

Revolt of Eighteen Fifty Seven in Bijnor

Abstract

The News of the out burst of the revolt at Meerut reached Bijnor on My 13, 1857. It caused a wide spread excitement and unrest among the people of the district. The District Magistrate recalled all the Indian soldiers on leave. The Thandears and the other police officers were directed to increase the strength of the force. Chaudhary Nain Singh, a Zamindar of Bijnor was directed to go on round in the night and secure the protection of the city. The Collector, Mr. Alexander Shakespeare and Mr. George Palmer also took rounds in some localities in the night. On 18th May, 1857, a company of the 29th native infantry, which was going to Moradabad from Shahjahanpur reached Binor.

Keywords: Revolt, Breadth, Established, Indian Soldiers

Introduction

The district of Bijnor lies in the north-western part of Uttar Pradesh. The district lies between latitudes 29° 02' N and 29° 58' N and longitudes 78° 59' E. Its length from North to South is about 102 km and breadth from East to West is about 90 km. In the West it is bounded by the districts of Saharanpur, Mujaffarnagar and Meerut. In the North it is separated by the river Ganga from Dehradun. The population of the district according to the latest census report more than 30 lacs people. Bijnor has seen many faces of Indian history. It was the part of the Panchala Janpad of ancient India. During the medieval Indian history, it was a part of the territory of the Sultans of Delhi with the establishment of the Mughal Empire in India. It was during the time of Akbar, that Bijnor was included in the Sarkar of Sambhal in the Subah of Delhi. After the death of Aurangzeb, Rohilas established their sway over this area. In 1801 A.D. Nawab Wazir of Avadh transferred the region of Rohilkhand to the English. Under them Bijnor became a part of the district of Moradabad. In 1817 A.D., it was constituted as a separate district with its head quarter at Nagina. In 1824 A.D., this head quarter was sifted to Bijnor.

On 10th May, 1857, when revolt broke out at Meerut, murdered many Europeans and marched Bundelkhand and many other places off to Delhi. Soon, the revolt spread to Lucknow, Bareilly, Kanpur, Agra, Jhansi, Central India as well in Bijnor.

The jail of Moradabad was broken on 19th May and this news was received in Bijnor very quickly. It caused panic in the minds of authorities in Bijnor. The departure of the soldiers of the 29th Native Infantry was followed by the arrival at Najibabad from Roorkee of some three hundred Sappers and Miners. They met the self styled Nawab Mahmud Khan of Najibabad and provoked him to rise against the British. The soldiers of Roorkee who were instigated by Nawab Mahmud Khan to attack Bijnor were short of ammunition and District Magistrate of Bijnor had made all necessary preparation to resist them. On 21st May, 1857 at about 1 p.m. firing was heard in the Bijnor jail was broken. The prisoners ran towards the river. Seven escaped convicts were shot dead by the soldiers one hundred twenty six were recaptured and two hundred fifteen were able to escape. The District Magistrate arrived at treasury and the treasury amounting to rupees one lacs and twenty five thousands was thrown into the well. The breaking of the Bijnor jail was followed by many mutinous acts. All of a sudden, Mahmud Khan reached Bijnor on 1st June 1857 and was encamped near the collector's rebellion. On 3rd June a message from Moradabad reached the collector advising him for immediate flight. Syed Ahmad Khan a subordinate judge of Bijnor purpose added Mahmud Khan to let the English officials go safe from Bijnor. As, the British could no longer control the district they moved all the European women and children to the other side of the Ganga. The British authorities realized that the Hindu Zamindars were unable to hold Mahmud Khan, therefore, they left the District on 8th June, entrusting its charge to Mahmud Khan. These

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officers reached Roorkee safely on June 11th 1857, Mahmud Khan at once assumed power. He proclaimed himself the ruler of Bijnor.

On 6th August, 1857 Chaudhary Mahjar Singh of Haldar attached Nawab Mahmud Khan and come to Bijnor with chaudharies Nain Singh and Jodh Singh. They entered Bijnor with in four thousands soldiers. The Nawab who was all along these days failed this troop. The battle took place at Bhokhara Ka Bagh. Mahmud Khan found it useless to face the opponents and after some fighting he left the filed. In the months of August and September several pitched battles took place between these Hindu Zamindar and the troops of Nawab. Ultimately Mahmud Khan was successful in reigning Supreme though out the district. Soon, the English recovered from the sudden shock of the revolt of 1857, and they once again organized themselves and started recapturing their lost territory.

Thus, it may be seen that Bijnor equally participated in the revolt first of all, the Gujars revolted and disturbed the law and order of the district on 20th May 1857, when the news of the revolt in Moradabad reached Bijnor. Qadir Ali and Munruddin attempted to provoke revolt in the district on 9th June, 1857 the British authority in Bijnor ceased working and Nawab Mahmud Khan of Najibabad occupied the district and declared himself the ruler of Bijnor. The major participants of the revolt in Bijnor were Nawab Mahmud Khan, Maulvi Qadir Ali, Chaudhary Pratap Singh, Munruddin, Syed Tukhab Ali, Abdulla Khan, Shafiulla Khan and Jalaluddin. The most prominent role was that of Nawab Mahmud Khan declared himself to be the Nazim of Bijnor but the communal jealousy was too deep that this declaration provoked the Hindus against him and the opposed him. The Chaudharies of Bijnor collected together and attacked the Nawab and thus communal war was started between Hindus and Muslims of the district. The Hindus were defeated in this crusade and Mahmud Khan ruled over Bijnor upto 17th April, 1857 without any opposition. There after the English army entered Bijnor district. A battle was fought on the river bank in Nagina causing defeat of rebels and adjoining areas was arrested with forty fire soldiers after he was defeated by the English in a battle near Najibabad. He was hanged for this role in the revolt. Thus the English were able to suppress the revolt of Bijnor is concerned it may be said that it failed because it can seldom be termed at a revolt. The Banjaras and Mewat is looted the common men and created panic in the territory disturbing the law and the order of the area. The common masses become the victim of looting and they, therefore isolated themselves of the revolt. Thus the revolt of 1857 in Bijnor failed because of the lack of common man's support. Secondly, the rebels failed because they lacked unity. The Hindus were against the Muslims and the Muslims were against the Hindus. Nawab Mahmud Khan was opposed by the Hindus chiefs when Nawab Mahmud Khan won over the thrown of Bijnor the Hindus Zamindars didn't accept him as their sovereign and united together to defeat him. All during the revolt the Muslims and Hindus fought each other and didn't achieve any considerable achievement worth

monitoring. Thirdly, the rebels were not the English occupied Nagina. Nawab Mahmud Khan was arrested and tie died in the person.

Maulvi Qadir Ali of Nagina was restorable for the revolt in Nagina, Chaudhary Pratap Singh the rebels in their revolt against the English Munuruddin at the time of the revolt was the Thanneddar of Nagina and was responsible to convey the news of the breaking of Moradabad fail to Maulvi Qadir Ali they organized and provoked the revolt in Nagina.

Abdulla Khan was an associate of Nawab Mahmud Khan in the battle of Nagina. After the defeat of the rebels he went towards Rampur and Bareilly and from their he took shelter in the adjoining Terai area, Shfiullah Khan who took active part in the battle of Nagina went towards Bareilly after the defeat of the rebels. Azmat Ullah Khan, the hero of the battle of Nagina also escaped towards Bareilly after the defeat. Kazimullah Khan, an associate of Nawab Mahmud Khan in the battle of Nagina escaped after the defeat in the battle.

Nawab Jalaluddin, a subordinate Nawab of Najibabad who took active part in spreading the revolt in Najibabad and professional soldiers, therefore they were ignorant of the was strategy, planning and organization. The rebels of Bijnor were only mercenaries who had nothing before then accept their selfish interests. On the contrary, Britishers were the seasoned and capable soldiers. Neither the soldiers came forward to provoke them nor they helped in suppressing the revolt in Bijnor. The civil population on their own organized themselves and curried the revolt in an unorganized pattern and the revolt failed in Bijnor.

The failure of revolt in Bijnor is also contributed to the presence of Royal officers of the company in the form of person like Syed Ahmad Khan. They in the absence of the English from Bijnor looked after their interest with full care and attention. Besides this the Hindu Zaminadars too supported the English against the Muslims.

The leadership of the rebels also failed because they had leaders like Nawab Mahmud Khan who could not unite the Hindus and Muslims of Bijnor. Their combined strength would have endangered the further stay of British in India. The revolutionaries of Bijnor were isolated because of its different geographical position. Bijnor was located away from the main route of Delhi to Lucknow. The lack of liaison with the other parts of revolting India bought the failure of revolt in Bijnor. The dazing deed of District Magistrate Mr. Alesuander saved the English in Bijnor form run. He recruited and sought the help of the Hidus Zamindars to Maintain law and order in Bijnor. He asked these soldiers to patrol the disturbed areas at night to save them from ruin. He saved the treasury and he while sitting at Rorkee always watched the British interests very carefully. When the Hidus chiefs defeated Mahmud Khan . He appointed Syed Ahmad Khan to look after the affairs. This the role of Mr. Shakespeare was the real remedy of the revolt and it caused the revolt of 1857, in Bijnor as Bijnor was not a military Cantonment Bijnor couldn't get the required help either from Meerut of form Moradabad and had

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to depend on their own for a victory in the revolt. Thus deprived of being helped, caused the failure of the revolt of 1857 in Bijnor. Thus, we find the revolt of 1857 in Bijnor failed and the district was once again reoccupied by the English. It is very essential to know about the nature of revolt of 1857 in Bijnor. We Conclude that it was wide spread revolt in the form of Muslim conspiracy. In the beginning these were differences between the Hindus and the Muslims. They not only opposed each other but even fought against each other. These was a religious crusade among them but as soon as the Britishers left Bijnor and Nawab Mahmud Khan recaptured Bijnor after his defeat at the bond of the Hindus all the rebel Hindus and Muslims united and the revolt became a general and civil revolt.

Aim of the Study

The process of development has always been in human society. The needs of society have also been coming into existence. That is why from pre historic times to modern age, the scope of history, its structure methods of research and materials have seen thorough changes.

In the last decades of 20th Century many new Concepts developed in the scope of history. In these there is a Sub-Altern method of history, to view the history from lower strata of society.

It has been experienced by the historians that the study of History of the common is as important as the Contribution of stalwarts of society like kings and queens. With their contribution, the great men make their basis firm and stable.

Undoubtedly, the independence of India was not the result of effort of great men alone but innumerable ordinary Indians contributed immensely to wards, its achievement with their collective devotion and sacrifices.

Now the time has come for collateral study of political history of different regions so that they may

be brought to light from oblivion and so that they may gain proper honour. The present study of history of Bijnor in this research work is the modest attempt in this direction.

Conclusion

Thus it may be seen, that Bijnor equally participated in the revolt of 1857, first of all the Gujars revolted and disturbed the law and order of the district and when the news of the revolt in Moradabad reached Bijnor, Muslim leaders Qadir Ali and Munruddin attempted to provoke revolt in the district. Nawab Mahmud Khan declared himself the ruler of Bijnor. But at the same time communal war started between the Hindus and Muslims of the district when Chaudharies of Bijnor collected together and attacked the Nawab. The Hindus were defeated in this crusade and Mahmud Khan ruled over Bijnor upto 17th April, 1858. The very time when English army entered in the district. Revolutionaries were defeated by the English in a battle near Najibabad and Nagina. Thus English were able to suppress the revolt of Bijnor. The Banjaras and Mewatties looted the common man and created the panic in the territory.

We can also conclude that it was wide spread revolt in the form of Muslim conspiracy. In the beginning these were differences between the Hindus and the Muslims. They not only opposed each other but even fought against each other. These was a religious crusade among them but as soon as the Britishers left Bijnor and Nawab Mahmud Khan recaptured Bijnor after his defeat at the bond of the Hindus all the rebel Hindus and Muslims united and the revolt became a general and civil revolt.

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