

Abstract

Since the Mutiny to Independence, there had been no institution of much importance for the British than the Police in Colonial India. The British confronted all the major challenges with this institution over the colonial years. Most frequently, this was the only institution interacted with the Indians. Therefore, the study of this institution clearly depicts the colonial administration in India. Almost in all the provinces of Colonial India, the British introduced different reforms in policing in order to suppress the rising tide of nationalism. Interestingly, the British preferred the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) over the Metropolitan Police in their colonies overseas. Punjab Police was a part of larger policing system the British introduced in colonial India in 1861. Soon after its establishment, the province witnessed changes in the form of reduction policing budget and strength. Later, the British restored the status of Village Chaukidars and Town Watchmen. In 1895, the British entrusted commissioners with policing powers. However, these artificial changes turned the institution into complex in nature. Hence, Police Commission 1902 uncovered the defects in the department. This thesis argues that the British used Police in the Colonial Punjab to maintain their imperial hegemony rather than to enforce law.