PREFACE

In the sub-continent of India the Punjab occupied a position of unique importance. It was on the high way between the nomad breeding grounds of Central Asia and rich and fertile valley of the Ganges. It had, therefore, been the arena of religious, racial and political conflicts like Palestine in Middle East and Belgium in Europe. Its climate bred a hardy martial people whom the British found equally capable of enduring winter in the muds of Flanders and summer amid the sands of Mesopotamia. In the field of politics the Punjab was a key province for the solution of the communal tangle because it had a three-fold communal problem viz. Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, whereas the rest of India had only a Hindu-Muslim problem. At the time of transfer of power to Indian hands, it was the only province which was ruled by the Governor under the emergent condition and Section 95 of the Act of 1935 had been imposed there. Again only in the Punjab was the transfer of power followed by blood-shed and mass migrations. It was this unique phenomenon which attracted me. Coincidently I was asked by the authorities of Khalsa College where I have been working since 1950 to compile an account of happenings to the Sikh refugees from the West Punjab and the part played by the Sikhs during the Calcutta riots of 1946. After completing this assignment in 1957 I turned towards the Partition of the Punjab.

The scope of the present work is to analyse the factors leading to the partition of the Punjab, study the.
partition machinery and discuss the causes of subsequent mass migration and the consequences in general. It has eleven chapters. An introduction gives an idea of the formation of the British Punjab. The second and third chapters analyse and arrange the historical forces that culminated in the idea of partition and the subsequent partition plan. The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh chapters portray the salient features and working of various organisations established for the partitioning of the province. The eighth and ninth chapters enumerate the causes of cross mass migration and study the working of the Liaison Agency and other allied organisations. The tenth, gives the after-effects of partition on the two Punjabs. The last gives some conclusions.

Until now there have been three kinds of publications allied with this subject. Most of the books deal with the Punjab communal riots in 1947 because the riots gained international importance when the Pakistan Government raised a question of 'genocide' in the Security Council, United Nations Organisation. Books published in Pakistan and India like "East Punjab's Blood Bath" by Ziaul-Islam (Pakistan) "Muslim League's Attack on the Sikhs and the Hindus", by Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar, "Inside Pakistan" by K.L. Gauba (Bombay) and "Stern Reckoning" by G.D. Khosla (New Delhi) deal with the Punjab communal riots in detail. Secondly the West Punjab Government publications like "Sikh Plan", "Sikh Plan in Action" illustrate the Pakistan Government's view regarding the communal riots in the Punjab. Similarly booklets issued by the Public Relations Department, East Punjab
give an account of the resettlement of the refugees. Thirdly, there appeared a number of booklets and pamphlets written by evacuees after their migration like "Ah! Amritsar", (Urdu), Lahore, "Mehsharistan-i-Kapurthala", (Urdu), Pakpattan, "Ah. Jullundur", Urdu, Lahore (West Punjab), "Saka Bhuller", (Punjabi) Amritsar, "Roday de Shahid" (Punjabi), Ambala, "Makhdumpur Ke Khuni Halat", (Urdu), Rohtak. All these booklets were based on the personal experiences of the writers who were affected by adverse circumstances and could not make an objective approach. The present work is the first of its kind wherein all aspects of the partition of the Punjab viz. political, constitutional, administrative, economic, social, etc. have been examined from a dispassionate point of view.

Every effort has been made to ascertain the facts and verify the statements by various persons. No time or money has been spared for this purpose. However an objective version of the controversial issues will not be possible unless all records are open for consultation. I had access to the relevant files in the East Punjab Government Secretariat and the Record Office and also to the voluminous record of Partition Proceedings in the Central Secretariat Government of India. The six chapters of this work viz. from the IV chapter to the IX chapter are mostly based on the records of the Partition Branch, Punjab Government, East Punjab Liaison Agency, Punjab Partition Committee, Awards of the Arbitral Tribunal and Partition Proceedings, Government of India. Almost all the records in India except those in the National Archives, New Delhi have been utilized. I could not get access to the records of the West Punjab Government though I visited Pakistan twice to
consult the Punjab University Library and the Punjab Public Library, Lahore. During my six months research tour of England in 1964 I worked in the India Office Library and the British Museum. The records of this period were not open for consultation. Lord Mountbatten wrote in a reply, "Such papers as I have are mostly duplicates of those in the old India Office now part of Commonwealth Relations Office. I imagine that many of these are subject to the 50 years' rule."

In addition to utilizing recently published memoirs like "Mission with Mountbatten", "Memoirs of Lord Ismay", "India Wins Freedom" by Maulana Azad and various journals both Indian and foreign, I have had the privilege of discussing one aspect or another of the problems treated in these pages with the following. I am particularly grateful to the British dignitaries who, keeping in view my short stay in England, gave me time and answered my queries:

- Lord Attlee, the British Prime Minister in 1947.
- Lord Ismay, Chief of Viceroy's Staff in 1947.
- Mr. Alan Campbell Johnson, Press Attaché to Lord Mountbatten in 1947 and author of Mission with Mountbatten.
- Sir Cyril (Later Lord Radcliffe), Chairman of the Punjab Boundary Commission in 1947.
- Sir Patrick Spens, Chairman of Arbitral Tribunal, 1947.
- Major J.M. Short, who was on the staff of Lord Mountbatten, had been specially appointed to keep in contact with the Sikhs.
- Sir Evan Jenkins, Governor, British Punjab in 1947.
- Sir Francis Mudie, Governor, West Punjab in 1947.
- Dr. Morris Jones, Constitutional Adviser to the Viceroy in 1947.
- Sir Khizar Hyat Khan, Prime Minister of the Punjab in 1947.
Sir Zafarullah Khan, who appeared before the Punjab Boundary Commission on behalf of Muslim League in 1947.

S. Baldev Singh, Defence Member of the Interim Government, 1947.

Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan, Member Punjab Boundary Commission.

Justice Teja Singh, Member Punjab Boundary Commission.

Justice Harnam Singh, who appeared before Punjab Boundary Commission on behalf of the Sikhs.

S. Swaran Singh - the Leader of the Panthic Party and Home Minister, the East Punjab 1947.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, Chief Minister, the East Punjab, 1947.

S. H.S. Malik, Prime Minister of Patiala State in 1947.


Master Tara Singh, a veteran Akali leader.


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