



Anti-British Uprising in Assam (1826-30)

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Abstract:- The introduction of British rule in the 19th century of colonial Assam was one of most notable issues. Weak and overwhelmed by internal rebellion, ordinary officials welcome the advent of British imperialism to put an end to terror. But After the Treaty of Yandaboo of 1826 it did not take long for the Assamese people to understand the nature of the British. They could not bear the fact that the **Keywords:** Ahom monarchy, Anti-British, uprising, British political power.

I. INTROUCATION

According to the Treaty of Yandaboo of 1826 and taking full advantage of the contraction in the Assamese feudal state system, the imperialist British East India Company emerged as a saviour for the devastated Assam and Assamese people and established political supremacy in Assam. Weak in internal rebellion and fed up with the, ordinary officials welcome the advent of British imperialism to put an end to terror. But the people of the dynasty which held the royal power of Assam in no way compromised the policies and the rule of the British government. David Scott, who took over as the British royal representative of the North-East Frontier in 1823, made a written petition to the highest authorities of the East India Company, requesting him to hand over the reins of Assam to Ahom royal family in honour of the spirit and patriotism of the Assamese people and the Ahom royal family; But Assamese did not agree to hand over the responsibility of Assam with a hidden desire for looting. The British authorities examined David Scott's appeal from an economic point of view. Captain Neufville was appointed as the English representative in upper Assam which was lagging behind in the collection of revenue on the economic side, bringing the reins of Assam under the direct control of the British government, which had more than three lakh revenue collection systems royal family. Thus began the process of expansion of British imperialism under David Scott, he established imperialist hegemony over Assam by

people and nobles of the Ahom dynasty were lowered by giving them a simple pension. In particular, the British considered themselves saviours in every field and introduced various social and political systems on the Assamese people. Which the Assamese nobles could not easily take. As a result, the Assamese people developed a rebellious attitude the British.

reforming the Department of Revenue and Justice, the British brought about a radical change in the administrative, police department and Paik system of Assam and established British rule in Ahom kingdom. As soon, as the British rule in Assam was sustained and strengthened, anger prevailed in the mind of the royal family, nobles, and high officials. Independent patriots could not tolerate the British crackdown on an Independent Assam and eventually started an Anti-British uprising.

II. GOMDHAR KONWAR'S REVOLT AGAINST THE BRITISH

Two years after the start of the British rule, an attempt was made to drive the British out of Assam. This initiative was first initiated by Gomdhar Konwar of the Ahom dynasty. The son of a dynastic man named Kena Konwar was Gomdhar Konwar. The rebellion began at a place called Bassa in the southwest of Jorhat. Gomdhar Konwar declared himself *Swarnadev* and urged the royal officials of Upper Assam to join the rebellion. Dhanjay Peali Borgohain, his sons Harnath, Kandura Dekaphukan etc. identified themselves as king and used royal resources such as *Kekuradola*, *Arwar* etc. Immediately Gomdhar appealed to the Assamese nobles to rise against the British and liberate Assam and prevented the people who rent for British. Then many people responded to Gomdhar Konwar's request. In the meantime, the military law of upper Assam was lifted by the British and many British soldiers kept there were



removed Gomdhar Konwar started the rebellion, considering it such a good opportunity.

The British somehow come to know about this danger. He was easily defeated by British Lieutenant Rutherford in 1828 and fled to the Naga hills in Gomdhar Konwar but later caught himself. He was then tried to seven years in prison by Assam Commissioner David Scott. He was lodged in a jail in Rangpur in Bengal and was sentenced to confine associates to selection bars or crackers. Nothing in known about Gomdhar after this. His rebellion in the 1830s could easily be suppressed by the government could.

III. GADADHAR REVOLT

About a year later, another Ahom Konwar, again started revolting against the British. Eyang Goomendao alias Gadadhar initiated the Second rebellion. Gadadhar claimed to be a relative of the erstwhile Ahom King Jogeswar Singha. This young man, a descendant of Ahom Swargadeo (King) Jogeswar Singh also planned to drive the British out of Assam. He can be seen moving at the Burmese border in the guise of a Khamti priest. Gadadhar awakens the public to fight against the invaders and offers to kill the English officer. He tried to get the support of the sepoys in Sadiya but the Subedar Jalim Khan of the British Regiment thwarted the rebellion and handed it over to the Governor General Agent. Gadadhar was finally captured and sent to Guwahati. The British suspected that the Burmese were at the root of this rebellion.

It became clear that Gadadhar served as a representative of the Burmese court to put the British in trouble in Assam and did not act as a representative of the nobles for the Ahom throne.

IV. REVOLT BY DHANJAY BARGOHAIN

Gomdhar's rebellion failed but his ideology did not fail. Inspired by his rebellion, many of the elite Ahom officers of upper Assam planned to drive the English out of Assam. In the meantime, they come to know that Singphos and Khasis had also started conspiring against the British.

The third revolt against the British was waged by Dhanjay and his son Harnath. The other rebels, who worked as associates of Dhanjay Peali Bargohain and Gomdhar Konwar were jail but managed to escape from jail under the supervision of Dhanjay's son Harnath. Later, when Dhanjay fled to the kingdom of Matak, where prepared for an anti-British revolt on a large scale. He was assisted by his two sons Harkanta and Harnath, grandsons Jiuram Dihingia Baruah, Badan Barphukan, son peali Barphukan, besides Rupchand Konwar, Boom

Singphou and many other. The Moamariya leaders, Khamtis, Singphou, Khasis, Garos and Nagas. He requested to send military forces to expel the British from Assam and its neighbouring area. Begging for the help of Khamti leader, Sadiya Khaya Gohain, peali wrote that: "If you want the re-establishment of Swargadeo and the Satgharia Ahom, do not neglect to send troops to Harnath. We have taken steps."

At the same time, under the leadership of Wookum Khoomyan, the Singphos on the other side of Patkai started insurgent activities. The attackers made full preparations and united with the angry nobles of Assam. In February 1830, when captain Neufville arrived in the Dihing River in time with the army, the situation became complicated. Neufville resisted the combined power of the enemy. Unable to stand in front of the British gun, the Singphos retreated to the other side of the hill.

The rebels left for Rangpur after the upper Assam elite performed the *Deo Puja*. The group was put up with a weak resistance by 30 members led by a Jamadar. The rebels were disappointing with the defeat of Wookum Khoomyan and not getting a promising response from the neighbouring leaders. Finally, Sadiya Khawa Gohain betrayed him and he locked Harnath on February 20 and handed him over to captain Neufville, the political representative of upper Assam. Despite such incidents, on February 25, 4, on February 25, 400 insurgents launched a weak attack on Rangpur. At Assamese Light Infantry team was sent against the rebels and group confronted the rebels in Galeki. After the general union, British forces forced the rebels to break the surface. British forces captured numerous rebels and fled to Dhanjay hill. The nobles failed to stand up against their common enemies in an organized manner. In fact, a part of them betrayed the interests of the nobles on the other hand the general public was indifferent to the interests of the upper class. By the mid-1830s the rebellion was completely destroyed and the main rebel leaders were captured. Rupchand Konwar, Harnath, Jiuram, Peali Phukan and Boom Singpho were tried by the Panchayats under the political representatives of Jorhat. All other them were convicted on charges of sedition and sentenced to death. The final decision of the trial was taken by David Scott. Finally in August 1830, Peali and Jiuram Dulia Barua were hanged on the bank of the Shivsagar pond. The rest were lodged in Dhaka Jail. This is how the lives of the first two martyrs of Assam's first freedom struggle came to an end.



V. CONCLUSION

After the above discussion we can conclude that in the 19th century there were several revolts against the British in Assam. The reason for this anti-British revolt was that the old elite, who had lost those profits of office, first reacted violently to foreign rule, and they started the revolt by trying to restore the Ahom monarchy. This rebellion was led by Gomdhar Konwar, Gadadhar Singh, Rupchand Konwar, Dhanjay Peali Phukan etc. But the British could easily suppress this rebellion. However, this rebellion later paved the way for mass movement against the colonial authorities.

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