

Role of Multan in the War of Independence (1857)

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Abstract

This paper traces the events commencing from the advent of British as traders and transforming into rulers. How a trading company became so influential and started interfering in administrative matters. The break out of Mutiny and its causes which are very important to comprehend the intensity of this massive event. The beginning of event and how it reached Multan. What measures were taken in Multan to tackle with the issue and how people reacted is an interesting detail which is discussed here. The role of clans and tribes who sided British and helped against the freedom fighters / Mujahideens is also discussed in detail in the paper. The predatory tribes of adjacent areas of Multan supported freedom fighters but British suppressed them and awarded those who aided the government in suppression of these freedom fighters.

Keywords: Voyages of discovery, East India Company, Mughals, Political intervention, revolt, nobility, Makhdooms, clans, doabs, mutineers, loyalty

1 Introduction

An abundant work has been done on the topic of Multan and much on war of independence has been written. Different writers have different prospect towards these topics. The lacking point is taking along

the war of independence and Multan with the aspect of the course of events generating the reaction of the locals of Multan. Ashiq Durrani¹ writes about the rule of Afghans over Multan, their administration and extensions. In the same way Humaira Dasti² focuses on the Mughal rule and their works and appointments in provinces of Punjab especially Multan.. Syed M Latif³ focuses on the foreign invasions and the importance of different cities in Multan District. Ikram Ali Malik⁴ provides the chronological order of the events. Amjad Bukhari⁵ puts the main focus on the southern Punjab covering Multan and the areas adjacent to Multan. J Royal Roseberry⁶ covers the details encompassing the city of Multan and the surroundings districts. Hukam Chand⁷ gives the details on the physical geography of Multan. Noor Ahmed Khan⁸ in his compilation based on two volumes has highlighted the invasions, shrines and sufis. Sheikh Ikram ul Haque⁹ and Dr Nabi Khan¹⁰ has written in detail about the historical importance of the Multan and its architectural history.

All the works are of great scale and are held high in the study of History of Multan. However we have not been able to find any exclusive detail on the Multan and war of independence.

Advent of British to Sub-Continent:

British came to subcontinent for the purpose of trade which changed with passage of time and circumstances into political intervention and resulted in the taking over of the government of Subcontinent. The Muslim state was converted into a colony of the British Empire. It commenced with the voyages of discovery in the 14th Century. Europe was evolving out of dark ages. The Renaissance and Reformation unwrapped new ventures for the Europeans. The new knowledge resulted in encouragement for them to discover the world and look up for new fields of learning. It also resulted in finding of new sea routes for trade purposes. It was one of the voyages taken up by Vasco De Gama

to discover sea route free of taxes which they had to pay to Muslim Turks and Arabs. He reached Calicut by sailing through the west of Africa and after a bit of struggle got the opportunity to harbor the ships. This marked the start of new chapter in the history of this land. The East India Company was a firm of British merchants who not only thrived and trafficked and ruled in Leaden Hall Street in London but who could at their pleasure command the services and unsheath the swords of formidable generals¹¹. The British were praised and honored at the Mughal royal court. British being a clever nation presented gifts to the royal families and gained significant appointments at the royal court. With the passage of time British East India Company gained repute. They had their own security force in which local Indians were recruited and trained by British officers. This army was well trained and equipped with proper weapons.

The decline of Mughals helped the British a lot to get involved in the politics and they gradually gained a strong hold. It also further worked well with the involvement of the British Missionaries. They started spreading Christianity and created a new option for the oppressed Indians. As the British were better equipped with advanced and modern weapons, they inspired the locals. The inventions like steam engines, rifles and new concept of governance and a complete new style of living really inspired the locals.

Arrival of British brought a great change for the Muslims. As for Hindus only the Masters changed. Hindus adopted the British ways quickly but the Muslims had to fight for the preservation of their identity. After the battle of Plassy 1757 till the last Mughal ruler, the actual government was run by the British. They held important posts and had full control over decisions and administrative issues. The policy of acquiring lands and depriving the princes of their state, created more hatred among the dependents of the

princes and the people of their state. The hatred was getting deeper day by day and British were aware of these but did not take serious action. Karl Marx wrote in his book "The first war of Independence in Sub Continent" that the British could not realize the force of these activities¹². Subsequently army of British East India Company noticed that Indian Soldiers were planning a rebel or to react in one way or another. The issue of cartridges worked as a spark and which ignited a great fire. The fire which spread all over the subcontinent and resulted in burning down the glorious empire of Mughals.

Causes of War of Independence

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1857 - 1898) has given a very clear and obvious reasons for the start of this war of independence which he also stated as the "Revolt". He wrote a pamphlet known as "Causes of Indian Revolt", first document of its kind which clearly stated in a very respectable way all the main causes which led to such a situation where British had to face massive reaction. The event initiated a new wave of nationalism in the subcontinent. Nationalism which had no geographical boundaries but was related to the feelings and thoughts of a nation regarding particular group of people living in the subcontinent. In the subcontinent was home for many nations living e.g. Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims.

The event of 1857 marked the dawn of British rule and the end of Mughal Empire. The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar VI was on the throne but the rule was restricted to the walls of palace. Muslims were held responsible for the great mutiny. They were considered as conspirators, instigators and traitors. It was getting difficult for them to keep their identity intact in such circumstances. In these circumstances Sir Syed Ahmad Khan wrote his famous pamphlet "Risala e Asbab e Baghawat e Hind". It highlighted the main causes which lead to mutiny. He belonged to a very

religious family. He was well educated and working as a civil Judge with British East India Company. He witnessed the whole event and during the war he saved the British families and provided them with refuge. This pamphlet painted a very clear picture of the reasons which lead to war. He not only blamed the locals but also emphasized on the ignorance of the British Government. It was not because of a single reason but due to combination of multiple causes. Colonel GB Malleon writes that after the annexation of Oudh, this seething discontent found expression¹³. But Sir Syed writes that annexation of Oudh was not cause of general rise¹⁴. All the misconceptions of the British were addressed, Muslims were not the sole responsible, not even Russia or Iran. According to Sir Syed locals / natives were not given the representation in the legislative councils and this created a gap between British and people¹⁵. Mr. James in his book inscribes that there were three aspects of the war¹⁶ Prince People and Sepoys. All the great writers agreed on the following five main reasons which lead to the war.

- People were not aware of measures initiated by British Government or the intentions behind them rather these were misinterpreted. They believed that government intend to force Christianity and foreign customs upon the Hindus and Muslims¹⁷.
- Some laws, regulations and procedures were not according to the customs and practices of Hindustan. It was very objectionable from the perspective of both communities; Hindus and Muslims.. The act XV of 1856 which was against the practices carried in the Hindu religion related to remarriage and Satti of widows, arose suspicion among the Hindus.. Regulation VI of 1819 related to redemption of revenue free trade created massive unrest. Regulation I of 1821 brought another confusion and could not solve the issue of sale of land

which was considered to be the matter dealt by landlord himself. The payments of revenue were fixed by government which created unrest. The taxes were increased which forced the cultivators to borrow money in order to pay them. They were financially ruined gradually. The abolishment of “Talooq dar” office and introduction of stamp paper lead to instabilities¹⁸.

- The government stayed aloof, ignorant of its people and condition of country. No link between the rulers and the ruled could be established which could convey their concerns. The families who previously had been influential under the former rulers were now reduced to poverty and were considering change of government.
- Government showed negligence and did not address these matters which should have been attended on priority to avoid any misapprehension among locals¹⁹. It was the government’s domain to keep pleasant or friendly relations to maintain peace²⁰.
- The defiant attitude of the Indian army was another major cause of the mutiny²¹. The Hindus and Muslims were recruited in the same regiment. They developed good relations among themselves and the differences seemed to smooth away.. At Meerut the soldiers were punished and they were so humiliated and tormented that the soldiers who took honor in fighting for their country were now shackled as prisoners²². The ignorance and negligence on part of the British government brought this whole situation to a level where it turned out as the famous mutiny of 1857.

Beginning of War of Independence 1857

The Deputy Commissioner or his assistant and the district officers were the key office holders. He held a lots of responsibilities and fulfilled many duties like, Policing, road making, registry, recruiting agent, eradicators of wild beast and cattle breeder etc.²³ He travelled often and discharged his duties with zeal and zest. He was proud and devoted to justice²⁴.

In Punjab the news of mutiny reached by the administrative authorities through Telegraph about the happenings at Meerut where the British soldiers were in majority as compared to Hindustani sepoys and details from Delhi where the few British soldiers faced the rebels²⁵. In May 1857 Punjab had sepoys which were from different native or Hindustani regiments. There were 36000 sepoys of Bengal Army, 12 European Regiments comprising 11000 British soldiers, deployed along the cities of Ambala and Peshawar. Guides and Punjabi irregular forces consisted of 14000 men. There were 15000 persons of Military Police. Lahore division Military Police was headed by Richard Lawrence. Indian Soldiers definitely outnumbered the British²⁶. (Annexure I²⁷) By the end of 13th May, 1857, 81st Company moved out from Lahore to Amritsar. The Sikh areas were secured. Even in Multan situation was to be steadied²⁸ as it was the only link between Punjab and the outside world. Mr. Lawrence had instructed Major Crawford Chamberlain to disarm the Hindustanis²⁹ due to Jallandar's debacle. Crawford Chamberlain with his 60 Military Men disarmed about 3500 Hindustani soldiers. Mr. James was given the responsibility to take over administration of District Multan³⁰. The internal weaknesses in the administration and the sentiments of few families in Multan were pro-British which facilitated British to occupy Multan³¹.

War of Independence at Multan

The political scene in Punjab was undergoing change as a result of Sikh wars, particularly Multan went gradually in the control of British. British shrewdly created a situation where the local Makhdoom's and particularly the Pathan Sadozais were totally taken in confidence³². They showed full support to British. Multan once a hub of all cultured, social and economic activities shrank and lost the importance of being a center of grandeur. The borders of the Multan Empire expanded till Sindh.

British started deploying troops in and around Multan. The troops comprised of³³:-

- European Company of Artillery
- 4th Troop, 3rd Brigade of Horse Artillery (Native)
- 62nd Regiment, Native Infantry
- 69th Regiment, Native Infantry
- 1st Irregular Cavalry
- 3rd Katar Mookhi Police Battalion Exclusive of the headquarters, 250 persons and
- A troop of mounted police consisting 100 Sabra.

The British in Punjab were lucky due to two factors. Muslims of Punjab were happy at the end of Sikh Rule. This was also the basic reason of Muslims support to British against Sikhs³⁴. The other factor was Sikh Chiefs thought that they would be able to carry along respectfully with the British Rule³⁵. The British Government rule commenced after formal imprisonment of Mul Raj. Effective and long lasting administrative changes were initiated. They divided the whole territory in administrative units of divisions, districts and tehsils. Multan was declared Headquarter of a division and district³⁶. Multan's substantial revenues were now being deposited at Lahore treasury which were earlier being dispatched to Afghan King³⁷.

Events of War

On assumption of rule British made sure to strengthen relations with the Muslim Elites. Multan was under the rule of Sikhs. The elite's representation was marked with their attachment in the army. That was only in hands of the Hindus and Sikhs. The Muslim Elites were, in the situation aloof of what was happening regarding the defense of Multan. So the British were welcomed by the Muslim Elites in 1849³⁸. The Regency at Lahore was formed to evict the Sikhs from Multan. Mul Raj was defeated by the British to assume the control of Multan. In 1849 Multan completely went into the hands of the British. The British took the following basic measures till 1857 in Multan:

- Secured the literary works done in Persian and Multani language.
- All four Bibles were translated in Multani language for the purpose of preaching Christianity and distribution among the local free of cost.
- After a year they opened first hospital of Multan.
- In 1856 first Anglo high school was opened at Hussain Agahi.
- In 1857 new fort of Multan Cantt was constructed.
- New Cantonment was built in the area from Eidgah till Hazori Bagh.³⁹

Local Resistance

Although the main center of the war of independence were Meerut, Delhi, Jhansi, Rohail Kand, Muzaffar Nagar, and Kanpur along with other cantonments and cities of sub-continent. People of these areas took part actively in the war of independence. But the freedom lovers of Multan along with the local army were a step ahead for the struggle of freedom. The

impression is totally wrong that the people of Punjab were not active in the war of independence, especially the locals of Multan and its adjacent areas. It is believed that they favored British and ruined the whole plan of freedom. It is a misconception and a baseless blame. The fact remains that the local armies stationed at Multan Cantonment participated equally with the other militants for the freedom. They even fought against the British army to get the freedom. The farmers which were settled on the riversides of Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej also raised flags of revolt. Even the warrior nations of Sandal Bar, Neli Bar and Ganji Bar openly sided with the mutineers against the British. Rather they had established a transitory independent government of their own⁴⁰. The fistful landlords, elites, Makhdoom, Khakwanees, Hindu Brahmins and Sikh chiefs of Multan were selfish and they aided British for their own benefits.

So when we look at the war of independence in Multan we come to know about three important things:

- Role of Multan's local settled army and its role as "Mujahideens".
- Role of landlords, Makhdooms, Hindu Brahmins and the Indian civil employees.
- Role of the warrior nation, peasants and settled people of Multan and its adjacent areas.

Col. G. W. Hamilton was commissioner of Multan at the time of War of Independence. He learnt about the news of the Mutiny out break from R. Montgomery, Esquire, C. S., Judicial commissioner of Lahore on the evening of 13th May 1857⁴¹. Multan was accessible by the mutineers and the government had to take vital steps to safeguard the fort and the river. Keeping the routes open was vital for the communication and reinforcements from Bombay in case of emergency. Most of the local Muslims were in support of Bahawalpur State and this was creating an insecure situation for the British. They were afraid that the locals

might attack along the mutineers and take over the fort. No such obvious indication was established yet the loyalty of the local troops was doubted. As the issue of cartridges was already discussed among troops and any order of the usage of these could instigate the war. The instances described in the reports of Hamilton shows that the sepoys and the locals were not ignorant of the situation going around in the sub-continent. The British army officers, Station Commander Colonel Hicks, Brigade Staff Major Chamberlain and Captain of Police Captain Trouson, were confident that reliance could be laid on the troops. Captain Trouson with his men defended the old fort and Lieutenant Etheridge of the Indian Navy detained a steamer until Multan was defended.

In 62th and 69th Regiment of Native Infantry some disturbance occurred which made the British to take decision of unarming the troops ⁴²(Illustration on Annexure II⁴³). The orders were carried out on by Major Chamberlin Commander 1st Irregular Cavalry. Many people of town gathered to congratulate Commissioner Major Hamilton for taking such a wise and well in time measure⁴⁴. The ceremony of disarming went on smoothly, though slight hesitation was shown by 69th Regiment. The orders were read to them clearly stating that no action will be taken against them⁴⁵. As the disarming was done at the cantonment, a strong guard of the 69th Regiment Native Infantry posted at local treasury in the Eid Gah was also peacefully disarmed by the Katar Mookhi Battalion and Mounted Police headed by Captain Trouson.

Disarming of 69th Regiment-Multan:

In Multan, when the 69th regiment was disarmed some severe measures were taken against the culprits of mutiny. Four sepoys involved in the conspiracy were caught and executed. Multan also served as the transit for the troops. On 14th June 1st Regiment Cavalry marched to the Ferozepur. Movement of the troops was

occurring on a high scale. 3 companies of 2nd Punjab Infantry arrived at Dera Ghazi Khan. On 19th, 20th and 21st June left wing of 1st Bombay Fusiliers arrived from Sindh. They were to move on to Lahore. As the troops were moving from Multan to the different areas like Delhi and Lahore, there was a fear of outbreak due to the lack of troops. But the large movement of Baloch Battalion and Right wing of 1st Bombay Fusilier materialized on the 8th of July which marched to Ferozepur on 10th July. To avoid any mischievous incident elaborate search was carried out. Ban was imposed on purchase and selling of gun powder and percussion caps. Even meetings were arranged and Major Voyle and Major Chamberlain stayed in touch. During one of these meetings few arrested sepoy of 69th Regiment told about certain actions taken to help mutineers by some of their own men. So arrangements were made to collect evidences. After the completion of evidences which proved Nahu Khan Subaidar Major as offender. He was arrested on Monday 20th July and was court marshalled⁴⁶. On 30th July all mutineers were executed⁴⁷. Due to this barbarian act of British, the freedom fighter reacted and killed an English officer and European soldiers of Artillery. They ran to city to get support of locals of Multan but they were stopped at Shawala Bridge, to avoid any damage or disturbance. The majority of them were killed. But the supporters of British were helping in catching freedom fighters who escaped towards river Chenab, Shujabad, and Jalal Pur Piranwala⁴⁸. On the morning of 11th August, the Native troops of Horse Cavalry were disarmed in the presence of European Company of Artillery and two companies of Fusiliers. Brigadier Farquharson's order was read to them. 11th Regiment Punjab Infantry was raised on the same day. It assisted in the defense of Cantonment and dispersal of rebels⁴⁹. The ammunition collected while disarming troops was utilized by volunteers of other companies. The only reliable mean of communication and transportation was road. The road safety was given great importance under Major Voyle, a camel train was

established to link Multan, Lahore and Ferozepur⁵⁰. It helped in transportation of arms and ammunition received from Sindh. A movable column was also established which consisted of⁵¹:

- 100 European Infantry
- 250 Punjab Infantry and Police Battalion
- 200 Irregular Cavalry
- 2 Horse Artillery Guns manned by Europeans

Muharram was approaching in the end of August. Very strict and vigilant efforts were done. Precautions included strengthening of Police and increase in patrolling activities. 11th Punjab Infantry under a European officer placed one Company in the central position. The Muharram passed peacefully and nothing of importance happened during the month of August in District Multan. On 17th of September an insurrection was broken in Gugera. The mail carts were looted possibly by the predatory tribes of Bars. The only force available to deal with the situation was newly raised Sowars and levy. A party of 80 Sowars of the 1st Irregular Cavalry of Tolumba under Captain Frasier and Major Chamberlain was moved on 18th September and 100 Sowars next day on 19th September⁵². The order of dismissal of Hindustanis was delayed, which gave time to the “Rangers” from the Hansi territory to run away with their weapons. It was extended to the establishment of Sutlej preventive lines. Immediate arrangements were required to suppress them because of presence of many hostile tribes near Sutlej.

Captain Trouson, Captain of Police and Major Veroye, Deputy Commissioner were instructed by the Commissioner to move to Kahrur, the headquarter of Sutlej Preventive Line. They reached there with 100 mounted Police and disarmed them. The situation came under control and the communication with Jhang was reestablished via Shorkot. Force from Layyah was moved to join them for assistance and the communication with Lahore was also reopened. Major

Voyle was assisted by the chiefs of Langrial clan, who had strong position in the pasture tracts of the Multan Districts. Salabats, Singanas and Hirajs helped in preventing the insurrection in to Shorkot and the banks of Chenab. A group of freedom fighters moved to Sarai Sidhu, where Bhawal Langrial assisted British to stop them but was killed. Malik Hassu, Mehr Sultan Hiraj, Hant Sargana also supported British to stop the fighters but they failed in their attempt.

On 25th September it was reported that Mr. Chamberlain would engage with the insurgents at Cheecha Watni. To assist him troops were sent from Multan and Lieutenant Colonel Paten also joined him from Gugera. This was a grave mistake. Captain Fendall Deputy Commissioner of Layyah detached a party of the 17th Regiment, Irregular Cavalry under Captain Hoekin along with newly raised levies and police to assist Deputy Commissioner of Jhang. Meanwhile a wing of the 2nd Regiment, Irregular Cavalry reached Jhang from Gujranwala. The Deputy Commissioner Captain Hawes was instructed to move immediately towards Kammalia. The moves on insurgents were now getting closer to them. Major Chamberlain was on the left bank of River Ravi and Lieutenant Colonel Paton from Gugera. This forced the rebels to take refuge at Jullee, which was their stronghold.

On 8th October, Maj. Hamilton Commissioner of Multan moved to join Lieutenant Colonel. Paton's forces. He was assisted by the leading man of districts. These elites and significant personalities of Multan provided a sense of security to British. The leaders of the freedom fighter Ahmed Khan Kheral, Mokah Dani Wal, Nadir Shah, Mehr Daleel Fatiana, Wahniwal Kathia, Joyay, Lak, Watto, Baghailay and Kheral were on the forefront. They had established an independent state and were not submitting revenues. They fought bravely and war ballads sung by the locals for recalling their bravery⁵³. According to the British Gazetteer

published in 1883–84, Gugera’s Ahmed Khan Kheral roused all the important tribes on the Ravi side of a district now known as Sahiwal⁵⁴. In Multan division, Jhang, Gugera and most of the Ravi valley was in control of the tribes like Joyas, Kathiyas, Sials, Wattos, and Kharals. A few clans like the Wahniwals (a Jutt clan), Bhageelas (a Khatia clan), Fatianas and Mardanas (both Sial clans) were also very distinctive. These tribes and clans controlled large tracts of land and villages inhabited by inferior farmers. They also had in control large Bar grazing grounds in the Bari and Rachna doabs. The following table shows their numbers in the three districts of Multan division according to 1881 census⁵⁵.

	Joyas	Khatias	Kharrals	Sials	Wattos
Gugera	6,562	3,809	21,448	7,886	11,644
Jhang	2,203	774	3,216	36,811	353
Multan	5,532	7,558	3,356	23,597	100

On the evening of 11th October Maj. Hamilton reached Makhoom pur and the plan was prepared to deal the law breakers on the left bank of the Ravi. Captain Snow took the command from Lieutenant Colonel Paton, who was ordered for Lahore. On the other side Major Voyle and Captain Fieuson continued to occupy Pak Pattan and Major Voyle returned to Multan. Now the insurgents were being handled with very strong hands. Information was received that a large number of mutineers/insurgents were moving towards Jeewan. A party of 25 Infantry 50 sowars was detached and the insurgents were defeated. Major Jackson did not go further than Mulloke and on 19th October he returned

to Pak Pattan. But meanwhile the lawbreakers (Mujahideens as called by the locals) had entered in several villages of Pak Pattan Tehsil. When Captain Mc Andrews' column along with Commissioner advanced, the Mujahideens moved to the strongholds of Sutlej.

On 28th October Commissioner moved to Kabboola to join Major Jackson for attacking the Mujahideens near Jumlera in the jungles on the Sutlej. Major Marsdan with Captain Mc Andrew's column followed the lawbreakers into the Bar. Till 1st November all the forces gathered near Jumlera including Major Chamberlain and Captain Tulloh's 200 men of the 2nd Punjab Infantry. On 2nd November a large attack was carried on into the jungle on Sutlej but Mujahideen fled to Bahawalpur territory due to the delayed action. After this campaign no significant operation was carried out. The stronghold at Jullee, camps in Bar and the vastness on Sutlej were all forcefully attacked and now the Mujahideen were in no position to oppose the government. The surrendering of the chief of Khatiya tribe, Mahomed Khatiya, on 7th November made the others to follow him and lead to the tumble down of the rebellion movement. To deal with the rebels and their attacks the British used their old weapon of divide and rule, by offering them prizes in the form of land and titles. So Malik Machia Langriyal, Nawab Mustafa Khan Khakwani, Makhdoom Sheikh Hamid Ganj Buksh IV's son Makhdoom Walait Shah Gilani, Sadiq Muhammad Khan Kotwal Multan, Sarfaraz Khan Kharal, Mehr Shah Bukhari and some Sikh chiefs helped British and at the order of Cortland along with thousands of men attacked the freedom fighters at Jumlera where after a fierce fight Ahmed Khan Kharel and Nadir Shah were martyred⁵⁶.

On 12th November Major Chamberlain returned to Multan leaving 100 Infantry and 100 Cavalry at Jumlera for the protection. The rebels were punished, the plundered property was returned, and even the

murderers of Lieutenant Neville were apprehended and persecuted. The peace in Multan was restored and all the parts of the division were secured. **Reaction of locals:**

The most influential locals of Multan were the Muslims. Most of them were guardians of Sheikhs and successors of great religious scholars. The old Pathan nobility was also among the local natives. Excluding an exception all were faithful to British and ready to evince their loyalty towards them⁵⁷. The prominent loyal were Makhdooms headed by Shah Mehmood Qoreshi⁵⁸. They had been allies of British since the Punjab war. As they enjoyed good repute, the British Punjab government ordered Ghulam Mustafa Khan Leader of Khakwanis to organize an Irregular Cavalry which was immediately arranged and worked efficiently under the General Cortland⁵⁹.

The government had great threat from the people and clans living in Bars. Although they had the reputation of being the robbers and cattle lifters but due to the British government their activities had been limited and suppressed. Although during the whole situation the Commissioner called the chiefs of these clans and they expressed their best wishes and loyalty by giving some horses for the cavalry. The other districts which comprised the Multan division were Gugera and Jhang. The raising of the levies was also supervised in Gugera by Lt Elphinstone to raise a new Punjab Regiment⁶⁰. Jhang is 100 miles away from Multan. The Lt. Hawks the Deputy Commissioner with the help of 16th Regiment Native Infantry along with the company of Kattar Mukhi Police Battalion, had already taken necessary measures to keep the situation in control at Jhang. Rather they raised Mounted Police troops to assist the Jhelum government.

Aftermath of War of Independence

The freedom fighters were dealt severely after the mutiny was over. Hundreds were sent to exile to the “Kala Pani” (Nikobar/ Ceylon) which included Mokah Wahniwal and Lal Khan Baluch. The process of revengeful activities did not end here. The supporters and allies were awarded with lots of prizes and faithful loyal men of British were given rewards and Lands and Makhdooms, Khakwanis and landlords were awarded immensely⁶¹. It is stated that the natives of Multan and Lahore along with soldiers from armies of states of Punjab were recruited in that fighting force which helped in taking the throne of Delhi and gave it in the hands of the British for the coming 100 years⁶². The general political management of the Multan Division, with its varied hosts of warlike clans and tribes, was secure in the grasp of Major Hamilton⁶³. Mutiny of 1857 was like an eruption of the social volcano⁶⁴. The British did not spare any culprit involved in the Mutiny. A large scale massacre was carried out on both sides. Many were executed as a good number of sepoys of 69th Regiment were involved⁶⁵. In 1859 Punjab including Multan was given under the Lieutenant Governor, instead of the Chief Commissioner. Railway line from Amritsar to Multan was laid and its inauguration was held on 8th February 1859⁶⁶.

The people of Multan and the natives of adjacent areas did take an active part in the war of independence, which is very much evident from the fact that when the news of mutiny reached Multan on 13th May the Native Infantry Regiments showed disorder. The local farmers of the Bars actively built their strongholds and gave tough time to the British forces. The mutineers were the heroes for the natives, these freedom fighters included Ahmed Khan Kheral, Mehr Daleel Fatiana and Lal Khan Baluch. They engaged the British army in guerilla war⁶⁷. The local Makhdooms, Khakwanis, Kureshis and Hirajs sided and supported the British Government and

fought against these untrained and scarcely equipped freedom fighters. Resulting in an ultimate defeat as the surrender of leading men like Mahnum Katiya. It was followed by other local chiefs along with the natives were awarded with lands, titles and even with precious jewels. The British were successful in punishing the several notorious criminals and large executions were held⁶⁸. About forty seven prominent chieftains were rewarded for their “loyalty” in 1857 with: Titles like Khan Bahadur or Sardar Bahadur ,Military honors like the Order of British India or the Order of Merit ,Cash awards ,Khil’ats ,Jagirs ,Pensions ,Land grants

Table provides the details of the rewards⁶⁹

Number of Chief tains	Rewards							
	Number of titles and honours	Cash khi’lats		Jagirs		Pensions		Number of land grants
		Number	Value RS	Number	Value RS	Number	Value RS	
47	19	18	22,900	19	25,250	8	6,260	8

Conclusion

It would be inappropriate to narrate that the British did not face any resistance in Punjab. They were threatened very seriously. Delhi fell to the large organized British army. British were able to handle and break the strength of the rebels in the different areas of Multan only till the end of year 1857. In the first week of July 1858 the Governor General Canning proclaimed peace in the sub-continent. Delhi was taken over by a combined army of British and Punjabi soldiers on 20th

September 1857. Still the major parts of Gangetic plain and central India were in the hands of the rebels. During the winters of 1857-58 the British through their troops sent from Britain and the new Punjabi recruits defeated the rebels in a series of set campaigns in Rohail Khand, Oudh and Bundel Khand. The Governor General Lord Canning, was able to proclaim peace in the first week of July 1858.

The details clearly show that it was a massive revolt which began from Merut and spread across the Sub Continent. It was perceived that British introduced such administrative reforms and political and social measures which were not in accordance with the practice of locals. The missionary involvement was threat to the religious beliefs. The different legislative measures and judicial decisions were also taken as attack on local setups. The cartridge issue ignited the situation and the soldiers, Princess and people all reacted. It is portrayed that during the massive war there was not much of reaction in Punjab. But we saw how people in Multan and adjoining areas reacted and gave a tough resistance to British.

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