

Abstract

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PhD Topic: Non-Ruling Rajput Zamindars of Subah Awadh: Sixteenth to Eighteenth century

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The study of zamindars of medieval India has been covered thoroughly by the historians of medieval India. The motive of the thesis is not to cover the institution of zamindari as a whole or to make the reader accustomed about the zamindari system but to bring into light specifically the Rajput zamindars of Awadh between the 16th and 18th century. The Rajputs of Awadh have been mentioned by various historians in their studies with their own perspectives. Yet no study provided a detailed account of Awadh Rajputs. Studies are more focussed to show the turbulent nature of Awadh Rajputs under different rules between the three centuries. The thesis covered the Awadh Rajputs in their total outlook by taking into account some of the most important Rajput castes of Awadh during the 16th Century and on that basis tried to make a general understanding about their social structure, their settlement process and the conflict with the aborigines, geographical distribution, by comparing through different maps of 16th and 18th century, the pattern of matrimonial alliance, their kinship ties, the powerbase, their relation with the different rulers i.e. The Mughals, the Nawabs and the Britishers. The attitude of Awadh Rajputs cannot be seen in a linear way. Their approach changed according to the prevailing condition of the time under different realms. Likewise, the attitude of each government towards the Awadh Rajputs changed accordingly. Even within the same rule whether it is Mughal, Nawab or British the approach was not same on both the sides. The study is also important to analyse and compare the Persian accounts and the 18th-19th-century Settlement Reports, District Gazetteers, local histories and chronicles of some of the important

Rajput castes (families) of Awadh. The thesis has used a range of sources including Persian, translated and published primary sources, near contemporary administrative accounts, Urdu and the number of secondary sources on Awadh history. The comparative study will serve the purpose to compare the position of prominent Rajputs of Awadh specifically their geographical distribution, their land holding, caste composition in a particular area throughout the period under study.