

Suba of Lahore: A Victorious of the Sikhs

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The city of Lahore, a historic capital, the possession of which was necessary for the prestige and power to any master of the Punjab was situated in the midway of Delhi and Kabul. In the past 17th and 18th century the city of Lahore was continued remained under the position of Mughals. During this time many invaders attacked on India year after year. They first conquered Lahore and then proceeded to further Indian territories. Ahmed Shah Abdali the ruler of Afghanistan continued attacked India from 1748 to 1768 and failed to establish his control over India. But during these invasions the city of Lahore became the part of the Afghanistan. Ahmed Shah appointed his representatives as the Governors of Lahore time to time to settle the administration and maintain peace in the territory. Due to his absence Sikh leaders' challenge Shah's representatives of Lahore under the leadership of Hari Singh Bhangi, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, Charat Singh Shukarchakia, Gujjar Singh Bhangi, Lehna Singh Bhangi, Sobha, Singh Kanahiya etc. The Sikhs throughout the Afghan representatives and captured the large portion of the province of Punjab including the city of Lahore.

Aims and objectives

- >To explore the political condition of Punjab during 18th century.
- >To find the foundation of the city of Lahore and its historical back ground.
- >To examine significant of Suba of Lahore for the invaders and other rulers as well as politically and economically.
- >To explore who the Sikhs challenge Ahmed Shah and his representatives of Punjab especially the ruler of Lahore.
- >To find who the Sikhs became powerful and conquered the Suba of Lahore.
- >To explore who the Suba of Lahore gave an edge to the Sikhs to established their supremacy over the province of Punjab.

The foundation of the city of Lahore attributed to mythical prince Louh, son of Rama, the hero of famous epic Ramayana. All the historians, writers and poets give a different account about the name and foundation of the city of Lahore. It appears in the Muhammadan writers under the varied forms of Lahore, Lohar, Lahawar, Lehowa and Lohawar. In the chronicles of Rajputana, it mentioned under the name of Lohkot and in the Deshvi Bhanga, it called Lavpur.¹ But the origin of Lahore is obscure and nothing was known about it before 1021 AD, when Mahmud of Ghazni conquered it. Its first authentic historical mention made by Abu Rahin Muhammad Bin Al-Beruni, who resided in India and speak from personal Knowledge of the country at the beginning of the eleventh century of the Christian era. He mention about Lahore in his famous work "Tarikh-ul-Hind" not as city, but as a territory of which the capital was Mandahkur. After Al-Beruni many of Historians, Geographers and Poets Between 1021 AD to 1708 AD have mention about Lahore.²

The District which located at north latitude 30-38 and 31-44 and east longitude 73-38 and 74-58 and 214 meters high from sea level. The whole area of the Lahore district was lying between the river Ravi on the north and Setluj on the south, from Amritsar district boundary on the east to that of Montgomery on the west, along with a narrow belt of a few miles in width on the right bank of the river Ravi. The mean length of the Lahore from east to the west about 64 miles and the mean width from north to south was about 38 miles. The northern side of the Lahore marches with Gujarnwala district and the southern with the Ferozepur.³

The city of Lahore, a historic capital, the possession of which was necessary for the prestige and power to any master of the Punjab was situated in the midway of Delhi and Kabul. In the past 17th and 18th century the city of Lahore was continued remained under the position of Mughals. During this time many invaders attacked on India year after year. They first conquered Lahore and then proceeded to further. Ahmed Shah Abdali the ruler of Afghanistan continued attacked India from 1748 to 1756 but failed to establish his control

¹. Punjab District Gazetteer, Vol. XXIX-A, Lahore, 1904, p. 315.

². Kanahiya Lal, *Tarikh-i-Lahore*, Lahore, 1881, p. 9; Punjab District Gazetteer, Vol. XXIX-A, p. 315.

³. Muhammad Illyas Bhatti, *Lahore Fort*, Lahore, 2002, pp. 1-2; Punjab District Gazetteer, Vol. XXIX-A, pp. 315-16.

over India. In 1757 Ahmed Shah came down for the forth time to complete the disintegration of the country. First he occupied the city of Lahore and then advanced towards Delhi, which was occupied without any difficulty. But soon Ahmed Shah hurried back to Kabul and left the Lahore, Multan and Sirhind under the charge of his son Timur Shah and his general Jahan Khan.⁴ Due to the absence of Ahmes Shah, the Sikhs under the leadership of Hari Singh Bhangi, Lehna Singh, Gujar Singh, Jassa Singh Ahaluwalia, Charat Singh Sukerchakia etc combined with the force of Raghunath Rao and Malhar Rao Holkar the Maratha leader and Adina Beg Khan. Soon the combined forces march towards Lahore. When Timur Shah, receiving the news of the coming of these leaders toward Lahore he left the city before their arrival. The combined forces entered into the city of Lahore on April, 1758 and captured all the soldiers left by Timur Shah. After the victory they appointed Adina Beg Khan as the Governor of Lahore. After this Adina Beg Khan shifted his headquarter from Lahore to Adinanagar, leaving his son-in-law Khawaja Mirja Jan as his deputy in Lahore, but Adina Beg Khan lived to enjoy the Governorship of Lahore only for four months and died on September, 1758. On the other hand the Marathas took the possession of Delhi and ousted the Abdali representative Najib-ud-Daula from the City. In March, 1759 Marathas sent Jankoji Shinde and Sabaji Patil to Punjab to take the charge of the city of Lahore.⁵

On October, 1759 AD Ahmed Shah Abdali again crossed the Indus to punish the Marathas. First he advanced towards Lahore. Before his arrival at Lahore the Marathas leaders Jankoji Shinde and Sabaji Patil fled from the city of Lahore and Ahmed Shah entered in the city of Lahore without any difficulty and extended his control over Lahore. He appointed Haji Karim Dad Khan as his Governor of Lahore. The Afghan king continued his march and passing through Sirhind and Ambala, where he defeated Dattaji Sindhia. At that

⁴. Kanahiya Lal, *Tarikh-i-Punjab*, Lahore, 1881, (Translated into Punjabi by Sohan Singh Seetal), Punjabi University, Patiala, 1987, pp. 67-71; N K Sinha, *Rise of the Sikh Power*, Calcutta, 1936, pp. 10-24.

⁵. George Forster, *A Journey From Bengal to England*, London, 1788, Reprinted by Language Department Punjab, Patiala, 1970, pp. 317-18; Khushwaqat Rai, *Tarikh-i-Sikhan*, 1811, MS., (Translated into Punjabi by Milkhi Ram), preserved in the library of the Department of Punjab Historical Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, Accession No. 22, folio nos. 62-63; N K Sinha, *Rise of the Sikh Power*, pp. 25-27.

time Najib-ud-Daula joined with Ahmed Shah and they marched towards Delhi and captured the city. After his victory over Delhi, Abdali waited for the final struggle with the Marathas. The Marathas chiefs Sadashiv Rao and Wiswas Rao at once hurried from Poona to check the advance march of Ahmed Shah Abdali. The battle was fought between them on January 14, 1761, at Paipat. In the battle field Abdali gained victory over the Maratha's and Maratha's suffered a heavy loss of life and property. Even they lost the empire of India. This battle is also known as a third battle of Panipat in Indian history.⁶

In May, 1761 Abdali left Lahore and returned to his native place. Before leaving the Punjab, he appoint Khawaja Obed Khan as the Governor of Lahore, Sarblund Khan that of Multan, Raja Ghumand Chand, the commander of Jullundur and Zain Khan as a Governor of Sirhind.⁷ Little later the leaders of the Dal Khalsa decided to march upon Lahore under Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, assisted by Hari Singh Bhangi, Jhanda Singh Bhangi, Gujjar Singh, Rai Singh and many other Sikh leaders. They besieged the city and cut off all channels of communication. Khawaja Obed Khan the governor of Lahore at that time shut himself up in the fort and did not stir out to oppose Sikhs. The leading citizens, knowing the weakness of the Governor opened the city gates to the triumphant Dal Khalsa who entered the capital. After this they proclaimed Jassa Singh Ahluwalia as the king, with the title of Sultan-ul-Qaum. Now there were two rulers in one place, the Sikhs in the city and Khawaja Obed Khan in the fort. Further Dal Khalsa entered in the fort and killed Khawaja Obed Khan. Soon after this, they seized control of the royal mint and they minted the second Sikh rupee in the name of the Guru with the following inscription:

Deg o tegh o fateh o nusrat be-dirang

Yaft az Nanak Guru Gobind Singh.⁸

⁶. Murry, *Ranjit Singh*, By H.T Prinsep, Calcutta, 1834, pp. 17-18; Mir, Seid Ghulam Hussein Khan, *Siyar-ul-Mutakherin*, (NP), 1782. Translated into English by M, Raymond, Calcutta, 1902, pp. 913; Kanahiya Lal, *Tarikh-i-Punjab*, pp. 74-75.

⁷. George Forster, *A Journey from Bengal to England*, p. 318; Khushwaqat Rai, *Tarikh-i-Sikhan*, folio no. 84.

⁸. Khushwaqat Rai, *Tarikh-i-Sikhan*, folio no. 85; Teja Singh Ganda, Singh, *A Short History of the Sikhs*, Bombay, 1950. Republished by Punjabi University Patiala, 2006, pp. 160-61.

Before they had firmly established themselves in the city, they rushed out into the Jullundur Doab and routed the Daurrani Faujdars, Saadat Khan and Sadiq Khan Afridi; while the Hindu Raja Ghumand Chand Katauch, who had been appointed Governor of Jullundur, quietly relinquished his claim to authority and left for the hills on their approach. Thus we can see that passed the entire Punjab, from the Indus to the Satluj, into their hands.⁹

In 1762, Hari Singh Bhangi fell on Kot Khawaja Syed, two miles from Lahore and looted the ammunitions godown of the Afghan Governor of Lahore Khawaja Obed Khan, containing arms, ordnance and munitions of war including the famous Zamzama Gun, which subsequently came to be known as Bhangian-Wali-Top.¹⁰

In the 1762 AD, Ahmed Shah led his seventh expedition of India to annihilate the Sikhs. During his stay in Lahore, Ahmed Shah had several expeditions against the Sikhs, but could not subdue them at all.¹¹ When he was at Lahore he got the news of some disturbance in Afghanistan. Now he resolved to go home and left Lahore in 1763. Before his deputy he appointed a Hindu named Kabuli Mal as the Governor of Lahore.¹²

After his departure the Sikhs congregated at Amritsar on the Baisakhi day, April 10, 1764. Like in the past years, this time again they decided by way of a Gurmata to capture the city of Lahore.¹³ After the festivities at Amritsar were concluded, Lehna Singh Bhangi and

⁹ . Tahmas Khan Miskin, *Tahmas Namah*, 1779, translated into English by P. Setu Madahwa Rao, reprint Bombay, 1967, p. 104.

¹⁰ . Bute Shah, (Ghulam, Muhayy-ud-din), *Twarikh-i-Punjab*, (NP), 1848. Vol-I, (Translated into Punjabi by Janak Singh) preserved in the library of the Department of Punjab Historical Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, Accession No. 26, folio nos. 119-20.

¹¹ . Mir, Seid Ghulam Hussein Khan, *Siyar-ul-Mutakherin*, pp. 920-22; Ali-ud-din Mufti, *Ibrat Nama*, (NP), 1854, MS., translated into Punjabi by Gurbakhsh Singh, preserved in the library of the Department of Punjab Historical Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, Accession No. 30, folio no. 122; N K Sinha, *Rise of the Sikh Power*, pp. 38-39.

¹² . George Forster, *A Journey from Bengal to England*, p. 320; Bute Shah, *Twarikh-i-Punja*, folio no. 18; Syed Muhammad Latif, *History of the Panjab*, Calcutta, 1891, reprinted by New Delhi, 1964, p. 300.

¹³ . H.T Prinsep, *Origin of the Sikh Power, in Punjab and Political life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh with an account of the Present Condition, Law and Customs of the Sikhs*, Calcutta, 1834. Reprinted by Language Department, Punjab, Patiala, 1970, p. 22.

Gujjar Singh Bhangi, both the Bhangi Sardars, returned to their head-quarters at Ranghruini near Lahore. They formed a plan to oust Ahmed Shah's representative from Lahore and occupy Lahore. Kabuli Mal the Governor of Lahore was a timid and tyrannical ruler. He was much disdained by the common people of Lahore because of his brutal methods of extracting money from them. When he came to know about the planned coup of the Sikhs, he decamped and ran away to Jammu, leaving the city of Lahore under his nephew Amir Singh.¹⁴

Taking advantage of this opportunity, on 16 April, 1765 Lehna Singh and Gujjar Singh marched towards Lahore at the head of a contingent of 2,000 strong soldiers and encamped near Baghbanpura. According to the author of Jassa Singh Binod, Ram Sukh Rao, Hari Singh Bhangi and his son Jhanda Singh and Jai Singh Kanahiya were also with them in the occupation of Lahore.¹⁵ Soon they opened negotiations with Bhai Nand Ram, the Purabia employed in the fort, who was also the Thanedar of the fort of Lahore. Since, he had been hostile towards Kabuli Mal; he defected to the fold of the Sikhs. Soon, he sent a message to the Sikh leaders through one of his servants named Diyal Singh giving them a crucial clue. He alerted them to the risk of entering into the city by the gates and advised them to exercise stealth and enter into the city at night by breaching the wall at a specific point. After this Lehna Singh and Gujjar Singh managed to win over Nuqra Jats, Mehar Sultan, Ghulam Rasul, Asharaf, Chunnu and Baqar, the Arians of Baghbanpura, who worked as gardeners in the fort.¹⁶

On the advice of Bhai Nand Ram Purbia, they undertook to lead the Sikhs into the fort by breaking in a hole in the wall of the fort at a place where there was not much danger of causing alarm. Gujjar Singh was the first to enter the fort with a group of 50 soldiers. Lehna Singh soon followed Gujjar Singh and captured the fort of Lahore on 16, April, 1765.

¹⁴ . Qazi Nur Muhammad, *Jang Nama*, Lahore, 1765. Edited by Ganda Singh, Khalsa College, Amritsar, 1939.pp. 65-66; George Forester, *A Journey from Bengal to England*, p. 320.

¹⁵ . Ram Sukh Rao, *Jassa Singh Binod*, (NP, ND), Its Punjabi translation also preserved in the library of the Department of Punjab Historical Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, Accession no. 33, folio no. 49.

¹⁶ . Khushwaqat Rai, *Tarikh-i-Sikhan*, folio nos. 88-89; Kanahiya Lal, *Tarikh-i-Punjab*, pp.79-80.

Amir Singh and Jagan Nath were instantly taken prisoners and held captive in Mozang.¹⁷ Then the fort of Lahore came into the hands of the Sikhs without much resistance. Next morning, April 17, Sobha Singh of Kanahiya joined the Sikh leaders at the head of 2, 000 soldiers and put up in the mansion of Maghraj Khatri, nephew of Diwan Lakhpat Rai. The troops of the three chiefs on entering the city began to ruthlessly ransack it. At this time Chaudhri Rupa, Lala Bishan Singh and Mahraj Singh, the grandsons of Diwan Surat Singh, Mir Nathu Shah, Hafiz Qadir Bakhsh and Mian Muhammad Ashiq and other prominent persons of the city beseeched the Sikhs to terminate violence. They said, "This city is called the Guru's cradle. If you look after it, you will also prosper, but if you ruin and destroy it, you too will derive no profit and advantage."¹⁸

Heeding the wisdom of their appeal, the Sikhs accordingly shut all the city gates and issued a proclamation that whosoever was found to oppress the subjects would be punished. To ensure compliance, both the Sardars rode into the town with sticks in their hands and beat out each rioter they found in any street. Then they offered one third of the city to Sobha Singh and sought his co-operation in protecting the town. In short, the three chiefs spared no pains in restoring peace and dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to the duties of administration.¹⁹ The three Sardars then parceled out the city and its neighborhood among themselves. Gujjar Singh was allotted the eastern part of the city, from Kabuli Mal's mansion to the Shalimar Garden, in the centre of which he built an unwilling fort which was called Qila Gujjar Singh (the site is still known by the same name). Lehna Singh obtained the central part of the city including the fort of Lahore with the Roshnai, Kashmiri, Khizri and Masti Gates.²⁰ While the southern part of Lahore as far as Niazbeg, 13 kilometers from the city on the banks of river Ravi, including Mozang, Kot Abdullah Shah, Ichhra and Chauburji fell to the share

¹⁷ . Sohan Lal Suri, *Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, Daftar-I*, Lahore, 1885-89, translated into Punjabi by Dr. Gopal Singh Dhillon, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, folio nos. 189-90.

¹⁸ . J D, Cunningham, *A History of the Sikhs*, London, 1849, reprint, Amritsar, 2006, p. 93; Jadunath Sarkar, *Fall of the Mughal empire*, Vol- II, Calcutta, 1966, pp. 352-53.

¹⁹ . Ali-ud-Din Mufti, *Ibrat Nama*, folio no. 262.

²⁰ . Abdul Qadir, Maulvi, *Memorandum of the Rute between Delhi and Cabul*, Asiatic Register, (1860, London, 1809, p. 10; Hari Ram Gupta, *History of the Sikhs*, Vol-II, New Delhi, 1978, pp. 227-28.

of Sobha Singh who had his strongest bastion in the garden of Zebinda Begam, which the turned into a fort known as Nawankot.²¹

The city of Lahore was thus divided between these Chiefs and each ruled over and administered his portion as its master, receiving the revenue from all imports and duties within the city, including the mint.²²

After occupied the city of Lahore Gujjar Singh Bhangi occupied the city of Lahore, the site was a rendezvous of the thieves. Gujjar Singh invited people to reside there. He laid forty wells for the supply of water. He established about a dozen brick kilns and constructed fifteen shops. The total number of the houses built there was 150. There were four grocery shops, 20 houses of flower gatherers, eight of leather dressers, two of Hindu shopkeepers, one each of a blacksmith, a carpenter and a barber and the rest of peasants. A mosque also existed there.²³

No sooner did Charat Singh Sukerchakia hear of the fall of Lahore then he came to the city and demanded a share in the spoil. The three Sardars had no intention of making such a powerful Chief their enemy and with a view to outwitting him, very willingly offered him the Zamzama gun which was readily taken by him.²⁴

The Khalsa looked upon this achievement as a mark of the Guru's benediction. So to commemorate the momentous occasion of the assumption of the sovereignty of the province and in memory of Guru Nanak, who founded the Sikhism, and Guru Gobind Singh, who established the Khalsa brotherhood, they struck coin in the name of the Sikh Gurus. When coining money they repeated the inscription which had already appeared on the seals of Banda Singh and the coins of Jassa Singh.

²¹ . Lepel Griffin, *The Punjab Chiefs*, Lahore, 1870, reprint by Language Department Punjab, Patiala, 1970, Vol-I, pp. 337-38; H.R. Gouling & T.H. Thornton, *Old Lahore*, Lahore, 1924, p. 76.

²² . Jadunath Sarkar, *Fall of the Mughal Empire*, Vol-II, pp. 352-53; Lahore District Gazetteer, Lahore, 1883-84, p. 29.

²³ . Hari Ram Gupta, *History of the Sikhs*, Vol-IV, New Delhi, 1982, p. 225.

²⁴ . Carmichael Smyth, *History of the Reigning Family of Lahore*, Calcutta, 1847, pp. 15-16; Sohan Lal Suri, *Umdat-ut-Tawarikh, Daftar-II*, Lahore, 1885-89, translated into Punjabi by Amarwant Singh, published by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 1985, pp. 14-15.

Obverse

Deg o tegh o fateh o nusrat be-dirang

Yaft az Nanak Guru Gobind Singh.

In the Reverse of the coin following inscription:

Struck in the capital of Lahore in, 1765 A D.

At this juncture of time, while the whole country, liberated from foreign rule, passed into the hands of the Sikhs, there were still a few parts which did not acknowledge their sovereignty.²⁵

The Sikhs remained in peace in Lahore. However, the peace was broken in 1767 when Ahmed Shah Abdali made his eighth invasion. At that time the Sikh leaders retired from Lahore and Ahmed Shah again occupied the city.²⁶

But a deputation of the prominent citizens of the Lahore met Addali and told him to recall Lehna Singh Bhangi. They gave him an insightful and candid feedback about the political and social conditions under Lehna Singh. They expressed their opinion that Lehna Singh was a good and sympatric ruler, who was acceptable to every body. He had not maintained any communal discrimination between the Hindus and the Muslims. He bestowed turbans on the Qazis, Muftis and Imams of the mosques on the festival of Id-ul-Zuha.²⁷ He treated all the citizens with great regard. The Muslims of Lahore had no fear of the Khalsa and they had started looking upon them as their comrades rather than as hostile enemies. Thus, the absence of usual communal acrimony had made the Muslim leaders of the city of Lahore recommend to Ahmad Shah Abdali the appointment of Sardar Lehna Singh Bhangi as their Governor of Lahore in preference to his Muslims nominee.²⁸ Ahmad Shah too had

²⁵ . Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal Vol-. L, part-I. No.I, Asiatic Society, Calcutta, 1881, p. 79; Ganda Singh, *Banda Singh Bahadur*, Amritsar, 1935, p. 153; J.S, Grewal, *The Character of the Sikh Rule*, Miscellaneous Articles, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 1974, p. 151.

²⁶ . Tahmas Khan Miskin, *Tahmas Namah*, p. 115.

²⁷ . Ali-ud-Din Mufti, *Ibrat Nama*, folio nos. 262-63, DPHS, PUP.

²⁸ . Ali-ud-Din Mufti, *Ibrat Nama*, folio nos. 262-63; Muhammad Baqir, *Lahore Past and Present*, Lahore, 1952, pp. 196-97.

thoroughly perceived the situation. He sent Rehmat-ullah Beg of village Mode, one of his ministers, as his emissary and wrote a letter to Lehna Singh, offering him the Governorship of Lahore. As a show of courtesy he also sent him some dry fruits of Kabul. Lehna Singh who was at Amritsar, however, declined the invitation on the grounds that it was not commensurate with the guiding principles of the Khalsa to confer with an invader and thus, as his reply he returned the dry fruit along with a sample of gram, along with his own letter that contained the following words; "fruit is the food of the kings: I am an ordinary soldier and can well sustain myself on a simple meal. In regard to the offer of Governorship, I am a soldier of the Panth, which would spurn even the gift of ruler ship of the three worlds, except when it came from the Guru Gobind Singh." In this manner Lehna Singh turned down the offer saying that to accept an offer from an invader was against the policy and honor of the Khalsa.²⁹

Ahmed Shah Abdali speedily returns to his native place in 1768, leaving the whole territories of Punjab in the hands of the Sikhs. No sooner had he crossed the border of the Punjab, than the three Sikhs leaders Lehna Singh, Gujjar Singh and Sobha Singh again marched towards Lahore. The nobles of Dadan Khan, the new Governor of Lahore told him plainly that the people were satisfied with the Sikh rule and they might open the city gates and admit the Sikh Sardars into the town. Thus Dadan Khan held a meeting of his advisors such as Mian Muhammad Ashiq, Mir Nathu Shah, Hafiz Qadir Bakhsh Tajir and Lala ji Mahraj. All of them unanimously advised him to leave the city of Lahore for the Sikhs. After that the Sikhs came and occupied the city of Lahore and the other places. They took the administration of Suba of Lahore whole-heartedly.³⁰

During his last invasion, Abdali tried his best to crush the rising power of the Sikhs but failed to finish the Sikh community. He died in the year 1773.³¹

Lahore which had always been the provincial capital, gave the Sikhs an edge over the other rulers of the Punjab. Now with the possession of the Suba of Lahore, the Sikhs

²⁹ . Ali-ud-Din Mufti, *Ibrat Nama*, folio no. 263.

³⁰ . Ali-ud-Din Mufti, *Ibrat Nama*, folio nos. 264-65; Kanahiya Lal, *Tarikh-i-Punjab*, pp. 82-83.

³¹ . J D, Cunningham, *A History of the Sikhs*, p. 69.

successfully captured the other important parts of the province of Punjab like wise Gujrat, Multan, Amritsar, Rawalpindi, Attock, Sialkot, Jhang, Chiniot and some part of Jammu and Kashmir and they became a powerful master of the Punjab. . Lahore remained under the control of the Chait Singh son of Lehna Singh, Sahib Singh son of Gujjar Singh and Mohar Singh son Sobha Singh up to 1797 when Shah Zaman invade Punjab. After Shah Zaman's departure from Punjab in 1799 these Sikh Sardar lost the Suba of Lahore when Ranjit Singh forcefully captured it in 1799. .³²

Conclusion

During second decade of 18th century when Afghan invader Ahmed Shah Abdali attacked India from 1748 to 1768 and tried to established his rule over India. The Sikhs challenged Ahmed Shah and his representatives of the Punjab and occupied the city and the territory of Lahore in 1767 under the supreme commandership of Lehna Singh, Gujjar Singh and Sobha Singh; they not only established their rule and administration over the territory and also issued the coins and seals on the name of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh. Lahore which had always been the provincial capital, gave the Sikhs an edge over the other ruler of the Punjab. Now with the possession of the *Suba* of Lahore, the Sikhs successfully captured the other important parts of the province of Punjab likewise Gujrat, Multan, Amritsar, Rawalpindi, Attock, Sialkot, Jhang, Chiniot and some part of Jammu and Kashmir and they became a powerful master of the Punjab. Lahore remained under the control of the Chait Singh son of Lehna Singh, Sahib Singh son of Gujjar Singh and Mohar Singh son Sobha Singh up to 1797 when Shah Zaman invade Punjab. After Shah Zaman's departure from Punjab in 1799 these Sikh Sardar lost the *Suba* of Lahore when Ranjit Singh forcefully captured it in 1799.

³². Sohan Lal Suri, *Umdat-ut-Tawarikh*, Daftar-II, pp. 42-44.