CHAPTER - V

STRUGGLE AGAINST THE BRITISH

Sub-National Movement in the Khasi Hills - Khyrim - The Role of Bor Manick - Nongkhlaw - The Role of Tirot Singh - Maharam - The Role of Sngap - Other States - Insurrections during 1858 to 1862 - The Role of Kiang Nongbah - The conversion of Jaintia Hills and the 31 villages into British Territories - The Subsidiary Alliance.

It was in 1824 when the Treaty with Ram Singh was concluded and it was in 1826 when the Treaty of Yandaboo was concluded that afforded a breathing time and respite to the East India Company to materialist its aims and objectives and to colonise the hills in the strict sense of the term. In accordance with the agreement with Ram Singh, David Scott was able to construct a road from Jaintiapur to Nowgong but as a result of the reoccupation of Nowgong and Maha by the Burmese, David Scott had to seek a new route, that is from Bardwar to Sylhet. For this, David Scott shrewdly played 'with the Syiem of Khatsawpra or Nongkhlaw' with the policy of negotiation skillfully veiled under

his policy of force and coercion. First, David Scott threatened to annex Bardwar which belonged to Nongkhlaw State. Secondly, David Scott excluded the Khasis from the frontier markets to which they had habitually resorted for the sale of their produce and the purchase of grain. But he also maintained that Bardwar could be part of Nongkhlaw State and that normal trade relationship would be restored if Tirot Singh, Syiem of Nongkhlaw agreed to allow the construction or direct communication between Assam and Sylhet through the hills. David Scott was also fortunate in having met Ka Ksan Syiem, the mother of Tirot Singh at the time when the later went to Bardwar to protest to the East India Company for encroaching upon his ancestral property. David Scott set on his task to bring home the bacon at the moment, that is permission to construct a road through his territory and to establish a sanatorium at Nongkhlaw. But Tirot Singh could give his assent only with the approval of the State Durbar.

Arrangements for the State Durbar were scheduled accordingly, and David Scott was asked to attend the Durbar, for which he readily agreed. Herald's were sent

4. Ibid.
to all the villages for the summoning of the State Durbar. David Scott proceeded to Nongkhlaw with his attendants and followers. The journey was long and tiresome, yet the invigorating climate of the Khasi Hills refreshed the white people who reached the Court of Nongkhlaw on the 3rd November 1826. The State Durbar was convened. Scott reported "The attendants came up the hills, armed with swords, bows and quivers. The Rajah proceeded to explain the object of the meeting and requested the different orators to express their sentiments on the proposition of the British Government. The leading orator of the opposition, immediately .......... commenced a long harangue in condemnation of the measure expressed in continuous flow of language accompanied with much animation of manner and appropriate gesticulation. This was replied to by an orator of the Rajah's party and in this way the ball was kept rolling until evening. I was struck with astonishment at the order and decorum which characterised these debates. No shouts of exultation, or indecent attempts to put down the orator of the opposite party - on the contrary, every speaker was fairly heard out. I have often witnessed the debates in St. Stephen's chapel, but those of the Cossya Parliament appeared to me to be conducted with more dignity of manners." 7

The Durbar continued and "Mr. Scott grew rather impatient and as had been his wont with the Garrows, ordered a dozen of bottles of rum, to be sent up the hill in the hope of putting an end to it. The liquor was returned with a message saying that they would not drink spirit until they had come to the point at issue. The next morning the debate was resumed, it was continued throughout the day, and closed at midnight in favour of the proposition of the British Government. What the literal arguments of the orators were .......... I cannot exactly say .......... The next day the resolution of the assembly was embodied in a Treaty which was concluded with the British Government and the Cossyas agreeing to aid in the construction of the road which was to pass through their territory." 8 Accordingly, a treaty was concluded between David Scott on the side of the East India Company and Tirot Singh, Syiem of Nongkhlaw on behalf of the State Durbar or the Durbar Hima.

"The articles of Agreement 9 entered into by Mr. David Scott, Agent to the Governor General on behalf of the Honourable Company, and Teerut Singh Ashemlee, called the White Rajah, Chief of NUNGKLOW - 1826.

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8. Ibid.
ARTICLE — 1

Raja Teerut Singh, the Ruler of Mongklow and its dependencies, with the advice and consent of his relations dependent Lushkurs and Sirdars in council assembled, voluntarily agrees to become subject to the Honourable Company and places his country under their protection.

ARTICLE — 2

The said Rajah agrees to give a free passage for Troops through his country to go and to come between Assam and Sylhet.

ARTICLE — 3

The Rajah agrees to furnish materials for the construction of a road through his territories, receiving payment for the same and after its completion to adopt such measures as may be necessary to keep it in repair.

ARTICLE — 4

The Agent to the Governor General agrees on the part of the Honourable Company, to protect the Rajah's Country from foreign enemies, and if any other Chief injures him, to enquire into the facts, and if it appear that he had been unjustly attacked, to afford him due support.
The Rajah on his part agrees to abide by such decision, and not to hold any intercourse or correspondence on political matters with any foreign Chief without the consent of the British Government.

ARTICLE - 5

The Rajah agrees that, in the event of the Honourable Company carrying on hostilities with any other power, he will serve with all his followers as far to the eastward as Kullisbar in Assam, his men being entitled to receive subsistence money from the British Government when employed in the Plains.

ARTICLE - 6

The Rajah promises to rule his subjects according to laws of his country keeping them pleased and contented and carrying on the public business according to ancient custom, without the interference of the British Government, but if any person commit violence in the Honourable Company's Territory, and take refuge in the Raja's country, he agrees to seize and deliver them up.

Dated at Gowhatty this 30th November 1826, corresponding with the 16th Aghun 1233.

(A true translation)

Sd/- D. Scott
Agent to the Governor General.
The construction of the road was immediately taken. The road started from Rani Kudam, it proceeded westward to Jirang whence it took an easterly curve to Nongkhlaw. From Nongkhlaw it took the eastern direction towards Sohiong. From thence it moved southward to Sohrarim and thence to Sohra. From Sohra, it moved south and crossing through the war slopes, it terminated at Chatak in Sylhet District. Marks of this ancient road are still to be seen to-day. \(^\text{10}\) Lieutenant Bedding Field and Lieutenant Burlton were posted to supervise the construction work at Nongkhlaw. The relations at the beginning were amicable and friendly. Tirot Singh continued supplying adequate materials for the work. Va Ksan Syiem, the mother of Tirot Singh was attracted by the well-mannered behaviour of David Scott. The latter was on the other hand, attracted by the royal demeanour of Tirot Singh and he introduced the cultivation of potatoes, pears, cabbages and beet in the country for which the Khasis are still indebted to. \(^\text{11}\) But, very soon, Tirot Singh realised the blunder, he committed, that the treaty of 1826 was signed not between equal powers but with a superior power, which aimed to dismantle the edifice of the Khatsawphra State, it aimed

\(^{10}\) Bareh, Dr. H. "The History and Culture of the Khasi People - pp.141-142.

\(^{11}\) Ibid.
to divide the Khasi population by their 'Divide and Rule' policy. Local tradition tells us that British soldiers who were stationed at Nongkhlaw took to lust the Khasi women of Khatsawphra, a thing which Khasi society regards it as the most inhuman and shameless act.

In March 1828, Bormanick, Syiem of Shillong State who was the closest ally of Tirot Singh marched to Desh Dimarua to seize the revenue collected by the revenue officers of the East India company. A Chief was also appointed in that place claimed by the British. The British therefore decided to call upon the Syiem of Suinga and the Syiem of Nongkhlaw who had been bound to the British by Treaties, to come to the rescue of the British against another Khasi Syiem. It was this very action which opened the eyes of the Khasi Syiem to the conspiracy and evil intention of the British. In the meantime, a tussle ensued between Tirot Singh and the company over the possession of Bardwar which was promised by David Scott to Tirot Singh before the Treaty of agreement was signed. Again, according to Articles 4 and 5 of the agreement of 1826, David Scott promised to aid Tirot Singh in case of any attack by

any other Khasi ruler or foreign power. But contrary to the terms of the agreement, Tirot Singh found that he was betrayed by the British when they failed to come to his aid, and in fact actively opposed him in a dispute he had with the Raja of Rani probably of Nongwah. The breach of faith on the part of the British united the Khasi Rulers; they pooled their resources to face the perils of the impending danger; Tirot Singh could hear the cry of freedom day by day; he could feel the pathos for the women folk of Khatsawphra; the whole country was saturated with the arrogant behaviour of the British soldiers and he also understood that the British aimed either to dethrone him or he must acknowledge and stoop before the British rule. Tirot Singh was determined to crush this alien power. On the other hand, the British were more determined to set their firm footing in the hills. The embers of violence which had been kept simmering for some time, flared into a conflagration by a single spark. As Mackenzie pointed out that the last and immediate cause of the conflict was an insulting remark made by a Bengali Peon.\(^\text{13}\) It should however be noted that the British attributed the said insult to be the most important cause or perhaps the immediate circumstance of the war. But they forgot the insurmountable abuses of the Nongkhlaw people in

\(^{13}\text{Mackenzie, A : The North East Frontier - p.222.}\)
particular, were well nigh intolerable and war with a foreign power would be the only answer to the question; they also failed to understand the impalpable forces of Khasi Polity. "Man as the defender of the chastity of Khasi women". Tirot Singh could not bear the insult of British soldiers on the innocent women of the State. Thus, he was determined at all cost to drive the English bag and baggage.

Lieutenants Bedding field and Burlton of the Bengal artillery strongly guarded the Company's garrison. Beddingfield and most of the Englishmen were killed on the spot. Burlton made an immediate attempt to escape to Kamrup but he also died. David Scott realised the impending danger, and hurriedly proceeded to Sohra when he got a hint from Tirot Singh's mother to go to Sohra via Mawphlang. This he did and arrived safely at Sohra where he was protected by Dewan Singh, Syiem of Sohra. Lorshon of Nongkhlaw and his party pursued David Scott to Sohra but was given a negative reply by the rulers. They then sent messages to Mawsynram and the neighbouring States for a strong alliance with Tirot Singh. In the intense state of excitement and jubilant rejoicings, the bungalow of the Company at Nongkhlaw was set on fire. This was the real beginning of the struggle of the Khasis against the British.

Captain Lister commanded the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry from the Sylhet side and Lieutenant Vetch commanded the 43rd Assam Light Infantry from the Kamrup side. From Kamrup, Lieutenant Vetch could not go beyond Jirang because there was Jidor Singh the maternal uncle of Tirot Singh. Captain Lister, however, was fully conscious of the danger which thwarted David Scott, he hurriedly went to the aid of David Scott in Sohra, thus marching to Nongklaw State. The battle was hot and fierce, Captain Lister received arrow injuries on the 1st May 1829. But on the 2nd May, that is, the following day they were able to take Nongklaw. Unable to withstand the British forces, Tirot Singh fled from Nongklaw to take refuge in some safer place from where he could conduct the war strategy. Revenge cries for vengeance, this the Khasis were determined to do at all cost, so a confederacy or an alliance of Khasi Syiems was formed and the British found it surprising enough that with their crude war implements, they fought with cool determination and exquisite tenacity. Even Khasi women like Phan Nonglait and other women from Khatsawphra and other parts of Khasi and Jaintia Hills fought gallantly. Imbibed with the spirit of patriotism, Tirot

Singh, in a special message exhorted one Assamese Raja, Chandra Kanta to rise up and assist the Khasis. He secretly sent a batch of Garos to Gauhati and to other places to ascertain carefully the military strength of the English. The intelligence gathered was minute in detail and gave colour to the supposition that the informers were assisted by some Bengali clerks and that some of the Assamese were also in league with Tirot Singh. The flame of the Khasi insurrection was not confined in Khasi Hills alone but it spread far and wide.

The guerrilla tactics of Tirot Singh and his men were amazing. He had with him faithful adherents who swore to die to a man with this call of freedom, like Lorahan Jarain, Khein Kongor, Mon Bhut and others. Till to-day, there is the Mon Bhut fort in the southern Khasi Hills, where, according to tradition, Tirot Singh had secret meetings with Mon Bhut, as to the conduct of the war strategy. Mukun Singh of Mawsmai joined the alliance, Sohbar, Wahlong, Pamsangut, Mawdon, Shella, Dwara Nongtyrnem also joined the rebellion. But, Duwan Singh Syiem of Sohra, who was already on the side of the British rendered valuable help to the British in

17. Lahiri : The annexation of Assam - p.81.
18. Ibid.
capturing Mawmluh and Mawsmai. Joseph Hooker kept a record of the gallant spirit of the Khasis of Mawmluh, who entered the jaws of death and their bodies thrown down the ridge. Shella was captured and the four Wahadadars were made to promise to pay Rs. 4000 as a tribute to the Company in September 1829. Wahlong made an independent stand and U Suk Syiem fell down in the battlefield. Mawdon surrendered in the following month. U Kaija, a noted rebel ring leader managed to escape. Sohbar heard the battle cry and marks of stockades erected during this incident can still be seen. Dwar Nongtyrem resisted the enemy forces but after some time succumbed to subjection. Since then, it has been called Warding (a place of fire), it was however captured by the British. On the 12th September 1829, a fresh treaty was concluded between the British and Dawan Singh, Syiem of Sohra who surrendered Saitsohporn in exchange of Panduah which became a base of military operations for the British. Tirot Singh and Bormanick then made an agreement by which they agreed to fight the English at all cost. But Bormanick, Syiem of Khyrim, a very close ally of Tirot Singh was, in the meantime forced to execute an agreement with the

21. Ibid.
Company on the 15th January 1830 (LXXXVIII). The agreement runs as follows:

To

David Scott Esquire,
Agent to the Governor General

My country having been taken possession of by the Honorable Company in consequence of my having made war with them, and thereby caused considerable losses, I now come forward, and placing myself under the protection of the Honorable Company, and acknowledging my submission to them, agree to the following terms as sanctioned by the Presidency authorities.

1st - I cede to the Honorable Company the lands I formerly held on the south and east of the Goomedam river, and I promise not to interfere with the people residing on those lands without the orders of the agent to the Governor General.

2nd - I consent to hold the remaining portion of the territory agreeably to the Sunud of the Honourable Company and their dependants and to conduct its affairs according to ancient customs, but I am not at liberty to pass orders in any murder case without the permission of the Governor General Agent, and will report to him any case of this kind that may occur.

3rd - When any of the Honourable Company's Troops pass through my territory, I will furnish them with such provisions as the country produces, so that they may not be put to any inconvenience, receiving payment for these supplies from Government; and I will construct bridges, etc. when ordered to do so, and am to be paid for the expenses incurred thereon.

4th - In case of any hill chieftains making war with the Honourable Company, I will join the Government Troops with the fighting men of my country, but they are to receive subsistence from the Government.

23. Ibid.
5th - I relinquish my former claim regarding the boundary of Deah Doamrooch and agree to the Addse Nuddee being the future boundary. I am however, to be assigned some land near the Sonapore market for the purpose of trading there.

6th - I agree to pay a fine of 5000 rupees to the Honourable Company on account of the expenses now and previously incurred by them in the subjugation of my country.

7th - If Teerut Singh, Rajah, who is inimical to the Honourable Company or any other of his guilty followers, should enter my territory; I will immediately apprehend them and deliver them up, and I promise to produce all criminals who may come and take refuge in my country from any place in the Honourable Company dominions.

To which effect I have executed this agreement on this 15th day of January 1830 corresponding with the 4th of Maugh 1236 B.C.

But four months after in May 1830, Bor Manick, Syiem of Shillong State was trapped, forced to surrender to the British and confined for sometime. He was released only on condition that he would abdicate his throne in favour of Singh Manich, who contrived to keep possession of it by remaining neutral in those troubled times. According to local traditions, it is said that Bor Manick fled to Tibet for military help from where he never returned back to his homeland. Thus, through this policy "Divide and Rule" the abdication of Bor Manick served as the creation of division among the 'Bakhraws' or 'elders' of the Shillong state which

24. File No. 308 B.C. (Bengal) 1860, General Department.
finally evolved in the bifurcation of the Shillong State into Khyrim State and Mylliem state. However, this weakened the cause of the Khasi struggle against the British. But Tirot Singh together with the Sylimes or rulers of smaller states continued the struggle. In August 1831, David Scott fell ill and died.

T.C. Robertson, the successor of David Scott, authorised by the supreme authority from Fort William enforced a strong economic blockade of the Khasi Hills to squeeze the Khasi stand from the most delicate point. The 'wretched warfare' as he called it must come to a halt by means of subsidiary alliance, according to which a general pardon would be granted if the Khasi States agreed to submit. As a result of this, small states like Mawsynram, Bhowal and Malaisohmat had to submit to British rule and they were also insisted to close all markets to Khasi rulers who were enemies of the Company.

Tirot Singh alone remained on the scene. Even the English called him "a patriot of a very high order". Robertson proceeded to come to terms with Tirot Singh which the latter agreed to have a meeting with the British who should come unarmed at the residence of Sing Manick at Nongkrem.25 On the 23rd September 1837,

Tirot Singh met Lister, Rutherford and Ensign Brodie with an assurance from the British that he would be restored to his Syiemship, that he must fully agree to the terms imposed by the British. But only proposition made by Tirot Singh was that his Syiemship be restored to him. He also proposed that the English should abandon the line of road which had been cleared through his state. Negotiations followed one after another but with no effect and neither of his demands were granted.

The British did not fail to devise various ways and means to make Tirot Singh submit. The economic blockade planned by the British and the failure of crops made the situation of Tirot Singh more precarious. He was at length compelled to enter into negotiation with the British. On the 9th January 1833, he deputed Jit Roy, his trusted myntri to meet Inglis who commanded the military post at Um Shyllong. "The only condition required was, that the life of his master should be spared, and this having been promised and ratified by the Cossyah oath, of eating salt from the blade of sabre, the 13th was the day finally determined for his surrender; the place to be named two hours before meeting and Teerut Singh and Inglis, to be each attended

26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
by only two unarmed servants. Local accounts state that the British were most determined to crush Tirot Singh and his followers and thus betrayed him even after Inglis ate salt from the blade of his own sabre, which the Khasis regarded it as sincere. But when Tirot Singh was captured through treachery he preferred "to die a common man rather than rule as a slave king" - he was taken prisoner and sent to Dacca jail where he died. However, Pemberton narrated it in this way.

"On the day appointed, the Raja Teerut Singh, met Mr. Inglis at Nursingare, a mile east of Oomchilung (Um Shyllong) but instead of the unarmed attendants, which by the terms of the agreement were the only persons who should have accompanied him, he was escorted by a party of 30 bow and spearmen, with 11 musqueteers. This was complained of by Mr. Inglis, as a breach of the agreement, but he was assured by Teerut Singh's wily counsellor, that it would not have been respectful to his master to come attended by a smaller retinue and was necessary to convince the people, that he had not been made captive, but had voluntarily surrendered, Mr. Inglis, to allay the suspicions of the Rajah, at his request, repeated the ceremonial form of oath he had before taken, and Teerut Singh was conveyed to

Myrung from whence he was taken to Gowahtee in Assam, and eventually confined in the jail of Dacca, where he remains a state prisoner for life." Rajer Singh was installed on the throne by Captain Jenkins, the agent to the Governor General at Nongkhlaw on the 29th March 1834\(^30\) on the following conditions prepared and submitted for the approval of Government by T.C. Robertson, the preceding agent.\(^31\)

1. "That the British Government shall have a right to carry a road in what-so-ever direction it may think proper across the whole extent of country lying between Sylhet and the plains of Assam."

2. "That the Government shall be at liberty to construct bridges, and to erect halting bungalows, stockades, guard rooms or store houses at any point along the line of road.

3. "That the Rajah and his Muntrees shall engage to furnish as many workmen as shall be required, to assist in the completion and keeping in repair, of roads and other works, above detailed."

4. "That the Rajah and his Muntrees shall engage to furnish on being paid for the same, the undermentioned articles, for the use of any establishment, which Government set on foot at any place within the country ceded to him, timber, stone, lime, firewood for building and such other articles as may be procurable in the country."

5. "That the Rajah and his Muntrees shall engage to furnish grazing land, for as many cattle as Government may deem it

\(^{30}\) Ibid.
\(^{31}\) Ibid.
necessary to keep on the hills. The Rajah and his Muntrees to be responsible for the proper care of such cattle as may be sent to graze on their lands."

6. "The Rajah and his Muntrees shall engage to arrest and hand over to the British authorities any person accused of committing an offence within the limits of any British post, and to assist in apprehending a convict or other person who shall abscond from any of these posts."

7. "The Rajah and the Muntrees shall engage to pay such fines as may be imposed upon them by the Governor General's agent, for any breach of the preceding conditions, of which they may be convicted."

To these articles which had been prepared by Mr. Robertson, the following was added by Captain Jenkins.

8. "On condition of Rujun Singh agreeing to, and fulfilling the several articles already stated, the Government promises to continue his stipend of thirty sicca rupees per month, for one year after the date of this agreement, which will tend to settle his country in a quiet and comfortable manner, the above thirty rupees being given to him for his support."

Sutnga State was the other arena of struggle against the British. In spite of the Treaty concluded Between David Scott on behalf of the East India Company and Ram Singh, Syiem of Sutnga, Ram Singh did not keep any of his promises according to the terms and provisions of the Treaty of 1824. In 1832, four British subjects were seized and three of them were barbarously immolated at the shrine of Kali temple, the fourth one escaped to tell the tale of the horrible sacrifices.\footnote{Ibid.}
Government immediately demanded the release of the culprits which Ram Singh refused point-blank to concede to the demands of the British. However, Ram Singh died in November 1832 and was succeeded by his nephew, Rajendra Singh. The latter refused to pay Rs.10,000 to the British for the help rendered to him. He challenged the right of a new ghat at Chappermukh in Nowgong. Finally, he refused to produce the culprits. Unable to bear this any longer, in accordance with the order from the Imperial Government, on the 23rd February 1835, Captain Jenkins was empowered to confiscate all the possessions of the Chief in the plains, leaving him to exercise jurisdiction as before in such part of territories in the hills. Jaintiapur was taken and was annexed to the British territory by a proclamation made by the British Government. The whole of the Rajah's personal property amounting to more than one and a half lakhs of rupees was made over to him. The district of Goba, the scene of the horrible massacre was taken possession of by the Assam Light Infantry, Rajendra Singh retired to Sylhet and a pension of Rs.500 per month was granted to him. Accordingly, Jayantia Parganas were tagged with Sylhet District and the eastern part or Pnar area of Khasi was wrongly named Jaintia Hills instead of East Khasi Hills.

33. Ibid.
34. Ibid;
35. Ibid.
This was nothing but their "Divide and Rule" policy, the new name has been accepted as a fact of history and it seems that out of this, there is division in the social, religious or political ideologies among the Khynriams and the Pnars.

With the fall of Nongkhlaw, with the annexation of Jayantia Parganas, the British thought that all encounters must have been quelled. But the scene of action could be seen at Maram (Maharam) where Sngap Syiem of Maram prolonged the struggle to ten years till his surrender in 1839. Dr. Bareh related the struggle that the chief warrior of the Khasis was U Phan Maram but due to treachery he was finally captured and shot, Tep Shik and Moit Klaw his followers who operated at Nongnah side also fell victims to treachery. U Sngap Syiem had continued to resist Government occupation of his country since the days of Tirot Singh.\(^{36}\) In 1839, he sued for peace and entered into an agreement \(^{37}\) (No.XXVII). The terms of the agreement according to A.J.M. Mills are\(^{38}\)

To

The Political Agent to the Governor General

Whereas I, Songaph Raja, resident of Mohuram (Maharam) hills have wantonly fought

\(^{36}\) Bareh, Dr. H : History and Culture of the Khasi People - p.163.

\(^{37}\) Aitchison, C.U. - Treaties, Engagements and Sanads (No.XXVII).

against the Government and it has lost a number of men, and incurred a great expenditure and whereas by doing so, I have committed a great fault, I crave amnesty for the past offences of myself and my subjects, the Khasias, and enter into the following agreement with the hope of being allowed to live as a Sirdar (Chief) in my own country.

Section - I - That having acknowledged my dependency on the company and being made by them Sirdar in my country, I agree to administer justice to my subjects as usual, but not to pass sentence of death upon any of them.

Section - II - That whenever a body of the Company's troop passes through my country, I will attend to them and supply them with provisions and other necessaries and receive the price thereof from the company in the usual course.

Section - III - That whenever I am required by the Sahibs' to appear before them on account of any disturbances in the hills, I shall do so with all my Khasia people, and shall attend as long as I may be desired to be present during which time only the provisions of my people will be changed to the company.

Section - IV - That if any person committing murder or dacoity conceal himself within my country, I bind myself to arrest and deliver him to the Sahibs when ordered to do so.

Section - V - That within one month from this date, I will pay to the company a fine of Rs.2,000 for the pardon of my offences.

Section - VI - That Chand Manick Raja and Burro Manick Raja of Mooleen (Myliem) Poonjee, will stand security for the due fulfilment of the above conditions and that I keep my (sister's son) nephew, Soolong Raja at Mooleen(Myliem) Poonjee in order to execute all orders passed with reference to my country. On these conditions, I execute this deed of agreement, dated 13th February 1839 corresponding with 3rd Falgoan 1246 B.

(True translation)

ISSEN CHUNDER CHATTERJEE
The British also adopted another policy in the hills by which they could enforce an overall control over them. Independent villages like Mawsmai, Nongpoh were converted into British villages. They divided the state which had struggled against them into a number of villages, like Mulang State was divided into Nonglang, Jyrngam and Nongriangsi British sirdarships. Laitlyngkot Laitkroh, Umniuh Tmar and others were forcibly taken from the Khasi states and converted into British territories. Others like Jayantia Parganas, Desh Dimarua, the territories of the Raja of Gobha were forcibly annexed to the British territory. Thus, the definition of the boundary of Khasi Hills "up to the foot hills" is usually found.

When Sutnga state was annexed in 1835, the Hill tract was placed under the administration of the Political Agent at Sohra. From this year, the people of Jaintia resented very much that they lost their independence. They were influenced by the great revolt of 1857. It was the custom that the people were left to themselves. No taxes were imposed on the people. But in 1853, a police post was established at Jowai and in 1860, a house tax was imposed with the result that the people broke into open rebellion. Many leaders came to the forefront.

(b) Government letter No.1291(A) – 23rd December 1861.
and Kiang Nongbah championed the cause of the people and urged the people not to respond to any taxation scheme of Government.  

It took two years for the British to quell the struggle, it came to an end on 30th December 1862 when Kiang Nongbah was hanged in the market place at Jowai. The suppression of this resort was long and tedious and it was not till November 1863 that the last of the Jaintia leaders surrendered and the pacification of the Jaintia Hills was completed. The final capture was that of U Myllen Doloi Mynse with Bukher of Raliang and U Kiang Sulloh Pator of Shangpung.

In conclusion, the Sub-national movement in the Khasi Hills created a tension not only among the Syiems or other Khasi rulers but even the common people in general. The policy of the English made the people to understand the motive of the English which immediately called forth for unity and co-operation of all Khasi Syiems and even the support of the people of Assam. Secondly, it was this period which sadly culminated in the bifurcation of Shillong State into Khyrim and Mylliem State, which weakened the cause of struggle against the British. Thirdly, the conversion of Jaintia Hills into

40. Bareh, Dr. H. - History and Culture of the Khasi people - p.177.
41. Pemberton’s Accounts of Jaintias quoted by Mackenzie.
42. Aitchison, C.U - Treaties, Engagements and Sanads Vol. XII - p.83.
43. Bareh, Dr. H. - History and Culture of the Khasi people - p.189.
a British territory, the constitution into a Sub-
division of the Pnar area and the name 'Jaintia Hills'
which was wrongly given by the British, enabled the
British to divide the sacred land of the Khasis. This
has undoubtedly created a tension among a section of
the present generation regarding the social, cultural
and political differences between the Pnars and the
Khynriams. In short, the British introduced many
political and administrative changes which have created
many complications in the various Khasi States. Yet
we can say that the policy adopted by the British in
so far as the annexation of Khasi and Jaintia Hills is
concerned is conciliatory and varied from time to time.
Alexander Mackenzie observes, "On its North East Fron-
tier has, I again assert, been a policy of conciliation
and not a policy of repression or devastation. It was
indeed, for many years far too conciliatory, even after
annexation. It was in 1872 that measures were taken
for the complete subjugation of the territory of the
tribes."44

44. Mackenzie - p.272.