## **GLOSSARY**

Amildar a collector of, or contractor for, the revenue

Babti from the Persian, a portion or share of the government revenue from a district; the actual fraction varied from 16 percent to 22 percent

Bakhar an indigenous history or memoir

Chauth the claim to one-quarter of the government's share of the revenue

Darakhdars state administrative official

Desai village headman

Diwan the head of the king's administration, usually the highest civilian office in the kingdom

Gaddi throne

Ghasdana contribution of grass and grain levied on the villages

Gras originally exacted as 'protection money'. Later became a fixed tax.

Grasiya petty chief who exacted gras dues from the villages

*Ijara* revenue-farming

Ijaradar farmer of any item of public revenue, mainly land

Inam hereditary grant for special services or merit

Jagir income from a piece of land assigned to officers by the ruler

Jagirdar holder of a jagir

Jizyah has two meanings: (a) in the literature of the Delhi Sultanate, any tax which is not *kharaj* or land tax; (b) in the *sharia*, a personal and yearly tax on non-Muslims

Kamavisdar Maratha local administrator; his area was usually several parganas

Khalisa land land held and managed directly by the state

Khil 'at robe of honor

Killedar officer in charge of a fort

Konkan coastal plain, below the Western Ghats

Mahal from a simple term for 'house', the administrative use came to mean a revenue district as small as a single village or as large as a *pargana* 

Majumdar general term for records keeper

Mamlatdar revenue officer of a taluka

Mokassa an assigned portion of the government's share of the revenue

Mughlai fees paid to the Mughals

Mulukgiri expedition to collect tribute

Mutalik Regent

Mutasaddi a writer, a clerk

Naib deputy, assistant, agent, representative

Nawab viceroy, governor; title of rank

Nazarana gift, payment made to the ruler for various favors such as adoption, titles, positions

Nemnuk appointment with allowance/stipend/grant/endowment

Paga body of horse or cavalry

Palki a sedan-chair for traveling

Pargana a long-standing geographically compact unit of 20-100 villages

Patel village headman

Peshkash tribute from subordinate rulers

Peshwa the head of the central government records keepers; later the head of the Maratha polity

Pindaris irregular troops attached to the Maratha armies used mainly for plunder

Potedar state banker

Potedari system of collection and distribution of revenue through state bankers

*Prabhu* a non-Brahmin writer caste

Prant district

Pratinidhi a deputy, a representative, a vice-regent

Qasba small town

Rajput a broad spectrum of men in military service in North India which slowly evolved into a caste

Raiyat subjects, payers of land revenue

Rassad the advance paid by a kamavisdar to the Maratha government which was recovered from the revenues of his area; typically, one-third to one-half of yearly estimated revenue

Rohilla immigrant Afghans who had settled mainly in an area east of Delhi and formed one of the main competing groups in the second half of the eighteenth century.

Sanad a contract, specifying rights and responsibilities

Saranjam non-hereditary grant for maintenance of troops

Sardar broad term for noble or noble family

Sardeshmukhi the claim to one-tenth of the government's share of the revenue, based on a position as sardeshmukh or head of the deshmukhs, generally a royal right

Sarkar Government

Sarsubah Chief Officer of a district

Shroff banker and money-lender, money-changer

Subah Deputy Officer of a district

Surat Atthavisi 28 districts of Surat

Swaraj the share of the revenue claimed by the Marathas from any conquered country, the same as the *chauth* 

Taluka a district, a division of a province

Thakur title of petty chief

Thanedar police officer in charge of police station

Vahivatdar an officer entrusted with the conduct of any important business, as the government of a province or collection of the revenue

Varats Note given to treasurer by State for payment

Wakil a person invested with authority to act for another, an ambassador, a representative, an agent, an attorney

Wazir the highest official after the emperor in the Mughal Empire

Zamindar a broad Mughal term covering a wide variety of local armed landed elites