

TRIBE: BHITTANI

PRIMARY LOCATIONS:

The Bhattani Tribe resides in the area from the Gumal Valley in the south to Gabar Ghar Mountain in the north. On the political map, the area occupied by the Bhattani will include the territory between Waziristan and the Dera Ismail Khan District. Although most of the Bhattanis live in the above-mentioned areas, significant numbers also reside in the Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan Districts.

RELIGION/SECT:

The Bhattani Tribe are of the Hanafi sect of Sunni Islam.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Bhitannis claim descent from Baitan, the third son of Kais, the founder of the Pashtun group. Bhattanis are also referred to as Bitani, Bhítani, Battani, Bhetanni, or some similar variation thereof. Some families who reside in Baluchistan refer to themselves as Bottani.

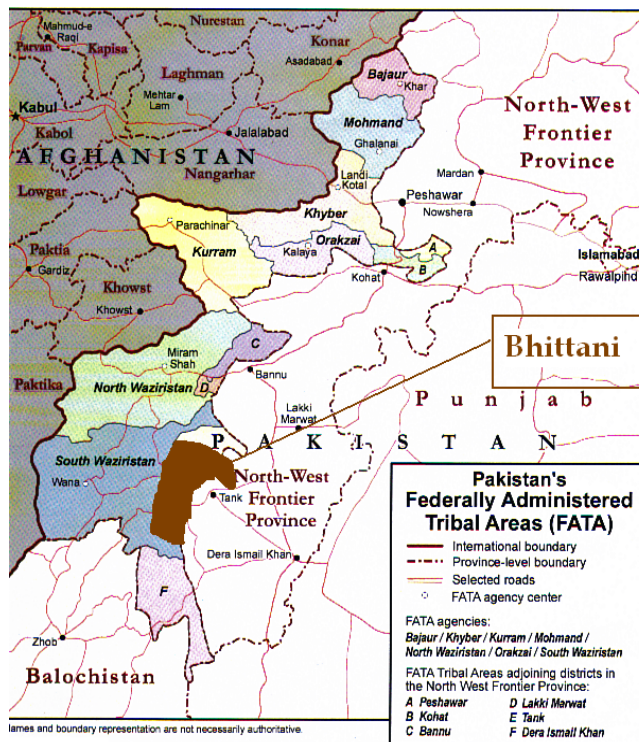
The Bhattani hill territory is almost bare, rocky, and uncultivated, although some wheat is grown and the land supports small numbers of sheep and cattle.

ALLIANCES:

The Bhattani are the hereditary enemies of the Mahsuds, however, over the centuries they have joined with them during important battles against invaders. In August 2007, Bhattani tribesmen threatened a Lashkar against Mahsud tribesmen if they did not return 16 kidnapped Bhattanis.¹

Bhattanis have also worked as spies and guides for their Mahsud neighbors and historically harbored outlaws and fugitives. Mahsud raiders had to pass through Bhattani territory to enter the settled areas on several occasions, and were generally allowed to do so without opposition due to the numerical weakness of the Bhattani.

FEUDS:



PROGRAM FOR CULTURE & CONFLICT STUDIES

The Bhattani Tribe maintains a long-standing feud with the Marwats, who may be “cousins” of the Bhattanis.

KEY TERRAIN FEATURES:

Valleys: Gumal, Tak Zam

Mountains: Spin Ghar, Gabar (Gabbar)

Rivers: Tak Zam, Larzan, Shuza

WEATHER:

The climate in the region is hot in summer, with high temperatures around 110 degrees Fahrenheit, and cool in winter, with low temperatures around 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The average annual rainfall amount is 10 to 11 inches, with most rainfall in July and August. The driest months are October and November.ⁱⁱ

MAJOR TOWNS:

Jandola

Juma Gul and Nashkora Pall – villages of cave dwellings on the Spin Lindai Algad

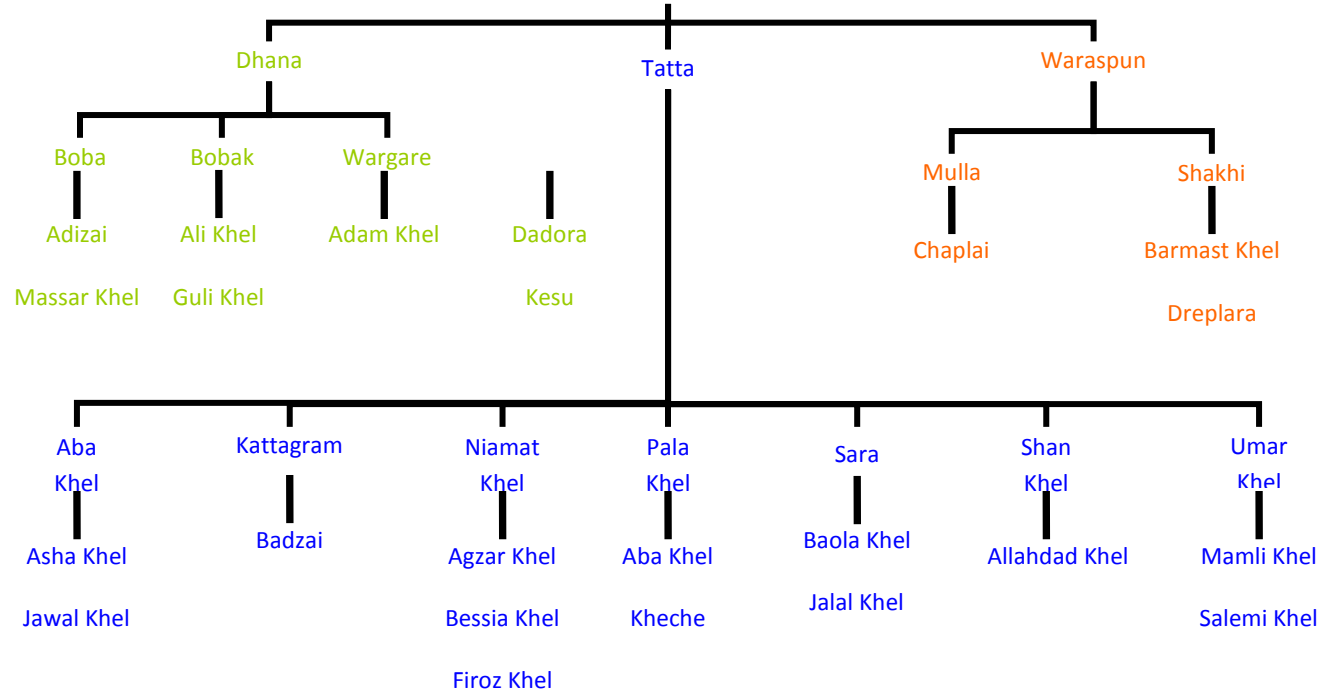
Bannu

Lakkimarwat

PERMANENT ARMY/FRONTIER CORPS/SCOUT LOCATIONS:

The South Waziristan Scouts headquarters is located in Jandola.

BHITTANI



ⁱ Dawn, "Waziristan Clashes Leave 12 Dead," August 17, 2007, <http://www.dawn.com/2007/08/17/top4.htm>.

ⁱⁱ <http://www.wunderground.com/NORMS/DisplayIntlNORMS.asp?CityCode=41624&Units=english>.