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FAMOUS GOVERNORS OF MULTAN UNDER THE SIKH REGIME IN PUNJAB

Ahmad Ali¹, Dr. Mazher Hussain², Khizar Hayat³, Muhammad Akbar⁴

¹Lecturer at Govt. Degree College Mailsi and PhD Scholar, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

²Assistant Professor, Department of History, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

³P.S.T. at G.P.S. Kotla Dilbar, and PhD Scholar, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

⁴S.S.S. at G.H.S.S 53 M and PhD Scholar, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

(PAKISTAN)

prof.aamughal786@gmail.com¹

ABSTRACT

Maharaja Ranjit Singh had numerous Hindu Officials and Courtiers at Lahore Durbar because he needed to utilize their services in civilian setup to grow and build his Kingdom. Undoubtedly, he required to inject the soul of rivalry, chastisement and proficiency in his various officials and courtiers so that he could merge his place and would have the capacity to enlarge his Realm without much trouble. By utilizing them, he also proved the secular scenario of his Empire. He, according to his necessities, fully utilized the competence of these Hindu Courtiers. It will be worth specifying that some of these were unfortunate and disappointed with their past services, so they could get any status, either a General or a clerk, on the ground of legitimacy. Among them, following pioneers were appointed the Governors in Multan whom played a vital role in politics, civil as well as military administration, economics, agriculture, irrigation and land revenue etc.

Keywords: Ranjit Singh, Sawan Mal, Mulraj, Anglo-Sikh Wars, the British, Dogra Brothers

1. INTRODUCTION

The land of Multan has been remained the target of insurgent activities of the foreign invaders and dictators. These foreign forces not only exploited its brave, hardworking, fearless and dauntless people but also divided it into pieces. They attracted the local people with the lust for earning and enrolled them in the army because their sole aim was to prepare them for fight against their accused enemies. These foreigners belonged to different religions, civilizations and geographical tracts. Multan has also enjoyed the Muslims rule for three centuries. During this period, it maintained its social, political and religious position till 1707. Multan was a vital province which was vanquished by Ranjit Singh in 1818. He, till the permanent governor of Multan, ordered to *Misir Diwan* Chand to stay here for proper arrangements. At that time, its condition was far behind from attractive. (Yousef, 2004) Individuals of the city had been lustfully plundered by the Sikh soldiery. The agriculturists had surrendered the fields and the populace had betrayed the town. The silk makers and weavers had stopped their activities and the trade was at a halt. (Hasrat, 1977) During the Sikh period, the Muslims had to face tyranny and injustice. From 1818 to 1821, many changes occurred in the history of Multan and six *Nazim* (governors) were appointed in which Sukhdayal was the first. (Abd-ul-Haq, 1994)

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

After the death of Aurangzeb Alamgir, the Mughal Empire began to scatter. At last Ahmad Shah Abdali conquered Multan in 1752. In 1766, the *Sikhs* and the Afghans fought many battles but the most important and decisive adventure occurred in 1818. During this battle, Ranjit Singh conquered Multan and killed Muzaffar Khan, the governor of Multan, and succeeded in establishing the *Sikh Raj* here. The Sikhs, in such a way, looted, killed the masses and destroyed Multan that history will not face such kind of destruction and catastrophe. The political circumstance also stayed extremely melted and geo-political changes frequently occurred so that no unfaltering predominant proprietorship was made. Different Muslim feudal chiefs were staunch supporters of the Sikhs, yet this was not satisfactory to protect their control in the Punjab. During his regime in Multan, he appointed many Governors (*Nazims*) one after the other but no one, in prestige and reputation, could reach to Sawan Mal. After having been appointed the Governor of Multan, he reconstructed Multan and attended towards his subjects. So, keeping all these occasions, conditions and essentialness of this period as a primary concern, I decided to conduct a research entitled with "*Famous Governors of Multan under the Sikh Regime in Punjab*"

3. HYPOTHESIS/RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Personalities exist but it is conceptualized in collective terms. Is it true?

- Can a system of check and balance serve as a check on popular political passions?

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The first half of the nineteenth century was a time of radical changes in the Punjab, especially in Multan, which was dominated by the Sikhs. During proposed period, the Muslim rule was on the verge of closure and the new Sikh rulers were attempting to obtain the entire Subcontinent. The present work related to the politico-economic lifestyle of the general population of Multan and the governmental system from 1821 to 1843. Its main aim is to examine the role of invaders of Multan in promoting or demoting Sikh rule and development and is to highlight the origin and role of Ranjit Singh in history of Multan. This period is momentous in the historical backdrop of Multan because it was the time of decay of the Mughal-Afghan reign and the rise of the Sikhs. They rose as autonomous rulers of the Punjab, including Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Kashmir, by dint of their own arms and forecasted to build up a jurisdiction under Ranjit Singh. Multan stayed under Muslim power for about eight centuries, however, disappointingly, no steady and secured control could build up here and the populace, to a great extent, remained destitute, offensive and backward in perspective of socio-political and financial conditions.

5. LITERATURE REVIEW

After the fold of the Mughal Empire, the bigger part of the Punjab was again attached to the Sikh kingdom. This work has a multidimensional structure in which local history, the attitude of trespassers towards people of Multan, traditions and its reaction has been covered. History of the Sikh rule in Multan indicates its hostility and, a long time ago, settled custom of communal bitterness. Local historians have also observed all the disparities and profound religious resentment in pre-colonial Punjab. For instance, the general population of Multan can be seen in the shape of three groups: the Muslims, the Hindus and the Sikhs, yet there was not a single parameter in native historian's works by which we could separate the general population of Multan into social gatherings. The criteria, they utilized, ranged from sectarian belief, religion, occupation and tribe.

Other than this, the formation of local identity draws out the design of regional contrasts. Local history is productive for local studies. It, more extensively, highlights the regional conditions as well as present angle of dream to look at challenging situations. Furthermore the regional history, when a locality has more extensive part to play in its geographic situation, becomes significant to understand general histories.

Sukhdayal was the first governor of Multan. According to Kohli (1971), he was a vital Hindu of Ranjit Singh's court and he, as a *Nazim* of Multan, got salary of 36000 rupees per annum. (Kohli, Land Revenue Administration of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, 1971) He participated in the initial campaign of Attock in 1812 and captured it in 1813 which proved a gateway towards the territories of the North-West. (Shah, 1848) At that time, it was under the control of Jahandad Khan who was the brother of Ata Muhammad Khan and the Governor of Kashmir. (Ali-ud-Din, 1963) Ranjit Singh concentrated on its key preference and persuaded that he did not check and tide the trespassers unless he would conquer it. After the victory of Kashmir, Jahandad Khan felt that the ball is in his court, so he met Ranjit Singh and consented to surrender the citadel on the condition that he would be given legitimate help to expel *Wazir* Fateh Khan from the fort. (Murray, 1846) Ranjit Singh quickly offered him the *Pargna* of Wazirabad as a *Jagir* and dispatched his armed forces under the headship of *Fakir* Aziz-ud-Din, Bhawani Das, Mit Singh and Sukhdayal to assume charge of the Attock Fort. (Suri, Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, 1887)

In 1817, Jhang was also granted him at the cost of 400000 rupees and then it was raised to 410000 in 1821. (Steedman, 1882)ⁱ On June 02, 1818, Multan was apprehended and a huge plunder fell to the Sikh troops. Sukhdayal repaired fortress by financing of 3000 rupees daily. (Amarnath, 1928) He attained the *Ijara* of the *Sairat* for thirteen lac rupees. Under the Sikhs, the *Ijardari* framework was not limited to the lands. Truly, taxes or *Sairat* other than the land revenue were also given in *Ijara* to imperative and liable authorities of the State. (Amarnath, 1928) However, in Kashmir and Multan, *Ijara* could be substitute with direct accumulation. The magnitude of revenue, gathered through *Ijara*, seemed to have been significant. In many areas, the quantity of the *Ijara* was close to the quantity of the revenue on behalf of the Government. The *Ijaradar* was given a little edge to meet the costs, regarding the collection, to get his share of benefit. Yet, the *Mushakhasa*ⁱⁱ was also enforced in the light of records of collections. If the income of a specific region expanded, the revenue of *Ijara* was raised too. Before giving a region in *Ijara*, the *Maharaja* got the right data with respect to the wage from the revenue of that region. (Suri, Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, 1974)

By commenting on Sukhdayal, the *Maharaja* mentioned that he was an extremely valour and brave man, so he, for his preservation, granted him a home of 10000 rupees. (Suri, Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, 1974) As I described that he received 36000 rupees per annum, yet he could not gather revenue competently and the *Maharaja* detached him on the charges of misuse of State duties in September 1819. (Gilani, 1938) The *Suba* was then handed over to Sham Singh for a yearly sum of 650000 rupees.

The second governor of Multan was Sham Singh. During the Sikh Kingdom, mostly *Ijaradars* were connected with the Government and Sham Singh Peshawaria as well as *Diwan* Sawan Mal were also regarded as colossal *Ijaradars*. The *Zamindars* could submit grievances against the *Ijaradars* before the *Maharaja*. Furthermore, the *Ijaradars* could protest against the imperiousness of the high-ups of the Government officials and their cultivators. (Suri, Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, 1974)

Similarly when *Diwan* Kirpa Ram, *Nazim* of Kashmir, could not pay particular revenue to the *Maharaja*, Sham Singh, the *Jamadar* of *Dewhri*, was sent to confiscate his property at Kunjah. Sham Singh, with the help of *Nazir Ali*ⁱⁱⁱ, governed at Multan harshly. (Gilani, 1938) Sham Singh also could not deal with Multan properly and failed to submit fixed revenue. Other than this, the officials poisoned the *Maharaja's* mind by telling him that he would make upheaval and never come to meet the *Maharaja*. (Ali-ud-Din, 1963) Therefore, the *Maharaja* sent instructions recurrently to visit him. At last, the *Maharaja* reached Multan through Chaniot and stayed here for three months. (Gilani, 1938) But, when he reached Lahore, the *Diwan* was instructed to pay the pending revenues along with the fine. (Ali-ud-Din, 1963) He was not able to pay this and thus he was removed from the governorship and then detained him. (Gilani, 1938) The *Toshahkhana* of the *Diwan* was apprehended too. However, on hearing the news of his disrepute, the people of Multan enjoyed the celebrations. Owing to his pitiless despot, it was justified to punish him even for the minimum offensive. (Garret, 1968)

The third personality, who governed in Multan as a governor, was *Bhai* Badan Hazari. After Sham Singh's removal, the *Maharaja* appointed Badan Hazari as the next governor of Multan. In 1820, Sawan Mal joined him as the head of the record office at a wage of 250 rupees per month. (Gilani, 1938) Badan Hazari attempted his best to set right the finance of Multan which was in perplexity. Due to some reasons, Badan Hazari and Sawan Mal quarreled with one another. As a result, Sawan Mal was made the chief of Shujabad in 1820. Badan Hazari also could not handle Multan and failed to submit settled revenue. After a brief time, he was also dismissed and imprisoned. (Gilani, 1938) Gilani cites Major Edward's book in these words:

He is alive and healthy and working as *Darogha* of Magazine in Lucky Marwat at salary of one rupee per day. He never saw such kind of unreal and rascal person in his life. It is believed that he has been granted the governorship of Multan merely as a joke because he had not a little sense of politics and clout. He is neither educated nor valour. (Gilani, 1938)

After him, Mehta Mal Shikarpuria, *Jamadar* Baj Singh and Siva Mal were appointed as governors of Multan for a brief period. Yet, their sufficient record in history of Multan was not found because they had been appointed for a very short period. They also could not run the *Suba* in proper manner and were removed from the governorship. (Abd-ul-Haq, 1994)

Sawan Mal stands sixth in number as governor of Multan. From 1818 to 1821, above six governors could neither maintain law and order situation nor as good management in Multan. Besides this, they could not gather revenue proficiently, so the *Maharaja* evacuated and detained them. At last in 1821, he appointed Sawan Mal as the governor of Multan who had already pulled in the consideration of the *Maharaja*. (Amarnath, 1928)

Great may thy name be, Lala Sawan Mal

Thou last repopulated a ruined country. (Kohli, The Multan Outbreak and the Trial of Diwan Mulraj, 1932)

Sawan Mal was a *Khatri* of Chopra sub-caste from Akalgarh in Gujranwala region. (Grewal & Banga, 1975)^{iv} He was born in 1788. (Singh B., 1990) His father, Hoshnak Rai, was an employee of *Sardar* Dal Singh of Akalgarh. (Wadehra, 1885) Hoshnak Rai had three sons and Sawan Mal was the youngest one. Sawan Mal started his profession in the office of his elder brother Nanak Chand who worked with *Diwan* Mohkam Chand. In 1820, he participated as the head of the record office under Governor *Bhai* Badan Hazari at a monthly payment of 250 rupees. (Singh G. G., 1970) In a brief time, he set right the record of Multan which was in a practically inseparable misperception. As a decent scholar of Persian and Arabic, he won the gratitude of the *Maharaja* for his insight and secretarial aptitudes and rapidly rose to sophisticated positions.

Truly in 1821, another period unfolded when Sawan Mal was designated as *Kardar* of the half area of Multan. Besides this, Shujabad was also handed over to him. Within two years, the income of this *Ilaqa* expanded by 50% and the *Maharaja* gave him Multan in *Ijara* too. (Chand, 1884) In 1829, he was made the *Nazim* of the entire province and held this office till 1844. (Govt. of the Punjab, District Gazetteer of Multan 1883-84, 1884) Besides this, different *Ilaqas* were added to the *Diwan's* agreement until he held most of the regions which fell under the Governorship of Multan. These were Montgomery,^v Jhang,^{vi} Dera Ismail Khan as well as and Dera Ghazi Khan^{vii} and Muzaffargarh.^{viii} In December 1832, he was awarded the title of *Diwan* by the *Maharaja*. (Suri, Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, 1974) He worked as a *Kardar* in the *Pargna* Ram Nagar and Hafiz Abad too. (Morris, 1860) During a brief period, he changed the entire appearance of the province by introducing unique and innovative reforms. He regulated equity

with solid and unbiased efforts. He dedicated his entire energies to the betterment of his charge and its restoration from the rot into which it had collapsed owing to the battles and uproars of the late years. His impartiality was eminent for his justice. He was an extremely thoughtful and generous administrator. Ranjit Singh was constantly satisfied with his services to the general population. (Wadehra, 1885)

Amid his life time, Sawan Mal had allotted the supervision of some of the domains of Multan to his two sons. Mulraj, the eldest son, ruled Shujabad and Jhang while Karam Narain was made the chief of Leiah. During the sovereignty of *Maharaja* Ranjit Singh, he expanded his force step by step yet he never got to be revolted. He was minimal irritated, however he paid his compliment with such consistency that there was no reason for protest. (Vigne, 1840) *Diwan* Sawan Mal was the arc adversary of the *Dogra* brothers^x who had deep impact on Ranjit Singh.

After Ranjit Singh's demise, the *Dogra* brothers endeavored to devastate him, yet they could not be fruitful in their goal. Amid the reign of Kharak Singh, Sawan Mal was instructed to build a fortress at Mithan-Kot. (Singh G. , 1952) In Multan, he, with a sight to inspire trade by the way of river, instructed to construct a *Gunj* at Adam Wahin.^x He, for incitement of the traders, reduced the domestic duty of Merchandize one half. As a result, a few of the most dominant traders of Multan had set up a branch of their business. (Singh G. , 1952) During his regime, a solitary intruder did not occur in Multan. It was a great achievement of his regime. (Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, August, 24, 1840)

During Nau Nihal Singh's era, the *Dogras* became so influential that they suggested the *Maharaja* to call Sawan Mal at Lahore *Durbar* to submit the records of fifty lakhs rupees. In September, 1840, he was called, yet he failed to comply. (Foreign Department, Secrete Consultation, October 20, 1840) It was decided to send the troops against him, yet, due to his shrewdness, he succeeded in scrutiny of his records. For this purpose, he paid 100000 rupees to Ram Singh and Gobind Ram, 50000 rupees to *Raja* Dhian Singh and Hira Singh, 25000 rupees to *Diwan* Dina Nath, 25000 rupees to *Sardar* Fateh Singh Mann and 100000 rupees to Rani Chand Kaur. (Foreign Department, Secrete Consultation, October 20, 1840) After this friendly agreement, he came back to Multan.

In March 1841, when *Maharaja* Sher Singh had recently got the incomparable power, Dhian Singh attempted to poison the *Maharaja's* brain against him. The *Maharaja* engaged both Sawan Mal and Dhian Singh to increase new entities with which to substitute a portion of the stormy *Khalsa* soldiery. (Walia, 1982) *Diwan* Sawan Mal, with the genuine object of shielding himself against Dhian Singh, started to increase the Muhammadan troops. On the other hand, *Raja* Dhian Singh was not less dynamic. He, to overpower Sawan Mal and to defend Jammu, was preparing his new troops against the British and the Sikhs.

On December 16, 1841, the *Raja* insisted the *Maharaja* to expel Sawan Mal from Multan, yet the *Maharaja* replied him to keep quiet until the landing of *Raja* Gulab Singh and Kanwar Partap Singh at Lahore. (Walia, 1982) On April 23, 1842, *Diwan* revealed that he had represented the whole province of Multan for a long time and now he was demanded an explanation due to the deceptions of some intrigued individuals. He expressed his availability and pleaded the *Maharaja* not to listen his adversaries. *Devi Ditta*, Sawan Mal's nephew, was instructed to ask his uncle to submit the accounts and not to suspend it. The Mazari tribe, due to the inconvenience of the Sikh governors, began to loot Rojhan in January 1842. However, Sawan Mal marched against them and constrained to retreat.

Like the *Dogras*, Gurmukh Singh was not harmonious to Sawan Mal because he had affectionate terms with *Bhai* Gobind Ram and *Bhai* Ram Singh. Gurmukh Singh was not happy with them since Ranjit's era. This situation perplexed Sawan Mal and thus he, from dawn to dusk, engaged in assembling his own particular actions with both *Bhais* and the Sandhawalias. (Walia, 1982) On April 26, 1842, reports at Ludhiana expounded the correspondence between *Bhais* and Sawan Mal. On this *Raja* Dhian Singh watched that the *Maharaja's* employees were exceptionally treacherous. But, after the assassination of Dhian Singh, the *Diwan* freed from his cleverest foes because Gulab Singh was also feeling threat to the *Diwan*. (Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, November 16, 1849) *Pundit* Jalla decimated *Raja* Gulab Singh with the help of the Sikh armed forces and then planned to annihilate *Diwan* Sawan Mal but he was killed by the troops in December 1844. (Abd-ul-Haq, 1994) After that, Sawan Mal began to interact with the British. It is noteworthy that he achieved some auspicious chances to divert his faithfulness to Lahore *Durbar* and announce his freedom, yet he did not do so because he had consumed so much cash and worked at Multan. In 1844, three regiments of mounted troops and forty six little and enormous guns under his charge. (Prashad, 2003)

Sawan Mal had an appalling end. On September 16, 1844, when he was riding near the historical prison in the city, an Afghan^{xi} grabbed a gun from one of his Guards and fired at him. (Gilani, 1938) He tumbled from his horse and was quickly dispatched him to his dwelling in a state of obliviousness. In the morning, he slightly recouped and gave expansive sums in philanthropy and instructed that the man who sacked at him ought to be killed. Yet, because of that injury, he expired on September 29, 1844. (Gupta, 1956) In this way, deceased the shrewdest and best of every Sikh governors. Edwards has narrated an alternate event of his demise in these words:

Murderer was a soldier who had worked devotedly for a long time. He came to *Durbar* to request against his wage and expulsion. Sawan Mal not only negated his demands but also affected him with his uncovered sword. He instructed him to go out from *Durbar*. So the warrior, in retaliation for the critical abuse, shot him. (Edwards, 1851)

He was a shrewdness, sincere and a tolerant man. (McAuliffe, 1881) He left a huge entirety of seventy lakhs rupees which had been accumulated during twenty three years of blameless governorship. His inheritance was partitioned among his six sons.^{xii} At the stage of his demise, he was almost fifty six years old. He sustained his work in the office till his final gasp. He was a man of incredible vigor and capacity and the richness of the region is mainly inferable from his management. (Murray, 1846) He was the most imperative administrator who presented imaginative modifications in Multan and granted an incredible distinction to the Sikh Kingdom. In the provincial management, his commitment was exceptional. He, with respect to diligent work, showed a gigantic capability and introduced incredible changes. (Gilani, 1938) Roseberry quotes Edwards, statement in these words:

He served Sawan Mal for three years and sat before him at *Durbar* where he transacted business every day. During that period, he never heard one foolish word come out of his mouth. (Roseberry, 1987)

Sawan Mal displayed himself effective and dynamic in each ground and performed awesome duties in the arena of judiciary. Throughout his governorship, various masonry wells were dug up. He made canals in the surroundings of Multan and gave an incentive force to commerce, business and industry. He encouraged colonization by giving land and insurance to the individuals. In this way, he transformed the barren areas into a developed one. (Gilani, 1938) His revenue improvements depended upon the standards of low excise duties and taxes. Adequate evaluation and diminishment in additional charges enforced on the cultivations. These flourishing activities pulled in the consideration of some renowned Britishers and travellers who came here to pass various circumstances. In the fight between Sawan Mal and the *Dogras*, Ranjit Singh supported the *Dogras*, yet he neither committed a revolt nor distorted his influence and vitality. (Gupta, 1956)

His regime is still respected by the general population. They, irrespective with the Muslim, the Sikhs, the Hindus, the Pathan, the peasant and the labourer, gained something from his government. A few people say that he had partialities against the Mohammedans. It is most apparently fallacious. He was fair and tried his best to provide decent rule to the community. (Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, October 26, 1844) He should be called one of the best Governors. He could use pen and sword equally well and it involved extraordinary credit to him. (Wadehra, 1885)

The last governor of Multan, who governed the province of Multan, was Diwan Mulraj. Sawan Mal had six sons, one of them was Mulraj who became his successor. No record was found about his actual date of birth, yet, evidences proves that he was born in 1814. Sawan Mal had allotted the supervision of some of the domains of Multan to his two sons. Mulraj, the eldest son, ruled Shujabad and Jhang while Karam Narain was made the chief of Leiah. (Gilani, 1938) But after his death, Mulraj was appointed as the *Nazim* of Multan. The conditions for the governorship were that he would pay definite quantity to the Lahore *Durbar* annually. These terms and conditions had been liked by his father who had saved 900000 rupees too. (Malleeson, 1883)

When Mulraj was affirmed as governor, the British raised its yearly tribute from 25000 to 30000 rupees. (Gilani, 1938) In 1846, he, knowing that Prime Minister Lal Singh was intense to displace him, admitted all the settings enforced on him. (Grewal J. , 1990) Afterwards, the British eradicated definite duties in the province without decreasing that amount of *Ijara* which was remunerated by the governor. The purpose of this action was to destabilize his legal powers so that he could not create typical collection. These activities of the British Government caused of his insurgency. Similarly after the end of first Anglo-Sikh War, Lahore *Durbar* claimed him to pay revenue. He refused the compliance, so the British referred the troops against him. (Malleeson, 1883) Both met force by force and he defeated the Lahore troops near Jhang. (Khilnani, 1971) The British then interfered and the following treaty was signed. (Malleeson, 1883)

1. The request of his resignation should be admitted but this resignation should be retained underground from Lahore Government.
2. It should take effect from the end of the following April till the submission of revenue by Mulraj.
3. Two or three months before his resignation, two British officials should proceed to Multan and he should pledge the State and ultimately install its charge. (Malleeson, 1883)

This pact did not gratify him because it restricted him just for his father's district. Furthermore, the people, knowing his irritating transfer and enforcing the eliminated taxes, discontented with the monetary system on which Sawan Mal had grown prosperous. (Festing, 1914) In all these circumstances, Mulraj displayed his failure to pay this tribute and sent his resignation in December, 1847. This resignation was accepted by the British and Lahore *Durbar* on March 24, 1848. This resignation produced a power space in South-Western Punjab and caused violent penalties for the complete Land of Five Rivers. (Roseberry, 1987)

After this resignation, *Sardar* Kahn Singh was nominated the governor and he, along with Agnew and Anderson, was sent to Multan to assume the charge. (Abd-ul-Haq, 1994) On April 16, 1848, they reached here with 500 horses and cavalry. (Gilani, 1938) On April 19, 1848, when they came to Multan, Agnew and Anderson were slaughtered and Kahn Singh was detained by the Sikh fighters. (Kohli, Sunset of the Sikh Empire, 1967) This incident

occurred due to the conspiracy of Mulraj's brothers because they were desirous of to see him at the governorship. Mulraj had no idea to rebel, yet this incident compelled him to do so against the British. (Gilani, 1938)

On getting the initial report from Agnew, on April 21, 1848, Sir Frederick Currie decided to send the troops under the headships of Dina Nath, Sher Singh Attariwala and Shamsher Singh Sandhawalia on April 21, 1848. Yet, it was delayed on April 24, 1848. (Kohli, *Sunset of the Sikh Empire*, 1967) During this break, Jhanda Singh Butalia was sent to destroy Chattar Singh Attariwala's revolt. (Bell, 1983) This mission flopped as previous one too because Chattar Singh was a strong-minded and upheld by the Sikhs. It is said that Dina Nath was a double crosser. (Ball, 1971) He did not care of the measures adopted by the British Government for rebuffing the traitors. He also did not dread by the seizure of his *Jagirs* and balancing the plots of the revolutionary. (Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, November 25, 1848) Yet, amid the second Anglo-Sikh War, Sahib Dayal stayed loyal to the British. (Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, January 27, 1849)

Bhai Maharaj Singh, having an expansive number of warriors, marched from *Majha* to Multan to join the rebellious Mulraj in June 1848. Yet, Sahib Dayal assaulted and scattered his armed forces. (Bell, 1983) In November 1848, he was chosen Commander-in-Chief by Lahore *Durbar*. (Griffin, 1890) In 1849, *Devi* Sahai joined Mulraj and exhibited his ability during the siege of Multan. He battled the war of Chillianwala but, after its occupation, all his *Jagirs* were seized. (Govt. Record, 1915)

Mulraj died near Buxur on August 11, 1851, at the age of only 36 years. (Ahluwalia, 1963) This brought awful devastation to his family and inhabitants of Multan. His family, containing of his wife, son and daughter along with Sawan Mal's three widows, three sons, a sister and a daughter-in-law, affected the most. (Ahluwalia, 1963) In October 1850, these unfortunate people were brought by William Ford^{xiii} and kept them in very penniless environments in a single room. For the whole family, Ford endorsed pension of 85 rupees per month which was certified by the Government. (Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, October 18, 1850)

Mulraj was very substance with the law which had gratified him. He discharged the detainees and paid definite amount to Muhammadan soldiers. (Festing, 1914) It is true that he was not as able as his father, yet he was the only governor who revolted against the British and Lahore *Durbar*. Gilani imitates John Lawrence's saying in these words:

Mulraj had conservative mind and old thoughts. He thought that if revenue amount was fully paid then no one had right to interfere his internal matters and arrangements. He was a greedy man. Like his father, he was not judicious and wise man. Peasant and traders were not happy with his policies and they had to protest against him to the resident. (Gilani, 1938)

6. DATA ANALYSIS/CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, we may accomplish that all the Hindu Courtiers and Officials, especially governors, at Lahore *Durbar* took great interest in all kinds of expeditions and demonstrated their productive capabilities. It must be conceded that they, to a great extent, helped in the expansion and solidification of the Sikh State. Along these lines their commitment and accomplishment in the field of military battles were huge as well as life-changing.

- ⁱ But according to Giani Gian Singh, Sukhdayal got the *Ijara* of Jhang in 160000 rupees. See, Giani Gian Singh., 2:341.
- ⁱⁱ Commonly, it was an evaluated sum of the products to get revenue.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Nazar Ali was a *Kardar* of Sham Singh.
- ^{iv} Charles Masson writes that Sawan Mal was a *Brahmin* which is not true. See, (Masson, 1974, 1:397)
- ^v About 1830, *Diwan* Sawan Mal obtained charge of a considerable portion of the district except Dipalpur Tehsil. Fagan, 1884, 36). See also; Roe and Purser, 1878, 38).
- ^{vi} In 1832 the district of Jhang gave to *Diwan*. Steedman, 1882, 39).
- ^{vii} In 1832, *Diwan* Sawan Mal, took the District Dera Ghazi Khan. Fryer, 1876, 37).
- ^{viii} In 1837, the whole district of the present district of Muzaffargarh was united under *Diwan* Sawan Mal. (Govt. of the Punjab, *Gazetteer of the Muzaffargarh District 1883-84* , 1884, 40).
- ^{ix} They were three in number and their names were Dhian Singh, Gulab Singh and Suchet Singh.
- ^x It is situated on the boundary of Bahawalpur and Lodhran.
- ^{xi} His name was Sahib Dad Khan who belonged to Afghanistan.
- ^{xii} Ram Das, *Diwan* Mulraj, Karam Narayan, Sham Singh, Ram Singh and Narayan Singh.
- ^{xiii} At that time, William Ford was the deputy commissioner of Sheikhpura.

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