

Scholar's name: Almas Zaidi

Supervisor: Prof. Nishat Manzar

Department: History and Culture

Title of the Thesis: Military History of Jaipur State in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century

ABSTRACT

The Kachhwaha chiefs of Amber/Jaipur played a very crucial role in the political and military affairs of the Mughal Empire. The Kachhwaha chiefs rendered their services to the Mughal Emperors in their military expeditions and contributed to the process consolidation of the Mughal Empire. It is due to their loyalty towards the Mughal Emperors and efficient services in military expeditions for the cause of imperial power, that they were able to receive some of the highest offices and honours. During Akbar's reign the Kachhwaha chiefs were assigned *subahs* of Kabul, Bengal, Gujarat, Deccan, Punjab and Kashmir as *subahdars*. The Kachhwahas chiefs held about 80% of the total *mansabs* assigned to the Rajputs by the Mughals. During Jahangir's reign there was a decline in the position of Kachhwahas but their chiefs as the rulers of Amber, continued to enjoy their previous positions. They remained very significant and were the high office holders even in the eighteenth century also.

Some of the remarkable achievements of Kachhwahas chief were related to the military technology learned by them during the service of the Mughals. For instance, Man Singh the Kachhwaha chief was able to learn the knowledge of manufacturing the guns, cannons and gunpowder, which was kept highly secret by the Mughals and not revealed to any of the nobles. Henceforth he built the gunfoundry in 1584 C.E. at Jaigarh Fort in Amber/Jaipur. This is the best preserved and only surviving medieval era gun foundry of the world. During the time another of the Kachhwaha's Chief Sawai Jai Singh, world's hitherto known largest cannon Jaivana was manufactured.

Contemporary history paragraph shows the significance of the military history of the Jaipur in vis-a-vis the history of the Mughal Empire. However, it is unfortunate that such an important aspect related to the military history of Jaipur from the mid-

seventeenth century to the eighteenth century has not been touched by any scholar in a comprehensive manner. Only little work has been done on the theme by some scholars so far.

Archival sources are rich in information that which have tapped for this study are *Arhsatta*, *Kapaddwara*, *Siyah Tasiha*, *Jamakharach* records and etc., in Persian and Rajasthani languages. These are preserved at Rajasthan State Archives and City Palace Museum, Jaipur.

Keeping in mind the works already undertaken by the various scholars, the present study is an attempt to overcome this lacuna related to the military history of Jaipur from mid-seventeenth century to the eighteenth century. Present research had investigates in detail the mode of recruitment, dress and uniform, training of recruits, the assignment system, working of various departments of army, viz., cavalry, elephant corps, camel corps and infantry, payment of their salaries, allowances, relief, rewards and honours given to them, punishments for violation of rules and regulations, carriages, their arms and armours, their role in the battlefield and the bearing it has on the changing military trends related to the maintenance of contingents during the period.