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**Title: Obstructing Geography: Resisting British Interventionism in Early Nineteenth Century Sindh**

Abstract: This paper considers three diplomatic encounters between the Talpur sovereigns of Sindh and the East India Company from 1800 to 1829. These encounters hinge on British demands for access to Sindh and Talpur concern for denying British mobility in their domain. At stake in this contest is the British effort to expand their geographic knowledge of Sindh, which is a necessary precondition for escalating interventionism. The Talpurs drew on political and cultural resources available within Sindh and transregionally in their attempts to thwart the British. Yet, even as they sought to close off social and political exchange with the British, successive encounters found them appropriating British terms of engagement to shore up their resistance. The paper examines the range of possibilities open to sovereigns in the early nineteenth century who found themselves under the shadow of an ascendant British Empire. The dialectic between resistance and appropriation characterized the diplomatic exchanges of two states that were becoming rapidly familiar and increasingly suspicious of each other.