

History of Sikh Struggles by Gurmit Singh (1989) [556P] Atlantic Publishers



Book Review: Kavneet Singh

Gurmit Singh a practicing attorney from Sirsa, Haryana, India with a keen interest in Sikh history, politics and current events got his Ph.D from Punjab University. This is the first volume in a series of four exceptionally well written volumes. Gurmit Singh has taken the pains to add 60 historical documents from various hard to get sources relating to the years 1946-66. The continuous yet frustratingly hard struggles of the Sikhs is put across with great detail that it is unimaginable why Sikhs never learn from their previous mistakes and blunders.

Birth of a Nation - Chapter 1:

Gurmit Singh in a very concise manner has given an introduction, and then summarized the background of the start and important aspects of the Sikh nation.

“Raj Bina Na Dharam Chale Hai, Dharam Bina Sab Dale Male Hai” [Without political power no religion has survived. Without religion everything is a mish-mash]...[Page36]

This litany by the Tenth Sikh Prophet was never said lightly but has been the bane of the Sikhs ever since, because the visionless leadership never could quite understand to put into action the clear right to sovereignty given to the Sikhs by their Tenth Master.

Definitions if not understood clearly become hazardous to one's own health and well being. *“In Gariban Haon Deon Padshahi, Yeh Yad Karen Meri Gurayee” [I have bestowed ruler ship on these Sikhs, so that they shall remember my term of apostleship]...[Page38]*

Again the Tenth King has uttered these blessed words for the advancement of his poor Sikhs. It is up to the Sikhs themselves as a collective nation to strive to achieve that goal.

Lord Dalhousie “There never will be peace in Punjab....Sikh people and destroyed its power as an independent nation”.....[Page 47] The current ruling regime of India have understood this statement thoroughly and have and will continue to thwart every attempt by the Sikhs for sovereignty. *Dr.R.Hume wrote in 1931, “Politically Sikhism is the only religion in the history of the world which gave birth to a nation, with the exception of Judaism”.....[Page 60]* Interestingly enough the Jews learnt the hard way and after 2,000 years got their homeland. I wonder if the Sikhs want to wait that long to achieve the same!

“The application submitted by 273559 CPL Grewal H.S. seeking interview with A.O.A. in connection with keeping the beard open on religious grounds was considered by A.G.A who is pleased to reject the same.....These order are to be complied w.e.f. 13 Sep, 1973 (A.M.hours).” Sqn.Ldr.Adjutant S.C.Bhatley....[Page 61]

Discrimination in the Indian Armed Forces began in earnest right after Independence and a retrograde policy to discourage Sikh soldiers from practicing their Faith and has consistently been followed till today.

In other countries such as Malaysia, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, etc the Sikhs have had a greater amount of freedom in reference to their articles of Faith albeit not without a struggle though!

Constitution Rejected – Chapter 2:

Starting from the very first attempt to frame the new (Indian) constitution in 1916 known as the Lucknow Pact when Sikhs were ignored; if the Sikhs were astute the warning signs should have woken them up to the devious Hindu mind much in advance, but that was an ever-recurring story with no end in sight. The fact that the Sikhs were never considered a minority by the Hindu elite is clear by the way Article 25 of the Indian Constitution was framed. Verbal statements are meant only for public consumption and that is a fact of life around the globe, especially when a lawyer (Gandhi or Nehru) speaks. Since legally only written contracts matter, all else is only hogwash. Sikhs being by and large men of honor consider solemn promises made in public very seriously, never realized that Hindus have an entirely lopsided version of ethics and morality therefore all normal norms of human conduct do not apply to them. The most thankless brute majority declared moral bankruptcy on a ‘people’ who literally took off the shackles of slavery which remained over them for nearly a millennia.

Crisis of Identity – Chapter 3:

“The Punjabi Hindu was more aggressive than the Hindu of other provinces. Their (Hindu) gross unethicallity and cynicallity, their low perfidious character, is all too obvious”....when the Act was passed, the only two Sikhs Akali Dal representatives there, stood up and declared....”The Sikhs do not accept this Constitution. The Sikhs reject this Constitution”....They, the Sikhs, were just ignored.....[Page 113]

This simply shows that Hindus were not normal human beings, because if they were why a 2% minority could not be accommodated is beyond comprehension. The only answer is that an extremely racist mindset prevented the majority by not being just but when in fact the Sikhs who had earned the right many times more, than any other religious or ethnic group in India should have been given whatever within reason to placate their apprehensions.

“On 4th July, 1955 at night, police entered Golden Temple, closed the Guru Ka Langar (free kitchen) by removing the utensils, etc, and locked the door. All supplies to the Golden Temple were cut off. All pilgrims staying in the rest houses were arrested.....Police also fired a few shots in the air and tear gas shells were thrown towards Golden Temple some of which fell in the sacred tank.....Hukam Singh....was also taken into custody.....[Page 119]

This goes to show that right from Aug 15, 1947 the ruling Hindu majority had absolutely no regards for the Sikhs and wanted to make sure Sikhs are severely censured for the minutest of protests in any shape or form. Furthermore the sanctity of the Holy Darbar Sahib holds no value in the eyes of the brute majority’s and it could enter, disrespect, attack, desecrate with impunity.

“We shall not have any Punjabi Suba. It is a communal demand and would be stoutly resisted.”.....[Page 133]

J.L.Nehru the PM of India had the audacity to make statements such as this when he himself was a communal Brahmin whose forefathers (Gangu Brahmin) were traitors and

criminals who sold the (sons) Chota Sahibzadas of the Tenth Sikh Prophet, to Wazir Khan and in return got land grants, eventually getting rich with the blood money to claim a blue blood lineage from Kaul to Nehru (the land was along a Nehr – Canal).

Akali agitation was going on unabated and more than 50,000 Sikhs had been sent to jail under most humiliating conditions....Justice Falshaw's official report read, "The prison contained almost four times the authorized number of prisoners..... called it a Black Hole of the Punjab".....[Page 135]

Non-Sikhs talk about Sikh violence but Sikhs over the past few centuries have shown time and time again of how Sikhs have endured by the thousands non-violent protest under harrowing circumstances. In fact it is M.K.Gandhi who saw the Sikhs using Non-Violent protest as means of getting their demands met which Gandhi very cleverly adopted and called this his own 'satyagrah'.

"Kya main taqat Dushmanon Ke Hath Men De Duon?" i.e., How can I entrust the power into the hands of the enemies?.....[Page 143]

It is interesting to see the 'Napoleonic complex' in J.L.Nehru who was a bigot to the core and could not fathom a Sikh pushing the levers of power since he himself had not really earned the right to do so except slyly usurped it.

According to B.N.Malik, Director of Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, "The Chinese perpetrated untold cruelties on the brave wounded Sikh. Many of them were tied and then dragged and their brains battered."..... [Page 152]

No matter how bigoted the Hindu majority continues to be against the Sikhs they still gave their lives happily for the country and continued to get the short end of the stick as the Hindu elite thinks that Sikhs are best meant for 'cannon fodder'. All the fantastic attributes and élan of the Sikh Faith are in direct contradiction with the Brahminical straight-jacketed socio-religious order and therein lies the problem which scares the wily Hindu-Brahmins since it upsets their digressive status quo.

In fact, but for the valor of the Sikh General Harbaksh Singh, India would have suffered humiliation and destruction. To quote Lt.Gen.B.M. Kaul: "Government should by now be aware that in the midst of this grim crisis on 10th September Army Chief Chaudhery asked Harbaksh Singh whether our forward positions should not be readjusted and established behind Beas as the enemy Armored Division might break through.....Thanks to the leadership and determination of Harbaksh Singh, who resisted the Army Chief's counsel, India was saved from disastrous situation.....[Page 169]

It is amazing that in the 1965 Indo-Pak War and again in the 1971 Indo-Pak War if it had not been for the courageous Sikh officers and soldiers, India would have been beaten resoundingly by the Pakistani Armed Forces. The thankless Brahminical regime, other than, giving token medals for the Sikh soldiers continue to pay lip service to any other legitimate demands till today.

S.Kapoor Singh speaking on behalf of Akali Dal described....."On behalf of the Sikh people represented by the Shiromni Akali Dal, I reject the entire schemata of this Bill and oppose it; I reject it on behalf of my parent Party Shiromni Akali Dal". However in spite of Sikh's opposition the Bill was passed and it came into force on 1st November, 1966 ...[Page 176]

After many trials and tribulations the Central government sold the Sikhs a case of rotten eggs. Punjab was further divided into a third of the post partition size and hydroelectric projects, electricity, water and other life sustaining elements of the state were unilaterally

transferred to the center control in perpetuity. Even a bare minimum state capitol was snatched away from the Sikhs.

The book clearly delineates with overwhelming data how the brute majority refuse to understand, rather continue to flout the basic norms of even, allowing a just hearing and fair justice. The Hindu ruling majority has a steel vice like grip with a strategy to completely annihilate by throttling the Sikh spirit through various means at its disposal and time is of no consequence except that no entity no matter how benign must be eliminated completely so as to never rear its head in direct opposition to the Santana Dharma's long standing deep rooted (caste) diabolical machinations. This book should be read by anyone who needs to understand the Sikh-Punjab problem versus the Indian (Hindu) regime. For other minorities it will open their eyes and be a wakeup call.