

Ecology and Wildlife Conservation in the Colonial Period: Special Case of Princely Rajputana

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To cite this article:

Rakesh. Ecology and Wildlife Conservation in the Colonial Period: Special Case of Princely Rajputana. *History Research*.

Vol. 11, No. 1, 2023, pp. 31-37. doi: 10.11648/j.history.20231101.15

Received: April 15, 2023; **Accepted:** June 7, 2023; **Published:** June 20, 2023

Abstract: Princely Rajputana has been famous for hunting since the Middle Ages. These areas are frequented by rulers who go hunting. The rulers played a crucial role in southern Rajputana in the seventeenth century; they fought numerous battles to seize Mewar because of its significance on all three fronts (political, economic, and ecological). The natural riches and excellent games were plentiful in this area. A variety of deer, wild boar, lions, tigers, leopards, and other animals might be found in Mewar. In addition to highlighting the local biodiversity, this article documents overfishing throughout Rajputana. The Rajputana region was the monarchs' preferred hunting ground, and although they engaged in excessive hunting there, there were no reports of any wildlife populations declining. However, the number of wild animals severely declined throughout the colonial era. Wild animals vanished from many Rajputana locations quickly due to the lack of conservation methods used by the princes and colonial officials. Killing wild animals was a common pastime in India during the colonial era. They viewed wildlife as a game rather than a living being. Princes and Maharajas supported the significance of this game, albeit hunting still needed to be done for profit, and they welcomed visitors from Europe to use the local flora. Local authorities and colonial officials expelled the native population from the game. The people, who relied solely on the forest's resources, had severe problems with food and other resources. Numerous individuals perished from starvation during the famine. When wild animals started to disappear, a few local leaders began to protect wildlife, but it never quite reached the previous level.

Keywords: Rajputana, Aravalli, *Maharaja*, *Zamindars*, *Chhappania*

1. Introduction

Literature from the 19th century is replete with descriptions of India's abundant wildlife and references to the British and Princes' avid hunting. Historical records and government report somewhat illuminate the excessive hunting and unethical practices. Rajputana had plenty of tigers, leopards, wild boars, lions, and other animals. Mahesh Rangarajan, M. K. Ranjitsinh, and Vijaya Ramdas Mandla said the princely realms had more biodiversity than the British colonies. The evidence provided by Diyabhanusingh, Sheerin Moosvi, and Irfan Habib demonstrates how earlier kings (the Mughals) took a personal interest in reining in overindulgent hunting. The British granted a free hand to hunt in the Princely and colonial areas, making the colonial period even more notable. [4] Hunting wild animals or birds was done solely for recreation and not food. Because of this supreme act of selfishness, Rajputana's native animals—

leopards, tigers, lions, etc.—quickly vanished from the region. Hunting had become a prerogative reserved for the British and princes, so this happened rapidly. Hunting became a way of life for the Maharaja, Princes, British officials, soldiers, etc., after the Rajputana Princes lost their freedom. Hunting was a way to decompress from the stress of daily life. Hunting was also crucial for displaying male authority. The sport of hunting gained enormous popularity in the royal state of Rajputana. Because of its extensive animals and dense forest cover, it was a hospitable host for expensive game hunts and a popular location for them. The royal trips were a part of the burgeoning global aristocratic culture that peaked during the Lord Curzon era, which ended around 1910 and started around the turn of the 19th century. Travel, hunting, and material shows of riches were valued in this culture. Hyderabad saw more royal guests than any princely state under the sixth Nizam's rule.

2. Geography and Brief History of Rajputana in the Colonial Period

The oldest mountain range in India, the Aravalli, is a significant landform that affects Rajasthan's climate and wildlife. The Aravalli ranges featured lush woods that served as a natural barrier against desertification and a haven for various wild animals and birds. [20] Dry deciduous and tropical dry broadleaf forests can be found there, including teak, acacia, and other trees. [20] The whole state of Rajasthan experiences heats, with a few hilly areas the exception, as far as the overall weather system is concerned. In desert regions, the summertime temperature can surpass 50 degrees Celsius, although a sizable portion of Rajasthan fell into the semi-arid zone, which supports a variety of flora and animals. The monsoon brings abundant rainfall to southwest Rajasthan, which benefits the region's forests and wildlife.

From the administration's perspective, Rajputana, known as the Princely States, was governed by local rulers throughout the colonial era. Although regional rulers managed 19 Princely States, the Rajputana province of Ajmer-Mewara was directly handled by the British. Against the Maratha and the Pindaris, Lord Wellesley (1798–1805) and his successor, Lord Hastings (1813–1823), saw the Princely States as natural allies. The Princely States of Rajasthan were the object of Charles Metcalf's efforts to ally while he was the British Resident in Delhi. The Princely States were brought entirely under the control of the British through their efforts. These Rajputana Princely States were ruled by the Rajputana Agency, which was in charge politically as an agent of the Indian Governor-General. During the colonial era, princes of the Rajputana and the British brought about severe ecological degradation that significantly damaged the Aravalli highlands. In addition to killing off more wild species throughout the colonial era, increased hunting also altered the ecology. Tiger numbers in the Princely Rajputana were 3500 in total, according to colonial statistics from 1901. [18]

Dungarpur in the Mewar state had thick forests in the seventeenth century. There were several lions, leopards, wild boars, and different types of deer. Although the rulers used to hunt here, they always kept the balance between the forest and the wild creatures. Lakshman Singh's statements regarding the history of the Dungarpur forests and wildlife were taken out by Ranjit Singh. According to Lakshman Singh, Dungarpur's woodlands were among the best in Rajputana during the pre-colonial era. The fauna and flora of Dungarpur were threatened for the first time during the colonial era. The princely states only engaged in intensive hunting, inviting colonial officers along. However, Lakshman Singh believed that the forest of the Dungarpur was disturbed only in the Great Famine of Chhappania. The Great Famine of Chhappania, which occurred in 1899–1901, disrupted the biodiversity of Dungarpur because hungry people murdered wild animals for food and felled thousands of trees for firewood before the Dungarpur State Forest

Department was founded in 1907 and conserved the forest. However, as Lakshman Singh noted, this famine aided in preserving the forest since The Great Famine Chhappania had reduced Dungarpur's population to just one lakh, and the pressure from illegal logging had decreased. But on another side, Lakshman Singh noted that hundreds of chinkara, nilgai, and pigs were killed for sustenance during The Great Famine of Chhappania.

3. The Hunting Tradition in Rajputana

In India, under British control, wild animals were viewed as a curse that needed to be removed. Hunting evolved into a male pursuit and a practical ideal during the colonial era. One of the places where the colonial enterprise attempted to build and affirm an ideological marker that proved the colonising white male as super masculine was through hunting. In India's princely realms, hunting for sport—henceforth called "game"—was often practised. For the British officers, these evolved into gambling dens. Hunting evolved and became a venue for reinforcing the ties between the colonial state and princely India. In these states, a conservation model developed that frequently aided the "Game," i.e. A new consciousness of extinction resulted from extreme devastation. It was remarkable in this background that a state like Rajputana, the biggest princely state in India with a sizable number of forests and wild animals, is still mostly undiscovered. As a result, the current study seeks to understand the nature of the wildlife predicament.

Rajputana has been incredibly well-known for hunting since the Middle Ages. These areas are frequented by Mughals who go hunting. The Mughals played a crucial role in southern Rajputana in the seventeenth century; they fought numerous battles to seize Mewar because of its significance on all three fronts (political, economic, and ecological). The natural riches and excellent games were plentiful in this area. When Mewar ultimately formed an alliance with the Mughals under Jahangir's tenure, the Mughals had access to a sizable forest tract for hunting. Akbar and Jahangir had repeatedly convinced the rulers of Mewar to recognise Mughal control. A variety of deer, wild boar, lions, tigers, leopards, and other animals might be found in Mewar. In addition to highlighting the local biodiversity, this article documents overfishing throughout Rajputana. The Rajputana region was the monarchs' preferred hunting ground, and although they engaged in excessive hunting there, there were no reports of any wildlife populations declining. [2] However, the number of wild animals severely declined throughout the colonial era. Wild animals vanished from many Rajputana locations quickly due to the lack of conservation methods used by the princes and colonial officials.

4. Sources

Despite the literary works written about hunting in modern times and its cultural relevance in India, many books, essays, and publications have concentrated on the description of

hunting and colonial forest policy. The studies show that this elite privilege of the governing class extended to the game of hunting. "*Shooting a Tiger*" by Vijay Ramdas Mandala highlights the history of hunting and conservation in colonial India. He showed how different ecological and political environments could view hunting. His book ends with the seemingly unpredictable ways well-known colonial hunters like Jim Corbett and Colonel Richard Burton become conservationists. He showed how hunting in India was fundamentally a political phenomenon that established political authority over the land and provided opportunities for contact with many aspects of Indian society. Hunting in Rajasthan is shown differently by Robert W. Stern. His book "*The Cat and the Lion: Jaipur State in the British Raj*" provided a historical account of the state of Jaipur's interactions with the British Government of India from 1818 to 1948. Shefali Rajamannar's "*Reading the Animal in the Literature of the British Raj*" focuses on hunting in the British Raj.

In contrast to Robert W. Stern, Rajamannar presents a fresh perspective on how the othering of wild creatures contributes to establishing oppression and power. Mahesh Rangarajan says that 'hunting wasn't just for fun or relaxation in pre-colonial times but that the symbolic value of killing wild, free-ranging animals had not been diminished through the years despite developments in weaponry.' [13] In "*The End of a Trail: The Cheetah in India*," Divyabhanusingh examined the evolution of cheetahs in India from prehistoric times to the present. He demonstrates how Rajasthan has been a cheetah haven since before the arrival of the British. The Mughals and the rulers of Rajasthan frequently went cheetah hunting. Divyabhanusingh reexamined the history of the Indian Cheetah's demise in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In his extensive depiction of traveller stories, Valmik Thapar traces the history of the tiger in India. In "*The Tiger Fire*", Valmik Thapar brings attention to the locations in southern Rajasthan that were well known for having tigers during the Mughal and colonial periods.

John Hewett's adventure in the jungles of Tarai, Gooch Behar, the central Province, and up in Kumaon and Garhwal is described in great detail in his book "*Jungle Trails in Northern India*". His accounts helped us understand the Raj era's social and cultural framework. Most carnivorous creatures discussed in R. G. Burton's "*A Book of Man-Eaters*" are the tiger, lion, and leopard. His book provides descriptions of the habitats, behaviours, and personalities of wild animals. Another significant adventure diary of Anne De Courcy brought in a book called "*The Fishing Fleet Husband-Hunting in the Raj*", which documented personal memories from the time of the Raj. She says that she and her husband used to hunt tigers, lions, and other animals and birds on their travels. She frequently travelled to Rajasthan, where she went hunting alongside the Maharaja. In his book "*India's Wildlife History*", Mahesh Rangarajan traces the long history of the country's wildlife and tells tales of animal and human encounters there. Hunting was used as a political and symbolic tool to bolster control over the land. [15] Hunting

honoured the military prowess of colonial males, enhancing the hypermasculine image of empire at home, as Vijaya Ramdas Mandala correctly noted. [11]

5. Purpose of Hunting

They demonstrated their competence and legitimacy through hunting, which was politically significant and symbolic. In addition to providing them with a helpful diversion from the stress of administrative labour, the British and Maharaja adopted hunting as a leisure sport that became fashionable in a busy life, encouraging officials to demonstrate their skill on hunting grounds. Hunting had previously been a crucial aspect of Indian kings' lives. Still, beginning in the pre-colonial era, it was used to justify the rulers' ownership of the land and as a vital means of displaying their privilege. Rosalind O' Hanlon emphasised how hunting during the pre-colonial era served as a battleground for the aristocracy and a display of martial masculinity. [17] The Mughals used hunting as a military tactic to demonstrate their dominance over the landscape. Following the decline of Mughal rule, its nobility continued this custom in the Princely States. [9] They found enormous thrill, emotions, and a brand-new environment throughout the hunting. Every time the Mughals came to Rajputana, they effectively exploited hunting as a political tool to assert their dominance over the region. [16]

The goal was to help the Maharajas in the first stages. He anticipated the Maharajas' loyalty in return. Hunting had become essential to the political connection between the British and Maharajas, marking a turning point in Rajputana's natural history. Warren Hastings pushed the Maharajas to recognise Rajputana as a protective state under the British Empire when the monarch of Rajputana requested British protection. When British agents or their representatives came to Rajputana, the Maharaja sponsored a hunting contest for their entertainment. Anytime a high-ranking European visitor came to Rajputana, the Maharajas organised a hunting party. As we already noted, hunting was an aristocratic privilege, but it evolved into a significant and symbolic activity during the colonial era. [22] A tiger hunt for the diplomats of the Company Raj was held by Raja Scindhia in 1807 near the Rajputana border. [11] Hunting allowed the British to forge political ties with the princely nations and relax from the demanding administrative schedule. British traveller William Knighton writes that the monarch of Udaipur organised numerous hunting events for the Europeans while he was in the Southern Rajputana city of Udaipur. [22] Knighton observed that the ruler of Udaipur kept a large number of trained cheetahs there to hunt deer.

6. Adversely Impact of Hunting

The largest famine of this century undoubtedly significantly impacted forest and animal populations; nevertheless, after the hunger ended, both people increased quickly. So, while the famine temporarily decreased the

animals and woods, the Princely states and British officers had a long-lasting impact on Dungarpur's flora and fauna. Lakshman Singh added that between 1900 and 1948, the British and Princes killed more than 600 panthers in Dungarpur. Tigers vanished from the Dungarpur forests after the severe famine of 1900, but a small number of them appeared again in 1915, and between 1935 and 1949, their population increased from 20 to 25. [11] The Company diplomats had begun scouting extensively in the Rajputana nations since the nineteenth century, seeking allies and fostering trade. They also acknowledge the zeal with which Rajputana princes pursued field sports, especially tiger hunting, which they perceived as a regal pastime. Colonel James Tod, a political operative in the western Rajputana region, noted that Doorjun Sal, the ruler of Kotah, appeared to be preparing for battle on his hunting expedition. [20] Later, the Princes of Rajputana sponsored a hunting game in which Emily Eden and Lady Curzon, two British women of the imperial class, took part. According to James Tod, the Rajputana chief of Rumna in Harouti organised a hunting game for European visitors.

The Rumna chief, who hosted a hunting party, travels to the hunting with British Major Price and Colonel James Tod. Numerous deer species, including *nilgai*, *barasingha*, red, and spotted deer, are hunted. When Colonel James Tod reached the tents after the shooting expedition, he discovered six camel loads of deer deposits of all types. [20] Hunting was a tremendous and costly sport, costing the local Maharajas much money. According to James Tod, the Rajputana ruler spent an estimated two lakh rupees yearly planning these hunts. The leader of Rumna frequently travelled to hauntings with a large group of returners. Thus, this was a considerable sum that was constantly rising. According to James Tod, thousands of individuals who spent money on a Rumna chief were provided goat flesh. In the colonial era, this hunting was popular and appreciated in other native states. The princes' resources would be heavily depleted during their hunting journeys, as Ramdas Vijaya Mandala correctly noted. The Rajputana Princes established their dominance over the forests and validated their ancestors' ownership claims through hunting. They frequently encouraged British officials to join them in hunting because they enjoyed it so much. They created a political alliance while playing the great game of hunting.

The Bharatpur century is known for its migrating bird population, drawing British tourists and other sports enthusiasts. According to Salim Ali, Bharatpur, also known as Ghana, is renowned as a fantastic private duck-shooting place for the Maharaja and his illustrious VIP visitors. Salim Ali has provided fascinating details regarding the Bharatpur small game shooting. He claimed that the game birds of the hills and plains must have been abundant between 1840 and 1860. He noted that Bharatpur's wildfowl shoot bags during the colonial era were substantial, with 4,206 birds killed by 50 guns on November 20, 1916. British officer Lord Rawlinson hunted 5,968 birds in two days in 1921. [1] Ganga Singh, the Maharaja of Bikaner, shot 3,300 sandgrouses in

one shoot in 1925; on another day, in front of a viceroy, the count approached 4,300. [19] Ramdas Vijaya Mandal referred to inscriptions carved into stone that had been erected and listed the visiting dignitaries and their belongings. The stone inscriptions provide evidence of extensive European travel to the Bharatpur era. Viceroy Curzon, the Prince of Wales, the German crown prince, and other Indian Maharajas had the most popularity. These carvings on stones depict European visitors and the Maharaja participating in mass bird hunting. Hunting was used as a means of confirming one's political status as well as a source of adventure and leisure. Early in the nineteenth century, British traveller George Parbury visited Rajputana. He notes that in the western region of India, where forests were rigorously protected for exclusive uses, the native kings were very fond of hunting. [7] He further mentions that anyone breaking their game laws was severely punished. [7]

The Rajputana princes' passion for hunting in the nineteenth century surpassed the British officers. The Udaipur ruler had a huge bag filled with 500 tigers. The Nawab of Tonk (Rajputana) killed 600 tigers before stopping when he reached a score of 150. [7] Prince of Sarguja (Rajputana), Ramanuj Saran Singh Deo, once held the record for having over 1100 tigers in his lifetime. [21] Throughout his life, Jaipur's Colonel Kesri Singh has killed countless tigers. Numerous other Rajputana maharajas, princes, British soldiers, and visitors had a stellar reputation in the sport of hunting. French voyager Louis Rousselet came in 1860. He comments on a hunting scene in the Mewar province where several wild pigs were occupying the thick underbrush of the Rajputana jungle. [10] Among the princes, the Maharaja of Bikaner had the best shooting skills; he had killed 39 animals, including hippopotamuses, rhinoceroses, lions, and African buffalo. [11] On the other hand, British army commanders were also engaged in the game of hunting, in addition to the Princes of Rajputana and a high-ranking British official. According to British army officers Rice and Newali, who were stationed in Neemuch in Rajputana between 1850 and 1854, they killed 100 tigers in Rajputana during that time. [7]

There were most likely hundreds of lions in Udaipur and Hyderabad in the eighteenth century in India. The Mughals and the empires that followed them created a tendency that the Maharaja of Rajputana carried on. Hunting lions, even under controlled circumstances, was crucial to the prince's initiation into kingship because lions symbolised the monarch. Although we have not seen any lions in Rajasthan, Rajputana had many lions before the arrival of the British. In Ajmer and Mewar, Mughals frequently hunted lions. There were numerous lions in Rajputana, as evidenced by the paintings depicting lion hunts that have survived in Bundi and Kotah. [19] Literary evidence shows that Bundi forests were so dense and contagious to Ranthambore, which was packed with tigers. Numerous accounts of travellers' and British officers' hunts existed throughout the colonial period.

It is mentioned in James Tod's book "*Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*" that the Maharaja and British dignitaries were killing lions. The author of the Bengal

Sporting Magazine's October 1838 issue said that he shot 11 lions between May 14 and May 24, to which three more were added between July 19 and July 20, 1838. [19] The 1936 publication of *"The Big Game Diary of Sadul Singh, Maharajakumar of Bikaner"* has been mentioned by Mahesh Rangarajan. There are various details of hunting in western Rajasthan in this diary. According to Mahesh Rangarajan, the logbook is a priceless record since it sums up everything Sadul Singh did over a quarter-century. His gun claimed the lives of nearly 50,000 animals and an additional 46,000 game birds. Thirty-three tigers, 30 Great Indian Bustards, more than 21,000 Sand Grouse, and an Asiatic lion were among them.' [14] The Prince of Wales visited India in 1875–1876; while there, he visited Jaipur and took part in a shooting excursion when his hunting group killed 28 tigers. [11]

Although it is evident that Rajputana's Maharajas and princes were not engaged in hunting for commercial exploitation, the Rajputana Maharaja promoted pursuing as a fun hobby and always refused any financial rewards for killing wild animals. [5] However, protecting extinct species begins when they become conscious of the ecological and historical context and become conservationists. As game hunting declined in popularity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, British sportsmen, government officials, and certain Maharajas enacted rules and convinced people to turn away from it. Ranjitsingh quoted Lakshman Singh in *"A Life with Wildlife"*, who stated that Dungarpur covered 1,460 square miles and had a population of 200 leopards. More than 600 Panthers were shot between 1900 and 1948. Additionally, tigers vanished following the Chappania famine in 1900; nevertheless, between 1935 and 1949, their population rose to 20 to 25. [14] The position of wildlife in 1948 and 1982 is shown by Ranjitsingh's inventory of Dungarpur's flora. He said the tigers were 25, Panther 200, Bears 20, Hyena 300, Sambar 2,000, Chital 500, Nilgai 5,000, Chinkara 25,000, Pigs 25,000, and Peacocks 5,000,000. While in 1982, these figures sharply dropped, and certain species in the forests of Dungarpur are now extinct. In his list, by 1982, tigers had utterly vanished, panthers had decreased to two or three, bear, sambar, chital, nilgai, and the pig had all but vanished, and other species were on the verge of extinction.

7. Steps Towards the Conservation

Not alone did Dungarpur face this condition, but nearly all of Rajputana did. Rajputana's effort towards wildlife protection was sparked by overt hunting. Conservation and reckless destruction were followed by cautious preservation in the early 20th century. The princess of Rajputana took on the dual function of the hunter. The Rajputana ruler has always sought to enhance agricultural output and the amount of big game designated for kings. Wildlife hunting and conservation served as a visual representation of their control over the forest's resources. It was not shocking that Rajputana had reached the point of extermination of wild creatures like tigers. Hunting has always been considered a royal privilege in India, but local or customary hauntings and

gatherings were prohibited. The British altered hunting and turned it into an imperial spectacle. [25] According to Anand Pandian, "Sporting activities like hunting were essential to colonial rule." [8] There is little doubt that the assistance of Maharajas was necessary for the British to engage in excessive hunting in Rajputana. Wild animals, birds, and Rajputana were all destroyed by the British alongside Indian lords. [1] The Maharajas made arrangements to guarantee the safety of his British VIP guests.

The need for wildlife conservation was sparked by the mindless destruction of wildlife in Rajputana. Still, it was evident that neither the British policy nor their desire to preserve nature was charitable. For the practical purposes of the British Government, the colonial preservation of wildlife was very selective. [3] Conversely, the Rajputana princess had to continue hunting while compiling a plan to conserve wildlife. The Rajputana Princes began to worry about a sharp decline in natural space and the number of suitable hunting areas around the beginning of the 20th century. According to Maharana Fateh Singh, wild boar populations in their region were declining. In Mewar, he maintained a royal hunting site that included wild boar to boost their people there. Upon discovering that the vast forests and fauna around Nahar Magra Hill, which served as a perfect habitat for wild boar and other species, had vanished, Maharana Fateh Singh of Mewar was taken aback. He believed the recent decline in forest and grassland went hand in hand, but he could not comprehend why the reduction had occurred. They considered that during times of shortage when princes frequently agreed to forego their right and privilege to permit hunting on their hunting grounds, people tried their best to survive by clearing the land of vegetation for feed and removing trees and bushes for fuel.

To feed themselves, they killed wild animal ungulates, including sambar and chital deer. [8] Maharaja Pratap Singh claimed that the forest of his Karkigarh island *shikar gah* had been devastated by his subjects during another famine in 1906. [8] He tried to enhance their population and kept a royal hunting site in Mewar, home to wild pigs. British officials sometimes attributed the destruction of wildlife, particularly deer, to famines. Before the famine of 1899–1900, they were many in Dungarpur, according to Erskine, but they have since vanished. He continued by saying that Banswara State had less sambar and chital than before the famine.

The British Residency in the Bikaner State were concerned daily about the diminishing hunting grounds. In *"A Gazetteer of the Udaipur State,"* the political official K. D. Erskine noted that, aside from leopards, many other game animals were scarce in the Mewar State. He continued that the restricted number of tigers, bears, and sambar deer occupied most of the Aravalli and the Jaismand branches, but Chital was more isolated. Nilgai was less common in the lowlands than blackbuck and other small game. The only animal that was plentiful was the wild boar. [10] D M. Field, a political agent for the Southern Rajputana States in the 1920s, sent a report of Banswara, Partabgarh, and Dungarpur that stated that "unless remedial measures" were taken, many

theoretically protected species would soon disappear from princely territories. [6] This is another instance that highlights the deplorable conditions of Rajputana's wild animals. [8]

Wildlife protection was a concern for princes, and Maharana Fateh Singh of Mewar took action to boost the wild boar population in the Nahar Magra hills. Additionally, he noted numerous sightings of wild boars between 1907 and 1909. Fateh Singh also created many tabs and ponds for the boars in the forest parts of Nahar Magra hills. The SPFE (the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire) was notified in 1928 by the Dungarpur State that deer of all types were expanding and that tigers had also been reintroduced to this area. Wildlife protection was a significant issue for Maharana Fateh Singh and his successor Bhupal Singh in Mewar. Their persistent efforts bore fruit; the huntsman Dhaibhai Tulsinath Singh noted in the 1950s that the Mewar forests were much vaster during Fateh Singh's rule. He said that hundreds of wild animals frequented the woods around Tikhalya Magra because there were so many wild boar and deer. In the state, Fateh Singh had outlawed the slaughter of wild animals; if any were slain without justification, Fateh Singh became enraged and punished the shooter.

8. Conclusion

The hunt in colonial India was a prominent and potent display that the British Empire was the absolute master of the country. India's diverse fauna and thriving hunting culture fascinated everyone who controlled this nation. The British Raj brought with it a rise in enthusiasm for sport hunting. India's wildlife has significantly suffered due to widespread hunting by British and Indian Rajas, extensive forest clearing for agriculture, the availability of guns, and poaching. While for the Princes, hunting represented a ritual assertion of their ancient privileges. Hunting offers them a political alliance and an idea of absolute territorial rights. Both tried to construct the political image that shows both are associated with imperial authority. Hunting was a medium of demonstration of loyalty to the British Empire. During the Princes' rule in colonial India, a sizable percentage of the Rajputana State's wildlife heritage was destroyed. For many years, shooting tigers was a popular game. Salim Ali, a renowned bird and wildlife expert who visited the city in 1931 and 1932 as part of the Rajputana ornithological study, had characterised it as the ideal game area.

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