TAXATION AND ECONOMY OF KASHMIR UNDER THE DOGRA RULE (1846-1930)

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ABSTRACT:

The hundred years of Dogra rule under the auspices of the British brutalized and destroyed every facet of civil life in Kashmir. Everything was heavily taxed in Kashmir, and every person too, ‘the artisan and manufacturer alike. The people were in a state of squalid poverty, and the country swarmed with beggars. Because of the heavy taxation the condition of people got deteriorated and they lived very poor life. Almost all the foreign travellers and British officials who visited Kashmir during this period substantiate this. Kashmir during the Dogra rule was a feudalistic state in which agriculture was the main source of economy. And it was in this field, that the Dogra oppression was felt more. The whole of the land in Kashmir was the property of the ruler, i.e. Dogras. About three fourth of the produce of the land was taken as the land revenue by the State. The Kashmiri people were also forced to work for the State especially the begar’ (forced labour) from Kashmir to Gilgit.In short each and everything except water and air was taxed in Kashmir by the Dogra rulers.

KEY WORDS


kharwars: 80 kgs.

Zamindars: The zamindars of Kashmir were only cultivators and not the intermediary class, revenue collectors.

Shakdar: The official in charge of watching the crops.

Kardar: The revenue collector.

Begar: Forced labour