

CHAPTER I

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The Baroda State was one of the most important and strongest States of India in the first half of the 20th century. It was important in all respects because of the work and efficient administration of Sir Sayaji Rao III and the valuable support of his ministers, the first of whom was Sir Raja T. Madhavrao. To understand the administrative structure of the Baroda State (1881-1939) it is necessary to trace its origin, know its previous rulers and administration.

Historically speaking the origin of the State is to be found in the period of the disintegration of the Mughal Empire (1658-1707) and the rise of the great Maratha rule under the great leader Shivaji and his descendants, the kings of Satara. In 1644, Shivaji, the founder of the Maratha Empire attacked Surat against the Mughal Empire with a view to getting wealth, establishing the Maratha Empire and acquiring booty. This was the first contact of the Marathas with the people of Gujarat. Again Shivaji invaded in 1670. This invasion was no more than a raid, but it served to bring Marathas into the State. After the death of Aurangzeb (1707), the Marathas started to interfere directly

in the affairs of Gujarat. The frequent and glorious achievements of Shivaji and the Maratha generals like Khanderao Dabhade, the Marathas laid their foundation in Gujarat. In 1705, he over-ran Gujarat (then a Mughal Dominion) and imposed a tribute upon the inhabitants, particularly in the region of Sorath in Kathiawad. Between 1707-1716, he played an important part in the establishment of the Maratha power in some of the regions of Gujarat. The road from Surat to Burhanpur was completely under his control and none could pass it without his permission.¹ Such were his services to the Marathas that he was made Senapati or Commander-in-chief by Ram Raja, the Chhatrapati King of Satara. After two years the Marathas were able to secure the rights of authority to collect levies from the province of Gujarat. Thereafter, gradually the influence of the Marathas spread in other areas of Gujarat through their organisations.

In 1721 the battle of Balapur (Berar) fought between Asaf Jah Nizam-ul-Mulk, the founder of the Nizam dynasty at Hyderabad, and Alam Ali Khan, Syeds General, proved more advantageous to the Marathas. In this war Damajirao Gaekwad, very obedient and a right-hand man of Khanderao Dabhade, achieved grand success. His services were recognised by the Chhatrapati who bestowed upon him the title of "Shamsher Bahadur" (the illustrious Swordsman) which distinction has remained a proud title of the Head of the Gaekwad House till date. Damajirao Gaekwad was also promoted to be the Second-in-Command to the Senapati. This event is mentioned here because, from this war the House of the Gaekwad came into lime light. In other words, the Gaekwads came to be known as the rulers of Baroda.

Shortly after the battle of Balapur, both Khanderao Dabhade and Damajirao Gaekwad died. The former was succeeded by his son Trimbakrao² and the latter by his nephew Pilajirao, the son of Zingoji Gaekwad.

Pilajirao Gaekwad: 1721-1732

He was the real founder of the dynasty of Gaekwads of Baroda. Immediately after taking over the charge, he first established himself in Khandesh, but when he found that the area was claimed by Kantaji Kadam Bende, the Maratha leader, he moved to Songadh. He acquired Songadh, a hill fort to the east of the present Navsari district and made it his head-quarters. Thus, Songadh became the cradle of the Gaekwad House and remained so till 1761.³ From here, he proceeded to consolidate his position by following the policy of raids into the neighbouring areas. The main objective was to collect tribute from the acquired areas and to enhance the influence of the family far & wide.

In 1725, Pilajirao made an alliance with Rustam Ali Khan, the governor of Surat.⁴ But later on, he turned against him and went to the side of Asaf Jah alias Nizam-ul-Mulk, the governor of Deccan with a view to crushing the Nizam's power.

Kantaji Kadam Bende, one of the leading Maratha Generals, was already on the side of Asaf Jah. In a struggle between Rustom Ali Khan and Asaf Jah, Rustom Ali was defeated. A series of engagements took place and Rustom Ali was forced to flee to Hasa (Vasa) near Ahmedabad where he put an end of his life. After this war, Kantaji Kadam was assigned a district north of Mahi river, while Pilajirao was assigned a district south of that river viz. Baroda, Nandod, Champaner, Broach and Surat. The territories were divided between the two only for the collection of ⁵ Chauth. The Nizam continued to be the overlord of these territories.

The division of the spoils soon led to disputes between the rival Maratha chiefs, which culminated in a struggle at Cambay. In the end, Kantaji Kadam went back to Khandesh and Pilajirao retired to Songadh. At the same time his Senapati Trimbakrao established himself at Dabhoi (Baroda District) and made it his head-quarters.

In 1726, Baji Rao I started direct negotiations with Sarbuland Khan, the Mughal viceroy of Gujarat, for acquiring all the rights to ⁶ levy Chauth and Sardeshmukhi over the country South of Mahi on a condition that he would protect it from the inroads of Kantaji, ⁷ Pilajirao and other irresponsible free-booters. The viceroy did not get any help from Delhi. So he (the viceroy) granted the rights of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi to the Peshwa throughout the province of Gujarat in 1728. This cession of tribute had two consequences:

Firstly, the Delhi Court repudiated these agreements made by Sarbuland Khan and sent Abhaya Singh, the Rathod Raja of Jodhpur, to take the place of the discredited viceroy. Secondly, it created a definite split between the Maratha parties.

Abhaya Singh made himself powerful after his new assignment. The Peshwa Baji Rao I now changed his stand and broke off his commitment to help Sarbuland Khan and allied with Abhaya Singh against Pilajirao. His only objective behind it was to drive out Pilajirao from Gujarat. But Baji Rao's objective was not fulfilled, because Pilajirao was assisted by Kantaji Kadam, Senapati Trimbakrao and other leaders.

On 1st April, 1731, the battle of Bilapur (Ehilapur) took place near Baroda. The Peshwa's troops were less in number than the opponents' but more efficient in every respect. After a severe struggle Baji Rao obtained a complete victory. In the war Trimbakrao Dabhade himself and Pilajirao's eldest son, Sayajirao, were slain, Pilajirao too was seriously wounded and with great difficulty he managed to escape to Songadh with his two sons Damaji and Khanderao. Janoji Dabhade and Maloji Pawar, the Maratha Sardars, were among the slain, Udaji Pawar and Chimnaji Pant were taken prisoner, Anandrao was wounded.

Fortunately for the confederates, the Peshwa Baji Rao I directed his attention to other spheres, particularly to meet Nizam-ul-Mulk. His objective was to extend the power of the Marathas to other parts of India. From this, it seems that Baji Rao I was not eager to crush the power of the Maratha dominions permanently in Gujarat. He appointed Yashvantrao Dabhade, the minor son of the late Senapati, in his father's place and allowed him to collect the Chauth in Gujarat on condition that, in future, 50 percent revenues were to go to Shahu through the Peshwa. He also nominated Pilajirao as Yashvantrao's ⁸ "Mutalik" (Deputy) with the additional title of Sena Khas Khel (Commander of the special Band or Leader of the Sovereign's Band). In this way, the first of the three struggles between the Peshwa and the Gaekwad came to an end.

Pilajirao Gaekwad had now all the resources of the Senapati at his disposal and was the master of Songadh, Baroda and Dabhoi. Then he attacked Abhaya singh and got a considerable victory, but at the end Pilajirao was assassinated at Dakor in 1732 by the emissaries of the Mughal viceroy. The death of Pilajirao, the founder of the Gaekwad family was a signal for a new turn, a turn for the consolidation of the Gaekwad power in Gujarat. With the establishment of the Gaekwad's authority, a somewhat regular system of administration was introduced.

Damajirao Gaekwad II: 1732-1768

Pilajirao was succeeded by his second son Damajirao, known as Damajirao II in 1732. Immediately after coming to power, he made up his mind to re-capture Baroda which was lost by his father. He also wanted to take revenge for the murder of his father. For that, he made himself sovereign of a large territory by taking all sorts of help from his brothers and relatives. In the first attempt, Damajirao was driven out of Baroda by Abhaya Singh but after performing the funeral rites of Pilajirao at Savli, a town near Baroda which is revered, he retired to Songadh. Then he, strongly supported by Umabai, the widow⁹ of the late Senapati Trimbakrao, the Desais of Padra, the Bhils and Kolis of Gujarat, attacked Abhaya Singh. His raid on Ahmedabad met with some success. Then Damajirao sent his uncle Maloji (Mahadaji Gaekwad) to oppose the Mughal forces which had crossed the Mahi from Jambusar, and in 1734 he recovered Baroda from Sher Khan Babi, its governor, who was appointed by Abhaya Singh. Since then Baroda has remained in the hands of the Gaekwads.¹⁰ In a subsequent expedition with Abhaya Singh from Songadh, he took many places in the east of Gujarat and raided the Jodhpur State. In this expedition, Damajirao was able to force Abhaya Singh to withdraw from Gujarat. This event resulted in the consolidation and extension of Damajirao's Power in Gujarat.

Between 1735 and 1736, Northern Gujarat, the regions of Sorath, Kathiawad and Gohilwad (the South Eastern parts of Saurashtra) were visited by Damajirao and his generals. His brother Prataprao Gaekwad and Devaji Takpir levied tributes like Chauth from there. Umabai had recognised Damajirao as her agent in succession to Pilajirao and sought his help in the Deccan affairs.

In 1737, the Delhi Court dismissed Abhaya Singh as Viceroy of Gujarat and appointed Momin Khan in his place. Momin Khan made an alliance with Damajirao, because he wanted to preserve his position in Gujarat and take Ahmedabad from Ratan Singh, the agent of Abhaya Singh. For this, Momin Khan offered Damajirao not only 50 percent revenues of Gujarat but also half the city of Ahmedabad and a share in the whole district of Viramgam in lieu of Cambay.¹¹ In 1738, the allies captured Ahmedabad. Since then Damajirao's power rapidly increased both in Gujarat and Kathiawad. In 1747, Umabai died and Damajirao was nominated the deputy of the Marathas in Gujarat in place of Yashvantrao Dabhade, the Senapati, who had proved himself incompetent.

The barometer of his fortunes continued to rise and fall. In 1749, Chhatrapati of Satara, died. At that time the real authority of the king of Satara was taken over by the Peshwa, Balaji Baji Rao (1740-1761). As usual, Damajirao was always eager to help any party opposed to the Peshwa. In 1750, he refused to proceed to the Deccan on

the summons of the Peshwa to do duty there as the representative of Yashvantrao Dabhade. In 1751, he also refused to give one half of the possessions of Yashvantrao to the Peshwa in Gujarat. At the same time, Tarabhai, the queen-mother, called Damajirao and other chief Maratha leaders for saving the Satara State from the power of the Peshwa. Damajirao responded to her call, but in the end, due to the achievements of Balajirao, he found himself a prisoner of the Peshwa. In this way, the Peshwa got second victory over the Gaekwads in 1751. But due to several important events, particularly the work of his brother, Raghunathrao (Raghoba) with other Indian native states rulers, the Peshwa thought it wiser to come to terms with Damajirao. Damajirao was also very eager for his release. As a result 'The Partition Treaty'¹² was signed between them in 1752-53. The main provisions of the treaty were:

- (a) Damajirao agreed to pay 15 lakhs of rupees as the arrears.
- (b) He also agreed to maintain an army of ten thousand horses in Gujarat to furnish a contingent to the Peshwa's army in the Deccan and to contribute towards the support of the Raja of Satara, who was in reality a state prisoner of the Peshwa.
- (c) As the mutalik of Dabhade, Damajirao consented to pay Rs.5.25 lakhs as tribute due on account of the Dabhade family besides an annual sum for the support of the Senapati's establishment.
- (d) From the monetary point of view Gujarat was almost equally shared by the Gaekwad and the Peshwa. Damajirao obtained districts worth Rs. 3 lakhs in the Surat Atthavisi for the maintenance of his family.

- (e) In addition to this, it was agreed on the principle of dividing other districts and cities. The prominent among them were Ahmedabad and Surat.
- (f) Both the parties agreed to co-operate with each other in driving out the Musalmans and to apportion their share in tribute and the territories.
- (g) They also agreed to respect the rights of each party to send ¹³ Mulukgiri expeditions into Sorath, Gohelwad and Kathiawad.

The Treaty of 1752-53 marks an important epoch in the fortunes of the Gaekwad House. ¹⁴ It signalled the cessation of hostility between the Peshwa and the Gaekwads. This treaty proved to be the most important in the history of the Gaekwads, because for the first time we see unity between the Peshwa and the Gaekwad for the consolidation of the Maratha Power.

Immediately after the treaty, in 1753, Ahmedabad was captured from the Mughals with the combined attack of Damajirao, Raghunathrao, Holkar, Javaji Sindhi and other Maratha chiefs such as Vitthal ¹⁵ Sivadev; Naru Shankar, etc. With this conquest the Mughal power came to an end in Gujarat and that area was thereafter apportioned between the Peshwa and the Gaekwad. After the campaign of 1753, Damajirao levied tribute in the Vatrak Kantha and took Kapadvanj.

The next important land-mark in the history of these days was the third battle of Panipat of 1761 between the Marathas and the Afghans. This battle marked a turning point in the history of the Marathas. Damajirao joined the battle on the side of the Peshwa. He played a creditable role in the final act of that battle, but when the battle was lost by the Marathas, he escaped and returned to Gujarat.¹⁶

From 1763 to 1766 Damajirao was engaged in ceaseless wars in Gujarat with the Musalman rulers, with a hope to win something by the great disaster, which had befallen the Marathas. In these wars he first secured Visnagar and made it his headquarters for two years, and then captured the fort of Kheda (Kaira). He then captured Vadnagar, Vijapur, Kheralu and other small tracts. Afterwards, he moved to Patan and made the Ancient Anhilvada (Patan) his capital in place of Songadh.¹⁷ Then Damajirao made many campaigns against the Rajas of Idar and Rajpipla whom he made tributary to the Gaekwads. He also acquired tribute from the ruler of Lathi, Damnagar and a few villages. Since then these acquisitions of the Gaekwads were enlarged in the subsequent period.

Madhavrao I, the son and successor of Balajirao, declared war against the Nizam Ali of Hyderabad, the enemy of the Marathas. Damajirao allied himself closely with Raghunathrao and played a very active part in the battle of Tandulja (Rakisbor or Rakshashbhuvan) by the Godavari river in 1763. In this war the Marathas got a great

victory. For his share in this victory, Damajirao obtained from the Raja of Satara, a ¹⁹Khilat and the title of Sena Khas Khel which has since been one of the titles borne by the Maharaja Gaekwad.

When this danger was over, the gulf between the Peshwa Madhavrao and his uncle Raghunathrao grew wider than ever before. Damajirao, according to his old policy, supported Raghunathrao against the Peshwa. In 1768, the Peshwa surprised Raghunathrao with a force of 15,000 men at Dholap, a fort in the Chandor range, and Damajirao sent a body of cavalry to his aid, under the command of Govindrao, his eldest son. The Peshwa moved his forces against them and defeated them. Raghunathrao and Govindrao were taken prisoners and sent to Poona. This was the third and last big defeat the Gaekwads suffered at the hands of the Peshwa, and the terms exacted from them were ²⁰severe. Damajirao was asked to pay a fine of Rs.23,25,000 and his arrears of tribute for three years, computed at Rs.15.75 lakhs. Damajirao was asked to abide strictly by his agreements concerning the sharing of the customs of Surat and Ahmedabad. Finally, it was agreed that the Gaekwad should supply the Peshwa with 3000 or, in time of ²¹need, 4000 horses. The six ceded Mahals were restored, but for the future this tribute was raised from Rs.5.25 to 7.75 lakhs.

Before the agreement had been finally settled, Damajirao died at Patan in 1768. Therefore, the terms of the treaty were ratified by his sons Fatehsinhrao and Govindrao.

The death of Damajirao at this particular juncture was most unfortunate for the Gaekwads, because several sons disputed for the Gadi. Sayajirao, the eldest son, was born to Damajirao by his second wife Kashibai while the second son, Govindrao, who was in confinement at Poona, was his offspring by his first wife Manubai. Besides these two sons, four other sons namely Fatehsinh, Pilaji, Manaji and Murarrao were born to his third wife Gangabai. In this way the quarrel for the succession that arose on Damajirao's death was the first step towards the breaking up of the Gaekwad power.

Govindrao Gaekwad: 1768-1771

The rival claimants to the rights of the Gaekwads were Govindrao and Sayajirao. Sayajirao was supported by his brother Fatehsinhrao in the hope that he might obtain the administration of the State. Govindrao, a man of a weak and vacillating character, was supported by Raghunathrao, the English, the Poona Court, Sindhia, his cousin of Kadi with a hope that they might get advantages from him. They first recognised Govindrao, who was still a prisoner in Poona, after promising to pay Rs.50.50 lakhs - this was a fine for the rebellion, Rs.5.25 lakhs as last years' tribute, Rs.1 lakh for the new conquest, Rs.20 lakhs as nazarana for the confirmation of his title of Sena Khas Khel and Rs.50 thousand for Darbar expenses. But in 1771 Fatehsinhrao who had strengthened himself at home, came to poona and obtained a reversal of this decision.

Sayajirao I: 1771-1793

Ultimately Sayajirao I was declared the heir by the Peshwa and he ruled from 1771 to 1778. He was named Sena Khas Khel. Owing to his infirmities, his younger brother Fatehsinhrao acted as Regent, during his reign. He was also appointed as his 'Mutalik'. Govindrao was given Rs.2 lakhs a year and the town of Padra as a compensation.

Between 1771 and 1778, Fatehsinhrao tried to seek an alliance with the English with a view to establishing his authority over the Baroda State. Meanwhile stirring events had taken place at Poona. In November 1772, Madhavrao I died and the next year his brother Narayanrao was murdered. As a result a civil war started at Poona for the Peshwaship in which a Peshwa fought against a Peshwa. The British interfered in the civil war, but at the end, because of the great efforts of Nana Fadnavis, the decision was made in favour of Sayajirao I. Then the treaty of Surat was signed on 6th March, 1775 between Raghunathrao and the English. According to the Article VI of the treaty, Raghunathrao engaged himself to procure from the Gaekwads a grant to the Company for ever of his share in the revenues of town and ²²paragana of Broach. By signing this treaty the British undertook a campaign against Fatehsinhrao and the Peshwa. However, it remained indecisive because Warren Hastings, the Governor - General, repudiated this treaty. On 3rd March, 1779, war broke out between the Poona Government and the British. Sir Hornby, the Governor of the English,

advocated an alliance with Fatehsinhrao. The main objective was to free him from the control of the Peshwa and to divide Gujarat between them. For achieving this objective, a treaty was concluded in 1780 at Kundhela, near Dabhoi.²³ By it, Fatehsinhrao retained all the territory north of the Mahi and the British occupied at south of the Tapti river excepting Songadh. But the British were forced to terminate the war as the Nizam of Hyderabad and Haiderali of Mysore joined the Marathas against them. In short, a triple alliance was formed by the Nizam, Haiderali and the Marathas against the British.

The First Anglo-Maratha war came to an end by the treaty of Salbai of 17th March, 1782.²⁴ Firstly this treaty cancelled the treaty of Kundhela which was signed with the Gaekwad in 1780. Secondly it restored the Maratha territory in Gujarat to the Peshwa exactly where it was in 1775. By the VIIIth article, "Whatever territory Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad possessed at the commencement of the war was for ever to remain on the usual footing in his possession". No claim was to be made on him for the past, but for the future, he was to pay tribute and to do the Peshwa service as usual. In short, after two wars Fatehsinhrao achieved nothing and finally died on 21st December, 1789. His later administration was marked by great parsimony.

The death of Fatehsinhrao left Sayajirao without a guardian. Therefore, his fourth brother Manajirao (1789-1793) was installed as his Regent. He seized the reins of power on behalf of Sayajirao (who

died in 1793) in spite of protests from his brother Govindrao Gaekwad. The rivalry between the two continued till the death of Manajirao Gaekwad in 1793.

Govindrao Gaekwad: 1793-1800

After the death of Manajirao Gaekwad, no rival remained to oppose the Gaddi to Govindrao. He became the ruler of the State and secured the title of Sena Khas Khel Shamsheer Bahadur on 19th December 1793, but he did not enter his capital without a rival rebellion by Nana Fadanvis. Nana Fadanvis a rival of Gaekwad refused to allow him until he had signed an agreement and to pay Rs.20 lakhs due by Manajirao, Rs.56,38,001 as nazarana for his title and Rs.43,62,000 as arrears of tribute.²⁵ Besides this, he was directed to give valuable jewels, monies, clothes, elephants, horses and some territories as a part payment to the Peshwa. It seems from this agreement that the Peshwa was determined to damage the interests of the Gaekwad family. But the British ruined the plan of the Peshwa by interfering on the grounds of the treaty of Salbai (1782) which provided that there should be no dismemberment of the Baroda State.²⁶ The Peshwa accepted the terms of Salbai Treaty. In this way, the English saved the Baroda State from dismemberment.

Secondly, he did not enter his capital without a rebellion. He had to fight with the rebels. His own illegitimate son, Kanojirao by a

Rajputri Gajarabai, Princess of Dharampur, obtained some troops from his mother and from Sindhia's agent at Broach, and with 2000 Arabs and six hundred horses entered Baroda. He was subsequently joined by Malharrao, the son of the late Khanderao Gaekwad, the jagirdar of Kadi, with a view to bringing much trouble on the Baroda State in future, but they were subdued.

In 1796, Baji Rao, popularly known as Baji Rao II (the last Peshwa), the son of Raghunathrao, became the Peshwa. He appointed Chimnaji, his younger brother, as the Governor of Gujarat and sent Aba Shelukar as the Deputy Governor of the province of Ahmedabad. Govindrao triumphed over both these enemies. Shortly after his arrival in Gujarat, Aba Shelukar was captured and imprisoned. The chief result of all the tumult was the possession of Ahmedabad farm in 1800 A.D. and it was leased to the Gaekwad for five years for a sum of Rs.5 lakhs a year. This farm included shares in the Kathiawad and Sorath tribute, the revenue of Petlad, Napad, Rampur, Dhandhuka and Gogho as the rights to certain customs dues in Cambay and a share in the revenues of the city of Ahmedabad.²⁷ He died on the 19th September, 1800 A.D.

Anandrao Gaekwad: 1800-1819

After the death of Govindrao, his eldest son, Anandrao succeeded, but, from the outset, it was not contemplated that he would take any

active part in the administration as he was weak-minded and addicted to opium. Due to this, disputes started for securing regentship among his other ten brothers. At the end, Kanhoji, the eldest brother of Anandrao, usurped the powers and functions of the Maharaja. But he was soon removed and imprisoned by Raoji Appaji, the first Dewan of the State. The early part of Anandrao's reign was full of troubles and unrest because of the Arab (mercenaries) tyrannical activities in Baroda. Therefore, Raoji Appaji opened negotiations with the British for help. On the other hand, Gajrabai, mother of Kanhoji, who was at Surat requested Malharrao, the Jagirdar of Kadi, to help her against the Dewan. In his reign, for the first time aid from the foreigners i.e. British was sought for and this foreign power was involved in Baroda State history. This was an important change of policy in the State, as, later on, the East India Company tactfully went on influencing the history of the State. Both the parties sought the aid of the East India Company. The Bombay Government decided to help Anandrao and sent Major A. Walker to study the situation. Major Walker reached Baroda and met Anandrao on 29th January, 1802. After a careful study of situation, he blamed Malharrao for his change of policy in supporting Kanhoji. He favoured the Dewan and asked Malharrao to come to compromise with the State. Malharrao refused and adopted a hostile attitude towards Major Walker. It led to the Kadi conflict in 1802 in which he was defeated. He surrendered and was allowed to live at Nadiad and his principality of Kadi was annexed to the Gaekwad's dominions. This was achieved by Anandrao with the military help of the British. Within six months Walker made Anandrao's position safe by putting down all sorts of disturbances. But this happy result was

bought with a price. Anandrao had to pay a heavy price in the form of a reward to the British. An agreement was duly signed on 6th June, 1802. By it, the Gaekwad's share of the Chauth of Surat and the Chora-³⁰si pargana were ceded to the Company as a free-gift. The Baroda Government also agreed to help the British by keeping the subsidiary forces of Sepoys and European artillery at a cost of Rs.65,000 per³¹ month. Various other concessions were made, but the Court of Directors disapproved this whole agreement, holding that it was in direct contravention of the treaty of Salbai of 1782. But before any orders had been issued by the authorities to restore to the Gaekwad the territory he had ceded, the Peshwa, who was then hard-pressed by Holkar and Sindhia, signed the treaty of Bassein with the British on 31st December, 1802. This treaty completely changed the position of the Baroda State. Therefore, it is necessary to pay a particular attention to this event. As Mr. Elphinston remarked, the Peshwa recognised the State of affairs brought about by Ravji's convention of Cambay and the treaty of Baroda, by which were fixed the establishment of the British instead of the Peshwa's ascendancy at Baroda, British protection of the Gaekwad and interposition in the negotiations with³² Poona, British guarantee to the succession to the Gadi. A careful consideration of these words will show that in 1802, the British deprived the Peshwa of all but nominal suzerainty over the Gaekwad.

From all this welter of treaties and assignments, of alliances and counter-alliances, of shares and tributes and mortgages till 1802,³³ three main facts emerge:

- (a) The Gaekwad was recognised as the Ruler of the Baroda State.
- (b) The power of the Peshwa was fast declining not only in Gujarat but everywhere else also.
- (c) The British were rapidly gaining paramount influence both at Poona and at Baroda.

The Peshwa was now virtually cut off from Gujarat, the British ascendancy has taken its place. The British were established as protectors of the Gaekwad and they were appointed as negotiators between Poona and Baroda. The old exactions ceased and moderate sums were fixed in commutation of the past dues (Rs.7,80,000) of the Peshwa. In fact the Gaekwad, among the four confederate royal houses of the Maratha, was the first who accepted the Subsidiary Alliance Policy of Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General of India.

Major Walker returned to Baroda from the Kadi campaign as First Resident, on 11th July, 1802, at the court of Gaekwad, and for many years the Resident became the virtual ruler of the Baroda State. Under the plea of incapability of Maharaja Anandrao Gaekwad, a commission was constituted to run the administration of the State. In 1806, Fatehsinhrao II, a younger brother of Anandrao, joined the commission.

On 21st April, 1805, A.D. The Definitive Treaty was signed between the British and the Gaekwad. It consolidated the Subsidiary

treaty of 1802 and was formed in terms consonant with the treaty of Bassein. The subsidiary force was raised and some territories were ceded to the British. The Gaekwad was prohibited from appointing any European or any native of India in his State service without the consent of the British. The treaty also contained provisions whereby the foreign policy of the State was placed in British hands. In other words, the foreign policy of the State came under the control of the British. It was also decided that all differences between Baroda and the Peshwa were to be submitted for arbitration. On 12th July, 1808, another treaty known as Supplementary Treaty was signed. By this treaty the British ceded more districts. In this way, both the treaties paved the way for Anglo-Gaekwad friendship and co-operation. By this, the administration of the Baroda State was somewhat improved.

Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad: 1806-1818

In 1806, Fatehsinhrao II, (the brother of Anandrao Gaekwad) became the Regent of Anandrao Gaekwad. At that time the State enjoyed a respite from troubles. In 1806 the fort of Dhari, with the surrounding villages and Bhimkatta, the small isolated village, were acquired. His Regency period was marked by some important developments. The Resident Colonel Walker went to Kathiawad in 1807. The main object of the expedition was to tackle the problem of mulukgiri system in Kathiawad. As a result of his efforts an amicable settlement known as Colonel Walker's Settlement came into force in 1808. By this

settlement the mulukgiri system came to an end without impairing the interests and minimising the revenues of the Baroda State. Colonel Walker came to Baroda in 1808.

From 1808 to 1816, the relations between the Gaekwad and the Peshwa remained cordial. In 1813, Gangadhar Shastri became the Prime Minister of the State. He acquired considerable fame in Baroda. In 1814, Shastri went to Poona and proposed to the Peshwa Government that Ahmedabad lease should be renewed for a term of five years for an annual payment of Rs.8 lakhs. But the Peshwa Baji Rao II refused to accept such terms. Many attempts were made by Shastri, but in vain, and Shastri was murdered at Poona.

In 1816, the fourth and final struggle between the British and the Maratha was started. In spite of that, on 13th June, 1817, Mr.Elphinston on the part of the Company and Moro Dikshit and Balaji Lakshman on that of the Peshwa, drew up a treaty at Poona. By this treaty:

- (a) the Peshwa surrendered all past claims on the Gaekwad for an annual payment of Rs.4 lakhs and renounced all future claims;
- (b) the Peshwa's tribute of Kathiawad was ceded to the British;
- (c) the farm of Ahmedabad was granted in perpetuity to His Highness;
and
- (d) Jambusar, Amod, Desbora, Dabhoi and Bahadarpur were ceded to the British.

The most significant part of the treaty was the end of the Peshwa's authority over the Gaekwad. This treaty made Gaekwad free from the influence of the Peshwa.

Baji Rao II made his final attack upon the Residency at Poona, but was defeated at the Battle of Kirkee. He fled from Poona and eventually surrendered to Sir John Malcolm, the Governor of Bombay. With him fell the Maratha Empire.

When the final phase of the war was going on, another treaty known as Supplementary Treaty of 6th November, 1817, was signed³⁷ between the Gaekwad and the English. The treaty was called Supplementary because it was held to supplement the Definitive Treaty of 21st April, 1805. By these engagements the English bound themselves to support the Maharaja Gaekwad, an offensive and defensive alliance was entered into, and the State agreed to receive from the Company a subsidiary force of 4000 native infantry, 1000 native cavalry, a company of European Artillery and two companies of Gun-Lascars. For the payment of these troops, the State ceded territory which at that time produced a surplus revenue of Rs.24,31,909 and handed over the direction of its foreign policy to the charge of the Company Government. The Gaekwad tribute in Kathiawad was taken over by the British. The Ahmedabad farm and other prosperous territories were either exchanged or settled with the Gaekwad. By the VIIth Article of this treaty, the province of Okhamandal and the Island of Beyt, which contained places

dear to the worshippers of Lord Krishna were ceded to the Gaekwad as a free gift. By treaties made with Peshwa at this time, the independence of Baroda was recognised. Because of these far-reaching changes, Anandrao's reign is very important in the annals of the history of the Baroda State.

Fatehsinhrao died in 1818 and was succeeded by his younger brother, Sayajirao II, as the Regent of the Baroda State. In 1819, a year later, the Peshwa's power was finally overthrown by the Company. Anandrao died and was succeeded by his brother Sayajirao II, who as Regent for a year, was the ruler of the Baroda State.

Sayajirao II: 1819-1847

On his succession, the Company Government withdrew from minute interference in the internal affairs of the State which they were exercising during the reign of Anandrao Gaekwad. Secondly the Commission which was constituted to run the administration of the State, by Colonel Walker was abolished. However, an arrangement was made by which the control of the States, paying tributes to Baroda, was retained by the Company Government. ³⁸ This was another important mile-stone in the history of the Baroda State, which clearly indicates that the Gaekwad was slowly losing his sovereign rights.

The reign of Sayajirao was marked by differences between the Baroda and the Company Governments. Various unpleasant incidents conspired to develop the Maharaja's hostility towards the Bombay Government; claims were refused; pressure was exerted to make him pay his guaranteed debts; the finances went from bad to worse, and the Maharaja declined the advice of the Resident; he was not allowed to appoint as his Minister the notorious Sitaram, who had been concerned in the murder of Shastri, but who, inspite of his villainy, seems to have been a favourite both with Fatehsinhrao and with Sayajirao. This continued for nearly 20 years until the differences between the two were finally settled in 1841 by Sir James Rivett Carnac, Governor of Bombay in 1841.³⁹ Sayajirao realised that the Company intended to get complete control over the State slowly and gradually, not by deposing the ruler but by making him do what the Company desired.

After His Highness had promised not to oppress any of his subjects in the lately sequestrated districts of Petlad and Navasari, Sir James Carnac directed the withdrawal of the attachment from these districts, and on 1st February 1841, from the Gaekwad's tributes in Kathiawad, the Mahi and the Rewakanthas.⁴⁰ He also restored to Sayajirao the 10 lakh rupees deposited (1832) in the British treasury as security for the punctual payment of the contingent. He also consented to pay Rs.3 lakhs yearly for the maintenance of an army.

Sayajirao II was unable to check the gradual passing of sovereignty from his hand as it was beyond his capacity to rise against the Company militarily. In fact, his predecessor and his brother had rendered him incapable. In early 1840, Sayajirao II made abetment of the practice of Sati to be a penal offence. Under Resident Capt. Carnac's influence a Nyayadhishi or a Central Court was established. In some cases, where the Maharaja gained his way in the end, it was with a heavy cost in money and material. In short, he failed to enhance the glory of the Baroda State and died on 28th December, 1847.

Maharaja Ganpatrao: 1847-1856

After the death of Sayajirao II, his eldest son, Ganpatrao Gaekwad, came to the throne. There was no political change during his period. However, his period is considered to be the most important in the Baroda State as far as social reforms are concerned. The most important social reforms were:

- (a) the prohibition of Infanticide;
- (b) of the sale of children; and
- (c) reduction in the expenses of the marriage ceremonies.

Between 1848 and 1850, under the influence of the Acting British Resident Captain French, a regulation was issued by Ganpatrao Gaekwad,

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prohibiting infanticide among the Leva Patidars of the State. Similarly, the common practice of the sale of children was also proclaimed to be an offence. This was an important step in eradicating slavery. He wanted to improve the health and sanitation of the young children so he made advances towards the introduction of Vaccination. Due to this step, the death-rate of the newly-born children was reduced. He also did some work for the general welfare of the people of the State. The ideas of welfare work came from Captain French, acting Resident. Captain French presented the Maharaja with a toy-
⁴²engine, and the same officer greatly promoted the introduction of railways in Gujarat.

In 1853, a group of engineers began to survey the country between Bombay and Gujarat with a view to laying down a rail-road. When work was commenced at Surat, it was found necessary to make the line pass through Baroda territory. Therefore, negotiations, began with Ganpatrao about the land. In 1856, the Gaekwad readily surrendered the land required for the construction of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (B.B. and C.I.R.) on condition that he should not suffer by the loss of transit duties. Thus the Bombay-Baroda and Central India Railway was started, the first train running in 1860. Since then many lines of railway were laid in the Baroda State. The introduction of railways effected a complete revolution in trade politics, and
⁴³customs of the State. He also encouraged the construction of roads, bridges and other public buildings. He died on 19th November, 1856.

Khanderao Gaekwad: 1856-1870

As Ganpatrao Gaekwad left no legitimate male issue, he was succeeded by the eldest surviving brother Khanderao Gaekwad. Soon after his accession, the great Mutiny of 1857 took place, and for a time the very existence of the British power in India and the Baroda State seemed in danger. Of all the Princes in the land, none was more loyal to co-operate with the English than the Gaekwad.

Captain Hodgson, the Superintendent of Police at Surat, doubting the fidelity of the Gaekwad, wrote to Major Crawford at Baroda on 10th July, 1857, that the Gaekwad would follow the example of the other two Maratha Confederate leaders of Gwalior and Indore.⁴⁴ But Khanderao Gaekwad remained faithful to the British throughout the Mutiny period. Sir Richard Shakespeare, the Resident of Baroda (March 1857 to May 1857) remarked, "It was entirely because of the support of Khanderao Gaekwad of Baroda, that the Government was able to preserve peace in Gujarat".⁴⁵ The Government of India had then passed a resolution about the services rendered by Khanderao in the Mutiny of 1857, that, "In consideration of the unanswering attachment and active assistance of His Highness, the Maharaja Khanderao Gaekwad, without which our hold on the whole of Western India would have been most seriously compromised, the exaction of the annual sums of Rs.3 lakhs for the maintenance of the Gujarat Irregular Horse, a fine imposed on Khanderao's father in 1839, and considered in the light of a public

disgrace, was remitted with a retrospective effect from the date of His Highness' accession".⁴⁶ In addition to this material benefit, the British Government presented him with a splendid pair of fans made of peacock feathers (Mor Chhals).⁴⁷ On 11th March, 1862, an adoption⁴⁸ SANAD was given to him. Besides this, Khanderao was designated as His Highness, the Maharaja Gaekwad of Baroda, and was also knighted⁴⁹ G.C.S.I.

He proved by far the most liberal ruler of the Baroda State. He reformed the administration, the administration of Justice, inaugurated a revenue survey of the land, introduced a revenue system based on the British style and planned many public works. He got constructed a portion of the 'Gaekwad Baroda State Railway' that⁵⁰ branched out from Miyagam to Dabhoi in the Baroda district. Khanderao's love of chase almost amounted to a passion. For this games, he built a magnificent palace at Makarpura, where he passed most of his time in making hunting expeditions. However, he did not live to complete some works. After a reign of 14 years, Khanderao Gaekwad died on 28th November, 1870.

Malharrao Gaekwad: 1870-1875

The Maharaja Khanderao Gaekwad died without a male issue, and was, therefore, succeeded by his younger brother, Malharrao, as the

Maharaja of the Baroda State. Soon he was surprised to learn from the British Resident, Colonel Barr, that for some time he would be only a Regent and not allowed to ascend to the throne as Khanderao's widow Her Highness Maharani Jamnabai was expecting a child and until it could be ascertained whether the new born was a boy or a girl, the powers of the Maharaja would not be exercised by him. Later, when Rani Jamnabai gave birth to a girl, he was confirmed in his position.

He began his reign by attempting to wreak vengeance on the supporters of the previous Maharaja and went on to oppress his subjects financially and otherwise. Moreover, he was, from the outset, determined to take revenge for the sufferings he had undergone at Padra. Most of the faithful servants were dismissed, many were left completely penniless. Bhau Shinde, the dhurandhar nidhi (worthless) of Khanderao Gaekwad, pillar of the State, was thrown into the common prison, and died on 1st May, 1872. There were occasions during the Holi festival in the State, celebrated by Malharrao, that degenerated into physical and mental distress for many women. Maharani Jamnabai
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feared him so much that she chose to stay away from the State.

His reign witnessed rapid deterioration in the nature of administration. When he came to power, the halcyon days of prosperity had passed away, but the Gaekwad did not recognise the fact. He failed to lighten the burden his brother had laid on the people but also increased it by reviving the worst practices of the past Gaekwads of

accepting presents, nazaranas in the disposal of revenue and judicial matters. He reintroduced a system similar to the farming out of the districts, by levying irregular or special taxation wherever possible. And above all, his administration became inefficient, dilatory and corrupt.

By 1873, things came to an intolerable pass. Due to this, in that year the Bombay Government decided to replace the easy-going Colonel Barr. Colonel Barr was replaced by Colonel Phayre as Resident at the Court of Baroda. Colonel Phayre soon got to work. In letter after letter he reported that the course of mal-administration could go no further, and pressed for interference. The Bombay Government supported him. This necessitated a detailed inquiry. Therefore, the Government of India instituted a Commission of Inquiry on 18th October, 1873,⁵² under the Chairmanship of Colonel Richard Meade. The Commission found the Gaekwad guilty of both mal-administration and misrule. The Government approved the suggestions of the Commission and warned him to improve the administration and introduce reforms within a year with the help of a good minister, and also warned him that if he failed to do so within the stipulated period, he would be deposed on 31st December, 1875.

Malharrao thereupon invited the most venerated Indian leader⁵³ Dadabhai Naoroji to become his Dewan. Dadabhai came with four of his trusted Parsi colleagues and began the "Cleaning Operation" during

which he found both the Resident and the Gaekwad coming in his way, and soon resigned and went away. In fact Col. Phayre viewed these appointments with disgust and reported to the Bombay Government about the lack of talent in Dadabhai and his team to carry out the work in
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 Baroda.

Colonel Phayre had a strong prejudice against the Maharaja Malharrao. He constantly criticised and disapproved the steps taken by the Maharaja. So Malharrao requested the Government of India to remove Colonel Phayre from Baroda. As such the Government of India was also displeased with him, so he was transferred and Sir Lewis Pelly became the new Resident of Baroda. Meanwhile, an alleged attempt to poison Col. Phayre came to light. To inquire into it, the Government of India appointed another Commission under the presidentship of Sir Richard
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 Couch in 1874. This tribunal was not a judicial one, but merely formed a committee which should report to the Government of India their opinions with regard to the degree of complicity of Malharrao in the attempt made to poison Col. Phayre. The Commission gave a divided opinion. The three British members holding him guilty and the three Indian members holding him not guilty. The British Government declined to act on this verdict. At the end, the Secretary of State, Lord Salisbury, taking into account the charges of mal-administration and
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 misrule, deposed him by the proclamation of 19th April, 1875 A.D. He was deposed for "his notorious misconduct, his gross misgovernment of the State and his evident incapacity to carry into effect the necessary reforms".
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Malharrao was accordingly declared 'deposed from the Sovereignty of Baroda State' and 'he and his issues are precluded from all rights,⁵⁸ honours and privileges thereto appertaining. The same proclamation also announced that, "the widow of the late Gaekwad Khanderao, Her Highness Maharani Jannabai, would adopt some member of the Gaekwad house, who, with the concurrence of the Government of India, would be⁵⁹ seated on the Gadi at Baroda".

With the deportation of Malharrao to Madras on 22nd April, 1875, where he resided under the surveillance of a British officer until his⁶⁰ death on 2nd May, 1890, the most uncommon and tragic chapter in the history of the Baroda State came to an end.

After him Sayaji Rao III came to the Gadi. How he came to the throne, who he was, how he was connected with the ruling house of the Gaekwad, how his minority period was passed, how he administered the State etc. have been discussed in the following chapters.

CHAPTER I

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Dr. S. B. Rajyagor, Gujarat State Gazetteers, Government of Gujarat, Vadodara District (Edited) (Ahmedabad, 1979), p. 95. Henceforth cited as Rajyagor.
2. F.A.H. Elliot, The Rulers of Baroda (Baroda, 1934), p. 19. Henceforth cited as Elliot.
3. Gaekwad Yanche Hakikat (Marathi), Government Record Section, Baroda, pp.2-4. Henceforth cited as Hakikat.
4. Stanley Rice, Life of Sayaji Rao III Maharaja of Baroda, (London, 1931), Vol. I, p. xvi. Henceforth cited as Stanley.
5. Chauth was a charge under which a state or a territory paid twenty-five percent of its land revenue to the Marathas in return for protection against a foreign aggression.
6. Sardeshmukhi was a charge equal to one-tenth of the land revenue which a hereditary Deshmukh, in the time of the Mughals, kept to himself in return for the collection of the revenue and the maintenance of law and order in a territory allotted to him.
7. G. H. Desai and A. B. Clarke, Gazetteer of the Baroda State (Baroda, 1923), Vol. I, p. 442. Henceforth cited as GBS.
8. Ibid., p. 444, Footnote : Sena Khas Khel was translated by Grand Duff as Commander of the Special Band or Leader of the Sovereign's Band.

9. Major J. W. Watson, History of Gujarat, p. 111.
10. Grant Duff, History of the Marathas (Edited by J. P. Guha, New Delhi, 1971), Vol. I, p. 287.
11. GBS, Vol. I, p. 447.
12. C. U. Aitchison, A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads (Calcutta, 1929), Vol. VI, pp. xIvi - Ivii. Henceforth cited as Aitchison.
13. The Mulukgiri expeditions are described with a table in the GBS, Vol. I, pp. 455-58.
14. Stanley, Vol. I, p. xxi.
15. Elliot, p. 36.
16. Hakikat, p. 22.
17. GBS, Vol. I, p. 460.
18. Elliot, p. 38.
19. Badoden Rajya Daftarantil Aitehasik Yanche, Part I, p. 101. Also quoted by D. N. Apte, Shri Maharaja Sayajirao Tisare Yanche Charitra (Marathi)(Baroda, 1936), Part I, p. 17.
20. Elliot, p. 39.
21. GBS, Vol. I, p. 465.
22. Aitchison (1876), Vol. V, p. 5.
23. Baroda Precis of 1853, Para 19. Also cited in GBS, Vol. I, p. 478.
24. Aitchison (1876), Vol. V, p. ix.
25. GBS, Vol. I, p. 482.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid., p. 484.
28. D. N. Apte, Shri Maharaja Sayajirao Tisare Yanche Charitra (Marathi)(Baroda, 1936), Part I, p. 23. op.cit.

29. The Arab mercenary troops originally brought into the State by Fatehsinhrao. Their numbers considerably increased during the time of Govindrao Gaekwad. They became masters of the area to which they were placed as armed troopers. During the time of Anandrao Gaekwad, Raoji Appaji, the Dewan, employed them in the State. They became so much powerful that all the city gates and fortification of the Baroda State were brought under their control.
30. The British flag was hoisted at Velachha, the Principal station in the Chorasi Pargana on 7th July, 1802.
31. GBS, Vol. I, p. 491.
32. Elliot, p. 73.
33. Stanley, Vol. I, p. xxix.
34. Aitchison, (1876) IV, No. 8. Also quoted in GBS, Vol. I, p. 500.
35. Ibid., No. 82. Also quoted in GBS, Vol. I, p. 501.
36. GBS, Vol. I, p. 521.
37. Aitchison, Vol. IV, No. 83.
38. W. R. Wallace, The Guicowar and his Relations with the British Government (London, 1910), p. 28.
39. Stanley, Vol. I, pp. xxxvi - xxvii.
40. Elliot, p. 156.
41. Rajyagor, p. 109.
42. Elliot, p. 173.
43. Ibid.
44. Political Department, Vol. 44 (Baroda), pp. 503-506. Cited by R. K. Dharaiya. Gujarat in 1857 (Ahmedabad, 1970), p. 62.
45. Bombay Presidency Gazetteer, Vol. I, pp. 441-42.

46. Huzur Political Office Selection, No. 26, pp. 129-30. Cited by Elliot, p. 184.
47. Ibid., p. 133. Cited by Elliot, p. 184.
48. Ibid., p. 136.
49. GBS, Vol. I, p. 587.
50. Rajyagor, p. 110.
51. GBS, Vol. I, p. 597.
52. GBS, Vol. I, p. 599. Also cited by Elliot, p. 250.

The Commission consisted of four members,

- (a) Colonel Richard Meade, the President;
- (b) Mr. Muntaz-ul-daula Nawab Faiyaz Ali, appointed by the Government of India.
- (c) Mr. E. V. Ravenscroft; and
- (d) Colonel Etheridge.

The Commission held its first meeting at Baroda on 10th November, 1873, and its last meeting at the same place on 24th December, 1873.

53. GBS, Vol. I, p. 600.
54. Blue book, No. 4. Cited by Apte, Vol. I, pp. 88-89.
55. GBS, Vol. I, p. 599. Also cited by Elliot, p. 253. The Commission consisted of six members (three British and three Indian members):
 - (a) Sir Richard Couch, the Chief Justice of Bengal, as President;
 - (b) Sir Richard Meade;
 - (c) Mr. P. S. Melvill;
 - (d) Maharaja Sindhia, of Gwalior;
 - (e) Maharaja of Jaipur; and
 - (f) Sir Dinkarrao.

56. Huzur Political Order Selection, No. 26, p. 241.
57. Sir L. Pelly, East India Papers (Baroda), No. V, p. 32. Also quoted by Stanley, Vol. I, pp. 8-9.
58. Ibid..
59. Ibid.
60. GBS, Vol. I, p. 604.
