmer, and on 17th June, Garh Patili was invested, which after one and half month was reduced.

Through the mediation of Raja Jai Singh, a treaty was entered into with the Emperor by the Maharaja of Jodhpur. His son Abhaya Singh attended the court and offered elephants, valuable articles and money as presents to the Emperor. The heir-apparent of the Maharaj was received with all respect, and gifts and honours were conferred upon him; but he was detained at court. In the following year (1724) Maharaja Ajit Singh was murdered by his own younger son Bakhat Singh. He was succeeded by Abhaya Singh at Delhi, where Muhammad Shah invested him with a robe of honour, and the titles of his father with a mansab of 7,000/7,000 in recognition of his legitimate claims as successor of his father. Nagor was also given to him as jagir which he handed over to Bhakat Singh after his return from Gujrat where he had been sent to help Sarbuland Khan in quelling the defection of Hamid Khan. In 1730 he was appointed as the Subedar of Gujrat which he governed for full seven years, till he was replaced in 1737 by Munim Khan. Thus after the death of Maharaja Ajit Singh, Marwar, under Abhaya Singh became

2. Abid.p. 496.
4. Ibid.
an eminent power in Rajputana, its ruler, brave and loyal, enjoyed the King's favour, and opposed to the policy of compromise with the Marathas, as advocated by Raja Jai Singh and his friend Samsam-ud-Daulah.

Rise of Raja Jai Singh.

Raja Jai Singh, had gained substantial political weight in imperial affairs by virtue of his hostility towards the Saiyid brothers and unshaking loyalty for Muhammad Shah. As a reward for his allegiance the titles of Sarmad Raj Ha-i-Hindusta Raj Rajendar Raj Dhiraj Swai Jai Singh, besides robes of honour and valuable articles were conferred on him. His request for the abolition of Jaziya was also accepted on this memorable occasion. Congratulations poured on him from all sides for this admirable act, and the Maharana of Udaipur called him as the biggest Sardar of Hindustan. To prove his fidelity to the Mughal throne he granted religious liberty to the Muslims, who during the rebellion of the Rajputs, could not exercise formal practices of their faith. He secured the parganas of Dhandora, the monopoly of fifty one parganas in Shikwari, Jagirs in Maraina, in the Sarkar of Moinabad, Ajmer, and the joint control with Abhay Singh over Sambhar. He was appointed in the year 1722, the governor of Agra after the removal of

3. Siyar p. 70.
Saadat Khan Burhanul Mulkm, whom he defeated by capturing the fort of Thun on 18th November, 1722. In recognition of this conspicuous service, he received, on 12th June, 1732, the title of Raja-i-Rajeshwar, Shri Raj Dhiraj, Maharaja Jai Singh Swai. Badan Singh, the rebel nephew of Churaman Jat, was made the new chief of the Jats by Raja Jai Singh. To secure his position further he shrewdly sought the friendship of Khan-i-Dauran, the most influential man at the court. His friend proved to him a strong shield in promoting his interests and defending him against his enemies. In the midst of court intrigues, he had the leisure to carry on his favourite pursuit of science and architecture. He founded in 1728 a new capital and named it after him as Jaipur, corrected the prevailing calendar; erected observatories at Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, and Benaras and constructed several carvan Sarais and bridges. Jaipur became the seat of art and science, to which the prominent literary and scientific figures of the time flocked for patronage. Religious minded and devout his relations, however, with the Muslims were cordial. He respected and helped those who belonged to respectable families, or had some social contacts with him. The Muslim sought his recommendation for government services; he either employed them in his own government or secured jobs for them in the central administration.

2. K.K. p. 945.
He visited shrines of Muslim saints and distributed there money in charity.

His appointment as the governor of Malwa in November, 1729, gave him ample scope to embark on his deeply cherished design of imposing his supremacy over other Rajput chieftains. His covetous eyes fell on Bundi, whose Raja had incurred his displeasure on some domestic issue and was at war with the Prince of Kota. He wanted to dethrone Budh Singh, his brother-in-law, and appoint a raja of his own choice in order to hold his control over the state. On May 19, 1730, he crowned Dalel Singh Hada as the Rao Raja of Bundi, who acknowledged his overlordship as a vassal, and married his daughter to him. Budh Singh, addicted to wine and opium, gave up any hope of recovering his dominion, and repaired to Udaipur. But his queen, restlessly ambitious asked for Maratha help against the usurper Pratap Singh Hada, the eldest son of Salim Singh, joined the ranks of Budh Singh. He was sent to Poona by the queen to settle terms of Maratha military assistance. On condition of payment of six lakhs of rupees, the Marathas promised to fight for Budh Singh. On 22nd April, 1734, Malhar Rao Holkar and Ranoji Sindhia attacked Bundi and after a stiff contest captured the fort. Sangram Singh the father of Dalel Singh was made captive, and Bud Singh's wife, overjoyed at the success, tied

2. Tod, p. 1247, Vol.II.
the Rakhi thread round the wrist of Holkar, the goat-herd's son, declaring him publicly as her brother. No sooner did the Marathas turn their backs, there came a strong force from Jaipur which restored Dalel Singh to the gaddi of Bundi.

**His Relations with the Marathas.**

Like Nizamul Mulk, from whose book he had taken the leaf, he entered into alliance with the Marathas, agreeing to pay Chauth and support their cause, provided his territories were not laid waste. He advocated a policy of compromise with the Marathas, and suggested peaceful methods to terminate war with them. He once proposed that Jagirs worth ten lakhs each in the provinces of Malwa and Gujrat should be given to Raja Shahu, when he attended the Mughal court. On the other occasion, February, 1739, he recommended a grant of 20 lakhs in cash and of a jagir of 40 lakhs in Malwa for the Raja of Poona. "With every defeat and with every attempt for conciliation on the part of the Imperialists, the Maratha demands rose higher and higher, and every such rise in their demands increased the reaction against the Marathas and helped the anti-Maratha party."

The triumph of the anti-Maratha elements in the court thwarted his attempts in bringing about an adjustment between the two fighting powers and antagonised him with the Mughals. His

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subsequent record is disfigured by utter faithlessness and disloyalty to the Mughal cause and perfidious intrigues with the Marathas who later spared neither friend nor foe in their relentless depredations.

**Fails to create unity among Rajput chiefs.**

Alarmed at the terrible impact of Maratha militarism under which, their lands lay trodden, the Rajput Princes threw themselves in a union for the defence of their common cause. Raja Jai Singh called a meeting of Maharana Jugat Singh Abhay Singh, Bakhat Singh of Nagor, Zorawar Singh of Bikaneer, Durjain Sal of Kota, Delel Singh of Bundi, Gopal Pal of Karoli, Raj Singh of Kishangadh, all big and small Rajas, at Hurda near Agaunch (a village in Mewar) on 17th July, 1734, to work out a joint scheme against the Maratha invaders. It was agreed in the conference that all the participants would help each other in their difficulties; they would not employ unfaithful persons; and all of them would assemble at Rampura with their contingents and after rains launch a campaign to drive the Marathas out of Rajputana, and if anyone of them could not come out in person, he would send his son or brother. But their own mutual jealousy constituted a great impediment in the prosecution of this plan.

"Though the individuality enamoured of liberty, the universality of the sentiment prevented its realization they never would submit to the control required to work it out, and this, the last opportunity, which had ever occurred, was lost". After few years, they made yet another attempt to establish unity.

1. Virvinod, pp.1220-21, Vol.II.
among themselves in order to turn out the Marathas of Malwa. It was proposed that after driving them out, Malwa would be partitioned among them. But this treaty too did not bear any fruit. Many discordant elements were working in the Rajput politics at this stage of the crisis. The fall of Mughal supremacy on Malwa perilously exposed the Rajputs to Maratha attacks but the Rajputs were too honeycombed with mutual jealousies to stand as one against a common enemy. "There was no crime which a Rajput could not commit for the sake of land. Father killed son, and son murdered father. Women of the noblest rank gave poison to their trusting kismen. Kings took the lives of loyal ministers. None, even the highest born descendant of God Rama, shrank from buying the aid of an alien plundered to decide his domestic contests."

The triple treaty of 1708 formed between Udaipur, Jaipur and Jodhpur states, had decided that the son born to the daughter of the Maharana would succeed to Jai Singh. In December, 1728, the expected event took place, and the Raja became anxious to avert the inevitable troubles subsequent on the succession of Madho Singh and the supersession of Shiv Singh and Ishwari Singh, his elder sons. Jai Singh persuaded his father-in-law to assign Rampura which the latter had received as a grant from Farrukh-Siyar in 1718. Rampura was granted to Madho Singh,

1. Virvinod, pp.1225-26, Vol.II.
2. Sarkar, p.131, Vol.II.
3. Virvinod, p. 973, Vol.II.
one year old child, by his grand father, the Maharana, in 1729,
1729, but was occupied by the Raja's forces when fighting broke 
out between Sangram Singh, and Durjan Sal of Kotah. The 
administration of the district was conducted by the Raja's 
officers till September 7, 1743, when at the Maharana's desire 
he withdrew them. Raja Jai Singh in his old age had become 
"partial to the cup" and inattentive to the calls of duty. No 
ambition and no hope bore fruits in his life time. His kingdom 
no doubt rich in resources, was neither independent nor extensive 
as he wanted it to be. He died on 21st September, 1743, and 
after his death, he was succeeded by his eldest son Ishwari 
Singh who secured recognition of his indefeasible claim from 
Muhammad Shah.

1. Virvinod, p. 990, Vol.II. 
2. Ibid, p. 1326, Vol.II. 
Rohilkhand.

With the increasing pressure on the north-west frontiers and the dislocation of the Afghans from the region of Ghazni, largescale migration of Afghan tribes began eastward. A large number of Afghan adventurers and free lances came to India and joined their brethren who were already comfortably settled in Rohilkhand comprising Muradabad, Bareilly, Bijnor, Badaun and Anola. The quest for jobs tempted these professional fighters to serve under Indian leaders who struggled for power, and very soon made a place for themselves in the country. Bold and warlike, the Afghan adventurers were simple and coarse in their manners, and free from the voices of a degenerate society of the Indian Muslims. Their most distinguished leader who brought them under his banner and established their power in the country known by the name of Katehar, a pargana in Badaun, was Ali Muhammad Khan (1707-1749), the son of Daud Khan. Daud Khan was a slave of Mahmud Khan Badalzai, an influential Amir in the district of Attock. Ambitious and enterprising, Daud Khan left his master, migrated to India in the reign of Bahadur Shah, and settled in Kather. At that time the local zamindars fought with each other and did not pay the revenues to the Government. Daud Khan with his companions began to serve these zamindars. By and by he made a position for himself, and the local Afghans as well as the emigrants from Roh gathered round

1. Irvine, p. 117, Vol.II.
Gulistan-i-Rehmašt, f 7(a).
him.

He was employed by Madar Shah, a zamindar of Madhekar, a town in Badaun, and was sent to fight against the zamindars of Bankuli, 26 miles north of Bareilly. He besieged the town and after defeating the zamindar captured it and all his properties. Among the prisoners, there was a young Jat boy of eight years, whose charms captivated Daud Khan. He took the boy under his care, converted to Islam, and named him Ali Muhammad Khan. Daud Khan after gaining renown and wealth, deserted Madar Shah and entered the service of Debi Chand of Kumaon. Azmatullah Khan, faujdar of Moradabad, let a punitive expedition against the Raja and defeated him. Debi Chand suspected treason on the part of Daud Khan and to punish him got Daud Khan and his associates treacherously murdered. He left two sons, Ali Muhammad Khan and Muhammad Khan. As the latter was minor, Ali Muhammad Khan was selected as sardar by the Afghans.

1. While most of the Persian authorities are of the opinion that Ali Muhammad Khan was Jat by birth, the author of Tarikh-Faiz Bakhsh (F.12) says that he was the son of Daud Khan. Najmul Ghani of Rampur has written that he was a Saliyid by birth.
2. Gulistan-i-Rehmaft, ff. 6-10.
   Akhbar Hasan, pp. 8-14.
   Shiv Prshad, ff. 11-13.
   Bayan. f. 61(b).
   M.U. II. pp. 857-862.
   Akhbar-us-Sanadid. (Urdu) 1918-1, pp. 80-84.
The long desired appeared in the person of Ali Muhammad Khan. Only a lad of fifteen years, he yet commanded the respect of the senior sardars. His first care was to introduce new technique and weapons in his army to suit the changed conditions of warfare. Rohillas were supplied with muskets, and trained on new lines to use them with accuracy, combination and mobility. The country where they settled offered unique opportunities to a determined and restless leader to carve out a principality for himself. Once possessed with military might, the Rohella adventurer made a successful bid for expansion of his possession. Taking Nibia Bowli from Azmatullah Khan, he set up his headquarters at Bisauli (14 miles south-east of Chandausi) and advanced in his career of glory with boundless confidence and invincible courage. He secured the friendship of the wazir by helping his son Azimullah in a campaign against Saiyid Saifuddin Khan of Jansath, brother of Husain Ali Khan. For his conspicuous bravery, Ali Muhammad Khan was rewarded some concessions in revenue and the title of Nawab with permission to use Naubat. In April, 1741, he took possession of Anola by killing Raja Harnand Kathri, the new faujdar of Moradabad and his son Motilal. But self-seeking and opportunist as he was, the Nawab submitted to Moinul Mulk, son of Itmad-ud-Daulah, when he at the head of an expeditionary force entered his territory to punish him. A settlement was, however, made between the two parties. Ali

2. Gulistan-i-Rehmat, ff. 9-10.
   Shiv Prashad, f. 13(a)(b).
   Akhbar Hasan, f. 11.
Muhammad Khan was restored in his possessions, and his daughter was betrothed to the son of the wazir. This gave him the status of a grandee and prepared for him the way for further extension of his territories. He avenged the death of Daud Khan by capturing the fort of Raja Kalyan Chand, successor of Debi Chand of Kumon, and planting his victorious banner on its ramparts.

Safdar Jung, the Mir Atash, had watched the rapid progress of his arms with anxiety and fear. He knew that Doab was too narrow a field for his activity; one day the Rohella chief would push forward his frontier towards the east. He induced the Emperor to nip the danger in the bud before it assumed serious proportions and Muhammad Shah accepted the proposal.

On 15th February, 1745, Muhammad Shah, accompanied by his nobles, and at the head of a huge army and artillery left Delhi, he remained in the garden of Frahat Afza at Loni for 18 days. It was only after three months (14th May) that they reached Bangadh, the enemy's strong hold, 110 miles from Delhi.

2. Early in 1745, there occurred a very petty event which Safdar Jung made as his pretext. One day some workers under the supervision of Darogha Imarat (Superintendent of P.W.D.) sent by Safdar Jung were busy in cutting the wood in the suburbs of Kathir, when some Rohilas came there and objected against the work. There arose a quarrel which soon resulted in sword fighting. Many of the workers were killed. Thinking it a great affront to his honour, the Mir Atash sent the word to the wazir that the Rohilla leader be punished. Qamruddin Khan did not take any action. Therefore, Safdar Jung presented the case before the Emperor. Ashob. p.237. T.M.p.260., Bayan f. 60(b). Shiv Prashad, f. 17(b).
4. Mukhlis. (Safarnama) p. 32.
The imperial generals showed little inclination to open their operations against the adversary who stood in battle array not far off. Four days (16th May - 20th May) were passed in inactivity, till on the last night the enemy attacked the royal camp, but they were repulsed.

The wazir, who was against the expedition from the outset, persuaded the Emperor to abandon war and return home, as the enemy was ready to surrender, and the rainy season was fast approaching. The Emperor thought the enterprise fruitless and relinquished it. Ali Muhammad Khan surrendered all his possessions, promised to dismantle his fortresses and accompany the Emperor to Delhi.

In Delhi he was put in the Charbagh of Itmad-ud-Daulah in the locality of Jai Singhpura. Though the Rohillahs had been forbidden to cross the Ganges and enter Delhi, they in disguise gathered in the garden to take their Sardar back to Anola. Though they were compelled to return by the Nawab himself, the wazir feared trouble by his presence in Delhi. His removal from Delhi became imperative. Qamruddin, therefore, managed to secure employment for him as Faujdar of Sirhind, his own jagir with the rank of 4,000. But his two sons were detained as hostages in the court.

Ali Muhammad Khan did not stay long at Sirhind. He left it when Abdali troops penetrated into the Punjab. Arriving at Saharanpur on 24th February, he crossed the Ganges and reached Muradabad, where from he ousted Saiyid Hideyat Ali Khan, Faujdar of Bareilly. Before he closed his eyes on 25th September, 1748, he was the virtual lord of Muradabad, Sambhal, Anola, Bijnore, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur. After his death 25,000 lakhs of rupees were found in his treasury.

Thus by the indolence of the Emperor and the disunity of the nobles, the richest part of northern India was slipped away from control. Gujrat and Malwa had already passed into the hands of Marathas. The Trans Indus territories were in the control of the foreigners and Oudh and Hyderabad under the rule of independent governors. The eastern provinces had been devastated by Maratha aggression. It was Doab only which could sustain the Emperor, but this too was allowed to be usurped by the Rohillas with the result that when Ahmad Shah, son of Muhammad Shah, ascended the throne there was no money to pay the arrears of the soldiers, and the imperial stores were sold to the shop keepers and pedlars. Sarkar correctly remarks that "Such an empire had already forfeited its right to exist."

Punjab.

The condition of the Punjab was rapidly deteriorating. Exposed to foreign invasions and internally torn by dissensions and paralysed by the militant Sikhs who were rapidly organising themselves, the Punjab presented difficult problems which Delhi government could not solve and the province sank into anarchy particularly because governorship had been allowed to become hereditary.
Zakariya Khan after governing the province for a period of 29 years died on 1st July, 1745. Zakariya Khan had left three sons. The eldest was Yahiya Khan, Azd-ud-Daulah II, who was married to the daughter of the wazir's son Itmad-ud-Daulah II. His second son Hayatullah with titles of Hizbar Jung II and Shah Nawaz Khan was bold, courageous, hot-headed, hard-hearted, ambitious and daring. He was known by the nickname of Philaur. During Nadir Shah's invasion he had accompanied the invader from Lahore to Delhi, from where he was sent to his father with orders to keep ready a Karor of rupees for him (Nadir Shah). On Nadir's return he followed him as far as Larkana in Sindh, received from him the title of Shah Nawaz Khan and was appointed governor of Multan. Zakariya Khan's third son Khwaja Baqi Khan. He is an obscure figure in the history. Both Shah Nawaz Khan and his elder brother Yahiya Khan were in Delhi when news of their father's death reached them. 1 Within a week they left for the Punjab.

His two sons Yahiya Khan and Hayatullah Khan took up arms against each other to contest for the division of the province. Muhammad Shah prevaricated in confirming either of them in the government of Lahore and Multan. The delay embittered their relations and caused wide-spread restlessness. At last the

1. Ashob, p. 252.  
Miftah-ut-Tawarikh, p. 316.  
Mukhlis, ff. 149. 
T.M. p. 269.
the wazir was appointed the governor with Mir Munim Khan as his deputy. Qamruddin could not preserve peace so long maintained by his predecessor. His deputy was too weak to suppress the growing insolence of Sikhs and Jats. "Disorder broke out. Everywhere lawless men, plunders and adventurers, who had so long kept themselves in hiding, now came out of their holes and began to desolate the realm.... on one side the Raja of Jammu rebelled, and on the other, the Sikhs began to cause tumult and trouble." In 1746 Munim Khan was replaced by Yahiya Khan as deputy governor to the wazir. The remedy proved worst than the disease.

Hayatullah Khan, aggressive and of daring disposition demanded the division of his deceased father's estates, and, to vindicate his rights, he launched an offensive against his brother by invading Lahore. In the battle that ensued on 17th March, 1747, Yahiya was defeated and imprisoned with his followers.

Hayatullah Khan proclaimed himself the governor without waiting for the orders of the Emperor. All the threats and entreaties used by Qamruddin Khan to induce the usurper to liberate Yahiya Khan proved of no avail. After one year Yahiya Khan effected his escape. Fearful of the wazir's revenge and feeling his own ground slippery Hayatullah Khan opened secret

2. Mukhlis f. 149.
3. Ibid.
5. Ibid. Shah Nawaz Khan adopted Shia faith and caused the names of 12 Imam to be engraved on his new seal. He erased the words from his seal, (Devoted servant of Muhammad Shah, and substituted in their stead the following verse.

(O' Lord, thou art witness of my intentions. Since my heart inclines to good, bestow good upon me).
correspondence with Ahmad Shah Abdali, who had become master of Afghanistan after the assassination of Nadir Shah in June, 1742. The stage was set for another round for foreign invasions and consequent loss of life property and prestige.

   Bayan. f. 65(b).
   T.N. p. 270.