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**Topic- Changing Status and Politics of Rajput Kingdoms during
1707-1750 (with Special Reference to Amber (Jaipur) and Marwar**

Keywords: Bhai-bant, Pattadari, Ijara, Thikanadar, Bhomia, Peshkash, Jagir,

FINDINGS

The thesis examines the nature and extent of political change in the two leading Rajput states of Amber-Jaipur and the Jodhpur kingdom of Marwar. Three important aspects of political change and political process have been examined—Rajput- Mughal relations, inter-state relations among the Rajputs, and relations between the Rajput kings and their nobles. After a careful examination of the existing primary materials, and secondary sources, it has been argued that the two major developments in the first half of the eighteenth century—the crumbling of the Mughal imperial edifice and the expansion of the Maratha power in Rajasthan shaped these three different but interrelated categories of relations in ways that gave a new orientation to the history of the Rajput states. By the middle of the century, the far-reaching changes in these relations influenced, in turn, the process of state formation and political restructuring in the two kingdoms.

The Rajput kingdoms did not try to overthrow the Mughal authority formally but in the light of the diminishing power of the Mughal authority, their relationship with it underwent certain changes. The Mughal emperors were no longer in a position to control the Rajput rulers and were frequently compelled to take help from them. The rivalry among the claimants to the Mughal throne, factional politics at the Mughal court, rebellions in different parts of the empire, etc. forced the Mughal emperors to seek help from the Rajput rulers, particularly those of Jaipur (Amber) and Jodhpur kingdoms. The Rajput rulers on their part tried to take advantage of the situation but each Rajput ruler devised his strategies to realize his political ambitions in the new political scenario of the eighteenth century.

An attempt has been made in this thesis to explore the process of political change in Rajasthan that was caused by the growing vacuum created by the retreating Mughal state and the challenges faced by the Rajput rulers in the wake of internal developments and the crisis emerging from the rise of the Maratha power—a crisis that was to soon engulf these kingdoms. These three interrelated developments—the gradual withdrawal of the Mughal umbrella, the revival of conflicts and rivalries among the Rajput states and clannish reassertions within each of these kingdoms, and, finally, the growing Maratha military presence in Rajasthan from the third decade of the eighteenth century—transformed the politics of the Rajput states and forced them to respond to new possibilities and challenges leading to a complex process of state formation. The first half of the eighteenth century witnessed many novel experiments, especially under Sawai Jai Singh, in the field of state formation.