

THE LESSONS DRAWN FROM THE BRITISH RULE IN BALOCHISTAN: AN APPRAISAL

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ABSTRACT

Balochistan, with its historically rich culture, is the largest province of Pakistan. It is located in a unique part of this region as it lies at the juncture of various civilizations, e.g. Iran in the West, Indus in the South, Gandhara in the North-East, and above all the Arabian Sea in the South-West directions. This has played a significant role in shaping the future fortune of Balochistan's populace. Being at the crossroad of trade and military routes, Balochistan has always offered an attraction to the adventurers of international politics.

In the same way, the British administration developed enormous interests in Balochistan because of its unique location. The paramount question in this paper is, why, despite all social, economic and political developments, is Pakistan still failing to solve the contemporary Balochistan issue? In this study, a historiographical technique of analysis is the base to evaluate the historical facts of the study critically. The lessons for a peaceful solution to this problem can be drawn from the history of Colonial (British) hundred-years-rule through effective policy manoeuvring according to the local and imperial interests.

Keywords: Pakistan, Balochistan Issue, History of British Rule, Lessons Drawn, Peaceful Solution

INTRODUCTION

Balochistan has been a golden sparrow. It is the largest province of Pakistan which naturally bestowed a unique Geostrategic location on the globe. Balochistan has historically played the most important role in shaping the political scenario of the entire region. However, the worth of this region is justified with its unique location being on the juncture of most important strategic passage "Bolan Pass", and historical doorway to India that indeed used to be the important source of trade between two opposite poles of the Indian subcontinent. However, its territory was also adjoining the hinterland of Persia on one side and its contiguity with the Indian border, on the other hand, made Balochistan a land always burdened by foreign occupation (Quddus, 1991). Due to this reason

until the 17th century, the history of Balochistan is primarily a narrative of outsiders who used to be conquerors merely passing through the region just as a route to Afghanistan or India. Owing to that, the civilised world had still bypassed the importance of this region in mainstream political engagements among big powers. This study comprehensively highlights the history of Balochistan in order to understand the historical background of British rule in Balochistan to draw lessons for a peaceful solution to the contemporary dilemma in Balochistan. Although plenty of literature exists on the political, national, social aspects of Balochistan, this paper will try to draw lessons from existing literature in terms of its pertinence to the existing history. Similarly, in terms of historical traces, very little is known about Balochistan until the rise of the 15th century. For a

long time, its history oscillated between obscurity and prominence, but the geostrategic importance of Balochistan has always been there to justify its worth in world history.

Historical Background Of Balochistan

The unique location of Balochistan being close to the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean add more enduring importance to its attraction. Owing to that, in 522-486 AD, the Darius I had conquered the state of Makran (Balochistan) along with some other parts of the recent Balochistan and incorporated them into his Empire (Axmann, 2008, p. 18). Similarly, it is also evident from the historical facts that Alexander the Great while on his retreat from India around 330BC had passed by this region when Balochistan was part of Seleucus Nicator's Satrapy (Axmann, 2008). Similarly, the footprints of Sultans like Chengiz and his successors during their rule 1150 to 1370 had also extended their influence to Makran with huge devastation.

Furthermore, the subsequent longest Timurid reign from 1370 AD till the rise of Mughal rule had also kept control of important parts of Balochistan along with Bolan Pass in order to collect trade revenues. In addition to that, from 1506 to 1747 this region had also been served to be a buffer zone or jumping pad that alternately fell prey to the hegemonic suzerainty of both Safavids of Iran as well as the Mughals of India. Despite the historical facts, throughout this time Balochistan remained subject to the ambitions of various rulers who had their eyes on Kandahar at par with adjacent areas to gain control of the main juncture between India and Central Asia for overland trade through the main gateway Bolan Pass (Axmann, 2008). Contemporarily, the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in order to get access to warm water has lent Balochistan added more worth to its strategic depth. Despite the fact, over the past two millennium years, Balochistan either has hindered or facilitated the engagements of large armies like Iranian, Greek, Arab, Mongol and especially British which greatly influenced world history (Iqbal, 1992, p. 1).

As this present study is not directly related with the historical explanation of the causes of the other

players attracted to Balochistan, discussion in this paper will only touch upon the British policies and constraints in the region that ensured their triumphal rule for more than a hundred years. However, their triumph could be determinedly drawn as a lesson to the contemporary issues like political instability, poor condition of law and order and militancy prevailing in Balochistan.

This topic has been the core subject of various political philosophers like Gull Khan Naseer, MuhammadJan, Naseer Dhasti, Syed Abdul Quddus, Shah Muhammad Marri and Inayatullah Baloch. However, very few national and international scholars have tried to trace the historical aspect of Balochistan. Regardless of that, this area needs further scholarly exploration to touch upon the aspect of historical movement before and after the British withdrawal from the subcontinent.

As such, the main question of this paper is to draw upon lessons from British hundred-years-rule in Balochistan through their successful policy (Forward Policy) of divide and rule. Nevertheless, enormous data still exists in the shape of autobiography as personal data by scholars in their libraries. This still needs scholarly effort to attract the attention of academia in the academic world. In connection with those primary sources, this paper shall be addressing the main question through sources which include District Gazetteers and the British administrative reports held in archives in Balochistan. These reports are considered to be firsthand primary information of the local people's relationships with the British in Balochistan for more than hundred years. This data will add quality to this research because of its access to these primary sources. This also provides historical data on successful British policies in Balochistan, and various restraints showed by local people against the British rule that later gave rise to nationalist Movements which are still untoward the Centre. This research will be an attempt to take Balochistan issue as a case study in order to highlight the contemporary problems such as political instability, poor condition of law and order and militancy etc. to draw lessons from British history in Balochistan to add new development to the historiography and subject matter of Balochistan.

A plethora of literature already exists on Balochistan issue; however, reference shall be made to academic works only which are directly related to the history of Balochistan. Some of these include well-known published primary sources such as *The Forward Policy and its Results* by Richard Issaq Bruce (2002) and the most recent works such as *A Princely Affair: The Accession and Integration of the Princely States of Pakistan 1947-1955* by Yaqoob Khan Bangash (2015), *Back to the Future: The Khanate of Kalat and the Genesis of Baloch Nationalism 1915-1955* by Martin Axman (2008) or *Speeches and Statements of Quaid-i-Millat Liaquat Ali Khan, 1941-1951* by M. Rafique Afzal (1867). In terms of the historical discipline, this study is inspired and affected by a large number of works of macro-history that do not necessarily find their way into the main text or reference. Perhaps the most significant of these are *Afghanistan: A New History* by Martin Ewans (2002), *Balochistan: Historical and Political Processes* by A. B. Awan (1985), *Contemporary History of Balochistan* by Malik Muhammad Saeed Dehwar (1994) which support the historical background of the British engagements in Afghanistan during and after the First Anglo-Afghan war. Other important influences in terms of relevance to Baloch nationalism and traditional tribal system include *Tribal Balochistan* by Sayed Abdul Qudus (1990), *The Emergence of Baluch Nationalism and The Problem of Greater Balochistan* by Inayatullah Baluch (1987), *Balochistan: Statehood and Nationalism* by Habib Jalib Baloch (2006), *Baloch Nationalism: Its Origin and Development* by Taj Mohammad Breseeg (2004).

The Development Of British Rule In Balochistan

British had already ruled different colonies across the world and knew well how to deal with tribal and the local people. Similarly, their strategic policies in North-Western Frontiers, particularly in Balochistan, were competed by two different schools of thoughts (Closed Border Policy 1842-1854) and (Forward Policy 1854-1876) with two different strategies. According to these two schools of thoughts, the British had perused two different policies at different intervals of time i.e., "The Closed Border Policy" and "The Forward Policy". However, "The Closed Border Policy" school

had viewed it as adverse to the objective of set policy in terms of their development towards the north-west because this system was only focusing on cultivating a friendly relationship with the local rulers on an intention to best defend the Indian empire.

Nevertheless, "The Forward Policy" school opted to peruse an active engagement in launching a chain of friendly states, mostly dependent on the British. In addition to that, it had become part and parcel of British policies in the north-west frontier regions to bring about the Khanate of Kalat (Balochistan), Afghanistan and Persia under their indirect control in order to counter the Russian invasion (Hopkirk, 2006). In fact, Czarist Russia was always in a position to add more strategically important areas to its sphere of influence. Contrary to that, British India had always perceived the rapid annexation of Russia as an indispensable significant threat to the security of their Empire (Hopkirk, 2006). Owing to that, the aforementioned two sorts of policies were applied alternatively which had indeed ensured British triumphed rule in Balochistan for more than a century. However, this study shall be focusing on drawing lessons from British rule over the area for a meaningful solution to contemporary turmoil in Balochistan.

British Policies And Constraints In Balochistan (1841-1947)

As a frontier strategy, the British had alternatively applied both policies in Balochistan in the middle of the nineteenth century. The closed border policy was pursued from 1854 to 1872 with its aim to counter any foreign threat to the authority and power of the Khanate of Kalat the old primitive system Balochistan (Charkrvarty, 2002). The British wanted to use this primitive system of authority to safeguard their interests in Balochistan. Similarly, for the subjugation of the indigenous Khanate's authority in Balochistan the British first isolated the Khan from tribes and then exploited his authority to rely upon British in order to sustain indirect authority over other superior tribes. Moreover, it could also be argued that the purpose of making Khanate as the sole representative of Balochistan was made possible by simultaneous

manipulations in the shape of various treaties and undue violation of the agreements by Khan that eventually led to successful British intervention in the region (Charkrvarty, 2002).

"The Closed Border Policy" 1854-1872

In the first phase of the British engagements in Balochistan, they had pursued "The Closed Border Policy" for due implications of inexpensive centralized political structure. In this regard it was part and parcel of their policy to take the local leaders in confidence; therefore they started to support Nasir Khan II from 1841 to 1857 and Khudadad Khan from 1857 to 1893 respectively in their reigns to centralize the authority in Balochistan. Owing to that the Treaty of 1854 was signed between the then Khan of Kalat Khudadad Khan and the British that predominantly aimed the Khan to get hegemony over the Mari and Bugti tribes settled in the vicinities of British Indian districts. For that matter, Khan demanded his authoritative rule over the entire Khanate supported by an independent military and political structure. Despite the fact, the British had provided all sorts of subsidies that made the Khan able to raise his small mercenary force independent of the influence of tribes and Sardars. In addition to that, he also installed loyal officials on key positions and tried to make his subjects the ranks of Sardars i.e., the position of traditional tribal heads more valuable by placing family members of royal families (Charkrvarty, 2002). In the evolutionary political developments however, in the beginning, they miscalculated the traditional status and position of Sardars. Because they were presumably treating Khan of Kalat as the supreme authority of the Khanates but, on the Khan's authority and power was already subjected to the Sardars as well the principle of traditional tribal federation.

Contrary to that, the Sardars were dismayed and perturbed over Khan's casual relationship with the British administration. They had viewed it an indispensable threat to their position and immediately started resistance to the British conspiracies at the back of Khan. This situation had resulted in some disturbance in the region.

Nevertheless, in the early phase of forcible interventions, they had felt huge hurdles followed by internal segregation of tribes that had led to the brink of war and uncertain condition. The status of Khan was still controversial since he was at the same time answerable to both British and local sardars respectively in order to ensure peaceful authority. The Khan of Kalat's 1854 agreement with British was already measuring his position as being more to abide by the conditions of the British administration at any cost. Similarly, if we apply the said condition on Balochistan right after its accession to Pakistan, it is evident from the historical facts that the concern authorities miscalculated the traditional norms of Sardari system followed by local population trace back to origin of Khanate of Kalat since 15th century that subsequently lead to challenging elements in Balochistan till date. Furthermore, the internal strife between the Khan and the Sardars had created more doubt in the agreement of 1854. Because Khan had assured the condition to the British authority that, he will be more accountable to the British as compared to Sardars. Thus, his status being more prone to British administration was making him controversial and also manifested his Khanate's authority in the insecurity that eventually resulted to a permanent quasi-state of war among the tribes and finally, Khan became weaker both economically and militarily (Ewans, 2001). Indeed, quasi-state of war in Balochistan among various tribes has become a very challenging issue for the government of Pakistan. Despite the fact, with time the British administration had also realized failure and decided to change their intention towards their frontiers keeping in view the results of "Closed Border" policies. Owing to that, 1872 onward they decided to make some changes in the administration keeping in view the ongoing intertribal conflicts so close to their border. This prime task was given to Major Robert Sandeman known for his enduring activities in Balochistan through tribal pacification since 1876 till the British withdrawal.

"The Forward Policy" (Sandemanization of Balochistan) 1874-92

The evolution of the development of British in Balochistan was followed by direct interference of Major Robert Sandeman in the internal affairs of the

locally recognized authority i.e. Khan. He established peace and order by the promotion of the justice system in native usages of local affairs and restored the respect and good feelings of chiefs and tribesmen by associating them with the British government. It is envisaged that the Sandeman's cunning policies were the main source behind successful British aggrandizement in Balochistan in terms of both communication and trade. Moreover, he had also given them necessary health facilities, improved irrigation system for farming to preserve forests (Bruce, 2002).

Furthermore, he also obstructed the long-standing will of Khan to centralize his power. For that reason, he tried to develop a separate relationship with the most influential tribes to create a situation of compromise to keep the respect of Khan alive over tribes. Similarly, the new treaty of 1876 confirms the confederate relations between Khan and sardars. In addition, it was also confirming the authority Robert Sandeman as the sole arbitrator in case of any conflict in future. Following the said development the British administration ultimately decided to establish a permanent military base in the region for the security of the railway lines construction, telegraph lines and also restricting the Khan to engage himself in any dialogue with Afghanistan or any other states other than British authority. Indeed the traditional authority of Khan was reduced to function as a ceremonial head and Balochistan left as buffer state overwhelmingly dependent on British (Bruce, 2002).

The British presence in Balochistan was particularly its geostrategic position to use it for free movement and pacification of land across the whole region. For that matter, Major Sandeman was chosen to be the most reliable person who later on proved to be very successful in achieving the goal of annexation of Balochistan without violation of the traditional norms of the tribal system (Iqbal, 1992). In addition to that, Sandeman had retained the suzerainty of British administration by making himself the part of the tribal system that proved to be very maneuvering throughout British rule in Balochistan. The Sandeman's progressive policy purposely meant to bring the tribal leaders under the authority of the British government

who would best guarantee their peaceful presence in the region. Therefore, the preservation of the traditional hierarchically structured tribal system was the most important part of the progressive policy. Therefore, the tribal leader was given support on the condition unless he may not use that against the British authority. However, in pursuance of the said aim, Sandeman had been using intra-tribal tensions in order to take other influential tribal leaders of the tribes in confidence to use them as a tool in the exertion of influence in case of any uneven situation (Iqbal, 1992). Keeping in view their relaxing measures of equal economic subsidies and political freedom to the heads of tribes were purposely aim to maintain the balance of power as well as to use them in case of any emergency without engaging their military.

Furthermore, the British had also used the policy of divide and rule for substantial interests that eventually opted in the shape of peaceful development of hegemony over the frontier regions. The said continuous intra or inter-tribal feuds were justifying the British authority to legitimize interference in the region to keep an eye on activities of tribal leaders (Khan/Sardars). The reason for the successful results of these policies was Major Robert Sandeman whose efforts are rhetorically considered to be successful for both covert and tangible benefits of the colonial administration in the frontier regions of the Indian subcontinent. For that matter, the balance of power in the political scenario was vital for British to ensure long-standing existence in the region (Ram, 1977). The British administration supreme goal was to acquire lands of their demand in the region for peaceful movement. The British administration wanted to ensure their influence without the existence of permanent military engagements in this area. Therefore, predominant set results particularly in Balochistan as already called the most strategic location were achieved through cunning policies of Sandeman. Keeping in view the recent political scenario of Balochistan it is inevitably important for Pakistan to ensure the balance of power among the political elite who could best guarantee the confidence of local people to ensure peace in Balochistan.

Furthermore, Robert Sandeman was a military man well known for his wonderful policies, especially in Balochistan. Unlikely his being shrewd and tactful got success in achieving the goal by three distinctive administrative measures.

Firstly he took the Sardars of local tribes in confidence, and they were also given financial responsibilities of administrative functions along with the decoration of their highness with nominal titles with laudable and appreciable privileges directly guaranteeing and acknowledging their Sardari concerns. However, these tactics of Sandeman were resultantly proved be very helpful in diminishing prolonged conflicts between the sardars and Khan (Axmann, 2008). It could be argued that the diplomatic policy of Sandeman was collectively acknowledging the interest of local people in terms of economy and glorification. Moreover, it had also quenched their thirst of lust for power even without knowing its upcoming drawbacks. The backwardness of the area and lack of political consciousness of local people had made it easier for Sandeman to coup with the situation with desired results (Axmann, 2008). Nevertheless, it could be argued that rhetoric of economic deprivation still exists in Balochistan after its accession to Pakistan. Where the state can surely draw a lesson in a way to empower the local people with education, employment with the installation of small scale industries for local people in order to eradicate their sense of deprivation would surely instigate their sentimental behavior with the state.

Secondly, he used intra-tribal measures in the local people; however, in this manner, he was quite soft and extra conscious of gaining the set forth aims. Firstly he made himself the part of tribal elder's council (Jirga) and then also ensures his full support in case of any conflict or racial problems. Sandeman was very expert in peacefully settling down the disputes among the Baloch tribes with recognition of himself the single testimonial of those disputes. With time these Jirgas were becoming more common in the region and got acceptance of the sardars on a large scale. The British administration had also appreciated

them on many occasions which were gaining rapid acceptance among the local people. However, jirga system got that much recognition where the local people started its consultation in case of any distrust to their interests following the direct consultation of Khan and the Colonial administration for peaceful settlement (Luni, 1994). In a nutshell, the Sandeman's divide and rule policy is still highly commendable and considered to be the primary source behind British intervention in Balochistan and its vicinities.

Thirdly, he had manifested a security system named Levies System consisting of warriors from various tribes purposely aim to develop a feeling of supreme judicial responsibility in local people of all tribes settled in the whole region. Moreover, its purpose was to maintain law and order with identification of defending and safeguarding of the country. In fact, the levy guard system was structured to serve in their native areas recruited and salaried by their own Sardars. Instead, they were also paid with special levies allowances by the British administration for any achievement during their conduct. Moreover, the levies force was dual in nature of allegiance, because they were answerable to both Sardars and native political officer of the British. In case of any negligence or doubt on levies force, Sardar would be responsible in order to avoid any suspension of fund from the administration of British authority (Caroe, 1976). It meant that the funding of Sardars was directly proportional to the performance of levies force; otherwise, it diminished.

Moreover, it was an attempt to establish a lenient level of social control over the tribes and also structured in a way to defend the country and keep the intelligence more effective for military and civil authorities. In a nutshell, the above mentioned three types of measures which were pursued by the British through Major Robert Sandeman in Balochistan were quite productive and successful. Indeed, these policies had been proven to be a gateway for their direct intervention in regional politics and secondly to keep them indispensably accountable separately (Caroe, 1976).

The British Policy's Aftermath

After the productive consequences of forwarding policy with the conclusion of the treaty of 1876, Balochistan (Khanate) had possibly come under the indirect control of the British authority followed by decentralized political structure. Now the survival of local authority i.e., Sardars and Khan was only dependent on British subsidies. It is envisaged that the so-called "Sademan System profoundly transformed the traditional status of the Khan and his hold over sardars". Because the "Sademan System" inculcated a sustaining power balance among the tribal society on the one hand and also made them more prone to the British authority on the other hand. These measures had made the region a haven in order to counter the Russian sphere of influence in the South, which was always considered to be a significant threat to the British Empire. These policies had extended its influence on both levels of weakening the dependence of Sardars on tribal support as well as their relationship with the Khan.

Moreover, the position of Khan was gradually becoming weaker and the permanent hereditary tribal chiefs supported by British administration had accomplished the position of the Sardars in a real sense equal to Khan (Luni, 1994). Therefore, the system culminated by Robert Sandeman in the subjugation of Khanate of Kalat and its vicinities was hugely acclaimed by the British authorities. Lal Baha, an expert on British administrative policies, writes:

"The system adopted by Sandeman consisted in reconciling conflicting local interests under the common aegis of Great Britain in employing the tribes as custodians of the highway, and guardian of the peace in their territories; in paying them for what they did well, and conversely in fining them for transgressions, in encouraging commerce and traffic by the lightening or abolition of tolls and the security of means of communication in the protection. Rather than the diminution of tribal and clan independence, subject only

to the overlordship of the British 'Raj'; in a word, in policy, not of spasmodic and retributive interference but steady and unfaltering conciliation (Baha, 1978)."

Moreover, his policy produced a politically divided Balochistan in terms of the local authority with several centers like the Khudadad Khan was being just one of them. Actually, this divided tribal society was indispensably meant to achieve the set goal because the British wanted to keep them so divided and opted each group individually to rely upon the British administration. This could be understood from an example like at the beginning the British administration had increased the subsidies to Khudadad Khan to a sufficient level with impressive income but unfortunately, the Khan had used that particular income unsuccessfully for his lust of power strengthening which eventually leads to his lacking the previous glory of central authority forever (Singer, 1984, p. 176). Therefore the British administration said policies mainly were aiming to overcome their interests and also keep them dependent on the British in the region. Similarly, the balancing of opposing tribal norms and direct mediation of tribal feuds was given to an array of political agents of the British administration, assistant political agents and their appointed members of Jirgas (local council). Owing to that, The First Administration Report of Baluchistan Agency, highlighted in 1886:

"The Agent to the Governor-General has practically taken the place of the Khan as head of the Baloch confederation. His Highness is still the nominal head, the Sarawan and Jhalawan Chiefs still sit on his right hand and his left in the darbar as of old, and till the Khan invests him with the Khilat or mantle of succession a Sardar is not to be legitimized as the representative of his tribe. However, in the essential question of the nomination of the Sardars, the summoning of Jirgahs for the

settlement of inter-tribal disputes and the general presentation of peace in the country, the Agent to the Governor-General is recognised all over Baluchistan as having taken the place of the Khan, and his mandate naturally commands a great deal more respect and obedience than ever did that of His Highness (Tanner, 2002)."

Having said that, the influential British hold over the entire region was materialized in a very gradual and steady manner. Like the tribal Sardars in the start were traditionally very weak in terms of power and function but eventually in a result of British policies brought equal to the ultimate Khan in status. The Sandeman's system had transformed the function and power of tribal chiefs like Sardars and the Khan was so widely divided among his tribes in order to avoid any threat of revolt in future (Tanner, 2002). Moreover, the traditional power and function of the Khan and Sardars subsequently witnessed much more decay. Because they were left with nominal authority and their status was reduced to a show-piece (Kazmi, 1984). The status of Khan with the introduction of the Sandeman system could best be comprehended from the explanation of the 1886 Administrative Report of the Balochistan Agency (1886-9):

"The Agent to the Governor-General has practically taken the place of the Khan as head of the Baluch confederation. His highness (Khan) is still the nominal head, the Sarawan and Jhalawan Chiefs still sits on his right hand and his left hand in Durbars (court)....and still, he (Sardar) is not to be legitimized as the representative of his tribe. But in essential questions of nomination of Sirdars, the summoning of Jirgahs (a traditional Judicial system) for settlement of inter-tribal disputes, and the general preservation of peace in the country, the Agent to the Governor-General

is recognized all over Balochistan as having taken all the place of the Khan, and his mandate naturally commands a great deal more respect and obedience than ever did that of His Highness."

Furthermore, the succeeding period was followed by the British much deeper intervention even having complete administrative hegemony of the Quetta entire city by paying a limited amount of grant to the then Khan of Kalat. Moreover, they had decided to make Quetta as main hub for military installations for strategic and defensive stronghold because of Quetta's closeness to Bolan Pass at least since, 1839. All this was carried with only in the wake of Second Anglo-Afghan War 1878-80. Indeed, the British administration successfully managed to persuade Khudadad Khan to get direct control of Quetta city. However, all of it was carried out by an agreement, to have criminal jurisdiction control, full civil control along with other administrative powers that could ensure their power to collect taxes of trade carried via Bolan Pass from Afghanistan. In return for provisions, the Khan was paid a lump sum of Rupees 80,000 annually. Owing to that, in 1877, they established Balochistan agency under the British administration declared Quetta as its headquarters and appointed Major Robert Sandeman as serving Agent to the Governor-General (Marri, 1967). The Sandeman's progressive policy had far-reaching results till the last years of the Second Anglo-Afghan War in terms of further annexation to the British Empire in the subcontinent. Based on previous traditional policies they had wrested more areas to their proximities subsequently in the years 1903, 1905 they seized from the Khan of Kalat a small strip of land stretching alongside railroad of the Sindh to Quetta. However, this track eventually accomplished up to Sibi in 1880 and in the same way again accomplished up to Quetta in 1887, and then followed the same track extension up to Gulistan and Chaman in 1888. This vast network of rail was a game-changer in the strategic depth of the colonial era (Khan, 1963).

The British hegemonic policies hitherto were quite result-oriented however in the final fixing of the

border with Afghanistan the Duran Line and with Iran, the Goldsmid Line was completed in 1886. In order to attain the crown land of the Khan of Kalat the British had occupied Niabat in Nushki, purposely meant to acquire the authoritative rule of Khan in the vicinities of the border region of southern Afghanistan. Similarly, the existence of British and their construction of new transport traffic arteries had transformed the traditional tribal system of local people of Balochistan. Their exploitation was followed by systematic development in Quetta by making it a military base that had added unique momentum to the importance of area by making it a country's major political, economic, administrative and cultural hub. Eventually, the whole region was converted into a military cantonment by the establishment of the most substantial garrisons in the entire British Colonial Empire where both civil and military officers from the entire Indian subcontinent were stationed.

The Lessons Drawn From The History Of British Rule In Balochistan

As mentioned earlier, in terms of strategic importance Balochistan is one of the most valuable tracts of land that came under the British rule for the interest of high imperial policy (Khan, 1996). But unfortunately, this worth is reduced after the Second World War since the British imperial power eventually weakened that left the fate of this state to the division of subcontinent in 1947. As a result of that on June 29, 1947, Balochistan had acceded to Pakistan that was constitutionally declared on 30th March 1948. Following the withdrawal of British, it had become a bit difficult for Balochistan to decide its future fortune due to the push and pull of other groups for example, the Khan of Kalat, the nationalists, the reactionary local Sardars, the public interests, Congress, and the Muslim League. Eventually, they had left with one suitable choice being best suiting the interest of local people of Balochistan which was to become part of Pakistan with other provinces. After, Pakistan's formation following the accession of Balochistan to it, however, benefitted Pakistan with territorial coherence along with rationality of independence and strategically most crucial status (Mirza, 2013). Thus, the accession of Balochistan to Pakistan proved to be very impor-

tant but the British withdrawal with the annulment of previous treaties had left challenging controversies for the new government of Pakistan.

This research further explores that, the British ruled Balochistan for more than a hundred years, and indeed it is the most extended rule of the imperial era over any region in their history. A lesson could be drawn from the British longest era of their effective administrative governance at par with maneuverings of the traditional local system according to the locals' norms. Moreover, the British rule extension to Balochistan was embodied to their predominant benefits i.e. first the British transformed the traditional system of Balochistan where they created rifts among the local tribes and then exploited those tribal rifts according to the situation to pursue relatively peaceful rule in Balochistan (Iqbal, 1992). With the time their divide and rule policies had inevitably paved the way for easy access to Balochistan. Furthermore, the policies of Robert Sandeman had eventually paved the way for British victorious to intervene in the internal affairs of Balochistan.

Similarly, it could be argued that Sandemanization system is a turning point in the subjugation of the region. Later this region was also as a buffer zone and jumping pad following the safeguard of the imperial boundaries against any foreign incursion from the southwest. Indeed, their diplomatic agenda resolutely made it possible for the rule to this region more than a hundred years. However, in connection with aforesaid historical facts, a lesson could be drawn to apply on contemporary Balochistan in one or other way to sort out the rhetoric of various issues.

However, it has become a matter of great concern for the government of Pakistan to revisit its current policies in Balochistan. Owing to that we have many examples in the history to draw upon lessons for a peaceful solution to controversies concerning Balochistan issue keeping in view the best interests of the state. Despite the facts, the Government of Pakistan must revisit its development strategy in focused sectors for example dams, roads, ports rather than local people have backfired as a result of any resis-

tance against the state. Moreover, the state must learn from the history of British rule in Balochistan to focus on the development of local people rather than on other projects (Mirza, 2013). Thus, it is proved from the main discussion of this study that, the lesson could be learnt from the history of the policy of Robert Sandeman's "peaceful penetration" on Balochistan in the rise of 19th century that inevitably has brought peace and prosperity in Balochistan. Eventually, this objective was achieved by Robert Sandeman with a little interference in local usages of the tribal system in order to ensure peace and order. However, he tactfully administered the justice system by making a treaty with the ultimate authority of that time to confirm the confederate relationship between the Khan and Sardars which was recognizing the British as a sole arbitrator in case of any conflict. It had effectively reduced the status of Balochistan to merely function as a buffer state completely dependent on the administration of British (Bruce, 2002). It was part and parcel of the British policies to take the tribal leaders in confidence who then be the best guarantors of peace and order in their tribal system. Therefore the preservation of the traditional and hierarchal structure of the tribal system was a predominant part of their policies. For the said oft-quoted aim, they had installed their influential person in the tribes who if necessary, may be used to show influence in case of justified results (Iqbal, 1992). Thus it could be argued that their hundred year's successful rule was ensured without disturbing the traditional system because they did not want to interfere by force to use military or another source in the internal affairs of Balochistan because they wanted to keep the balance of power between the Khan and Sardars.

In addition to that, to prove history as the best teacher, the Pakistan government must ignite sentimental feelings in local people of Balochistan. Owing to that, the state must look upon the intensity of Baloch nationalism and its nature of grievous concerns for intra-regional tensions. Indeed, it is important to focus only the political reservations and economic conflicts of the recent past. Even it is also not enough to give them financial adds to take their dire confidence. Nevertheless, it is an indispensable fact that could not be

denied understanding the deeply rooted historical bitter realities of the last fifty years that indeed aggravated the Baloch Nationalist cause against the state since its accession. Owing to that, it has become the inevitable case for the future of Pakistani establishment to revisit its policies to reduce military presence, create job opportunities and educational development that shall surely be helpful to eradicate Baloch hatred against the state (centre) for,

"The dangers of militarization of the people cannot be exaggerated. Even a minimum degree of respect for the history of Balochistan demands that any extension of defence establishments in the province should be subject to double scrutiny and it should be undertaken only after convincing the people of its justification. The need to reduce the military's presence in jobs traditionally and rightly reserved for civilians is even greater in Balochistan than in other provinces (HRC- Fact-Finding Missions, 2005-2006)."

Indeed, this policy for sure could dry up further development of more militant groups of nationalist movements in Balochistan ahead.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the Colonial withdrawal from the Indian subcontinent, Balochistan acceded to Pakistan in 1948 (Pervez Ahmed, 2016). Because the geographical and religious factors of Pakistan were indispensably best suiting the people of Balochistan. Pakistan, as a new country following the merger of Balochistan, was already a significant challenge. Nevertheless, the controversies which aggravated the local Baloch eventually led to their resistance against the center. Poor governance made Balochistan a breeding ground for external and internal conspiracies against the state. While this failure had given rise to various nationalist groups making Balochistan issue even

more controversial till date, this study has tried to discuss the history of British rule in Balochistan to draw upon productive solutions in order to tackle those as mentioned earlier local political uprisings. Unfortunately, the issue is still prevailing for the last seventy years due to improper policy planning. Therefore, it could be argued that both provincial government and tribal leaders are responsible for this mess who are still trying to make Balochistan issue even more controversial for personal interests. Furthermore, the government of Pakistan need to foresee its upcoming policies on the same pattern of British to draw upon lessons for future fortunes of peaceful Balochistan. Moreover, the historical facts indicate that the government must divert development projects more towards Balochistan in terms of infrastructures, education and health instead of already developed areas for vested political interests.

The study further concludes a lesson of trust deficit between the state and Balochistan, keeping in view the traditional norms of the local population. Pakistan government should revisit its policies on the pattern of British to realize the importance of the traditional local system of Balochistan in order to regain the lost confidence of the local people to have complete authority over the areas based on the traditional system. This could best guarantee the sentimental awareness of the local people in Balochistan. For this reason, the state must plan a policy on the patron of "Forward Policy" to impart economic, health, educational facilities in order to sustain the confidence of local people. In addition to that, the British had also applied the policy of "divide and rule" to subjugate the authority of Khan.

Similarly, the government of Pakistan must educate the local people to give them awareness who with the passage of time would inevitably replace the traditional Sadari system of Balochistan forever. Nevertheless, the situation is very deteriorating but still manageable as it needs a realistic and sincere pro-federation approach of British pattern that for sure, is the best historical solution could save both Balochistan as well as Pakistan. Thus, it could be argued that his-

tory best teaches, otherwise it could inevitably repeat itself in the shape of separation of East Pakistan (Bangladesh) in 1971. In summation, it could arguably be concluded that the people of Balochistan should be given the right of self-determination, followed by a sincere check and balance system for a productive accomplishment of set policies. Above all, the federal government like Sandeman must encourage the local people to take part in the economic uplift of the province in order to remove their financial deprivation.

For this reason, the state of Pakistan must revisit the old policies keeping in view the geostrategic importance of Balochistan such as the extraction of minerals, Gawadar Sea Port and above all the provincial autonomy enjoying till 1948. Thus, it could be concluded that an autonomous financially stable and a literate Balochistan could only guarantee the solidarity and integrity of Pakistan. Thus, it is possible through a complete mechanism of harmony and the ultimate implementation of predominant policies based on indicators of history justified by good governance, and a patriotic way of stakeholders. This could best guarantee peaceful Balochistan to get rid of the nightmare of sectarianism, target killing and foreign involvement forever.

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