EVOLUTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES IN SIND (1843 – 1977)

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Innumerable changes have occurred in the district and provincial boundaries of Sind since 1843, the year which marks the beginning of the British rule in the area. This note records these changes and provides several maps indicating boundary delimitation at various significant periods during the past one and a half centuries. These kaleidoscopic boundary changes should be of great interest to academecians as well as administrators particulary those concerned with the future planning and development of the resources of Sind.

The study of the evolution of the boundries of Sind during the period under review has been split into several phases which, though largely arbitrary, never the least, reflect significant developments in the political and economic history of Sind.

PHASE I : 1843 – 1900

The first phase in the evolution of the boundaries of Sind extends from 1843 to 1900 A.D. After the final victory in the battle of Miani in 1843, Sir Charles Napier was appointed Governor of the territory of Sind which at that time extended over an area of 57,532 sq. miles.[1] Napier divided the province into three administrative units know as the collectorates of Karachi (11,532 sq. miles), Hyderabad (30,000 sq. miles) and Shikarpur (15,000 sq. miles).[2]

The Shikarpur collectorate embraced roughly the whole of the present Sukkur, Jacobabad and Larkana districts as well as part of Dadu district i.e. Kakar, Mehar, Dadu, Johi and Sehwan talukas, while Hyderabad collectorate included the existing districts of Nawabshsh, Hyderabad and Thar Parkar. The collectorate of Karachi

extended over the area now included in the districts of Karachi, Thatta and part of Dadu (Mehal Kohistan and Kotri talukas).

On the retirement of Sir Charles Napier in 1847, the province was put under a Commissioner subordinate to the Bombay Government. However, as reported by Aitkin, Sind enjoyed the status of a nonregulation sub-province under a Commissioner with considerably larger powers than those of an ordinary Commissioner of a division.[3]

Subsequent boundary changes witnessed the emergence of Upper Sind Frontier district (present Jacobabad) in 1847 and Thar and Parkar district which roughly conciided with the present Thar Parkar and Sanghar districts (excluding Shahdadpur taluka). The former was detached from the Shikarpur collectorate while the latter was carved out of the collectorate of Hyderabad. Thus, around the closing years of the last century Sind was divided into five districts (Table 1).

Table 1: Administrative Organization of Sind, 1900

District	Area (sq. miles)	Population
Upper Sind Frontier	2,183	232,043
Shikarpur	9,349	1,179,428
Hyderabad	8,034	963,210
Thar and Parkar	13,888	389,714
Karachi	11,782	445,513
Sind (excluding Khairpur State)	45,536	3,210,910

PHASE II : 1901 – 1936

At the turn of the century, in 1901, two more districts were created when Shikarpur district was divided into Sukkur and Larkana districts. However, as mentioned earlier, Larkana district of 1901 extended over a much larger areas it included the greater portion of the present Dadu district. At the same time the name of the Shikarpur district was appropriately changed to Sukkur, the head quarters of the district having long before (in 1883) been transferred from the unhealthy town of Shikarpur to Sukkur.

In 1912 yet another district, Nawabshah (present Nawabshah) was created having an area of 3,880 sq. miles of which Hyderabad district contributed 3,392

sq. miles and Thar and Parkar district gave away the remaining 475 sq. miles, the area at present included in Sinjhoro taluka.

The year 1931 witnessed the emergence of Dadu district which was created by detaching Kakar, Mehar, Dadu, Johi and Sehwen talukas from Larkana district, and Mahal Kohistan and Kotri talukas of Karachi district.

The external boundaries of Sind had remained quite stable since 1843. The first significant change occurred during the intercensal period of 1911-21 when an area of about 551 sq. miles forming part of the coastal strip of Karachi district, between Sir Creek and Khori Creek, was transferred to the adjoining Cutch State in the south.

Thus at the time Sind became a separate province it consisted of eight districts their respective area and population being as follows (Table 2).

Table 2: Administrative Organization of Sind, 1936

Districts	Area (sq. miles)	Population (1931)
Upper Sind Frontier	2,665	291,000
Sukkur	5,608	625,000
Larkana	2,867	694,000
Dadu	7,392	389,380 (1941)
Nawabshsh	3,889	497,000
Hyderabad	4,417	663,000
Thar and Parkar	13,636	468,000
Karachi	8,840	650,000
Sind (excluding Khairpur State)	53,771	4,277,380

PHASE III : 1936 – 1950

Sind's near century-long connections with the Bomby presidency ended in 1936, when it became a separate province of British India, under provincial Governor. For another ten years Sind witnessed little change in its district and provincial boundaries. However, on July 23, 1948, within a year after the establishment of Pakistan, it ceded about 812 sq. miles of territory to constituted into a separate, centrally administered unit known as Karachi Federal capital area. The remaining postion of the Karachi district was then renamed as Thatta district. It is interesting

to note that even after Karachi had come under the central Government it continued to function as the capital of Sind.

At this very time, and as a consequence of the partition of the sub-continent, a major change in the territorial limits of Sind took place in the southeastern direction, along the Rann of Kutch. With the establishment of Pakistan, an area of 3,079 sq. miles of the Rann of Kutch being the share of Pakistan, was added to the province of Sind whose southeast limits were coterminus with the Rann.

Table 3: Administrative Organization of Sind, 1951

Districts	Area (sq. miles)	Population
Upper Sind Frontier	2,046	345,080
Sukkur	5,551	733,038
Larkana	2,867	501,901
Dadu	7,392	416,738
Nawabshsh	3,935	686,934
Hyderabad	5,084	892,539
Thar Parkar	15,494	730,392
Thatta	8,028	301,886

Note: The area figures for Thar Parkar and Hyderabad districts in Table 3 appear to be much inflated when compared with those mentioned in Table 2, This is mainly due to the incorporation of 3,070 sq. miles of the Rann of Kutch Territory.

PHASE IV: 1951 – 1961

During the period 1951–1961 the number of districts in the province of Sind rose to nine when in 1953 a new district named Sanghar was created by combining four talukas viz. Shahdadpur and SinJhoro talukas of Nawabshah district and Sanghar and Khipro talukas of Thar Parkar district.

In October, 1955 Sind cesead to exist as a political unit when as a result of the integration of provinces into one administrative unit it lost its provincial status, and became part of the newly formed province of West Pakistan. At this very time Khairpur State which had enjoyed a separate political status as a princely state throughout the century-long British rule and even thereafter, lost its separate entity when it was merged into the newly established province of West Pakistan. It then became a district in charge of a deputy commisioner.

As a result of the reorganization of administrative units under the 'One Unit' scheme th territory comprising Sind and Khairpur state was split into two divisions, each in charge of a commissioner. These were Khairpur Division which consisted the districts of Sukkur, Larkana and Nawabshsh and the Hyderabad Division which consisted of the districts of Dadu, Thatta, Hyderabad, Sanghar and Thar Parkar.

Around this very time Nasirabad sub-division comprising Usta Muhammad and Jhatpat talukas was transferred from Sibi district of former Baluchistan to Jacobabad district, which thus gained an additional 936 sq. miles of territory.

Karachi contiuned as the Federal territory under the central Government. On lst February, 1960 it was constituted by incorporating 37 villages belonging to Thatta taluka of the same district. About a year later i.e. on March 26, 1961 Karachi too was merged with West Pakistan since it had creased to function as the capital of Pakistan.[4] Under the 'One Unit' scheme Karachi and the adjoining Las Bela district were constituted into seperate division named Karachi division.

An idea of the administrative organization of the territory comprising the former Sind Province and former Khairpur State about the end of 1961 can be had from Table 4.

Table 4: Administrative Organization of Territory Comprising the former Sind Province and former Khairpur State 1961

Divisions/District	Area (sq. miles)	Population
Khairpur division		
Jacobabad District	2,982	528,790
Sukkur "	5,531	836,709
Khairpur "	6,018	472,137
Larkana "	2,866	604,460
Nawabshsh "	2,896	691,539
Hyderabad Division		
Hyderabad District	4,969	1,285,711
Sanghar "	4,142	430,090
Thar Parkar "	13,435	728,300
Dadu "	7,342	485,122
Thatta "	6,933	361,7333
Karachi Division		
Karachi District	1,357	2,044,044

PHASE V: 1961 – 1971

The decade 1961–71 witnessed the restoration of the provincial status of Sind which as mentioned earlier had been merged into West Pakistan under the 'One Unit' scheme. Another development which affected Sind's international boundary along the Rann of Kutch was the anouncement in 1968 of the Rann of Kutch award by the International Court of Justice.This naturally led to redefining of Sind's boundary along the Rann of Kutch. As would apperar from Table 5, two of the southern districts, viz. Hyderabad and Thar Parkar, suffered considerable loss of territory as result of the award.

A year later, in 1969, it was decided to undo 'One Unit' and divide West Pakistan into the four pre 'One Unit' provinces, viz. North West Fronter, Punjab, Baluchistan and Sind. Sind thus regained its provincial stuatus in 1970.

The province in its present position consists of three divisions, viz. Khairpur, Hyderabad and Karachi. The Khairpur divsion has retained its five districts with one minor change. The Nasirabad sub-division which originally belonged to Sibi district of Baluchistan province but later on formed part of Jacobabad district was returned to the parent district thereby leaving Jacobabad with five talukas, viz. Jacobabad, Garhi Khairo, Kandhkot, Thul and Kashmore.

Hyderabad division has retained its five districts as previsously under the 'One Unit' scheme (See Table5).

The Karachi division consists of just Karachi district as reconstituted in 1961, comprising the city of Karachi, 91 villages and five islands.

Table 5 provides a complete list of districts and divisions comprising the province of Sind.

Table 5: Administrative Organization of Sind 1971

Division/District	Area (sq. miles)
Khairpur Division	
Jacobabad District	2,037
Sukkur "	5,531
Khairpur "	6,018
Larkana "	2,866
Nawabshsh "	2,8,96

Hyderabad Division	
Hyderabad District	4,417
Sanghar "	4,142
Thar Parkar "	?
Dadu "	7,432
Thatta "	6,933
Karachi Division	
Karachi District	1,357

PHASE VI: 1971 – 1977

During the period 1971–77, two new districts of Badin and Shikarpur were created, raising the number of districts to 13. Badin emerged as a separate district of Hyderabad Division in 1975. It comprised of three talukas, Dero Mohabbat (commonly known as Matli), Tando Bago and Badin, originally included in Hyderabad District, and Golarchi. This new taluka of Golarchi was carved out, by amalgamating a portion of Taluka Tando Mohammad Khan of Hyderabad District and a portion of Taluka Jati of Thatta District.

The District of Shikarpur, was created in 1977 as part of Sukkur Division. Talukas of Shikarpur and Garhi Yasin were separated from Sukkur district to form this new district.

During this phase, the Divisional set-up in Sind was abolished in 1972 under the administrative reorganization ushered in by the Government of Sind. But this Divisional set-up was restored again in 1974. However, Khairpur Division was renamed as Sukkur division and the Divisional Headquarters shifted from Khairpur Mirs to Sukkur.

This Divisional and District set-up remains intact till the writing of this paper in September 1983. (See Table–6)

Table 6: Administrative Organization of Sind 1977

Division/District		Area (sq. kilometers)
Sukkur Division	49,872	
Jacobabad District		5,278
Sukkur "		11,750
Khairpur "		15,736
Larkana "		7,423
Nawabshah "		7,501
Shikarpur "		2,184
Hyderabad Division	87,517	
Hyderabad District		87,517
Sanghar "		10,729
Tharparkar "		28,170
Dadu "		19,017
Thatta "		17,493
Badin "		6,674
Karachi Division	3,527	
Karachi Districts of South, East and West		3,527

Footnotes

1. It appears that this figure includes the territory of His Highness the Mir of Kharpur, which totalled to 6,050 sq. miles.

2. The territory comprising Khairpur State was allowed to remain under the rule of His Highness the Mir of Khairpur as reward for siding with the British against the Talpur rulers of Sind.

3. See E.H. Aitkin, Gazetter of Pronive of Sind 1908, p. 496.

4. The Ayub Administration soon after induction into office decided to shift the Capital of Rawalpindi which continued to function as provisional capital of Pakistan until it finally moved to Islamabad, which is the new capital of Pakistan.

5. Figures taken from Sind Annual — 1978 Public Relations Department Government of Sind.