

D U F O U R E D I T I O N S I N C .

# NEW BIOGRAPHY OF A GREAT INDIAN RULER TO LAUNCH AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

As part of the

Taking Heritage to the 21st Century - The Sikh Contribution

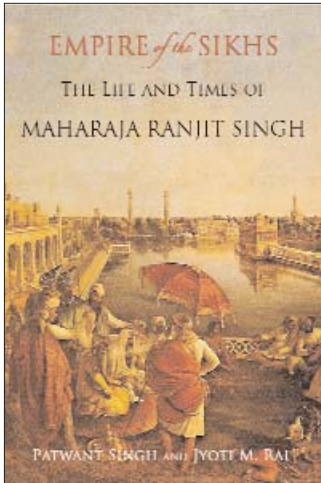
## *EMPIRE OF THE SIKHS*

*The Life and Times of Maharaja Ranjit Singh*

by Patwant Singh & Jyoti M. Rai

will launch at The Library of Congress

101 Independence Ave SE, Washington DC on June 18 and 19

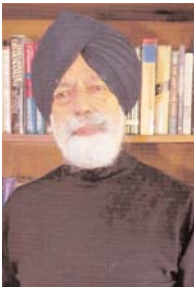


Largely overlooked in Western accounts of India's past, Ranjit Singh (1780-1839) is yet one of the truly great figures in Indian history. This stirring account of his life shows how he unified the warring Punjab chiefdoms, built up a northern empire bordering Kabul and Tibet, and defied British designs on his territory for half a century.

At the same time, Ranjit Singh was a consummate humanitarian and cultural leader. He employed defeated foes and honored other faiths, all while keeping a magnificent court. This first full-length biography, using both Indian and British eye-witness accounts, offers a fascinating appraisal of a ruler who gave definitive shape to Sikh history and made Amritsar's Golden Temple one of the greatest religious pilgrimage sites in the world.

Taking Heritage to the 21st Century - The Sikh Contribution, a two-day conference in celebration of Sikh culture, is organized by The Kaur Foundation, working to build a positive Sikh identity in the US. For a full listing of panel topics and schedule please visit us at [www.dufoureditions.com/empire\\_launch.htm](http://www.dufoureditions.com/empire_launch.htm).

Copies of *Empire of the Sikhs* will not be available for sale at the Library of Congress and we invite you to purchase them beforehand at Amazon.com or wherever books are sold.



Patwant Singh is well known for his books and articles on India, international affairs and the environment. His most recent books include *The Sikhs* (1999), *The World According to Washington: An Asian View* (2004) and *The Second Partition: Fault-Lines in India's Democracy* (2007).



Jyoti M. Rai was educated in London and New Delhi. She lived and worked in New York from 1980 to 2000, most of the time at the American Numismatic Society, assessing, cataloguing and researching its collection of South Asian coins. She has built up an important personal collection of Sikh coins.

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