

COLONIALISING AGRICULTURE: THE BRITISH ECONOMIC POLICIES IN MIANWALI DISTRICT

SAADIA SUMBAL

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Forman Christian College University Lahore, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

The roots of tribalism were deep and ancient in Mianwali. Tribe is a symbol of identity and power of different human groups. This article discusses the colonial policy in the cultural and socio-economic sphere of the district. The study also seeks to shed light on the official indifference vividly demonstrated in the realms of agriculture, and economic development. The study seeks to investigate why it was difficult to open a new agrarian frontier in Mianwali like the canal colony areas? Despite the fact that the district was overwhelmingly agrarian, there was hardly any investment on agriculture. The nexus between the rural magnates as colonial collaborators and the colonial government is also discussed. The colonial interests were served by the policy of co-option of the rural elite. The rural leaders legitimized their authority through the ownership of the vast tracts of land, an insignia of power and prestige and their connection with the British officials. The focus will also be on the colonial economic policies which resulted in the agricultural indebtedness, growth of moneylenders, sale and mortgage of land in the district.

KEYWORDS: Agrarian, Indebtedness, Mortgage, Money lending, Tribal