

Lesson 31A

The medieval state

Summary

The victory of the Turks led to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate in India. Various ruling groups ruled during this period and each one of them tried to expand the sultanate. They also set up strong administrative machinery to consolidate their rule. A well-developed Army, Bureaucracy and system of taxation emerged. Delhi sultanate was replaced by the Mughal rule which was established by Babur. During the time of Mughals also a strong administrative system and administrative institutions was put in place along with a well-developed provincial administration. This helped the Mughals to rule over large parts of India.

DELHI SULTANATE

- Origin of Delhi Sultanate during the times Muhammad Ghauri.
- Ilbari Turks were collectively known as the Delhi Sultanate.
- Iltutmish succeeded Aibak in 1211 - 1236.
- Introduced coins of Tanka (silver) and Jital (copper) .
- Iltutmish nominated his daughter Raziya to be his successor.
- The political situation had changed by 1246, when Ghiyasuddin Balban, attained power in controlling the administration of the newest Sultan, Nasir – ud – din Mahmud.
- Balban, acting first as naib (deputy) to the Sultan and later as Sultan.
- Finally, in 1290, Khalji force led by Jalaluddin Firuz Khalji founded the Khalji dynasty

The Khaljis

•Jalaluddin Khalji (1290 – 1296)

•Alauddin Khalji succeeded him in **1296** till **1316**.

•**Sultanate briefly assumed the status of an empire.**

•Khusraw Khan killed the Sultan Mubarak Shah.

•Ghazi Malik waged war against Khusraw Khan..

Tughlaqs

•The Tughlaqs Ghazi Malik ascended the throne as Ghiyasuddin Tughluq.

•Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1325–51)

•The Tughlaq dynasty ended soon after Timur's invasion.

•Timur's nominee new Sultan of Sayyid Dynasty (1414 AD – 1451 AD).

•Lodhis followed Tughlaq's who are Lodhis were of Afghan origin.

THE MUGHALS

- In 1526, Babur from Central Asia established the Mughal dynasty.
- Sher Shah declared his new dynasty called the Sur dynasty in Bengal and Bihar.
- He defeated the army of Babur's son, Humayun. Humayun, therefore, send his son Akbar in exile.
- Akbar was crowned in 1556, as Bairam Khan conquered strategic fortress cities at Lahore, Delhi, Agra, and Jaunpur.
- He also conquered Malwa and Rajasthan before he was assassinated.
- Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb succeeded Akbar.
- The period after the death of Aurangzeb followed by imperial fragmentation.
- Though the dynasty survived until 1858, when it was dethroned by the British.

Nature of Medieval State

- Based on the concept of *Dar-ul-Islam* of which the Caliph was the juridical head.
- India under the Mughal emperors was governed under the Muslim law *Sharia*.
- The Turkish and Afghan rulers of India had treat the Hindus, who formed the vast majority of the population, with consideration and toleration.
- Defence, law and order and collection of revenue were the primary concerns of the Sultanate of Delhi.
- Toleration and kindness were the guiding principles of Akbar's government.

THE KINGSHIP

- A monarch was a man of personal greatness, not only as an army commander but as a spiritual and moral being.
- Poets, scholars (imams and ulema), architects, chroniclers, biographers, spiritual guides (Sufis), and Friday prayer leaders praised the Muslim monarchs.
- Early Sultans like Mahmud of Ghazni relied entirely on kin and close ethnic allies.

The Royal Court

- **Darbar**, where sultan received guests, ambassadors, supplicants, allies, and payers of taxes and tribute.
- The institution of the **darbar** evolved over time
- Many **darbars** incorporated Hindu and Muslim traditions of display and drama

Sultan's retinue (a group of retainers in attendance), regalia privileges & a king and family symbolized his greatness.

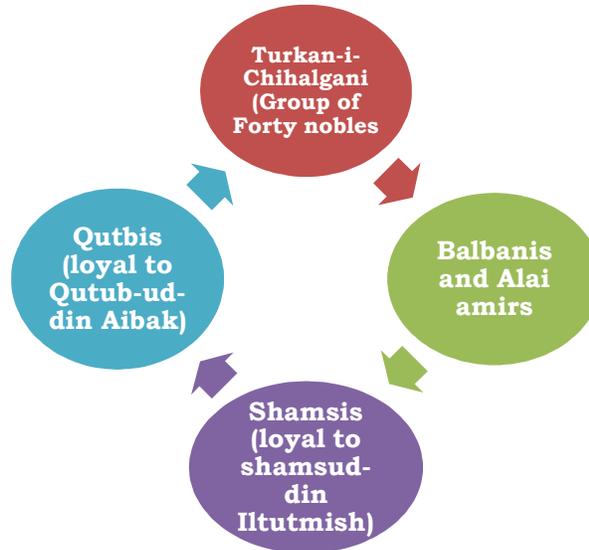
The sultan had to be the biggest, richest, most elaborate, extravagant, valuable

PERSONA OF THE KING

• Vijayanagar Rayas styled themselves "Lords of the Eastern and Western Oceans"

• At home, the Sultan's honor rested on the virtue of his mother, wives, daughters, and sisters.

THE NOBILITY



OFFICES AND HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE

- Both the sultanate and mughal governments were organized bureaucracy with regular gradation of departments and officers.
- No officers, either civil or military, was hereditary
- Immediately after Sultan comes Wazir, who supervise the affairs of the government.
- Prime Minister was called as Wakil, later as wazir or diwan.
- Sultanate Military department: Diwan – i – Arz headed by Ariz – i – Mumalik.
- Mughal military department: Mir Bakshi was in charge of army and general administration of royal establishment.
- Sultanate religious affairs: Diwan – i – Risalat headed by Sadr – us – Sudur.
- The Mughals continued the same.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

- Muqtis or walis were in –change of the provinces.
- Sahib–i–diwan ,mutasarrifs and karkuns
- Shiqq emerged as an administrative division later known as Sarkar
- For justice courts of the Qazi and the Sadr
- In each province a governor, a dewan (revenue and finance officer), a bakhshi (military commander), a sadr (religious administrator), and qazi (judge) and agents who supplied information to the central government.
- The Mughal provinces were also divided into districts (sarkars).
- Each district had a faujdar, qazi, bitikchi and khazanedar

IQTA, JAGIR AND MANSAB

- Iqta under the Sultanate and Jagir under the Mughals were developed as the officers for the collection of revenue which Iqtadars or jagirdars realized on behalf of the state with a view to obtain their salary.
- Mansab means literally a rank or a position which was fixed according to the personal merit and status (zat) of the officer and the contingent (sawar) he maintained.

TAXATION



ARMY

- Sultanate and the Mughal state were dependent on army whose main strength was the cavalry.
- Balban was the first one to recruit a regular standing army
- Ala-ud-din-Khalji introduced the branding system (Dagh)of the horses.
- The royal cavalry in Delhi Sultanate was called Hasham-i-Qalb or Afwaj-i-Qalb. Hasham-i-Atraj was the cavalry posted at provincial level.
- This army was organized on the basis of decimal system.

CURRENCY SYSTEM

- Iltutmish introduced silver tanka a weighing 175grains.
- The currency system was bimetallic
- Copper coin called jital.
- In the fourteenth century, 48 or 50 jitals were held equal in worth to tanka.
- The Lodis, minted silver bullion coin 145 grains called bahloli.
- Sher Shah Suri established a bimetallic system by issuing a rupee of silver and making the tanka a purely copper coin.
- The Mughals also issued gold coins, known as mohur or asharf

Evaluate yourself

- Q. List the name of the currency used in medieval period.
- Q. Differentiate between mansabsari and iqta system
- Q. Explain the taxation system of medieval period.