The word Patronage means support protection or encouragement of a patron, given to a person, cause or institution. Patronage during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century largely meant the support or favour provided by the rulers to those who commanded influence with the subject people and helped them in one way or the other to retain their popular support. The dharmarth grants constituted a major portion of the State patronage under the rulers of the Punjab Dharmarth, literally meant, land revenue alienated in favour of a religious personage or institution by a ruler or a subordinate acting in his place, by way of religious duty.

This study of State Patronage in the Punjab covers a period of nearly one hundred years from about 1750 to 1850. In its historical context, this period was divided into three broad parts. The first part from 1750 to 1799 was marked by the establishment of a large number of principalities under the Rajput, Muslim and Sikh rulers who supplanted the Mughal and the Afghan rule from the Punjab and established themselves as independent rulers. The second period started with the conquest of Lahore by Ranjit Singh in 1799, who occupied territories of almost every one of them and became the Maharaja of the Punjab. The third part started after his death in 1839, during which the successors tried to maintain the integrity of the kingdom established by him for few years by adding few territories, but internal strife among them led to the annexation of the Punjab by the British in 1849. Thus, one can see that three different sets of rulers ruled over the Punjab during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. In the present work, the patronage provided by them to all the sections of society, religious as well as non-religious, has been discussed.
The official record of the kingdom of Lahore in Persian the *Khālsā Darbār Records* lying in the Punjab State Archives, Chandigarh and Persian records under the *History Head*, Punjab State Archives, Patiala, have also been extremely useful.

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28 Jan 2013
Chandigarh

(MEERA NAGPAL)
The Punjab
Possessions of the Chiefs
- Late Eighteenth Century

NARA •
• ATTOCK^A RHANPUR
PESHAWAR

CHIEFS
RIASJ,
KIRMACM1
CHINENI
CHAKWAL
ROHTAS*
KUSAK
JALALP
S&'&m
"U7HAU*
"HERA PHALll
EHtUM
KUNJ
JAGRAON

S&'&m
"U7HAU*
"HERA PHALll
EHtUM
KUNJ
JAGRAON

MUSLIM CHIEFS
QASUR
UOHIANA
sahhcwal
.GOGIR^,......
N .
-MNGAJ-
3 HAVEL I *
MALKA HANS
MAlERKOTU
PAR PA7TA#
LOOHRAN
bahawal PUR
Vnrvo Sochd«vo

Courtesy: Veena Sachdeva