



Program for Culture and Conflict Studies

## **GUJAR TRIBE**

**The Program for Culture & Conflict Studies**

Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, CA

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## **PRIMARY LOCATION**

The Gujar live primarily in the Upper and Lower Dir, Bajaur, Chitral, and the Kunar valley in Afghanistan.

## **KEY TERRAIN FEATURES**

Valleys: Panjkora (Upper Dir), Maidan (Lower Dir), Jandola (Lower Dir), Tormung (Lower Dir/Malakand)

Plains: None

Mountains: Black Mountains

Rivers: Panjkora(Upper Dir), Kunar (Afghanistan), Shishi Kuf (Chitral)

## **WEATHER**

Weather in Chitral, Dir, Bajaur and the Kunar valley can range from 105° F in the summer to a low of 20° F in the winter.

## **MIGRATORY PATTERNS**

In summer the Gujar migrate with their flocks to the mountains. They are short-distance nomads who utilize mountain areas interspersed and overlapping with other Pashtuns. As with all of the nomadic tribes, they winter in the valleys and foothills and spend their summer in the mountains.<sup>1</sup>

## **RELIGION/SECT**

The Gujar are predominantly Muslim, but they also include Hindu sections, most of which reside east of the Indus river. Their specific Islamic sect is unknown, though it is likely to be Hanafi.<sup>2</sup>

## **FEUDS/POTENTIAL TRIBAL FRACTURE LINES**

The Gujar attempts to gain access to pastures claimed by other groups, along with their resistance to paying grazing fees has put them in conflict with settled Pashtun populations.<sup>3</sup>

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Gujar are a pastoral tribe. They appear to have immigrated into the North-West Frontier Province from India in the 9th century prior to the region's conversion to Islam.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Afghanistan Journal*, Center for Afghanistan Studies, University of Nebraska, 1980.

<sup>2</sup> *A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes of The Punjab and North-West Frontier Province*, compiled by H.A.Rose, based on the Census Report for the Punjab 1883, by Denzil Ibbetson, and the Census Report for the Punjab 1892, by E.D. MacLagan. First published in 1919.

<sup>3</sup> *Afghanistan Journal*, Center for Afghanistan Studies, University of Nebraska, 1980.

<sup>4</sup> *A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes of The Punjab and North-West Frontier Province*, compiled by H.A.Rose, based on the Census Report for the Punjab 1883, by Denzil Ibbetson, and the Census Report for the Punjab 1892, by E.D. MacLagan. First published in 1919.

The Gujars are scattered in large numbers amongst the Pashtun tribes from the Black Mountain to the Kunar River. There is no single concentration in the FATA or eastern Afghanistan. They own separate villages in or near the lower hills; however, most of them pay rent for the land that they occupy.

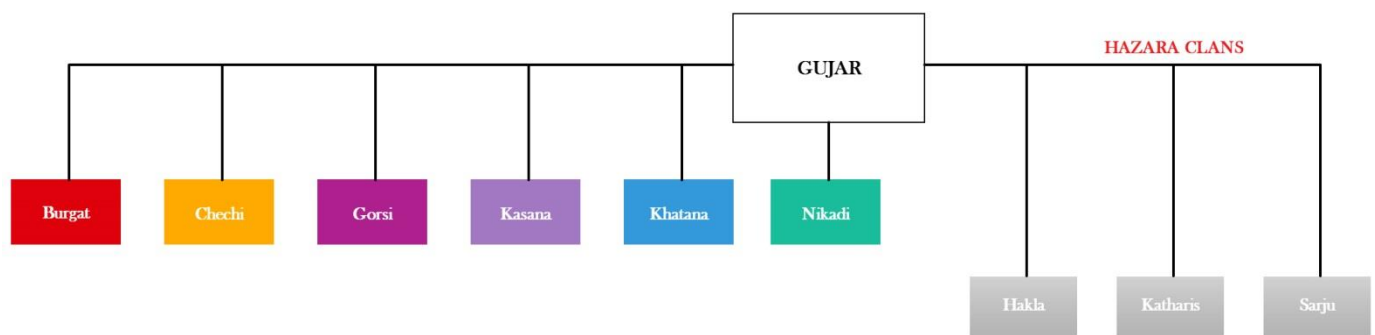
They have Rajput origins and only marry among themselves. In Peshawar, almost any herdsman is referred to as a Gujar, though they may not be a true Gujar by race.<sup>5</sup>

## INFLUENCE OF LEADERSHIP

The Khatanas appear to be the dominant clan. The Gujars are said to have 84 clans, although some accounts ascribe 101, 170 or 388 different sections. A specific breakdown of these sections is not yet available.<sup>6</sup>

## POLITICAL FACTIONS

In Hazara District, the Gujar clans are Katharis, Hakla, and Sarju. They maintain an identity distinct from other Gujars.<sup>7</sup>



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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> *A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes of The Punjab and North-West Frontier Province*, compiled by H.A.Rose, based on the Census Report for the Punjab 1883, by Denzil Ibbetson, and the Census Report.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.