



## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

# Babur and Rajputs: A Case Study of Battle of Khanwa

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In this paper I have tried to focus on Political relations between Babur and the Rajputs with special reference to the Battle of Khanwa.

I got the information which related to my topic are available in the primary sources as well as in the secondary sources. I consulted the primary sources such as *Baburnama*, *Akbarnama*, *Mirat-i-Sikandari*, *Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh* and *Waqiat-i-Mushtaqi*.

Babur is one of the most confining personalities in Oriental history, and the point that he is talented to divulge this attraction to his own memoirs is not the smallest of his names to celebrity. The blood of the two countless plagues of Asia, Mongol and Turk, Chingiz and Timur, intermingled in his veins.

Panipat had only rubbed off a dynasty; it did not curse peacetime and calmness. The entire of Hindustan was spotted over with compartments of Afghan ethnic leaders. They did not receive Ibrahim's defeat as the final decision on their politically aware opulence. They were prepared to give advance battle to the intruder. Qasim Khan Sambhali at Sambhal, Muhammad Zaitun at Dholpur, Tatar Khan Sarang Khani at Gwalior, Hasan Khan Lohani at Rapri, Qutb Khan in Etawah, Alam Khan in Kannauj, Nasir Khan Lohani and Maaruf Farmuli in Bihar and alike them numerous Afghan and non-Afghan feudatory leaders had declared their independence.<sup>1</sup>

For Babur was now arising to the grasp with the only difficult enemy left in Hindustan. The inordinate Rana Sanga of Chittor, the respected skull of all the Rajput princes, ordered an enormous military. One hundred and twenty chieftains of rank, with eighty thousand horses and 500 war elephants, monitored him to the ground. The nobles of Amber and Marwar, Gwalior, Ajmer, Chanderi, and many supplementary, transported their deposits to his values; and the assaulted ancient Rajput hero, who calculated eighty wounds in his body, and had misplaced in arm and an eye in the conflicts, was not to be denied when his drums tried to battle. The well known Rana was now streaming on Biana.

<sup>1</sup> Babur, *Baburnama*, Vol. II, Tr. Mrs. A. S. Beveridge, London, 1922, p. 523.

The emperor sent on a light fairness near the vulnerable fortress, with commands to suspend on the opponent and annoy him; and himself set out with his main body in battle array on February 11, 1527. All his movements previously had been against associated Moslems; now, aimed at the first time, he was trooping against “heathens”; it was the Jihad, the Holy war. Furthermore, these “heathens” were struggling men of the first class.<sup>2</sup>

Babur had several experience of the hostile capabilities of numerous rivalries. He saw the Mongol rolling swoop, the Uzbek responsibility, the Afghan battle, and the stable struggling of his peculiar Turks; but he was at the moment to encounter fighters of a complex variety than any he had faced. The Rajputs, enthusiastic, courageous, affectionate of conflict and slaughter and vigorous by a sturdy nationwide essence, were prepared to see face to face the daring troopers of the camp, and were at all times ready to place down hearted their existence for their respect.

The applicable proof, presented in the *Waqiat-i-Mushtaqi* discloses that Rana Sanga had no motivation to replace the Lodi rule in north India by his own. In genuine information, he wanted to inaugurate his hegemony in Rajputana and a clash between him and Sultan Ibrahim had taken place over Chanderi. Consequently, a few set-backs, grieved by way of the Lodi Sultan were planned to reinforce his place; the Rana was constantly prepared to advance maintenance to the opponents of his rival.<sup>3</sup>

Babur finished the disposition of his troops, and ordered his commanders to take up their position with their respective divisions. As soon as the commanders had taken their position, they were directed neither to leave their positions nor to start the fight until they had received orders.<sup>4</sup>

When Babur was in Kabul, Rana Sanga, had sent an emissary with his good wishes and a message: “If the honoured Padshah will come to near Delhi from that side, I from this will move on Agra.”<sup>5</sup> Then Rana Sanga did not accomplish his share of the potential and did not move to the support of Babur.<sup>6</sup>

Rana Sanga had anticipated Babur to go back to Kabul subsequently the battle of Panipat, leave alone him free to institute his dominion in Hindustan. But Babur’s determination to remain in the country both frustrated and wrathed him, for it rushed the prize of Hindustan from his hold. He consequently determined to campaign him out. Babur was aware of the Rana Sanga’s aspiring projects and was influenced after his occupation of Qandahar that he was “in a hostile and mischievous attitude,”<sup>7</sup> but due to the reasons previously conferred, Babur could not uninterrupted his responsiveness towards him.

<sup>2</sup> Stanley Lanepoole, *History of India*, Vol. III, Medieval India from the Mohammedan Conquest to the Reign of Akbar the Great, edited by A.V. Williams Jackson, Asian Education Services, New Delhi, 1987, pp. 211-12.

<sup>3</sup> *Baburnama*, op. cit., p. 529.

<sup>4</sup> *Baburnama*, p. 568.

<sup>5</sup> *Baburnama*, p. 529.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*, p. 530.

Rana Sanga had proceeded from Qandahar on 16 February to capitalize Biana. He had then advanced to Bhusawar to interrupt supplies coming either from Agra or Kabul.<sup>8</sup> On 13 March he grasped Khanwa, and engaged a place nearby the village on 17<sup>th</sup>, approx. four miles from Babur's camp, with an army of 201,000 men. This included, as well his own strength, the legations of his supporters and arms. Therefore Silhadi, the chief of Raisin, originated with 30,000 men; Hasan Khan Mewati derived with 12,000 men. Rawal Udai Singh Nagari of Dongarpur, Medini Rai of Chanderi and Mahmud Khan Lodi, the son of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, admitted as the legalized descendant of Ibrahim Lodi by the associates, every one conveyed 10,000 men. In addition to this, the minor rulers transported with them from four to seven thousand men.<sup>9</sup>

Babur finished the temperament of his troops, and well-ordered his commanders to take up their place with their respective divisions because he supposed the menace of an outbreak from the Rajputs. In the front, the chained carts and the tripods were positioned, and behind schedule them and nearing extinction by them were the arquebusmen and artillery men. Behind the arquebusmen a body of special troops was positioned, complete to prevent the attack or to haste advancing and control the enemy whenever the chains that related the guns were let down to license their route. Mustafa with his arquebusmen and culverins was dispatched in front of Humayun, who could return by his occurrence, while Ustad Ali Quli, who was jealous of him, was positioned with his heavy weapons in front of the centre. Babur himself was in the centre.

For the flanking parties (*tulughma*)<sup>10</sup> on the right flank were posted Tardika, Malik Qasim, brother of Baba Qashqa, with a figure of Mughals. Designed for the adjoining drive on the left wing were positioned Mumin Ataka and Rustom Turkman with a build of superior groups.<sup>11</sup>

The commanders had been taken their positions, but they were neither to leave their positions nor to begin the war without receiving the commands. Nizamuddin Sultan Muhammad Bakhshi, after building the appointments, comes from to the Padshah to accept his orders in order to transmit them to the commanders through the *tawachis* and *yasawals*.<sup>12</sup>

The battle started on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1527, at that time Rajput left wing had gone against the Turkish right wing and assaulted Khusrau Kukuldash and Baba Qashqa's brother, Malik Qasim. Other hand, Chin Timur Sultan hurry to their help and resisted the assault.

Muhibbul Hasan in his book, writes that, "Mustafa, who was in the centre of the right wing, brought forward the carts with the arquebuses and the culverins and broke the ranks of the enemy. Qasim Husain Sultan, Ahmad Yusuf, Qawam Beg of the right wing as well as Muhammadi Kukuldash, Yunus Ali, Shah Mansur Barlas, Abdullah, Dost and Muhammad Khalil, the *akhtabegi* (master gelder) of the centre were also sent to their assistance. In spite of this, the

<sup>8</sup> G. N. Sharma, *Mewar and the Mughal Emperors*, Shivalal Agarwala, Agra, 1962, p. 28

<sup>9</sup> *Baburnama*, p. 573.

<sup>10</sup> A tactic of battle formation.

<sup>11</sup> *Baburnama*., p. 564.

<sup>12</sup> *ibid.*, p. 568.

Rajput right wing repeatedly attacked the Turkish left, though it failed to create any impression. At this moment the flanking parties were ordered to attack the Rajput rear with the help of Khwaja Mahmud and Ali Ataka, servants of Khalifa. Muhammad Sultan Mirza, Adil Sultan and other officers of the left wing fought bravely and stood firm.”<sup>13</sup>

In the interim, as the flight delayed, Babur, imagining that the determined Rajput assaults may debilitate his little armed force, requested the extraordinary imperial soldiers positioned behind the trucks to go out on the privilege and left of the middle and assault the foe. Simultaneously, Ustad Ali Quli started to release stones from his weapons and the arquebusmen likewise got dynamic. Exactly right now arrangements were given that the trucks of the middle ought to be progressed. Babur himself pushed ahead. Immediately the entire Turkish armed force flooded forward from the left and right. In spite of the fact that the Rajputs reeled, they revitalized and conveyed a frantic assault on the Turkish left, however, they were steered with incredible misfortune.<sup>14</sup> They were sought after by Babur up to their camp and various them were slaughtered. He at that point depended on the errand to Abdul Aziz, however, he later lamented not having embraced the interest himself.<sup>15</sup> Rana Sanga was injured by a bolt and conveyed in an oblivious state by the Rajas of Amber and Jodhpur to Baswa close to Amber. Mahmud Khan Lodi figured out how to get away, yet Hasan Khan Mewati was executed alongside various Rajput boss. The careful figures of the Turkish and Rajput misfortunes are not known, however, the Rajputs probably endured considerably more vigorously than the Turks. There was not really a Rajput family that didn't lose its sovereign. Babur, as per his typical practice, requested the erection of a mainstay of the skulls of the killed on the hillock arranged between his camp and the front line.<sup>16</sup>

Muhibbul Hasan marked about the battle plan of Khanwa, “The battle began on the morning of March 1527, when the Rajput left wing advanced against the Turkish right wing and attacked Khusrau Kukuldash and Baba Qashqa's brother, Malik Qasim, but Chin Timur Sultan hastened to their help and repelled the attack. Mustafa, who was in the centre of the right wing, brought forward the carts with the arquebuses and the culverins and broke the ranks of the enemy Qasim Husain sultan, Ahmad Yusuf, Qawam Beg of the right wing as well as Muhammadi Kukuldash, Yunus Ali, Shah Mansur Barlas, Abdullah, Dost, and Mohammad Khalil, the *akhtabegi*<sup>17</sup> of the centre were also sent to their assistance. Despite this, the Rajput right wing repeatedly attacked the Turkish left, though it failed to create an impression. At this moment the flanking parties were ordered to attack the Rajput rear with the help of Khwaja Mahmud and Ali Ataka, servants of Khalifa. Muhammad Sultan Mirza, Adil Sultan and other officers of the left wing fought bravely and stood firm.”<sup>18</sup>

Rajput antiquarians ascribe Rana's thrashing to the unfairness of Silhadi of Raisin who, they call attention to, had abandoned, having been acquired by Babur and changed over to Islam.<sup>19</sup> Be that as it may, this is an off-base

<sup>13</sup>Muhibbul Hasan, *Babur: the Founder of the Mughal Empire in India*, Manohar Publication, Delhi, 1985, pp. 92-93.

<sup>14</sup> *Baburnama*, p. 558.

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*, pp. 575-76

<sup>16</sup> Abul Fazl, *Akbarnama*, Tr. H. Beveridge, Vol. I, Low Price Publications, Delhi, 1902-39, p. 265.

<sup>17</sup> Master gelder.

<sup>18</sup> Muhibbul Hasan, *Babur the Founder of the Mughal Empire in India*, pp. 92-93.

<sup>19</sup> G. N. Sharma, *Mewar and the Mughal Emperors*, op. cit., pp. 35-36.

view. In any case, Silhadi alone couldn't have realized the destruction of the Rajputs; and in the second, there is no dependable proof to propose that he had been prevailed upon by Babur and changed over to Islam. It was a lot later during the attack of Raisen by Bahadur Shah of Gujrat that Silhadi grasped Islam.<sup>20</sup> Besides, if Babur had prevailed upon him, he would not have thought of attaching his assets of Bhilsa, Sarangpur, and Raisen. The truth of the matter is, as Rushbrook Williams properly calls attention to, "The cry of treachery is a common solace to the pride of a beaten army."<sup>21</sup> Silhadi has been made a substitute to shield the picture of the Rana as an incredible legend from being discolored. It is, for the most part, overlooked that the Rana, however a challenging officer, was an awful broad. He submitted the hopeless slip-up of staying latent for more than three weeks and allowing the foe to make their war arrangements undisturbed. Babur, then again, was an incredible strategist and was not ease back to exploit the errors of the Rana. Additionally, he had firearms and arquebuses, which the Rajputs did not. Also, he gave himself trucks and wheeled tripods which filled the need for both offense and protection. Moreover, the expulsion of the Rana from the war zone probably dampened his soldiers and debilitated their obstruction. Be that as it may, the most unequivocal factor that prompted the defeat of the Rajputs was Babur's trained, portable rangers equipped with bow and his *tulughma* strategies.<sup>22</sup>

The results of Babur's triumph were sweeping. In spite of the fact that his triumph at Panipat had prompted the end of one adversary and to his control of Delhi and Agra, he was not yet the ace of Hindustan, for his capacity was tested by Rana Sangram Singh, the pioneer of the Rajput alliance and a more imposing rival than the Lodi lord. Babur's prosperity at Khanwa not just solidly situated him on the honoured position of Ibrahim, yet in addition set up his authority in Hindustan and "the menace of Rajput supremacy which had loomed was removed once and for all."<sup>23</sup> Another outcome of Babur's triumph was that from now on Hindustan turned into the focal point of his exercises.

The battle of Khanwa dealt a deadly blow to Rajput prestige. The state of Mewar which had reached the zenith of its power under Rana Kumbha and Rana Sanga suffered a heavy loss in men and money. The impression created abroad by the battle was highly unfavourable to the Rajputs.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Sikandar Ibn Mohammad, *Mirat-i-Sikandari*, Persian text, ed. S.C. Misra and M.L. Rahman, Baroda, 1961, pp. 287-88.

<sup>21</sup> R. Williams, *An Empire Builder of the Sixteenth Century*, Longmans Green & Co., Delhi, 1918, p. 156.

<sup>22</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 155-56.

<sup>23</sup> *ibid.*, p. 156.

<sup>24</sup> Ishwari Prasad, *The Mughal Empire*, Chugh Publications, Allahabad, 1974, p. 107