

C H A P T E R - V I

C O N C L U S I O N

CONCLUSION

Before going to conclude about the relationship between the Mysore and the Marathas, it is desirable to understand the Maratha policy towards Mysore. When we review the Maratha policy towards Mysore in the 18th Century many more things come to light. The Maratha policy towards Mysore remained the same throughout the 18th Century, but it underwent changes after the death of Peshwa Madhavrao-I in 1772. The Marathas during the reign of four Peshwas viz, Balaji Vishwanath, Bajirao, Balajirao and Madhavrao were all aggression in nature but their intention was to get maximum tribute from the Mysore state.

Bajirao-I who led the expedition of 1726-27 was aggressive in nature and expeditions undertaken by Balajirao during 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756 and 1757, captured the North Karnataka territories such as Bagalkot, Savanur and Bidnur. These series of expeditions never brought friendly relations with Mysore. Further, during the reign of Peshwa Madhavrao-I, he too followed the traditional hostility towards Mysore and undertook periodical expeditions over Mysore in 1762, 1765, 1767, 1770 and 1771 all these expeditions show that they applied the expansionist policy rather than friendship.

Soon after the death of Peshwa Madhavrao-I the policy

was somewhat relaxed. Though Marathas fought a number of battles against Mysore, ultimately it taught a lesson (to both powers) of organising together to drive out the growing foreign power i.e. Britishers. It was an irony of History that the anti-British confederacy organised in 1780 among the Indian powers-Peshwa, Bhonsale, Nizam and Haidar could not work out. It did not come into effect. But this organisation shows the friendly attitude of the Marathas towards Mysore.

Soon after the death of Haidar Ali and succession of Tipu in Mysore, and political disorder in Maratha Kingdom, led the Marathas to continue the traditional policy of their previous rulers, towards Tipu Sultan. The series of battles from 1782 to 1787 show the Marathas utter negligence of fighting for the common cause viz, driving out of Britishers, Marathas joined their hands with Britishers, this shows the hatred towards Mysore. But we have information to reveal that the Maratha generals like Haripant Phadke expressed his desire of extending friendship with Tipu during 1790.¹ This shows they were not interested in territory but in money.

In this connection the role of Nana Phadnis deserves attention. Nana guided and designed the Maratha policy, but he was unable to bring the two powers together on the single platform of friendship. Mysore rulers always showed the

willing ears to the Maratha's demands but there was no reciprocity from the Marathas.

During the period of Bajirao-II the Maratha policy towards the Mysore was not exactly known as the Peshwa was willing to have a friendly relations but, Britishers insisted to keep him away from Tipu Sultan. Nana too kept mum, when Tipu's ambassadors visited and sought the help of Peshwa. With his (Nana) silence Peshwa could not take firm decision and this paved the way for the fourth Anglo Mysore war of 1799 in which Tipu was killed.

After reviewing the above points it is clear to say that, Marathas were interested in capturing the places and not developing it and exacting tribute from them. Thus, they were interested more in money than in the territory.

When we look at the good and bad results of Maratha policy towards Mysore, right from the Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath up to 1799 they captured all most all North Karnatka territories and they handed over to the local chieftains to carry on the administration of the state, they sought military assistance from the Marathas in case of any danger from Mysore rulers. Marathas exacted huge amount of Chauth and Sardeshmuki but they never planned to develop these territories. This was the negative attitude of Marathas on their vassals.

As far as good things are concerned, it is deserving to mention here that, when Tipu committed atrocities on Hindu in 1787, the credit must go to the Marathas for teaching a lesson to Tipu by defeating him. Marathas restored the ruined principalities to original form and struggled hard to popularising Hinduism in the Deccan in the wake of Muslim rule in Mysore.

As far as the Mysore policy towards Marathas are concerned, Mysore rulers right from the Dalvoys, Haidar Ali, and Tipu Sultan's periods they followed the policy of resistance to the Maratha expansionist tendency. As Mysore had no good relations with neighbouring Karnataka powers (Nayakas of Chitradurga, Nayakas of Ikkeri or Bidnur), they had to pick-up the resistance policy to save the Mysore kingdom.

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