

The Empire Strikes

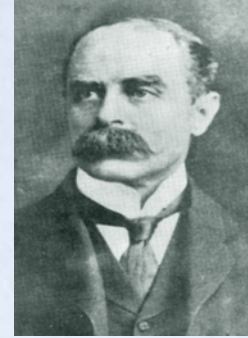
The Younghusband Military Mission (1904)



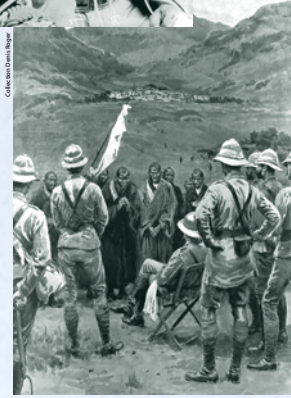
Entering the Gate of Lhasa



Lord Curzon



Sir Francis Younghusband



Negotiating with the Lamas...

Lord Curzon, India's Viceroy, was a man in hurry; he wanted to open new markets in Tibet and check Russian advances in Asia. He told London that the Chinese suzerainty over Tibet was a 'constitutional fiction' and decided to prove it.

In January 1904, Capt. Francis Younghusband led 5,000 Sikh and Gurkha soldiers onto the Roof of the World. For a few days, the Tibetan Army tried to stop them, but the battle of Guru soon ended with 700 Tibetans dead. The road to Gyantse and Lhasa was opened. In September 1904, a Convention between British India and Tibet was signed in Lhasa.



With the Chomolhari as a background



The battle of Guru



The battle of Gyantse



Illustrations of the British troops entering Lhasa (July 1904)



The Tibetan historian Shakabpa wrote: "It is quite clear that the British were dealing with Tibet as a separate and independent state, particularly since the 1904 convention makes no reference to China or to Chinese authority in Tibet."



Signing the Lhasa Convention (1904)



The Seals on the Convention



Map showing the route of the Younghusband Expedition