



Administrative Reforms and Government Institutions under Ahmad Shah Durrani: A Historical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This review focuses on administrative changes and governmental system that were introduced during the reign of Ahmad Shah Durrani (1747-1773), the founder of the Durrani Empire, especially in regard to its organization and consolidation of the Durrani state. The review critically evaluates current historical work and primary and secondary sources that relate to provincial, military, judicial, administrative and financial institutions during this time frame. The literature reviewed shows that the consolidation of Durrani authority went hand in hand with military expansion and political conquest, as well as the organization and adaptation of administrative institutions to the political and social environment of 18th century Afghanistan. The Permanent Council, Diwan Begi, Diwan-e Insha and Qazi al-Quzat were the institutions and offices that helped with governmental coordination, financial and administrative management, judicial affairs and in exercising royal authority. But the treatment of institutional development, effective operation and interaction of these administrative structures in the existing literature are not uniform. An in-depth study of these institutions at the provincial level and the overall changes in administrative practices during different eras of Ahmad Shah Durrani's rule is particularly needed, however. The review also suggests that comparative historical study and archival materials are needed to better understand the role and impact of the Durrani administrative institutions in the process of state formation in Afghanistan in the long-run.

KEYWORDS: Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Durrani, Administrative Reforms, Durrani state, Government Institutions

1. INTRODUCTION

The beginning of the Durrani Empire with Ahmad Shah Durrani in 1747 constituted a major milestone in the political and administrative history of Afghanistan and the region. After the death of Nader Shah Afshar, Ahmad Shah became the head of a new political movement, which was based in Kandahar. In the short span of time,

the Durrani state conquered large territories of the country such as Herat, Balkh, Sindh and Kashmir. Just a military force wasn't enough to govern such a vast and divided region; it was necessary to have institutions that could handle political authority, public revenues, courts, provincial affairs, and military organization (Singh, 1959; Vogelsang, 2016).

The political landscape after the fall of Nader Shah's empire was both promising and challenging for the new Durrani state. The government had to establish a system of political control, win over the support of powerful tribal chiefs, organize troops, govern at a distance over widely scattered regions, collect state revenues, and, most importantly, keep a check on political and social disorder. The Durrani political system thus emerged as a result of the interplay of royal power, tribal organizations, and administration from previous political systems. The government was not based on a single, centralized, bureaucratic system but on a system that integrated royal structures with pre-existing tribal and regional systems of governance (Farhang, 1994; Rahimi, 2017; Parkes, 2018).

While the military campaigns, territorial expansion, political leadership and formation of states of Ahmad Shah Durrani have been studied in detail by scholars, his institutional dimension has been discussed in isolation at times. Some scholars have come to grips with specific issues of the Durrani regime, such as the administration of provinces, military organization, the collection of revenue, judicial institutions, and the interactions between tribes and the royal court. An integrated historical analysis of the interaction between these institutions and their role in the overall process of organization and consolidation of political authority in Durrani state still remains to be done. Recent research on the formation of the Afghan state has also highlighted the need to analyze the dynamics between the central state and local or tribal systems, rather than the state formation process as a simple one of centralization (Peng & Huang, 2022; Parkes, 2018).

This research is aimed at filling this gap, since the administrative changes and the government institutions that were created or developed under the rule of Ahmad Shah Durrani have not received a thorough analysis from researchers. It discusses the key institutional elements of the Durrani political system, focusing on financial administration, courts, provincial administration, consultative bodies, and the military. The study also examines the influence of the inherited political and administrative traditions on the social and political context of 18th century Afghanistan and the role of these arrangements in shaping the function of the nascent state (Rahimi 2017, Karimi 2014).

The significance of this study is that it looks at these institutions not as separate administrative units, but as interrelated aspects of the organization of the state. It consequently offers a more comprehensive understanding of the Durrani political system since it takes into account the relationship between the royalty, tribal alliances, military power, finances, judicial legitimacy, and the administration of the provinces. This perspective does not

regard the Durrani state as a unified modern state, nor is it merely a tribal political confederation, but is rather a historically developing political system in which royal and tribal power and authority, traditional administrative structures, and new state institutions managed and maintained political authority within a heterogeneous landscape.

Therefore, the aim of this study is to discuss administrative modifications under Ahmad Shah Durrani and government institutions and their contribution to the organization and consolidation of political power. Specifically, the study is to be divided into the following parts: 1. to study the major administrative institutions under Ahmad Shah Durrani's rule; 2. to study the role of various institutions like financial, judicial, provincial, consultative and military institutions in the political system of Ahmad Shah Durrani; 3. to investigate the relationship between royal authority and tribal institutions; and 4. to analyze how the inherited administration traditions were adapted to the political and social situation of the eighteenth century Afghanistan.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The political organization, territorial expansion, military successes and development of the government of Ahmad Shah Durrani and the Durrani empire has been extensively discussed in historical scholarship. Mir Ghulam Mohammad Ghubar highlights Ahmad Shah's role in consolidation of political power and the unification of territories which formed the new Afghan state. From his perspective, the unification of the Durrani state meant more than just military conquest, it was also a matter of political organization and centralization. In comparison, Ghubar's wider historical account focuses more on the political than on the systematic study of each individual administrative institution and their interconnections (Ghubar, 1987).

Mir Mohammad Sediq Farhang looks at the political history of Afghanistan in the course of several centuries and talks about the establishment and workings of the Durrani state. He looks more at the political and institutional aspects of government and at the problems of stability in the territories controlled by Ahmad Shah. Farhang is more expansive than Ghubar's concept of governmental development, but administrative institutions like judicial, financial, and military institutions are not studied as a unified administrative system (Farhang, 1994).

Habibi offers important details about Afghanistan's government and politics in the past. His analysis is especially helpful for the analysis of administrative organization and the administration of government in various historical periods. Habibi is more focused than some other historical texts on institutional and governmental arrangements, rather than the larger political story. These discussions are, however, scattered in various parts of Afghan history and have not been studied as a whole process of state building under Ahmad Shah Durrani in the framework of his administrative reforms (Habibi, 1974).

Atayi history is a valuable source of information on the political situation and events of Ahmad Shah Durrani rule. Most of its significance is in the detail it gives to the events and political context of the period, which help to explain the local history in which Ahmad Shah's government functioned. However, an event-oriented history is not always the best for making systematic comparisons between the various administrative institutions which facilitated the Durrani state (Atayi, 2004).

Mountstuart Elphinstone offers valuable external information on the political structure, administration, social life and governmental practices of the Kingdom of Kabul. His observations are important in the context of politics and government in Afghanistan and the broader region. The problem is that his discussions of administrative reform do not fall within a single coherent institutional perspective (Elphinstone, 1997), due to the fact that his work is based on a wider political and geographical framework.

Karimi, Noelle adds valuable insights into the establishment of the Durrani dynasty and its system of government, especially in the reign of Timur Shah. His work is important as taking up the process of what happened during the era of Ahmad Shah in the institutions and political structure, and how they progressed during his successor's reign. It covers Ahmad Shah's administration reforms, however, not comprehensively and systematically due to its main focus on Timur Shah (Karimi, 2016).

Qadir and Asghar focus on a more specific scrutiny of the Durrani administration with the analysis of the Peshawar Valley in the Durrani era. Their regional approach is an indication of the centralization of the Durrani rule at the provincial level and thus serves as a valuable contribution to the study of regional administration. However, the regional study does not give enough insight into the structure of central governmental institutions, and does not provide an explanation for the relationship between regional administration and other aspects of the Durrani state (Qadir & Asghar, 2016).

The main theme of Karimi, Noelle, CI is the political and military achievements of Ahmad Shah Durrani and their impact. This strategy is significant because military strength was an important aspect of the expansion and development of the Durrani Empire. This focus on political and military successes, however, does not leave much room for administrative structures that enable conquered territories to be controlled and integrated into the state (Karimi, 2014).

Vogelsang sees the Durrani Empire in the broader context of empire and statehood and treats its importance in the political history of Afghanistan. The Durrani Empire, as a whole, can be understood in this broader context as an important phase in the evolution of the political authority of Afghanistan. However, the institutional structures of administration under Ahmad Shah's rule are not as well explored as larger processes of imperial growth and political evolution (Vogelsang, 2016).

As a theoretical and historical example, the literature on state formation in Afghanistan can be useful for the understanding of Ahmad Shah Durrani's government. Parkes discusses the process of state centralization in Afghanistan and emphasizes the need for institutional development in consolidating central political control. It can be useful for analyzing Ahmad Shah's government from the perspective of state building, but it lacks the ability to offer a detailed historical analysis of the specific administrative reforms and governmental institutions that occurred during Ahmad Shah's reign (Parkes, 2018).

As shown in the literature, historians have made significant contributions to the knowledge of Ahmad Shah Durrani's political rule, military conquest, territorial expansion and government. In general, though, these subjects have been dealt with separately and are not considered as interdependent aspects of one administrative and state-building process. The literature thus offers a lot of historical evidence but is rather disorganized when discussing the linkages between political centralization and judicial, financial, military, regional, and economic administration (Ghubar, 1987).

The present article seeks to fill this gap in the research by discussing the administrative reforms and governmental institutions of Ahmad Shah Durrani from an integrated historical perspective. This study does not just consider military or political success; it examines the relationship between political centralization and judicial administration, financial management, military organization, regional governance, and economic administration, to identify their role in the consolidation and workings of the Durrani state.

3. MAIN BODY

3.1 Administrative Reforms

The administrative reforms of Ahmad Shah Durrani are clearly linked to the political unification of the newly formed Durrani state as shown in the historical evidence. After the disintegration of Nader Shah Afshar's authority, Ahmad Shah set up a political system that united vast territories under a single central rule. The geographical expansion of the Durrani state presented administrative problems because the empire became larger and was conceived of as territories with diverse political traditions and ethnic groups and their respective systems of authority. So, the unification of the Durrani state could not be attributed solely to military conquest; political organization and administrative coordination was also required to ensure control over this large territory (Ghubar, 1987).

Ahmad Shah's rule was based on social order, religious legitimacy and justice. It is reported that he inspired various communities to peacefully coexist, sought counsel from religious scholars on Islamic law, and supervised the salaries and allowances of state officials and armed forces. In these practices, it is suggested that his rule was both political and religious and moral. The Durrani state was made up of diverse groups of people and political stability meant more than military control (Balland 1983).

Ahmad Shah's administrative reforms also included the organization of the armed forces. He slowly moved away from temporary tribal army mobilization and developed an army more frequently and also with fixed salaries. The significance of this was that the process of military organization was not just one of fighting wars, but also the process of keeping internal security, controlling territories, and ensuring loyalty amongst military personnel for the central government. In that context, military reform must be seen as a part of the institutionalization of the Durrani state (Burnes,1834).

In his appraisal of Ahmad Shah's system of government, Farrokh describes the ruler as being disciplined, capable, and far-sighted. The importance of personal leadership in this state is reflected in his focus on Ahmad Shah's personal discipline, his care for the common people, his relations with religious scholars and his respect for the officials. But personal attributes would not suffice for control over a vast empire. The historical records thus indicate that institutional devices of administration and consultation (Farrokh,1992) played a role in making Ahmad Shah's rule more effective.

Ghubar says that after the collapse of Nader Shah Afshar, the political conditions that arose were important for Ahmad Shah to set up an independent Afghan state. Ghubar suggests the existence of a strong central authority was facilitated by the internal conditions of neighboring regions and the development of those regions, as many communities wanted security and political stability. This analysis suggests that the Durrani state was formed when the conditions in the region were right, and Ahmad Shah was able to make it work (Nejatie,2025).

The territory of the Durrani Empire is another proof of the administrative problem that had to be solved by Ahmad Shah. Singh terms Ahmad Shah as a significant political and military figure, whose influence covered a vast area. While this study focuses more on the administrative mechanisms through which these territorial gains were sustained, his account highlights Ahmad Shah's military prowess and political leadership. It is significant that this distinction involved different institutional capacities (Elphinstone, 1815) as territorial conquests and long-term political control involved different capacities.

Overall, the findings show that the administrative changes Ahmad Shah Durrani implemented were both part of a long-term process of state-building, and were extensive. Political centralization, consultation with powerful elites, financial organization, judicial administration, provincial administration and military reform were not separate events but rather were interrelated. The novelty of the study is to take these dimensions together and show how the interaction of these dimensions has led to the consolidation and functioning of the Durrani state (Farhang,1994).

3.2 Civil Administrative Organization

3.2.1 The Permanent Council

Incorporating consultation into the central administration of the Durrani state was an important mechanism made possible by the establishment of a permanent advisory council. Ahmad Shah appointed a few members of the Shir Surkh Jirga and invited prominent political and military personalities to the government decision-making process. This seems to indicate that Ahmad Shah did not try to destroy traditional political systems, but he integrated them into a centralized form of government. The council thus served as a link between the old tribal structure and the new monarchy that was beginning to emerge (Vogelsang, 2016).

The civil administration was established along with the military administration, and Ashraf al-Wuzara was an important figure running governmental affairs at the head. The presence of tribal chiefs and high-ranking military officials suggests that the Durrani administration had a formal government structure alongside traditional political leaders. The system shows that Ahmad Shah's state was not entirely bureaucratic nor was it entirely a continuation of the tribal government, but rather a hybrid system where central royal government is working through recognized political elites (Atayi, 2004).

Another key trait of Ahmad Shah's centralization becomes apparent in the Permanent Council. The king was the ultimate decision maker, but political interests were discussed prior to the implementation of major decisions with the help of influential leaders. The system would have enhanced political unity, since power holders from tribal communities were not removed from the government processes, but rather involved. Consultation was thus a practical means of establishing a working relationship between the various sources of political control in the Durrani government (Ferrier, 1856).

3.2.2 Government Administration

In Ashraf al-Wuzara, the position of an administrative intermediary between the monarch and the governmental apparatus has been manifested. The office dealt with coordination of governmental affairs and the implementation of royal decisions, and the State Council offered an additional forum for political consultation. Such offices suggest that the Durrani government has started building special administrative bodies or systems, apart from the decision-making power of the monarch (Rahimi, 2017).

Ahmad Shah's promotion of tribal elites to the governmental ranks also illustrates the idea of integration of traditional elites into the central state. The government did not aim to do away with the tribal system, but rather to work with key tribal figures to create formal avenues of authority and to harness the informal power sources of a tribe as a means to central government. This method would help to enhance political loyalty and help the royal policies run but, at the same time, it would also leave the centralization somewhat dependent on the co-operation of royal authority and the existing elites (Dupree, 1973).

3.2.3 *Diwan Begi*

The initiation of the Diwan Begi was a significant move towards institutionalization of state finance. The office oversaw the collection of revenues, financial resources and the allocation of government spending, including civil and military spending. Its importance was thus broader than just in terms of revenue collection; it also established an administrative structure that enabled the organization and allocation of financial resources as per the priority of the State. The establishment of such an institution is a reflection of the need for increasingly systematic financial administration in the expansion of the Durrani state (Malleeson, 1879).

The continued existence of a financial office, the Mustawfi, is proof that there was some financial administration beyond the personal authority of one monarch. The continuity of this administrative office indicates that some institutions were created or enhanced during the reign of the Durrani and continued to exist in the government. This institutional continuity is important, as it shows that the Durrani state established a system of administration that was capable of enduring the change of rulers and political situations (Elphinstone, 1815).

The creation of the Diwan Begi was an important administrative step in Ahmad Shah's reign, according to Atayi. Analytically, the financial office was closely linked with other institutions since a regular army needed reliable financial resources, while civil administration relied on the levy and distribution of state revenues. Hence, financial reform was also a crucial component of the overall institutional framework within which Ahmad Shah consolidated his power (Atayi, 2004).

3.2.4 *Diwan-e Insha*

The Diwan-e Insha also played a significant role in the communication functions of the Durrani government and prepared royal decrees, official correspondence and diplomatic messages. The presence of a special chancellery also indicates the need for a formal structure to carry out royal orders to officials and to inform foreign monarchs of the monarch's orders. Mahmud al-Husseini's appointment to this position is also representative of the close connection between administrative practice and historical documentation during the reign of Ahmad Shah (Ferrier, 1858).

The intellectual life of the Durrani court is further illustrated by their literary and scholarly pursuits. Political and cultural knowledge was preserved through historical work, genealogical documents, and literary collections created during this time. These were not administrative reforms but were of value in recording the political context in which the Durrani state was formed and for later historians as evidence about the period (Elphinstone, 1997).

3.2.5 Shah Aghasi

The close relationship between the office of the Shah Aghasi and that of the military and royal authority is reflected in the role of the latter. Those officials with this position had important duties in court affairs and military expeditions. The advancement of shows that positions of responsibility could be linked to military service and loyalty to the monarch could be shown. This connection suggests a strong linkage between the administrative and military institutions in the Durrani system of royal service (Jafri, 1986).

3.2.6 Qazi al-Quzat (Chief Justice)

The judiciary system reflects the significance of Islamic law in vouching for the legitimacy of the Durrani government. Recognition of mechanisms for administration of justice is suggested by the appointment of a Chief Justice and the organization of judicial affairs. Their role was thus both practical and political: the judiciary could not only resolve disputes, but it also helped to enhance the religious legitimacy of the central government (Lockhart, 1958).

The description of the Qazi, Mufti and the Darogha indicates that there were multiple functions to be performed in judicial administration. The Qazi settled conflicts, the Mufti rendered legal opinions and other judicial officers helped to carry out legal procedures. Simultaneously, there was the presence of Islamic law and the customary law of Afghanistan. Such a mix indicates that the Durrani judicial system emulated formal religious teachings for the pluralistic social situation of the communities it controlled (Elphinstone, 1997).

3.3 Provincial Structure and Local Administration

3.3.1 Provincial Administration

The organization of the Durrani state into provinces, districts, and villages suggests a gradation of central power and control over local communities. Apportionment of provincial and district officers by the king is an attempt to keep the central government directly in touch with the provinces, and delegation of lower-level appointments gave governors and ministers administrative flexibility. This system gave the monarchy centralized control and local autonomy and allowed it to rule a vast area (Malcolm, 1815).

Appointments of officials from various ethnic, regional and tribal communities are signs of an attempt to engage diverse communities in the administrative system. These were politically important appointments as the Durrani Empire ruled people of diverse identities and political traditions. The incorporation of regional elites could thus help to promote cooperation and enhance the sense of legitimacy of central government, though this policy was only successful if local officials were loyal and friendly to the central government (Malleon, 1879).

Further evidence of administrative functions beyond governance is seen in diplomatic activity with neighboring states. The planned deployment of judges to international jurisdictions suggests the establishment of systems for the management of relations with neighbors. These diplomatic measures reflect not only the internal needs

of the government of Ahmad Shah but also his international situation, that of an expanding regional empire (Habibi, 1974).

3.4 Coinage and the Economy

The first coins with the name of Ahmad Shah Durrani were an important reflection of economic management and political independence. Monetary organization was made possible by the availability of fund-raising through taxation and military expansion, and the use of the ruler's name on coins was a symbol of sovereign power. Coinage then was not only an economic but also a political instrument since it promoted transactions and at the same time established the identity and authority of the Durrani state (Azeemi, 2026).

The distribution of Durrani mints in the large cities is a further indication of the connection between monetary administration and territorial integration. The presence of mints in key political and economic centers suggests that coinage went beyond the capital city. Coins of gold, silver, and copper are also produced, indicating a desire to meet a variety of economic exchange systems. Coinage thus served as an institutional arrangement which was linked to the concepts of sovereignty, administration, and commerce (Singh, 1959).

3.5 Economic and Commercial Role

Economic development of the Durrani state was linked with political stability and security of communication roads. Ghubar's remarks suggest conditions of strong political centralization and security of major travel corridors were conducive to tax collection and trade. This is an analytically significant relationship, as both the economic administration and political and military stability relied on to some extent (Green, 2016): secure routes enabled trade and provided more resources to the central authority as economic activity increased.

Taxation structure was an important source of strength for the central government. The financing of civil and military institutions was received from revenues of land, agricultural tithes, customs duties and territories under Durrani control. That links between revenue collection and expenditure by the government prove that the economic administration was closely related to the overall ability of the state to keep officials, provide for the armed forces and exercise power over its territories (Farhang, 1994).

The monetary system was used to facilitate economic integration by offering a recognized medium of exchange on a regional scale, between the territories subject to the Durrani. Monetary policy was linked to commerce and sovereignty and the use of Ahmad Shahi coins within key urban centers suggests this. The monetary system, seen from a state-building perspective, was thus more than just a production of coins; it was a part of the process that produced a common economic system in a politically variegated empire (Zalmay, 1991).

Historically, Afghanistan had been an important geographical link between South Asia and Central Asia and Iran in the region and in this role, Afghanistan was always significant in communication and exchange (Samimi,

2020). The Durrani state was of great commercial value due to Afghanistan's geographic location between South Asia, Iran and Central Asia. Major cities like Kandahar, Kabul and Herat were secured, which allowed merchants and caravans to pass and boosted the worth of regions governed by Durrani. The evidence indicates that the growth of commercial activity was an impetus to political security, and that political security, in turn, created economic resources for the state, as effective administration led to commercial activity, which led to the strengthening of political security (Habibi, 1974).

The evidence from the economy as a whole confirms that Ahmad Shah was engaged in state-building that involved organizing revenue, managing money, guarding trade routes, and linking the economy of the region. These were closely linked to the civil and military institutions of the state. The government and military required economic administration to supply them with resources; the political and military institutions established conditions for economic activities. Thus, in the present study, the economic administration becomes an integral part of the administrative setup of Durrani state (Hemat & Stanikzai, 2022).

3.6 Judicial System and Social Justice

The judicial system played an important institutional pillar in the Durrani state since it was a link between political power and religious and legal legitimacy. However, judicial affairs were organized following Ahmad Shah's accession to the throne and the appointment of qualified religious officials, suggesting that the government had a desire to introduce recognizable systems for the administration of justice. The judiciary therefore played a vital role in dispute resolution, as well as in the legitimacy and stability of the new State (Khoja, 2020).

When it comes to the position of the Qazi al-Quzat, this is indicative of the attempts to create a hierarchy in the judiciary. The appointment of a Chief Justice meant that there was a focus of authority for judicial affairs and the significance of Islamic jurisprudence in government. In terms of state-building, the judicial hierarchy was also instrumental in the process of establishing a religious and legal environment that would allow government to operate through it (Balland, 1983).

The blending of Sharia and customary law is an important feature of the judiciary system. The Qazi and Mufti dealt with the cases of the people according to Islamic laws and in line with the local customs and traditions that existed. This shows that the government of Durrani did not merely apply the uniform legal system with Islamic tenets, but took into consideration the social circumstances of different Afghan communities (Elphinstone, 1997).

The principle of equality before the law (from the historical literature) was also politically important. Shared notions of fairness and central authority legitimacy may be enhanced by the expectation that officials and subjects shall be ruled by common legal principles. The evidence thus indicates that social justice was associated

with state consolidation, as a fair administration would foster political allegiance from different ethnic groups (Ghubar, 1987).

Another aspect of the connection between political power and religious legitimacy is the role of religious scholars in council with the ruler. Consultation on legal and religious issues enabled the government to obtain expert legal and religious advice, and allowed religious leaders to be involved in the moral and legal aspects of government. In this context, it seems that the political structure of Ahmad Shah was based on the combination of royal power and religious legitimacy (Dupree, 1973).

As a whole, the evidence suggests the Durrani system of justice was based on the interplay of Islamic law, customary practice, and centralized oversight. This mix enabled the government to uphold recognized legal principles, yet still take into account the diversity of local communities. The judiciary is therefore a critical part of the process of state-building because judicial authority binds political legitimacy, social order and central administration (Elphinstone, 1997).

3.7 Military Units and the Organization of the Armed Forces

One of the main institutional pillars of the state of Ahmad Shah Durrani was the military establishment. He had learned something about the military organization of his former military service under Nader Shah Afshar, which he could apply to Afghanistan in his early years. The significance of military structure was not restricted to its use in fighting enemies, however, as a powerful military force could offer the government the power to protect the land, quell unrest, and keep control of political power throughout a vast empire (Tanner, 2009).

An important administrative shift was from a predominantly tribal military mobilization to a more regular military force with fixed pay. Tribal forces are still important, but money paid, and more central oversight could lead to more loyalty and discipline in the military. The amalgamation of both shows that the military system of Ahmad Shah was still retaining the traditional Afghan features while also having some elements of centralized military administration (Tarzi, 2016).

Even the organization of the cavalry, infantry and artillery gives a good sense of the specialization of the armed forces. Cavalry continued to play a special role due to its mobility and versatility in campaigns throughout the vast lands of the Durrani Empire, and infantry and artillery also contributed to the military arsenal. In addition, the forces' deployment in various provinces served an administrative purpose as military forces assisted in providing internal security and safeguarding the authority of the central government (Ghubar, 1987).

Another important characteristic of the Durrani system is illustrated by the relationship between the monarch and senior military commanders. The supreme military power continued to be the Ahmad shah and the generals and leaders of tribes were in a hierarchy, linked to the Ahmad shah. This system was one of centralized leadership and personal and tribal loyalties. The indications are that Ahmad Shah did not eradicate traditional

military institutions, but rather integrated them into a larger framework of royal command (Peng & Huang, 2022; Lieven, 2021).

The overall military organization shows that the traditional and institutional elements of military might were interdependent in the expansion and survival of the Durrani Empire. Tribal workforce means social and military strength and regular salaries, central command and administrative coordination mean more institutional stability. The military was thus a tool of territorial expansion and a tool of internal governance, and the military was directly connected to the administrative consolidation of the state (karimi, 2014; Qadir & Asghar, 2016).

To sum up, the results show that the state-construction of Ahmad Shah Durrani has not been fully understood just by the military conquest. Administrative, financial, judicial, provincial, economic and military evidence indicate that these institutions were mutually dependent. Each of these helped the army, civil government, provincial power, and judicial institutions, helping to protect territory, commercial routes, extend the central authority, and reinforce social order and legitimacy. The integrated interpretation of these institutions as interconnected institutions of Durrani state-formation as the original contribution of the present study is that of the originality.

4.CONCLUSION

This research focused on the administrative changes and governmental institutions which were established during the reign of Ahmad Shah Durrani, especially the central administration, economy, military organization, judicial organization, administrative units, and financial organization. The results suggest that the establishment of the Durrani state was not just a matter of military force but also the creation of administrative systems and processes which facilitated the exercise and maintenance of political power. The central government was able to function due to the establishment of a permanent consultative council, the arrangement of governmental offices and diwans, the organization of financial administration under Diwan Begi, and the organization of judicial and provincial administration under Diwan-e Insha.

The study also identified a close relationship between military and economic establishments and the administration of the state. The government's ability to keep territories under control and secure was facilitated by the organization of military forces, provision of regular salaries, and coordination of military command. The organization of state revenues, taxation, coinage and commercial routes also generated money for governmental and military purposes. From these findings it is clear that political, administrative, military and economic institutions functioned in an interconnected way in the Durrani state.

In general, the evidence presented in this study suggests that Ahmad Shah Durrani adapted aspects of the political and administrative culture and systems in place to enhance the power of the central government. His reforms helped to organize government, control financial and judicial matters, deal with provinces and

coordinate military forces. This study shows that these reforms are not unrelated but are interrelated parts of the consolidation of the Durrani state. This study, therefore, enriches the already existing historical documents by offering an overall picture of the administrative institutions of Ahmad Shah Durrani and their significance in the political consolidation of the Durrani state.

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