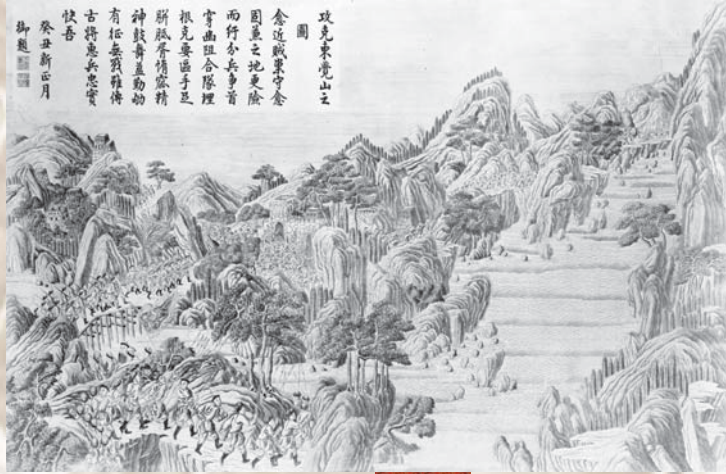
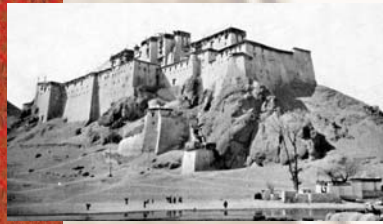


# Conflicts with Neighbours

## Tibet fights its own Wars



Chinese painting showing the Manchu participation in the campaign against the Gurkhas



The Shigatse fort was taken during the Gurkha campaign

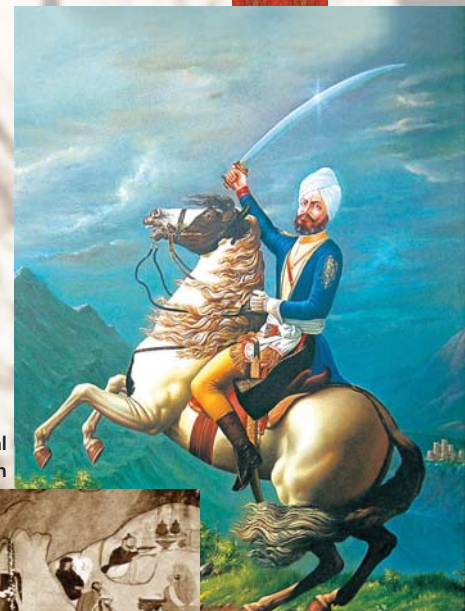
In 1788, during the reign of the 8th Dalai Lama, Nepal attacked Tibet over a trivial matter: a wrong currency exchange rate. Southern Tibet was invaded.

In 1792, another war erupted and this time the Gurkhas reached Shigatse. The Manchus, called to the rescue, sent a strong army to repulse the invaders. A treaty was signed between the Manchus, the Gurkhas and the Tibetans in which the Chinese succeeded in showing Nepal and Tibet as their protectorates.

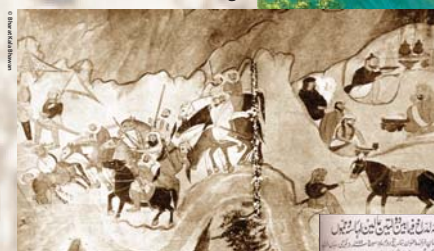


The treaty was kept in this building in front of the Potala

The Dogra general, Zorawar Singh wanted to conquer Tibet, but in 1841 he was trapped by snow and blizzards on the Tibetan Plateau. More than 3,000 Indian troops perished in a single battle and the general himself was decapitated. Tibetan troops followed the fleeing Dogra troops to Ladakh where they remained until a final agreement was reached between the two parties and a 'Letter of Agreement' confirmed the demarcation of the border between India and Tibet.



General Zorawar Singh



Painting of Zorawar Singh's campaign



1842 Peace Treaty in Tibetan and Urdu

In 1856, another war with Nepal broke out. The Gurkhas occupied again a few districts of Southern Tibet. Tibetan monks volunteered to go on the battlefield, but before they could reach the Tibetan border, the Nepalese had called for negotiations.

A clause of the Treaty signed in 1856 says that both parties promised to provide "all the assistance that may be in their power, if the troops of any other 'raja' invade the [other] country". This clause will not be invoked in 1950.



Watercolor of the Gurkha advance in 1855 in Kyerong (Tibet)



Tibetan and Nepalese seals on the 1856 Treaty