

## Quetta and its Occupation by British Raj:

By

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### Abstract:

*The British Government developed a massive interest in Baluchistan, specifically in Quetta city because of its geo-strategic significance. British authorities had want to establish buffer states in north-western frontier to secure their Indian empire. The research has discussed the historical background of the Quetta city. Moreover, has additionally discussed the geo-strategic value of city. The first interaction of British with Kalat rulers took place before first Afghan war in 1839 A.D. The city was remained under British control for short period after first Afghan war, After the war with the withdrawal of British forces from the region, they have realized the strategic significance of the Quetta. John Jacob in charge of Political Affairs of Kalat, was in pioneers, who suggested the strong military hold in Quetta to secure the frontiers of British Empire. The scheme of John Jacob was not accomplished in his life due to non-interference policy toward Kalat. The dream came true when Robert Sandeman came in the scene with Forward Policy. In 1876 A.D. the city was established as a colonial city of British Raj according to the treaty 1876. The aim of this work is to highlight the history of the city and causes of the occupation of city by British as well. For this research, the analytical method has adopted by researcher.*

**Keywords:** Balochistan, British Government, Kalat, Quetta, Shal.

### Introduction:

Quetta is district of the Balochistan, province of Pakistan, it is also district divisional and provincial headquarter of Balochistan, sharing its boundaries in the east with Ziarat and in the west with Killa Abdullah, Pishin is in the north and Mastung District lies in the south.

Area-wise district Quetta ranks 4th smallest district in Balochistan and has an area of 2,653 square kilometres, Quetta District

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lies between 66°41'40"-67°17'25" East longitudes and 30°01'29"-30°28'25" North latitudes consisting of 2 Tehsils and 67 Union councils.

Location of Quetta is at 690 km (aerial distance) south-west (237degrees bearing) of Pakistan's capital city, Islamabad. (District Development Profile Quetta, 2011). The District is bounded on the north and west by Afghan territory, on the east by the Zhob and Sibi Districts, and on the south by the Bolan Pass District and the Sarawan Division of Kalat.

The valley of Quetta, says Sir Richard Temple, "lies in the bosom of grand mountains. These mountains are about 6000 feet above the altitude of Quetta, and Quetta itself is about 5500 feet above the sea level. They are magnificent limestone formations. On the right hand of the picture you see the mountain *Murdar*, in the distance to the right is the mountain of *Zarghoon*, remarkable for its forests of juniper, but in this clear atmosphere in the evening light, so strong is the effulgence of the setting sun that the mountain looks like one mass of rose colour. Midway in the picture, you see the *Takatu* mountain, which separates the valley of Quetta from the valley of Pishin. The spurs of *Takatu* stretch to the left, and through a long gap in them you see in the distance a line of blue-grey mountains, which form the *Khoja Amran* range, and between the spurs of Quetta and these blue mountains lies the valley of Pishin. Further to the left is the mountain of *Chiltan*. In the middle distance you see the town and mud fort of Quetta. In the foreground is the road leading from the Bolan Pass towards Quetta, and joining the road near Quetta you will see a road that comes from the Kalat country. I am sure that no view I could present, no colours that I could depict, could give you any idea of the real splendour of the scene." (Thorton, 2017 Edition, pp. 105-06)

Hughes A. W. define Quetta as, the town of *Shal*, so-called by the Brahuīs, or Quetta (Kwatta), as designated by the Afghans—meaning the fort, or *Kot*. It is in lat. 30° 8' N., and long. 66° 56' E., and is 5600 feet above the level of the sea. The town is surrounded by a mud wall, and has two gates, the eastern and southern, the latter being known as the Shikarpuri gate. In the centre of the town, on an artificial mound, is the *Miri*, or fort, in which the governor of the place resides, and from it there is a very fine and extensive view of the neighbouring valley. This fort, it would seem, possesses but a single gun. *Shal* is said to be about the same size as Mastung, and has probably about 4000 inhabitants. (Hughes, 2002, pp. 73-74)

#### **The Shal, Shal kot and Quetta:**

The ancient name of Quetta was Shal, a term by which it is still known among the people of the country, and which Rawlinson traces back to the tenth century. The district was

held in turns by the Ghaznavids, Ghorids, and Mongols, and towards the end of the fifteenth century was conferred by the ruler of Herat on Shah Beg Arghun, who, however, had shortly to give way before the rising power of the Mughals. The *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions both Shal and Pishin as supplying military service and revenue to Akbar. From the Mughals they passed with Kandahar to the Safavids. On the rise of the Ghilzai power in Kandahar at the beginning of the eighteenth century, simultaneously with that of the Brahuis in Kalat. (Buller R. H., 1908, p. 120) Scholars and historians have mentioned many theories and folklores about its old name Shal and Quetta. One of them is very famous that the Shal (Quetta) was conferred to Naseer Khan I by Ahmed Shah Abdali. Lala Hittu Ram who was native assistant of Robert Sandeman the first A.G.G of Balochistan he wrote, when Naseer Khan I helped Ahmed Shah against Ali Mardan Khan the Mughal ruler of Mashhad, and against the Marathas in the war of Panipat, the territory of Kot was bestowed to the mother of Nasser Khan I. Traditionally the gift given by rulers to any woman, it is called in Hindi “*Chadar*” in Balochi “*Siri*” and in Pashto “*Shal*”. Since the territory of Kot was bestowed to mother of Naseer Khan I, its name became as Shal. (Ram, 2017 10th edition , p. 273)

Abdul Hai Habibi argued on this, “this area was given by Ahmad Shah Durrani to the mother of Mir Nasir Khan as a valuable estate by presenting her a shawl. But this is an incorrect statement since Shaal existed one thousand years before this gesture and during the time of Ahmad Shah Abdali the place was known as Shaal and the clan of Kalawi of the Kasi tribe live there. In this book an order written by Mir Nasir Khan for the chiefs, Arbab Yusuf Khan, Dawlat Khan and Badin Khan, which was written on April 20, 1739, has been mentioned. The book also contains a decree issued by Ahmad Shah Abdali which is dated May 2, 1741 in page 624. Both these dates are incorrect because Nasir Khan’s accession to the throne took place in 1751 and Ahmad Shah was reigned in 1747. It is not possible they wrote decrees a decade before their accession to the throne. In both decrees this land has been named as Shaal indicating the name was famous during that time. It is not a new name and the people of Kandahar, until the present time, call the fruit merchants of Quetta as Shaalkotyan”. (Habibi, 1962, p. 25)

The valley of Quetta is surrounded by high mountain from all sides, in ancient times the fort was called Kot, which had high walls around it. Still there are several old fort which are known as same names, like, Sialkot, Habibkot, Mithankot, Shorkot. The Kot name is still used by people. Though the Valley of Quetta is bounded with high mountains, it had also named as ‘Kot’, which may have corrupted as ‘Kota’, and then British made it Quetta from Kota.

(Ahmed, 2015 2nd Edition , pp. 18-19)

### **Quetta Under Khanate:**

In 1666 A.D. Mir Ahmed Khan I selected as Khan of Kalat. As he annexed the throne he faced the challenge of Mughal forces from Kandahar. When Agha Jaffar was defeated by Safavid king Shah Abbas II, Agha Jaffar evocated Kandahar and arose to occupy Shal (Quetta), and Mastung. A first battle took place under Mir Ahmed Khan I and Agha Jaffar force at Kad Koocha and then at Quetta in year 1767 A.D. The Baloch force defeat Mughal Chief, Agha Jaffar and occupied the Shal, from that time Quetta was under the rulers of Kalat. (Dashti, 2012, p. 160)

After the death of Mir Samandar Khan in 1714, Mir Ahmed Khan II, the eldest son of Mehrab Khan I was declared Khan of Kalat. He is said to have been a weakling and spoilt child, always afraid of his capable younger brother, Abdullah Khan whom he had appointed as deputy at the fort of Shal Kot (Quetta). (Marri, 1985, p. 233), after the death of Mehrab Khan, Abdullah Khan succeeded the throne of Kalat, in 1709 Ghilzais came in power at Kandahar, in 1725 about this time, Baloch history relates that Pishin had been annexed by Mir Abdulla, after an engagement with the Ghilzais near Kandahar, and Mir Firoz Kahn Raisani, had been made governor of Pishin. (Buller R. H., 1907, p. 35) Mir Naseer Khan I, the son of Mir Abdullah Khan became Khan of Kalat after his father death. A folklore is famous that the Shal (Quetta) was bestowed to Naseer khan, which mentioned above, have no historical evidence, and Quetta was part of Sarawan province of Kalat state at the time of Mir Naseer Khan I, till the advent of British in 1839, in Balochistan the Quetta remained under the Kalat.

### **Quetta During First Afghan War:**

As late as 1832, the British Government in India planned to open the river Indus to commerce and navigation. The British had entered into treaties with the Baluch Amirs of Sind and Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab. For this purpose, the British Government approached Amir Dost Mohammad of Kabul through their envoy, Captain Barnes. The delegation mission of Barnes was failed due claim on Peshawar by Afghan Government. When the Barnes mission was failed, the three-party treaty was signed by British Government, Raja Ranjit Singh and Shah Shuja, a deposed king who was living in Ludhaina (British India) try to seeking the British help to recapture the Kabul throne. According to the tripartite treaty, Shah Shuja agreed to be an ally of British Government against her enemies, as well as to be subordinate to the British with regard to external affairs. In return Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the British Government agreed to support Shuja in his desire to regain his royal seat at Kabul. In 1839, The British Government organised a grand army, known as the army of Indus, to occupy Afghanistan on the behalf of Shah Shuja. (Baloch, The Problem of Greater Baluchistan: A Study of Baluch nationalism, 1987, p. 128)

The army of Indus marched Afghanistan via Bolan Pass to Quetta and Kandahar. From March 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 1839 the force under Major General Willoughby Cotton was threading the Bolan, unopposed in front except by the nature of the road, but losing many camels from fatigue, and some from the petty attacks of marauders. Much baggage was sacrificed, which was no disadvantage to the force, though it necessarily whetted the appetite of the Baloch for plunder. The 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment N.I. under command of Willoughby Cotton was left to secure the head of the Bolan, three of its companies having been left in Dhadur to hold the pass until the Shah and the troops escorting him should enter it. Willoughby Cotton reached Quetta on March 26, and as Keane's orders prohibiting a further advance were positive, he determined there to await the arrival of his chief with the Bombay troops. (Durand, 1879, pp. 134-35)

The Forces stayed there till 6<sup>th</sup> April 1839 to wait for the Bombay troops arrive there, Meanwhile, arrangements had been made to hand over Quetta with Mastung and Kachhi to Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk, whose representative was Muhammad Sadik Khan, Popalzai, and Captain Bean of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Native Infantry was appointed Political Agent at Quetta and in the District of Shal (Quetta). (Buller R. H., 1907, p. 37). From 1839 to 1842 the Quetta remained under control of British Government, in 1842 the Government of India decided to evacuate the forces from the Afghanistan and Balochistan, after the evacuation to British the Pishin was occupied by Afghans, while Quetta once again came under the Khan of Kalat till the second occupation of Quetta in 1876.

#### **The Diplomatic Period (1842-1876) and Quetta Importance:**

The diplomatic period or so called non-interference and Close Border Policy period begun from 1842, in which the British adopted the Policy of non-interference or Close Border System towards Kalat affairs.

The administrative policy evolved for the Punjab frontier was that of the Lawrence brothers at Lahore and the one distinctive feature of it was that the administrations would never extend the long hand of their administrative measures to areas beyond their boundaries. The tribes, therefore were to be remain immune from day to day interference in their affairs by the British administrators. This policy was known as the "Close Border System". (Awan, 1985, p. 118). Under the treaty of 1854 British Government recognised the Khan (Naseer Khan II) as an independent ruler of Balochistan. In their non-interference policy British assumed that the strong and power full Khan of Kalat is in favour of British interest to enabling them developing British trade into Central Asia and also keep check on Russian threat.

#### **John Jacob's Quetta Scheme:**

The scheme of strong hold at Quetta was in the observance of John Jacob in 1854, because he knew the strategic significance of Quetta, due to Russian, danger who was willing to meet the warm

waters. There were two options to British Government capture Herat or occupy the Quetta to secure their frontiers of the Indian empire.

Tucker, A. L. P argued about John Jacob that, "He also conducted our relations with the Khan of Kalat, with whom he had much influence, and arranged with him the treaty of 1854. Jacob clearly saw the value of Quetta; and in 1855 he was as anxious that our troops should be there, as Sandeman was many years later". (Tucker, 1921, pp. 19-20)

The British Government assumed that Herat must remain sovereign because an independent Herat was an important component for safe and secure British India. The new Governor General, Lord Canning, disapproved what he thought was the offhand manner in which Jacob confronted the threat to Herat from Persia. In the resultant correspondence, Canning made a few remarks about the alternative lines of advance on Persia and asked for Jacobs opinion. In his reply dated the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1856 Jacob said,

"I would establish a large cantonment permanently at Quetta in the territory of the Khan of Kalat. This price, together with all his people, would be delighted, above all things, to see us established there on their northern frontier, the whole resources of Balochistan would be entirely at our disposal". (Awan, 1985, p. 114)

John Jacob states in favour of the Quetta scheme he argued "expected a positive neighbourhood gathering for British cantonment in Baluchistan within the autonomous Khanate of Kalat, whose ruler Jacob recognized as Quetta's colonial power. Beneficially, Kalat was associated to Britain by the arrangement of 14 May 1854. In return for a yearly appropriation of 50,000 rupees, the Khan promised, among other belongings, to get British troops anyplace in Kalat ought to it demonstrate fundamental.

Jacob pointed to the ease with which communication by street, and inevitably railroad, might be kept up between Quetta and the British wilderness 150-200 miles removed.

Nor seem government stinginess be outraged. For the cantonment would be kept an eye on by troops drawn from the excess Sind and Punjab armies and the fetched of its upkeep counter balance by support it would grant to exchange between India and its northern neighbours. Clearly Jacob did not see his plot as a brief convenient to meet the prerequisites of the coming war with Persia. It was to be lasting degree with clearing repercussions Jacob was proposing that in the event that his plot was executed Herat would have gotten to be pointless as the distant of "key to India". Quetta safely in British hands would secure that importance". (Duthie, 1979, p. 274) Though the Scheme of Quetta occupation in Jacob's life did not followed by British Government as they were in favour of their non-interference policy, and they did not want to directly interfere in Khan Kalat dominion. But the General John Jacob clearly saw the

strategic significance of Quetta during the Close Border Policy of British, as Jacob's want the strong military hold at Quetta many years later Robert Sandeman was also in supporters of occupation of Quetta. Thorton, T. H. writes about a letter of Lady white, wife of Commander in Chief of India, that she wrote in letter that she attended a visit with her father and mother to Captain Sandeman at Dera Ghazi Khan in winter of 1872. When my father discussing about political matter, Captain Sandeman brought a map of the frontiers, and mentioned Quetta on a map and said, "That is where we ought to be, and that is where I hope to be some day". (Thorton, 2017 Edition, pp. 58-59)

Nina Swidler argued about the importance of Quetta, when British occupied Quetta in 1876, "they introduced permanent borders into the region, and they located their headquarter at Quetta, which was determined by its location between the Khojak Pass on the Afghan boundary and the Bolan Pass, the gateway to Kacchi and Sindh." (Swidler, 2014, p. 81)

### **The Direct Interference of British:**

In the beginning twentieth century the great rivalry started between Britain and Russia, known as 'Great Game'. The British and the Czarist Empire both wanted the supremacy and authority in south Asia, including Kalat Balochistan, which was strategically important place in the region. Firstly, Britain adopted the policy of so-called "Close Border Policy" (or Masterly Inactivity Policy), and then they soon realize when the Russian advancement southwards took place in 1860, and they occupied the Turkistan in later in 1867. This increased the danger of Russian invasion towards India. From then Britain adopted the policy of "Forward Policy" to make secure their north frontiers of the Indian empire. (Breseeg T. M., 2004, p. 376)

Captain Robert Sandeman, a Punjab political officer of the Baloch district of Dera Ghazi Khan since 1866, was in contact with Baloch tribes of the Suleman mountains, the subject of the Khan along the frontier of Punjab, and the Khanate. Sandeman and Colonel Phayre both British official were strong advocate and supporter of Forward Policy, informed the Punjab Government about the disorder and affairs of Kalat. They suggested an intervention to settle the civil war between the head of Baloch Confederacy (the Khan) and its Chiefs (Sardars). (Baloch, The Problem of Greater Baluchistan: A Study of Baluch nationalism, 1987, p. 137). The civil war was on going in Balochistan because when Mir Khudadad Khan became the Khan of Kalat, he confiscated all 'Jagir' from all of those sardar who had not help his Father (Mir Mehrab Khan), when Kalat was under attack of British army. Khan this action resulted as civil war between Sardars and Khan of Kalat. Sardar want back their Jagirs and privileges and Khudadad Khan was not ready to do this, which provided British an opportunity to interfere in Balochistan internal affairs, to make their position strengthen in the region.

### **The Empire Builder Sandeman:**

The history of British occupation of Balochistan shall be in complete without the mentioning in the role of Sandeman in Balochistan. Robert Sandeman was from Scotland, born in 1835. His father was also worked in East India Company and retired as a General rank. Sandeman joined army in 1856 and performed very tough duties during the revolt of 1857. After this tough job he joined the civil post of Assistant Commissioner in 1859. He performed his duties from 1866 to 1877, in Dera Ghazi Khan as a District Officer. In 1870s the British Government was thinking of a new policy instead of the Close Border System. The new Policy was known as Forward Policy in this regard Sandeman was remembered as the Peaceful conqueror of Balochistan. (Breseeg T. M., 2004, pp. 175-76)

Robert Sandeman was appointed as District Officer Dera Ghazi Khan in 1866. From the beginning he proved his capacity in dealing with warring Baloch tribal. As a first step he broke through the close border system of Lord Lawrence and extended the British influence beyond the Punjab border into Balochistan and Sindh. To discuss the border affairs a conference was held between Sindh and Punjab Governments was called Mithan kot in 1871, there he was given an additional charge of the Marri Bugti and Mazari tribes of Suleman hills. He was man who negotiates a treaty with the Khan of Kalat in 1876. In 1877 he was appointed Governor General of Balochistan, he was the moderniser to introduced new governance system in the British Balochistan. (Gichki, 2015, p. 144)

### **MithanKot Coference:**

The Government of India decided that the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, Major Sir Henry Durand should convene a meeting to be attended by Sir William Merewether, Colonel Phayre, and Captain Sandeman to discuss the issues and give recommendations to the Government. (Awan, 1985, p. 124). The participant of the conference decided that the affairs of Balochistan would be under the government of Sindh and further they recommended that:

- i. "The political affairs of the British Government with the Baluch tribes on its border, instead of remaining partly with the Punjab Government and partly with that of Sind, should, in future be entirely with the Government of Sind.
- ii. Captain Sandeman, although in charge of the Punjab district, should in relation to the affairs of these tribes, come under the orders of the Political Superintendent of the Sind Frontier.
- iii. The conference approved of the appointment of tribal horsemen to protect the trade routes.
- iv. The conference made no joint recommendation regarding the relationship between Khan and his Confederate Chiefs". (Awan, 1985, p. 124)



A new resolution of the Government of India, dated October 19, 1871, the joint recommendations were sanctioned, and the policy of the Bombay Government, according to this Khan of Kalat was accepted as ultimate ruler of his dominion and the rights of his Sardars was usually accepted. In other word a last chance was given to the Close Border Policy. also an important decision was taken to appointment of tribal horseman to make secure the trade route of Bolan Pass. (Thorton, 2017 Edition, pp. 53-54)

#### **Sandeman's Missions Kalat:**

In the year 1875, anarchy and bloodshed reigned supreme; the Bolan and other passes became closed to traffic, and matters reached such a crisis that the Government of India recalled the Political Agent at Kalat, Major Harrison, and suspended the Khan's annual subsidy of fifty thousand rupees. Then Sir William Merewether recommended that a military expedition in force should be sent to depose the Khan, as well as to coerce the Marri tribe. The Government of India declined to consent to either of these proposals, and in place of them finally adopted a suggestion made by Sandeman that a mission should be despatched to endeavour to bring about a friendly settlement of all inter-tribal disputes and other matters. They appointed Sandeman in charge of the mission, and in their despatch dated October 16, 1875, they issued the following instructions among others for his guidance:

“His Excellency therefore desires that Captain Sandeman shall proceed to the Marri hills as early in the cold season as possible in order to

(i) procure what information he can respecting local feuds and quarrels among the Marri and Bugti tribes, or between them and the Afghans, or between them and the Brahoes;

(ii) to endeavour as far as he can to bring about an amicable settlement of these quarrels;

(iii) to report for the information of Government through the Commissioner in Sind his views on such as he cannot settle; and

(iv) to report on the general relations between the Harris and Bugtis and the Khan's Government”. (Bruce, 1900, p. 58)

The control of the affair in Balochistan given to Sir Robert Sandeman in 1875, who was in-charge of affairs of Marri, Bugti, and Lashari tribes of near to Punjab border. Formerly the affairs of Balochistan was allocated to the Sindh Government. Robert Sandeman went Kalat to settle down the conflict between Khan of Kalat and his Sardars. But he was unsuccessful in his first mission to Kalat. (Dashti, 2012, p. 247)

In 1875 Sandeman again went meet the Khan of Kalat. He informed Khan that now our Government perceive you as head of your confederacy instead of controlling monarch of Balochistan. The Khan was well aware of the powers of the British, and also knows the internal condition of his country due to the rebel Sardars. The Khan did not resist and peacefully accepted the British as chief referee in case of dispute

between him and Sardars. (Baloch, The Problem of Greater Baluchistan: A Study of Baluch nationalism, 1987, p. 139)

The durbar was held in Mastung in July 1876, in which the Sardar were agreed the elementary points of the settlement. This settlement resulted with the end of civil war ongoing between Khan of Kalat and Sardars. The direct rule or control of British on the Balochistan affairs were also accepted by sardars and Khan. Khan surrendered his authority to the British Government and also accepted the Robert Sandeman as a chief arbitrator in case of conflict between Sardars or subject tribes.

In the month of December 1876 the Khan met His Excellency the Viceroy at Jacobabad, and a new Treaty was signed on the 8th of that month. It re-affirmed the engagements made in 1854; It stated that in the Clause six: -

*Article 6*

*"Whereas the Khan of Khelat has expressed a desire on the part of himself and his Sirdars, for the presence in his country of a detachment of British troops, the British Government, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Treaty of 1854, and in recognition of the intimate relations existing between the two countries, hereby assents to the request of His Highness, on condition that the troops shall be stationed in such positions as the British Government may deem expedient, and be withdrawn at the pleasure of that Government."* (Dashti, 2012, pp. 249-50).

According to this clause the British gained the goal to station their army troops in Quetta, and the task was given to Robert Sandeman was achieved peacefully.

**Quetta Under British:**

The new treaty which was signed between Khan and British Government. It was approved according to this treaty article no six, that the British Government can keep his armed forces in the territory of Khan. Later in 1876 Balochistan was declared Agency and Quetta was made it's headquarter. Robert Sandeman was appointed as first Agent to the Governor General (A.G.G.) and Chief Commissioner of Balochistan. (Breseeg T. M., 2004, p. 175). The final ratification of the treaty by Lord Lytton and the Khan, at Jacobabad, a portion of Sir Robert Sandeman's escort consisting of 300 men of the 4th Sikhs Punjab Frontier Force, under the command of Captain Scott was located in Quetta with the Khan's consent. (Buller R. H., 1907, p. 42) Bruce R. I. writes about the occupation of Quetta, "It was provided in this as in former treaties that the British Government might station troops at any place within his Highness's territories considered necessary; and in anticipation of formal sanction to this provision Major Sandeman had, in consultation with Colonel Colley, left part of his escort at Quetta, consisting of three hundred men of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sikhs Punjab

Frontier Force under the command of Captain Scott. Thus was the occupation of Quetta peacefully accomplished with a force of three hundred men, with the consent of the Khan of Khelat and all the leading Sirdars of Baluchistan.” (Bruce, 1900, p. 66). After the Treaty of 1876 and with the stationing British troop at Quetta became the Colonial City of British Raj. The dream and struggle of John Jacob’s and Robert Sandeman’s accomplished with the result of occupation of Quetta peacefully.

Dashti, Naseer argued that after the treaty of 1876 the British accomplished the task of direct control of Balochistan. The treaty of 1876 fetched many political and social changes in the Baloch tribal society. The British used their divide and rule policy, unauthorised the Khan of Kalat by restricted his powers, and by making Robert Sandeman as a chief mediator in case of rivalry between Khan and Sardars. The so called reforms introduced by Robert Sandeman changed the basic cultural and social customs and values of the Baloch society, which resulted more misperception and difficulties in the Baloch country. (Dashti, 2012, p. 260)

#### **Quetta Lease Treaty 1883:**

Early in January 1877 Sandeman was given the title of C. S. I. and later in the same year in February the Government of India declared Balochistan as Agency. Quetta was declared as headquarter of the Agency. Richard Bruce was appointed as the first Political Agent. (Awan, 1985, pp. 131-32) In 1879 it was arranged that the district immediately surrounding Quetta should be administered by British officers, any surplus revenue being made over to the Khan. In 1883 a fresh Agreement was entered into, by which Mir Khudadad Khan agreed to lease the Quetta district to the British Government for an annual rent of Rs. 25,000, and, in consideration of a yearly payment of Rs. 30,000, and also submitted his right to collect tolls tax for trade via Bolan Pass.

*Whereas in the year 1879 an arrangement was finally agreed to between the British Government and His Highness Mir Khudadad Khan of Kelat by which the district and Niabat of Quetta were placed under the administration of the British Government on certain conditions and for a certain period, and whereas the period fixed by the said arrangement is almost expired, and whereas it has been found by experience to be to the advantage of both Governments that the district and Niabat of Quetta should be exclusively managed by the officers of the British Government, and whereas it appears desirable to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and to His Highness the Khan of Kelat, that a similar arrangement should be made regarding the levy of dues and other matters connected therewith in the Bolan Pass in*

*consideration of the losses suffered by His Highness the Khan of Kelat owing to the opening of the Hurnai route by the British Government, it is hereby declared and agreed as follows :-*

*1. Mir Khudadad Khan of Kelat on behalf of himself and his heirs and successors hereby makes over and entrusts the entire management of the Quetta District and Naibat absolutely and with all the rights and privileges as well as full revenue, civil and criminal jurisdiction, and all other powers of administration, to the British Government with effect from 1st April 1883 on the following conditions: -*

*(i) That the said District and Niabat shall be administered on behalf of the British Government by such officer or officers as the Governor-General in Council may appoint for the purpose.*

*(ii) That in lieu of the annual surplus of revenue hitherto paid to His Highness the Khan under the arrangement of 1879 above cited, the British Government shall pay to His Highness on the 31st March in every year, beginning from the 31st March 1884, a fixed annual rent of Rupees 25,000 (twenty-five thousand) which has been settled as a fair average equivalent of His Highness the Khan's right to the annual net surplus of the revenues of the said District and Niabat.*

*(iii) The aforesaid sum of Rupees 25,000 (twenty-five thousand) shall be paid to His Highness without any deductions for cost of administration, so long as the said District and Niabat are administered by the British Government.*

*2. His Highness the Khan hereby transfers to the British Government absolutely, with effect from the 1st day of April 1883, all his rights to levy dues or tolls on the trade travelling through the Bolan to and from British India and Afghanistan, as well as to and from Kachi and Khorasan, as provided by the Treaty of 1854, or on the trade travelling to and from British India and the districts of Sibi, Quetta, and Pishin.*

*3. In return for the concession last mentioned the British Government agree to pay to His Highness the Khan the sum of Rupees 30,000 (thirty thousand) per annum free of all deductions, in two half yearly instalments, on the 1st October and 1st April of each year beginning from the 1st October 1883. In addition, the Viceroy and Governor-General agrees to pay to the Sarawan and Kurd Sirdars a fixed sum yearly for certain service in the Pass*

*representing their shares respectively of the transit and escort fees.*

*4. In order to facilitate the arrangements of the British Government for the collection of tolls on its own behalf in the Bolan Pass, His Highness the Khan hereby cedes to the British Government full civil and criminal jurisdiction and all other powers of administration within the limits of the said pass and within the land purchased by the British Government at Rindali for a railway station and other buildings. (Aitchison, 1909, pp. 217-18)*

### **Conclusion:**

From ancient times Quetta was an important place for invaders, from Alexander to Mahmud, Ghurids to the Mughals, Nadir Shah to British, strategically, politically and commercially the Quetta was important due to its geographic location. Strategically it is bounded with high mountains from all sides, there are three entry point in the city Kuchlak, Sariab, and Hanna in Quetta, if these entrance points of district are blocked, no one can enter in the region. The high mountains protect it from all side. The Miri fort Quetta was played also very significant role in the protection of the city in old times.

At the advent of British in Balochistan in 1839, they occupied Quetta due to its military importance and Quetta was under British control from 1839 to 1842. With the withdrawal of British force, the Quetta again came under control of Khan of Kalat, but after the removal of their force they realised the strategic, commercial and political importance of Quetta. In the period of Close Border Policy, General John Jacob was in pioneers who wanted the strong military occupation of the Quetta. John Jacob was in charge of political affairs of the Balochistan, several times in his tenure he suggested the Government of India that we should occupy Quetta, but at that time the Government of India adopted the policy of non-interference towards the Balochistan affairs. With the occupation of Quetta British Government had many benefits, with their presence in the region they could closely watch in the matters of Afghanistan, and this was not possible without permanent British existence at Quetta. Because when British had lost their hold in Afghanistan specially in Herat. Than British Officials looked for the substitute for Herat, and they found Quetta as best substitute of Herat. Because of the Quetta strategic location, the British could keep check on the Afghanistan and interfere in its internal political matters. With the strong hold at Quetta and interfering in the Afghanistan they could disturb and stop the Russian advance, who was intruding slowly and gradually towards the British Empire.

After the John Jacob, Robert Sandeman came in scene, he was also a strong advocate of Forward Policy and supporter of Quetta possession. The scheme which was remained incomplete in the tenure of John Jacob,

Sandeman had completed the task of occupying Quetta. In his first mission to Kalat he was unable to consolidate, but in 1876 on his second mission he proved that he is a peaceful conqueror of Balochistan. According to the Treaty of 1876 Article 6, the British government achieved the goal of presence of British troops anywhere in the Khan territory, had accomplished the permanent and complete occupation of Quetta. The troops were stationed at Quetta, and then they British Government leased the district of Quetta. The struggle and contest of occupying Quetta was finalized with the Lease Treaty of 1883, and Quetta became the Colonial City of British Raj.

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