

A STUDY ON HYDER ALI AND TIPU SULTAN: EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY RULERS OF MYSORE

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ABSTRACT

Haidar 'Ali and Tipu Sultan and aims to furnish a concerted account of their rule by consulting fresh printed and unprinted primary sources in English, French and German. Two of the most enduring characters in the Anglo-Indian pantheon of villains were the late eighteenth-century rulers of Mysore, Hyder Ali and his son, the infamous Tipu Sultan. Their reputations, in particular that of Tipu, were almost as important in the creation of the India in the late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British imagination as the actual fact of their defeat. No other subcontinental ruler enjoyed the terrifying reputation that Tipu did. He was at once the bogeyman, the proof that Indian rulers were duplicitous tyrants and proof that, no matter what Orientalists and others said of the past, any powerful Indian ruler was ultimately an evil despot.

Keywords: De facto Ruler, Subsidiary alliance, Treaty of Seringapatam, Tiger of Mysore.

INTRODUCTION

The death of Aurangzeb in 1707 created a great void in the history of India and it followed by a number of political chaos. The emergence of Mysore was in this situation and it became prominent under Haider Ali Tipu Sultan. Due to their foresight, they tried to enhance the prevailing economy of Mysore. As a part of that, they introduced some fiscal policy in Mysore and it was able to bring a new face into their coinage. Introduction of Hijra, usage of the abjad system and mouludi calendar system are some examples. When they reached in Malabar, they also followed same experiments; it created some positive movements in the economic situation of Malabar. There was no doubt, Mysorean reforms in their fiscal policy was a new experience and definitely, it helped to reconstruct their economy as well polity up to certain level. Even the remains of their contributions are existing today in the case of roads, forts, and technology, most of the scholars are not ready to accept the facts. No doubt, Such persons are the mere followers of the colonial historiography.

MYSORE UNDER HAIDER ALI

Haider Ali (1721-1782), born in an obscure family, started his career as a horseman in the Mysore army under the ministers of king Chikka Krishnaraja Wodeyar. He was uneducated but intellectual and diplomatically & militarily skilled. He became the de facto ruler of Mysore in 1761 and introduced western methods of training into his army with the help of the French army. With his excellent military skills, he took over the Nizami army and the Marathas and captured Dod Ballapur, Sera, Bednur and Hoskote in 1761- 63 and brought to submission the troublesome Poligars of South India (Tamil Nadu). Poligars or Palaiyakkarars were appointed as military chiefs and administrative governors from the time of the Vijayanagara Empire in parts of Southern India. They also collected taxes from the cultivators. Recovering from their defeat, the Marathas under Madhavrao attacked Mysore, and defeated Haidar Ali in 1764, 1766, and 1771. To buy peace, Haidar Ali had to give them large sums of money, but after Madhavrao's death in 1772, Haidar Ali raided the Marathas a number

of times during 1774-76, and recovered all the territories he had previously lost, besides capturing new areas.

DE FACTO RULER

- By 1761, he had taken over as minister from Nanjaraja.
- The kingdom had been **bankrupted by Nanjarajah**, therefore Haider set out to restock the coffers by conquest.
- According to some versions, **Haider Ali** placed the Rajah under house arrest, while others claim that the king sanctioned his de facto seizure of power.
- He appears to have improved the efficiency of the administration. When the **Wadiyar Rajah** died in 1766, **Haider Ali** replaced him, but he was regarded as a Sultan, not a Rajah since he was a Muslim.
- He is commonly referred to as a usurper, yet his ascension does not appear to have been considered unlawful at the time.
- For a long time, the minister of state, rather than the Rajah, wielded actual authority.

1ST ANGLO MYSORE WAR [1767-1769]

In 1612, the Wodeyars established a Hindu state in the Mysore region. From 1734 to 1766, Chikka Krishnaraja Wodeyar II governed. With his tremendous administrative skills and military tactics, Haider Ali, a soldier in the army of the Wodeyars, became the de-facto king of Mysore. Under his guidance, Mysore became a strong force in the second part of the 18th century. The English political and commercial interests, as well as their influence over Madras, were jeopardised by Mysore's proximity to the French and Haider Ali's dominance over the lucrative Malabar coast trade. After defeating the Nawab of Bengal in the Battle of Buxar, the British persuaded the Nizam of Hyderabad to sign a treaty giving them the Northern Circars in exchange for safeguarding the Nizam against Haider Ali, who was already embroiled in a feud with the Marathas. Against Haider Ali, the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Marathas, and the English banded together. Haider used diplomacy to keep the Marathas neutral and transform Nizam into an ally in the fight against the Nawab of Arcot.

WHAT WAS THE REASON?

The annexation of regions in the South including Bidnur, Canara, Sera, Malabar, and Sunda by the strong army built by Hyder Ali for which he took support from the French. This alarmed the British.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE WAR ?

- The British declared a war on Mysore along with the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad.
- Hyder Ali with the help of his skilful diplomacy brought the Marathas and the Nizam to his side and paid the Marathas to turn them neutral.
- This war continued for more than a year without any conclusion

RESULT

- The war finally ended on 4th April, 1769 with the signing of the Treaty of Madras between Hyder Ali and the British.
- The territories that were conquered during the war were restored to each other
- They agreed to help each other in case of foreign attacks also.

SECOND ANGLO MYSORE WAR

The Second Anglo Mysore War was fought from 1780 to 1784. At the **Battle of Porto Novo, Hyder Ali was defeated** by British Commander Sir Eyre Coote. This war was part of the Second Anglo Mysore War. The Second Anglo Mysore War came to an end with the signing of the **Treaty of Mangalore** on 11th March 1784.

WHAT WAS THE REASON?

- Mysore was attacked in 1771 by the Marathas and the British did not provide support to Hyder Ali like they had agreed upon in the Treaty of Madras.
- As a result, Hyder Ali's territories were conquered by the Marathas which further angered Hyder Ali against the British.
- When Mahe, a French possession under Hyder Ali's dominion was attacked by the British, he declared war on the British in 1780.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE WAR ?

- a) An alliance was formed by Hyder Ali with the Nizam and the Marathas and they defeated the British forces in Arcot
- b) Although, Hyder Ali died in 1782, the war was continued by his son Tipu Sultan
- c) The war was ended inconclusively by Sir Eyre Coote, with the Treaty of Mangalore.

RESULT

According to the Treaty of Mangalore signed on 11 March 1784, the captured territories and prisoners were agreed to return to each other by both the parties.

MYSORE UNDER TIPU SULTAN

Tipu Sultan Born in November 1750, Tipu Sultan was Haidar Ali's son and a great warrior also known as the Tiger of Mysore. He was a well educated man fluent in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese and Urdu. Tipu, like his father Haider Ali, gave maximum care to the raising and maintenance of an efficient military force. He organised his army on the European model with Persian words of command. Though he took the help of the French officers to train his soldiers, he never allowed them (French) to develop into a pressure group. Tipu was well aware of the importance of a naval force. In 1796, he set up a Board of Admiralty and planned for a fleet of 22 battleships and 20 large frigates. He established three dockyards at Mangalore, Wajedabad and Molidabad. However, his plans did not fructify. He was also a patron of science and technology and is credited as the 'pioneer of rocket technology' in India. He wrote a military manual explaining the operation of rockets. He was also a pioneer in introducing sericulture to the Mysore State. Tipu was a great lover of democracy and a great diplomat who gave his support to the French soldiers at Seringapatam in setting up a Jacobin Club in 1797. Tipu himself became a member of the Jacobin Club and allowed himself to be called Citizen Tipu. He planted the Tree of Liberty at Seringapatam.

THE THIRD ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1789-1792)

The Third Anglo Mysore War was fought between the Kingdom of Mysore and Britishers, more precisely the East India Company with an alliance of Nizam of Hyderabad & Marathas. It started in 1789 and continued until 1792. The conflicts between the Tipu Sultan and Britishers took shape into a war. The war started taking its shape when Cornwallis came to India as the governor-general of the company.

REASONS FOR THE THIRD ANGLO-MYSORE WAR

- ❖ Tipu Sultan was one of the determined enemies of the British government.
- ❖ In 1789, Tipu sent his ambassadors to France and Turkey to ask for foreign allies to fight against the English.
- ❖ Therefore, considering it as an immediate threat to the English government, Cornwallis declared war against Tipu.
- ❖ Cornwallis also tried to find alliances with other native rulers such as Nizam of Hyderabad. He made a settlement with Nizam regarding the district of Guntur, regarding which Tipu was not consulted.
- ❖ The British government also asked for an alliance of the Marathas to fight against Tipu.
- ❖ Marathas and Nizam agreed to help the English government in the war against Tipu and decided to divide the conquered area among them equally.

COURSE OF THE THIRD ANGLO-MYSORE WAR

- ❖ In December 1789, Tipu attacked the kingdom of Travancore, which had provided shelter to the chief enemies of Tipu during the Malabar conflict. Also, it was one of the dependent allies of the British government.
- ❖ The first attack of the English failed on Tipu.
- ❖ Therefore in 1790, Cornwallis himself with the alliance of Nizam and Marathas took charge and declared war on Tipu.
- ❖ Tipu fought single-handedly against them for two years.
- ❖ Tipu was defeated in the first phase of War and had to negotiate with the British government for peace.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE THIRD ANGLO-MYSORE WAR

The consequences of the third Anglo-Mysore War were in the favour of the British government. The Britishers captured half of the kingdom of Tipu and signed the Treaty of Seringapatam in March 1792. An agreement was made between Tipu and the British government to end the third Anglo-Mysore War. The war ended up as follows:

- Half of the kingdom of Tipu was surrendered to the allies.
- A part of the Kingdom was handed over to Nizam.
- Marathas extended their boundaries and captured some parts of the kingdom.
- The English captured Malabar, Dindigul, Coorg and Baramahal
- Tipu also had to pay Rs.3 Crore at that time as an indemnity to the British government.
- He had to surrender two of his sons to Britishers as hostages until he paid the whole amount.

FOURTH MYSORE WAR



"The Last Effort and Fall of Tippoo Sultaun" by Henry Singleton c 1800.

After Horatio Nelson had defeated Napoleon at the Battle of the Nile in Egypt in 1798 C.E., three armies, one from Bombay, and two British (one of which included Arthur Wellesley, the future first Duke of Wellington), marched into Mysore in 1799 and besieged the capital Srirangapatnam in the Fourth Mysore War. There were over 26,000 soldiers of the British East India Company comprising about 4,000 Europeans and the rest Indians. A column was supplied by the Nizam of Hyderabad consisting of ten battalions and over 16,000 cavalry, along with many soldiers sent by the Marathas. Thus the soldiers in the British force numbered over 50,000 soldiers whereas Tippu Sultan had only about 30,000 soldiers. The British broke through the city walls, and Tippu Sultan died defending his capital on May 4.

The Fourth Mysore war was a short affair. Keeping Tipu in false hopes, the British suddenly surprised him by unacceptable demands. When Tipu refused to accept them, the English breached the fort and in a bloody encounter, fighting against heavy odds he was killed on fourth May 1799. The battle, however, was far from one sided and it was only when the Nizam's troops advanced that the tide turned in favor of the British and their Indian allies.

In the resistance against British domination, this was the last stand before the uprising of 1857. Tippu died a Soldier's death defending his values and his land against one of the great imperial powers.

COURSE OF THE FOURTH ANGLO MYSORE WAR

- The British government attacked Mysore from all four sides, as the Tipu aligned with the French.
- The Marathas and Nizam captured the northern part of Mysore.
- During this time, Tipu was running out of manpower. His troops were reduced to almost one-fourth to that of the enemies.
- Tipu's army weakened and the Britishers won the Battle of Seringapatam in May 1799.
- Tipu died while fighting for the city.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE FOURTH ANGLO-MYSORE WAR

- One of the notable consequences of this war to mark is the death of Tipu Sultan.
- The Kingdom of Tipu Sultan was divided equally between the Britishers and the Nizam of Hyderabad.

- The area in the vicinity of Seringapatam and Mysore was restored to the Wodeyar dynasty.
- Mysore entered into a subsidiary alliance with the British government.
- Mysore remained a princely state until 1947 when it was joined with the union of India.

TIPU SULTAN – IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN MYSORE KINGDOM

- a) Mysore silk industry started growing due to the introduction of a new land revenue system.
- b) Administrative innovations were introduced during his rule.
- c) Calendar and a new coinage system were introduced.
- d) Fathul Mujahidin, a military manual, was commissioned during the rule of Tipu Sultan.

Military weapon named Mysorean Rockets was successfully used against the British East India Company during the 1780s and 1790s. This technology came into the hands of the British which later on resulted in the development of Congreve rockets.

TIPU SULTAN – WARS AND BATTLES

Tipu Sultan fought many battles and wars against the British East India Company, Marathas, rulers of Travancore, Carnatic, Malabar, Bednore, Kodagu.

- ❖ Tipu fought against the Marathas between 1775 and 1779.
- ❖ Tipu had signed a Peace treaty with the British in 1784.
- ❖ The British attacked Tipu Sultan, when the ruler of Travancore was attacked by the army of Tipu Sultan. The ruler of Travancore was the ally of the British.
- ❖ In 1792, Tipu signed the Treaty of Seringapatam (now known as Srirangapatna) and he lost half of his dominion to the British.
- ❖ Battle of Pollilur or Battle of Perambakam, took place on 10 September 1780 at Pollilur near Conjeevaram, the city of Kanchipuram in present-day Tamil Nadu state, India, as part of the Second Anglo-Mysore War.
- ❖ Tipu defeated Lt. Colonel William Baillie of the British East India Company in the Battle of Pollilur.

DEATH OF TIPU SULTAN

- Tipu Sultan died on 4th May 1799, in Srirangapatna, located in the present-day Mandya district of Karnataka.
- He was defeated in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War. This war was fought from 1798 to 1799.

SUBSIDIARY ALLIANCE

- I. After Tipu Sultan was defeated by the British, the Mysore Kingdom was handed over to the Wodeyar Dynasty, but they were forced to get into the Subsidiary Alliance with the British.
- II. Lord Wellesley devised the Subsidiary Alliance in 1798.
- III. As per the Subsidiary Alliance, the ally would be protected from the internal and external threats by the British.

- IV. The Kingdom, which gets into the Subsidiary Alliance with the British, has to station the British Army within their Kingdom.
- V. The Indian rulers had to pay for the British Army. If there was a failure in making payments, then part of their territory will be taken over by the British.
- VI. The ruler of Hyderabad, Nawab of Awadh also lost their territories to the British due to their failure to make payments, as per Subsidiary Alliance.
- VII. The Indian ally could not enter into any sort of warfare or agreement without the permission of the British

CONCLUSION

Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan, the father and the son, differed from each other in character and personality. They differed from each other somewhat in matters of policies as well. But it is wrong to say that the extensive kingdom of Mysore created by Haider Ali was lost by Tipu because of his faulty character and policies. It was purely because of the imperial designs of the English.

The decline of the Mughal Empire in the eighteenth century due to various factors was a significant change in the political pattern of India. One of the most spectacular development during this period was the emergence of small and large independent states throughout India. Mysore was one of such state, acquired its independence under Wodayar kings and later it reached in the hands of Haider Ali and followed by his son Tipu Sultan. As a part of reconstructing Mysorean economy; both Haider and Tipu contributed their special attention to the fiscal configuration of Mysore. Traditional coins of Mysore under Wodayar dynasty used to mint with the pictorial devices and a short inscription in Devanagari script. But Haider brought slight changes like the addition of Hijara year and Persian mint names etc. In the case of Tipu Sultan, he introduced several changes in the coinage of Mysore like Persian legends, new dating system and the name of the coin etc. As a part of their fiscal policy, they established so many minting centers in different parts of their territory which includes Gooty, Bellary, Pattan, Nagar, Malabar, and etc.

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