

# **RULERS OF INDIA, RANJIT SINGH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649686544

Rulers of India, Ranjit Singh by Sir Lepel Griffin

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**SIR LEPEL GRIFFIN**

**RULERS OF INDIA,  
RANJIT SINGH**



# RULERS OF INDIA

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## Ranjit Singh

BY SIR LEPEL <sup>Nancy</sup> GRIFFIN, K.C.S.I.  
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Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS: 1892

**Oxford**

**MORACE HART, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY**

## PREFACE



IN writing this sketch of the life and times of Mahárájá Ranjít Singh I have made large and frequent use of my former works on the cognate subjects; *The Punjab Chiefs*, *The Rájás of the Punjab*, and *The Law of Inheritance to Sikh Chiefships*. On these books several years of my official life, and several subsequent years of such leisure as belongs to Indian officials, were employed. They contain in full detail the histories of all the great Sikh families in the Punjab proper and the Cis-Sutlej territories, of the men who were the courtiers, the advisers, and generals of the great Mahárájá. There was no noble family in the province with which I was not personally acquainted, and from their records and information, as much as from official manuscripts and documents, the history of the time was compiled. It is thus obvious that I am compelled to plagiarize from myself. To Dr. Ernest Trumpp's work on the *Adi Granth*, I am indebted for some portion of the information contained in the Chapter on The Sikh Theocracy, and to Mr. Denzil Ibbetson's admirable Census Report of 1881, for certain statistics and deductions therefrom.

LEPEL GRIFFIN.

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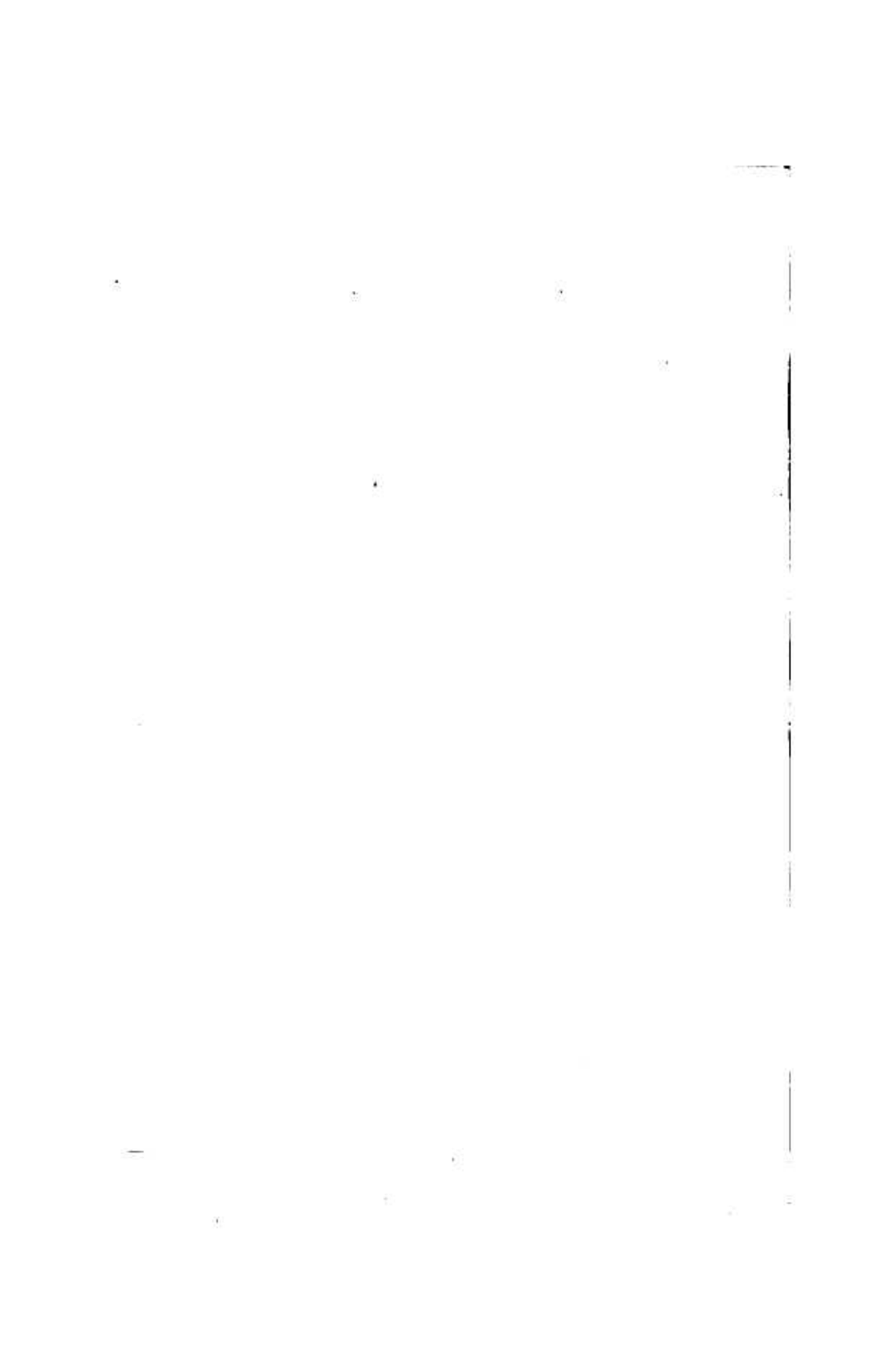
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### NOTE

The orthography of proper names follows the system adopted by the Indian Government for the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*. That system, while adhering to the popular spelling of very well-known places, such as Punjab, Poona, Deccan, etc., employs in all other cases the vowels with the following uniform sounds :—

a, as in woman : á, as in father : í, as in kin : i, as in intrigue :  
o, as in cold : u, as in bull : ú, as in rule.



# RANJIT SINGH

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY

THERE is, perhaps, no more notable and picturesque figure among the chiefs who rose to power on the ruins of the Mughal Empire than Mahárájá Ranjít Singh, the founder of the short-lived Sikh kingdom of Lahore. In the stormy days at the beginning of the century, amid a fierce conflict of races and creeds, he found his opportunity, and seizing it with energy, promptitude, and genius, he welded the turbulent and warlike sectaries who followed the teaching of Govind Singh into a homogeneous nation. Under his strong and remorseless rule, the Sikhs, trained and disciplined on a military system more perfect than had before or than has been since employed in the native States of India, were rapidly converted into a formidable fighting machine, which only broke in pieces when the folly and weakness of the great Mahárájá's successors persuaded them to use it against the English.

The Sikh monarchy was Napoleonic in the suddenness of its rise, the brilliancy of its success, and the completeness of its overthrow. Like his contemporary,