

# German Interests in INDIA 1900

- Germany second largest trade partner for India. India exported cotton, rice, jute and wool. Imported sugar, iron, steel, paper, match sticks and synthetic color Later, India imported parts of railway carriages, machines and motor cars
- Economic sector “German Asiatic Bank” was opened in Calcutta in 1896.
- 1900, India(Calcutta) received half million Mark as an aid to the recovery from a devastating famine
- 1911 German Crown Prince was conferred upon the Honour of Doctorate (at Calcutta universty. Jatin Mukerjee met Crown prince and asked arms for revolution

# German Interests in INDIA 1900,s

- **1909; Germans and Indian revolutionaries in England. Per Savarkar “His warning to leave leave England 1n 1909 after mureder of Sir Curzon wyllie had actually come from a German Agent” ( Emile C Brown page 149). Gustav Steinhart was chief German Intelligence**
- **1911; Bernhardi a German General in his Book “ Germany Next war” indicates that Hindu Population of Bengal having nationalist and revolutionary tendency along with Pan-islamists might create very grave danger to capable of shaking the foundation of England ,s high position in the world.**

# 1913

- **Nov 15, 1913 – First Gadar writes “The Germans have a great sympathy with our movement and liberty because they and ourselves have a common enemy. In future Germany can draw assistance from us and they can render a great assistance also” \*.**
- **On Dec 31, 1913 – in a meeting in Sacramento German Consulate Frenz Boop sitting on Stage Lala Hardyal I declares “If I am turned out of this country, I can make preparation for the mutiny in another country... I shall have to go to Germany to make arrangements for the approaching Gadhar “**
- **On Dec 31, 1913 sacramento meeting” Finally Lala hardyal told the audience that German was preparing to Go to war with England and that it was time to get ready to go to India for coming revolution” Har Dyal had read a portion of General Bernhardi’s “Germany next war”**
- **Kartar singh sarabha chants “Chalo, Chaliye deshu yudda karan,E, ho akhivachan, te farman hogiye”**

# 1914

- **“March 6<sup>th</sup> 1914 “Berliner Tageblatt” published Article ON “ England's Indian trouble” depicting gloomy Situation in India and representing that secret societies flourished and spread and were helped from outside. In California especially, it was said there appeared to be an organized enterprise for the purpose of providing India with arms and Explosives”**
- **Large number of sign boards were posted in Ashram in San Francisco and sent to other places in the world which read , “Do not oppose the Germans”**
- Within six months Gadar literature was seen places throughout the empire; Egypt, South Africa, Fiji, Canada, British East Africa, and British Guiana Phillipenes, hong Kong, Thailand, Burma , Dutch, East Indies.

# 1914

December 1914 Graff Thurn German consulate at  
calcutta confirms German,s interest by his report  
as reported by carl Douglas UC Santa Barabara Phd  
thesis

**“It concludes that an India which has disintegrated  
into splinter states could offer its German (and  
Austrian) advisers the mineral and industrial  
wealth of the “richest land in the world”.**

# What Germans wanted “ Krug Letter to German chancellor”

- As Royal Navy was strong , Germany unable to strike at England with any real force. The alternative was to attack the enemy using artifice and intrigue. Krug followed the same reasoning in requesting the German army furnish him with a hundred well equipped soldiers to incite a guerilla war in India, as the natives of Spain had done in 1809 to oust Napoleon. Krug conceded that there was a great probability such a venture would fail. On the other hand, even a small coup in India could create a healthy scare in England which would presumably be noticed by Indian troops fighting and dying for their British masters.

## An itemized bill detailing the cost of starting Gadar in India with 100 persons was drawn up by the Berlin Committee

- -Amount for Ghadar Party passage of 100 men @ 100 marks — 50,000
- -Passage & Preliminary expenses for 25 students @ 1200 marks — 30,000
- -Amount to be carried to India by 5 people @ 2000 marks — 10,000
- -Transport, instruction & travel expenses — 10,000
- -Expenses for two workers for 2 months @ 400 marks — 1,600
- -Passage from Berlin to India — 800                      -52,000
- Germans assisted Ghadrates in funding for publishing anti-British Literature and its distribution worldwide, collection of arms and ammunition, and getting passports for free mobility through their consulates

# Gadarites Gets no money or any Arms

- “First world war started on July 28, 1914. ‘Declaration of War’ (Ailan-i-Jung) in ‘Ghadar’ on 5 August 1914.
- The first batch of Gadarites left for India on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1914. Ram Chander said, your duty is clear. Go to India. Stir up rebellion in every corner of India. You will get money and arms when you reach there.

- Brown, Giles (1948), *The Hindu Conspiracy, 1914-1917*. *The Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 17, No. 3. (Aug., 1948), pp. 299-310, University of California Press, ISSN 0030-8684.
- Joan M. Larsen, "The Hindu Conspiracy: A reassessment" *Pacific historical review* 1979 page 73  
Spring-Rice to Bryan May 12, 1915; Spring-Rice to Lansing June 14, 1915; Johann von Berstorff to Lansing, July 2, 1915 and Spring-Rice to Robert Lansing, Dec. 21, 1916; T. W. Gregory to Robert Lansing, Feb. 26, 1917, file 9-10-3, NA, RG 60

# Sources on Hindu German Conspiracy

- . **Don K Digan** **The Hindu Conspiracy in Anglo-American Relations during World War** **PACIFIC HISTORICAL REVIEW 1971, Vol 40 pages 57-76** As secret British documents were closed to scholars under Britain's fifty-year rule. Don K Dagan who studied this movement closely writes “Great surprise to find that a large proportion of the political files of the American Department of the British Foreign Office-nearly half of the bound volumes for 1916-relate to the Indian seditious problem”.
- . **Andrew Parnaby** **POLITICAL POLICING IN CANADA CLASS, LAW AND THE BURDEN OF EMPIRE**
- **PETER FREEMAN** **Zimmerman Telegram Revisited: A Reconciliation of the Primary Sources**
- **Karl Douglas Hoover, PhD** unpublished thesis, **The German-Hindu Conspiracy in California 1913-1918, June 1989**
- **Hugh Johnston; Surveillance of Indian nationalist 1908 to 1918** [prophet.library.ubc.ca/ojs/index.php/bcstudies/article/](http://prophet.library.ubc.ca/ojs/index.php/bcstudies/article/).
- **Henry Landau, the Enemy Within; The Inside Story of German Sabotage in America, G.p. Putnam's Sons, 1937**

## **Money for Indian freedom embezzled**

- Dr. CK Chkarvarty( USA In charge ) bought two apartments In New York With \$60,000.
- More than \$15,000 in cash was reportedly deposited in banks in the name of Pandit's wife.
- Properties were also purchased in the name of Pandit's personal friends.
- Two plots on Wood Street, San-fransisco put in the name of Mr. Reed.
- Harish Chandra took \$8,000 out of party funds and absconded.

# HINDU GERMAN CONSPIRACY TRIAL-1

- Nov. 20, 1917 to 24th April 1918.
- The Germans consular corps who had passed money to the Indians. 100 indicted 35 tried before Mr. Justice Van Fleet.
- Annie Larsen and the Maverick and the purchase of arms was unfolded by one confessor after another
- The hearing lasted 155 days, over 100 witnesses from all parts of the world were examined.

# HINDU GERMAN CONSPIRACY TRIAL-2

- The case cost the U. S. and British Governments over three million dollars.
- The jury found all the Indians, accused, guilty under the Neutrality Act and they were given varying terms of imprisonment with fines”. Along with 15 Indian Gadhrites.
- 16 German-American or Germans were also convicted. Franz Bop who was German consulate at San Francisco ( he was on stage with Lala Hardial on December 31 st, 1913 in Sacramento meeting) was convicted and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine

# HINDU GERMAN CONSPIRACY TRIAL-3

- Ram Chandra was assassinated on 24 April 1918 on the last day of the Trial for Misappropriation of party funds and misuse of power by Ram Singh who himself was big donor for Gadhar party and himself participated in Sikh Gadhar (owned Property worth \$125,000) a fellow defendant who in turn was shot by the US marshal on duty.

# HINDU GERMAN CONSPIRACY TRIAL-4

- Hari Singh Usman in charge on the Maverick ship carrying arms to India from the USA on April 23rd, 1915, reports
- Pandit Ram Chandra became a British agent and divulged all secrets plans to the British Council about him (Hari Singh) being the leader of the arms shipment on the Maverick. Then British Ambassador Spring-Rice writes to Bryan of the US state department on May 12, 1915 to investigate this shipment just in three weeks.
- Hari Singh Usman writes that orders were given to blow up the ship, but the German consulate informed Hari Singh Usman party about the double role of Ram Chandra. Therefore they changed the route of Maverick to travel through New Guinea

# HINDU GERMAN CONSPIRACY TRIAL-5

- The sad part of the story is that, when Gadarites went to India in August 1914, Ram Chandra promised arms and money when they reached India.
- But no arms or ammunition was sent to Punjab in 1914.
- In Punjab, the Gadar collapsed on February 19th, 1915,
- But the Maverick started from USA on April 23rd, 1915. Was this delay intentional?
- What kind of planning was this 'revolutionary leader 'would plan to send arms after revolution is over'?
- Was there was no coordination or it was intentional ?.

# HINDU GERMAN CONSPIRACY

## TRIAL-6

- Ajit Singh write that British government took several other measures to crush the movement: “The old policy of ‘divide and rule’ was used. Hindus were encouraged and cajoled to leave the party. Similarly Dr. Syed Hussain and Shaukat Ali toured the State and started a Moslem league to wean away the Mohammedans. Some prominent Sikh members were also deceived in heading a dissident movement.”
  - Secular/republican nationalism was the overriding commitment of Ghadrites but Ajit Singh a rude shock after seeing communal Frenzy . Perhaps it was this which took his life at 3:30am on Aug 15, 1947, (Independence Day). As Sikhs, Bodhis and Jains — who were the independent and unique religions of India — were legally assimilated into the Hindu fold by Article 25 of the Indian Constitution.

## 1946 Gadarites Dream become Truth IN USA. 1947 In Canada

- The [Hindu-German Conspiracy](#) failed to engage popular support within India. In Long run put significant impact on international relations. The **Luce-Celler Act** of 1946 quota of 100 [Indians](#) to immigrate to USA .[Indian Americans](#) to [naturalize](#) and become [United States Citizens](#). Harry Truman July 2,1946



# SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTION OF SIKHS IN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

- Sikhs comprise only about two percent of Indian population.
  - i) Out of 121 persons hanged to death, 93 were Sikhs.
  - ii) Out of 2644 persons awarded the sentence for transportation of life, 2147 were Sikhs.
  - iii) Out of 1300 persons killed at Jallianwala Bagh shootings, 799 were Sikhs.
    - iv) Out of 42,000 persons of INA, 21000 were Sikhs.
    - v) Out of Kamagata Maru passengers killed, 22 were Sikhs.
- VI. The secret British Gadar Directory list of revolutionaries in outside countries and India, first published in 1917 and then updated in 1934,
  - Total of 616 persons of which breakdown community-wise is Sikhs, 527, Hindus 54, and Moslems, 35.
  - Lala Hardyal and Veer Sarvakar but were alive, but their name is missing in this list why?

# **German Sabotage of America (July 1914-April 1917)-1**

- Before World War I, Germans thought they would make a short but decisive campaign through Belgium and North France, but they failed. Did not pay attention to USA.
- Germans soon realized that America's resources as a the key to the victory of the World War because all the ammunition and arms were supplied from the US.
- British navy was very strong, they were unable to destroy the ships on the way to Atlantic , so they adopted the second option of sabotaging the American ammunition factories and Canadian Pacific railways to achieve their goals.
- Germany did not have many trained spies in United States prior to World War I. Therefore, Germany used diplomatic representatives to build the necessary organization.

## German Sabotage of America (July 1914-April 1917)-2

The German embassy has four executives:

Ambassador----- Bernstorff

Commercial attaché----- Dr. Heinrich Albert

Military attache----- Van Poppen

Naval attaché—karl Boyd

- Germany's Commercial Attaché paid out at least \$30,000,000 for propaganda, sabotage, and secret service purposes. 50 acts of sabotage. 30 occurred in new York area
- Their was approx. at least \$150,000,000 damage done



*Brown Brothers*

*Count Johann von Bernstorff, Imperial German Ambassador to the United States. His Machinations Continued until the Severance of Diplomatic Relations in 1917.*



*Keystone Studios*

*Dr. Heinrich F. Albert, Imperial German Commercial Attaché. "The Mildest-Mannered Man That Ever Scuttled Ship or Cut a Throat."*



*Harris and Ewing*

*Captain Karl Boy-Ed, Imperial German Naval Attaché.*



*Krown Brothers*

*Captain Franz von Papen, Imperial German Military Attaché.*



*International News Photos*

*Consul General Franz von Bopp.*



*Brown Brothers*

*Von Papen's Assistant, Wolf von Igel.*



*International News Photos*  
*Captain Franz von Rintelen,*  
*as He Appears Today*



*International News Photos*  
*Spy Director Paul Koenig.*



*International News Photos*  
*Ship Bombers—Von Kleist, Schmidt, Becker, Paradies,*  
*Praedel, Karbade, Fritzen—on Their Way to Jail.*

## German Sabotage of America (July 1914-April 1917)-3

- Black Tom Island terminal was blown up on July 30, 1916, destroying 2,132,000 pounds of ammunition. The total estimated damage was \$14,000,000. Three men and a child were killed
- The Kingsland fire of Jan 11, 1917 damaged an ammunition plant which was used for assembling shells and was a subsidiary of Canadian company . Their estimated damage was \$17,000,000

## German Sabotage of America (July 1914-April 1917)-4

In Spring of 1915,

- \$83,000,000 contract from the Russian government for 5,000,000 shells;
- The factory was turning out 3,000,000 shells per month.
- After the fire, there was a damage to 275,000 loaded shells, 300,000 cartridge cases, 100,086 detonators, and 439,920 time fuses. Large stores of TNT and more than one million unloaded shells which were waiting for shipment to Russia, were completely destroyed

## **German Sabotage of America (July 1914-April 1917)-5**

- A German agent named Schulenberg was in contact with Ram Chandra.
- Van Papen came to know about Hindu coolies in Vancouver and planned to employ coolies in the Canadian Northwest to dynamite railway bridges and tunnels.
- This plan was dropped because the Annie Larson schooner was caught at that time.

# German Confessions later on

- German ambassador Bernstorff referred to the Hindu plot in his memoirs as “an absolute wild-goose chase.”
- German military attaché Von Pappen years later wrote in his own memoirs that “he never really expected Germany to successfully export revolution to India, but rather create a diversion of British effort.”
- 1918, the Sedition committee headed by Rowlatt reported: “German arms scheme suggests that the revolutionaries concerned were far too sanguine and that the Germans with whom they were they got in touch, were very ignorant of the movement which they attempted to take advantage.”

## **Position of Germans, British, USA, Hindu Leaders of Arya smaj&sikhs-1**

- United States wanted to stay neutral in World War I and probably wanted to go on selling arms to France, Britain and Russia.
- Germany wanted to become superpower, but soon realized that America's resources might well be the key to the victory of the World War I as all the ammunition and arms were supplied from the US. Therefore they sabotaged the American ammunition factories and Canadian Pacific railways to achieve their goals.
- The British had two goals before them:1). How to reduce the German & German Americans influence .2). how to induce the US to World War I?
- The British needed many collaborators who could bring inside information from German side who could provoke the US to jump into World War
- Hindu leaders of Arya Samaj, operating in the background, had larger goals of securing the Indian sub-continent for Hindus.

## **Position of Germans, British, USA, Hindu Leaders of Arya smaj&sikhs-2**

- . Sikhs had leadership crisis. The real value of Sikhs lied in creating Danger for the British and then increasing their bargaining power. Severer the threat, larger the bargaining power. Sikhs have no visionary leader of their own.
- Sarvarkar's radicalism, Gadar rhetoric of Lala Har Dayal, anti-British tone of Ram Chandra compelled many patriots to jump into the Gadar, but all the three of them surrendered to the British and started promoting Hindutva as shown by evidence.
- Most Sikhs who joined the Ghadar Movement were fully conversant with Sikh martyrdom tradition and teachings of GGS endorsing equality, liberty and independence and 1699 Creation of khalsa.

# **POLITICAL Impact of the Hindu German Conspiracy**

The Hindu German Conspiracy failed to engage popular support within India. However, it had a significant impact on Britain's policies in the empire and international relations. **The chief of Indian Intelligence Sir Charles Cleveland was forced to warn that the idea and attempt at pan-Indian revolutions were spreading through India "like some hidden fire".**

# German Sabotage of America July 1914-April 1917 is a Part of North American Sikh history

- Sikh Gadar Movement is a part of Stockton Gurudwara's history, whereas Sikhs played larger roles in India's freedom, which remains unrecognized till the present day.
- *Gadari* Sikhs had a vision of secular nationalism, perhaps a republican nationalism, similar to that of USA but their generations received communal nationalism and lost their unique identity under article 25( Section IIb) of The Constitution. Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism have been characterized as part and parcel of Hinduism.
- New generation of North American Sikhs must produce own Leadership. Pioneer Sikhs had leadership crisis but their Sikh Gadar movement of Indian freedom 1907-1918 acted as dagger in creating Danger for the British. But they were used By Hindu leaders of Arya Samaj by increasing their bargaining power, operating in the background with larger goals of securing the Indian sub-continent for Hindus.

# **Punjab government has Declared to build a Jang-e-Azaadi memorial in 25 acres in Kartarpur in Jalandhar district Jalandhar.**

**Committee members include Dr Kirpal Singh, Dr JS Grewal, Punjabi University V-C Dr Jaspal Singh, Prof. Prithipal Singh Kapoor, Dr Harish Sharma, Dr KL Tuteja from Kurukshetra and Dr Barjinder S.Hamdard.**

