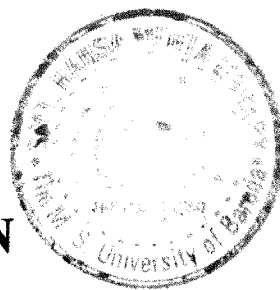


**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN
THE BARODA STATE:
(1875-1950)**



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**SUMMARY OF THE THESIS
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Industrial Development in the Baroda State

1875-1950

The beginning of industrial development in Baroda State can be dated from the second half of the nineteenth century. Industry affected the life of people in a vital way and, in an important sense, it continues to do so. It is for this reason that it has become a comprehensive field in social science that merits serious study and attention as it affects millions of human being all over the earth.

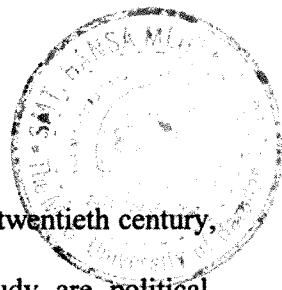
The process of industrialization can be understood as the development of industries over span of time. The process is possible due to external conditions such as emerging necessities, political apparatus as well as economic and social factors. Research in the field of economy has focused on either special aspects of industries or has tried to look at the industrial and economic developments. However, today our understanding is not extensive in the subject matter of economic history. The study of economic conditions in the context of industry has become imperative and essential because of various industries which have been developed, are profoundly connected and related with industrial growth development of track and commerce, development of agriculture and other economic activities even in the present time.

The present thesis is an effort to explore and study the development in the Baroda State during the reign of the Gaekwads with special reference to the reign of Sayajirao III. While there have been a few explorations that study the Baroda State's political system, administration, educational development etc., studies about industries have been done in a limited way in the context of writing socio-economic histories of the state. This study has

been undertaken to fill this lacuna. It has sought to investigate what changes were introduced by modern industry which led to the emergence of the state as one of the most prominent and enlightened princely states and a centre of education and culture. This socio-economic aspect of nineteenth century Baroda state along with Gujarat in context of industry has not been examined at the micro level by any scholar and only limited historical studies have been done to with regard to other the Indian states.

This research has been prompted by a serious gap in Indian history; though the history of the Indian princely states has been richly documented, there has been very little effort to explore the history of industry. Consequently industry as a field of employment and its concomitant implications for the relationship between the various categories of people employed in these industries of has gone unnoticed. My study also gives a brief account of employees and their economic condition and how their economic condition improved; this proved to be a significant factor for improving economic condition of the state. Side by side, my thesis has attempted to sketch the contribution of the traders & businessmen in the development of industries and their role in providing employment to a large number of people.

The contribution of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III in the field of agriculture and industry was very crucial. The present thesis has attempted to reconstruct the situation in particular historic specificity. It offers an account of manner in which the industrialist and traders experienced the beginning of industrialization in the state and how the programs and policies of Sayajirao III were critical for the further economic development. The present day industrial progress in Gujarat inspired me to delve into the study of the Baroda State in context of industries in Baroda state. I have chosen the Baroda State for the study



during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, i.e. 1875-1950 A.D. The other parameters which are taken into study are political, administration, social, culture and economic profile along with the development of modern technological growth. The central attempt in the study is towards the understanding of the growth of industries which had the considerably affected life in the cities, towns and villages of the Baroda state in particular and India in general.

The methodology developed for carrying out the research has been primarily a historical as well as socio-economic analysis of data collected from various resources, places and archives at Vadodara and Mumbai. The study has been an extensive search into these sources and also extensive in terms of various visits to different places in erstwhile Baroda State. The historical information has been derived from the contemporary accounts written in English, Gujarati and Marathi. Baroda Administration Records, Baroda State Ports Records in Kathiawad, Baroda and Bombay Presidency Reports, Revenue Reports, Report of Economic Development in Baroda State Report, Survey Report from Chamber of Commerce, Ahmedabad, Gazetteers of Baroda State, Navsari, Amreli and Kadi and the Gazetteers of Kathiawad and Gazetteers of India and Bombay Presidency Gazetteers and so on. The study records the development of industry covering statistical details, touching significant aspects pertaining to the discipline. Facts and figures have been given, wherever necessary, to support my hypothesis and my analysis has chiefly drawn from the archival material I have presented while dealing with the development of industry as such right from the early days of the Gaekwad reign upto the attainment of independence. My thesis also touches upon analyses of the contemporary situation in various fields.

A survey of historical information at first gives an idea that the Baroda state's territories were scattered over Gujarat and Kathiawad, the scattered territories made the communication between the capital of Baroda and other division of the state extremely difficult. Availability of natural resources allowed the development of industries in the state. The rich water resource had made the region most fertile which in turn enhanced its agrarian potential, the state had a direct access to the a vast coastline that further provided it with an opportunity for international trade and commerce that led to the growth of non-agrarian potentialities. The period from the nineteenth century to the first half of the twentieth century covered under the study witnessed economic transition from the traditional economy to a modern one with the development of industry which became the pivot of economic and social synthesis.

Maharaja Sayajirao III took keen interest in developing industries in the state. Ports were improved and developed with a view to developing trade and commerce. Banking system was introduced and developed to support the financial help for the industries. Technical education improved for the artisans to train them and improve their skill. My thesis is based on the assumption that his enlightened policies and programs were critical to and played a catalytic effect on industrial development.

This thesis consists of five chapters. The First Chapter of my thesis is related to the rise of the Gaekwads and the establishment of the Baroda State along with the condition of people geographical situation, economy, culture, tradition, location, landscape, sources of economic activities. This chapter gives an account of administration of the Gaekwad and their relations with the British. This chapter primarily attempts to understand the economic



conditions of the State during the Gaekwad and how industries help to improve the economic condition.

In the second chapter “Historical Background of the Industries” focuses on the historical background of industrialization in India from the pre-colonial to colonial period. It is a brief account of the development of industries in India in different stages. It explores how the development of industries affected India. It puts special emphasis on the princely states of India. This chapter further explores the economic condition of the Baroda state. It gives concise account of State’s industrial development in different periods of Gaekwads reign. I have highlighted various problems regarding the development in the state. I have also highlighted the agricultural condition during the period and its impact on the rise of industries.

In the third chapter “Contribution of Sir Sayajirao to the Development of Industries in the Baroda State” examines the political, social and economic changes that took place in the Baroda State during Sir Sayajirao Gaekwad’s reign. It sketches his visits to the different places in India and abroad, and their impact on his ideas about the economy and his method of analyzing the industrial as well as the general problems in the State. It focuses on his activities relating to the development of trade, business and industry and relation of the State with British and others. This chapter further gives an account of the manner in which Sir Sayajirao took up the work of developing the natural resources of the State, reviving older skills and industries whenever possible. It also shows how he perceived the complete absence of modern industries and how he initiated various measures for their introduction. Apart from this, it has a brief account of the significant contribution of his wife, Maharani Chimnabai towards the modernization of the Baroda State though the

upliftment of women and social welfare activities. This chapter describes how the Baroda Government made Okha one of the major developed ports in western India while also delineating the economic impact of this move and the changes that were introduced in the social and cultural set up. I have also traced the course of the railway expansion throughout the State. The Baroda State had been in the vanguard of progress and advancement through the growth of railways. Finally I have discussed the banking system (Bank of Baroda) which played a crucial role in the development of the industries in the State.

The final chapter “Studies of the Industries Developed in the Baroda State” draws from the earlier chapter and gives an account of the background of the various industries development in Baroda State. It sketches out the number and nature of industries established as well as the resources that were available for their development. I have highlighted precisely the relevant part of growth of the industries and various problems regarding the industrial development during the period of Sayajirao III. The chapter studies the history of the small industries developed in the second half of the nineteenth century. It gives an account of how in every village and every town artisans like smiths, carpenters, tanners, weavers, brassworkers, etc. who supplied the needs of the local people became responsible for the development of small industries. Special manufactures like patolas, brass and wood works, cutlery, wood-carving, glassware, turbans and ship-building gradually increased as demand grew. This chapter further attempt to explore what is the influence of modern industrialism and how factories of the modern type were set up all over Gujarat. This offers an account of different stages of the State’s industrial development, how a few model industries such as cotton and sugar were started, when and how other industries developed. Finally it gives information about the agreement of the

Baroda State Government of India with the British colonial regime about custom duty. It suggests that the progress was initially very slow but gradually it increased and the economic, political and social condition of the State improved.

Thus, the overall examination of the Baroda state from historical as well socio-economic perspectives reveals that it has emerged as a prominent state of India. The growth of the whole course of the development of Industries in the second half of the nineteenth century led to the modernization of economy and society and brought overall economy development and social upliftment. The role of the Gaekwad rules especially Sayajirao III was important of all types of industries in the state.

At the end of the present study it can firmly be concluded that the industry contribute significantly to our socio-economic needs.