

Sir George Roos-Keppel: A Biographical Sketch

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Abstract

This paper presents a comprehensive biographical sketch of Sir George Roos-Keppel (1866–1921), a distinguished British administrator, soldier, and orientalist who played a pivotal role in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) during the British colonial era in India. As Chief Commissioner and later as the first Governor of NWFP, Roos-Keppel's career was marked by his deep engagement with the Pashtun people, his linguistic and cultural insights, and his strategic contributions to colonial governance. The role which he played in the Bazar Valley Campaign against the Afridis clan Zakka Khel in 1908, the Government awarded him with the dignity of K.C.I.E (Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire), and with the Swedish Military Order of the Sward. In 1908, the first Chief Commissioner Herold Deane lost the value of performance in the eye of Johan Morley the Viceroy of India and at the same time in spring 1908, his health also drastically fall and this may be the reason that the Frontier tribes created problems in 1907-08. The study traces his early military career, administrative advancements, and his instrumental role in shaping educational reforms, including the establishment of Islamia College Peshawar in 1913. Both Morley and Minto were willing to reward Roos-Keppel, due to his past services in the Kurram and Khyber Agencies, especially of his role during the Zakka Khel expedition of 1907-08. Emphasis is placed on his efforts to bridge cultural and political gaps between the British authorities and the local Pashtun tribes, highlighting his mastery of Pashto and his authorship of several works on Pashto grammar and literature. Through historical records, personal correspondences, and contemporary analyses, the paper explores Roos-Keppel's

legacy not only as a colonial officer but also as an advocate of education and intercultural dialogue. The study concludes by assessing the lasting impact of his policies and initiatives on the socio-political and educational landscape of the region.

Keywords: George, Roos-Keppel, A Biographical, Sketch, NWFP

Introduction

Sir George Olaf Roos-Keppel was a British born colonial administrator and military officer. He was born on September 7, 1866 in London. His father Gustaf Ehrenreich Roos was actually belonged to Scotland, but migrated to England and settled there. His mother Elizabeth Annie, was the eldest daughter of George Roffey, of Twickenham (in South London).¹

Roos-Keppel was educated in the United Service College in Westward Ho, from 1879 to 1882.² Afterwards he continued his study in Boon (Germany) and Geneva. In 1890, he changed his original name from George Olaf Roos-Keppel to Roos-Keppel on the wishes of his grandmother as she was the last representative of the Keppel family of Holland who migrated to Sweden several years ago. After a course from the Royal Military Academy in Sandharst (South West of London) Roos-Keppel, joined the British army wing the Royal Scouts Fusiliers as lieutenant in August 1886. When he joined the British army so then he was sent to Burma during the 3rd Burma War (1885-1886). In 1892, he was transferred to North West Frontier Province. From 1893 to 1899, he served as the Political Agent of Kurram Agency. At the same time he was also the commandant of Kurram Militia from May 1894 to July 1899.³

In 1899, Chamkanis (a tribe of the Peshawar Kohat border) created serious troubles and attacked repeatedly peaceful villagers. Roos-Keppel took counter measures and raided the Chamkani villages of Haji Khel and Mirza Khel and brought the Chamkanis to surrender before the Government terms.⁴ Due to the above successful campaign he was awarded C.I.E (Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire). He served as the Political officer of Khyber Agency from 1899 to 1902. Then the Government changed the post of political officer to Political Agent in 1902. Roos-Keppel then worked as the Political Agent of Khyber Agency up to 1908.⁵ In Khyber Agency he kept close association with the local tribes the Afridis, and usually dressed in local uniform. The Afridis admired him and called him with the nick name 'the *Afridi Mama*' and the *Firangy Mama*' (Afridi Cousin and British Cousin).⁶

The role which he played in the Bazar Valley Campaign against the Afridis clan Zakka Khel in 1908, the Government awarded him with the dignity of K.C.I.E (Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire), and with the Swedish Military Order of the Sward. In 1908, the first Chief Commissioner Herold Deane lost the value of performance in the eye of Johan Morley the Viceroy of India and at the same time in spring 1908, his health also drastically fall and this may be the reason that the Frontier tribes created problems in 1907-08. His health drastically declined and partially paralyzed. He vacated the post of Chief Commissioner and retired to London where he died. Minto the Secretary of State for India, was now looking towards Roos-Keppel, who had a great experience regarding the Frontier administration.⁷ After the death of Sir Herald Deane, Roos-Keppel, took the charge of chief commissioner on the 4th of July 1908 and this appointment effected from the 7th of June.⁸

Both Morley and Minto were willing to reward Roos-Keppel, due to his past services in the Kurram and Khyber Agencies, especially of his role during the Zakka Khel expedition of 1907-08. Minto was especially pleased with the Zakka Khel expedition because during the uprising of 1897-98, the Zakka Khel faced heavy casualties while in 1908, they surrendered

unconditionally. In the words of Minto;

Really the more facts of the story are as thrilling as any novel. Willcocks is immensely impressed with him and speaks with admiration of his courage when he impressed with him and speaks alone to meet the Zakkas when their Jirga came in from China and when no one's life was safe outside our line of pickets. But Roos-Keppel personal friendship with the very men against whom we were fighting is the most attractive part of the story.⁹ (sic)

Minto was not in favor to speak about the good behavior of the tribesmen, but to admire the administration ability of Roos-Keppel.

Some of the British Indian officers resented the appointment of Roos-Keppel, as the new chief commissioner of NWFP, especially the new A.D.C of Peshawar Danlop Smith. He suspected that Roos-Keppel intriguingly trying to win the post and stated that I heard many accusations from the people against him. Like some accused him that he had the desire of forward policy in the tribal territory. Whoever, what may be the fact both Minto and Morley defend his appointment and told that Roos-Keppel had sufficient administrative experience and was no longer a fan of 'forward policy'.¹⁰ Later on Minto was very pleased when he knew that Roos-Keppel had a lot of ideas and thoughts for the improvement of the Frontier administration, and also want to involved the local people in the Government. Roos-Keppel, had written "I am all for punishing on the native, and I firmly believe that to do so would be our best answers to the seditionists."¹¹

This was the reason that Roos-Keppel, made his worst enemy as his best friends. A British officers Butler, who was present at the occasion of a farewell party arranged by the Afridis, at Bagh in 1908, for Roos-Keppel, was impressed by the native and Roos-Keppel relations. He said in that occasion "He is a fine fellow and appeals to the natives. The sort of man we want now." The same person in 1911, described him as "a tall and striking man a personality wrapped up in himself."¹²

The former Governor of NWFP, Sir Olaf Caroe, described Roos-Keppel in the following words; "He was a man of strong character who stood above all those who surrounded him, a good friend, but a very dangerous enemy. A born ruler, he had a cynical appreciation of the weakness of human nature, and seldom gave others credit for any impulses of altruism."¹³

He further stated;

His personal was huge, heavy and formidable, and his glare was likened, quite seriously, to that of the basilisk. In youth he had affected a great shaggy beard, but he relied in later years on the cross-bare of heavy Edwardian moustache. He never married, and rather resented any of his more trusted officers marring; no need to keep a cow to get your milk; is one of his more familiar saying, and by all account he had his light o' loves. Such a men did not inspire easy affection and he was often feared- never probably loved with tenderness. But he could, and did inspire in many quarters a regard that fell not far short of adoration.¹⁴

His ability of knowing and understanding the attitudes of the Frontier tribes was the real reason that, Roos-Keppel was able to keep good relations with the subjects. He actively participated in every phase of life. As a Chief Commissioner he handled the intractable tribes with sagacity and patience, that mounted to positive genius. He had an instinctive with the aspiration of all classes and creeds, and his commanding presence and strong character made a sure appeal to the tribesmen. He was energetic and never allowed the claims of office work to overcome his habit of constant contact with the people in their homes or on the hillside.¹⁵

About his energetic personality A.H. Tapp wrote that!

“essentially a man of action, he was at his best in quick-witted negotiations in *Jirga* with first one and then another, and in caring out, often by exhausting journeys and sometime by severe means, the purpose for the general good he had in mind. He had such intimate, knowledge of the language, the idioms, the customs and the interests of the border fighting men that they come to claim him as a “Super Malik”.¹⁶

He was well familiar to the *Pushtoon* way of life and understood their mood. Roos-Keppel was a fluent speaker of Pushto language, even he quoted the Pushto poetry, other moral stories and their proverb on proper time during a meeting, *Jirga* or the occasion of an official *Darbar*. He was able that how to deal their opponents and use every possible way like from dignity to geniality, from arguments to threat and from the command to appeal. He never feared from criticism and boldly governed their subjects and usually received their confidence. In short, he was a *pathan* among the *pathan*.¹⁷ After service for a decade as a chief commissioner in 1917, the viceroy Chelmsford, started thinking on his future appointment. He suggested the governorship of Mumbai for him at the end of the First World War. But lastly it was decided that he should be appointed at the Council of Secretary of State for India in London.¹⁸

The famous Pushtoon reformer and freedom fighter Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Bacha Khan), appreciated Roos-Keppel for his love with the Pushtoon. According to Abdul Ghaffar Khan, when like the other part of India the Pushtoon were also protesting against the Rowlatt Act.¹⁹ So, in a protest gathering at Uthmanzai (Charsada), Roos-Keppel send a representative Main Akbar Shah Kaka Khail to the gathering. Akbar Shah appealed on behalf of Roos-Keppel to the participants that if you avoid such a protest against Rowlett Act, which have almost no effect on your province. You must need to demand against Frontier Crime Regulations (FCR), which is more harmful to yours interest compare to Rowlett and the Chief Commissioner assured his support in this demand. But this proposal of Roos-Keppel was at once rejected by the participants in the gathering.²⁰

After the protest when a large number of participants in the Uthmanzai Protest were arrested including Ghaffar Khan and send to prison. So, that like the rest of Indian provinces, martial law was also imposed in NWFP. The Chief Commissioner was himself the in-charge of martial law in NWFP. Abdul Ghaffar Khan appreciated Roos-Keppel that he refused to trial those arrested who were in prison, and when a *jirgah* met with him for the release of prisoner. So, he accepted the demand of the *jirgah* and freed all the prisoners.²¹

Roos-Keppel also had some shortcomings for example, he realized the importance of higher education in the Province but did not allowed progressiveness for the education products. His rule was more focused on tribal areas rather than on the population of settle districts. He believes on tribal customs and did not liked the Western style administration for Frontier tribes. When NWFP was a part of the Punjab, where the first step towards the representative government had long been taken by Lord Ripon in 1880. But Roos-Keppel always relied on his personal knowledge and did not appreciated representative institutions for the Frontier tribes. His attitude towards Montague Chelmsford reforms for the Frontier was that of “light in powder magazine”.²²

Similarly, when on August 20, 1917 the Secretary of State for India announced to increase the numbers of Indians in the Governor General Legislative Council, and to take a step further towards representative institutions in India. Montague and Viceroy Lord Chelmsford

submitted a reports regarding the coming constitutional reforms in India. In this report no constitutional development for NWFP was suggested. However, they proposed an advisory council to the Chief Commissioner, but Roos-Keppel rejected such a proposal of a 'semi-public council'.²³ In his opinion, all matter related to NWFP were political and they should be discussed the Government himself either with Afghanistan and the Frontier tribes or with those elements in Central Asia and Iran who had influenced the Frontier tribes. According to Roos-Keppel these matter were confidential and could not be discus with an advisory council.²⁴ This was the reason that when 'Montague-Chelmsford Reforms' were introduced in the rest of Indian provinces and India intended diarchy experiment in the direction of a representative Government but the Province of NWFP stood unchanged. No franchise, no election, no legislature, no ministry and even the Province were kept away from the local bodies election.

During the Third Anglo Afghan war, his presence at Peshawar was a sign of strength for the British Government. But during the Autumn of 1919, his health forced him to lift India and move to London. In London, after serving for a short period in the Council of Secretary of State for India. In August 1921, his health did not supported him to render further services. He died on 11th of December 1921. In 1917, the Government made him G.C.I.E (Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire) and after his death he was knighted with grace of the order of St. Johan of Jerusalem.²⁵ Due to his distinguish services on the Frontier he won the nickname of "the Paladin of the Frontier".²⁶

Now keeping in mind the Geo-Strategic importance of NWFP, and their past history especially the Pushtoon relations with the British Indian Government and the possible threat from the Russian and Afghanistan in the western border, the government of British India was in search of a personality like Roos-Keppel who had great experience regarding the Frontier administration and had a great influence on the local people and familiarity with the local culture and language.

Political and Social Condition of NWFP, During Sir George Roos-Keppel's Time

The North West Frontier Province²⁷ is located between 31°4, N and 36' 57 N in latitude and their longitude is 69° 16 and 74° 7 E. The maximum length of the Province is 408 miles and the maximum wideness is 279 miles. There are number of sources that refers about the area of the Province. Such as *The Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial Series North West Frontier Province* describes the total area approximately 38,665 square miles in which 25,472 square miles is tribal area and the remaining of 13,193 is settle districts.²⁸ Abdul Qayyum in his book the *Gold and Guns on the Pathan Frontier* mentioned the total area of the Province 39,249 in which 24,986 square miles is the tribal area and the rest of 14,263 square miles are comprising of settle districts.²⁹ The approximate estimate of Dr. Lal Baha is 39,000 square miles, out of them the settle area is 13,193 square miles and the tribal area is about 25,500. James. W. Spain in the *Pathan Borderland* had described the total areas of the Province 39,259 square miles. The settle districts according to him are 13,193 square miles and the rest of 25,140 square miles is the tribal area.³⁰

Currently the Province shared its boundary in the North with Gilgit Baltistan and Afghanistan, in the South it shared its border with Balochistan and Dera Ghazi Khan a district of the Punjab Province. In the East of NWFP, Kashmir and Punjab are situated and the whole of West the

Province having the famous border Durand Line with Afghanistan.³¹ Historically the NWFP was usually connected with Eastern Iran. About 518 B.C.E the Persians forces subdued the Province and ruled for the next two centuries. Then in 327 B.C.E a Greek ruler Alexander the Great crossed the plain of Bajaur, and laid the siege of Massaga (presently the Tehsil of Talash in Dir Lower).

After the fall of the Northern area of NWFP, he occupied the Peshawar valley and then crossed the River Indus for the rest of India. The power of the Greek collapsed in 317 B.C.E and Chandara Gupta, the founder of the Mauryan dynasty, became the master of NWFP. Chandara Gupta's grandson Ashoka made Buddhism the prominent state religion of the area. The administration was conducted with the sacred laws. A minister of Ashoka, in his works the Arthasastha of Kautiliya, presented the reign of Ashoka as the Golden Age of India. Still the religious sites are found in Shahzbad Gari in present Mardan Districts and Pakhli in Mansehra District.³² After the fall of the Mauryan dynasty, then the Bactrian dynasty divided the whole areas of the NWFP into small petty states. The Bactrian power was challenged by the Parthians and a Central Asian tribe Sakas about 139 B.C.E. Then the Kushan's a nomad tribe from Central Asia strengthened their position during the early Christian era about 78 A.D. After that the white Huns established an extended empire from Chinese Turkistan to Present Iran. The Province of NWFP, defiantly came under the influence of white Huns.³³

The Muslim invasions started in NWFP in the time of Hazrat Uthman the third caliph of Islam (about 655, A.D). But then the Muslim diverted their attention towards Sindh and Multan. The Muslim occupied territories regained independence and the area was then a part of Hindu Shahi Kingdom. In 977, Subuktagin led the foundation of Ghaznavids dynasty and won a battle against Hindu Shahi King, Jaipal at Laghman and then reached up to Indus and placed his own governor at Peshawar. Subuktagin's successor and son Mahmud of Ghazna consolidated his position in NWFP excluding present Hazarah Division. In 1179, Muhammad Ghouri took the control of Peshawar valley, but his successor Taj Uddin Yalduz was defeated by the Khwarizmis in the year of 1215. The Khwarizmi ruler Jalal-Uddin was defeated by Changiz Khan, thus Peshawar fell to the Mongols in 1221. Another ruler of Ghazni, Saif ud-din recaptured some territories from the Mongols. After that there was a long struggle between the Muslim rulers of Delhi and the Mongols for the annexation of the respective Province.

In the year of 1398 Timur, a Turkish by origin set out from Samarkand (Present Uzbekistan), and in March 1399 became the master of NWFP. His decedents held the Province as a dependency of Qandahar. The Timurid was followed by the Lodhi's when Bahlul Lodhi got a dominant position in Northern India, in 1451. The Lodhi's were in power until when they were defeated in the first Battle of Panipat in the year of 1526 by Babar, the first Mughal king of India.³⁴ After the death of Babar, in 1530 his eldest son Kamran became the governor of Kabul and also controlled Panjab and North West Frontier. Babar's son and successor Humayun was drove out by an Afghan, Sher Shah Sur from India to Persia in 1540. Humayun drove his brother Kamran from Kabul and after fifteen years he was able to restore the Mughal Empire in India.

In 1556 Humayun died and his son Jalal ud-din Muhammad Akbar, set on the throne of Delhi. Akbar made his stepbrother Hakim, as the governor of North West Frontier Province and Kabul. Hakim was an independent governor and revolted against his brother Akbar when he introduced heresy in Islam. Akbar attacked his stepbrother kingdom but failed. When Hakim

died in 1585, then Akbar occupied the province of Kabul including NWFP. After the death of Akbar his son Jahangir became his successor in 1605. He was followed by his son Shah Jahan and he ruled for about thirty years (1627-1658).

During Shah Jahan era NWFP, was not at peace. The Khattak constantly give trouble to the Mughals. They were followed by the Yusafzais.³⁵ In 1658, due to the serious illness of Shah Jahan's his son Aurangzib occupied the throne. During his era in NWFP, the Yusafzais raised against the Mughals but were suppressed in 1667. After five years the Afridis revolted against the policies of the Governor of Jalalabad under the leadership of Muhammad Ameen Khan. They defeated the Mughal army near Ali Masjid in Khyber, and made ten thousand Mughals prisoners. This serious reverse of the Mughals once again encouraged the Khattaks in the command of Khushal Khan to rise against them. So, there was a general rising from Attock to Qandahar. To control the situation Aurangzib himself came to Hasan-Abdal in 1674. He adopted a policy to set one tribe against the others. He also signed an agreement of peace with the Afridis.³⁶ After the death of Aurangzib, in 1707 the disintegration of the Mughal Empire started and the provincial governor became independent. The Indian rulers were busy in internal faction and feuds. The Marathas, were also trying to capture the throne of Delhi. They did not pay heed to the threat of East India Company, who were trying to penetrate in the political affairs of the Subcontinent.³⁷

The British Occupation of NWFP

The fall of Constantinople, to the Turks in 1453, created great trouble for the European powers to trade with the eastern countries i.e Arabs and India. Now they were in the search of a new route to the East, and finally a Portuguese sailor Vasco de Gama with the help of a Zanzibari Muslim Abdul Majid succeeded to reach Calicut (in India).³⁸ When the new route discovered, a rivalry started among the Portuguese, Dutch, British, French, Danes and German for supremacy in India. With the passage of time the British and French became the two remaining powers. After the three Karnatak Wars (first Karnatak War from 1746-1748, second from 1749-1754 and third from 1756-1763) with the France Britain became the only supreme power in Subcontinent.³⁹

During the reign of Akbar (1556-1605), the British formed East India Company with the approval of Queen Victoria, who granted charter to company in December 1600. After Akbar the company get concession from his decedents Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb. After the death of Aurangzeb when the disintegration of Moghul Empire started the British became more powerful and they misused the privileges already granted to them. In the Battle of Plassey (1757), between the British and the Nawab Sirajudualah of Bengal open a gate way for the former to conquer the rest of India, when they defeated the later in the war.⁴⁰

In 1747, Ahmad Shah Abdali, became the founder of modern Afghanistan and began to assert hegemony over territories by constantly attacking the cis-Indus territories of Panjab. He defeated the emerging power of Marathas in the third battle of Panipat in 1761 and leave India in anarchy and returned. After Ahmad Shah Abdali a war of succession started among his successors, which give an opportunity to the Sikhs who established their power over Punjab. In 1801 the Sikhs ruler Ranjit Singh, invaded the trans-Indus territories and up to 1824 he took the most of the plains of the present Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and made at a part of the Sikh Kingdom of the Panjab.⁴¹

During the 'Great Game'⁴² the Russian famous quest for a warm water seaport drove its imperial ambitions in Central Asia throughout the 19th century. This why British took keen interest in the Frontier affairs from the time of Czarist Russia, when they noticed the Russian penetration in Central Asia towards Afghanistan which was a great concern for them. Because they thought that the Russian can use Afghanistan is a power base and a possible route to invade India.⁴³ This was the reason that the British thought that to sur-pass the Sikh territory of the Punjab, and to keep direct relations with the people of Frontier. In this series they firstly sent a mission under the leadership of Monstuart Elphinstone in 1809 to Peshawar and Kabul.⁴⁴

The British also signed the Treaty of Amritsar with the Sikhs rulers of the Panjab, resulted collaboration between the two emerging powers, which lasted up to the death of Ranjith Singh in 1839. The Treaty defined the directions of expansion for both the powers. Then the British Government sent Alexander Burns, on his mission to Kabul, to take advantages from the rivalry between Sadozai Prince Shah Shuja and the Barakzai ruler of Kabul, Amir Dost Muhamad Khan. Lastly the British planned to place Shah Shuja as the ruler of Kabul which lead to the First Anglo Afghan War (1838-1842).⁴⁵

Anglo-Sikhs Wars (1845-1849)

For quite some time, the relations between the Sikh Kingdom of the Punjab and British were cordial however, the Sikhs realized the British advancement towards the Punjab. In 1845, the Sikhs army (*The Khalsa*) crossed the Sutlej River to encounter the British advancement towards the Sikhs Kingdom, but were defeated and the British occupied the Lahore *Darbar* in 1845. Under the treaty of Lahore, the Sikhs accepted the supervision of the British resident in Lahore. However, the Sikhs consider the Treaty of Lahore as a humiliation for themselves and they revolted in Multan, and finally the British Governor General Lord Dalhousie declared war against Sikhs. The Sikhs were defeated in this War and on 29 March 1849, the East India Company directly took the control of the Punjab Province. As a part of the Punjab Province the districts of Peshawar, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu and Hazara automatically came under the control of East India Company. These territories were kept under the Board of Administration in Lahore.⁴⁶

The Tribal area were not a part of the Sikhs Kingdom neither the British attempted to capture it until the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-1880), when for the first time they created the Political Agency of Khyber, in 1879. From 1890 to 1897, the British extended their control to Kurram, South Waziristan, North Waziristan, Bajour, Dir, Swat and Chitral.⁴⁷ The Durand Line Agreement also defined boundary with Afghanistan in 1893. The Agency of Dir, Swat and Chitral were kept under the direct control of the Central Government and the rest of agencies were controlled by the Punjab Government through its commissioners. But still the British influence was confined to the main roads and passes adjacent to Afghanistan.⁴⁸

The British policy in Frontier was consisted of two phase i.e the 'Close Border Policy' and the 'Forward Policy'. After taking the of Frontier areas in the year of 1849, the British authorities adopted the 'Close Border Policy'. The main features of this policy were not to involve in the tribal domestic affairs and to secure the settled districts from the frequent tribal raids, through the Punjab Frontier Force. Under this policy the government also gave subsidies and allowances, to the tribal people to maintain friendly relations between the tribes and

government.⁴⁹ Under this policy the government failed to keep the tribal belt calm, and from 1849 to the beginning of 20th century the governments send about sixty two expeditions in tribal areas.

The 'Close Border Policy' was replaced by the 'Forward Policy' in 1874, when Benjamin Disraeli became Prime Minister in London. He projected the direct penetration of the British in territories as far as possible, rather than relying on indirect rule. Regular army were kept in those areas to check the Russian and the Amir of Afghanistan's activities.⁵⁰ Under this policy the government also proposed certain suggestions for the creation of a new province, as it was not feasible for the Punjab government to control the Frontier areas from Lahore. In January 1899, Lord Curzon, assumed the office as Governor General of British India. He strongly criticized the Punjab Government regarding the Frontier administration. He found the only solution of Frontier problems to detach certain areas from the Punjab and to create a new province giving practical shape to his idea, on 9th November, 1901 the new Province came into being.⁵¹ This new Province was consisted of five districts, including Peshawar, Hazara, Bunnu, Dara Ismail Khan and Kohat along with five Political Agencies of Malakand (Dir, Swat and Chitral), South Waziristan, North Waziristan, Khyber and Kurram⁵² under a Chief Commissioner directly answerable to Governor General.⁵³

Conclusion

At one time the Chief Commissioner was the head of civil administration as well as the head of the Province. His principal advisors were the Revenue Commissioner and Judicial Commissioner. In each district there was a Deputy Commissioner while in tribal agencies political agents were the representative of Chief Commissioner.⁵⁴ The Chief Commissioner was assisted by the Frontier Crime Regulation (FCR), a legacy which was added in 1901, with a new clause to suppressed the crimes through the council of elders, blockade of the tribes, or to fine the entire communities, the removal of villages, the regulation of *hujras*, and the demolition of those buildings under the use of criminal elements and their imprisonment. Under these regulations, no right of appeal was granted to the criminals, however the Chief Commissioner have the limited power to revise the criminal or civil laws.⁵⁵

Due to its strategic importance the British took special inference of the Frontier administration. Several capable and experienced officers, like Nixon, John Nicholson, Herbart Edward, Abbott and John Lawrence were appointed to look after the Frontier matters.⁵⁶ Three men were found to materialize the wishes of Lord Curzon, for the new Province, they were Herald Dean, Sir George Roos-Keppel and to some extent Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan. But among these three George Roos-Keppel fully devoted his life to complete the task of Lord Curzon.⁵⁷

From the above discussion we concluded easily that; in the context of 'Great Game' in Central Asia between British Indian Government and Soviet Russia the British wanted to appoint the most experienced officer as the Chief Commissioner of NWFP. As we know that at that time NWFP was a part of British Colony and had directly linked with the Buffer Zone of the War i.e Afghanistan.

Roos-Keppel had a lot of experience due to his long stay in NWFP on key governmental posts. This why the secretary of state for India and the viceroy preferred him as the new Chief Commissioner of NWFP despite of strong opposition from the local administrators. As Roos-

Keppel was familiar with the local Pushtoon way of life so, he was successful to great extent to preserve the British interest in the most opposing region of British Government in India.

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