

The End of Sikh Rule in Hazara: A Fragment of Chronicle

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Abstract:

After the fall of Durrani dynasty, Sikhs have established their rule in Hazara region which lasted for more than thirty years. However, contrary to their claims that Ranjit Singh had managed the state affairs systematically, he could hardly maintain peace and order in Hazara. By lacking trust of majority locals in Hazara, Sikh could not establish their rule on a concrete base. After the death of Ranjit Singh, unity in Khalsa army mainly disappeared that ultimately causing to the disintegration of Sikh empire. British, who were already striving against the weaker Sikh administration, successfully filled the power vacuum. However, in Hazara role of James Abbott as a soldier of resistance movement who united the local forces against the Sikh administration cannot be overlooked. Main objective of the study is to analyze the causes of the failure of Sikh Raj in Hazara. Current research has mainly been conducted through primary and secondary sources including e. books, available official records and historical documents from offices, archives and libraries. This paper will critically discuss that why after the death of Ranjit Singh Sikhs couldn't stabilize the Sikh Raj and defeated in both Anglo Wars and how their weak control couldn't stop the resistance movements and paved the way for the rise of British authority in Hazara.

Keywords: Hazara, Sikh Raj, British Authority, Muslim Tribes, Anglo Sikh Wars.

INTRODUCTION

After the fall of Mughal Dynasty, Punjab came under the Sikh rule till the beginning of 19th century. Being an important part of the Sikh rule the region of Hazara followed almost same course as that of the timeline of its adjacent regions including Kashmir. By looking into history we come to know that Sultan Mahmood of Ghazni (971-1030) was the first Muslim emperor who had established his power center in Punjab from whose ancestors its control was wrested by Shahab-Ud-Din Ghorī in 1186.

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Until the middle of eighteenth century, Hazara was part of Mughal Empire, followed by a power struggle amongst the Afghans, Marathas and the Sikhs with the growing instability of Mughals. The Marathas having their own territory in Deccan had gathered around Delhi to oust the weakening Mughal Empire. However, Afghan General Ahmed Shah Abdali (1722-1775) gave stiff resistance to the rising power of Marathas. On the local invitation, Abdali fought eight battles against them and finally liquidated their power at the 3rd battle of Panipat in 1761 (Sachchidnanda, 1967). Death of Ahmed Shah Abdali again created a huge vacuum that left a space for Sikh power to flourish in near future. Within a very short span of time, Ranjit Singh (1790-1839) expanded his kingdom and turned it into a strong and independent Sikh empire. The story of Sikh triumph can be traced back

from the year 1707 when death of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb provided them an opportunity to organize themselves on military lines.

With the downfall of Mughal Empire, Sikhs like many other nationalities of the Subcontinent started to take advantage from this confused situation. They carved out their independence at any condition. The Sikh army, by calling themselves "Dal Khalsa", a displacement of the Khalsa resistance, originated by Guru Gobind Singh, led missions against the Afghans to lay the foundation of their own kingdom. They arranged themselves into different confederacies or semi-independent Missal, however, each of the fixing armies of Sikh controlled their own dominated cities and areas (Henry, 1834). It is admitted that the system of governance mainly run through a loose organization which was bonded together by a common interest.

During the period from 1762 to 1799 the Sikh commanders of different coalitions appeared to rise at their own as independent warlords. The formation of the Sikh Empire began with the occupation of Lahore by Ranjit Singh from its Afghan ruler Zama Shah Durrani. It was followed by expulsions of Durranis from the entire Punjab through a series of Afghan Sikh wars leading to the unification of the separate Sikh confederacies into one single Empire. Ranjit Singh assumed power as Maharaja of the Punjab on April 12, 1801 by declaring his own unified political state. Along with personal efforts and supported environment, Ranjit Singh rose to throne in a short span from a chief of a single Misl to the Maharaja of Punjab (Trotter, 2018). The new military might of Ranjit Singh enabled him to rule over the vast stretches of Punjab and beyond to the region of Kashmir including Hazara.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of literature reveals that no academic work has ever been organized on the downfall of Sikh Raj in Hazara. Reasons of Sikh Raj decline especially in Hazara are also remained uninvestigated, Bakhshish Nijjar Singh's *Anglo Sikh War 1845-49* (1975), Evans Bell's *Annexation of the Punjab* (1882) covered the Sikh Raj but do not look at the reasons for the end of Sikh rule in Hazara. Syed Saqib Hussain writes in his article "Samadhi of Amar Singh Majetha: A Whisper of by Gone Days" about the third Sikh Governor of Hazara and describes his enmity with Karlal Sardar Hassan Ali Khan. Joseph Cunningham briefly covers the Sikh history in his book "A History of the Sikhs" but does not address the Sikh downfall in Hazara. Major reasons of the decline of Sikhs are found in Sadaf Butt's thesis titled "Sir James Abbott: Life and Works in Hazara", this scholarly work has addressed the both Anglo Sikh Wars and the decline of Sikh Raj in Hazara. Gazetteer written by H. D. Watson (1908) provides basic information about the history of Hazara but does not tell about the end of Sikh Raj. Charles's *The Sikh and the Sikh War*, Hasrat's *Life and Times of Ranjit Singh: A Saga of Benevolent Despotism* and Trotter's *History of India under Queen Victoria 1836-1880* provides in-depth views about the Sikh Raj during Lord Harding and Dalhousie eras. Muhammad Rizwan and Sadaf Butt presents overview of Sikh Raj in Hazara in a research paper, the works of every Sikh governor are beautifully arranged in it.

Mohinder Singh's book titled: *Maharaja Ranjeet Singh clears the causes of the beginning of Sikh Raj* in the focused context of the life of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh. Khilnani's book titled: *Punjab under the Lawrence and Henry's book Origin of the Sikh Power in the Punjab* gives detail about the genesis of Sikh rule and focuses on the works of Resident Henry Lawrence in entire Punjab. Sandhu only covers the life of Hari Singh in his book titled: *General Hari Singh Nalwa* while Grewal's book *The*

Sikhs of the Punjab is a good effort but it partially covers the root cause of decline of Sikh Raj in Hazara.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research methodology has been used in this paper. Some primary sources such as Imperial Gazetteer of Hazara, Sikhs accounts of wars and their accomplishments, dictionary of Indian History and various secondary sources such as biographies, research papers and articles published in various journals have been used to compile this research. This study focuses on the end of Sikh Raj in Hazara and in particular it highlights those reasons due to which Sikh Raj was completely wiped out in Hazara.

HAZARA UNDER THE SIKH RULE

After assuming authority, Ranjit Singh focused on the modernization of his army by procuring latest weaponry for infantry and artillery. European trainers were hired to train the soldiers for modern warfare. Consequently, his forces became one of the best disciplined, trained and talented forces due to which he could extend his rule from the banks of Sutlej to the cities of Afghanistan. However, when in 1809 he signed a treaty with the East India Company known as the "Treaty of Amritsar" he could acquire rights to the north of river Sutlej. By taking advantage of disunity among the Afghans, the Sikhs successfully captured the areas of Multan and Peshawar and integrated the states of Jammu and Kashmir including Hazara into their domain. However, with the death of Ranjit Singh on June 27, 1839 his reign of nearly forty years came to an end. The throne was succeeded by his eldest son Kharak Singh who appointed Raja Dhian Singh as the Prime Minister (Khilnani, 1951). In point of fact, the death of Ranjit Singh usher the decline of Sikh rule over Punjab. Internal conflicts and political mismanagements started to weaken the Sikh empire.⁵ In addition to this Kharak Singh inherited an army of 40,000 soldiers which grew three fold within next five years thus taking a major share of resources of a declining state (Sandhu, 1935).

Political turmoil resulted in financial uproar which badly affected almost every organ of the state. The chaos was of that extent that soldiers could not get their salaries on time. This situation finally caused them to rebel by taking control of the state affairs in their own hands. These groups of soldiers formed their Panchayats and started taking independent decisions within their controlled areas. Thus army as a whole grew as an institution independent of the throne and the generals emerged as the king makers. The condition led to a series of plots and counter plots finally resulted to almost anarchical situation in the areas situated in the periphery of the state (Henry, 1970). The Sikh ruled was badly shaken by assassinations, desertion and wide spread instability all through the state. Consequently, the empire built by Ranjit Singh, ceased to exist within nine years of his death. It is said that this phenomenon with the military common-wealth of England establish by Protector Cromwell (Singh, 1990). Majority of the historians agreed upon the fact that the Empire of Ranjit Singh mainly stood upon his personal charisma and stature but lacked institutional structure and stability of government systems (Singh, 1976).

In spite of his success, most of the analysts are reluctant to recognize Ranjit Sikh as a great conqueror. They believed that he was neither an adventurer like Babar nor an administrator like Akbar but his system of administration was based upon indirect rule through Sikh chief holding their semi-independent dominions. It was a system of loose confederacy welded together through

an iron hand of military power which extended its influence all across Punjab, Kashmir, Multan and Peshawar. He expended his boarders through military expeditions wherein the troops were contributed by various dominions. This system provided loose governance where allegiance to the state was driven by either fear or gratitude (Henry, 1970, p. 50). In addition to this, Maharaja also remained successful in defeating Durrani rulers or establishing Sikh Raj in the mountainous land of Hazara. Although he realized the importance of Hazara region as a shortest route to Kashmir yet his cruel attitude developed anti-Sikh sentiments among the local tribes. More than thirty years of his rule, Sikh Raj could not win the trust and support of local Muslim natives, who were representing the majority population.

SIKH RAJ IN HAZARA

During the Mughal period, the land of Hazara was controlled by the local tribal chiefs commonly known as Sardars, however after the death of great Mughal King Aurangzeb Alamgir in 1717, like many other parts of the Sub-Continent, Hazara also tasted some change in ruling machinery. Ahmed Shah Durrani took over the reign in 1748 and within short span of time Kashmir including Hazara came under the flag of Durrani rule in 1752 (Rizwan, Sadaf, 2020). After the end of 18th century and in the early ninetieth century, clear political changes took place in Kashmir and Punjab. This was the period when on the land of Gujuranwala, Ranjit Singh laid the foundation of the Sikh Empire at a very young age.

Due to his foresightedness and authoritarian approach, he successfully established the Khalsa army on modern grounds. With the help of this army, in a short period of time, a large area became the part of a Sikh the government. In addition to the present Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir were included in new Sikh Empire. However, despite all these victories, the Sikhs army faced a series of difficulties in establishing their permanent government in Hazara. On the other hand, Ranjit Singh wanted to establish an organized government at any costs, so that he could easily approach to Kashmir. Yet, it was very hard to establish Sikh Raj in Hazara because Ranjit Singh and his generals grew up in the plain area of Gujuranwala and Punjab. In spite of their ability to fight the war in plain areas, they were unable to fight in a difficult and mountainous region like Hazara. Sikhs captured the plain areas of Haripur but it took a long time to conquer the rest of the region; however one incident led to the formation of the organized government in Hazara (Rizwan & Butt, 2020, pp. 2-4). Hashim Khan killed his companion Sardar Kammal Khan and went to the Makhan Singh (Rawalpindi Governor) with the intention of taking refuge; who sheltered Hashim Khan on one condition that he would provide assistance in establishing Sikh Raj in Hazara. On his assurance, Makhan Singh invaded Hazara with 550 swordsmen and after capturing Haripur, he set up a fortress as a sign of his victory at the site of Serai Saleh. Ranjit Singh, at this occasion, appointed Hukma Chimni as the first regular Sikh Governor of Hazara leading to beginning of Sikh rule in the areas of Hazara (Gupta, 2008).

After becoming Hukma Singh Chimni as the first governor of Hazara in 1814, Sikh rule formally started in the region. In his five years of governorship, he proved himself the best administrator; however his attitude towards the Muslim majority remained biased. During 1819, a protest erupted over the public execution of the Yousafzai leader Syed Khan by the administration of Sikh Governor. This incident and its aftermath finally ended the governorship of Hukma Singh (Gupta, 2008). Second governor was Diwan Ram Dyal. Like his predecessor, he also couldn't block the ongoing

resistance movements against Sikh Raj. In the Narra tract, a fierce battle was fought between the tribes of Yousafzai and the Sikh army. Sikhs could not defeat the home-town army even Diwan himself got injured. He although tried to save his life by hiding among the wounded soldiers but was founded by the Yousafzais who killed him (Gupta, 2008, pp. 142-49).

After the death of Diwan Ram Diyal, Ammar Singh Majetha was appointed as the new governor. Due to the worst economic conditions he imposed heavy taxes which badly affected already declining situation of the local Muslim population. For that reason many local tribes started armed struggle against the Sikh administration. These tribes were included Mishwani, Utmanzai, Karlal, Tanawal and Dhondh who jointly started an organized struggle against Amar Singh Majetha. After a fierce battle, at the place of Sumandar Khatha, Majetha was killed by Karlal Chief Hasan Ali Khan. (Hussain, 2015). Soon after that the most renounced figure of the Sikh rule Hari Singh Nalwa was appointed as new governor of Hazara. He remained the governor of Hazara for the longest term than any other counterpart. Hari Singh was a good administrator who controlled the administrative machinery Hazara in a systematic manner. By establishing the city of Haripur in 1821 in the periphery of Harikhan Gath Fort he successfully kept an eye on the dangers from the western border. However, it was very difficult for him to control the growing insurgency of the local tribes. To get rid of the unjust rule of Sikhs, Muslim tribal chiefs continued the resistance movements against the Governor and the entire Hazara Valley became a flash point. Regular battles between Sikhs and Muslims began in 1828-31, which finally ended with martyrdom of Syed Ahmed in 1831. Syed Ahmed although scarified his life and couldn't establish Islamic state in Hazara, however it weaken the Sikh rule to that extent which was ended by the British Colonial authorities (Rizwan & Butt, 2020).

After the death of Hari Singh Nalwa in the battle of Jamrud, many Sikh governors assumed the authority but could not rule for a long time. Mahan Singh, Tej Singh, Munshi Panno, Diwan Moolraj, Diwan Hari Chand, Bakhshi Hari Singh and Sardar Chattar Singh Attariwala were those Sikh governors who ruled Hazara with the brief intervals that show their inability to control the local tribes of Hazara. Their harsh policies economic difficulties and religious constraints provoked the local population to stand against the Sikh Raj; however, their mutual confrontation ultimately paved the way for the rise of British power in Punjab and Hazara (Butt, 2018).

THE RISE OF BRITISH POWER

As discussed earlier, the polity of the Sikh state was based upon the unity of Khalsa army. Although, Ranjit Singh was a good mediator who was blessed with a natural quality to unite his people on the basis of ethno-centrism, however, he did not use his talent to strengthen the institutional performance. It is believed that he hardly paid any attention to the financial aspects of the state, therefore, the state was bound to decline after his death (Nijjar, 1976, pp. 58-9). This was perfect time for British East India Company to fill the power vacuum. The East India Company grabbed the opportunity by establishing their military Camps along side Satluj River. The Company also increased the number of their soldiers from 2500 to 14000 men from the year 1836 to 1843 (Ram, 1956).

East India Company continued to establish cantonments including a grand output at Ferozepur, just a few miles from Satluj River by declaring it a deffecto boundary between the state of Punjab and

the Company. In 1843, it extended its rule and conquered Sindh and the areas of Southern Punjab. The ever growing hostilities between East India Company and Sikh Durbar culminated into broken diplomatic relations (Ram, 1956). These circumstances were enough to drift the armies of both forces to the First Anglo Sikh war. The widow of Ranjit Singh Rani Jindan Kour and his Commander-in-Chief Lal Singh realized that Khalsa army was strong enough to uproot the East India Company. They planned that if they succeed against East India Company, the entire India would lie at the feet of Khalsa army or at least they would cripple the military strength of East India Company. General Lal Singh and General Tej Singh crossed the Satluj River near Kasur on 11th December 1845. Five divisions of the Sikh army consisting upon 50000 soldiers and 108 guns were concentrated on the right bank of River Satluj. This strong army although having command of Sikh Generals but soldiers was Punjabi, Kashmiri and Pakhtoon etc. The heavy cannons numbered 108 were lined up to support the infantry units. European mercenaries were hired by Sikh army to train and organize the artillery. This strong army finally marched to seize the Ferozepur (Sidhu, 1976). British Army planned to confront the offense by posing a stiff resistance.

Having learnt the intentions of Sikh army, the open cantonment was attempted to be fortified, but it seemed almost impossible. Therefore, the East India Company advanced its army towards Ferozepur to re-enforce already stationed one division. The British army under the command of Sir Hugh Gough as Commander-in-Chief Bengal Army was supported by Sir Henry Harding, the Governor General of Bengal. The composition of East India Company forces was structured as to combine four Bengali infantry or cavalry units with one British unit. Namgal Horse Artillery provided light guns to re-enforce the British units. On the other side, the Sikh army was leading by General Lal Singh, assisted by Tej Singh who was appointed for a political reason. It is said that they possessed inadequate martial skills as compared to their British counterparts. In addition to this, Lal Singh allegedly betrayed his army on the instruction of British (Sidhu, p. 22). The war had two major conflicts, the battle of Ferozepur and battle of Ali Wal. On 10th February 1846 General Tej Singh during the early stage of war desired the Sikh army causing serious setback for Sikh advanced country. Although, a stiff resistance was given by Sikh army at Ferozepur but British troops broke into their positions. The British artillery fired bridges behind the Sikh army and few bridges were even destroyed by the order of Tej Singh. In this situation Sikh army was badly trapped and slaughtered by the British troops. The war had two major conflicts, the battle of Ferozepur and battle of Ali Wal. On 10th February 1846 General Tej Singh during the early stage of war desired the Sikh army causing serious setback for Sikh advanced country. Although, a stiff resistance was given by Sikh army at Ferozepur but British troops broke into their positions. The British artillery fired bridges behind the Sikh army and few bridges were even destroyed by the order of Tej Singh. In this situation Sikh army was badly trapped and slaughtered by the British troops. Consequently, the Sikh army, as per expectation was defeated. However, the main cause for their defeat was lack of modern technology and insufficient knowledge of the modern war fair. The loose organization and lack of discipline in Sikh army were additional factors which contributed to the defeat of Sikhs. (Hasrat, 1977). The humiliating defeat broke the Sikh army, compelling them to sign the Treaty of Lahore on 20th February 1846. Although it was called a "peace treaty between Sikh and British Generals" but in fact in its primary nature it was an agreement between the successors and looser in which Sikhs had to surrender more (Watson, 1908).

INTERIM ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN MAHARAJA AND BRITISH

Interestingly, Lord Harding decided not to annex the Punjab for many reasons including: it was believed that the existence of a Hindu state between Afghanistan and British India would be advantageous to the company; the annexation of the Punjab would not be profitable as a large amount would be required for the administration of newly acquired province; Lord Harding although doubled the strength of the English to occupy the whole country yet the English did not annex the Punjab out of their respect for the memory of the Ranjit Singh (Singh, 1967). Sir Henry Harding succeeded in defeating the Sikhs but it seemed arduous to him to completely annihilate the power of the Sikhs (Trotter, 1886, p. 150). Therefore, the situation demanded a high degree of professionalism and statesmanship to plan for arrangements.

In point of fact, it was long foreseen by the political and military leaders of India that Sikh Darbar would not be able to sustain for a long period as Punjab was inhabited by great mass of Muslims. They had old resentment with the Sikh regime, in comparison whereof British were seen as better substitute. Therefore, British administration received support in administrative and military affairs of Punjab. The Lawrence appointed most of his officials in the new setup with better titles and appointments (Hasrat, 1977). These incentives proved effective to win the sympathies of government functionaries.

In the light of Treaty of Lahore, a permanent peace settlement was agreed upon, aspiring to develop an atmosphere of friendship between British government and Sikh regime represented by Maharaja Dalip Singh and his heirs. The Maharaja was required to pay a sum of five million rupees to the British before the ratification of this accord. He was asked to surrender all thirty-six guns which were pointed against the British troops (Gough, 1897). This treaty conferred upon the rights of Cis-Satluj states including Doab, Jullundur and Hazara to the British. The Sikhs were liable to pay the indemnity of one of fifteen million rupees; however, they could manage to pay only five millions out of their treasury. The remaining amount was placed in balance for future payment because they could not readily arrange this sum. This prompted Gulab Singh to offer the residual amount in lieu of the state of Jammu and Kashmir which was accepted by the British. It ceded Kashmir and all its associated area including Hazara and all the territories, forts, interests, aspirations and interests in the all tracts situated between the river Indus and Beas from the East India Company to Gulab Singh. It was done in a separate arrangement (the treaty of Amritsar) by which the Raja of Jammu, Gulab Singh, acquired Kashmir from the East India Company against the payment of 7.5 million Nanac Shahi rupees, thereby assuming the title of Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. The Sikh army was reduced in number to twenty five battalions infantry and a cavalry of twelve thousand. All the guns which were used against British were taken away from the Sikhs.

The Lahore Darbar also agreed that no European mercenary would be employed without the permission of the British in the Punjab. The first Anglo Sikh war marked a sweeping victory of British against Sikhs, however, Dalip Singh was recognized as Maharaja of Punjab. An office of British Resident was created at Lahore which was to be held by Henry Lawrence (Trotter, 1886). This appointment was created to run the affairs of state and to act as bridge between British government and Sikh state. In fact the treaty of Lahore partitioned the Sikh state into three parts.

- The country between the river Indus and Beas, including the provinces of Hazara and Kashmir. This portion was made over to Raja Gulab Singh to be governed independently.
- The territory between Sutlej and Beas called the Jullander Doab was annexed the British Empire. John Lawrence was appointed its Commissioner. The trans-Beas portion of the Kulu valley, including the famous Kangra fort and fertile district of Noorpur was also placed under his charge.
- The Lahore state which was left to the Maharaja Dalip Singh was drastically curtailed in area and resources. On its north hovered the hostile Dogras power and on the east the Sutlej was no longer the dividing line between it and the company's possessions. The red line had moved further from Sutlej to Beas. The reconstituted Sikh kingdom was to be governed by Rani Jindan as Regent and Lal Singh as Vazir propped by British bayonets and tutored by the Resident Henry Lawrence (Nijjar, 1976, p. 33).

Treaty of Lahore did not help to improve the things, Lal Singh and other notable leaders of Sikh Darbar opposed to cede Jammu and Kashmir to Gulab Singh. When Lal Singh assumed the office of Chief Minister of the Punjab, he changed his stance on relinquishing Kashmir in favor of Gulab Singh. This transfer needs to be understood in its historical context. It was not purely a bargain nor war booty but was a consequent act of the treaty of Lahore (Nijjar, 1976). "The solicitation by Lahore Darbar and its chiefs had led to a temporary modification of the relations between Darbar and the British through treaty of the March 9, 1846. A Senior British officer Sir Henry Lawrence with a chosen establishment of efficient assistants was appointed by the then Governor General. Lawrence was stationed at Lahore having full authority to instruct and control all matters in the department of the state." (Khilnani, 1951, p. 19). However, this step paved a way for the appointment of Sir James Abbott as Assistant to Resident in Hazara. Personal character of Abbott created a new phase in the history of land and the people of Hazara. His mediation not only restored the peace and order of the region but paved the way for a smooth administration of the British Raj in Hazara.

CONCLUSION

In the early nineteenth century, after the fall of Durrani's rule, Maharaja Ranjit Singh established Sikh Raj in Punjab including the areas of Hazara. However, in spite of having control over the Hazara from 1814 to 1849, Sikh administration could not win the heart and minds of the local people. Economic and religious constraints were mainly responsible in this regard. Cruel attitude of the Sikh administration further fuelled hostility and anti Sikh feelings here. Due to its geographical importance, Maharaja chose the best ministers for governorship of Hazara. In more than thirty years of Sikh rule 10 Governors were sent by the Lahore Durbar but peace with justice could hardly be achieved. None of them except Hari Singh Nalwa, could hold the portfolio for a long time. In spite of his 15 years rule, Hari Singh could not suppress the growing insurgency against the Sikh. Although defeat of Syed Ahmad Shaheed in 1831 was mainly because of betrayal of his close companions, yet it weakened the Sikh rule in Hazara. On the other hand Maharaja, wanted to keep Hazara in his grip at any condition because it was the easiest and safest route for Kashmir. However, after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, the Sikh Raj shattered and the unity in Khalsa Army also ended. Lack of dedicated leadership, the environment of mistrust and scarcity of modern weapons were the main cause of Sikh defeat. In addition to this none of his successors proved a good mediator like him.

The British, by finding a golden opportunity, successfully entered in Punjab as well as Hazara. Betrayal of Gen. Lal Singh in First Anglo Sikh war during 1845-46 enabled the British to defeat the Sikhs. Treaty of Lahore (1846) further paralyzed the Sikh Raj. British Resident Henry Lawrence practically controlled the Sikh government, without his approval the administration could not take any step. For his convenience, Lawrence deployed his assistants across Punjab. James Abbott was transferred to Hazara as Assistant to Resident, whose primary duty was to monitor the activities of last Governor Chattar Singh Attariwala, however, due to his qualities his popularity among the local people increased up to greater extent. He successfully brought all the local tribes against the Sikh Raj which not only eliminated Sikhs but also paved the way for a stable British rule in Hazara.

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Date of Publication	August 15, 2021
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