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MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF INDIA

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1. Muslim Invasion of India

Administration and Socio-Economic Impact of Arab Rule in Sindh

- The Arab conquest of Sindh (712 CE) is primarily depicted in the Chachnama (or Fathnama-i-Sindh).
- According to Chachnama, the capital of the Indus Country in the 6th and 7th centuries was Arod (Aror/Alor).
- In Sanskrit texts and inscriptions from the 8th to 14th centuries, terms used to denote Muslims included Turushka, Tajika, and Parashika.
- In Islam, offering prayers five times a day is called Salat.
- The Arab traveller Suleman (Sulaiman) presented an account of the period of Mihir Bhoj (Pratihara ruler).
- Vikramashila, a prominent center of learning in medieval India, was established by King Dharmapala of the Pala dynasty.

Arab Invasion of Sindh: Causes and Context

- India's earliest contact with Islam occurred through Arab merchants on the Malabar coast in the 7th century CE, predating the invasion of Sindh.
- The Arab invasion of Sindh in 712 CE marks the first successful Muslim military expedition into India.
- Primary Cause: The expansionist policy of the Umayyad Caliphate.
- Immediate Cause: Piracy off the coast of Debal (Sindh). Ships carrying gifts/orphans from the ruler of Sri Lanka to Caliph Al-Walid and Governor Hajjaj bin Yusuf were plundered.
- The ruler of Sindh, Raja Dahir (a Brahmin), refused to compensate or punish the pirates, prompting retaliation.

- Governor Hajjaj bin Yusuf (of Iraq) dispatched his nephew and son-in-law, Muhammad bin Qasim, to invade Sindh.
- Muhammad bin Qasim successfully invaded Sindh in 712 CE, defeating and killing Raja Dahir.
- Key conquests included Debal, Nerun, Brahmanabad, Aror, and Multan (often called 'City of Gold').
- The Arab rule remained largely confined to Sindh and Multan, having limited political penetration into the rest of India.
- The invasion facilitated cultural exchange, especially the transmission of Indian knowledge (mathematics, astronomy, medicine) to the Arab world.

Background and Precursors: Arab Incursions into Persia and Central Asia

- North Indian trade and commerce experienced decline between 7th and 10th centuries.
- A contributing factor to this decline was the collapse of the West Roman Empire.

Causes for the Success of Turkish Invaders against Indian Kingdoms

- Political Disunity: North India fragmented into numerous independent kingdoms (e.g., various Rajput states), lacking a centralized authority or united front against invaders, often engaged in internal conflicts.
- Military Superiority:
  - Turkish forces employed superior cavalry, horse archers, and better strategic tactics, discipline, and maneuverability.
  - Indian armies often relied on slow-moving elephants and less agile infantry, making them vulnerable to swift Turkish attacks.
- Motivation:
  - Turkish invaders and soldiers were highly motivated by economic gain (plunder of wealth and resources) and religious zeal (jihad).
  - Indian armies, primarily feudal, lacked the same level of direct economic incentive for their soldiers.
- Social Structure: The prevalent caste system in India contributed to social divisions and disunity, hindering collective societal and military resistance.

Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate: Qutb al-Din Aibak and Initial Consolidation

- Bakhtiyar Khalji, a general under Muhammad Ghori (and later Qutb al-Din Aibak), was the first Muslim conqueror of Bihar.
- Bakhtiyar Khalji destroyed Nalanda Vihar and Vikramshila Mahavihara.
- He is considered the real founder of Turk rule in Bihar.
- Bakhtiyar Khalji conquered Bengal (capital Nadia/Lakshmanavati) in the early 13th century (circa 1202-1206 AD).
- The earliest detailed account of Bakhtiyar Khalji's invasions of Bihar and Bengal is found in Minhaj-ud-din Siraj's 'Tabaqat-i Nasiri'.
- Timur captured Delhi in 1398 AD.

First Battle of Tarain (1191 AD) and its Aftermath

- First Battle of Tarain occurred in 1191 AD.
- It was fought between Muhammad Ghori (Ghuran forces) and a confederacy of Rajput rulers led by Prithviraj Chauhan III of Ajmer and Delhi.
- Prithviraj Chauhan emerged victorious in the First Battle of Tarain.
- Muhammad Ghori was defeated and forced to retreat to Ghazni, suffering a significant loss.
- Prithviraj Chauhan did not strategically pursue the retreating Ghori army, allowing Ghori to reorganize and return with greater force.
- The chronological order of the specified Chauhan rulers is: Chamundaraj, Durlabhraj III, Vigraharaj III, Prithviraj I.

Impact of Ghaznavid Raids on North-Western India

- Ghaznavid raids by Mahmud (c. 1000-1027 AD) primarily aimed at plundering wealth

and weakening Indian kingdoms, not permanent rule.
- Raids significantly weakened the Shahi dynasty in North-Western India, paving the way for future invasions.
- Al-Biruni (Abu Rayhan Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Biruni): A Persian scholar who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni to India.
- Al-Biruni authored the famous literary work 'Kitab-ul-Hind' (Book of India) also known as 'Tahqiq-i-Hind' (Researches on India).
- 'Kitab-ul-Hind' was written in Arabic language.
- The book provides a detailed description of 11th-century Indian society, religion, philosophy, sciences, customs, and geography, especially of North India.
- 'Kitab-ul-Hind' mentions the Sun Temple of Multan.
- The Sun Temple of Multan was also mentioned by other travelers like Hiuen Tsang, Abuzaiyid, and Al Masudi.
- The pilgrimage to Sambapur was associated with Sun worship.

Indian Resistance to Ghaznavid Invasions

- Shahi Dynasty (Hindu Shahis): Formed the primary line of defense against Ghaznavids in Afghanistan and Punjab. Key rulers included Jayapala and Anandapala, who fought multiple battles against Mahmud of Ghazni.
- Gurjar Pratiharas: A major power in northern India, though their empire was in decline by the time of Mahmud's major raids. Their earlier strength had checked western incursions for centuries.
- Mathan Dev: A Gurjar Pratihara ruler of a local branch. He ruled from Rajorgarh (Rajyapura) in the Alwar region, as documented by the Rajorgarh inscription.
- Rajput Confederacies: Various Rajput kingdoms across North India, including Chauhans, Tomars, Parmaras, Chandelas, and Solankis, periodically formed alliances to resist Ghaznavid incursions.
- Chandelas of Jejakabhukti: King Ganda offered resistance against Mahmud during his campaign towards Kalinjar.
- Tomars of Delhi: Participated in the larger Rajput confederacies against Ghaznavid forces.
- Solankis of Gujarat: King Bhima I confronted Mahmud of Ghazni during his infamous raid on the Somnath temple (1025-1026 CE).

Mahmud of Ghazni: Motives, Campaigns, and Destruction of Indian Temples

- Mahmud was the Sultan of Ghazni.
- Main motive for Indian invasions was to acquire wealth (plunder) to finance his Central Asian empire.
- Conducted multiple campaigns into India, famously against the Hindushahi ruler King Jaypala.
- Destroyed the Somnath Temple in Gujarat in 1025 AD.
- Historian Al-Biruni (Abu Rayhan Biruni) accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni on several expeditions to India.
- Al-Biruni was a contemporary of Mahmud of Ghazni.
- Al-Biruni authored the book "Tahqiq-i-Hind" (or "Kitab-ul-Hind").
- Al-Biruni criticized Mahmud's behavior towards Hindus.
- The Persian poet Firdausi, who composed 'Shah Namah', was associated with Sultan Mahmud's court.

Muhammad bin Qasim's Campaigns and Conquest of Sindh (712 AD)

- First successful Muslim invasion of India.
- Led by Muhammad bin Qasim (Arab general).
- Year of invasion and conquest of Sindh: 712 AD.
- Ruler of Sindh at the time: Raja Dahir (Hindu king).
- Muhammad bin Qasim defeated and killed Raja Dahir.
- Primary source detailing the history of Sindh and its conquest by Arabs: Chach Namah (also known as Fateh-namah-i Sindh).

Muhammad Ghori's Further Campaigns and Consolidation of Turkish Power

- Battle of Chandawar (1194 AD): Muhammad Ghori defeated Jaichand, the Gahadavala ruler of Kannauj.
- Jaichand was killed in the Battle of Chandawar.
- Chandawar is located in the Etawah district of U.P., on the bank of the river Yamuna.
- Bakhtiyar Khalji's Campaigns (Subordinate of Ghori):
- Conquered Bihar (1193 AD), destroying Nalanda and Vikramshila universities.
- Invaded Bengal in 1202-03 AD.
- During his Bengal invasion (1202-03), Khalji attacked Tirhut.
- Raja Narshimhadeva, the ruler of Tirhut, agreed to pay tribute, and his territory was restored by Khalji.

Rise of the Ghaznavid Dynasty and Turkish Incursions

1. Alptigin: A Turkish slave commander, founded an independent kingdom in Ghazni (modern Afghanistan) c. 962 CE, separating from the Samanid Empire.
2. Sabuktigin: Successor and son-in-law of Alptigin. He consolidated Ghaznavid power and was the father of Mahmud of Ghazni.
3. Sabuktigin's Incursions: Was the first Ghaznavid ruler to conduct significant raids into India, defeating Jaipal, the Hindu Shahi ruler of Punjab, and annexing Peshawar.
4. Mahmud of Ghazni (998-1030 CE):
    - Son of Sabuktigin.
    - Carried out 17 major raids into India between 1000 and 1027 CE.
    - Primary motive: Plunder wealth (especially temple treasures) to finance his Central Asian campaigns and consolidate power.
    - Notable campaigns included attacks on the Hindu Shahi kingdom (defeating Anandpal), Multan, Thanesar, Kannauj, Mathura.
    - Most famous raid: Sacking of the Somnath Temple in Gujarat in 1025 CE.
    - Impact: Weakened the political and economic power of various Indian kingdoms, paving the way for future Turkish conquests.
    - Patronized scholars like Al-Biruni (author of 'Kitab-ul-Hind' or 'Tahqiq-i-Hind') and Firdausi (author of 'Shah Nama').
5. Nature of Incursions: Ghaznavid invasions were primarily plundering raids, though they did establish control over Punjab, which became their eastern frontier. They did not aim for widespread permanent annexation deep into India initially.

Second Battle of Tarain (1192 AD) and its Decisive Significance

- Second Battle of Tarain took place in 1192 AD.
- It was fought between Muhammad Ghori and Prithvi Raj III (Prithviraj Chauhan).
- Muhammad Ghori's forces decisively defeated Prithvi Raj III.
- Ghori's victory was primarily due to superior war technology, which included better cavalry, more effective tactical maneuvers (like feigned retreats and flanking), and a highly disciplined army.
- This battle is considered decisive as it laid the foundation for Muslim power and rule in India.

The Ghurid Invasion: Background and Objectives of Muhammad Ghori

- Muizuddin Muhammad Bin Sam, popularly known as Muhammad Ghori, was a ruler of the Ghurid dynasty originating from Ghur (present-day Afghanistan).
- Muhammad Ghori's primary objective in invading India, unlike Mahmud Ghazni, was to establish a permanent Islamic empire and extend his dominion, not merely to plunder.
- His first major campaign in India commenced in 1175 AD, targeting Multan and Uch.
- For his initial invasions into India, Muhammad Ghori primarily utilized the Gomal Pass, rather than the Khyber Pass.

- In 1178 AD, Muhammad Ghori advanced towards Gujarat but faced a significant defeat by the Chaulukya (Solanki) ruler Bhimdev II (also known as Mularaja II, under the regency of his mother Naikidevi) near Anhilwara.
- Note: Taimur (Timur) was a distinct invader from Samarkand who invaded India in 1398-99, primarily for plunder and destruction, differing from Muhammad Ghori's empire-building ambitions.

2. Delhi Sultanate: Slave Dynasty

Administrative Structure of the Mamluks

- Sultan: Supreme authority (executive, judicial, military head).
- Naib-e-Mumalik (Regent): Most powerful position after the Sultan, exercising royal powers.
- Balban held the post of Naib-e-Mumalik under Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud (1246-1265).
- Wazir (Diwan-i-Wizarat): Head of the finance department, responsible for revenue collection and expenditure.
- Ariz-i-Mumalik (Diwan-i-Arz): Head of the military department, responsible for recruitment, organization, and inspection of troops.
- Diwan-i-Risalat: Department dealing with religious affairs, appeals, or foreign correspondence.
- Sadr-us-Sudur: Head of religious endowments and charities.
- Qazi-ul-Quzat: Chief Justice of the Sultanate.
- Barid-i-Mumalik: Head of the intelligence department and state news agency.
- Vakil-i-Dar: Superintendent of the royal household.
- Iqta System: Land assignments (Iqtas) granted to military commanders/nobles (Iqtadars/Muqtis) in lieu of salary, who were responsible for revenue collection and maintaining troops for the Sultan.

Art and Architecture: Qutb Minar complex and early Indo-Islamic styles

- Qutb Minar: Initiated by Qutbuddin Aibak (first storey).
- Qutb Minar: Completed by Iltutmish (adding three more storeys, total four).
- Qutb Minar: Named after Sufi saint Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki.
- Qutb Minar Repairs/Additions:
  - Firoz Shah Tughlaq: Repaired after lightning strike, replaced damaged 4th storey, and added a 5th storey.
  - Sikander Lodi: Repaired and strengthened upper storeys in 1503 AD.
- Qutb Minar Materials: Primarily red sandstone, with marble used in upper storeys (added by Firoz Shah Tughlaq).
- Qutb Minar Style: Early Indo-Islamic architecture, showcasing a blend of traditional Indian and Islamic elements.
- Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque (within Qutb Complex):
  - First mosque built by Delhi Sultans in India, constructed by Qutbuddin Aibak.
  - Built by demolishing and reusing materials (spolia) from existing Hindu and Jain temples.
  - Expanded by Iltutmish and Alauddin Khalji.
- Iron Pillar (within Qutb Complex): Pre-Islamic origin, dating back to the Gupta period (Chandragupta II). Known for its rust-resistant composition.
- Tomb of Iltutmish (within Qutb Complex): Represents one of the earliest tombs of a Sultan in India.

Challenges to Mamluk Rule: Internal rebellions and Mongol threat

- Mongols under Changez Khan (original name: Temuchin/Temujin) appeared on India's northwest frontier during Iltutmish's