

CHAPTER - VI

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KOLHAPUR STATE

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#### STATE

The Revolt of 1857 was "the most enigmatic event of British Indian history". The great out-break of 1857 is a memorable episode in India history and there is no other event in the history of India of which we possess so many contemporary or nearly contemporary records and accounts and memories, reviews, reminiscences, and historical studies, culminating in six big volume of official history written during the next fifty years.

Scholars and historians have expressed divergent opinions on the character of the outbreak. A few writers, such as S. B. Chaudhari have looked upon the revolt as "the first combined attempt of many classes of people to challenge the foreign power."<sup>1</sup>

They call it a civil rebellion, though the initiative came from the sepoys. Other scholars, such as R. C. Mujumdar, have expressed the view that the outbreak was largely the work of the army, though the general masses also played part in it.<sup>2</sup> A third view has been that the rebellion was a national war of

independence to drive the foreign rulers out of the country and to make it completely independent."<sup>3</sup>

The Government of India was inclined to treat it as the First War of Independence, and celebrated the centenary of the outbreak at the official level.<sup>4</sup>

D. C. Gupta also hesitates from calling the "1857" Uprising as the first war of national liberation. The feelings of patriotism and the conception of Indian nationality were still in the stage of infancy and did not become sufficiently strong until the last quarter of the nineteenth century.<sup>5</sup>

The causes for the outbreak of this great Revolt or the First War of Independence were many.

The main cause for the outbreak was the policy of Lord Dalhousie who came to India as Governor General in 1848, considered himself "advanced". He was a youth of 35 years and was full of energy and enthusiasm for "reforms". He wanted to introduce, so far as possible, Western ideas and institutions in India. He viewed with disgust the kingdoms and principalities which still survived "under inefficient and degenerate chiefs."

He applied the "Doctrine of Lapse" to several Hindu principalities and annexed the large Maratha

State of Nagpur in 1854, the small but powerful state of Satara, where the descendants of Shivaji ruled, in 1848, and the Maratha State of Jhansi, that was under the rule of a high-spirited Rani, in 1854. The Raja of Manipuri, Walidad Khan of Malaghaf in Bulandshahr, and the Muslim landowners of Furrukhabad, Bareilly and Rohilkhand lost their jagirs. All these annexations aroused great resentment and a feeling developed that the English were a "Faithless people" whose only object was to seize everything of value.<sup>6</sup>

Dalhousie deprived many ex-sovereign families of their titles and pensions. In 1852, Dalhousie appointed the Inam ("gift") Commission to investigate the titles of landowners, and, as a consequences of its recommendations he confiscated some twenty - thousand estates in the Deccan. This was too drastic a step and led to several cases of gross injustice for which the Government did little to rectify.

Another important characteristic of the British rule during the hundred years from 1757 to 1858 was the scornful attitude of an average Englishman towards the Indians. The British ridiculed the Indians as "Black Indians" worshipping, as they called it, "stocks and stones" and "swinging themselves on bamboo trees like beasts." The decline and fall of the Moghul Empire

affected the Muslims of India adversely. Grievances of the Sepoys was the important cause for the outbreak of 1857 rebellion.

While the Indian troops were asked to perform harder jobs, they were paid, fed and lodged poorly, and the result was that they always groaned against their ill-treatment.

Due to these and many other causes the outbreak of 1857 was took place and spread in the north India as well as in the South India. Early in 1857 signs of revolt began to appear in the army. On 29th March, Mangal Pandey, a Brahman sepoy of the 34th Native Infentry stationed at Barrackpur, openly mutinied. On 2nd May, the troops at Meerut rose, shoot their officers and marched towards Delhi. They proclaimed Moghul Emperor Bahadur Shah the Emperor of India and persuaded him to assume their leadership.

The revolt against the British rule began, and the trouble spread to U.P., Bengal, Bihar, Central India, Rajasthan, Deccan and the Punjab. The sepoy rebelled in all these places, and the disgruntled Princess, Nawabs and Chieftains - Nana Sahib, - Rani of Jhansi, Khan Bahadur Khan, Azimulla, Tantia Tope, and

Kunwar Singh assumed their leadership. The Hindus and the Muslims, the higher classes and the lower, the landowners and the farmers - all saw in the uprising an opportunity of avenging the wrongs done to them by the British, and they openly supported the rebels. For four months, during the summer of 1857, it appeared as though the revolt of the sepoys would develop into a real war of independence that would make re-conquest by the British impossible.

REVOLT IN MAHARASHTRA & KOLHAPUR :

Maharashtra was also involved in this great rebellion. In 1818 Peshwa was defeated by the British and the whole Maharashtra came under their sway. British installed Pratapsingh at Satara as the New Maratha Chhatrapati but the discontent and resentment against British rule was going on throughout Maharashtra. Later on Pratapsingh was deposed by the Britisher due to his association with Anti British activity. In 1844 Subhana Nikam from Kolhapur was the admirer of Chhatrapati Pratapsingh. This Subhana Nikam later on became one of the important rebel leader in Kolhapur State. Next important personality that attract our attention is Chhatrapati Chimsaheb, the brother of ruling

Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. In 1848 Satara Raj was confiscated by applying 'Doctrine of Lapses' by the then Governor General Lord Dalhousie. This drastic state adopted by British Government towards Maharatha Chhatrapati was not liked by subjects of Maharashtra. There was General discontentment and resentment against British.

Subhana Nikam had a relation with one Raghav Janardhan Apte from Limb in the Satara District. He was the Colleague of Subhana Nikam and started Anri - British activities in the Satara District. At the same time the gadkaries of Samangad in the Kolhapur District ~~where~~ revolted against the British authority under the leadership of Subhana Nikam. There were number of followers of Pratapsingh Raja of Satara, who were in close contact with the rebels of Kolhapur, State.

Subhana Nikam had 500 rebels and harrasing British in Kolhapur State while the followers of Pratapsingh were harrasing British in the Satara District. To curb this anti-British activities colonel Oahan, the Resident of Satara proceeded towards Kolhapur area. The followers of Pratapsingh captured Panhala and Pavangad. In January 1845 Ohan

proceeded rapidly towards Kolhapur but at Kasegaon, 10 miles west to Karad. The rebels imprisoned, and brought to Panhala. But later on in 1845 the revolt of Samangad was suppressed by the Britisher and Colonel Oahans was released and Subhana Nikam became Captive of East India Company. The imprisonment Colonel ~~of East India Company~~ Oahan for time being was a - humiliating to the Britisher so they kept a Battalion of 100 hourses at Islampur to watch the activities of - rebels.

In Kolhapur State itself, there were many anti-British activities. The appointment of Dajikrishna Pandit as a State Karbhari and later on the coming of First political agent D.C. Graham did not appreciate by the people Kolhapur State. D.C. Graham after assuming his office started a work of modernising Kolhapur. Before 1844 every fort was the head quarter of - Administration but Graham dismantled these forts and divided the whole Kolhapur State into Eight sub-division for administrative purposes, which later on developed as Tahasils. But the bad effect of this administrative was unemployment of many gadkaries who were formerly states servant. Thus, the people of Kolhapur State had many grievences against British Raj. Their Chhatrapati had no independent status but Babasaheb alias



Shahaji (1837 to 1866) was minor and puppet in the hands of British political Agent. These all factors led to the grand revolt of 1857 in Kolhapur State itself.

The first great attempt was made in Kolhapur State by 27th Bombay Native Infantry who revolted on 31 July 1857. This was the first spark of this great revolt in Kolhapur State. Before this event there is reason to believe that it was plotted in advance, and was meant to coincide with a general uprising by several princely states of the Deccan which, in the event failed to materialize. Behind this uprising were some of the most prominent people in Kolhapur. Still further behind we discern the hand of Nansaheb. As it happened, the rebellion of the soldiers of the 27th infantry dissipated itself within a matter of days, but the efforts of the men behind the scenes to rekindle an uprising even wider in scope continued long afterwards, notwithstanding the presence in their midst of a strong British column sent under Colonel Le Grand Jacob.

#### UNDERGROUND ORGANISATION OF REBELLION :

And the principal figure behind these efforts was the Chhatrapati's brother, Chimasahab who was then in his twenty-seven year.

Before July 31st, there had been a secret exchange of letters between Chimsaheb and the leaders of the revolt in the month. More significantly, from Lucknow Chimsaheb had received the gift of a sword traditionally an exhortation to the waging of wars. Some of the leaders of the revolt in Gwalior had come to Kolhapur and held talks with Chimsaheb. Chimsaheb is also known to have given an assurance to the messengers who had come to see him from Satara that the sepoys in Kolhapur and some of Deccan rulers were ready to join the revolt and only awaiting the necessary signal from Satara before making an open declaration.<sup>9</sup>

There was certainly some connection between the revolt at Satara and Kolhapur, and Sitaram Gupte, the son of Rango Bapuje Gupte had gone of England to represent the case of the Satara Chhatrapati, was in Kolhapur in July 1857, was one of the key men in - carrying messages across. There was also an exchange of letters between some of the men of the 27th Infantry and their Friends in the school of musketry in Poona over the offending cartridges. It is against this background of preliminary preparations that the uprising of the 27th Infantry must be viewed.

By this time, the revolt had been raging all over the north and the British authorities were getting

increasingly jittery that would spread to the south, this time, the political superintendent in Kolhapur was colonel Maughan. The 27 Native Infantry was - headed by captain Schneider.<sup>10</sup>

31st JULY :

The night of the 31st July was intensely dark, and it was raining heavily. That was when the 27th rose in arms, and detailed parties to attack the officers' bungalows. The 'Native adjutant' a Jew and a Hindu Havaladar, ran to give warning barely in time to permit the ladies of fly from their houses before the sepoys came up, and poured volleys into them. The government treasure chest and bazar were plundered, and riot - reigned supreme. Three officers who had escaped into the country were shot and thrown into the river the rest - took refuge in the Residency, about a mile from camp, but near the lines of the Kolhapur Local Infantry.<sup>11</sup>

This corps was commanded by an excellent officer, beloved and respected by his men, Captain John Schneider, now Colonel and Judge Advocate General of the Bombay Army.<sup>12</sup>

The 'Camp' as the lines of the Kasba and Bavda and the town of Kolhapur and was nearly a mile from

the Residency, between the camp and the Residency were the barracks of the Kolhapur Infantry. Captain Schneider of the Kolhapur Infantry hurriedly called out the men under his command and formed them up and open fire on the rebels and succeeded in throwing them back.

Thus, ironically, it was the 27th Infantry, the battalion posted in Kolhapur for the specific purpose - of preventing such an uprising, that had joined the revolt, while it was the Kolhapur infantry, mainly composed of ex-rebels from within the State itself that remained staunchly loyal to their officers and saved the British community, from annihilation.<sup>13</sup>

The rebels then turned towards the city -  
itself next day (1st August) mutineers left the -  
paga, and marched off, apparently to join their -  
comrades at Rutnagherry, but on descending the -  
Ghats they found the road blocked by the landing -  
of European soldiers sent by sea from Bombay. This time  
Colonel Maughan had managed to shut all the city gates  
later on Maughan launched an attack against the Paga  
but, after a sharp skirmish, the rebels drove back the  
attacking party and Maughan himself received a bullet  
wound. At this time both Maughan and Schneider sent off

telegrams to Belgaum and Bombay over the telegraph wires that had been laid barely three years earlier.<sup>14</sup>

While Schneider's telegram was duly sent, Maughan's was held back by the telegraph clerk, whether from sympathy for the rebels or from fear of victimization by them is not known.<sup>15</sup>

The greater number of the mutineers under command of a Sawant Waree leader, one Ramjee Sirsat, betook themselves, the Waree Jungles, where the insurgents in 1844-45, had given such trouble, and they went through the jungles to join the revolt in Sawantwadi whilst the minority, about forty in number, returned to Kolhapur and again took possession of the Paga.<sup>16</sup>

The British officers in Kolhapur had taken refuge in the Residency which, happily for them was situated near the lines of the Kolhapur infantry which had remained steadfastly loyal to them. Here they were attacked on August 10th by volunteers from their own regiment, Lieutenant Kerris detachment of S.M.Horse.<sup>17</sup> Whole splendid march some of the artillery borrowed from the town nearly useless, and some of the local Corps, all under Major Rolland, the commanding Officer of the 27th.<sup>18</sup>

Even though Kerr was supported by two guns, the attack was resolutely repelled. What happened, afterward is best described in the words of Kaye's remarkably balanced account in the Six volume 'History of Mutiny !

" They made a desperate defence-but a secret entrance to the outwork having been pointed out to lieutenant Kerr, the gallant officer, dashed in followed by horsemen whom he had caused to dismount, and fought his way to the interior of the building. At the same time, Lieutenant Innes, with a party of the 27th took the rebels in the rear. This two attacks decided the affair."<sup>19</sup>

On August 1st, Lord Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay, had sent a force to Kolhapur under the command of an officer Colonel G. Le. Grand Jacob. In August 10th when the last of the active rebels were mopped up in the paga. It was not till the 14th that he arrived in Kolhapur, to find that the Mutiny had been already quelled."<sup>20</sup>

Four days later, Jacob proceeded to deal out the summary and barbaric vengeance that was so characteristic of the victors in those days and which Edward Thompson has described as "Indiscriminate butchery" and about which Lord Canning the first viceroy, was to write to Queen Victoria.

There is a rabid and indiscriminate vindictiveness abroad, even among many who ought to set a better example, which it is impossible to contemplate without a feeling of shame for one's countrymen.

But here Kaye, for all painstaking attention to detail and his prolixity, only pauses long enough to applaud the courage displayed by Jacob in handling the mechanics of disarming such rebels as were available to be disarmed, and with understandable disarmed, and with understandable disrelish, moves on to other centres of revolts. Less circumspectly, Mr. T. Rice Holmes supplies the grisly statistics. It was not till 18th August, and after he had been reinforced by two horse-artillery cannons and a hundred British soldiers, that Jacob proceeded to disarm the rebels. He had with him the men he had brought out from Bombay, to say nothing of Schneider's Kolhapur Infantry. On the very next day so speedy was the process of justice, Jacob pronounced sentences.

" Twenty-one prisoners were convicted, two were hanged, eleven shott, and eight blown away from guns".<sup>21</sup>

Captain John Schneider, observed a man on finding himself caught putting something in his mouth which he endeavoured hastily to swallow. He was at once seized, and

a partly chewed paper drawn from his throat, which proved to be a letter of a highly treasonable character from certain parties at Poona to the confidential attendant of the Ranee's husband, the elder Raja.<sup>22</sup>

Jacob's force consisted of two guns horse artillery, two howitzers, mountain train, twenty five men, under Sealy; about ninety men, 2nd European Light Infantry, under Colonel Guerin; one hundred and eighty S. M. Horse, under Lieut. Keer and about three hundred and fifty Kolhapur Local Infantry commanded by Captain John Scheneder amply sufficient if the native portion proved faithful.<sup>23</sup>

Jacob had arrived too late on the scene to take the credit for breaking the actual revolt; so he applied himself diligently to the task of trying to discover who the real architects of the revolt were. He kept up the climate of terror he had created at a high pitch by administering regular booster shots as it were, for over next few weeks, as many as fifty one other rebels were blown off from guns. He used to go up and down the lines off from the victims openly offering pardons to anyone who would reveal the names of their real leaders. He himself describes one of these incidents in which a severely wounded soldier was being assisted by others to walk upto the gun from which he was to be blown off, even



in his agony the man gave the impression of holding himself erect, says Jacob.

"Shook off the men who were lifting him to the gun burst his bandages and forward with an air of defiance. I felt a great compassion for him ----- and told him how it grieved me to see so fine a soldier in this miserable condition.

"Only promise to tell me the whole truth and you shall be at once united from the gun and your spared." He looked at me with a scowl and smile mingled and - answered, "What I have done, I have done," then turned his head and remained silent."<sup>24</sup>

Jacob could not proceed to trial on the - unsupported evidence of an accomplice, yet he felt justified in making prisoners of Sabadar Daood Beg, and a few others prominently named; and some time elapsed before the confessions of one prisoner after another gave me further stepping-stones towards unravelling the mystery.<sup>25</sup>

Whenever this happened, the parties were kept completely separated, so as to admit of no possibility of intercommunication and the confessions being thus made agreement as to facts and persons became of the nature of judicial proof.

Over the weeks, Jacob was able to piece together similar odd bits of information, but he never discovered any of the names. Jacob found out how it was that the Regiment had been deceived in its hopes of admission into the town on the night of the mutiny. The plan of the joint conspirators had been to rise on the 10th of August, and that day was, therefore, given out as the one on which the new cartridge was to be issued to them.<sup>26</sup>

But the native adjutant, a Jew, was distrusted in the Regiment, and when, on July 31, he was discovered that he was sending away his fidelity, if not for his co-operation, it was taken as a sign that he was about to betray them. After dusk that evening, some of the leaders held a council, whereat an additional motive for prompt action was brought forward, for though a native employs in the telegraph office, it had leaked out that European soldiers were being sent from Bombay. It was decided to rise at once, but this having been done without concert with the town, our chief functionary there had been to keep the gates closed.<sup>27</sup>

It was thus that the Kolhapur revolt went off at half-cock, eleven days before the date set for it. The rebels had planned to get into the fortified city and to hold it, but, the warning given by the Native Adjutant and another soldier, to say nothing of their own -

propensity for looting prevented them from gaining the city gates in time.<sup>28</sup> Battalions in Belgaum and Dhanwar who were waiting for the 10th of August, remained in ignorance of it till it was too late for them to join in. By August 10th as the Kolhapur revolt had been already put down.<sup>29</sup>

THE MIDDLE OF 31st JULY TO 5th DECEMBER :

So predictably, vigorous plotting went on behind the scenes. Late in September Jagannath Wasudev Thatte came to Kolhapur with a message from Nanasaheb, addressed to Babasaheb Maharaj. The message sent from Kolhapur was dated September 13th.

"Upto this day, we are safe and well. Even though the army in Kolhapur revolted, you did not support them. Now you must endeavour to bring about another uprising. Remember, you bear an illustrious name. We on our part are determined to give our lives if need be. Some of the battalions of Scindia have joined us and even Bayjabai is on our side. God will help us. You should make the maximum endeavours. On the side of the British there is untruth and their intentions are dishonest. This letter must be put into the hands of the Maharaj."<sup>30</sup>

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But now, Babasaheb had acquired a realistic respect for the all powerful British, his younger brother the ebullient dynamic, stormy petrel of the family - Chimasaheb, who boldly accepted the challenge.

On November 15th Elder Raja Babasaheb called on the political Agent to acquaint him that he had heard of an intention to attack our camp; but, as he stated this on mere rumour, not knowing if it were true, nor giving any clue to trace its origin, he was only bringing coals to Newcastle. Jacob says, "Had his brother been our informant, Jacob should at once have suspected a ruse, but the elder prince was indolent, quiet, and inoffensive, not likely to join in, or perhaps be trusted in any intrigue. The younger brother, Chikka Sahib, on the contrary, was a man of energy, a true descendant of Sivaji, and highly popular in the country."<sup>31</sup>

In view of the fact that Chikasaheb's behind the scenes work, was shrouded in secrecy, and also because the records of the times were either suppressed or - destroyed by the eventual victors, it is difficult to evaluate just how much Chikasaheb was personally responsible for the next outbreak of insurrection in Kolhapur. However, from the retribution that followed, it is clear that he took a prominent part in organizing it, or at least that the British were convinced of his complicity.

On December 4th as Jacob was "sitting facing the entrance doorway," he noticed a young man expostulating with the sentries outside. After the young man had been admitted to Jacob's presence, he threw himself at Jacob's feet and informed him that he had "Just left a body of insurgents who had secretly gathered, to the number of five hundred, in the jungle of a village ten miles off; that he understood their purpose was to attack my camp, and he had left them on the plea of obtaining his parent's permission to join them."

Jacob thereupon sent two of his own scouts to accompany the young man and to get first hand information. They had found, says Jacob.

"The insurgents in scattered groups concealed among the trees, their supplies being furnished from the neighbouring village, but none would say who had brought them together."<sup>33</sup>

The old palace built by Buwasaheb in 1838 was very high and on 4th December, 1857 at midnight some of the rebels entered into palace, with the help of ladder they crossed the wall of the palace. Phirangonji Shinde the leader was present and for time being they were the masters of palace and Kolhapur city itself. To suppress

these rebels, Jacob ordered his men to proceed against the rebels. At the same time he proposed to lead and assault against gate, which was nearest to the Residency. Jacob then rushed to the Residency and raised the alarm for the inmates to proceed their allotted places in the aforesaid bullock-shed.

Meanwhile the city had been taken over by the rebels. Jacob had 200 white troops under him.

From 31st July, 1857 to 5th December, 1857 was the period of revolt in Kolhapur. Captain Jacob was finally successfully suppressed the rebellion and established again British supremacy over the Kolhapur Raj. In this revolt 103 rebels were killed in this uprising in Kolhapur State.<sup>34</sup> Phirangoji Shinde also died while he was fighting against British and left behind his name in the annals of freedom movement of Kolhapur State.

The second person to whom we may remember in connection with the revolt of 1857 in Kolhapur was Chimasaheb Maharaj, the brother of then ruling Maharaja, Babasaheb Alias Shivaji III (1838 to 1866). This Chimasaheb was born on 8th January, 1831 and was the son of Buwasaheb Maharaj. In 1838 his father Buwasaheb breathed his last and earlier when Chimasaheb was child of only two months,

his mother Narmadabai died. Thus, in 1838 Chimasahab was became an orphan. From the beginning this Chimasahab developed an anti-British attitude. About Chimasahab Jacob writes, "The younger brother Chimasahab was a man of energy and a true descendent of Shivaji."<sup>35</sup>

Later on he maintained relations with Nanasaheb and other leaders of the revolt. So British resident was suspicious about the activities of Chimasahab during the revolt when breakout in Kolhapur. After suppressing revolt in Kolhapur, British turned their attention towards Chimasahab being held him culprit of 1857 who supported the rebellions so they captured him and sent to Karachi where he died on 15th May, 1869.

This Chimasahab became a legendary hero and his memorial was later on erected on the bank of river Sukh at Karachi. He was regarded as a great freedom fighter who lost his life for the liberation of his country from the British yoke.

Another person whom we may remember with the uprising of 1857 was Anna Fadnis who had taken a leading part in organising the 1857 uprising in Satara. From there, he had gravitated to Kolhapur where he had become a close confident of Chimasahab and can be presumed to have been one of the principal figures behind the Kolhapur revolt.<sup>33</sup>

EFFECTS OF THE UPRISING :

By the end of the year 1857 the insurrection in Kolhapur had been utterly crushed, as indeed it was in the major centres of the North, Delhi and Kanpur.

After the revolt of 1857 there were many changes in the State administration and society also. English introduced many administrative changes and removed old by appointing new officers in their place. They took weapons and ammunitions from the people.<sup>37</sup>

But the important and noteworthy events was the end of East India Company's rule in India by this revolt. The Company's government had been replaced by the Queen's government much to the resentment of the Company's officials and soldiers (November 1st, 1858). Thus, the uprising marked a turning point in the history of modern India. It exercised a tremendous influence upon the British policy in India. The cruelties caused by the rebels upon English men, women and children were for many years remembered with hatred. The British adopted, in the post-mutiny period, a policy of what has been called, "modest progress and steady reaction." Therefore, there were good and liberal Viceroy's, like Lord Charles Canning Mayo, North Brooke, and George Frederick Ripon, there were also conservatives like Lord Edward P. Lytton and George Curzon



who tried to undo as much as possible of what their predecessors had done. If on the credit side there were the establishment of Universities, construction of roads, railways and canals, introduction of local self-government in the big cities and passage of the Indian Councils Acts.

Apart from the general developments in the administration, the uprising led to three major changes of policy. The crown finally assumed control of the Indian Government; the army was completely recognised; and a new attitude was adopted towards the Indian Princely States.

ASSUMPTION OF CONTROL BY CROWN :

Under the Act for the better Government of India, 1858, the President was replaced by a Secretary of State for India, who was made directly responsible to the British Parliament. In India, the Governor General also became the Viceroy or the personal representative of the Queen, and he was subjected to a more rigorous control from the White Hall.<sup>38</sup>

REORGANIZATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY :

The Indian Army, being the pioneer of the insurrection, was remodelled. The proportion of Europeans to Indians was fixed at fifty fifty in the Bengal Army and

one to two elsewhere. The new army left out the Brahmans and Rajputs of such, and brought in men from other areas known for their martial qualities - the Sikhs from Punjab, Gurkhas from Nepal, and Pathans from the frontier. Drastic changes were made in the organization of the army.

ABANDONMENT OF THE POLICY OF

AMEXATION OF PRINCELY STATES :

The reorganization of the army had its counter part in a new attitude towards the Indian States, based on the need for a better balance of power.

Indian Nawabs and Princes still had sufficient hold upon their subjects, and the British authorities realized the importance of their loyalty and support to perpetuate their rule in the country.

The policy of extending the British dominion by absorbing the Princely States, therefore, was abandoned, and the Hindu and Muslim rulers were allowed the right of "adoption". New Sanads were issued to them, and their existing territories were guaranteed. Although as a paramount power Britain retained the right of interference, the Queen's proclamation of 1st November, 1858 assured the Princes that the crown would regard their "rights, dignity and honour as our own." The Princes were even encouraged to interest themselves in all Indian matters.<sup>39</sup>

THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF  
UPRISING ON KOLHAPUR STATE :

The old officers of the State were replaced by new ones but the immediate and important effect was the visit of Sir George Clerke. The Governor of Bombay to Kolhapur (1861). During this visit Babasaheb, who was now over thirty, once again represented that he should be invested with ruling powers. In the prevailing mood of conciliation, some sort of grudging concession was unavoidable. When Clerke returned to Bombay, he announced that Babasaheb had been placed in full charge of his private estates but that in the administration of the State as a whole, he should work in close collaboration with the Political Agent, who, at the time, happened to be a man called Havelock. And in 1863 Babasaheb was invested with full powers.<sup>40</sup>

The outbreak of 1857 would surely go down in history as the first great and direct challenge to the British rule in India, on an extensive scale.<sup>41</sup>

Thus the year Eighteen Fifty Seven was a turning point in Indian history at which India failed to turn. Yet the Sepoy war marked the beginning of a new era which ended with the transfer of power by the British in 1947.<sup>42</sup>

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