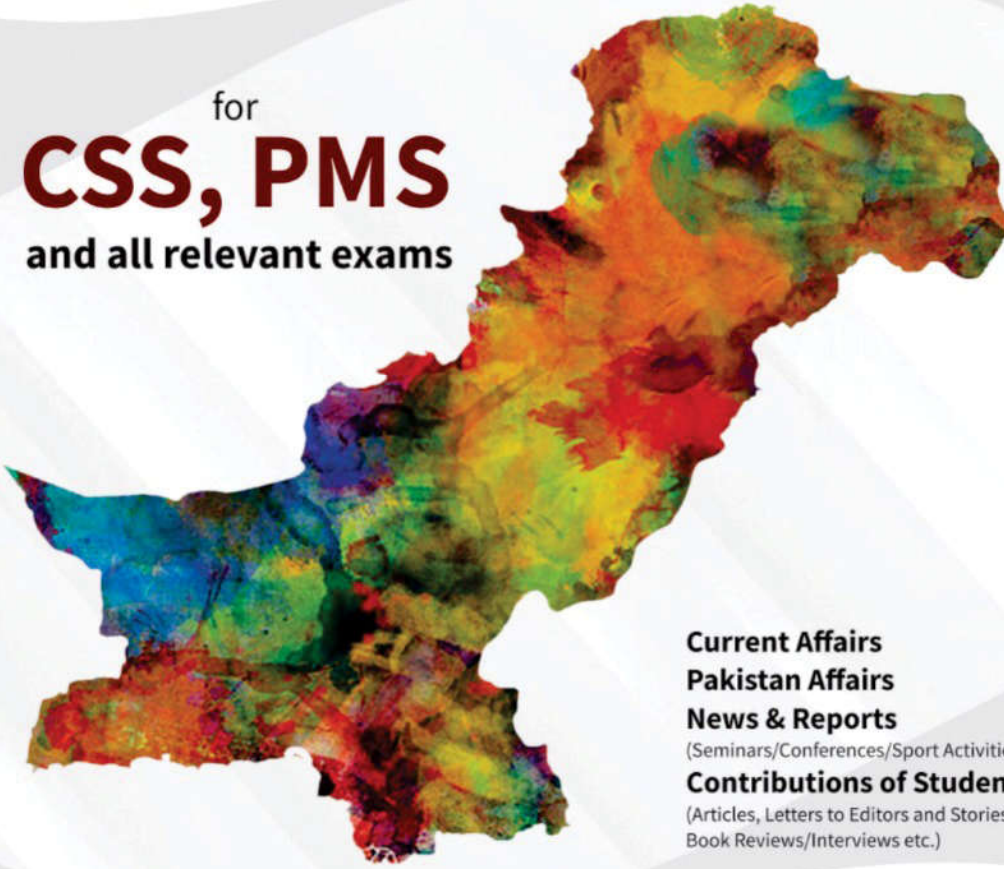




KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR

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for
CSS, PMS
and all relevant exams



Current Affairs
Pakistan Affairs
News & Reports
(Seminars/Conferences/Sport Activities)
Contributions of Students
(Articles, Letters to Editors and Stories/
Book Reviews/Interviews etc.)

PAKISTAN STUDY CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF SINDH, JAMSHORO

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Knowledge Corridor believes in diversity and creativity. Present volume of the magazine *Knowledge Corridor* is consisted of articles and reports on various academic and research activities conducted by Pakistan Study Centre University of Sindh Jamshoro.

The magazine is published by Pakistan Study Centre. It encourages faculty members, researchers and students to submit their genuine contributions for publication.

This magazine places special emphasis on development of creativity, critical thinking, literary and academic writing skills of BS, MA & M.Phil level students.

It upholds principles of academic freedom and maintains high standards. Research scholars and students are advised to submit the articles, book review, essays, short stories, poetry, letters to editor and reports for publication.

Prof. Dr. Shuja Ahmed Mahesar
Editor

“CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY PARADIGMS IN PAKISTAN”

Professor Dr Shuja Ahmed Mahesar

Climate change is endangering the existence of humanity on earth through its devastating effects including drought, desertification and excessive floods. It is affecting global food security by decreasing agricultural productivity. Consequently, world's food system remains incapable of meeting the needs of growing population. Currently more than 821 million people have been identified as undernourished due to chronic food scarcity. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), more than 1,850 million people have no access to quality food. Unavailability of food has caused micronutrient deficiency among one billion people. Most people in poor countries are unable to get nutritionally balanced diet which causes several deficiencies and weakens immunity against diseases. Further, food inflation is soaring, and the US dollar is getting stronger than currencies of most developing countries by pushing them to a dangerous situation of bankruptcy causing widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger.

In our country, agriculture offers bleak picture of food security and Pakistan's climate sensitive regions are becoming incapable of achieving productivity targets and their vulnerability is being increased by deforestation, dwindling freshwater supplies, groundwater depletion and ecosystem damaged by extreme weather events including heat waves and heavy floods. Moreover, an ominous trend of using agriculture land for non-cultivation purpose puts future food productivity at risk. These complex issues associated with climate change have contributed to growing hunger in our country. Thus, ensuring that people have access to healthy food is an enormous challenge at national, regional and global level. According to World Food Program (WFP), there is growing food insecurity in the world — 41 million people are on the verge of famine. Pakistan ranks 92nd among 116 nations worldwide on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021.

Food situation in Pakistan is going from bad to worse because of climatic apocalypse. Pakistan ranks among the top ten countries most vulnerable to climate stress, according to Global Climate Risk Index 2021. Variation in climatic conditions has badly affected water resources which are shrinking considerably due to mismanagement of climate-driven changes. Development of water resources has not been adequately prioritised by government even though it has been revealed by National Security Policy document 2022-26 that Pakistan ranks third on the list of countries facing

acute water shortage with per capita water standing 908 cubic meters in the year 2021 down from 1,500 cubic meters in the year 2009.

Pakistan claims to have the most extensive irrigation system in the world catering to a command area of 35 million acres. Several water engineering projects were undertaken during the colonial and post-colonial times to establish the world's largest gravity-driven irrigation network on the Indus. Nevertheless, Pakistan faces many challenges — such as numerous policy and operational problems, irrigation subsidies, cost recovery and inequitable water distribution — due to the absence of good water governance policy. Consequently, planning about how water should be wisely used is missing.

Pakistan is one of the most populous countries in the world. Feeding Pakistan's growing population is a formidable challenge. According to WFP, 43% of Pakistanis are food insecure, 18% of whom are facing acute food shortage. In Pakistan, agriculture is a major contributor to food needs and rural employment. However, its performance remains dependent on climatic conditions. Variation in climate affects the agricultural productivity which results in increasing food insecurity and affects Pakistan's export sector. Thus, bringing change in crop patterns by adopting climate-friendly crops, soil refreshing techniques and heat-tolerant seeds is indispensable for handling climate effects. Farmers should be encouraged through establishment of good market facilities and financial incentives for switching over to non-traditional way of cultivation, crop diversification and climate-smart farming.

Further use of latest technology in land development, irrigation, crop-production and crop-protection and other farm-mechanisation activities is considered vital for higher productivity. Further, maintaining affordable cost of farm inputs including high-yielding varieties and ensuring development of cost-effective agricultural equipment and machinery powered by renewable energy sources as an alternative to highly expensive fuel causing environmental degradation can significantly improve agriculture.

It can be argued that theoretically food security is an integral part of overall planning of resources, but it is not being demonstrated practically at any level. Mishandling of recent abnormal monsoon downpour is a glaring example of dereliction of duties on the part of authorities in dealing with devastation caused by torrential rain in various regions of Pakistan, including worst-hit Sindh and

Balochistan. They did not come up with contingency plans neither for protection of lives of people nor for protection of crops damaged by excessive floods. The absence of a concrete plan and strategy and the lack of coordination between various government institutions have made it harder to handle disaster.

However, ruling parties fettered by political compulsions are reluctant to devote their attention to land reforms, irrigation development, transfer of green technologies from developed countries, formulation of farmer-friendly agricultural policies, and leading the change in pursuit of green political ideals to deal with irreversible change in climate. Government can tackle worsening effects of climate change by protecting atmosphere through slashing carbon emissions under decarbonisation campaigns, including abandoning use of fossil fuels in industry and transport and power generation. Considering the importance of clean environment for producing nutritionally balanced food crops; plantation drives and adoption of modern techniques of recycling and waste management should be encouraged to deal with the issue of environmental pollution.

Moreover, people in our country are being disillusioned by media. Their attention is being diverted from real issues. For instance, they are not being adequately informed about the implications of imminent global food crisis, and the story of climate change is not unfolded by media in a way that resonates with the public. Food situation is going to be seriously affected not only by natural calamities, including recent droughts in USA, Canada and India and heavy rainfall in Pakistan, but also by international events such as the Russia-Ukraine war. Pakistan as a food importer from a variety of countries, including Ukraine, must take efforts for ensuring domestic production which has already been wrecked by heavy rain. Thus, government must pre-empt the flooding and start 3-R activities of rescue, relief and rehabilitation for flood victims. It must put a ban on export of wheat and maintain strong checks on smuggling of food to neighbouring countries to save its population from hunger and avoid harrowing situation that may bring the country close to crisis beyond its control.

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BRITISH CONQUEST OF SINDH AND ITS IMPACTS ON SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF SINDH

Sanam Altaf Chandio

INTRODUCTION

Sindh's identity is formed by its centuries-old history, culture, and language. Sindh, being part of lower Indus Plains and Pakistan's southern region, is considered one of the ancient civilizations of the world.

The ancient historical site of Moen-jo-Daro reveals that the Indus Civilization has close proximity

to civilization of Egypt and Mesopotamia (Burton 1851, Panhwar, 1983). Agriculture and trade were the main sources of economy. Sindh is a gift of River Indus and gets its name from this long river of 2900 km, which has been region's principle economic base, prosperity and wellbeing (Ahmed. S, 2012). Indus River keeps this region fertile and alive (Panhwar, 1983).

This mighty river originates in Pakistan's northern regions, flows across the province, and empties into the sea, forming a vast delta (Clift 2002, Alam, Sahota et.al. 2007). This river is a source of drinking water as well as irrigation water for agriculture, which is the people's primary occupation. Throughout the history, Indus River has provided regular services to the region indifferent ways. Prior to the twentieth century, the river served as an important commerce route for both domestic and international traders (Kenoyer 1826). Foreign expeditions, particularly the British were attracted by region's healthy and fertile soils (Boivin, 2020). When the British arrived

in the region, the locals wisely judged that Sindh would be conquered by British. The English spotted the Indus River as their long lasting victory in this region (D'Souza, 2017). Sindh's history, politics, and culture have been shaped by three significant events: the Muslim invasion in 712, the British annexation in 1843, and India's partition in 1947 (Brass, 2005, Kaukab

and Syeda, 2015). The increasing influence of East India Company at first and political and executive control of British later on has far reaching impact on Sindhi culture (Auer, 2014). The numerous strands of distinct Sindhi character found in the state's history, politics, culture and

civilization, language and art, and education system were imitated which threatened regional identity.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are particular historical events that are remembered, discussed and debated more than others. The same may be said about a number of incidents and development sharpened throughout the British colonial expansion in India.

The Annexation of Sindh in 1843 at the hands of the British East India Company under the command of Sir Charles Napier is considered one of the major political transitions in history of Indian subcontinent (Khera, 1941, Ahmed and Sultana, 2019). Except for a few distinct areas, Sindh has been largely under the control of Islamic conquerors since Muhammad bin Qasim's invasion in 712 CE until the British invasion in 1843 (Ahmed and Sultana 2019). Before the invasion, Indian Subcontinent was almost indirect control of East India Company since 1825 which had been emerged as a paramount force throughout India exception the states of Sindh and Punjab. Initially, Sindh had friendly relations with the British. Both had already signed many pacts and treaties. Later, the British became interested in exploiting the Indus River for navigational purposes, as a link from the Arabian Sea to the upper parts of Punjab, and subsequently to extend trade routes to Central Asia and North India (Syed 2009, Sodhar, Memon et.al, 2015).

The British were ecstatic after reading Alexander Burnes' exploratory report on the Indus, believing they had finally found a replacement for "the cumbersome Ganges supply line to the British north western provinces [which] could be replaced by a more efficient route the Indus, according to Hutten back.

Another reason for the British interest in Sindh was their fear of a Russian onslaught via Persia and Afghanistan, utilizing Sindh as a staging ground. However, a substantial number of officials in British government opposed the annexation of Sindh. But Charles Napier's personal ambitions played important role at this critical juncture of historical development of Sindh (Narejo, Kakepota et.al., 2021).

On February 17, 1843 the actions heated up at Miani, near Hala and Matiari, when both forces took eye to eye. The British forces with overwhelming superiority sealed the fate of Sindh as conquerors.

Sindh historically remained a diverse society, consequently, one finds the oral traditions in the poetries of folks tells over centuries. Sindh had been remained under the different rulers administratively including locals and foreigners, that is why history of people, rulers and cultures can be found in the different eras or rules such as Persians, Arabs, Mughals, Sansakrit and Britishers. So, historical literature on Sindh can be found in travelogues, autobiographies.

PURPOSE

The present study aims to explore the Socio-Cultural dynamics of tribal structure which was prevailing before the arrival of British and the policies and strategies which were employed by British to change the system and establishment of colonialism in Sindh and subsequent impact on the people of Sindh. It will also deal with Socio-political changes due to colonial reign in Sindh.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What were the Socio-Cultural dynamics of Talpur's Tribal structure in Sindh before the Britain advent?
- What were the Britain's strategies of state formation in colonial Sindh?
- What was the impact of British rule on the indigenous people of Sindh?
- How had the British rule in Sindh brought Socio-Cultural changes in Sindh?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To explore the dynamics of Talpur rule in Sindh
- To examine the impact of British rule on the indigenous history of Sindh
- To analyze the economic and social changes introduced by Colonial rule.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

History of Sindh is neglected field of research. This study will explore the historical facts about the Sindh. The present study will increase our limited understanding of political, economic and social changes throughout colonial rule. After its conquest by British Sindh lost its independent status and went under Bombay presidency. This study would bridge gap in a conceptual and

historical perspective as the evolution, emergence, and culmination of feudal structure of society in Sindh on one hand and state formation by the British Raj on the other hand. The principle question of this research is that how British rule brought modern system of governance during the colonial period and how it had affected and restructured the existing socio-cultural changes of aged- old tribal system of Baloch and Sindhi societies?

The study would also look at how different policies had produced different kind of socio-cultural changes in Sindh.

The study is also important in the sense that it will trace the genesis of state formation not only in colonial period but also explores administrative strategies formulated locally before the advent of British. This study would also help us to understand dynamics of state formation in historical perspective in order to explain current situation in Sindh.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study on “British Conquest of Sindh and its impacts on Society and Culture of Sindh” will employ narrative, descriptive sources and exploratory and analytical approaches within the discipline of history. Research will narrate and describe how and why the British had transformed all the Socio-cultural and economic system of Sindh? Moreover, this study would explore the real challenges and difficulties which indigenous people faced due the change of the political and social system.

This study will use historical method for the analysis of changes that took place in Sindh as an outcome of British conquest. This study will used following sources of data collections:

Primary Sources:

- a) Gazetteers
- b) Memoirs
- c) Private Papers
- d) Archival documents

Secondary Sources:

- a) Books and Research Journals
- b) Electronic Sources
- c) Government Publications
- d) Newspapers

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