



Original Article

Important Non-Contemporary Literary Sources of Adil Shahis

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Basatin-us-Salatin, a non-cotemporary source of this period mentions this book twice - firstly in the introduction (p.4) of the book and secondly when the writer is giving short sketches of the lives of eminent personages who flourished in the time of Mohammad Adil Shah (p.334) and says that he was one of the prominent person present at the court of Ali Adil Shah II.

The writing of the book was completed in 1667 A.D. It has ten chapters. Four out of ten chapters are devoted to purely political and military affairs, which throws a considerable light on the activities of the nobles in the political and military affairs of the kingdom.

From the nobility's point of view, the fifth chapter gives details of Adil Shah's relations with Shivaji and the process of the evolutions of the Maratha dominion by the gradual shrinkage of Bijapur kingdom and the reaction or retaliation of the nobles in this process. The sixth and seventh chapters mention Bijapur's campaign in the Karnataka, from the point where Mullah Zuhur left.

The eighth chapter gives details of Mughal Bijapur hostilities and offer of Abdullah Qutub Shah to send military assistance to Bijapur to meet the Mughal onslaught. While the ninth and tenth chapters deal with the social activities of the court which are of importance to a studied of the social history of the period and also throw light on the social activities of the nobles and the contemporary history of Bijapur.

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Since Nurullah was closely associated with the Bijapur court, his narrative is reliable and authentic. It is written in elegant and flowery style with frequent poetic extracts, thus making the historical account tense and pedantic, full of picturesque similes and metaphors. It was edited by Abul-Nasr Muhammad Khalidi and printed at Hyderabad in 1964. A manuscript copy of this work

was made for Sir Wolseley Haig at Hyderabad early in this Century. This is now with Dr. P.M. Joshi.

1) Ghulam Muhiuddin Pirzada:

Among the chief non-contemporary sources first comes the "Ahwal-i-Salatin-i-Bijapur of Ghulam Muhiuddin Pirzada is a sketchy history of the Adil Shahi Dynasty from the beginning to the



death of Sikandar Adil Shah in 1699 A.D. The compilation of the work was started in 1806, and completed in 1820. The work is divided into eight books, one each for the eight recognized Adil Shah rulers. The work is too concise and is more a chronological diary of important events. The author himself says that the work was compiled from two earlier works written in the time of Ali Adil Shah II, one by Mir Ibrahim Asad Khan and the other by Shaikh Abul Hasan. It is however, useful in fixing dates for the action and movements of nobles of Bijapur."

2) Ibrahim Zubairi:

The second non-contemporary source is "Basatin-us-Salatin" by Ibrahim Zubairi. It is the only comprehensive and complete history of Adil Shahi Dynasty, ranging from the foundation of the monarchy i.e., 1489 A.D. to its dissolution in 1686 A.D. to the Mughal Empire by Aurangzeb, and carried on to British hegemony consequent on the last Maratha War in 1818 A.D.

General Works:

The "Burhan-i-Ma'athir" by Syed Ali Tabataba, compiled at the behest of Burhan Nizam Shah in 1591-92 A.D., is an essential source for the role played by the nobles in maintaining the relations with Bahmanis from 1489 to 1534 A.D.; and also throws light on the noble's relation with Ahmadnagar, Mughals and inter-states relations of Bijapur with the other Deccan Kingdoms.

For the Mughal-Bijapur relations and for the Mughal campaigns of Bijapur, with reference to the nobles there is no dearth of material. For Akbar's reign the Mughal chroniclers Nizamu'd-din Ahmad, Abu-e-Fazl and Badaoni in their works "Tabaqat-e-Akbar Shahi Akbar Nama", and "Muntakhab-al-Tawarikh" furnish sufficient material for the evolution of Akbar's policy towards Bijapur and how he gradually exercised verbal strategy over

Adil Shah. Equally important is Asad Beg's "Waqai Asad Beg" which provides essential details of Asad Beg's missions to Bijapur and Ibrahim Adil Shah becoming Akbar's disciple.

For Jahangir's reign the history of Mughal-Bijapur relations is provided in Jahangir's own memoirs "Tuzuk-e-Jahangiri" and in "Iqbal Nama-i Jahangiri" of Muhammad Khan. They supply useful information about the nobles and their correspondence and sending of peshkash by Ibrahim 'Adil Shah II to the Mughal Court. Details of the circumstances leading to adaptation of conciliatory policy by Jahangir towards Bijapur in order to alienate the latter from Ahmadnagar are supplied by these chronicles.

Shah Jahan's reign introduced new dimensions in Mughal-Bijapur relations. The circumstances which led to the issue of the Farman (the so-called Treaty of 1636) in the name of Muhammad 'Adil Shah are given in the "Padsha Nama of Qazwini". Lahori and in "Amal-i Swalih" of Muhammad Swalih Kambo, Lahori and Qazwini give the text of the correspondences preceding the Farman and the text of the Farman in extensor. And the political implications and consequences of the so-called Treaty of 1636 are highlighted in the correspondence that followed the Farman and the partition of the Ahmadnagar territory between the two rulers.

Khafi Khan in his Muntakhab al-Lubab not only repeats the history of Mughal-Bijapur relations given by Lahori but continues further. It is an essential source for Bijapuri nobles' and their relations during Aurangzeb's reign, which was marked by a changed aggressive policy towards Bijapur. It gives essential details of Mughal-Bijapur-Maratha tripartite relations and the causes which led to the extinction of Bijapur as a Kingdom.

The "Alamgir Nama" of Muhammad Qasim and "Ma'athir-i Alamgir" of Musta'id Khan give



concise accounts of Aurangzeb's campaign against Bijapur and his policy towards the latter. Both record the sending of Adil Shah Envoys with a presents to the Mughal Court.

The "Haft Anjuman" of Munshi Udai Raj supplies the most authentic and essential material about the nobles and the triangular Mughal-Maratha-Bijapur relations during Mirza Raja Jai Singh's campaign. The triangular relations in terms of noble's role preceding and following the Treaty of Purandar are masterly described. The "Tarikh-i Dilkusha" of Bhimsen gives an eye-witness account of Aurangzeb's Deccan campaigns against the tottering Bijapur Kingdom. He supplies important information about the cause of Aurangzeb's hostile attitude towards Bijapur leading to its extinction in 1686 A.D.

The "Tarikh-i 'Alam Ara-i 'Abbasi" by Iskandar Beg Munshi, court chronicler of Shah Abbas is the basic source for the Safawid-'Adil Shah Relations. It provides useful information on the exchange of officers between the 'Adil Shahi and the Safawid courts, and describes the role of Shah 'Abbas I and II played in the Mughal-Bijapur politics, from the Persian point of view.

The "Ma'thiru'l Umara" by Shah Nawaz Khan, as a biographical dictionary of Mughal nobles, supplies good information about the Mughal campaigns of Bijapur und the role which the Mughal nobles played in the Mughal-Bijapur relations.

Correspondences:

Extensive use has been made of the correspondences that were exchanged between 'Adil Shahi court and the courts of other Indian States and Iran. Some of these correspondences are found in general histories, e.g. "Tuzuk-i Jahangiri", "Padshah Nama" of ahoiri and Oazwini, "Muntakhab-al-Lubab" of Khafi Khan etc. But majority of the

important letters, relevant to the nobles' history of Bijapur are preserved in various collections of letters. The following relevant manuscripts have been utilized:

"Jami'ul Murasalat" by Abdu'l-Qasim Haidar: The Jami'ul-Murasalat compiled in Iran by Abu'l-Qasim Haidar Beg, about the middle of century, is an essential source for the correspondence that passed between the Safawid and 'Adil Shah Rulers. It also contains the correspondence that passed between the Safawid and Mughal rulers, regarding the triangular relations of Iran-Bijapur-Mughals.

Golconda letters by Abdu'l-Ali Tabrizi: Tabrizi's collection of letters is an essential source for the Karnataka campaign of both Bijapur and Golconda. The letters not only record the agreement between the two States and its implications but also enlighten the dual role played by all those nobles involved from the side of - the 'Adil Shah, Qutub Shah, Nayaks of Ginji and Madura etc., and also the role played by Shah Jahan in settling the Bijapur-Golconda conflict over the partition of Karnataka. "Makaib-i Zamana-i Salatin-i Safawiyyah" contains two very important letters which Ibrahim 'Adil Shah II wrote to Shah 'Abbas.

They throw light on the Iran-Bijapur political relation. These letters are not found in any other source. "Insha-i Taliqani" by Abdu'l-'Ali Taliqani, the Insha contains important and friendly letters of "Abdu'l-lah Qutub Shah, addressed to 'Adil Shah, on various aspects of Bijapur-Golconda relations.

"The Guldasta"⁶² contains letters of Shah 'Abbas II. Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb, Prince Sultan Muhammad etc., all addressed to Abdullah Qutub Shah. They throw indirectly light on Mughal-Bijapur and Bijapur-Golconda relations.

"Makatib-i Shahana-i Safawi wo Shahana-i Hind" by Mirza Tahir Wahid contains letters of



Shah 'Abbas 1 in the name of Jahangir and the Deccan Sultans. These letters throw light on the role of the Shah, played in the affairs of Bijapur and Deccan in general. In these letters the Shah requested Jahangir to refrain from the hostilities against the Deccan Sultans.

Makatib-i Sultan Abdu'l-lah Qutub Shah contains numerous letters of Abdu'l-lah Qutub Shah addressed to Adil Shah and other rulers, which throw light on various aspects of Bijapur-Golconda relations.

"Adab-i Alamgiri" by Qabil Khan contains several letters and Farmans of Aurangzeb. Addressed to Ali Adil Shah II to Sikandar Adil Shah had various aspects on Mughal-Bijapur relations, Bijapur-Maratha relations and Bijapur-Golconda relations. They throw a flood of light on the aggressive and dictatorial policy which Aurangzeb adopted.

Majmu'a: "Insha-i 'Abdu'l-Wahhab" contains useful correspondences that passed between Ibrahim 'Adil Shah II and the Mughal Emperor Jahangir and also with the Mughal commanders in the Deccan.

"Munsha'at-i Farsi" of 'Abdullah Effendi is a collection of royal letters exchanged between the Ottoman Sultans and other Muslim rulers. It gives useful details about the role which the Afro-Asian rulers played in forming the confederacy against the Portuguese.

Archival Documents:

There are two types of archival documents. One is the Mughal documents" and the other "Adil Shahi farmans". The Mughal documents of Shah Jahan's reign supply information about 'Adil Shahi nobles as envoys to the court of Shah Jahan and to the court of Prince Aurangzeb, Viceroy of Deccan. They furnish details of the purpose of the missions, name of the envoy, presentation of peshkash and details of various other articles presented. They

furnish details of Bijapuri nobles who deserted to the Mughal camp.

The Alamgiri documents furnish information on the Mughal camp. Also they give details of Mughal encroachment into the internal affairs of Bijapur and in the Bijapur-Golconda affairs. The 'Adil Shahi farmans addressed to the nobles throw a flood of light on the diplomacy of 'Adil Shah adopted in the military campaigns against Shivaji, Nayaks of Karnataka etc.

The 'Adil Shahi Farman addressed to the Europeans in the Deccan furnish details of the grants and concessions made to them. They are essential for the politico-diplomatic relations between Bijapur and the European settlements in the Deccan.

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