

CHAPTER-I

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The processes of modernization, permeates two fundamental terms, which has been used in the thesis to understand pre-modern and modern. These two terms represent two different time span with a fluid intervening phase signifying a transition. Pre-modern is a precursor of modernity, and a basis for it. In a pre-modern state, *'power was made visible through theatrical displays, in the form of processions, progresses, royal entries, coronations, funerals, and other rituals that guaranteed the well-being and continued power of the rulers over the ruled.'*¹ In other words there was an absence or negligence on the part of state to contribute to the prolific progress of its people and even sometimes in their basic requirements. But as we are aware that everything is destined to undergo change—dissolution, displacement, and transformation. Similarly the pre-modern states undergo a slow progression through the early modern to a modern phase.

In the case of eighteenth century European states, power was increasingly made visible not only through ritual performance and dramatic display, but also through gradual extension of officializing: by defining and classifying space; standardizing language and scripts; educating public; establishing civilizing institutions; codifying the law; keeping records and so on.² These became the essential characteristics of modern society and a modern nation state.

Based on the above characteristics, a modern society can be further understood as—*'the interaction of a number of 'deeply structured processes of change taking place over long periods. It is the outcome not of single process but condensation of a number of processes and histories.'*³ Thus there can be no mono-causal explanation for modernity. This protracted process also denoted that modernity is not a phenomenon of recent origin, but the result of many a historical processes, factors and casual patterns. The four major processes viz., the political, the economic, the social and the cultural can be distinguished in the shaping of a modern society across a long historical time-span.

¹ Cohn B S, (1996), *Colonialism and its forms of knowledge: The British in India*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 3

² Cohn B S, 3

³ Hall S & Gieben B, (1992), *Formations of Modernity*, The Open University Polity Press, Cambridge, 6

The explanation of modernity by Hall and Gieben validates the above theory of modernity and that of the transition from the pre-modern to the modern. According to Hall, ‘*Modernization is a set of historical processes with its roots in pre-modern era. This cluster of political, economic, social, and cultural processes leads to the formation of modern state.*’⁴ He further says that, a modern state is based on certain crucial characteristics, such as— constitutionalism, dominance of secular form of political power and authority; a monetarized economy; decline of traditional social order (formation of new classes and appearance of a dynamic sexual division of labour); the rise of materialistic culture exhibiting individualistic, rationalist and instrumental impulses; and the production and classifying of knowledge and promoting education.⁵

Deutsch, K. explains modernity as the process in which major cluster of old social, economic and psychological commitments are gradually eroded and broken and people become available for new patterns of socialization and behavior. Its main indices espouse aspects of modern life through the demonstration of machinery, buildings, consumers’ goods, response to mass media, change of residence, urbanization, change from agriculture occupation, literacy, growth of per capita income and so forth.⁶

A survey of various descriptions of the two types of society viz., pre-modern and modern, yields the following list of typically paired traits.⁷

Pre-modern	Modern
Minimal Participation by the Government	High Participation
Structurally defused role	Structurally differentiated
Culture permeated by sacred norms	Culture (highly) rationalized or secularized
Relatively small units based on kinship	Nation State
Limited capacity to meet external or internal challenges	Capacity to meet most external or internal challenges

⁴ Ibid., 15

⁵ Ibid.,

⁶ Deutsch K,(1961), Social Mobilization and Political Development, *American Political Science Review*, Vol.LV, 463-515; see also United Nations, Report on World Social Situation (1961), The United Nations, New York

⁷ Shiner L E,(1975), Tradition/Modernity: An Ideal Type Gone Astray, *Comparative Studies In Society And History, An International Quarterly*, Vol-17(02) ,245-252, 249

However, some of structural characteristics of the processes of modernization in any given society greatly depend on the characteristic of that society at the point at which it begins to modernize. For instance European countries underwent the process of modernization in the late seventeenth century originating and passing through various movements to embrace the 'Age of Reason'. But India experienced modernity in the early nineteenth century. It is to be noted that the process of modernization of India, no doubt, had started with the advent of the colonial powers.

Of equal importance to the idea that each term designates an ideally unified socio-cultural system is the notion which usually accompanies it of uni-linear and apparently inevitable movement of 'traditional' societies towards becoming 'modern' societies. Even when it is admitted that setbacks or decay may occur, the focus of attention by those who use this polarity is on the long-term progression towards modernity.⁸

In India, nineteenth century is viewed as a period of major transformation leading to modernization. The princely State of Baroda is a classical example of this transformation. The first half of the nineteenth century was a formative time for Baroda state; it was during this time that Baroda received stability, longevity and an identity of being a sovereign state. This was the period when Baroda had experienced a few hazy sparks of pre-modernity. The latter half of the nineteenth century was crucial for the state, as the stable Government could initiate some definite progressive works. Several efforts were made by the subsequent rulers to introduce reforms creating a strong visible base of early-modernity and thence modernity. But the real work of reformation was instigated by the Dewan of Baroda state, Sir T Madhavrao. He began to officialize, institutionalize, and organize the administration of Baroda state. The work and time of T Madhavrao were broadly demonstrating the early-modernity by exhibiting significant of the modern characteristics. But the transitory and modern era of Baroda state was the reign of Sayajirao-III. He was instrumental link in transforming Baroda from pre-modern to modern. Thus through this research I am trying to portray the transition of Baroda State from pre-modern basis through early modern stage and finally to modernity.

⁸ Hunting S P,(1965), Political Development and Political Decay, *World Politics*, XVIII; also cited by Shiner L E, 249

The objectives of my study are to inquire into the formation of pre-modern Baroda state; to understand the process of transformation of various institutions in the Baroda state which underwent modernization during the rule of Sayajirao III; to focus on the socio-cultural aspects of the Modern Baroda state; and to ascertain whether there was a complete change or an uneasy adjustment in the process of modernization.

The methods followed for the research work are analysis of archival material, examination of secondary work and discussion with researchers of various fields. My study is divided into further seven chapters:

The next chapter, 'Formation of Baroda State and Its Pre-modern Basis,' is divided into two sections. The first section focuses on the formation of Baroda state and second section deals with the pre-modern basis of the Baroda state administration. It deals with the brief political history of the Gaekwads broadly from 1700 to 1800. It focuses mainly on the early Gaekwads and the circumstances that led towards the ultimate formation of Baroda state. The first expedition of Damajirao Gaekwad inaugurated the possibilities of further exploration of Gujarat by succeeding Gaekwads. Pilajirao-I, the nephew of Damajirao, got a foothold in Gujarat by making Songadh his capital and carried his further operation from there. He acquire right to levy revenue of substantial part of Gujarat. The expansionist policy of Gaekwads and their refusal to comply the Peshwa as their authority brought them to frequent confrontations. And as a result of one of these struggles a 'Partition Treaty' was signed between the two according to which the acquired territories of Gujarat were equally divided between the Peshwa and the Gaekwad. This allotment of confirmed territories to the Gaekwad and further appendage into it was consolidated and was made Baroda state.

The second section of the chapter describes the foundation of the Baroda state and its gradual consolidation under the succeeding Gaekwad rulers. The time period from 1800 to 1875 was crucial for state as it was during this time that the administration of Baroda state was brought on better footing progressively. Institutionalization of administration, which is an important component of any modern society, was initiated during the early years of the nineteenth century and was carried on further which provided Baroda state with strong foundation on which the edifice of modern Baroda State was built. The organization of Executive Committee during the reign of Anandrao Gaekwad, establishment of Central Court

during the regency of Fatehsingrao, institutionalization of economy by setting off *potedari* system by Sayajirao-II, pioneering effort to introduce railways and public work by Ganpatrao, streamlining revenue administration and codification of the laws by Khanderao Gaekwad and measure to foster public instruction and public health by Malharrao Gaekwad were substantiating the appearance of the significant characteristics of modernity. These changes brought in by the early rulers had provided Baroda State with base for modernization.

The third Chapter ‘Transition from Pre-Modern to Modern in the Baroda State’ concentrates on the initiations of the processes of early modernization from 1875 onwards. The early rulers no doubt had made efforts to improve the state but it was not an all-round development, the shift was very slow and gradual. The work of real transition from pre-modern to modern was done with the advent of T Madhavrao in 1875 as the Dewan. He had introduced reforms in all most every area—like revenue administration, revival of state finance, encouragement to agriculture, improvement in judicial system, public health, public instruction and so on. He rendered service to the state from the years 1875 to 1882 and in this short period only he undertook to make systematize the administration of state. He attempted institutionalization by creating separate department like revenue, judicial, public health, public instruction, public works department, so that the administration could be smooth and precise. Since it was a regency administration, T Madhavrao could carry all the reforms effectively and without disputes with the Sayajirao-III.⁹ Moreover his relation with British was cordial therefore there were less hurdles in his path. He along with administering the state kept on giving lessons to Sayajirao-III in the art of administration, so that as soon as Sayajirao attained the powers he could do his duties efficiently. However after Sayajirao ascended the throne in the year 1881, there was a constant clash between the two. Consequently, T Madhavrao sought retirement from state service in the year 1882.

The second section of the chapter discusses the training of Sayajirao-III as per the colonial ideals of an efficient ruler. Sayajirao-III was adopted in 1875 at the age of thirteen and was given the full power of the State in 1881. The period from 1875 to 1881 was his formative period, when his education and training was carried out which played an important role in his being the ruler of a progressive state. But there were other factors also which influenced

⁹Maharashtra State Archives-Mumbai , *Political Department*, Vol-12,Annual Report, 1877, 55-56

Sayajirao-III and contributed towards making him a progressive ruler—such as his exposure to varied facets of western civilization during his foreign visits. Under this section an overview of these influential factors of his life, like his education and training, his personal life, his foreign travels, his relation with British etc, is given. The reason to devote an entire section to the ‘making and being’ Sayajirao-III is to look into the processes that transformed his personality, broadened his outlook and made him an enlightened ruler. The following statement by the Dewan, T Madhavrao rationalizes the relevance of this section.

He says in his book ‘Minor Hints’ that, “*The preceding Gaekwads were hardly among the best Ruling Princes. They governed in the old arbitrary Asiatic fashion. They made errors, disappointed their people, faced difficulties and some even were dethroned. The former Gaekwads, however, were not so fortunate as to have the opportunity of learning those principles as Your Highness now has.*”¹⁰

The subsequent chapter 'The Administration and the Modernization in the Baroda state' focuses on the measures taken by the Sayajirao-III to streamline administration of state. The early years of his reign were the most significant in terms of setting a pattern and meaningful direction. His ultimate aim had been working towards decentralizing the administration as much as possible and he wanted to retain supervisory powers. He created the Executive Committee to make and implement the plans. His idea of systematization and decentralization was made applicable to almost all the department of state but the

two which got special attention were Judicial and Local-self Government. The chapter consequently is divided further into two sections i) Judicial system; and ii) Local-Self Government.

The first section 'Judicial System' focuses on the reforms introduced in the judicial system. The formation of separate judicial department and then its improvement made it distinctive and effective. The change into its administrative machinery made it more resourceful. Legislative Council was a spawn of his spirit of liberalism and also of his idea to stimulate public

¹⁰ T Madhavrao, (1881), *Minor Hints* (Lectures Delivered to H. H. the Maharaja Gaekwad Sayajirao-III G. C. S. I by Raja Sir T Madhavrao, K. C. S. I, compiled for private circulation), British India Press, 95

representation and initiation in matters of State. Legislative Council helped to provide laws after rigorous and detailed studies which proved operative for the judiciary. Other important improvements were introduced like cases against Government which again authenticates his liberal ideas, examination for the pleaders, and creation of small cause courts for fast disposal of cases and so on.

Section two focuses on the encouragement given to local self-government, its establishment and defining its functions. Sayajirao-III held the view that his people should learn to be self-reliant and should assert against their difficulties. Besides, his idea of decentralization also was responsible for the configuration of local self-government at all levels—village *panchayat*, *taluka panchayat*, district *panchayat* and municipalities in the important district towns and in the capital, Baroda city. A democratic disposition was added to it by introduction of elective representation into these self-governing bodies. In addition the proportion of elected member from village *panchayat* were sent to *taluka panchayat*, it continued the same pattern from *taluka panchayat* to district *panchayat* and from District *panchayat* to Legislative Council. These self-governing bodies were entrusted with certain authorities and responsibilities which determine their functions.

The next chapter 'Economy and Modernization in the Baroda State' traces the efforts made during the reign of Sayajirao-III to meet the economic exigencies of the time. Madhavrao had prevented the deterioration of economy by systematizing revenue and by making an attempt to encourage agriculture, but left a great deal to be achieved. Sayajirao-III gave unyielding consideration to comprehensive development of economy. He improved the revenue system and agriculture; fostered modern industries and revived the village industries. He also made provision of ready finance for agriculturists and entrepreneurs by establishing banks and co-operative societies. The chapter is divided in four sections with a view to describe the measures that Sayajirao-III took for enhancing means of economy like i) Agriculture , ii) Revenue, iii) Industry and iv) Finance.

The first section deals with agriculture and improvement brought into it. Majority of the people were depending on agriculture for their livelihood. The increase in population, reduction in land holdings and lack of improved means were worsening the conditions in agriculture. To work upon these agrarian problems, the Department of Agriculture was re-organized.

Improvement were brought in agriculture by minimizing further fragmentation of land holding, by imparting agricultural education and carrying out agricultural researches, by introducing improved agricultural implements and making available easy finance for the agriculturists.

Section two focuses on the revenue system of the state. The Survey and Settlement was already introduced before Sayajirao-III took the powers in his hands but he restructured the department and separated the Judicial Department from Executive to make the work effective. Increase in revenue demand was made not by increasing the rates but by increasing the cultivated lands through restraining land alienation, abolition of miscellaneous taxes or by amalgamating certain of them into land revenue and so on. Some non-agricultural *veros* (taxes) were also done away with and Income Tax Act was passed. Thus restructure and reforms were introduced to improve the revenue system of State.

Section three of the chapter elucidates the growth of industries and its significance in the State. Prior to Sayajirao-III only the village industries were in existence and they were also vanishing. Sayajirao-III's tours abroad had acquainted him with the modern industries of the developed countries. He first of all created Department of Commerce and Industry to carry further operation. Industrial and technical education was made available and surveys to maximize utilization of mineral resources were undertaken. He aspired to make Baroda State to be industrially advanced and thus he initiated with establishing industries for setting an example to the entrepreneurs and then sold them to the private parties.

The fourth section concentrates on the establishment of banks and co-operative societies. For growth of Industries and agriculture it was inevitable to create large amounts. State finance was not in position to match the increasing demand; as a result banks were established. On the other hand co-operative movement was motivated and even non-agricultural societies were set off with the purpose to fulfill pecuniary requirements. Owing these bold measures there was an increasing in cash reserves instead of public debt.

The chapter 'Society and Modernization in the Baroda State' focuses on the reforms launched by Sayajirao-III with the view to make his state socially advanced and his people more judicious. Social modernization was his principal goal behind the advancement of the other aspects of society like polity, economy or culture. However the local social structure was complicated to

bring any sudden or bold reforms to offensively disturb the age-old conservative norms. Instead a gradual rational process was perceived to be more suitable and the most cogent way adopted by Sayajirao-III was to educate his people first and alongside introduce social reforms. Sayajirao-III is remembered as an educationist and as a champion of social legislation. His societal reforms were manifold, but the most noteworthy were: i) Public Instruction; ii) Library Movement; iii) Public Health; and iv) Improvement in position of women.

The first section deals with public instruction. Sayajirao-III believed that education was the remedy to all evils and hence strived throughout his reign to educate his people. He introduced free and compulsory education in his State. He offered scholarships and sent students abroad for higher studies on Government funding. Establishment of education institutions like schools, colleges, training institutions were his priority. Education to girls was given vital importance to better their own position and to improve the society as a whole. Along with imparting education to girls in mix schools, separate schools for girls were started to encourage conservative families to send their girls to schools. Sayajirao-III aimed at eradicating untouchability and betterment of the *antyajas*-with special focus on education. Special benefits were given to the untouchables—special schools and boarding houses were started and scholarships were provided, laws were passed to abolish the unjust practices against the *antyajas*. To Sayajirao-III education was the key to other reforms in the society and so he spent large amount of the proceeds on education.

The second section reflects the impetus given to the establishment of libraries in the State. Sayajirao-III's visit to the United States of America had a great impact on carrying out Library Movement in his State. He was fascinated by the significance given to the libraries there and their library system. He hired the services of an American library expert to start libraries in Baroda state and to introduce a library system on the lines of American library system. Libraries were opened throughout the state and even mobile libraries were started. Establishment of the Baroda Central Library was an epitome to his library movement. Books on different subjects were made available in all the libraries and books were also being rotated among the decided group of libraries. Baroda Library Movement was first of its kind in entire India.

Third Section of the chapter deals the facilities provided by the state for public health. Sound mind and a sound body go hand in hand. Public health was equally significant as public

instructions. Initiation in this direction in true sense was made by Malharrao Gaekwad and T. Madhavrao added to it. Sayajirao expanded it to much higher level. Better health system was introduced and Medical Department was modernized. Hospitals were started in all the districts and then in talukas of the State. Dispensaries were established in villages. Provision of easy availability of vaccination and medicines was made by establishing medical stores. Important acts were passed in relation to public health. Special health and hygiene awareness programmes were held, and importance of physical exercise was being made public by inculcating it into school curriculum and also by establishing and aiding gymkhanas in the State.

Fourth section focuses on the efforts made by State to improve the position of women in the State. Sayajirao-III had made attempts to better the position of depressed caste, class and gender. He had realized the handicaps of secluded conservative voiceless women of state. He believed that the only way to improve the position of women was to educate them give some of them vocational training to lead a dignified life. He passed certain laws which helped in upliftment of their status and gave them an individuality and dignity challenging the orthodox society. Charity begins at home was the truth accepted by Sayajirao-III; hence he encouraged his wife Chimmabai-II to educate herself and also to discard *pardah*. He also made her take initiation in public reforms and especially for the betterment of women. They both together carried out many reforms in general and in particular for women, like encouragement to women education and to discard *pardah*. With his support many women's associations, societies and clubs were started to carry work for their betterment and that of society.

The chapter 'Cultural Modernization in the Baroda State' focuses on the propagation of art and architecture during the reign of Sayajirao-III. He was a noted patron of art and a promoter of fine architecture. His was the time when the acculturation of Indian and European art and architecture could be seen, the edifices of which still adorn the *sanskarinagari* Baroda. The chapter is divided into two sections i) Art; and ii) Architecture.

The first section of the chapter deals with the propagation of art in Baroda in the time of Sayajirao-III. He was an art lover and his foreign tours developed his interest for different art forms like painting, sculpture, music, dance and so on. He invited many native¹¹ and foreign

¹¹ The term native has been used only in the context of describing the people of various regions of India during the colonial times so as to differentiate between them and the people of Baroda State.

artists in the State and the work adorned the palaces of Baroda. Sayajirao had visited art galleries and museums in Europe which inspired him to open art gallery and a museum in his own State. The work of the prominent artists was preserved and exhibited at art gallery and museum. Establishment of Kala Bhavan was a step ahead in this direction where people were could learn different art forms.

The second section discusses about architecture in the State under Sayajirao-III. The architectural grandeur of Baroda is tourists' enchantment even today. The Laxmi Vilas palace, Kirti Mandir, Nyay Mandir, Khanderao Market, Kala Bhavan were few examples of architectural magnificence built during the reign of Sayajirao-III. Most of them were designed by the European architects and they stand today as a reminder of Sayajirao-III' fondness for great monumental ideas. One more thing for which Sayajirao-III is remembered even today is his patronage of massive gardens. Gardens of Baroda like Sayaji Baug well known as Kamati Baug and the palace gardens were laid by Sayajirao-III. These gardens were the finest example of landscape architecture. The purpose behind laying Kamati Baug was to provide serene open space for the recreation and relaxation of his people.

The concluding chapter summarizes the entire process of transition from pre-modern through early modern to a modern Baroda State. In it an overview of the other important work carried on by Sayajirao-III is given, the mention of which was desirable. An attempt is also made to give a review of the modernization of Baroda State by comparing some of its aspects with the some contemporary states of British India.