ANGLO - SIKH WARS
(1845-1849)

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By the Treaty of Lahore the British got the Cis-Satluj States, the Jullundur Doab and Hazara. The Sikhs were to pay an indemnity of one and a half crores of rupees. They were able to pay only half a crore out of their treasury and for the balance of it, the State of Jammu and Kashmir was sold to Raja Gulab Singh. The Khalsa Army was reduced to 25 battalions of infantry and twelve thousand cavalry. The Sikhs were deprived of all those guns, which were used by them against the English. The Lahore Darbar agreed not to employ subjects of any European State without the concurrence of the British Government. Passage was to be allowed to the British troops through the Punjab. Maharaja Dalip Singh was recognised as the ruler of Punjab. A British force was to be stationed at Lahore and was to be withdrawn only by the end of the year. Henry Lawrence was appointed as the British Resident at Lahore.

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Raja Gulab Singh. He instigated its governor, Shaikh Imam-ud-din not to hand over the Valley to Gulab Singh, the new Maharaja. On enquiry, Imam-ud-din submitted proofs to Lawrence that he opposed to British for occupation of the Valley under Raja Lal Singh’s instructions. Lal Singh was tried in open court at Lahore, found unanimously guilty on December 4, 1846 and was immediately exiled to Banaras, with forfeiture of his jagirs.

Second Treaty with Lahore of 1846

After a few days’ deliberations, relative to the means of forming a government at Lahore, the remaining members of the Darbar, in concert with all the Sardars and chiefs of the State, solicited the interference and aid of the British Government for the maintenance of an administration, and the protection of the Maharaja Dalip Singh during the minority of his Highness.

This solicitation by the Darbar and Chiefs has led to the temporary modification of the relations between the British Government and that of Lahore, established by the treaty of the 9th March of the present year.

The terms and conditions of this modification are set forth in the following articles of agreement.

Articles of Agreement concluded between the British Government and the Lahore Darbar on 16th December 1846

Whereas the Lahore Darbar and the principal Chiefs and Sardars of the State have, in express terms, communicated to the British Government their anxious desire that the Governor-General should give his aid and his assistance to maintain the administration of the Lahore State during the minority of Maharaja Dalip Singh, and have declared this measure to be indispensable for the maintenance of the government: And whereas the Governor-General has, under certain conditions, consented to give the aid and assistance solicited, the following articles of agreement, in modification of the articles of agreement executed at Lahore on the 11th March last, have been concluded, on the part of the British Government, By Frederick Currie, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, and Lt.-Colonel Henry

1. The eldest of the three brothers, known as the Jammu Rajas or the Dogra Brothers. The title of Raja was conferred on him in 1822, by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
2. The Sikhs and the Sikh Wars — Gough, pp. 141-142.
   Correspondence — Anglo Sikh Wars — Ganda Singh, p. 101.
Article 1.—All and every part of the treaty of peace between the British Government and the State of Lahore, bearing date the 9th day of March 1846, except in so far as it may be temporarily modified in respect to clause 15 of the said treaty by this engagement, shall remain binding upon the two Governments.

Article 2.—A British officer, with an efficient establishment of assistants, shall be appointed by the Governor-General to remain at Lahore, which officer shall have full authority to direct and control all matters in every department of the State.

Article 3.—Every attention shall be paid, in conducting the administration, to the feelings of the people, to preserving the national institutions and customs, and to maintaining the just rights of all classes.

Article 4.—Changes in the mode and details of administration shall not be made, except when found necessary for effecting the objects set forth in the foregoing clause, and for securing the just dues of the Lahore Government. These details shall be conducted by native officers as at present, who shall be appointed and Superintendent by a Council of Regency, composed of leading Chiefs and Sardars, acting under the control and guidance of the British Resident.

Article 5.—The following persons shall in the first instance constitute the Council of Regency, viz., Sardar Tej Singh, Sardar Sher Singh Attariwala, Diwan Dina Nath, Fakir Nur-ud-din, Sardar Ranjodh Singh Majithia, Bhai

Nihan Singh, Sardar Atar Singh Kaliwala, Sardar Sham Singh Sindhanwala; and no change shall be made in the persons thus nominated, without the consent of the British Resident, acting under the orders of the Governor-General.

Article 6.—The administration of the country shall be conducted by this Council of Regency in such manner as may be determined on by themselves in consultation with the British Resident, who shall have full authority to direct and control the duties of every department.

Article 7.—A British force of such strength and numbers and in such positions, as the Governor-General may think fit shall remain at Lahore for the protection of the Maharaja and the preservation of the peace of the country.

Article 8.—The Governor-General shall be at liberty to occupy with British soldiers any fort or military post in the Lahore territories, the occupation of which may be deemed necessary by the British Government for the security of the capital or for maintaining the peace of the country.

Article 9.—The Lahore State shall pay to the British Governments twenty-two lacs of new Nanakshahi rupees of full tale and weight per annum for the maintenance of this force and to meet the expenses incurred by the British Government; such sum to be paid by two instalments, or 13 lacs and 20,000 in May or June, and 8 lacs and 60,000 in November or December of each year.

Article 10.—Inasmuch as it is fitting that her Highness the Maharani, the mother of Maharaja Dalip Singh, should have a proper provision made for the maintenance of herself and dependents. The sum of 1 lac and 50,000 rupees shall be set apart annually for that purpose and shall be at her Highness's disposal.

Article 11.—The provision of this engagement shall have effect during the minority of his Highness Maharaja Dalip Singh, and shall cease and terminate on his Highness attaining the full age of 16 years or on the 4th September of the year 1854, but it shall be competent to the Governor-General to cause the arrangement to cease at any period prior to the coming of age of His Highness at
which the Governor-General and the Lahore Darbar may be satisfied that the interposition of the British Government is no longer necessary for maintaining the government of His Highness of Maharaja.

This agreement, consisting of eleven articles, was settled and executed at Lahore, by the officers and Chiefs and Sardars above named, on the 16th day of December 1846.

On the 16th December, 1846, this treaty known as the Treaty of Bhairowal was executed by the British Government with the Lahore Darbar. By this treaty, the council of Regency consisting of eight Pro-British Sikh Chiefs was instituted and the Council was to act under the advice and guidance of the British Resident. A British force was to be maintained at Lahore and the Sikhs were to pay Rs. 22 lacs to defray the expenses every year. This arrangement was to continue up to 1854, when Maharaja Dalip Singh was to attain the age of puberty. It was presumed by the Darbar that the British Government will not meddle with the internal administration of the Sikh Kingdom—but in all cases which may be referred to the British Government, the Governor-General will give the aid of his advice for the furtherance of the interest of the Sikhs. But the picture was otherwise, as by this treaty, the Britishers became virtually the masters of the Punjab.

During the years 1847 and 1848, many measures were carried out in the name of reforms, which were against the interest of the Sikh nobility, who greatly resented. The disbanded soldiers of the Khalsa army were already discontented, because of the deprivation of means of livelihood. The Sikhs had bitterly resented their defeat particularly because it was due to the treachery of their leaders. After the banishment of Lal Singh, Sardar Tej Singh was the Chief henchman of the first Anglo-Sikh War and now he was the Chief advisor of Henry Lawrence. In recognition of his services, the title of Raja, was conferred upon him on the 7th August, 1847. On the other hand, Rani Jind Kaur was accused of conspiracy and was sent away to Chunar and her deportation and the exaltation of Tej Singh were highly resented by the Sikhs. Henry Lawrence could no longer tolerate the presence of Maharani Jind Kaur. Her inquisitiveness to outmanoeuvre the secret-British plans, her skillfulness in the use of her pen, her amazing ability to act with energy and spirit, and, above all, her intense patriotism could not be tolerated by the British.

Second Anglo-Sikh War

Under these circumstances, the Second Anglo-Sikh War commenced almost immediately after the first had concluded. These elements had begun to work which burst forth in an eruption of desolation and blood-shed in the Punjab once more. As soon as the Treaty of Bhairowal had been concluded, the British Government settled down with the conviction that, in the eyes of the Sikhs, the English were irresistible.

Chattar Singh Revolts

The fort of Gobindgarh at Amritsar was occupied on July 29th, 1848, by the orders of the British Resident. He further sent out detachments of troops to the eastern districts in search of Political suspects. Captain James Abbott, the assistant of the British Resident instigated the Muslims of Hazara against Sardar Chattar Singh Attariwala.

1. Meantime the Sikh Chiefs had yielded to the pressure of Henry Lawrence and Frederick Currie.
2. The fort of Gobindgarh, in Amritsar District, situated on the Grand Trunk Road, was built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, in 1807-1808. It was strongly built, but it had weakness in as much as its interior was quite visible from outside, which was against the science of fortification of these days.
3. He was the son of Jodh Singh, a member of the younger family of Attari. During the reign of Ranjit Singh, Chattar Singh had title hold-over the affairs of administration. But his family had gained interference in the Darbar. In 1843, his daughter, Tej Kaur was betrothed to Maharaja Dalip Singh.
4. Correspondence Anglo-Sikh Wars—Ganda Singh p. 108.
2. Situated, on the right bank of the river Beas, in Amritsar District.
4. Correspondence--Anglo Sikh Wars—Ganda Singh, pp. 482-