

# **British Colonial Policies in the North-West Frontier Region: A Case Study of the Mohmand Uprising, 1897-98**

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## **Abstract**

The North-West Frontier region of British India was of great importance in the history of the Indian subcontinent. The NWF region, which was part of British India till 1947 and, from then onward, part of Pakistan, was renamed Khyber Pukhtunkhwa in 2010. Situated at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and China, the region was of great geographical significance. This study explores the colonial policies implemented in this region shortly before it underwent administrative reform. Focusing on the Mohmand tribal tract, historically governed by various powers including the Ghaznavids, Ghauris, Mughals, Sikhs, and British, the study examines British policies that sparked dissent among the local population. The resultant armed resistance spread to neighbouring regions such as Swat, Malakand, Waziristan, and Khyber. Specifically, this paper explores the Mohmand Uprising of 1897–98, a significant event in NWF history. Central to this uprising was Akhunzada Najm-ud-din, also known as Haddah Mula, who mobilised the Mohmand populace and led attacks on Shankargarh village and Shabqadar fort. Subsequently, the British launched punitive expeditions against Mohmand clans and residents in response to these assaults.

**Keywords:** Mohmand, Haddah Mula, Shabqader fort, Durand line, British India

## **Introduction**

The North-West Frontier region<sup>1</sup> of British India was of great importance in the history of the Indian subcontinent. The NWF region was part of British India till 1947 and from then onward, part of Pakistan, which was

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<sup>1</sup> Henceforward NWF region [Now: Khyber Pukhtunkhwa], its name was changed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, For further detail see. Sayed Wiqar Ali Shah, *Ethnicity, Islam and Nationalism: Muslim Politics in North-West Frontier Province (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) 1937-47* (Islamabad: NIHCR, 2015), xii.

renamed Khyber Pukhtunkhwa in 2010. The region was situated at the intersection of South Asia, Central Asia, and China—the three major Asian areas.<sup>2</sup> The NWF areas were ruled by different dynasties and empires. The Sikhs also ruled the region, Ranjit Singh maintained good relations with the British Raj till his death. In 1839, when Ranjit Singh died, his descendants did not maintain good relations with the British Raj. Thus, the British annexed the Punjab (Sikh kingdom) and proclaimed that all territories belonging to the Sikh state were taken under the control of the East India Company. This proclamation was made on 30 March 1849, by Lord Dalhousie, the then British Governor-General.<sup>3</sup> The British made massive attempts to safeguard this Frontier after invading and occupying Punjab in 1849 because they were aware of its strategic importance. Therefore, the British tried to keep the people of the NWF region under their influence and control. To this end, they adopted many policies towards the NWF region.<sup>4</sup>

### **Location of the Mohmand territory**

The Mohmand territory became part of British India's Northwest Frontier (NWF) region after the annexation of Punjab in 1849. However, with the Durand Line Agreement of 1893, the Amir of Afghanistan relinquished control over the areas, including Mohmand. A portion of the border, from the Bashghal Valley to Nawakotal, was delineated in 1894, separating Mohmand from Afghanistan. The British recommendations for the Mohmand area were rejected by the Amir, preventing further delineation southward.<sup>5</sup> The Mohmand area is naturally separated into two regions: the region to the east of Lalpura, which is made up of a network of hills and valleys, and the lush grainy fields along the bank of the Kabul River from Jalalabad to Lalpura. The Shalman, Gandab, and Pandiali valleys are the most important of the latter. The majority of the land was under the control of the British as an agreement of the Durand line border, which runs from Landikotal east of Lalpura and then along

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<sup>2</sup> Sultan-i-Rome, *The North-West Frontier Khyber Pukhtunkhwa: Essays on History* (Karachi: OUP, 2013), 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 123.

<sup>4</sup> Ishtiaq Ahmad, *Pakhtun Resistance against the British Rule: An Assessment of the Frontier Uprising of 1897*. PhD diss. (University of Peshawar: 2011-12), 1-2.

<sup>5</sup> Lal Baha, *The Administration of the North-West Frontier Province, 1901-1919* (University of London: School of Oriental and African Studies UK, 1968: ProQuest), 17.

the watershed dividing the basins of the Kunar and Panjkora rivers. The six clans that make up the Mohmand tribe are Baizi, Tarakzi, Halimzi, Khwaizi, Dawizi, and Utmanzi.<sup>6</sup> The Mohmand people are basically divided into two main branches, the one is *Bar* Mohmand (upper/hilly) and the other is *Kuz* Mohmand (lower/Plain).<sup>7</sup> The *Bar* Mohmand territory runs from Bajaur in the north through Girdikats to Fort Michni in the south, of the Kabul River. It shares a boundary with present-day Peshawar district on the east from Gandi, three miles north of Jamrud, to Fort Abazai, as well as along the right bank of the Swat River, about twelve miles above Abazai. The Mohmand tribe is bordered on the west by the Kunar River and the Kabul Tsappar Range, which served as the boundary between the Afghan and British spheres of influence over the Mohmands. The Kuz Mohmands were located directly south of Peshawar, and their territory, which is about 20 miles long by 12 miles wide, is bordered on the north by the Bara River, on the west as well as to its south Aka Khel and Adam Khel Afridis, and on the east by the Khattaks.<sup>8</sup>

### **Strategic Significance of the North-West Frontier Region**

Every significant expedition targeting India, with Peshawar as its initial objective and Lahore and Delhi as its ultimate destinations, invariably traversed via Kabul or Ghazni. This historical fact holds immense significance, emphasizing the strategic importance of these routes throughout history. Therefore, it follows that the roads linking Afghanistan's plains to these vital centers would be of significant strategic value. The Khyber route, which travels west from Peshawar and passes south of the Kabul River, is the most significant.<sup>9</sup> The other most important route, also used by Mahmud of Ghazni, is via Tochi Valley located in Bannu. The Tochi route was considered strategically significant even if it was never a significant commerce route. Significantly, it was controlled by locals of Northern Waziristan.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Ishtiaq Ahmad, *Pakhtun Resistance against the British Rule*, *op.cit.*, 176.

<sup>7</sup> H. C. Wylly, *From Black Mountain to Waziristan: Being an Account of the Border Countries and the More Turbulent of the Tribes Controlled by the North-West Frontier Province, and of our Military Relations with in the Past* (With an Introduction by Horace L. Smith Dorrien (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited, 1912), 211.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 212.

<sup>9</sup> Leslie Harris, *British policy on the north-west frontier of India 1889-1901*, PhD diss. (SOAS: University of London, 1960), 12.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 13.

Another roadway to Afghanistan follows the Gomal River basin south of Waziristan, isolating it from the Sulieman mountain range of Balochistan. The Afghan Powindahs used this route on their annual trading journeys to India. It was reportedly the oldest of all north-western trade routes. The Northern Zone also had important passes known as Borhil Pass and Dorah Pass.<sup>11</sup>

### **Mohmand Relations with the British**

The Mohmand region is a hilly area, located in the North-West of Peshawar. Geographically, the area is surrounded by, Bajaur and Kunar on the North of Mohmand territory, Nangahar is on the West side of Mohmand, on the South-West, the Shalman, and in its south the Kabul River is located. The Mohmand's tribal chieftains, in the past, had accepted the suzerainty of the Amir of Afghanistan who would pay them 6000 rupees annually on the condition that they would provide 13,000 warriors during any warfare that Kabul regime would be engaged in, when British rule was established in Punjab, the Mohmand tribe rose against the British. Furthermore, Khan of Lal-puray, Saddat Khan turned against British when Kabul was attached in 1841. Later on, when the British occupied Kabul they nominated the Saddat Khan's nephew, Yar Khan, as the Khan of Lal-Puray. In the subsequent years, the British lost control over the Mohmands, leading to the reinstatement of Sadadat Khan as the Khan of Lal-Puray. Saddat Khan, determined to defend his territory and people from oppression, organized the entire Mohmand tribe against the British. The location of Mohmand tribes was strategically favours the locals and disadvantages to the British troops. The three sections of Mohmand tribes, the Tarakzis, Halimzis, and the Pandiali were closed to district Peshawar.<sup>12</sup>

#### **The First Anglo-Afghan War of 1838-1842:**

The first interaction of the British troops with the Mohmand tribes was in the Anglo-Afghan War. The Mohmands started to attack Shabqadar, Matta, and other British strongholds, which created trouble for the British.

In March 1885, there were small revolts by tribesmen and soldiers along the border. In response, nearby villages belonging to the Mohmand tribe were burned. Over the next six months, attacks on British settlements increased. In October 1885, Sir Colin Campbell led a

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<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 14.

<sup>12</sup> Abdul Halim Asar Afghani, *Zamung Mujahidin* (Pukhtu), Vol. 2 (Peshawar: Muhkamah Nashr-o-Ishaat, Qabayal Hukumat-i- Pakistan, n.d.), 275.

group from Peshawar to get revenge, but they never got a chance to fight, so they just destroyed villages suspected of being involved. Even after this, attacks continued, and Peshawar itself was attacked. There were a few small battles on horseback, but one good opportunity was missed because some soldiers misbehaved.<sup>13</sup> The first major clash of arms between Mohmands and the British came in 1851, Colin Campbell led an expedition to the Mohmand territory. There were also further expeditions in 1854, 1863-64, and 1879-80. The major uprising in NWF region of British Colonial Punjab happened in 1897, in which Mohmand also participated.<sup>14</sup>

### **Colonial British Policies towards North-West Frontier Region**

The geopolitical importance of the NWF region prompted the British to focus their attention on, NWF region, leading them to exert significant effort in implementing their policies and strategies among the local population. However, their endeavors proved unsuccessful. The inhabitants of this area were described as being more fiercely independent and warlike than those in other parts of the NWF region.

Consequently, the British found it challenging to successfully establish their rule. The failure of British governance in this region can be attributed to their policies and strategies, which met with resistance from the fiercely independent Pukhtuns.<sup>15</sup> The failure of British governance in the Northwest Frontier (NWF) region can be attributed to the challenges posed by the independent nature of the Pukhtuns, whose resistance to external control undermined the effectiveness of British policies and strategies. Among these strategies was the Closed Border policy, which aimed to contain British activities within administered borders, further exacerbating tensions with the Pukhtuns and hindering efforts to establish stable governance structures in the region.

The Closed Border policy could be described, in its extreme manifestation, as restricting British activities solely to the administered border. This entails leaving the tribes residing on the other side of the border to manage their affairs independently, without interference or attempts to influence them. Crossing the border is avoided except when compelled to conduct punitive expeditions, and even then, such crossings are limited to the duration required for the punitive action. Additionally,

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<sup>13</sup> H.L. Nevill, *Campaigns on the North-West Frontier* (London: J. Murray, 1912), 16-17.

<sup>14</sup> Mark Simner, *Pathan Rising: Jihad on the North West Frontier of India 1897-1898* (London: Fonthill, 2016), 183.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

any expansion of control beyond the existing borders is adamantly opposed. This policy, as articulated by Sir John Lawrence and upheld until around 1890, represents a strict adherence to these principles.<sup>16</sup>

There was a probability of conflict with the autonomous Pukhtun tribes in the British Raj's near border during Close-border policy era. However, this arrangement was unable to persist for very long, and during the final years of the nineteenth century, the British Raj began to encroach on the tribal region. In its most severe version, the 'forward' policy entails the subjugation and occupation of tribal area up to the Durand Line. This change in strategy is known as the 'Forward Policy'.<sup>17</sup>

### **Durand Line Agreement of 1893**

The Durand line agreement was signed between the Amir of Afghanistan, Amir Abdur Rahman, and the British envoy to Kabul, Mortimer Durand. This agreement demarcated boundary between Afghanistan and the British India. It was signed on 12 November 1893, after which many Frontier areas came under the British sphere of influence.<sup>18</sup> Amir Abdur Rahman once delineated a boundary line extending from Chitral to the vicinity of Peshawar. According to this, territories including Koh Malik Siyah, Kafiristan, Asmar, and the Mohmand area fell under his rule. Additionally, a portion of Waziristan was also included in his jurisdiction. However, the Amir renounced his claim over areas such as Chaman, Chaghi, the Waziri tribes, and Buland Khel. Furthermore, he relinquished his authority over territories including Kurram, Bajawar, Swat, Dir, Chilas, and Chitral.<sup>19</sup>

After the signing of the Durand Line agreement in 1893, the Mohmands found themselves under British rule, a situation they strongly opposed. Initially, they refused to accept the terms of the agreement and expressed their grievances by writing a letter to the Amir of Afghanistan, Amir Abdur Rahman, appealing against the expanding British influence in their region. In the letter, they affirmed their allegiance to the Amir as a Muslim ruler and declared their willingness to fight against British rule if instructed to do so by the Amir. Specifically, they highlighted their discontent with the British demand for revenue from areas like Sherpaw

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<sup>16</sup> Amanullah Khan, 'The British Colonial Policies in the North West Frontier of India: 1849-1901', *FWU Journal of Social Sciences* 14:2 (Summer 2020), 167.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> Sultan-i-Rome, *The North-West Frontier, op.cit.*, 134-40.

<sup>19</sup> Sultan Mahomed Khan, (ed.), *The Life of Abdur Rahman: Amir of Afghanistan*, Vol. II, (London: J. Murray, 1900), 161.

and Panjpaw, in Mohmand areas, which had previously been exempt from such taxes. They decided to defy this demand and brace themselves for conflict in retaliation. The people of Halimzai, led by Najam-ud-Din, also known as Haddah Mula, submitted a petition to the Amir. Furthermore, Haddah Mula personally wrote a letter to the Amir, informing him of his fellow tribesmen's readiness to wage a holy war (*Jihad*) against the British if they attempted to seize Mohmand territory. He assured Amir that while they would not seek outside assistance, they would appreciate permission for their followers to join them in this righteous struggle.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Response to the British System (1897-1898)***

#### **Uprising in Mohmand**

A series of uprisings swept down to the Peshawar border while the aftermath of the battle at Malakand and Chakdara was yet to settle and the colonial authorities were preparing punitive expeditions against the involved tribes. The news was received by the colonial authorities early in August 1897 that the Mohmands under Haddah Mula were preparing an attack on British-controlled territory. As the telegram mentioned, 'news just to hand that the Haddah Mula has returned to Jarobi and deputed his disciples to prepare the Mohmands and the people of Jalalabad territory to take up Jihad after I'd festival. He has been supported by Mula Shafi of Bhattikot'.<sup>21</sup> In this scenario British army officers wanted to take preventative precautions, but the civilian authorities gave no importance to the news. However, in the afternoon of 7 August 1897, approximately four to five thousand Mohmands, led by Haddah Mula, reached British-controlled zone in the Peshawar District, some 18 miles outside of the city of Peshawar. H.W. Mills writes:

Never before in the annals of the British in India has such a daring move been made by the tribesmen. The public mind which had been deeply concerned over the disturbances in the Tochi and Swat Valleys, became distinctly apprehensive when the disorder spread to Peshawar.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Serial No, 1700, Bundle No, 16, *Mohmand Affairs*, 1896, Foreign Frontier, EX-DD Files (Peshawar: Directorate of Archives and Libraries Khyber Pukhtunkhwa), 2.

<sup>21</sup> Telegram from Landikotal to Khaiber, 09 February 1898, Serial No. 351, *Unrest in Buner and Hadda Mullah*, Foreign Frontier, EX-DD Files, at Directorate of Archives and Libraries Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Peshawar.

<sup>22</sup> H. Woosnam Mills, *The Pathan Revolt in North West India*, reprint (Lahore: Sang-e-Meel Publications, 1996), 87.

### **Haddah Mula's Mobilization**

The Haddah Mula rose to a prominent position after the battle of Malakand (1897–98). Earlier, he mobilised the people in response to the British campaign in Chitral in 1893. It should be emphasised that Haddah Mula's resistance began in 1893, following the signing of the Durand Line Agreement. It was later transformed to become a military operation against the British. Additionally, he made a statement opposing the construction of British railway lines in the Peshawar valley. In a letter from Haddah Mula to different clans of the Mohmand area, he stated that the infidels (British) came to his area and occupying their territories. They also reached to Bajaur and Swat where locals supported them but later realized their mistake.

I (Haddah Mula) myself have informed the influential leaders and the people of different tribes like Laghman, Kunar, and Mohmands, Shinwaris, and Ningraharis to take part in this holy war (*Jihad*).<sup>23</sup>

Mohmand's *Jihad* was not just for the protection of religion but its main focus was also the protection of Pukhtun identity and their desire for independence. He further urged the Mohmand clans, Afridi, and Orakzai tribes to join in the holy war (*Jihad*). In his letters, he carefully planned the timing of the fight, stating, 'It should be on a proper day, and we all should be informed of the exact time of fighting, so that, by the grace of God, the work may be accomplished.' Moreover, he had sent invitations to the Shinwaris, Ningraharis, and other clans for *Jihad* against the British. The other way for the mobilization of the peoples through *Pirs and Murids* (mentor and disciples), who also organized and mobilized their students against the British.<sup>24</sup> Village's mosque played a significant role in Huda Mula uprising. In Pakhtun culture, religious gathering also contributed to the resistance movement. This is where Islamic culture and Pukhtun culture met'.<sup>25</sup>

### **Events of the Mohmand Uprising**

When the tribesmen entered the area under British authority, they attacked and destroyed the settlement of Shankargarh, an old Sikh cantonment and bazaar that was inhabited by the Hindus and Sikhs. One of the telegrams from the Peshawar Commissioner stated, 'the Haddah Mula has sent round proclamations announcing that our force in Swat

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<sup>23</sup> Sana Haroon, *Frontier of Faith: Islam in the Indo-Afghan Borderland* (London: Hurst & Company, 2007), 47-48.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, 53.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*, 69-70.

has been defeated and calling on the tribes from Ningrahar to Waziristan to join in the *Jihad*. The Mula himself, with a force of 2000 or 3000 men, advanced to the border of British India to attack Shankargarh'.<sup>26</sup>

Shankargarh, located 18 miles from Peshawar on the Abazai road, was a Sikh fort situated above a small walled bazaar to the Southeast. It was situated within the lands of the large Daudzai village of Shabqadar. For some years, it had been occupied by a garrison of 25 Border Military Police under a *Jamadar*. Adjacent to the fort on the west, there was a police station manned by a Deputy Inspector and the standard force of a dozen constables. All the assured clans,<sup>27</sup> except the Tarakzai, were reportedly involved in the attack and sided with the attackers, Mohmands. The Gandab Halimzai clan, besides receiving allowances from Kabul and Lalpura, also oversees the village of Panjpao, assessed at Rs. 5,000, under a *Jagir* system based on good conduct. This village extends right up to the fort's doors. Shankargarh faced attacks in 1851 and 1863, with a third attack on January 2, 1864, which caused extensive damage. Additionally, the Halimzai village of Panjpao was burned down and left unreconstructed. Most of its proprietors reside across the border of British India and only visit to collect their share of the produce.<sup>28</sup>

Petitioners, the Hindu residents of Shankargarh, recount a harrowing tale of devastation and loss that befell their community due to the heedlessness and complicity of local authorities. Despite their earnest pleas for protection from the imminent danger of plunder by foreign enemies, their concerns were dismissed by the officials, including Gul Muhammad Khan and the Deputy Inspector of Police. Even after submitting petitions to higher authorities such as the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner of Peshawar, their appeals fell on deaf ears. This negligence led to the tragic plundering and burning of Shankargarh by marauders, resulting in staggering losses totaling Rs. 3,53,129. However, the timely warning provided by a brave Hindu resident named Koka Mal enabled many families to evacuate to Peshawar and Nowshera, sparing them from potential massacre.

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<sup>26</sup> *Punitive Expeditions against the Mohmand Clans*, 1897. Foreign Frontier Punjab Civil Secretariat Files, Foreign Frontier, EX-DD Files, Serial No. 2003, Bundle No. 18, at Directorate of Archives and Libraries Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Peshawar, 1-3.

<sup>27</sup> The Mohmands of Halimzai, Kamali, Utmanzai, and Dawizai were now referred to as the eastern or assured clans.

<sup>28</sup> *Punitive Expeditions against the Mohmand Clans*, 1897, *op.cit.*, Bundle No, 18, 4.

Nonetheless, their properties were left vulnerable and were subsequently looted, leaving the petitioners utterly destitute.<sup>29</sup>

The petitioners accuse the Deputy Inspector of Police of collusion with the perpetrators, pointing to his suspicious actions and evasiveness when pressed to investigate the whereabouts of the stolen property. It is alleged that he abandoned Shankargarh, leaving it at the mercy of criminals, and covertly aided in concealing the plundered goods, driven by personal gain and avarice. Now displaced and reliant on the charity of others for survival, the petitioners seek compensation for their losses and implore the authorities to acknowledge their plight. They hope to rebuild their shattered lives and find solace amidst the unprecedented suffering they have endured due to the negligence and betrayal of those entrusted with their protection.<sup>30</sup>

### **The Attack on Shabqadar Fort**

The people of Shankargarh were alerted to the impending invasion and, feeling the danger fled the village. Tragically, just two or three people remained and perished in the subsequent attack. The attackers, upon reaching the village, proceeded to ransack and set fire to its marketplace before advancing towards Shabqadar with determined intent to seize the fort. However, situated atop a mound and encircled by fifty-foot-high walls, the fort proved practically impregnable to any force lacking artillery.<sup>31</sup>

Despite the fierce assault, the garrison of forty Border Police stationed within the fort managed to hold their ground for twelve hours until the following morning when reinforcements arrived from Peshawar.<sup>32</sup> This timely intervention forced the tribesmen to retreat, having suffered losses estimated at forty to fifty individuals during the engagement. Subsequent skirmishes ensued as British forces pursued the retreating tribesmen, further underscoring the tumultuous nature of the conflict in the region.<sup>33</sup>

### **Punitive Expeditions against Mohmands**

After the Malakand Uprising, the Government of India became aware that the attacks on the British Indian Army at Malakand and Chakdara

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, Bundle No, 18, 20.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> H. Woosnam Mills, *op.cit.*, 87-88.

<sup>32</sup> Nevill, *op.cit.*, 255.

<sup>33</sup> James W. Spain, *The Pathan Borderland*, Reprint (Karachi: Indus Publications, 1985), 178.

garrisons were not merely the results of a small local disturbance, but that a deliberate attempt was being made by the combined tribesmen to turn out the British Indian Army troops out of their country.<sup>34</sup> Therefore, on 30 July 1897, the Governor General in his Council approved to send a force which was called Malakand Field Force. The main objective of this force was to hold Malakand and adjacent posts and to operate against the tribesmen if required.<sup>35</sup> Malakand Field Force was consisted of two brigades and divisional troops and composed of the troops already at the Malakand and those who moved up to reinforce it. With the addition of '1st Battalion Royal West and East Kent Regiment' and certain other troops. Brigadier-General Bindon Blood (commander of Bundelkhand District) was appointed as Major-General of the Malakand Field Force.<sup>36</sup>

To encounter Haddah Mula and his followers and to subjugate the tribes of Dir and Bajawar, a force consisted of '35<sup>th</sup> Sikhs', '11<sup>th</sup> Bengal Lancer', and 'No. 8 Bengal Mountain Battery', under the command of General Bindon Blood proceeded toward Dir and Bajawar. Later on, General Bindon Blood was joined by another squad consisted of '10<sup>th</sup> Field Battery', 'No. 8 Bengal Mountain Battery' the '2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Highland Light Infantry', four companies of the '24<sup>th</sup> Punjab Infantry' and 'No. 5 Company Madras Sappers and Miners'. The expedition with losses of sixty one killed and two hundred and eighteen wounded from the British Indian Army, succeeded and on 11 October 1897, the tribes accepted British demand and finally on 14 September 1897, the troops returned.<sup>37</sup>

To keep things in order in NWF, British revised their policy. There was correspondence between Secretary of States of India and Governor General of British India regarding the future policy of the NWF region. One of the letter stated that the rising and disturbance created much dissatisfaction for the British government. The Secretary of State for India conveyed in a telegram to the Governor General that after conducting thorough research and examination of the tribal dynamics, it was concluded that the longstanding relations between the British and the Pukhtun tribes in the inhibited areas had been strained for quite some

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<sup>34</sup> H.F. Walters, *The Operations of the Malakand Field Force and the Buner Field Force 1897-98* (Simla: Printed at the Government Central Printing Office, 1900), 33.

<sup>35</sup> Winston S. Churchill, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force: An Episode of Frontier War*, reprint (London: Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd., 1916), 101.

<sup>36</sup> H.F. Walters, *op.cit.*, 33.

<sup>37</sup> Winston S. Churchill, *op.cit.*, 101.

time. Further, he suggested to take precautionary measures to formulate any future policy in the region. For the Colonial British, 'our border interactions take on so many different forms and involve or touch so many different local and imperial interests that a thorough analysis of the goals to be achieved is a must before any broad declaration of policy'. Thus, the duties imposed on the peoples of the region, especially the tribes, were much consequent as the Governor General imposed on the behalf of the British government. The tribes were classified under three heads, in the first place, the police and regulatory security to be given to British districts in the close area of the tribal local; secondly, the strict exclusion of inessential interference from the tribal area that has been placed by a formal agreement within the British sphere of political influence; and lastly, the fulfilment of British obligations towards Afghanistan and the safeguarding of the natural frontiers of India.<sup>38</sup>

### Conclusion

After the Second Anglo-Sikh War in 1849, British rule was established in Punjab. Part of the NWF region was also in control of the British. Therefore, British authorities came politically and militarily in direct contact with Pukhtuns of the North-West Frontier region and a new chapter in the history of British Raj in India began. The Mohmands of hilly areas and lower plain, Kuz, and Bar Mohmand, never accepted the British rule and resented their domination. The Anglo-Afghan War marked the first of British military contact with the Mohmand tribes. Under the leadership of Najam-ud-din, popularly known as Haddah Mula, the inhabitants of Halimzai rebelled against British control. Following the battle of Malakand (1897–98), the Haddah Mula gained prominence. Before that, in 1893, he struggled against the British campaign in Chitral. It is important to highlight that Haddah Mula's resistance started in 1893 after the Durand Line Agreement was signed. Once the Mohmands began attacking British strongholds like Shabqadar and Matta, the British found themselves in difficulty. The British authorities faced challenges in the NWFP region as compared to other parts of India. Mohmand uprising of 1897-98 is an example of Mohmand's resistance against foreign rule. To counter the Mohmand uprising and to control the fighters, strict policies were adopted by the British authorities.

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<sup>38</sup> *Future Policy to be Adopted by the British in the North-West Frontier region*, 1998, Foreign Department, Foreign Frontier, EX-DD, Serial No, 2591, Bundle No. 25, at Directorate of Archives and Libraries Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Peshawar, 5.