

Images of Islam and Administration in British Baluchistan during the Sandeman System: From Post British Occupation till Inception of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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Abstract

The present article will acquaint an analytical review of the Sandeman system and its impacts on the inhabitants and religion of Baluchistan from 1877 to 1947. Sir Robert Groves Sandeman was a British Indian Army officer and colonial administrator. Sandeman was acknowledged for his specific behavior in Baluchistan, where he innovated the prevailing political and social order of "tribal mollification and counterinsurgency" that faced and withstand with courage up to the emergence of Pakistan in 1947. He had shown great respect for Islam and contributed to the systematic teaching of Islamic knowledge in all tiers of education. In fact, instead of promoting missionaries, he had helped Islam to progress. With the assistance of *Nawāb Sir Imām Bukhsh Khān Mazzārī* in 1876, he discussed the terms of arrangement and developed the significant Treaty of Qalāt along with the Khān of Qalāt. In 1877, he appointed agent to the governor-general of Baluchistan. He acquainted ahead of the time

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system for the counter-insurgency of Baluchistan tribes. Terminologically this system of counterinsurgency of Baluchistan tribes is acknowledged as 'Sandemanization', which was implemented on the Baluchistan tribes in 1877 and ended on the independence of India in 1947. He had introduced educational reforms too through this system with no intention to intervene in the Islamic outlook of the province neither he tries to make Baluchistan a Christian identity.

Keywords: Baluchistan, Islam, administration, British, Sandeman

Introduction

Baluchistan is an immense territory. The boundaries of Baluchistan attached with the Sind in the west, from the east with Kerman Province of Iran, from the north with Afghanistan and *Khorāsān* and from the south, the warm waters of Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean connected it to the Arab World and beyond. It is the region of occult human beings who have never been entirely subdued by any government at any time in human history. A structure of their social life merges them under the tribal chieftains but stymies them from the nation's construction. Earlier than British Empire the Baluchistan was part of the Persian Empire¹. The societal foundations were more in-depth and draw their inspiration for Islam. Throughout the era of the Sandeman system the moral values of Islamic values. The effective working relationship between the British and the province had happened due to the same characteristics of both communities which are aligned to Islamic canons, such as; meritocracy, honesty, truth, fidelity, etc.

¹A.L.P. Tucker, *Sir Robert G. Sandeman: Peaceful Conqueror of Balochistan* (Lahore: Yakki Gate, 1979), 17.

From 1839 to 1947 the major extended spatial area of Baluchistan was with official authorization or unofficially remained under the control of the Empire of British, whose sake was fundamentally in protecting and securing its North-West Frontier Province from Iran and Afghanistan. The British interfered in the tribal life of Baluchistan majorly to strengthen the authority of the Khān and the auxiliary commanders in Makrān, to observe internal defense and peace, to lay the telegraph line, to constitute the wilderness at the edges of settled areas, and (with the passing of time) ultimately to do away the slave merchandise. The Afghan government yielded less concentration to its Bloch inhabitants. But the government of Persia tried to locate its control as much as possible of Baluchistan by manipulating the animosities and ambitions of the native rulers. Religious manipulation is less seen in Baluchistan as Baloch people were religious and did not allow any kind of British influence in the Islamic and tribal values of the society.

The concord between Mir Mehrāb Khān and the British in 1839 soon ran into hassle. In November 1839, they marched aggressively to Baluchistan and assailed Qalāt. In this clash the murder of Mir Mehrāb Khān took place. Ascertained the power to direct the open way for travel to Afghanistan, then the British placed in Qalāt, a fourteen years Mir Shahnawāz Khān, great-grandson of Mir Mohabbat Khān, along with Lieutenant Loveday as trustee and separated the dominion of Khān. Quetta and Mastoong administration were hand over to Shah Shuja, but the British preserved to command them his name. Despite of this, Mir Nāsir Khān II, the male offspring of Mir Mehrāb Khān, soon rebound the tribes and recaptured the Qalāt next year². Taking the benefit of his

² Rooman, *The Brahuis of Quetta-Kalat Region* (Karachi: Pakistan Historical Society, 1960), 21.

popularity and favor of local inhabitants, within no time Mir Nāsir Khān II, was capable to recaptured Kachi, Mastoong, and Quetta. Native little level encountered continued till 1842, when the British remained no longer active in Baluchistan because of arousing more complicated issues in Afghanistan and other places. Because of British back down, Sibi persist under the administration of British and Pishin was under the possession of Afghans and Quetta stayed under the administration of Qalāt. For the support of Mir Nāsir Khān, the British promised in case of external assail, as a return Mir Nāsir than II approved East India Company and Shah Soja as suzerain mightiness that could place their armies at any place of Qalāt as required of the time.³

The Qalāt state was now integrated into the colonial system of British. The Khān was fundamentally an official on remuneration, a negotiator between the tribal Chieftains and the British (who proceeded till the recent past to clench existent dominance with the tribes). Over time Khān in a gradual manner destroy his dominance with the tribal Chieftains.⁴ During this era, the Britain's were satisfied in a limited way to moderate circumstances through subsidies and diplomacy. On the other hand in 1875 as a reaction to the Russian procession to the Turkestan, they make a decision to fabricate a link of the telegraph and manufactured a railway line to Baluchistan.

Literature Review

Meanwhile the British predominance great consequences studies were developed on Baloch and Baluchistan during the 18th and 19th centuries. Despite of this during the last five decades real basis research work has

³C.U. Aitcheson, *A Collection of Treaties, Agreements and Sanads Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries* (Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1933), 11, 210.

⁴N.B. Swidler, *Brahui Political Organization and the National State* (New Heaven: Embree, 1977), 108.

been developed by versatile research scholars. The contribution of Baloch researchers is not excessive but very rich in significance. Manifestly, the British were very incisive to comprehend the seat of the faculty of the reasons of Balochs. So they organized and carried out many probes about language, history, literature social life and traditions of the inhabitants of this area. It is very arousing the attention that the British made more research on Baluchistan as compared with both Iran and Pakistan.

Most innovating research in this regard was developed by former ruler Khān of Qalāt Mir Ahmad Yar Khān Baloch, entitled, *Inside Baluchistan*, and this research work was published by The Royal Books Karachi in 1976. Another significant research work is '*Search Lights on Balochs and Baluchistan*' developed by Justice Retired Khuda Khash Bijrani Marri Baloch, and published by Royal Books Karachi in 1974. Most significant research entitled '*A literary History of Baloch*' written by Sardār Khān Baloch and published in 1977 by Baloch Academy Quetta. Another great contribution in this regard is "*History of Balochistan*" written by Mir Gull Khān Nāsir and Lala Hitho Ram. "*The Baloch Cultural Heritage*" a masterpiece of Jan Muhammad, which was published in 1982 by Royal Book Company, Karachi is a significant addition to this topic. Pioneering research entitled "*People and Ethnic Identity*" was created by Y.V. Gankovsky and published by Peoples Publishing House, Lahore in 1973.

Sandeman System in Balochistan

Sir Robert Groves Sandeman was a British Indian Army officer and colonial administrator. Sandeman was acknowledged for his specific behavior in Baluchistan, where he innovate the prevailing political and social order of "tribal mollification and counterinsurgency" that faced and

withstand with courage up to the emergence of Pakistan in 1947. Sandeman was born on February 25, 1835. He was educated at Perth and St. Andrews University. In 1856, he became a part of 33rd Infantry of Bengal. He was appointed in Dera Ghāzī Khān as district officer and in this region initially demonstrated his capability in 1866. He kicks out to the temporal end boundary which was founded by Lord Lawrence and large in spatial extent the British's powers to affect the autonomous Bloch tribes on the farther side of the border. He was relinquished the political dominance to command belligerent the Mazārī, Bugti and Marri tribal inhabitants of the series of Sulaiman Hills on the occasion of Mithankot Conference which was arranged between the administration of Sind Province and British administration of Punjab Province in February 1871. With the assistance of *Nawab Sir Imam Bukhsh Khān Mazzari* in 1876, he discussed the terms of arrangement and developed the significant Treaty of Qalāt along with the Khān of Qalāt. He was appointed in 1877, a representative of the Baluchistan governor-general. He acquainted a head of the time system for the counterinsurgency of Baluchistan tribes. Terminologically this system of counterinsurgency of Baluchistan Tribes is acknowledged as 'Sandemanization', which was implemented on the Baluchistan tribes in 1877 and ended on the independence of India in 1947. Fundamentally the British appointed to Qalāt, the Captain Robert Sandeman for the improvement of the foundations for a greater incontrovertible "forward" plan of action. He attained success in compiling distinguished complications and clashes between the tribal chieftains and Khān, and intentioned a path of settling the kindred entire extent of their own officials in concurrence of customs of tribes but

according to the instructions of British administration, which subsequently get fame as the indirect governance system of Sandeman.⁵ In 1878, Sandeman vitiated the agreement of Mastoog. He renewed the agreement of 1854 and intensified it by adding: 1. The Khān was to have no autonomous about external mutual dealings. 2. In Qalāt a permanent British fortified military post was to be stationed. 3. The Khān of Qalāt was to institutionalize a person who represents in the British Indian government. 4. The British were to be the lonesome arbitrator in clashes between the tribal chieftains and Khān of Qalāt. 5. The planned telegraph and railway were to be kept safe and defended in the involvements of both organizations. 6. The annuity of Khān was increased to Rs100, 000, in addition Rs 25,000 for the building of more sparsely populated location and making sure the defense of communication teams and transport. 7. The Khān's rights of trading with India and Afghanistan in addition were shifted to the Britain in return of annually Rs 30,000.⁶

The tribal chieftains were inspired with confidence to resolve clashes by their own about time-honored orthodox doctrines, utilized tribal chieftain's circle and jirgas for intertribal issues. Also, all the decision which solved in jirgas was capable to reexamine by the British Agent politics. Commonly the Britain organization of solving tribal issues appeared suitable for tribal set up.⁷ The British agents and tribal chieftains have comprehended each other's innovations of authority and can perform together. The Sandeman

⁵Thornton, T. H., *Colonel Sir Robert Sandeman: His Life and Work on Our Indian Frontier* (London: Murray, 1895), 36.

⁶Aitchison, *Agreements and Sanads Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries*, 215-218.

⁷Swidler, *Organization and the National State*, 108.

educational philosophy had enhanced the administration of Baluchistan for he understood that Islam and tribal structure are sensitive issues and would not be welcomed to alter by the locals. The Sandeman main point of governing the province was to adopt a policy devoid of religious alteration. Both sides helped to work in co-relationship by driving the same principles from the morality which was Islam for the dwellers.

Sandeman seized and controlled by the military on Quetta in 1877, and with the consent of Khān set up the Agency of Baluchistan administrative center. In 1878, Quetta was utilized as an installation from which a military force initiates an operation for the Afghan War II. In 1879, this war was ended by the written agreement of Gandamak, as result of this war surrendered Pishin to the British. One by one bordered attached with Afghanistan entire districts were rented to Britain in repay of a sum of money which was annually paid and organized and maintained as a legal corporation of the province of British Baluchistan. Qalāt was blocked from entire areas that were concerned to the strategy of involvement for Britain. The bivouac of Quetta presently transcends Mastoong and Qalāt both as a commercial and administrative center. Despite of this Baluchistan remained a comparatively remote and separate area, peripheral for the economy of India, the social influences of British investment should not be underrated. Crops of Gash type were acquainted link with main routes. A large numbers of tribal chieftains were knighted, and pomp and raiment of British initiated to come into sight in this province and region.⁸ Mir Khudadad Khān did not adapt to the modifications. With the passing of time his status became incapable of being defended, and finally in 1893 he was compelled to renounce. His

⁸ Swidler, *Organization and the National State*, 51.

successor was Mir Muhammad Khān II and his era continued till 1931. Mir Muhammad Khān II associated his identification with British sakes and attained a powerful favor of British, but at the price of without interruption gradual decline of the power of the realm of Khān. An agreement was ratified in 1899, which on annual basis rent out Nushki in return of Rs 9,000.⁹

Education Reforms:

The Sandeman has introduced educational reforms having both Islamic and western content. Several schools system had been set up with comprehensive Islamic syllabus. The most significant attribute of the system is that it did not compel people to learn theology other than Islam. The structure, syllabus, and pedagogical strategies to teach the knowledge of Islam remained the same as the pre-introduction of the system.¹⁰

Bureaucratic Reforms under 'Sandemanization'

A series of bureaucratic reforms under Sandemanization was introduced in 1912. Under these reforms firstly, a state treasury was set up and its branches were initiated at Khuzdar, Mastoong, and other territories of the province. Secondly, at Qalāt an animal medical institution was inaugurated. Thirdly, under these reforms a road was constructed to Panjgur and Wad, and some educational institutions were also inaugurated in remote areas. A nominal voluntary gift by the Khān in addition gift to the Britain in return of war struggles, on the other hand

⁹ Aitcheson, *Agreements and Sanads Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries*, 215-218.

¹⁰ Rooman, *Quetta-Kalat Region*, 70-93.

the tribal chieftains were starting to oppose to his servility and the Britain were compelled to interfere many times to degrade a rebellion.¹¹

In 1931, after the decease of Muhammad, third son of Khudad Khān, Mir Azam Jan became ruler for merely two years and display some inclination to support for native anti-British inhabitants. In 1933, by Mir Ahmad Yar Khān he was attained success, who remained ruler for the stay behind era of the Britain. On the consenting of Mir Ahmad Yar Khān the Qalāt state was incorporated of Kachi, Jahlawan and Sarawan, with Makrān, Las Bela and Kharan as pays for the services princedoms. Loralai, Nushki, Chagai, Zhob and Nāsir abad and the district of Mari-Bugti established the Province of Britain of Baluchistan under representatives of British politics; the Province of Punjab was extend to Dera Ghāzī Khān, and the province of Sindh was extend to Jacobabad.¹²

The project of British telegraph modified the geopolitical equilibrium of mutual dealings in the area. They constitute many treaties for the protection and passage of the times with Las Bela, Qalāt, Kech and Pasni. In 1863, when the task of construction initiated the governor of Bampur Ibrahim Khān utter intentions of punishment in the ports to the representatives of Oman, and stir up tribesman of Rind to molest groups of people on the Gwādar outlying areas, however he never hassle the groups of labor working in telegraph. In real manners, Tehran cast off his struggles; however the activity of conveying information on official level

¹¹ Elphistone Mountstuart, *An Account of the Kingdom of Caubul* (London: New-Street Square London, 1815), 13.

¹² J. H. Lace, "A Sketch of the Vegetation of British Baluchistan." *Journal of the Linnaean Society* 28 (1897): 227-228.

preserved to stress that Chahbahar and Gwādar both were included in Persia. The diplomat of Persia who toured Qalāt in 1862 and announced that Persia had no contrives on Makrān or Keech, and petitioned for discussion intended to produce an agreement related to boundary. Likely, in April, 1863 the governor of Bampur, Ibrahim Khān, sent a written appeal to the political representative of Muscat and informed that Gwādar was not under his dominance. The British contemplate on the issue for couple of year and lastly raised a formal objection; they had zero to obtain, and they maintained a position to fail the grace of local administrators without attaining the security of the Persian government.¹³ The Persian administration maintained in unaltered conditioned its plan of action of playing off the native ruler's against one another with the aim of minimizing their dominance and constituting its own to a feasible extent, and emitted that they were arranging a scheme of an assail on Kech.¹⁴ Meanwhile this duration the most significant rulers in western Makrān were Mir Abdullah Buladi of Geh who managed the shore of ocean from Jask to Chahbahar, and Din Muhammad Sardarzay in Bahu who in addition Dastiari manage the shore of ocean from Chahbahar to Gwādar. Both were associated by marriage, but they were secretly and inwardly contenders, since both generally approved a sum of money from the sultan of Oman to shield from danger the ports.¹⁵ In 1847, Faqeer

¹³ Brian Spooner, *Baluchistan: Geography, History and Ethnography* (1988: University of Pennsylvania), 23.

¹⁴ Brian Spooner, *Geography, History and Ethnography*, 38.

¹⁵ Y. Gankowsky, "Social Structure of Pakistan's Brahui-Baluchi Population." *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies* 5, no.4 (1982), 57.

Muhammad, the voice of Khān in Kech and the most significant force in Makrān eastern area, had assailed Gwādar with 1,000 militants in order to obtain through intimidation from Syed Towani, the trustee of Oman, a reputed habitual annual present which had been deducted for couple of years in sequence, but was abortive. The Khān of Qalāt without interruption actively to arrogate Gwādar, and sporadically sent alike excursions. Deen Muhammad and Abdullah had both admitted Persian dominance of suzerain, but now that the system of telegraph was approaching they let it be apprehended with certainty that they would operate with the British. Near about in 1866 Sheikh Abdullah who governed Qasr-i-Qand and Sarbaz had in the recent past been killed intentionally, and the Persians had acknowledged his son as governor of Qasr-i-Qand, but had present Sarbaz to the in charge of another kin, who was zealous in devotion to the Persian concern. In 1869, the construction of telegraph line was ultimately without interruption proceeds to Hanjam and Jask Island, and the British were compelled to establish an involving three parties committee in 1870, (with representatives of Qalāt , Persia, and Britain) for the concise explanation of the boundary.¹⁶ From 1873 a British voice political representative was appointed at Gwādar, and from 1879 a local representative also appointed. From the start of 1870 annually subsidies for the safety and security of the Indo-European Telegraph line were remunerate by the British to the Khān of Geh (Rs 1,000), to 11 chieftains of the Bloch tribes of the fertile tracks of Geh and 1600 to the chieftain of the Naroui tribe, to the chieftain of Dastaiari Rs 600, to three chieftains of Bloch tribes of the fertile tracks of Dastaiari 400 rupees for

¹⁶ Brian Spooner, *Geography, History and Ethnography*, 39.

each, to the chieftains of the Realm of Khān of Qalāt tribe 100 rupees.¹⁷ In 1899, grant paid by the British to the Geh ruler was minimized from 3,000 rupees to 1,000 rupees; the residual grant being dispensed among lesser ranked chieftains; Bahoo and Dastaiari then collect 1,000 rupees each. The security of Chahbahar be inherited two native chieftains Mir Abdullah of Geh and Deen Muhammad Jadgal of Dastiari tribe, who collect 200 rupees and 900 rupees respectively annually from the entire amount of 7,000. Near about in 1868 or 1869 Deen Muhammad softly, occupied it and this occupy never found after being lost for Oman.¹⁸

Conclusion

As make comparison, the majority of the other characteristics of tribe or cultural minorities areas of Iran the Baluch (in Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan) are with considerable certainty more with respect to Islam, language stratified, diverse and pluralistic. The particular type of the precise detailed study of the surface feature of this region has made communication hard to control and the insufficient number and thinness of natural available sources have limited the physical magnitude of colonization. Potentiality of ruling persons has been not able to develop bulky federations or in other respects stretched out their dominancy farther along in their prompt constituencies.

Pashtuns, Punjabis, Sindhis, Bashkardis, Sistanis entire go through natural specific states familiar to those of their closest Slouch adjacent to them. Excluded from the utilization of Baluchi as a tongue franca and a specific

¹⁷ G. Pikulin, M. *Beludzhi* (Moscow: Let Me Print, 2013), 123.

¹⁸ P. Sykes, "Some Notes on Journeys in Southern and South-Eastern Persia."

Journal of the Manchester Geographical Society 21, (1905): 106.

classified according to various criteria of structure of politics, majority of the features of the Bloch culture are also have in common by their adjacent areas. In similar manner, narrative descriptions of the past events of the major areas of the world are to some extent an activity of intervention from extraneous. The Study of the physical features of the earth and bionomics are without deviation associated to the colonization perceptual structure, which identifies peculiar restraints on the development of politics and others specific chances to extraneous influence. The governance of British in Baluchistan as colonial power followed its own relating to its geostrategic sakes. Sandeman and other British administration had wanted strangely to set up it as a neutral zone between two rival powers in extreme north-western areas to barricade the comprehend intervention of Russia. They endeavored to make the Baluchistan as its feudatory state. The political consciousness and awakening in Baluchistan initiated in the 20th century. Various political groups under the efficient leadership were originated initially clambered to get the administrative jointure and rectifying of constitution acquainted in Baluchistan .They performed a particular role in germinating national, political and society based wakening among the inhabitants of Baluchistan against the leading and paramount contrive of imperialist powers. When the realm of Qalāt poeticized British retraction, he makes a decision to enter a plea of his state independently on legal basis. The Robert Sandeman had brought the historic and desirable modifications in dynamics of education system, Dimensions of society and infrastructure physically. In addition Sandeman acquainted a head of the time system of tribal counterinsurgency in Baluchistan Agency. Sandeman was an individual who had conversant in 1877 to 1947 a head of the times system of tribal pacification in the Agency of Baluchistan.