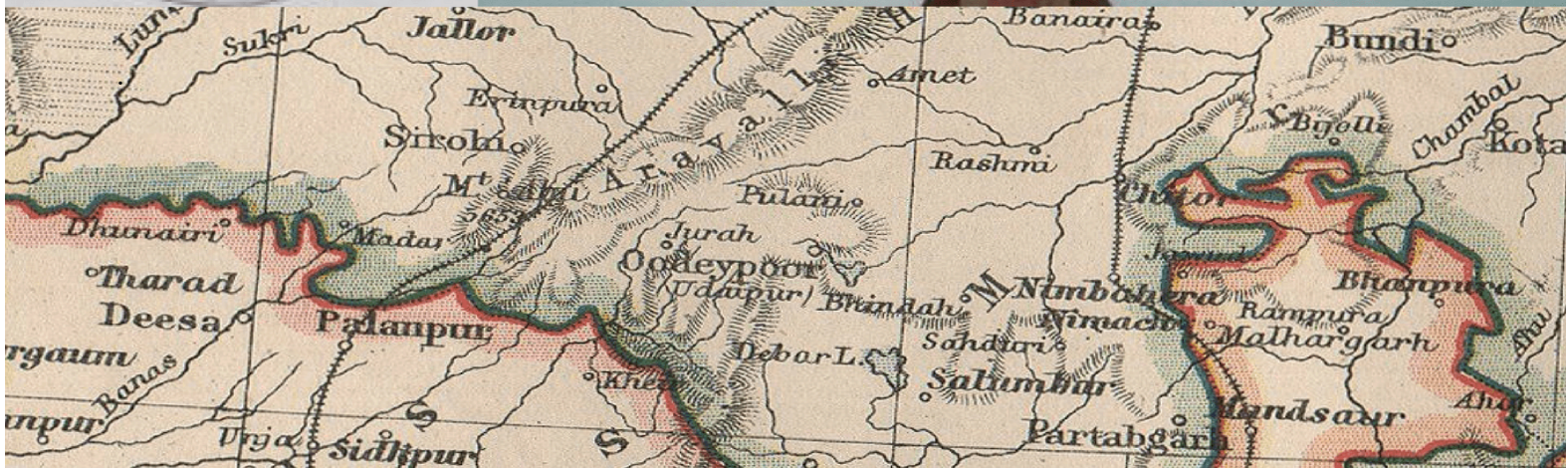


RAS EXAM EDITION

Modern History of Rajasthan



1707 - 1947

A Summary Book By

R A J R A S



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Note to Readers

Rajasthan had never been united politically until its domination by Mughal Emperor - Akbar. Akbar created a unified province of Rajasthan. Mughal power started to decline after 1707. The political disintegration of Rajasthan was caused by the dismemberment of the Mughal Empire. The Marathas penetrated Rajasthan upon the decline of the Mughal Empire. In 1755, they occupied Ajmer. The beginning of the 19th Century was marked by the onslaught of the Pindaris.

This book enlists the important topics in history of Rajasthan during the modern period (1700- 1947). This book deals with only political, administrative and economical aspects of Rajasthan during 1700- 1947 and cultural aspects have been covered under the Literature, Art, Architecture, Culture & Heritage of Rajasthan.

Jai Hind!!

Team RajRAS

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Jat Rulers of Bharatpur

At the end of the 17th century, Jat Baija with his son Rajaram, Zamindar of the village of Sinsini, took advantage of the weakness of the Mughal Empire to enlarge his territory. Lord Ram's brother Laxman is the family deity of the erstwhile royal family of Bharatpur. The name 'Laxman' was engraved on the arms, seals and other emblems of the state.

Rulers of Bharatpur

- Raja Ram, 1670–1688
- Churaman, 1695–1721
 - The Jat power in Bharatpur strengthened in the 18th century under the leadership of Badan Singh and Churaman.
 - Around 1707, Churaman built the fort of Thoon and established his kongdom.
 - Farukhsiyar titled Churaman as Rao Bahadur.
 - However, the Mughals got Jat Churaman killed in 1721.
- Badan Singh, 1722–1756
 - Churaman's brother Badan Singh became a very powerful Jat leader following the death of Churaman.
 - In 1725, he constructed Jal Mahal of Deeg, Kumher fort & Vair fort.
- Maharaja Suraj Mal, 1756–1767
 - Maharaja Suraj Mal captured the fort of Bharatpur by vanquishing Khemkaran, the rival chieftain and laid the foundation for Bharatpur.
 - He is also called as Plato of Jat, Jat Ulysses.
 - In 1748, Suraj Mal helped Ishwari Singh of Jaipur to defeat the combined armies of Mewar, Kota, Jodhpur, Bundi & Maratha in **Battle of Bagru**.
 - Bundi court poet Shurya Mall, has written about the bravery of Suraj Mal in Hindi poetry-

"नहीं जाटनी ने सही व्यर्थ प्रसव की पीर

जन्मा उसके गर्भ से सूरजमल सा वीर"

- Maharaja Jawahar Singh, 1767–1768
 - Constructed the Lohagarh fort.
 - He attacked Delhi and brought 8 metal doors from Red Fort of Delhi and placed at Bharatpur Fort.
- Maharaja Ratan Singh, 1768–1769
- Maharaja Kehri Singh, 1769–1771
- Maharaja Nawal Singh, 1771–1776
- Maharaja Ranjit Singh, 1776–1805
 - Signed treaty with British in 1803 A.D.
 - But in 1805, during time of lord Welsely, Lord Lake attacked Bharatpur as Ranjit Singh had given asylum to Jaswant Rao Holker of Indore.
 - Lord Lake could not capture the fort even after four month of siege and has been labelled as Lohgarh. Soon Ranjit Singh was compelled to make peace and a new treaty was made on 4 May 1805.
- Maharaja Randhir Singh, 1805–1823
 - Randhir Singh signed treaty with British in 1818 A.D.
- Maharaja Baldeo Singh, 1823–1825
- Maharaja Balwant Singh, 1825–1853
- Maharaja Jashwant Singh, 1853–1893
- Maharaja Ram Singh, 1893–1900 (exiled)
- Maharani Girraj Kaur, regent 1900–1918
- Maharaja Kishan Singh, 1900–1929
- Maharaja Brijendra Singh, 1929–1947
 - Matsya Union was the first State to be formed in Rajasthan with the integration of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli which joined the Indian Union.

Kachwaha Rulers of Modern Alwar State

Early medieval times, Alwar was ruled by Jadaun clan of Chandravanhi rajputs. In early 13th century Nahar Khan of the same Chandravanshi clan converted to Islam in thirteenth century during Firuz Shah Tughlak's regime. Alwar Khan who was the descendent Nahar Khan, established the kingdom of Alwar in 1412 A.D.

During Mughal period, Khanzada Hasan Khan Mewati fought against invader Babar and later on Hasan Khan's nephew Jamal Khan gave his two daughters to Humayun and Bairam Khan in marriage. In the 1550s, Khanzada Rajput king of Ulwar was overthrown by Akbar's military campaign to encircle Mewar Kingdom.

Later on 25th November 1775, Rao Pratap Singh raised his standard over the Alwar Fort and founded the modern kingdom of Alwar.

Kachwaha Rulers of Modern Alwar State

- Pratap Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1775–1791) Rao Raja of Alwar
 - Founded the princely state of Ulwar.
- Bakhtawar Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1791–1815) Rao Raja of Alwar
 - He also devoted himself to the work of extension and consolidation of the territory of the State.
 - Maharao Raja Bakhtawar Singh rendered valuable services to Lord Lake, during the latter's campaign against Marathas, in the battle of Laswari, in the Alwar territory when the State troops assisted him in finally breaking the Marathas and Jat powers.
 - As a result, in 1803, the First Treaty of Offensive and Defensive Alliance was forged between Alwar State and the East India Company. Thus, Alwar was the first princely State in India to enter into Treaty Relations with the East India Company.
- Bane Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1815–1857) Maharao Raja of Alwar
- Sheodan Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1857–1874) Maharao Raja of Alwar
- Mangal Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1874–1892) Maharaja of Alwar
- Jai Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1892–1937) Maharaja of Alwar
 - It was in the times of Jai Singh that name of state was changed from Ulwar to Alwar.

- Tej Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1937–1971) Maharaja of Alwar
 - Following the independence of India in 1947, Alwar acceded unto the dominion of India. On 18 March 1948, the state merged with three neighboring princely states (Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli) to form the Matsya Union. This union in turn merged unto the Union of India. On 15 May 1949, it was united with certain other princely states and the territory of Ajmer to form the present-day Indian state of Rajasthan.

Kachwaha Rulers of Jaipur

- *Mirza Raja Sawai Jai Singh II (1699 – 1743)*
 - In 1699, given title of Sawai by Aurangzeb.
 - Formed marriage alliance with marwar & mewar to expel Mughal out of rajputana.
 - However, patch up again, and appointed as governor of Malwa & Agra.
 - A 1721, t Mughal emperor **Muhammad Shah** bestowed upon him the title of Saramad-i-Rajaha-i-Hind
 - In 1723, added the titles of Raj Rajeshvar, Shri Rajadhiraj and Maharaja Sawai
 - Performed Ashwmedha Yajya & Vajapeya (after centuries)
 - Built five astronomical observatories (jantar Mantar) at Delhi, Mathura, Benares, Ujjain & Jaipur.
 - **In 1727: Laid foundation of Jaipur – designed by Vidhydhar Bhattacharya**
 - Translated works by people like John Napier.
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Ishwari Singh (1743 – 1750)*
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Madho Singh I (1750 – 1768)*
 - Was rewarded the fort of Ranthambhore by the Mughal Emperor
 - Founder of City Sawai Madhopur
 - Got Shaikh Sadi's *Gulistan* translated to Sanskrit.
 - Freed the Kachhawaha Kingdom from the Maratha
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Prithvi Singh II (1768 – 1778)*
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Pratap Singh (1778 -1803)*
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Jagat Singh II (1803 – 1818)*
- Mohan Singh (regent) (1818 –1819)
 - Installed on throne by nobles, but was soon deposed.
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Jai Singh III (1819 -1835)*

- *Mirza Raja Sawai Ram Singh II* (1835 -1880)
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Madho Singh II* (1880 – 1922)
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Man Singh II* (1922 –1947)
 - Adopted Son
 - Married Maharani Gayatri Devi
 - Rajpramukh of Rajasthan between 1949-1956.

Shekhawats of Sikar

Raja Bahadur Singh Shekhawat, the Raja of Khandela gifted the village (Beer Bhan Ka Bass) to Rao Daulat Singh, son of Rao Jaswant Singh of Kasli Thikana. Rao Daulat Singh changed the name of Veer Bhan Ka Bass village to Sikar in memory of Rao Shekha and constructed a fort here in 1687. In 1721 Daulat Singh's son Shiv Singh became ruler of Sikar.

Shekhawats of Sikar

- Rao Daulat Singh (1687/1721)
 - Founded thikana of Sikar
- Rao Shiv Singh (1721/1748)
 - Completed the fort and palaces of Sikar in 1724 and conquered Fatehpur in 1731.
 - Erected the famous Temple of Gopinath Ji.
- Rao Samrath Singh (1748/1754)
- Rao Nahar Singh
- Rao Chand Singh
- Rao Devi Singh
 - Built forts of Raghunathgarh and Deogarh
 - Golden rule in history of Sikar
- Rao Raja Laxman Singh
 - Constructed Laxmangarh Fort
- Rao Raja Ram Pratap Singh
- Rao Raja Bhairon Singh
- Rao Raja Sir Madhav Singh Bahadur (1866/1922)
 - Credit of making huge Victoria Diamonds Jubilee Hall & Madhav Niwas Kothi
 - During the terrible famine in 1899, started many famine relief works, example: 'Madhav Sagar Pond' which was built in 1899.
- Rao Raja Kalyan Singh (1922/1967)

- Constructed the clock tower as well as the Kalyan Hospital and College for the welfare of public.

Rulers of Jhalawar

Jhala Zalim Singh , the dewan of Kota, developed Jhalawar (then **Chaoni Umedpura**) as cantonment & township, to isolate Kota from Maratha invaders. In 1838, British rulers separated Jhalawar state from Kota state and gave it to Jhala Madan Singh, grandson of Jhala Zalim Singh.

Rulers of Jhalawar:

- Madan Singh (1838–1845)
 - 1st independent ruler of Jhalawar.
- Pirthi Singh (1845–1875)
- Bakht or Zalim Singh (1875–1897)
- HH Sh. Bhawani Singh (1897–1929)
- HH Sh. Rajendra Singh (1929–1943)
- HH Sh. Harish Chandra (1943-till merger of Jhalawar State in Rajasthan.)

Maratha in Rajasthan

The Rajput were first exposed to Maratha's during the time when Aurangzeb sent Jaswant Singh of [Jodhpur](#) & Jai Singh of Amer were sent to Deccan to subdue Shivaji. They failed in the process but admired Shivaji's spirit for independence, his concern for preserving Hindu culture and his fight against all odds with Aurangzeb. However, much of these interactions were limited to Deccan territories till Marathas under great Peshwa Baji Rao I, started on an aggressive expansion campaign.

The Cordial Relations Phase

When the Marathas were trying to gain foothold in Malwa, Sawai Jai Singh of [Jaipur](#), extended clandestine support. Sawai Jai Singh's pro-Maratha policy was motivated by his desire to drive away the Mughals from Malwa with the help of the Marathas and then extend his own territories upto Malwa.

Maratha get close to Rajasthan

By the end of 17th century the decline of Mughal power carved out sufficient space for new empire. A new strategy of systematic expansion towards north began with Bajirao taking over as Peshwa in 1720 A.D. Peshwa Baji Rao decided to overrun and bring under control the rich and flourishing provinces of Malwa and Gujarat. The province of Malwa was a part of the Mughal Empire and Sawai Jai Singh of Jaipur was regularly appointed as Subedar of Malwa. Sawai Jai Singh inflicted some initial defeats to Marathas but it failed to control the Maratha expansion and Malwa began to slip under Maratha domination.

Maratha raid in Rajasthan

Maratha penetration in Rajasthan started with sporadic raids in states of Kota, Bundi, Mewar & Marwar. In 1726 Baji Bhim raided Mewar and realized Chauth from a Mewar district, in 1728, Bajirao forced the rulers of Dungarpur and Banswara to pay to him. They followed the route from the Mukandara Pass and across the Chambal from Malwa via Harauti, and from Gujarat via Idar and Jalore.

Battle of Mandsaur

In 1732, Jai Singh was appointed the governor of Malwa for third time. At the beginning of 1733, Malhar Rao Holkar and Ranoji Shinde managed to encircle Jai Singh at Mandsor in Malwa. Maratha

forces cut off 'grain and water supply' to Jai Singh's camp, forcing him to negotiate peace and agree to Maratha demands. He was compelled to pay 6 lacs in cash and promised to cede 38 paraganas in lieu of Chauth. Once Malwa came under Maratha domination, Jai Singh failed to control Peshwa's territorial ambitions further North.

Maratha Penetration in Rajasthan

Role of Maratha in Bundi

Marathas established Malwa as their base. It served as a convenient starting point for raids into Rajputana. However, Maratha's penetration into Rajputana is attributed to the internal affairs & policy of Rajputs. Sawai Jai Singh was keen to enhance his position in Rajasthan and expelled Budh Singh to put his own son in law, Dulel Singh on the throne.

Budh Singh turned to seek the support of an external power stronger than Jai Singh. According to Vamsh Bhaskar, Pratap Singh Hada, the elder brother of Dalal Singh, was sent to Poona to meet the Peshwa and the other prominent Maratha sardars to enlist military support for Budh Singh. Holkar restored the authority of Budh Singh. However, soon after the Maratha forces departed, Jai Singh again expelled Budh Singh and reinstalled Dulel Singh on throne.

Rao Ummed (Omeda, as per Col.Tod) Singh, was 13 years old at time of his father Budh Singh's death. Ishwari Singh succeeded Jai Singh at Jaipur. Ummed Singh revolted against Dulel Singh and was aided by Rao Durjan Sal of Kota. Ummed Singh captured tarragarh and seated on throne of his father. Dulel Singh fled to his suzerain at Jaipur and Isharwari Singh disposed forces to re-expel the Hada Ruler. Ummed Singh was soon compelled to abandon the throne.

The widow of Budh Singh and mother of Ummed Singh, paid a visit to Malhar Rao Holker. Consequently, Holker send forces and delivered Bundi to Ummed Singh. He continued marching towards Jaipur to reach castle of Bagroo. After a siege of 10 days, Ishwari Singh was forced to sign a deed for surrender of Bundi and Ummed sign was seated on throne for second time. Malhar Rao demanded and obtained the district of Patan for his services.

Hurda Conference

The rajput leaders soon realized that Mughal power was incapable of resisting the Maratha expansion and decided to hold a conference at Hurda to discuss terms of a united Rajputana front against the Marathas. Hurda conference saw in attendance Sawai Jai Singh of Jaipur, Maharana Jagat Singh of

Mewar, Abhay Singh of Jodhpur, Dulel Singh of Bundi, Durjansal of Kota, Zorawar Singh of Bikaner, Gopal Singh of Karauli, Raj Singh of Kishangarh and Bakhat Singh of Nagaur. After prolonged deliberations, an agreement was signed on 17th July 1734.

Maratha role in Jaipur

Sawai jai Singh died on 21st September 1743 A.D. His death resulted in struggle for succession between his sons Madho Singh and Ishwari Singh. Madho Singh was the younger son of Sawai Jai Singh from the princess of Mewar who was given in marriage to him in 1708 on the condition that the son born to her would succeed Jai Singh even if he was younger in age. Ishwari Singh was eldest son, and according to the Rajput custom he was the heir apparent. After the death of Jai Singh, Ishwari Singh who was at Jaipur succeeded him. He was given due recognition not only by the Mughal emperor but also by his neighboring Rajput rulers. Additionally, Peshwa also sent succession presents to Ishwari Singh.

Maharana Jagat Singh of Mewar felt insulted and started preparations to dethrone Ishwari Singh. Durjansal of Kota also joined in the cause of Maharana. Ishwari Singh marched with a large force to encounter the combined forces of Kota and Udaipur, encamped at Jamoli. The fight continued for 40 days, after which, Ishwari Singh reached an agreement with the Maharana, giving the pargana of Tonk to Madho Singh.

Madho Singh was not satisfied with this agreement and desired the throne of Jaipur. In 1744, when Ishwari Singh was at Delhi, the Maharana accompanied by Madho Singh, marched against Jaipur. Ishwari Singh returned to Jaipur and sought help of Marathas. The Maharana was taken back to see such situation and he had to even promise some money to the Marathas to save his troops from annihilation. Ishwari Singh repudiated even Jamoti agreement.

Not disappointed with the above failure, Maharana now sought Maratha support and concluded agreement with Malhar Rao Holkar of payment of two lakh rupees. Maharana dispatched his forces of Kota and Shahpura. Holkar also sent his son Khande Rao with twelve thousand horses to join the new allies. A bloody battle was fought at Rajmahal and won by Ishwari Singh on March, 1747.

But Malhar Rao Holkar did not withdraw and pressed for Madho Singh's claim and advised the Peshwa to take up his cause. Another battle was fought on 14th August 1748 between the allies and Ishwari Singh, in which Ishwari Singh was routed. He had to promise heavy bribe to Maratha Sardar Gangn Dhar to save the destruction. However, continuous war had adversely affected the economic condition of Jaipur state and money promised to the Marathas was not paid. The Peshwa

sent Holkar to realize it. Being helpless, Ishwari Singh committed suicide. Having captured the city of Jaipur without any resistance, Holkar installed Madho Singh on the throne.

However, the adverse condition of Jaipur state did not change even after this struggle for succession ended as Maratha demand kept on increasing.

Maratha Intervention in Marwar

Even before the culmination of Jaipur struggle, Marathas were engaged into Jodhpur dispute. It commenced with the accession of Ram Singh on 13 July 1749 on the throne of Marwar. His right was disputed by his uncle, Bakhat Singh. With the help of Rajput sardars he revolted against Ram Singh and defeated him in a battle at Luniawas, 27 November 1750. Ram Singh was expelled from Jodhpur and sought refuge in [Jaipur](#).

Bhakt Singh ruled until his death on 21 September 1752, after which his son [Vijay Singh](#) succeeded. The death of Bhakt Singh, afforded Ram Singh, the chance of redeeming his birthright. Sawai Madho Singh of Jaipur also backed the exiled Ram Singh for the throne of Jodhpur. The Marathas were keenly observing the situation and took full advantage of their rivalry, concluding a treaty with Ram Singh. Together they attacked on Bijay Singh in May, 1761. They also received the co-operation of the Champawats, Kumpawats and Shekhawats. In 1753, he deposed Vijay Singh and reascended the throne for the second time.

The triumphant Maratha spread across the territory Marwar. This created hatred against the Marathas and culminated in the murder of Jayappa Sindhia on 24 July, 1755. The death of Jayappa changed the terms between Ram Singh & Marathas and in addition to territory of Ajmer, they now demanded revenue from entire territory of Marwar. The Marathas switched sides and abandoned Ram Singh.

A battle ensued, Vijay Singh took help of Malhar Rao Holker and ended the contest once and for all for all in his favour. Ram Singh passed his remaining life at Jaipur, where he died in 1772.

Maratha intervention in Jat Affairs

The rivalry between Jawahar Singh and Nahar Singh also paved the way for Maratha intervention in the Jat affairs. [Maharaja Suraj Mal](#) died in 1763. At the time of Raja Suraj Mal's death, Jawahar Singh was in [Farrukhnagar](#). Maharaja Suraj Mal's nobles placed Nahar Singh on the throne. On hearing this news Jawahar Singh set to return to Bharatpur, take revenge with Nahar Singh and lay his claim to throne. Bal Ram, brother-in-law of Maharaja Suraj Mal and the commander of Bharatpur forces c

prepared for war against Jawahar Singh. However, ultimately, he accepted Jawahar Singh's claim to the throne and Jawahar Singh ascended the throne of [Bharatpur](#).

Soon, Jawahar Singh wrested Narnol district of Jaipur and this alarmed Sawai Madho Singh. He approached both Holkar and Sindhia for help, who responded favourably to Sawai Madho Singh's appeal and sent their forces to Jaipur. The Maratha intervention in favour of Jaipur spoiled Jawahar Singh's and he was forced to make peace with Madho Singh.

Nahar Singh held Dholpur as his appanage. Jawahar Singh helped the Raja of Dholpur to be independent of the Marathas. He inflicted a severe defeat to Marathas. After having lost his own estate, Nahar Singh took refuge in Jaipur and died on 6th December, 1766. Consequently, Vijay Singh of Marwar and Jawahar Singh joined hands to fight against the Marathas.

Conclusion:

The Marathas gained prominence under the leadership of Shivaji. He organized them into a force that successfully challenged the mighty Mughal Empire. With Aurangzeb's death, the Mughal Empire witnessed a quick succession of weak Emperors. Mughal weakness gave most opportune time when the Peshwa's policy of Northward expansion. Under the able supervision of the Peshwas, the Marathas established their control over Malwa and Gujarat. Rajasthan, shared borders with both Malwa & Gujarat, hence, geographical proximity enabled Marathas to foray easily into Rajputana dominions.

Initially, the Marathas made sporadic raids but in wake of declining Mughal Authority they were formally invited by the Rajput Rajas to intervene in their succession disputes. The Rajput State of Bundi was the first to invite Maratha assistance in domestic feud. This was later followed by the States of Jaipur, Jodhpur and even Mewar.

In return for this support, Marathas were promised huge sums of money. At times when Rajput Rajas could not pay the due installments, certain territories were transferred to Marathas. Thus, the Marathas entered Rajasthan to settle the domestic feuds, for which they were hired, later they became the masters who levied tribute and ravaged the land whenever they desired.

The Maratha intervention in Rajasthan ended with rise of new authority in form of [East India Company](#). The rajput realized that they could be delivered from their problems only by the rising British power and beginning from 1803 till 1823, all the Rajput States including Alwar, Karauli, Kota, Jodhpur, Mewar, Bundi, Bikaner, Kishangarh, Jaipur, Banswara, Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Jaisalmer and Sirohi concluded subsidiary treaties with the British Government.

British Treaty with Rajputana States

In the later half of 19th century, the Rajputana States were being crushed by continuous subjugation of Maratha Power and attacks of Pindaris. Whenever the states of Rajasthan tried to get free from the clutches of the Marathas they were defeated repeatedly and their territories were devastated. Almost all of Rajasthan had been virtually brought under by the Marathas, who exacted tribute, annexed territory, and extorted subsidies.

Lord Wellesley (1798-1805) took interest in the Rajput- Maratha affairs to safeguard British interests in India. He wanted to curb the Maratha power in northern India and planned mutual friendship with the Rajputs against the Marathas. He succeeded in his plan but after his departure from India the British policy towards Rajputana changed.

Lord Hastings (1813-1823) sought to impose British paramountcy in India for which suppression of the Marathas and the Pindaris was essential. He looked upon the Rajputana States as his natural allies against the Marathas and the Pindaris. **Charles Metcalf**, the British Resident at Delhi, was entrusted with the duty of negotiating alliances with the states of Rajasthan.

Through these treaties the States of Rajasthan came under the complete subordination of the British. In principle the external affairs of these states passed into the British hands and a nominal independence was given to the rulers in internal affairs. The British were empowered to interfere in internal affairs too. In fact the Rajasthani rulers lost their freedom and power but in the colonial interests their existence was safeguarded by the British. Now the rulers became responsible to the British instead of being responsible to their people.

The treaty of Bharatpur with British

After the death of Maharaja Surajmal, Mughal ruler Alamgir II & Marathas decided to capture the Jat territories. In 1784, Scindhia attacked Bharatpur and captured a large part of Jat territory. However, Maharani Kishori appealed to Scindhia and he withdrew, after Bharatpur agreed to pay an yearly *Chauth* of 2 lac rupees. In 1803, the British sent a proposal to Bharatpur to offer protection against the Marathas. Consequently, a treaty was signed between Maharaja Ranjeet Singh & Lord Lake in 1803.

However, the treaty did not survive long. Yashwant Rao Holker started a series of battle against the British, on 8 July 1804, Yashwantrao Holkar defeated the army of Colonel Manson and Leukan at Mukundara and Kota. On 16 November 1804, Maharaja Holkar reached [Deeg](#) by defeating the army of

Major Frazer. The Jat ruler Ranjit Singh of Bharatpur welcomed him and decided to be with Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar against the British.

Lord Lake attacked Deeg on 13 December 1804, then the army of Holkar and Jat successfully resisted and reached Bharatpur. Lord Lake again attacked on 3 January 1805, along with General Manson and others. A siege of Bharatpur followed and lasted for three months. Subsequently, Ranjit Singh was forced to sign a new treaty with the British on 17 April 1805.

Treaties/Agreements between British & Rajputana States

S.NO	State	Date of Treaty	Ruler of the State
1	Bharatpur	1803, 1805	Ranjeet Singh
2	Karauli	15 November 1817	Harvakshpal Singh
3	Tonk	17 November 1817	Nawab Amir Khan
4	Kota	26 December 1817	Maharao Ummed Singh
5	Jodhpur	6 January 1818	Maharaja Mann Singh
6	Udaipur	13 January 1818	Maharana Bhim Singh
7	Bundi	10 February 1818	Rao Vishnu Singh
8	Bikaner	21 March 1818	Surat Singh
9	Kishangarh	7 April 1818	Kalyan Singh
10	Jaipur	15 April 1818	Sawai Jagat Singh
11	Jaisalmer	2 January 1819	Maharao Moolraj
12	Sirohi	11 September 1823	Maharao Shiv Singh

Revolt of 1857 in Rajasthan

Revolt of 1857 is often been described as India's first war for Independence. On 29th March 1857, Mangal Pandey, a soldier of 34th regiment revolted at Barrackpur cantonment. The revolt soon spread over the entire area from the neighbourhood of Patna to the borders of Rajasthan. There were six main centres of revolt in these regions namely Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Jhansi, Gwalior and Arrah in Bihar. [Rajasthan](#) was one of the states which actively took part in the rebellion of 1857. Unfortunately, most rulers of Rajasthan did not extend any help to the national forces during revolt of 1857 in [Rajasthan](#) instead they helped the British forces in crushing the revolt.

Revolt of 1857 in Rajasthan

In 1832 A.G.G (Agent to Governor General) Headquarter was established in Ajmer. Mr. **Locket** was the first A.G.G of Rajasthan. In 1845 the headquarter was transferred to Abu.

During the revolt of 1857, **George Patrik Lawrence** was the A.G.G. and Rajasthan was divided into 6 British Cantonments:

- Naseerabad - Ajmer
- Devali (Deoli) - Tonk
- Erinpura (Arinpura) - Pali
- Kota - Kota
- Kherwara - Udaipur
- Beawar (Byawar) - Ajmer

Last two cantonments did not participate in the revolt.

Revolt at Naseerabad

Naseerabad was the first place in Rajasthan where the Revolt of 1857 began on 28 May. The news of revolt of Merrut reached A.G.G. George Lawrence and he sent 15th Bengal Native Infantry located in Ajmer to Nasirabad due to which the dissatisfaction among the soldiers was born. Soon news of soldiers revolt also reached the soldiers in Nasirabad, and on **28 May 1857**, the soldiers of the Native

Infantry revolted in Nasirabad. Soldiers of 30th Native Infantry also joined in and after burning & capturing the cantonment soldiers left for Delhi.

Revolt at Neemach

When the news of Naseerabad revolt reached Military officer of Neemuch Colonel Abbot, he forced soldiers to take the oath of loyalty in parade ground on June 2, 1857. During the oath taking event itself, a cavalry soldier **Ali Baig** blurted out in anger that the Britishers themselves did not stand by their oath of Awadh and hence Indians too are not obliged to abide by their oath. As a result on June 3, 1857, soldiers of Neemuch also revolted. After burning the cantonment they started for Delhi via Chittor, Hammingarh., Baneda and Shahpura and joined the revolutionaries there and fiercely attacked the British army.

Captain Shavers reached Neemach with the forces of Mewar and A.G.G. Lawrence sent the forces of Kota and Bundi to Neemach Britishers again took the control of Neemach on 8th June, 1857.

Revolt at Erinpura

In Erinpura cantonment, Jodhpur the Indian units of British forces revolted on 21 August, 1857. They marched towards Delhi shouting 'Chalo Delhi Maro Firangi'. On the way Thakur Kushal Singh Champavat of Auwa agreed to lead the soldiers and stood against the British Empire. Kushal Singh Champavat became the leader of hostile feudal lords of Maharana Takht Singh. By interference in the inheritance of Bithoda, he alienated Takht Singh.

On August 21, 1857, the Jodhpur legion revolted by the military coupe. Since Kushal Singh was opposed to the British, he added these rebels with him. The combined forces defeated Jodhpur State forces near Auwa and lieutenant Heathcoat had to retreat. After the incident, A.G.G. Lawrence reached Auwa and fierce battle followed. General Lawrence forces were defeated and rebel forces killed political agent monkmesson.

To avenge the defeat of Auwa, force was sent to Auwa under AGG George Lawrence Disa and Brigadier Holmes. Another fierce battle followed but this time Kushal Singh was forced to flee. He fled towards Salumbar and the British looted Auwa and took the idol of Sugali Mata to Ajmer.

Thakur Kushal Singh surrendered before British on 8th August, 1860. Later, Major Tailor investigation commission exonerated him and he died in 1864 in Udaipur.

The battle of Auwa has been termed as "Battle of Black & Whites" in the folk songs of Rajasthan

Revolt at Kota

The rebellion forces of Kota revolted under the leadership of two any officers: Mehrab Khan and Jadaya Kayashion 15th 1857. They killed resident Major Burton, his two sons and a doctor on 15 October, 1857. On 3 March 1858 the British forces under General Roberts crushed the rebellion at Kota. Mehrab Khan & Jaidayal Kayasth were hanged after this revolt.

Bharatpur Revolt

Bharatpur remained distrurbed during the entire rebellion period and people of Goû and Mewati took part in the rebellion openly. On 31 May 1857, Bharatpur forces rebelled and Major Morrison fled towards Agra

Dholpur Revolt

In October 1857, the rebel soldiers of Gwalior and Indore came to Dhaulpur. They grouped with the local rebels and put pressure on Dholpur ruler for providing artillery. About 1000 rebels under Rao Ramchandra and Hiralal then fled to Agra with the guns of Maharana Dholpur.

In the end, the rule was re-established with help from forces of ruler of Patiala.

Consequences of Revolt of 1857 in Rajasthan

As a result of mutiny of 1857, Amarchand Kathian of Bikaner was hanged.

Since many leaders of the revolt were feudal lords, the British decided to destroy the power of the feudal system through various methods after the dissolution of the war.

During the rebellion, the British were helped by the native rulers, so after the suppression of the rebellion, the British gave them titles and awards. Maharaja Ram Singh I of Jaipur helped the British with his resources and he was rewarded with title of "Sitar-e-Hind" and pargana of Kothputli.

During the rebellion period, the British had to face severe inconvenience in sending their army from one place to another. Thus, after the dissolution in 1865 AD, the road leading to Jaipur and Ajmer and the road going to Nimach by Naseerabad through Chittorgarh was constructed.

After the coup, there was a change in the traditional social structure of Rajasthan as well. After the suppression of revolt, modern education was disseminated and the English rules were executed in all the states. Because of this, the importance of Brahmins was reduced.

This revolt created a new consciousness and awakening in the public. According to Shri Nathuram Kharagawat, "The general public also participated directly or indirectly in this enmity."

Reasons for failure of the revolt of 1857 in Rajasthan

The main reasons for the failure of the revolt of 1857 in Rajasthan were:

- Indigenous rulers were short-sighted, they were devotees of the British, so they did not support rebels.
 - There was no definite leader of the rebels; in addition they lacked unity and organization.
 - The rebels were not as skilled as the British in the battlefield.
-

Important facts to remember

Maharaja Sardar Singh (Bikaner) was the only ruler who went outside Rajasthan to Badli of Punjab to suppress the revolt with his forces

The Famous Fighters of 1857 Rebellion from Rajasthan:

- Lala Jaydayaal & Mehraab Singh (*Advocate in Kota Darbaar*)
- Thakur Khushaal Singh (*Jodhpur*)
- Suryamaal Missonn (*Poet of Bundi Darbaar*)
- Rawat Keshri Singh & Rawat Jodhsingh (*Mewaar*)
- Tarachan Patel (*Tonk*)

Tantya Tope in Rajasthan

Tantya Tope entered Rajasthan, with the rebels of Gwalior. The forces of Nawab of Tonk under Vazir Khan also supported Tantya Tope against Britishers. Tantya Tope advanced towards Jaipur via Banswara and Mewar where prince Feroze met him. On March 1, 1858 the rebels broke the cordon of Britishers and reached Sikar via Alwar but were defeated by the forces of Colonel Holmes.

Tantya Tope then advanced towards Mewar via Bundi but General Abraham Roberts defeated him near Bhilwara.

Tantya Tope again entered Banswara on 11th December, 1858. Maharawal Lakshan Singh escaped to jungles but Man Singh Rukka, a companion of Tope helped the Britishers and captured him in the jungles of Narwar. He was hanged on 18th April, 1859 in Sipri (Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh).

City- Political Agent - Ruler of State during Revolt of 1857 in Rajasthan

- **Bharatpur** - Morrison - Maharaja Jaswant Singh I
- **Jaipur** - William Eden - Maharaja Ram Singh II
- **Jodhpur** - Mac Mason - Maharaja Thakatsingh
- **Kota** - Major Burton - Maharaja Ram Singh
- **Udaipur** - Captian Shewers- Maharana Swaroop Singh

Press and Journalism during British Rule

During the rule of the British East India Company, the Anglo-Indians and Europeans began to publish newspapers and journals. **James Augustus Hickey** is considered the father of Indian press. He started the Bengal Gazette in the year 1780. Later, powerful newspapers emerged under distinguished and fearless nationalists. The influence of the press extended far beyond its literate subscribers.

In Rajasthan, [Ajmer](#) was the main centre. Christian Missionaries established first Litho Press in 1864 in Beawar. It was used to print religious literature, books for missionary schools etc. Some of the important facts about Newspaper during British Rule in Rajasthan:

1879: Sajjan Kirti Sudharak

- Published from Udaipur by Maharana Sajjan Singh on the inspiration of Dayanand Saraswati.
- This Hindi weekly publication was official gazette of Mewar.

1885: Rajputana Gazette

- Published from Ajmer, edited by Maulvi Murad Ali
- Aim to eliminate sense of fear and expose oppression of people of princely states.

1885: Rajputana Herald

- Published from Ajmer by Hanuman Singh.
- Newspaper was published in English and fearlessly exposed the scam of Bandobast.

1885: Rajasthan Times

- Published from Ajmer by Bakshi Lakshmandas.
- Exposed the weakness of administration.

1919: Rajasthan Kesari

- It was published from Wardha, Maharashtra under editorship of Vijay Singh Pathik.
- Played an important role in peasant movement in Bijoliya.

1920: Tarun Rajasthan

- Published from Ajmer under the editorship of Ramnarayan Chaudhary and Shobhalal Gupt.
- Vijay Singh Pathik also expressed his views through the paper.

1922: Naveen Rajasthan

- Published initially by Rajasthan Sewa Sangh and later by [Vijay Singh Pathik](#).

1923: Rajasthan Weekly

- Published by Rishidatt from Beawar
- Highlighted problems of people of Udaipur, Jaipur, Hadoti, Jaipur.

1932: Prabhat

- Edited by Sidhraj Dhadha & Satyadev Vidyalankar, published by Lalit Narayan.

Major Associations of Political Awareness

The second half of the 19th century witnessed the growth of national political consciousness and organised national movement. During this period the Indian intelligentsia created political associations to spread political education and to initiate political work in the country. In 1885, the efforts consolidated in form of Indian National Congress, which later became the spearhead of Independence movement of India.

In princely states, the people in face of strong repression adopted novel methods of organising public opinion by establishing reading rooms, libraries, self-help centres and welfare societies (Hitkarni Sabhas). These were political forums and raised the demand of democratization in their respective states. Later on a centralised organisation by the name, India Peoples' State Conference was formed to make a coordinated effort to demand responsive governments in the princely states.

Major Organisations & Associations for Political Awareness in Rajasthan before Independence:

Summary Sheet

S.NO	Year Est.	Name of Association	Important Facts
1	1883	Sampa Sabha (Sirohi)	• Founder: Govind Giri
2	1883	Paropkarini Sabha, Udaipur	
3	1907	Jain Vardhman Vidhyalaya	• Founder: Arjunlal Sethi
4	1910	Veer Bharat Sabha	• Founder: Kesri Singh Barhath
5	-	Veer Bharat Samaj	• Founder: Vijay Singh Pathik
6	1914	Sarvahitkarini Sabha, (Bikaner, Churu)	• Founder: Swami Gopaldas
7	1917	Uparmal Kisan Panchayat	• Founder: Vijay Singh Pathik
8	1918	Marwar Hitkarini Sabha (Jodhpur)	• Founder: Chandmal Surana • In 1923 - Jainarayan Vyas - reconstituted it.

9	1920	Marwar Sewa Sangh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder: Durgashankar (President) & Prayagraj Bhandari (Minister)
10	1919	Rajputana Madhya Bharat Sabha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded in Delhi by efforts of Jamnalal Bajaj, Ganesh Shankar Viyarthi, Vijay Singh Pathik. • First session - Marwari Library, Chandni Chowk, Delhi • Head Office: Ajmer • 3rd Session in 1920 held at Ajmer - President Jamnalal Bajaj.
11	1919	Rajasthan Sewa Sangh, Wardha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts of Vijay Singh Pathik, Arjunlal Sethi, Jamnalal Bajaj, Kesri Singh Barhath, Haribhai Kinkar & Ramnarayan Choudhary. • 1921 - Pathik est. HQ at Ajmer.
12	1922	Amar Sewa Samiti, Chidawa (Khetri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder: Pyarelal Gupta
13	1915	Pratap Sabha, Udaipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts of Balwant Singh Mehta
14	1915	Vidya Pracharini Sabha, Bijolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder: Vijay Singh Pathik
15	1927	Charkha Sangh, Jaipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamnalal Bajaj
16	1931	Marwar Youth League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manmal Jain
17	1936	Banwasi Sangh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motilal Tejawat
18	1937	Bharatpur Congress Mandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jagannath Kakkar
19	1942	Azad Morcha, Jaipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baba Harishchandra
20	1937	Rajasthan Harijan Sewa Sangh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: Ghansyamdas Birla • Rajputana Branch Head: Haryilas Sharda

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sewa Ashram, Nareli Village, Ajmer - est. by Manikyalal Verma
21	1928	Rajputana Deshi Parishad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vijay Singh Pathik, Kesari Singh Barhath, Ramnarayan Choudhary & Damodar Lal Rathi.• First President: Amritlal Seth

Peasant Movements in Rajasthan

In the beginning of 19th century, princely states of [Rajasthan](#) started [signing treaties with the British](#) (1818). These treaties relieved princely states from external attacks of Marathas, Pindaris as well as other princely states. All these security came at cost of additional taxes, which the rulers passed on to peasantry classes as they continued to live a life of luxury and comfort.

Example: In case of the state of Udaipur the tribute paid to the British was 1/4th of the total revenue of the state for the first five years of the treaty; it was fixed 3/8th of the total revenue after five years. The enhancement in land revenue was enhancement in the income of the Britishers that came at cost of increase in taxes on peasants.

Hence, the peasantry in the princely states of [Rajasthan](#) started suffering under the weight of double exploitation of British imperialism and native feudalism. Over the period of time, this caused significant dissatisfaction among the public which results in numerous peasant movement across [Rajasthan](#). The peasantry in Rajasthan had to pay a large number of *lag-bags* (cesses), custom duties and also perform *begar* (forced labour) in addition to paying heavy land-revenue which was half of the gross produce.

After 1878, [new land revenue settlements were made on the British lines](#) to institutionalise the loot by the states. These settlements were not aimed at improving the agriculture and working conditions of the peasantry but their sole object was to collect more money. These resulted in the decline of agriculture on the one hand, and increase in poverty and indebtedness of the peasantry on the other

General Features of Peasant Movements in Rajasthan

- In the initial stages most of the peasant movements were spontaneous and were the outcome of social reform movements. In fact, the peasant movements in Rajasthan initially arose under the banner of social reforms and culminated into an economic struggle.
- The caste panchayats played an important role in the early stage of these movements. The caste organisations developed into class organisations during the peasant struggles.
- Between 1938-1949 the peasant movements and the Praja Mandal movement for responsible governments remained in close co-operation with each other irrespective of their class characters.

Bijolia Peasant Movement, 1897 – 1941

Bijolia was “A” class Jagir of the [Udaipur](#) State with a population of about 1200 in 1891. The majority of peasants in Bijolia belonged to Dakan Gotra of the Jats.

First Phase: 1897 – 1913

- Peasants in region were suffering from heavy burden of land revenue cesses and forced labour
- *Nanji Patel of Berisal and Thakari Patel of Gopal Niwa* were sent on deputation to meet Maharana of Udaipur.
- However both of them were expelled from jagir and movement suffered setback.
- Rao Krishan Singh died in 1906 without any heir and his near relation Prithvi Singh became the Jagirdar. He not only withdrew the concessions given by Kishen Singh but also imposed some new taxes on the pretext of Talwar-bandhai lag (Succession cess) which he paid to the Maharana.
- In March 1913 nearly 1000 peasants under the leadership of Sadhu Sitaram Das presented their grievances to the Jagirdar and when he refused to see the peasants. The peasants decided not to cultivate the lands in Bijolia and the lands were left fallow in the year 1913-14.

Second Phase: 1915 – 1923

- During 1915, the second phase of Bijolia Peasant Movement started when Sadhu Sitaram invited *Vijay Singh Pathik* to assume the leadership of the movement. He established Vidya Pracharni Sabha at Bijolia and under this Sabha he started a library, a school, and a Akhara.
- Pathik also published posts on Bijoliya Movement in the paper “Pratap”.
- *Manikya Lal Verma* who was a Jagir employee was highly impressed by the activities of Pathik and he resigned from the service to work among the peasants.
- In August 1918, the no-rent campaign was started with non co-operation movement. However, Maharana was adamant to crush the movement and all the main activities including Manik Lai Verma and Sadhu Sita Ram Das were arrested. Vijay Singh Pathik went underground and guided the movement.
- Rajasthan Sewa Sangh and the Rajputana Madhya Bharat Sabha also extended their support to the movement, which brought the movement to the national scene.

- On the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, Madan Mohan Malviya tried to persuade the Maharana. However, all the efforts failed and movement intensified by June 1920.
- The Kisan Panchayat began to run a parallel government through its leaders and volunteers. The peasants refused to obey the orders of the thikana. They also refused to pay the land revenue, cesses and begar and decided to boycott the court and police of the thikana.
- In 1922, the Government of India appointed a high power committee that also included the Agent to Governor-General in Rajputana, Robert Holland. After a long discussion an agreement was reached, which introduced much needed judicial, police and Jail reforms.

Third Phase: 1923 – 1941

- By the end of 1923, the peasant uprisings in other parts were put to an end and authorities started to deal with the peasants cruelly. Vijay Singh Pathik was forbidden to enter into Mewar. As a result movement went to decline.
- In 1930 the leadership passed into the hands of *Jamnalar Bajaj and Haribhau Upadhyay*.
- The peasant got their surrendered lands in 1939 when they became aloof from all the political activities and assured the thikana that they would never go on agitation in future. The Prime Minister of Mewar, Sir *G. Raghavacharya* held a dialogue with Prajamandal and handed over the acquired land.

Jat Farmers Movement, 1880

- This farmer movement was organized at Matrakundiya pargana in Chittor in Udaipur State. Mahrana Fateh Singh was the ruler.
- The Jat farmers of the region organized this revolt against the excess land-revenue.

Peasant Movements in Alwar – Bharatpur State

Alwar Farmers Movement 1921

- Wild-pigs were reared in Alwar State. Whenever the pigs were released they caused damage to standing crops of farmers. But due to restriction these could not be killed.

- During 1921, farmers organized movement against the practice.
- As a result, the government allowed killing of wild-pigs and movement was withdrawn.

Neemchuna Farmers Movement, 1925

- Maharaja Jai Singh of Alwar increased the Lagaan rates in 1924.
- Rajput peasants of Khalsa lands in Alwar started the movement & took to arm rebellion.
- Government setup an enquiry commission but meanwhile maharaj decided to crush revolt by force.
- On 14th May 1925 forces opened fire on around 800 farmers gathered at Neemchuna.
- Mahatma Gandhi considered this masaccare as even extreme of Jallianwallah Bagh and termed it “**Dyrism Double Distilled**” in Young India.

Mev Farmers Movement, 1932-35

- In 1932 farmers of Kishangarh, Ramgarh, Lakshmangarh & Tijara (Mev Region) started movement under leadership of Mohd. Ali.
- In 1933, in Alwar demands of farmers were agreed.
- However, in Bharatpur Farmers stopped paying land revenue for Kharif crops but government did not let the movement to succeed.
- Gradually the movement turned communal and leader Anjuman Khaidm-ul-Islam raised demands for separate schools for muslims, significant place for Urdu language and jobs to muslims in Govt.

Marwar Peasant Movement, 1923

- In 1923, Jai Narayan Vyas organized Marwar Hitkarni Sabha to organize peasants against taxes and serfdom. Through his newspaper Tarun Rajasthan he tried revealing conditions of farmers.
- In 1923 Government declared Hitkarni Sabha as illegal.

- In 1939, Marwar Lok Parishad was formed and it encouraged farmers to start movement against jagirdars.
- In April 1943, under chairmanship of Choturam Choudhary an appeal was made for settlement of Jagirs. On which, Maharaja of Jodhpur ordered for land settlement.

Dabda Massacre

- On 13 March 1947, a meeting was called in Dabda Village in Didwana pargana between members of Marwar Lok Parishad and Kisan Sabha under leadership of Mathuradas Mathur.
- The members were staying at Motilal Choudhary, when Jagirdar of Dabda attacked the house.
- 12-13 farmers were killed on the spot.

Bundi Peasant Movement, 1922 - 1943

- This movement is also called as Barad Kisan Andolan.
- Its causes were excess lagan, lag-bhag & Begar
- **Dabi Kaand** – On April 2, 1923, **Nanak ji Bheel** was hoisting flag in a gathering at Dabi when Police under S.P Ikram Hussain opened fire. Died on Spot.
- In 1926, Pandit Nathuram Sharma took over the leadership.
- In later stages, Mankiya lal Verma took over the leadership
- The movement ended in 1943

Begun Peasant Movement

Under the direct influence of the Bijolia movement, the peasants of the thikanas of Parsoli, Basi, Mandesra, Bhainsrodgarh and Begun arose against the policies of their respective thikanas. While, the authorities managed to crush the peasants movement of almost all other feudatories, the jagir of Begun stood as exception.

- Begun was a neighbouring Jagir of Bijolia and the majority of peasants were also from Dhakar caste.
- In 1921, a meeting was held at Bherukund near Menal, where it was decided to protest against the atrocities of Jagir. In 1922, a no-rent campaign was also launched in Begun but it was suppressed by the Jagirdar Anoop Singh.
- The peasants of Begun approached the leaders of Rajasthan Seva Sangh for help and support. **Ram Narain Choudhary**, Secretary of the Sangh, was sent to guide and help the peasants of Begun.
- The Jagirdar entered into an agreement with the peasants at Ajmer through Vijay Singh Pathik, but the agreement was not acceptable to the British Resident of Mewar as he called it a **Bolshevik settlement**.
- In June 1923, Udaipur State constituted an enquiry commission under G. C. Trench, the Settlement Commissioner of the State, for settlement with the peasants of Begun.
- The center of Begun Movement was Raita Village while commission was stationed at Begun. The commission insisted on peasant to appear before them at Begun, the peasants refused and instead insisted commission to camp at Raita. Hence, the peasants boycotted the Commission and the Commission arbitrarily prepared a decision. The decision was sent to the panchayat on 10th July, 1923.
- On 12th July, 1913, a large meeting of peasants was held at a village, Govindpura to discuss the decision. Mr. G. C. Trench reached Govindpura at about 5 A.M. on **13th July, 1923** with State troops. He again warned the leaders to accept the decision of the Commission. The leaders refused the decision strongly.
- The troops encircled the village and resorted to firing. Two activists **Roopa**, of village Jainagar and **Kripa ji**, of Amarpura, were shot dead. On the Government records one man lost his life, about 25 men were wounded and 485 men were arrested. According to the newspaper Tarun Rajasthan, eleven men lost their lives, about hundred were wounded, and 540 were arrested along with women and children.
- After the incident, Vijay Singh Pathik took over the leadership of the movement. This intensified the movement and finally resulted in a new settlement that started in Begun in December, 1923. Taxes rates were made fixed and many taxes were taken back by the government. Begar Pratha (bonded labour system) was abolished.

Farmers Revolt in Shekhawati Region

Farmer revolt in Sikar, 1922

- In 1922, Thakur Kalyan Singh increased lagan from 25% to 50%. As a result, farmers organised movement to protest against this action.

Katrathal Women Gathering, 1934

- On 25 April 1934 at Katrathal around 1000 women gathered under leadership of Kishori devi to protest against the ill-treatment of women-folk by Thakur of Siyot.

Jaisinghpura Massacre, 1934

- On 21 June 1934, Ishwar Singh brother of Thakur of Dundhlot fired at Jat farmers cultivating the field at Jaisinghpura. Ishwar Singh was tried and Jailed.

Kundan Village Massacre, 1934

- The Jaipur government also realized the rising atrocities in Sikar Thikana and deputed English officer W. T Web. As a result of efforts of Web, an agreement was made between farmers & Thikana on 23-August-1934.
- The agreement also provided recognition to Sikarwati Jat Panchayat.
- But as the agreement was not honored, the farmers again resorted to movement.
- In one such meeting at Kundan village, officer Web opened fire on the gathering killing a number of people.
- This massacre was even discussed in British House of Commons.

Shekhawati Farmers movement continued till 1946, when finally it got closed with efforts of **Hiralal Shastri**.

Bikaner Peasant Movement, 1946

- Also referred to as Dudhwa Khara Farmers Movement

- Farmers of Dudhwa Khara (now in Churu district) & Kangda Village of Bikaner State started the movement against the atrocities of Jagirdars.
- Leader Kumbharam Arya, Vaidhya Mugharam, Raghuvar dayal goyal, Hanuman Singh Budania

Tribal Movements in Rajasthan

Bheel (Bhil) Movements

Early Bheel Movements

The Bheels (Bhils) were the first to raise a movement against princely feudalism and British imperialism in Rajasthan. Majority of Bheels inhabited the princely states of Mewar ([Udaipur](#)), [Banswara](#), [Dungarpur](#), and [Sirohi](#) of Rajputana. Before the British rule, Bheels were enjoying undisturbed forest rights. In 1818, the States of Mewar, Dungarpur, Banswara concluded treaties with the British power and new order was established. The Bheels revolted in 1818 against this new order.

- Immediately after the treaty, the internal administration of the Mewar State was taken over by the British Resident Col. James Tod and he tried to bring Bheels under his control. The Bheels revolted against this new policy and the British troops were sent against the Bheels to compel them to surrender.
- To sustain long-term peaceful rule, the British made some new arrangements. In 1841 under his command [Mewar Bheel Corps \(MBC\)](#) was raised. These Corps were used by British & rajas to maintain the law & order situation in the areas.
- After the revolt of 1857, the British Government took over the Empire from the East India Company and a number of administrative changes were introduced in the Indian States. These new changes further took away rights enjoyed by Bheels.
- The British efforts to introduce social reforms among the Bhils also agitated them. The British authorities pressed the State to stop the Dakan (Withcraft) practice. The Bhils considered it an attack on their beliefs. The census operations that started in 1881 in the Mewar State also agitated the Bhils. All these social & economic factors created a fertile ground for a second revolt.
- In the first week of March 1881, the gameti (Bheel Chief) of Padona village on the Udaipur-Kherwara Road was summoned by the thanedar of Barapal village to appear as witness in some land dispute. The thanedar of Barapal sent Sawar (Police Constable) to summon the gameti, who refused to go. When the sawar tried to use force, he was killed by the Bheels. The thanedar reached the village with force and arrested the gameti. The gameti was tortured by police cruelly and put to death.

- Consequently, The Bhils of Padona and Barapal attacked the police station and the thanedar was killed. The Bhils became violent and burnt down bania shops and police stations in the nearby areas. The Bhils of Tidi and Kotra also joined the revolting Bhils. In no time the revolt spread over other hilly areas of Mewar State.

Consequence of Bheel Revolt

The state and British forces were sent to crush the revolt. The forces could not succeed in defeating the Bhils due to operational difficulties in the dense forest. The Maharaja's personal Secretary **Shyamaldas**, who was accompanying the troops, entered into negotiations with the Bhil leaders but eventually failed.

Finally, British representative Col Walter made settlement of peace with the gametis of Bhils at Rishabhdev. The Bhils were sanctioned concessions in respect of their forest rights and taxes.

Bhagat Movement or Bheel Movements under Govind Giri

The early movements of the Bheels were spontaneous and were caused as a reaction to the new system. The British Government took various measures to check the Bhil activities in future. On the one hand they announced some concessions to the Bhils and on the other they established an efficient network of military and civil control of the Bhil areas. These efforts succeeded in keeping the Bhils peaceful for a long time in Mewar State.

Govind Giri

Govindgiri was born in Bansia village in Dungarpur state. Govindgiri was a social & religious reformer and engaged himself in "improving the moral character, habits, and religious practices" of the adivasis (tribals). In 1883, he started Samp Sabha - an organization to unite the Bheels.

Govindgiri launched a Social reform movement among the Bhils, where, he tried to uplift the moral and material life of the Bheels through social and religious preaching. The teachings of Govindgiri awakened the Bhils and the social religious movement culminated into politico-economic revolt of the Bhils, which is also known as **Bhagat Movement**.

Mangarh Massacre

Govindgir preached crusade against the authorities to overthrow the oppressive rule and reestablish the Bhil power in Bhil tracts. In April 1913 Govindgiri was arrested by the Dungarpur Police and released with advice of leaving Dungarpur State territories. Govindgiri replied to his persecution by

uniting his followers and planned to establish a Bheel State. Consequently, Govindgiri with his followers moved to the hill of Mangarh on the border of Banswara and Sunth States. These developments alarmed the states of Sunth, Banswara, Dungarpur and Idar. All the states approached their concerned British officers to suppress the Bhils.

On 10th November 1913, two companies of the Mewar Bhil corps, one company of 104th Wellesley's Rifles, one company of 7th Rajput regiment encircled the Mangarh hill.

On 17th November 1913, the British forces attacked the Mangarh hill. Initially, the Bheels fought with valor against the superior British forces but later surrendered. Govindgiri along with the followers was arrested and sent to Ahmedabad jail, where he was awarded death sentence. Later in appeal in higher court, the sentence was reduced to life-term. But he was eventually released after 7 years.

Eki Movement or Bhomath Bheel Movement under Motilal Tejawat

The tribal movement under the leadership of Govindgiri was confined to the States of Dungarpur, Banswara, Sunth Rampur and Idar only. A large number of Bhils in the States of Udaipur, Sirohi and Bundi remained aloof from this movement. The [movement of the Bhils under Govindgiri](#) was suppressed by the British forces, but it influenced the Bhils of Gujarat, Central India and Rajasthan.

Motilal Tejawat - Masheeha of Tribals / Baavji of Bhils

Moti Lai Tejawat was Oswal bania by caste and born in village Kolhari in Jhadol thikana of Udaipur State. Due to some differences with the Jagirdar of Jharole he left the service of Jhalore thikana as Kamdar and adopted the profession of a spice merchant. Further, his business brought him in close contact with all the Bhils of Udaipur State. He was aggrieved by the plight of the Bhils and started work among them for their upliftment.

The social reform activities of Moti Lai Tejawat spread his popularity among the Bhils. Along with these he also started Eki (Unity) movement. The Eki movement aimed at a united opposition to all types of exploitation of Bhils by the States and jagirdars. Moti Lal Tejawat met Vijay Singh Pathik and other leaders to chalk out a programme for redressal of the grievances of the Bhils. By this time, the Bijolia peasant movement had also reached to its climax which inspired Tejawat and in 1921, he gave a call for the non-cooperation movement to the Bhils along with the call of no-rent campaign at Matrakundia, Chittorgarh.

The Bhils with their demand assembled at Lake Pichola near the Palace. Under pressure Maharana of Mewar called Motilal for discussions and he presented Maharana with list of 21 demands (labelled as Mewar ki Pukar). Maharana agreed to 18 of 21 demands but did not agree to Forest Rights, Begar and killing of Wild pigs. The officers did not implement the 18 agreed conditions and as a result Motilal Tejawat intensified the revolt. Additionally, he started door to door campaign where he preached against the social evils prevalent in Bhil society. Due to this he became famous as Maseeha of Bhils.

Bhomat Bhil Movement

Bhomat was the area densely populated by the Bhils. It comprised of parts of various Jagirs and the Khalsa land of Udaipur State. To keep the Bhils under control the British formed Bhomat an administrative unit under the rule of a military officer of the rank of a Major with headquarters at Kotra and Kherwara.

Tejawat extended his activities to Bhomat area and enlightened the tribals. The Bhils followed him and refused to pay land revenue, cesses, other taxes and to perform begar. The administration became paralysed and lost control over a large tract of Udaipur State. Under growing pressure, in 1922 the Udaipur State, British authorities announced various concessions and agreements were reached. However, the agreements could not succeed in bringing the movement to an end because various disputes arose in the implementation of agreement. The Bhil movement of Udaipur State finally ended after 1929 when Tejawat was arrested.

Conclusion:

- The tribal movement under the leadership of Moti Lai Tejawat began under the influence of the Non-Go-operation Movement but comparatively it was more radical.
- The tribal movement was not owned by the Indian National Congress and could not be integrated in the National movement, but it strengthened the national cause.
- The movement awakened the ignorant tribe men to break their age- old bondage.
- These movements proved severe attacks on the feudal system of Rajasthan and paved the way for social development.
- These also prepared the ground for freedom movement in Rajasthan and when the Prajamandal in various states came into being the awakened tribal men joined these organisation.

Meena Movement

Government of India implemented the Criminal Tribes Act in 1924 and subsequently Jaipur State implemented the Jaipur State Criminal Profession Law -1930. These Laws made it compulsory for Meena tribe members to register their names at nearest police station.

- To protest against this law Meena Khetriya Mahasabha was established in 1933.
- In 1944, a general conference was held under the Presidentship of Jain Muni Magan Sagar where Jaipur State Meena reform committee was also established.
- On 28th October 1946, at a conference held in Bagawas 26,000 Meenas resigned from post of Chokidaar.
- Finally after independence in 1952, all restrictions imposed on Meena's were withdrawn.

Freedom Fighters of Rajasthan

S.No	Freedom Fighter	Contribution
1	Motilal Tejavat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Born- 16 May, 1887 Koliyar Village, Udaipur. In 1920 started Eki movement at Matrikundia, Chittor against Mewar Bhomat Movement Maseeha of tribals, Baavji
2	Swami Kumaranand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted Batukeshwar Dutt & Subash Chandra Bose. 1921 organised farmers from Beawar
3	Balwant Singh Mehta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth – 8 Feb 1915 – Pratap Sabha 1938 – First President of Prajamandal 1942 – Associated with Quit India Movement Role in establishment of Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal
4	Harvilas Sharda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historian & legal expert Efforts resulted in passing of Child Marriage Prevention Act (Sharda Act) by Central Vidhan Sabha in 1929.
5	Bhajanlal Bissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Goraksha Abhiyaan Samiti, Jaisalmer Founder President Jaisalmer Jan Sangh.
6	Arjun Lal Sethi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth – 9 Sept. 1880, Jaipur Refused post of District Magistrate in Indian Civil Service, became secretary of Devi Singh of Chomu. Entrusted responsibility of armed revoltion in Rajasthan by Raas Bihar Bose. Actively participated in Civil Disobedience Movement.

7	Nanak Bheel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dabi Kaand – During Bundi Peasant Movement, was hoisting flag in a gathering at Dabi when Police under S.P Ikram Hussain opened fire. Died on Spot.
8	Ladu Ram Joshi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gandhian Freedom fighter, participated in Salt Satyagraha & Quit India Movement 1942. • Member Rajasthan Sea Sangh & Ajmer Congress • Directed Satyagrah Movement in Bisau Nagar region • Worked for political awakening in Bundi, Bijolia, Bengu & Sirohi region.
9	Jamnalal Bajaj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth 4 Nov 1889, Jaipur • Financial assistance to Navjeevan, Rajasthan Kesari, Karmaveer, Tyagbhumi & Pratap newspapers. • Returned honor of 'Rai Bahadur ' given by British. • Assisted in organization of Jaipur Prajamandal. • Worked closely with Gandhiji – Known as fifth son of Gandhiji.
10	Devi Shankar Tiwari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth 28 October 1903, Lucknow • President Jaipur State Prajamandal • Establishment of Rajasthan University, Sawai Man Singh Hospital • Chairman RPSC from 1951 to 1958
11	Jugal Kishore Chaturvedi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satyagraha in Bharatpur for recognition of Prajamandal. • Participated in Quit India Movement 1942 • Movement for opposition of forced serfdom in Bharatpur in 1947.
12	Balmukund Bissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale of Swadeshi Khadi Cloth • 1934, took agency of Rajasthan Charkha Sangh & est. Khadi Bhandar • Jailed in 1942 under Indian Security Act – died in hunger strike

13	Ganesh Lal Vyas "Ustad"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Marwar Youth League Worked for farmers & labours
14	Vijay Singh Pathik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real name: Bhoop Singh Leader Bijolia Peasant Movement Went Jail for Salt Satyagraha & Begun Peasant Movement Editor: Rajasthan Kesari, Tarun & Naveen Rajasthan. Published – Pratap.
15	Sagarmal Gopa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stir people against Maharawal Jawahar Singh, Jaisalmer Expelled from Jaisalmer & Hyderabad Author – Azadi Ke Dewaane, Jaisalmer mein Gundaraj, Raghunath Singh ka mukadma.
16	Jainarayan Vyas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published Rajasthani Magazine – Agnibaan 1927, editor of Tarun Rajasthan 1936, Published Akhand Bharat from Mumbai 14 years – General Secretary of All India Native Rajya Parishad Immense contribution in Marwar Prajamandal
17	Gokul Bhai Bhatt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Rajya Prajamandal in Sirohi Worked for political awakening in Sirohi area.
18	Ram Narayan Choudhary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary – Rajasthan Sewa Sangh – Important role in Begun Peasant Movement. 1932, Charge of Rajasthan branches of Harijan Sewa Sangh Editor – Tarun Rajasthan. Published – Naya Rajasthan & Danik Navjyoti in Rajasthan.
19	Manikya Lal Verma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in all National Movements Chaired first session of Mewar Prajamandal Published books – Mewar ka Vartman Shashan Represented Rajasthan in All India Native Rajya Lok Parishad

20	Thakur Kesari Singh Barhath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisor to Maharana Sajjan Singh and after his death to Mahrana Fateh Singh. • In 1903 wrote "Chetavani ra Chugatiya" - 13 couplets, to stop Fateh Singh to participate in the meeting called by Viceroy Curzon. • In 1910 – Established Veer Bharat Sabha • Sent to jail for 20 years in Hazaribagh, Bihar
21	Pratap Singh Barhat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also famous as Kanwar ji • Member of party by Rash Bihari Bose for armed revolution of 1911. • Assisted Zorawar Singh in Lord Hardinge assassination attempt. • Sentenced to 5 years rigorous imprisonment in Benaras Conspiracy Case.
22	Zorawar Singh Barhat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Younger brother of Thakur Kesari Singh Barhat & Uncle of Pratap Singh Barhat. • On 23 Dec 1913, threw bomb on Lord Hardinge at Chandni Chowk, Delhi.
23	Bhogi Lal Pandya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked among tribals of Dungarpur – spread education & political awareness. • Established Dungarpur Prajamandal in 1944.
24	Haribhau Upadhyaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led Salt Satyagraha in Ajmer, went to Jail for 2 years. • Edited 'Saraswati Patrika' & 'Odumber' • Established Sasta Sahitya Mandal, Gandhi Ashram in 1917 & Mahila Shiksha Sadan in 1945.

Praja Mandal Movement in Rajasthan

In 1927, the [All India States People's Conference](#) was held in Bombay after which the congress allowed people from different Princely States to join the party and the Indian freedom Struggle . In 1927 itself, the Akhil Bhartiya Desi Rajya Lok Parishad or All India Native States Public Council was established in Bombay and Vijay Singh Pathik became its chairperson. In [Rajasthan](#), Rajputana Desi Lok Parishad or Rajputana Native States Public Council was established. These councils laid the foundation for Praja Mandal movement in Rajasthan.

Nature of the Praja Mandal Movements:

- The people of Praja Mandal fought against the Feudalism and colonialism.
- The people of Praja Mandal movement fought against their feudal princes and the British administration simultaneously for their rights.
- The main demand of the Praja Mandal movements was the democratic (fundamental) rights.

Activities of Praja Mandal Movements:

- The people of the Praja Mandal Movements implemented the constructive programmes of the Indian National Movement in their princely states.
- They established schools, used khadi, encouraged cottage industries and started agitation against the Untouchability.

Contribution of Praja Mandal:

The Praja Mandal movement not only created a political awakening among the people in the Indian States but also fought for their rights, their share in the government and their dynamic participation in the future political set up of the country. Other contributions included:

- Improvement in Education
- Rise of social equality
- The most important contribution of these organisation was to break the insularity of the peasant movements by linking them with one another in different princely states, as well as with peasant movements in British India .

Praja Mandals of Rajasthan Summary Sheet

S.NO	Year Est.	Name of Praja Mandal	Important Facts
1	1931 & 38	Jaipur PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1931 founded by Arjunlal Sethi & Kapur Chand Patni. Founded again by Jamnalal Bajaj & Hiralal Shastri in 1938. General Secretary - Chiranjilal Mishra Chairman - Hiralal Shastri President - Jamnalal Bajaj
2	1931	Bundi PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Kantilal Nityanand was the most active member.
3	1934	Marwar Praja Mandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Jaynarayan Vyas President - Bhanwarlal Sarraf
4	1934	Hadoti PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Nayanuram Sharma
5	1934	Dholpur PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Krishnadutt Paliwal, Mr. Mulchand, Mr. Jwala Prasad Jigasus
6	1936	Bikaner PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Mangharam Vaidya & Raghuvar Dayal Goyal
7	1938	Mewar PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Manikyalal Verma President - Balwant Singh Mehta Vice President - Bhure Lal Baya
8	1938	Bharatpur Prajamandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Jugal Kishore Chaturvedi at Rewari in march, 1938. Chairman was Gopilal Yadav
9	1938	Shahpura PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Gokul Lal Asawa, Madan Lal Purohit. First state to establish responsible governance
10	1938	Alwar PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded Pt. Harinarayan Sharma and Kunjibihari Modi. After its registration in 1939, Sardar Nathimala became its president.
11	1938	Kota PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded by Nayanuram Sharma and Abhinna Hari

12	1939	Kishangarh PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded by Kantilal Chauthani & Jamal Shah.
13	1939	Karauli PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded by Trilok Chand Mathur
14	1939	Sirohi PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded by Gopal Bhatt on Jan 22, 1949
15	1942	Kushalgarh PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhanwarlal Nigam (President) & Kanhyalal Sethia
16	1943	Banswara PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded by Bhupendranath Trivedi, Dhulaji Bhai.
17	1944	Dungarpur PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded by Bhogilal Pandya (Gandhi of Vagar) • Hari dev joshi & Nana bhai also associated
18	1944	Bundi State People Council (Lok Parsihad)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded under leadership of Harimohan • Minister - Brij Sundar Sharma
19	1945	Jaisalmer PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded by Mithalal Vyas
20	1946	Pratapgarh PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded by Thakkar Bapa, Amritlal Payak & Chunni Lal.
21	1947	Jhalawar PrajaMandal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded by Mangilal Bhavya & Kanhiya Lal Mittal

Administration of Rajasthan under British Rule

During the British rule, from administration point of view India was divided into two parts - first, *British India* and second, Princely states of India. British India included provinces (regions) that were directly administered by the British, with Acts established and passed in British Parliament and the Princely States were ruled by local rulers. At this time, Rajputana or Rajasthan included:

- One province of Ajmer-Mewara governed directly by British.
- 19 Princely States ruled by native rulers.

Administration in Ajmer-Merwara

Ajmer-Merwara, also known as **Ajmir Province** was ceded to the British by [Daulat Rao Sindhia](#) by a treaty on 25 June 1818. The province consisted of the districts of Ajmer and Merwar, surrounded by Princely states of Rajputana.

Initially when the territory was ceded both Ajmer and Mewara districts were under a single commissioner of East India Company. After the Indian Mutiny of 1857, in 1858 the powers of the Company were transferred to the British Crown and the Governor-General of India. The administration of Ajmer-Merwara was then controlled by an *ex officio* Chief Commissioner who was the British Political Agent in Rajputana. Hiranand Rupchand Shivdasani was the last chief commissioner before Independence.

Administration of Princely States

Lord Wellesley (1798-1805) and after him **Lord Hastings** (1813-1823) sought to impose British paramountcy in India for which suppression of the Marathas and the Pindaris was essential. He looked upon the Rajputana States as his natural allies against the Marathas and the Pindaris. **Charles Metcalf**, the British Resident at Delhi, negotiated alliances with the princely states of Rajasthan. Through these treaties the States of Rajasthan came under the complete subordination of the British.

The princely states of Rajputana were governed through Rajputana Agency. The Rajputana Agency was under the political charge of an Agent reporting directly to the Governor-General of India and residing

at Mount Abu in the Aravalli Range. The Rajputana Agency was sub-divided into 3 residencies and 6 agencies. These residencies and agencies in turn included the princely states.

- Alwar Agency
 - Included Alwar State
- Bikaner Agency
 - Included Bikaner State
- Eastern Rajputana States Agency
 - Included states of Bharatpur, Karauli & Dholpur
- Haraoti-Tonk Agency,
 - Included states of Bundi, Tonk and Shahpura
- Jaipur Residency
 - State of Jaipur, Kishangarh & chiefship of Lava
- Kotah-Jhalawar Agency
 - Included states of Kota and Jhalawar
- Mewar Residency
 - Included states of Mewar and Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh and Kushalgarh chiefship.
- Western Rajputana States Residency
 - Included States of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Sirohi

In principle, the princely states had internal autonomy, while by treaty the British Crown had suzerainty (Princely States recognised the paramountcy of the British Crown) and was responsible for the state's external affairs. If necessary the British were entitled to interfere in the interior matters of these states.

General Administration:

No changes were made in Gram Panchayats by British government, but the unit Pargana which was higher to Gram Panchayat was converted into districts and it was ruled by a Collector. Now, *the*

Collector was the whole and sole in-charge of the district. Nazim, Tehsildar, Nyayik Tehsildar, Girdavar, Patwari, all worked under him. They had to collect levy and to solve land related issues.

Land Revenue System in Rajasthan during British

After 1878 new land revenue system was installed on the British lines to institutionalize the loot by the states. These new settlements were not aimed at improving the agriculture and working conditions of the peasantry but their sole object was to enable increment of revenue. This resulted in the decline of agriculture on the one hand, and increase in poverty and indebtedness of the peasantry on the other.

Land Revenue System in Rajasthan during British Period

The land was divided into two main groups, viz. Khalsa and Jagir.

- **Khalsa Land:** The land under the direct management of the State (Darbar) was known as Khalsa.
- **Jagir Land:** The land held by grantees, whether individuals or religious, institutions, was known as non- Khalsa or Jagir.

While in total, about 60% land was under Jagir and 40% was under Khalsa. The proportion of territory under both the groups varied widely in different states. According to the Imperial Gazetteer, the proportion of the Khalsa and Jagir land was:

- Jodhpur: 1/7 (Khalsa) & 6/7 (Jagir).
- Udaipur: 1/4 (Khalsa) & 3/4 (Jagir)
- Jaipur: 2/5 (Khalsa) & 3/5 (Jagir)
- Kota: 3/4 (Khalsa) & 1/4 (Jagir)
- Alwar: 7/8 (Khalsa) & 1/8 (Jagir)
- Bharatpur: 7/8 (Khalsa) & 1/8 (Jagir)

Land Tenure system in Khalsa Lands:

In the Khalsa territory, the Darbar was the landlord and the final superior authority. The Darbar was empowered to eject the cultivators as the land finally belonged to it. The system of land tenure in the Khalsa area could be explained as follows:

Biswadars or Bapidars

These were permanent tenures in the Khalsa areas. The holders of these were given occupancy rights which were hereditary. They enjoyed undisturbed possession of their holdings so long as they continued to pay the fixed rent. The peasant under these tenures enjoyed certain other rights. The land revenue was charged on concessional, rates and the land revenue once fixed could not be enhanced. All the trees and other natural products could be used by them without restriction or additional payment. They could sell or mortgage their holdings. The peasants under the Biswadars or Bapidars tenure were very few but certainly they privileged in comparison to others. The demand for such type of tenure was prominent during the course of peasant movements in all parts of Rajasthan. The status of Biswadars or Bapidars was higher and in some cases they were petty landlords who used to lend their holdings to the peasants on the terms and conditions fixed by themselves.

Ijara System

This was a prominent system of land tenure in the eastern and south eastern states while it was in vogue more or less all over the province. It was also known as Theka (contract) or Ankbandi. Under this system the right of collecting land revenue of certain pargana or area was sold out by public auction to the highest bidder who was held responsible for the payment of amount so fixed in one lumpsum to the state. Jagirdars were supreme authority to let out the land to peasants on the terms and conditions fixed by them.

Those villages or areas which were leased to the general body of cultivators were called **Kham Izara**. The amount payable by them was usually distributed over the holdings either by the cultivator themselves or by the revenue officials. In principle the cultivators were jointly responsible for their payment but in practice they held the land jointly and were severally responsible for their payment.

Where the Tehsildar or Revenue officials managed the village directly because of its unsuitability for the Ijara, the land was given to the individuals on patta or lease for a certain period.

Ijara system was continued more or less till 1919 but after 1920, the process of replacement of Ijara with Ryotwari started.

Ryotwari System

The rest of the land (other than ijaradari) was taken up by peasants who did not possess any tenancy right. At the beginning of each Fasal (crop season) every peasant selected agricultural land in the

presence of the headman of the village and revenue officials. The amount payable by the peasant was fixed annually. The term of such peasants terminated with the crop season.

Pahi Kashats

The cultivators who had no cultivable land in their own villages were allowed to take up land in other villages. They were known as Pahi Kashats. The villagers were always opposed to such tenants as they preferred to have the advantage of grazing their cattle on the land which otherwise might remain fallow.

Land Tenures in Jagir

The land held by the State grantees was known as Jagir. Before the British paramountcy the word Jagir was applied only to estates held by Rajputs on condition of military service. The Jagir were also known as thikanas and the Jagirdars as Thakurs. The various tenures of Jagir were as follows :

Jagir

The holders of grants under Jagirs were the oldest and most numerous. The Jagirdar was the Thakur or lord who held Jagir by grant (Patta) of his chief and performed service with specified quota (Tan) of military. The land under their possession was managed by them and the State had no right to intervene.

During the British period their military importance was finished as the external affairs were transferred into the British hands. Though they continued to perform military services, the process of cash commutation was introduced after 1858. By the first decade of the twentieth century their military services were commuted in cash.

Muamla

The word Muamla means primarily an arrangement or settlement. This category of Jagir tenures claimed that these were conquered by the ancestors of the owners. These were not granted by the states. The Jagirdars under this category accepted the overlordship of the State concerned on the condition of tribute or military service. During the British period these were tributaries.

Subegujars or Istamarardars

These were tributary grants for service performed but in these lands rent was once fixed was not variable.

Bhumias

Those holding on the bhum tenure were called Bhumias, and were mostly Rajputs. They performed certain services, such as watch and ward, escort of treasuries, etc.

Inam & Tankha

Inam was a revenue free grant to a person in recognition of his services, whereas Tankha was the grant to a person in lieu of service rendered by him. The grantees were not cultivators themselves. They were landlords and rent receivers. These were managed by the landlords according to their will.

Assessment and Collection of Land Revenue

Batai System:

In both the areas viz. Khalsa and Jagir, the main system of assessment of land revenue was the '**Batai system**'. The rent was paid various methods of Batai.

- **Seedha Batai** was a division of the grain after threshing by an earthen pot called Mutka.
- Another method of Batai was **lata and Kvnta** under which the produce was estimated by the officials of the standing crop. The share of jagirdars and the State varied from one half to one sixth of the gross produce.

Bleij or Jama System:

- The Batai system continued in the Jagir areas upio 1949, but in the Khalsa area it was replaced by cash rents fixed on the quality of land.
- The cash system was known as Bliej or Jama system.

Lag-Bags (Cess):

In addition of the land revenue a large number of *Lag-Bags (cess)* were also imposed upon the peasants. Some of these cess were regular while other were occasional. The number of these was not fixed. In some states it was upto three hundred. The cess such as Sirana, Mtilka, Kunsari Gaon-Kharcli Karda, Batta, Kasar, Tulai, Parkhai. Nazarana, Dastitr, Lata, Kwua, Sahanagi, Haq Patel Patwari, Kanungo, Choudhary and Kamdar, Paona, Bhum were charged regularly with the land revenue.

Production Cess:

- The cesses related to agricultural production were charged on commercial crops such as cotton, opium, jute, sugarcane and oilseeds.

Irrigation Cess:

- Nalrai and Naharbas cess were charged on irrigated land.

Cattle Breeding Cess:

- Pzer, Kadbi. Jura, Gore-ka-ghas, Rajka etc. were charged for the cattle owned by Jagirdars and the State cavalry.
- The cess known as Cbheli Ginti, Unt- Ginti, Khuntabandi, Pan-Charai, Hansil Mavesi Johar, Hansil Charai, Guada etc. were charged on cattle breeding.

Goods transportation Cess:

- Cesses were also charged on the export and import of grain, fodder, live stock, seeds, fertilisers, agricultural implements, etc. which were known as Lag Mapa, Virsa, Dagli Binsiid, Arat, Cbhapa, Zakat etc.

Cess on nature goods:

- Cesses were also charged on the naturally grown grass, firewood, gond etc.

Social Cess(s):

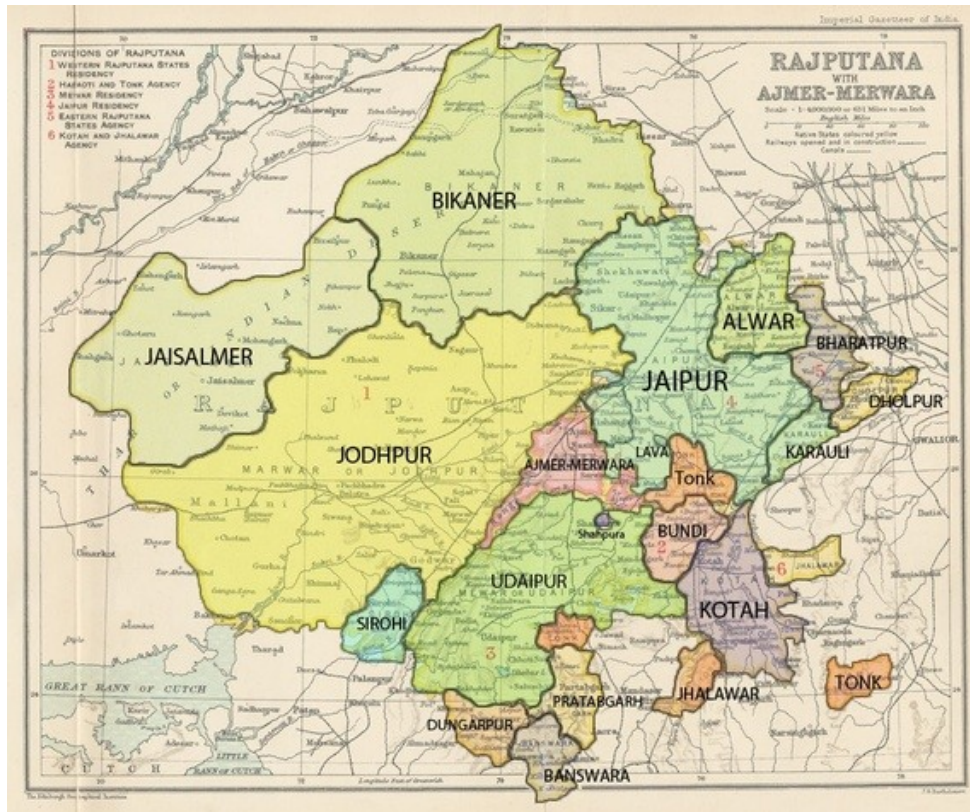
- Apart from the above mentioned agrarian cess, there were also some other cess which may be grouped as social cess.
- These cess known as Bagdam, Nata- Dharicha, DlioI Danka, Kansa-parosa, etc. were charged from peasants on the occasion of marriage and death feast.
- The Jagirdars also charged Baiji-ka-hathkharch, Bhent-Mataji, Kimwarji-ka-Kalewa, Bhent-Holi-Diwali and Dashahara etc.

Conclusion

Under the prevailing land revenue system during British times, the peasants had no land rights. The amount of these Cesses sometimes reached a figure almost double of the land revenue. The economic burden upon the peasantry was unbearable. The result was, peasants were compelled to borrow money from the usurer money-lender. The conditions of peasants were worse in the areas under Jagir system in comparison to the Khalsa system. There was no rule of law and the peasants were on the mercy of the Jagirdars. As a result, most of the peasant movements arose in the Jagir areas.

Rajasthan State Formation: Post Independence

Before Independence, Rajasthan was Rajputana consisting of **twenty-two** small and big Princely States. On 5th July 1947 the State Secretariat was established with V. K Menon as its Secretary. In August 1947, at the time of Independence, Rajasthan included 19 princely state & 3 thikanas (Chiefships) of Neemrana, Lava & Kushalgarh.



Though these Princely States were declared to have been annexed to the Union of India on 15 August, 1947, the process of merger and their unification became completed in November, 1956, in 7 stages/phases.

First Stage of formation of Rajasthan: Matsya Union

In the **first stage** of merger four Princely States of *Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli* formed the *Matsya Union* and it was inaugurated on 17th March, 1948. The Cabinet of this Union was formed under the Leadership of *Shri Shobha Ram*, from Alwar.

Second Stage of formation of Rajasthan: Rajasthan Union

2nd Stage: Separate from Matsya Union, the Rajasthan Union, consisting of *Banswara, Bundi, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Kishangarh, Pratapgarh, Shahapura, Tonk and Kota*, was inaugurated on 25 March, 1948. The Kota State got the honour of being the capital of this Union. The *Kota Naresh* was appointed as the Rajpramukh and *Shri Gokul Lal Asawa* was appointed as the Chief Minister.

Third Stage of formation of Rajasthan: United States of Rajasthan

3rd Stage: But only three days after inauguration of Rajasthan Union, the Maharana of Udaipur decided to join this Union which was accepted by the Government of India. The Maharana of Udaipur was appointed as Rajpramukh and the Kota Naresh was appointed as Up- Rajpramukh of this Union and the Cabinet was formed Under the leadership of *Shri Manikya Lal Verma*. This United States of Rajasthan was inaugurated by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on 18 April, 1948.

Fourth Stage of formation of Rajasthan: Greater Rajasthan

4th Stage: The formation of the United States of Rajasthan paved the way for the merger of big states like *Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jaipur and Jodhpur* with the Union and formation of **Greater Rajasthan**. It was formally inaugurated on **30 March, 1949** by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The Maharana Bhupal Singh of Udaipur was appointed as the Maha-Rajpramukh and the Kota Naresh was appointed as the Up-Rajpramukh and the Cabinet was formed under the leadership of *Shri Hira Lala Shastri*.

Trivia: Rajasthan Day: 30th March (based on this stage)

Fifth Stage of formation of Rajasthan: United States of Greater Rajasthan

5th Stage: Finally, Matsya Union was merged with Greater Rajasthan on 15 May, 1949. The post of Prime minister was discontinued and a **Chief minister office was constituted**. '*Hiralal Shastri*' became the first Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

Sixth Stage of formation of Rajasthan: United Rajasthan

6th Stage: In 6th Stage, 18 states of United Rajasthan & princely state of *Sirohi* got merged with exception of Abu & Delwara. It was completed by 26 Jan 1950.

Seventh Stage of formation of Rajasthan: Rajasthan We Know

7th Stage: This stage completed the integration, formation and reorganization of state of Rajasthan and took place because of **State Re-organization Act of 1956**. Under this, the erstwhile part 'C' State of Ajmer, Abu Road Taluka, former part of princely State Sirohi which was merged in former Bombay, State and Sunel Tappa region of the former Madhya Bharat merged with Rajasthan and Sironj subdistrict of Jhalawar district was transferred to Madhya Pradesh. The process got completed on 1 November 1956 and **Mohanlal Sukhadia** became **Chief Minsiter** and **Gurumukh Nihal Singh** became **Governor**.

Trivia: Rajasthan Day: 30th March

Summary: Stages of Rajasthan State Formation

New districts Formation: After State Reorganization Act of 1956

After State reorganization of 1956, came to place on November 1 , 1956, there were 26 districts in Rajasthan. However, the formation of new districts did not stop there and there was formation of new districts from time to time:

- 27th District: **Dholpur**
 - Formed by division of Bharatpur on 15-April-1982

- 28th District: **Bara**
 - Formed by division of Kota on 10-April-1991
- 29th District: **Dausa**
 - Formed by division of Jaipur on 10-April-1991
- 30th District: **Rajsamand**
 - Formed by division of Udaipur on 10-April-1991
- 31st District: **Hanumangarh**
 - Formed by division of Sri Ganganagar on 12-July-1994
- 32nd District: **Karoli**
 - Formed by division of Sawai Madhopur on 19-July-1997
- 33rd District: **Pratapgarh**
 - Formed by reorganizing Udaipur, Chittorgarh and Banswara districts on 26-Jan-2008