

P R E F A C E

In 1710 A. D. the separate Maratha State of Karveer was founded by Tarabai, the daughter-in-law of Shivaji the great. This branch of Maratha State had lasted upto 1949, when it merged into Indian Union. The Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur were the direct descendants of Chhatrapati - Shivaji. So this family was occupying an important place and status in the history of Marathas.

Unfortunately this State had to face many perils from various comers. In 17th century the East India Company established its commercial monopoly and consequently political hegemony over many parts of India. The English were superior in every way. The Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur had to sign a number of agreements with the East India Company by which the English obtained many trading facilities, licences and political concessions. The time was against the Chhatrapatis. Some Chhatrapatis like Shivaji II and Buwasaheb were trying to shake off the British yoke, but they did not succeed in their mission.

Here an attempt has been made to trace the - relations between this Chhatrapati family with the English right from the inception of the State, i.e. since 1710 to

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the Great Revolt of 1857 and the Chhatrapatis were failed and how English became victorious. This period constitutes one of clash between the expanding British Empire and waning Karveer Maratha State. During these momentous years the British outplayed the Karveer Chhatrapatis both in war and diplomacy.

This is a descriptive-cum-interpretative study of British relations with the Karveer State by using original source material such as Nivdee; Chitanisi; Parasnisi, Daftars housed in Kolhapur Archives. As well as Treaties and Engagements signed by the British with the Chhatrapati. In this work I have also consulted so many published works relating to this topic.

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