

PREFACE

Sayajirao-III has been a personality of great interest to research scholars. His reign has been a theme of unending exploration from different perspectives resulting in varying analysis and new-fangled premises. I have grown up as a Barodian, educated in institutions established by him, listening to stories of his fame and admiring the monumental edifices around the city. Contemporary society, the culture, the educational and medical facilities of Baroda has reflections of the erst-while Gaekwad rulers. All this urged me as a student of history to study what makes Baroda *sanskari* yet modern.

The objectives of my study are as following.

- i. To inquire into the formation of pre-modern Baroda state.
- ii. To understand the process of transformation of various institutions in the Baroda state which underwent modernization during the rule of Sayajirao III
- iii. To focus on the socio-cultural aspects of the Modern Baroda state.
- iv. To ascertain whether there was a complete change or an uneasy adjustment in the process of modernization.

The study is divided into following eight chapters.

The first chapter 'Introduction' deals with the terms pre-modern and modern, their meanings and attributes. An attempt is also made to compare and contrast the characteristics of these two periods. It also focuses on the relevance of these attributes in connection to my research topic. Further an overview of content of the other chapters is given.

The second chapter 'Formation of Baroda State and Its Pre-modern Basis', deals with the brief political history of Gaekwads broadly from 1700 to 1800. It focuses mainly on the early Gaekwads and the circumstances that led them toward getting a strong hold in Gujarat. It also discusses the formation and consolidation of different Gaekwad territories in Gujarat. The Anglo-Gaekwad relations are discussed. Further the chapter discusses political conditions and eventual emergence of Gaekwad rulers as influential Princely state. This period (1820-1875) experiences foundation of pre-modern basis of Baroda State and its gradual development with succeeding Gaekwad rulers. During this time the administration of Baroda state was brought on better footing progressively. The establishment financial Institution, better system of revenue,

improved legal system, beginning of railways, initiation of public services like education and medical etc. are important occurrences of this period.

The third chapter 'Transition from Pre-Modern to Modern' deals with the work and time of the Regent Dewan Sir T. Madhavrao. This is a transition from pre-modern to early modern. The chapter discusses the reforms introduced in revenue administration; revival of state finance; encouragement to agriculture; improvement in judicial system; public health; public instruction and other areas. The chapter further deals with the social factors that influenced Sayajirao-III during his formative years which had an impact on him throughout his life.

The fourth chapter 'The Administration and the Modernization Project in the Baroda State' focuses on the measures taken by the Government to streamline administration of state. The chapter consequently is divided further into two sections i) Judicial System and Modernization; and ii) Local-self Government.

The fifth chapter 'Economy and Modernization in the Baroda State', traces the efforts made during the reign of Sayajirao-III to meet the economic exigencies of the time. Sayajirao-III had given consideration to comprehensive development of economy. The chapter is divided in four sections with a view to describe the moves that Sayajirao-III made for enhancing means of economy like i) Agriculture , ii) Revenue, iii) Industry and iv) Finance.

The chapter 'Society and Modernization in the Baroda State' focuses on the reforms launched by Sayajirao-III. Social modernization was his principal goal behind the advancement of the other aspects of society like polity, economy or culture. His reforms in society were manifold but four important which proved most successful and significant were i) Public Instruction ii) Library Movement iii) Public Health and iv) Improvement in position of Women.

In the chapter 'Cultural Modernization in the Baroda State', the focus is given to the proliferation of art and architecture during the reign of Sayajirao-III. He was a noted patron of art and a promoter of fine architecture. His was the time when the acculturation of Indian and European art and architecture could be seen, the instances of which are still in Baroda. The chapter is divided into two sections i) Art and ii) Architecture.

The concluding chapter summarizes the entire process of transition from pre-modern to modern in Baroda State. It is an overview of the important works carried out by Sayajirao-III. An attempt is also made to give a review of the modernization of Baroda State by comparing some of its aspects with the some contemporary States or British India.