

**UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT**



**SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**B.A (OPEN STREAM)  
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

**STUDY MATERIALS &  
OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION BANK  
WITH ANSWER KEY**

**PART III**

**HISTORY**

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UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT  
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*Study Material & Question Bank with Answer Key:*  
B.A. Part III - History (Open Stream)

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**Dear Student,**

I feel pleasure in presenting this edition of 'Study Materials'. This book is written for individuals preparing for B.A. History (Open stream) entrance examination. In this study material an attempt has been made to provide some of the accepted historical incidents of India. Also, the question bank provides additional information.

I wish you all success.

**DIRECTOR  
SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**

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## Chapter - I

# INDUS VALLEY CULTURE

### 1.1 Objectives

*After reading this unit you should be able to:*

- learn about the Bronze age culture of India.
- understand the important characteristic features of Indus Valley People.
- analyse the religious belief of the Indus people
- know the causes which led to the decline of Indus Valley culture

### 1.2 Introduction

The discovery of Indus Valley civilization pushed back ancient Indian history to 2500 B.C. in 1920 the excavations started. The excavations are not yet over.

### 1.3. Date of Indus Valley

It is difficult to say when the Indus Valley Civilization flourished. Sir. John Marshal thinks that Indus valley civilization flourished about 4000 - 2500 B.C. Dr. R.K. Mukerjee has a different opinion that the period was in between 3250 - 2750 B.C. Indus valley civilization was contemporaneous to the Babylonian and Mesopotamian civilizations. So the date may be between 4000 - 2751 BC or earlier.

### 1.4. Important characteristics

#### 1.4.1 Town Planning

The most important characteristic of the Indus cities was its town planning. The uniformity in the planning of Mohenjodara, Harappa and Kalibangan was identified by the historians. The city was separated into two sections. The city was separated into two sections: The Citadel and the Lower's city. The citadel was seen in the western side of the city and built on high platform of mudbrick. The lower city as the residential area. The roads were cut across one another

almost at right angles. Baked and unbaked bricks were used for constructions. Houses were of various sizes.

#### 1.3.2 Drainage System

The drainage systems built by Indus people were remarkable. They built a common drainage system for the whole city. The water from the bathrooms of each houses was in direct connection with the common drainage system. These common drains were covered with stone slabs.

#### 1.3.3 Great Bath

One of the most famous structures of the Indus valley was 'Great Bath' of Mohenjodaro. The Great Bath was built with bricks on the citadel mount. There were flights of steps on either ends. It had side rooms for changing clothes. The water for the tank was drawn from an adjacent well which was connected to the common drain. It was believed that the 'Great Bath' was used for ritual bath of the ruling class or the priests.

#### 1.3.4 Indus Scripts

Indus people knew the art of writing. Many seals were discovered all over the Indus valley. But scholars have not succeeded yet in deciphering Indus scripts. they are engraved on small seals.

### 1.4 Religion

Mother goddess was the main deity of Indus Valley people. A three headed deity was discovered which seems to be a prototype of Shiva. They also worshipped trees and animals which had an important position in the religious faith of the people. The dead were either buried or cremated. They worshipped the female energy as a source of all creation. Shiva - Parvathy was another god that they worshipped. This shows that the Indus people worshipped the Shiva and Shakti.

Purification by bath was a usual practice of the Indus people.

### 1.5 Causes of the Disappearance of Indus Valley Civilization

Various reasons have been put forward by scholars for the decline of the Indus valley Civilization. Many of the scholars argued that the floods in the rivers and the earthquakes led to the decline. Changes in the course of the river Indus contributed to the decline of the cities. Aryan invaders, who came from outside, destroyed the Harappan cities. Human fossils in the streets support this view. The ecological imbalances, loss of the fertility of the land and contagious disease were the main reasons put forward by the scholars. Many scholars do not support these reasons.

It is clear that the Harappan civilization began to decline from 2000 BC onwards and it finished around 1750 BC.

### 1.6 Summary

The special characteristic features of the Indus valley civilization such as the town planning, the drainage systems and big buildings like the Great Bath and granaries were noticeable and secured a historical importance, because of its unique structure and style. The Indus script was discovered, but it is not deciphered by the scholars. If it is deciphered, it is sure that we will get more information about the Indus Valley Civilization.

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## Chapter II

### VEDIC AGE

#### II.1 Objectives

After reading this unit you will be able to

- know about the political systems that existed in the vedic period
- understand the society that existed during the vedic period.
- analyse the economic condition of the vedic people

#### II.2 Introduction

After the decline of the Indus valley culture there arose a new urban culture. Vedic works are the main sources that help to reconstruct this age. That is why the age is called the Vedic age.

#### II.3 Important works

The earliest literary source for the history of India was the Rigveda which was dated from about 1500 to 1000 BC. The hymns were addressed to various gods. Vedic literature comprises the four Vedas, the Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads etc., and the later Vedic literature contains Sutra, Vedangas, Upvedas the Puranas, Epics, Dharma Sastras etc.

The Brahmanas are the commentaries of the Vedas. Each Brahmanas is connected with some Veda. Rigveda has two Brahmanas: Aitareya and Krishitila. Aranyakas which was considered as another important Vedic literature are the part of Brahmanas. As they were studied in the forests they were called Aranyakas. It dealt with spiritual life and were meant for elderly people who had passed out of grihashthramam.

Upanishads are the concluding parts of Brahmanas. They deal with spiritual subjects and the ultimate secrets of creation and universe. All these works that are included in the Vedas are called the early Vedic literature.

The later Vedic literature included Sutras, Vedangas and Upvedas, Smrities, Puranas, Dharma shastras and the two epics – the

Ramayana and the Mahabharatha. Sutras were the new books which were the collection of newly developed social customs.

#### II.4 Vedic Polity

The Vedic polity was tribal. The tribal chief became the 'Raja'. The 'Raja' protected the tribe and lead them in wars. Kingship was not hereditary. The clans men selected the king among themselves. In Rigveda the word 'Vis' was used to refer to the clan and many clans together formed a tribe.

Purohita was one of the most important functionary. He conducted Yajnas for the sake of the tribe and the King. They got many gifts as a reward for their service. Vasisht and Viwamitra are the two important purohitas mentioned in Rigveda.

Senani or military commander got the next rank after purohita. Raja led the tribe in wars, at the same time the Senani looked after all essentials of the military and led the group along with the Raja. Raja never maintained a standing army.

Vrajapati, was in charge of pastured grounds. Raja did not collect tax from his people. But the public offered him 'Bali' which was a part of their property. The Rigveda does not give any idea about the functionaries of tax collection.

In the later Vedic period there were so many changes in the political field compared with the Rigvedic time. Janapada, the area where the tribes settled emerged. This term was developed from the term 'Jana' which denotes the tribe or people. The term 'Rashtra' is also seen in the later Vedic texts. But it was not used in the sense of modern state. Rashtras developed with the tribe and used the tribe's name for their Janapadas.

Tribes were unified and new tribal groups emerged. The position of tribal chief was changed from the status of the chief who led in cattle raids and cattle thefts into the protector of the territory and his subjects. The

Kshatriya, people who held power over dominions, had a prominent position in the society.

The 'Kshatriyas' or the 'Rajanyas' conducted many rituals to strengthen their position in the society. Aswamedha, Rajasuya and Vajapeya were the main rituals they conducted to expand their territory and strengthen their power. The kingship was not hereditary and there were no rigid principles of heredity.

In the Rgvedic period the main aim of battles was the ownership of cattles. But in later Vedic time this was changed when the territory got more importance, the acquisition of land was the end of the battles.

There were indications about some officials, who helped the Raja in the administration, in the later Vedic texts. Ratnavahaka, was one of the important officials. 'Sangrihita' collected tax. Senani continued as the leader of the army. But there was no clear evidence about a standing army.

There were several assemblies, with administrative, legislative and judicial powers. The most important among them were Sabha and Samiti. Sabha was the council of the selected members where as Samiti contains the whole clan. In the later Vedic time the Samiti was pushed back and Sabha got more importance. Sabha had the power to select the Raja. There were rules and regulations for the functioning of the Sabha.

#### II. 4 Vedic Society and Religion

Social relations were based on kinship. Tribes were known as Jana. Cattle was the chief wealth and the battle for cattle raids was known as "Gavishti". 'Raja' or 'Gopati' was the chief of the tribe. Gotra was the kinship unit. All these terms were derived from the word 'gov' or the cow.

Vedic society was a patriarchal one. Rigvedic hymns give evidence that the society gave importance to male members. Women had also got important position. They got education and could participate in the assembly. They had the right to choose their life partner.

The Vedic texts gives evidences about 'Dasas' and 'Dasyas' the two different groups of the period. The dasas are described as dark, full lipped, worshippers of the phallus and of hostile speech. The Aryans were fair in complexion. The colour or 'varma'

provided the identity.

In the course of time society was divided in to three social groups. They were 'Rajanyas' or the warriors, purohitas the priests and the common people. Rigveda give some evidences about the domestic slays who were presented as a gift to the priests. The division of society started on the basis of occupation.

The term Gotra is mentioned in Rigveda means 'Clan' which is used to mention the unit of kinship. Gotra had separate mark for the identification of their cattle. The term 'Kula' is used very rarely in Rigveda. Kulapa was the head of the family. The term griha is also used for family.

The Vedic hymns reflect the religious ideas of the people. They worship the natural forces like wind, water, rain, thunder, fire etc. Female deities were very few. Indra was the most popular god of Aryans. He represent the thunder- storm, rain, war etc. He was called 'purandara' or the destroyer of forts. Agni was another important god who was the god of fire. Varuna, the God of water, was the upholder or the natural holder of universe.

Yama and Soma were the gods of death and plants respectively. Marut was the god of wind and storm. There were many gods like Surya, Rudra etc. Ushas, the goddess of dawn was one of the important female deities that the Aryans worshipped. Aditi, who was invoked to release her worshipper from bondage, Saraswati, the river diety were the other female deities mentioned in Vedas. But these female gods were not given much importance as that of male gods. Prayers, offering of sacrifices were the mode of worshipping and they were performed by priests.

#### II. 5 Economic condition

Vedic society was a pastoral society. Cattle rearing was their main occupation. Cattle became the important form of wealth. They were also engaged in agriculture. They might have used wooden plough and practices shifting cultivation.

#### II. 6 Summary

The early vedic and later vedic works were the most important source for reconstructing the vedic age. The vedic society and polity were tribal one. It was a pastoral society and cattle rearing was their main occupation.



## Chapter III

## JAINISM AND BUDDHISM

## III. 1 Objectives

*After reading this unit you will be able to*

- understand the background which resulted in the rise of Jainism and Buddhism.
- analyse the main doctrines of Buddhism and Jainism.
- know the effects of these religions on Indian society.

## III. 2 Introduction

The prevalent Brahmanical system was based on hierarchical relations. Much importance was given to sacrifices and rituals. A desire for a simple religion which could be practised without much difficulties in their daily life aroused in the minds of the common people.

Between the fourth and sixth centuries B.C. trade expanded and towns developed. There was economic prosperity. Along with traders and merchants, artisanal classes also grew up in the society. These developments contributed to the growth of unorthodox religious sects. Jainism and Buddhism were two such. These religions were patronised by the mercantile classes in opposition to Brahmanism. The oppressed classes also found in these religions a way out of their social situation.

## III.3 Jainism

Jainism was a revolt against existing Hinduism. Jainism started with Lord Mahavira. But according to the Jain traditions Jainism is as old as the Rig Vedic Civilization. Rishaba was their first Thirthankara and Lord Mahavira was last of the twenty fourth Thirthankaras.

Lord Mahavira or Vardhamana was born in about 599 BC at Kurda grama near Vaishali in Bihar to a wealthy family. He married Yasoda and had a daughter by her. He

became a monk at the age of 30 after death of his parents.

## III.3.1 Main Teachings of Jainism

Parasnath, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Thirthankara developed some ideas of Jainism. He opposed the worship of many gods and goddesses. He was against Yajnas and animal sacrifices. He wanted to see women occupy a place of honour in society. He laid emphasis on ahimsa, truthfulness and non-attachment.

Lord Mahavir collaborated the teaching and philosophy of Jainism and that is why he is called the real founder of Jainism.

Parasnath put forward the basic doctrines of truth, non-violence, non-possession and 'not to receive anything which was not voluntarily given. Lord Mahavir added brahmacharya or celibacy to it. He believed that soul and matter are the two basic elements. Through continuous efforts the soul can get final liberation or moksha. He suggested the triratna – the right belief, right knowledge and right action. In his belief all objects had a soul. He rejected the authority of the Vedas and the supremacy of Brahmins.

## III.3.2 Effects of Jainism

Jainism had its effects and influence on social, political and religious life of the people. It gave a serious set back to caste system. The Jains rendered many public utility services and with this the society was greatly benefited by their activities. Jains avoided eating at night and drinking undistilled water and eating potato, onions etc. In the religious field it freed religion from becoming costly and ritualistic. The teachings of Jainism were simple and readily acceptable to the people. At the same time Jainism killed the militant spirit of the Kshatriyas.

## III.3.3 Disappearance of Jainism

In the beginning it got much support from the common people. But gradually it began

to disappear. Many causes led to the decline of Jainism. It was not a missionary religion: Mahavira did not propagate it like Buddha. It was a type of extremist religion involving extreme type of sacrifices. In the actual life, the principles like ahimsa could not be followed and the new religion lost royal patronage. Bimbisara, Ajatasatru, King Kharavda and so on patronised Jainism but their patronage was limited to a small period of history and hence was not so effective.

### III.4 Buddhism

#### III.4.1 Origin and teachings of Buddhism

Buddhism was also founded by an illustrious kshatriya, Gautama. He was born as the son of Maya in Lumbini garden near Kapilavastu in Nepal. His father, Suddhodana was the ruler of Sakya class. Gautami, Gautam's step mother, brought up the child. He married a beautiful princess Yashodara. But seeing many disheartening scenes of sufferings, he decided to leave the world in order to find out the truth. At the age of 29 he left his wife and his son Rahul and the luxurious life in the royal palace.

After leaving his palace he wandered through many places. At last, one night when he sat under a pipal tree, the light dawned on him and he became the Buddha, the enlightened one, at the age of thirty five; He decided to propagate his message to the masses. He preached to the people in the regional languages. He won their heart and mind. He passed away at the age of 80 at Kusinagar in Gorakhpur District.

#### III.4.2 Main teachings of Buddhism

The Four Noble Truths and Eight Fold Path were the basic doctrines of Buddha. The world is full of sufferings and ignorance. All sufferings have a cause. Desire and attachment are the causes of suffering. The suffering could be removed by destroying its cause. To end sufferings one must know the Eight Fold Path or Ashtangika Marga. The Eight Fold Path consists of these principles:

1. *Find the right view:* It is to understand that the world is filled with sorrow generated by desire, The ending of desire will lead to the liberation of the soul.
2. *Right aim:* It seeks to avoid the enjoyment of the senses and luxury it aims to love

humanity and increase the happiness of others.

3. *Right Speech:* It seeks to emphasis the speaking of truth always.
4. *Right action:* Ahimsa and life are included in the right action.
5. *Right livelihood:* A man should live by honest means.
6. *Right effort:* One should control one's senses so as to prevent bad thoughts.
7. *Right Mindfulness:* Meditation is the means the removal of worldly evils.
8. *Right concentration:* The observation of it will lead to peace.

Buddhism gave importance to individual karma. Each individual makes his own destiny through his karma. 'Nirvana' is the ultimate goal of man.

#### III. 4.3 Legacy of Buddhism

Buddhism is considered as one of the important religious of the world. Buddhism has some permanent effects on the life of the people. Buddhism helped to kill the militant spirit of the people by preaching 'Ahimsa'. It weakened the nation to fight foreign invaders. It preached Dharmavijayam in the place of Digvijayam. It helped in promoting peace in the country.

Buddhism reformed the evils in Hinduism which had crept in it in the course of time. They organised the sanghas for preparing monks and preaching Buddhist philosophy. They reduced the class distinction in the religion. It helped to develop a sense of unity and oneness in religion.

Buddhism gave a serious blow to the caste system and helped a great deal in the reformation of the Hindu society. It changed the out look of the priestly class. It taught to love, to show affection and to respect others.

#### III.5 Summary

Jainism and Buddhism was a revolt against the existing Brahmin dominated Hinduism. Truth, Non-violence, Non-possession, Brahmacharya or celibacy were the main doctrines of Jainism. The four Noble Truths and the Eight Fold Path were the main doctrines of Buddhism. These two religions made great influence in the Indian society.

## Chapter IV

## RISE OF MAURYAS

## IV.1. Objectives

*At the end of this unit you will be able to*

- Understand the administrative system of the Mauryas
- Understand about the most famous Indian ruler Asoka
- Understand the main causes for the decay of the Mauryas

## IV.2 Introduction

Kautilya's 'Arthashastra', Vishaka Datta's 'Mudrakshasa', Greek accounts inscriptions, puranas, jain tradition, Buddhist tradition etc give the details about the political, social and economic conditions in the Mauryan empire.

## IV.3 Janapadas

India was divided into sixteen states (Republics) or Mahajanapadas, before the rise of Buddhism in India. These sixteen states were the following:

(1) Kashi, (2) Kansal, (3) Anga (4) Magadha (5) Vaji, (6) Malla, (7) Chedi, (8) Vamsa or Vatsa, (9) Kurn, (10) Yanchala, (11) Matsya, (12) Sursena, (13) Assaka, (14) Avanti, (15) Gandhara, (16) Kamboja.

The Republics spread from Afghanistan to Bengal. Evidences about these Republics are given in Buddhist works. Republics given in , Ankhutharinikaya gives details of 10 Janapadas that existed during the time of Budha. The period of Janapadas end with the rise of magadha.

## IV.4 Administration

The center of the administration was the King. He was the supreme authority in military, judicial, executive and legislative matters. It was a centralized administrative system with Magadha as the core region. *Arthasasthra*, Greek Accounts and the

Asokan Inscriptions give us the idea about the Mauryan administration. Arthasasthra considers the Kings as the most important of the seven components of the state. This is called the Saptanga Theory – Mantri (Minister), Mitra (friends) Danda (army), Janapada (territory), koṣa (treasury) and the Durga (fort) were the other six limbs. King should be born in high family and he must be the protector of dharma. A council of ministers (Mantri-Parishad) helped the king in the administration. It was an advisory body. The number of members in the council was decided on the basis of the need of the time. King could accept or reject the advices of the mantris.

Mauryas organized a good and large army. Megasthenes gives a detailed account of the mauryan army. Army consisted of infantry, cavalry, elephants, chariots and the fleet. Kautilya accounts chaturangabala (i.e. infantry, cavalry, chariots and elephants,) as the main part of the army. Each branch of the army was under the control of five member committee with the commander as its head. Army officials and soldiers were paid in cash. An espionage system was maintained by the Mauryan Kings. It was useful and essential for the stability and progress of the state. Spies collected information on the internal and external problems. They reported the news directly to the King.

Two kinds of courts existed in the Mauryan empire: Dharmasthiya and the Kantakasodhan. The first one Dharmasthiya deals with civil cases and Kantakasodhan deals with that of the criminal. The Gramika (village head) was the judicial authority at the village level.

The head of the revenue administration was the 'sannidhata' *Arthasasthra* mentions

about twenty one types of taxes which was collected from the cities Bhage or land revenue was collected from the cultivators

#### IV.5 Regional and Local Administration

The centralized administration was efficient only in the core area. So a provincial administration was introduced. Royal prince or the kumara was the head of provincial administration. He was assisted by mahamatyas or mahamatras.

The district level administration was conducted by Pradeshta, Rajuka and Yukta. They maintained law and order in the district. The village level administration was done by the Gramika or the village head man.

#### IV.6 Agriculture and Trade

The introduction of iron tools in the agricultural field led to the spread of agriculture in the valley of river Ganges. They used socketed axes, sickles and possibly plough, shears to clear the forest and make the land ready for agriculture. Great stress was laid on bringing new land under cultivation. Sudras were brought to the agricultural areas for the agricultural works. The state provided irrigation facilities for cultivation. They developed rules and regulations for the distribution of water. These facilities helped to bring more barren land under cultivation.

The pre-Mauryan trade continued and developed during the Mauryan period. Mauryan rulers gave protection to the traders, which helped to further developments. The capital of the Mauryas, Pataliputra was an important center of trade. They used river for transportation. The state policy of the Mauryas was helpful for the development of internal as well as external trade.

The organization of trade was controlled by the state itself. The control on the production and distribution made it more efficient. The state directly employed, artisans, like spinners, weavers, miners, ship builders, armourers and so on. Mauryas appointed officials to maintain standard weights and measures. All traders had to pay taxes and customs duties.

Craft guilds or srenis had existed in the

pre-Mauryan period itself. Many new artisan groups increased during the Mauryan period. The Well known Guilds of the period were these Metallurgists of various kinds, carpenters, potters, leather workers, painters, textile workers and others.

Merchants also had their own guilds. They were closely connected with the artisans Guild because the artisans guilds were the distributors of goods. The state also encouraged the information of guilds. The guilds facilitated the collection of taxes.

#### IV.7. Asoka

Asoka the grand son of Chandra Gupta Maurya and the son of Bindusara was the most illustrious king of the Mauryan dynasty. He succeeded the throne in 273 BC. The most important event of his rule was the Kalinga war. Asoka fought against Kalinga and conquered that Kingdom. One hundred and fifty thousand person were captured, hundred thousand were slain and hundred of people were killed. The sight of blood shed and sufferings smote the conscience of Asoka and revolutionized his life. The horrors of the war made a total change in his character.

He gave up his imperialist policy and adopted the policy of 'Dharma Vijai' instead of Digvijai. Asoka's Personal religion was Buddhism. But he did not compel his people to follow his religion. 'Asoka Dharma' introduced by Asoka was different from Buddhism. It was a collection of some of the good principles of all the religions. He laid emphasis on obedience and respect for parents, preceptors and elders. Liberality and proper treatment of Brahmanas, Sremanas, relations, friends, the aged and the distressed were highly recommended. Asokadharma included the following principles. He laid emphasis on obedience and respect for elders. In the same way the elders, superiors and officers should be polite and kind to their youngsters, subordinates and servants, He was against 'himsa'. He gave up royal hunt and did not allow the use of meat in the royal kitchen. He gave importance to truthfulness and charity.

Asoka's Dharma was thus based on toleration and non violence and it included measures aimed at the better welfare of

citizens. These ideas could be found in the edicts and inscriptions of Asoka. These were in the local script and found in various parts of his empire.

#### IV. 8 Decline of the Mauryas

Mauryan empire started declining with the death of Asoka in 232 B.C. The decline was completed in 180 BC. Asoka's successors were weak. They could not maintain the political, economic and military control over the large areas. The Dharmanahamatras became more powerful during the later period of Asoka. His successors were not keen to continue the policy of Dharma and dharmamahamatras reacted sharply. The provincial governors became more powerful and they began to declare independence.

During the early times the espionage system was very efficient, But later it collapsed. The military inactivity followed by Asoka also helped the people to rise in rebellions. Certain historians suggest that the brahmanical reaction against the Mauryan

rule helped its down fall. The financial commitment of the Mauryan rule to maintain a huge army and the large contingent of bureaucrats weakened the treasury.

The Sungas and Greeks in the north, the Satavahanas in the Deccan, the Kharavelas in Kalinga, the local rulers of the Vidherbha, western maharashtra etc., became independent after Asoka. All these causes led to the decline of the Mauryan empire.

#### IV. 9 Summary

Chandra Gupta Maurya was the founder of Mauryan dynasty and Asoka was the most famous among the rulers. King was the centre of the administration. Mauryans had mainly seven components to help the king in the administration. In arthasastra this is called as the Saptanga theory. A good standing army and an espionage system was maintained by the Mauryans. Agriculture and trade were the two main economic activities. After the death of Asoka the Mauryan empire began to decline.

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## Chapter V

## POST-MAURYAN STATES

## V.1 Objectives

*At the end of this unit you should be able to*

- Understand who were the central Asian Powers that attacked India during the period between 200 BC and 300 BC
- Become familiar with the Dynastic history of the main Central Asian powers
- Know about the indigenous ruling class of Central India, the Sathavahanas

## V.2 Introduction

After the Mauryan empire several petty kingdoms emerged in the North, East and southern parts of India. But there was no powerful kingdom to control all these kingdoms. This situation was utilized by the Central Asian powers and they conquered the north-western and northern Indian. Indo Greeks, Kushanas and the Sakas were the important Central Asian powers. While the Central Asian occupation was going on in the North-West and Northern India, an indigenous ruling class, the sathavahanas came into power in Central India and Deccan.

## V.3 The Indo Greeks

The Bactrian Greeks who came to India were later called as Indo-Greeks. The successors of Asoka were not able to resist the invasion of the Indo-Greeks. The political uncertainty of northern India was utilized by the Indo-Greeks and they reached so far as Panchala, Sabeta and Pataliputra. The most important ruler of the Indo-Greeks in India was Dimitrias. In this time in Bactria, Eucratidus started a revolt. This led to the establishment of another Indo-Greek dynasty. Dinitrius ruled the areas in East Punjab and Eucratidus dominated West Punjab.

Meanander, son of dimitrias, was the most important ruler among the Indo-Greeks, The time from 165 BC to 145 BC was the time of his rule. Sialkot in Punjab was his capital. Nagasena, a Buddhist monk, converted him to Buddhism. The questions of Milinda to the monk and his answers were compiled in a book called '*Milinda Panha*'. Various sources give knowledge's about thirty Indo-Greek rulers. After the death of the last rulers Hermeas, the Kingdom of the Indo-Greeks in India came to an end. The issued gold coins in India for the first time. The coins were issued in the names of the kings. These coins were helpful in reconstructing the history of the Indo-Greeks

## V.4 The Sakas

The Sakas captured India through Bolan pass. They originally belonged to the Central Asia. They originally belonged to the Central Asia. Their sources give information about five groups of Sakas. One group stayed at Afganistan, the other four groups came to India and occupied Punjab, Madhura, Western India and Deccan.

Manes was the first Saka King in India. He was succeeded by Azez who had fought against the Indo-Greeks. Rudradam I ruled the area of Sindu, Gujarat, Konkan, Malwa, Kathiawar, Narmad Valley and Western Deccan. The Saka dynasty gradually declined after the Rudradam. But they continued to rule up to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

## V.5 Parthians

Parthians reached India after the Sakas. Their original home was at Iran. Ancient Sanskrit sources refer to Sakas and Parthians together as Saka-Pahlavas. Gondophernes was the most prominent ruler of the Parthians

During that period, St. Thomas came to India for spreading Christianity. Many coins of Gondophorns are available. Some coins bear the names Gondophornes and his nephew Abdagases. Abdagases succeeded his uncle Gondophornes. But the Parthian rule was gradually on the course of decline.

#### V.6 The Kushanas

Kushanas were another group who succeeded the Parthians. They belonged to one of the five clans of Yuchchi tribe. Two different dynasties ruled the Kushana empire. One dynasty is called Kadphises which was established by Kadphises I. He conquered the territory of Parthians. The second king in this dynasty was Kadphises II or Vima Kadphises. He introduced a gold coin which was similar to that of the Romans. Budakahan was his capital.

Kadphises rulers were succeeded by Kanishka. Kanishka was the most important Kushana ruler in India. Peshwar his capital. But later he conquered Kashmir and built another city called as Kanishka Puram. The Saka era, the term which is used by India government today, was started by Kanishka in 78 A.D.

Kanishka is specially known for his relation with Buddhism. The fourth Buddhist council, convened by Kanishka in Kashmir, finalized the doctrines of Mahayana Buddhism.

His contributions to arts, and Sanskrit literature were remarkable. After Kanishka

the Kushana began to decline.

#### V.7 The Satavahanas

While Northern India was occupied by the Central Asians, Central India and Deccan was ruled by Satavahanas. The Andhra kings were identified as the Satavahanas.

Historians assume that the Satavahana dynasty was founded by Simukha. Nasik inscription mentions that Kanha succeeded Simukha. Goutamiputra Satakarni was the most able ruler of the Satavahana dynasty. He was succeeded by his son Pulumayi. The contemporary Saka ruler Raudradaman defeated Pulumayi and captured the places which were earlier taken over by Goutamiputra. The successors of Pulumayi ruled till 220 A.D.

#### V.8 Summary

The Indo-Greeks utilized the uncertainty of north India. The most important rulers of Indo-Greeks were Dimitrius and Euratidus who were the leaders of two Indo-Greek dynasties. Menander, who ruled from 145 BC to 165 BC was another ruler. He patronised Buddhism. Manes was the first Saka ruler. The Sakas occupied Punjab, Mathura, Western India and Deccan. Parthians came to India, followed by Sakas. Kushanas were another group that came to India. Kanishka belonged to the Kushana dynasty. This time the indigenous Satavahanas ruled the central India. Simukha founded this dynasty and Goutami Putra Satakarni was the most important ruler among the Satavahanas.

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## Chapter VI

## IRON AGE IN SOUTH INDIA

## VI. 1 Objectives

*After reading this unit you will be able to*

- Know about the burial system that existed in south India in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC
- Understand about the important sangam works
- Learn about the Tinai system that existed in South India.

## VI.2 Introduction

When we study Indian History, we must have an idea about South India. South Indian History starts from the stone age culture. 'Megalith' Culture was the burial system, that existed in South India by using 'big stones'. The Sangam works give us knowledge about early South India. It gives reference about the Tinai system which was the Micro-eco-zones or physiographic divisions.

## VI.3 Megalithic Culture

Megalith literally means big stone. It is the burial monument, built of granite rocks. The megalithic age is considered as the iron age culture of South India. Scholars like Mortimer Wheeler and R.D Banerjee have suggested that the South Indian megaliths have many similarities with the magliths discovered from the West Asia and the Mediterranean region. Maski in Karnatak, Nagarjunakonda in Andhra Pradesh, Adichancellur in Tamil Nadu and several parts of Kerala, especially from the Wynad region were the main megalithic sites. The megalith burial shows various methods for the disposal of the dead. Bones of the dead were collected in an urn and buried in a pit is a method done by the megalithic people. This pit was marked by a stone circle. In some other cases pit circles have been formed with stones for the burial of the dead.

The first millennium BC was the period of megalithic age. The megalithic monuments include, human bones, various types of pottery, tools, iron objects, weapons, beads and ornaments, cult objects and several iron objects like knives arrow-heads, swords spears, ploughshare etc. The discovered potteries

belonged to the black and red-ware. The sangam literature of tamizhakam belonged to the same period.

## VI. 4 Early Tamil anthologies-Sangam

The Sangam literature, compiled during the early centuries of the Christian era is the main source for the reconstruction of early South Indian history Sangam was an academy of scholars. These was a part of the folk tradition of the ancient Tamizhakam. The poets Kapilar, Avvayar, Paranar and Gautamanar Composed these anthologies.

The 'Tirainar Akaporul' of eighth century AD, give details about the sangam works. It divided the Tamil works into three sections. They were Ettiuthokai, Pathu Pattu and Patinenkizhkanakku. The earliest among the Sangam works is Tolkapium. The epics, Manimekhalai and Chilappathikaram are later works.

## VI.5 Concept of Tinai

Tinai were the physiographic division or the micro-eco-zones of ancient Tamizhakam. Sangam literature gives details about this Tinai system. There were five Tinai (Aintinai) in ancient Tamizhakam. They were 'Kurinji', 'Palai', 'Mullai', marutham and 'Neital', Kurinji is the hilly area. Kanavar, Vetar and Kauravar were the main inhabitants of these area. Their main occupation was hunting and food gathering. The deity of Kurunji was Varu.

Mullai area was occupied by Idayar and Ayar. Their main occupation was cattle rearing and shifting cultivation. Mayan was the chief deity of this Tinai. this is the area of pastora land.

Palai religion was the living place of Maravar, Kallar and Eyinar, whose main occupation was plunder. Palai was the dry zone.

Marutham was the wet land where the Uzhar and Thozhuvar cultivated Neithal, the conastal regions, was inhabited by Parather, Parathiyar, Minavar. Alavar, Alathiyar etc. Fishing and salt making were their main occupation.



## Chapter VII

### THE RISE AND GROWTH OF THE GUPTA EMPIRE

#### VII. 1 Objectives

After reading this unit you will be able to

- ♦ Know about the main rules of Gupta period
- ♦ Analyse the administrative system of the Guptas
- ♦ Know the social division which existed during the Gupta period
- ♦ Have an idea about the land grant system which was started by stavahanas and continued by the Guptas

#### VII.2 Introduction

After the fall of Mauryan empire many regional powers emerged in North India. In this background Guptas emerged as a great power, and united the North India in the fourth century AD.

Many inscriptional evidences points out that Sri Gupta was the first king of the Guptas's. He was succeeded by the Ghatolkacha. But the first independent king was Chandra Gupta I. He assumed himself the little 'Maharadhiraj'. His coins with the figures of Chandragupta and Queen Kumaradevi have been discovered. He extended the territorial boundaries of kingdom. It covered parts of Bihar, Bengal and Uttarpradesh.

Samudra Gupta the successor of Chandra Gupta expanded the kingdom into an empire. The Allahabad inscription provides information about conquest of Samudragupta. This inscription was composed by Harisena. It is engraved on the other side of the Asoka pillar in Allahabad.

Inscriptions mention Chandra Gupta II as the successor of Samudra Gupta. According to some other sources Raffia gupta was the immediate successor of Samudra Gupta Chandragupta II killed his brother Raffia Gupta and declared himself

as the king Chandra Gupta II expanded his country through matrimonial alliances.

Chandra Gupta II was succeeded by his son Kumara Gupta. In the last time of his rule Huns attacked the Gupta empire. His son and successor Skanda Gupta was able to defend these attacks. But the successors of Skanda Gupta were unable to defend the attacks by the Huns.

#### VII. 3 Administration

Gupta administration was the continuation of the Mauryan administrative system. The administration of the vast are of the Gupta empire was not done by the Gupta King directly. The regional and local rulers employed much impendence. King was the central figures of the administration. They used titles like Parameswara, Parambhattaraka, Chakravarthi Maharajadhiraja etc. Kingship was generally hereditary. King had to lead the army in war and protect his subjects during war and peace.

Gupta Kings maintained a standing army. Sandhi-vigrahika was the minister-in charge of war and peace. Pilupati was the head of elephants, Asvapati, in charge of horses, Narapati in charge of foot soldiers. They were all under the Sandhi-Vigrahika Ranabhandagrika was in charge of the stores.

Land revenue was the main source of income. The land tax was collected normally from one-sixth to one-fourth of the total produce. Vishti or forced labour existed and traders payed a commercial tax called Sulka.

Several law books were certified during this time. They divided laws as civil and criminal laws. Laws were according to the Varna system.

Empire was divided into several 'desas' or 'rashtras' or 'bhuktis'. Uparikas was the ruler of bhuktis. Bhuktis were again divided into Vishayas which was ruled by Vishayapati. Vishayas were divided to Vithis. Vithis is similar to the village and these vithis were the basic unit of administration. Village headman was incharge of the village.

Kumaramatyia was the most important officer of the Gupta period and he was directly appointed the king. During this time separate guilds were formed by the artisans, merchants, traders etc.

#### VII.4 Social life

Varna system existed during Gupta period. Brahmins dominated the Gupta society. They had great influence upon the King. In the varna system society was divided into four varnas that is Brahmanas, Kashtriyas, Vaisyas and Sudras. Each Varna performed their duties and enjoyed their rights.

The Gupta originally belonged to the Vaishyas. Gupta Kings gave several special privileges to the Brahmanas and in return they approved Guptas as Khatriyas.

Many groups in the society did not have a varna identity. These groups were given special status of various castes or 'Jatis' in society. These jatis originated through 'varnasankara' or intermarriage between various varnas. Various foreign ruling families were given kshatriya status.

There was another group, the untouchables or 'antagajas'. Their touch was considered Empire. They were not allowed to appear in the areas where the higher varnas lived and moved.

Sudras were allowed to listen to the epics and the puranas. They worshiped Krishna, the new god. They were servants, slaves and agricultural labourers. The position of women and of the lower caste was far better than the women in the higher castes. The first instance of immolation of widow after the death of her husband appeared in Gupta period in AD 510.

#### VII.5 Land Grant Economy

Gupta Kings issued land grants to religious functionaries and officials. Satavahanas started this practice and Gupta's continued it. These were tax-free land and was hereditary. The owners were given the power to decide the criminal cases.

#### VII.6 Summary

Sri Gupta was the founder of the Gupta dynasty. Chandra Gupta I and Samudra Gupta were the other two important rulers. King was the central figure of the administration. They maintained a standing army. Land revenue was the main source of income for the country. For administrative convenience they divided the country into different classes. Varna system was controlled by the society. Brahmins domination continued. Land grants were given to the Brahmin priests and other officials instead of salary.

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## Chapter VIII

## REGIONAL STATES IN SOUTH INDIA

## VIII. 1 Objectives

*After reading this unit you will be able to*

- Know about the important dynasties of South India and Deccan from the 7<sup>th</sup> century of 13<sup>th</sup> century.

## VIII.2 Introduction

After the decline of the Gupta power many regional powers emerged all over India including South India and Deccan. Some of them were regional states covering a small area. But most of them accepted the supremacy of the comparatively bigger power.

The Pallavas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas and Cholas were the important states which existed in South India and Deccan from Seventh to thirteenth centuries.

## VIII.3 Pallavas

In the middle of the sixth century AD Pallavas emerged as a major power in south India. Tondai mandalam was the area where they established their power. From here they extended their power into other areas. Simha Vishnu was the first known ruler of the Pallavas. He ruled in the middle of the six century AD. He put an end to the Kallbhra incursions. His son Mahendravarman I succeeded him. The Pallavas and Chalukyas fought against each other for the occupation of the fertile area. Pulikesan II, the Chalukya king and Mahendravarman the Pallava king started Mahendravarman many times. The next Pallava ruler Narashimhavarman defeated Pulikesan II. This fight came to an end by the seventh century AD and in the next century it regenerated. The Pallava king Nandivarman defeated the Chalukya king Vikramaditya. The final blow was dealt by the Cholas and thus the Pallava rule came to an end.

## VIII.4 Chalukyas

Chalukyas came to power as the successors of Vakatakas. They claimed themselves as the successors of Manu, who was the king of Ayodhya. Some scholars said that the Chalukyas were originally the local Kanara people who later embraced Brahmanism and became the rulers of Deccan. Pulikesan I was the founder of the Chalukyas dynasty. He conducted and Aswamedha. Pulikesan II was the most important ruler in the Chalukya dynasty. Aihole inscriptions was an important source material for the reconstruction of the Chalukyas, especially Pulikesan II. He resisted the march of Harshavardhana to South India. He defeated Pallavas. Vishnuvardhan, his brother created another branch of Chalukya rule with Vengi as the capital. This was known as the Eastern Chalukyas or the Chalukyas of Vengi. Pallavas again fought against Pulikesan II and besieged Vatapi. There after the Chalukyas began to decline. In the next century, Vikramaditya I came up and defeated the Pallavas and regained the lost strength. Later the Rashtrakutas came to the forefront of the Deccan politics and put an end to the Chalukyas.

## VIII.5 Rastrakutas

Rastrakutas were the landed feudatories of Chalukyas. They declared independence and became the rulers of the small provinces. Dantidurga defeated Chalukyas and established this dynasty. Malkhed near Sholapur was their capital. The continuously fought against Pratiharas for the domination of Gujarat and Malwa. Krishna I, Amoghavarsha, Krishna III and Indra III were the famous rulers among the Rashtrakuta kings. Internal rivalry for power weakened the dynasty and Paramaras of the

Malwa captured their capital and that was the end of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

### VIII. 6 Cholas

The Cholas, Pandyas and the Cheras were known as the 'Muventar' in South India. The Chola power was destroyed by the Pallavas. After the fall of the Pallavas in the ninth century A.D. Cholas again came up with their naval power. They dominated South India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Vijayalaya founded the Chola dynasty at Tanjore in 850 A.D. His son Adityachola I, who succeeded Vijayalaya defeated and killed the last Pallava king.

Rajaraja Chola I Rajendra Chola I and Rajadhiraja were the most important rulers of the chola Dynasty. Rajaraja attacked the Pandyan Kingdom and conquered its capital madurai. He also fought against Perumals of Kerala and defeated them. Then he turned towards Sri Lanka and annexed the northern parts of Sri Lanka to the chola Kingdom. He conquered Maldives also.

Rajendra I the successor of Rajaraja continued the expansion of the country. He completed the Sri Lankan conquest. He crossed the river ganga through Orissa and reached Bengal. He built a capital called Gangikonda Cholapuram in memory of North India.

Rajadhiraja the successor of Rajendra I took the title of Jayamkonda Cholan, this time the Chalukyas re-emerged. Rajadhiraja attacked Chalukyas and finally defeated them. Soon he died. The war continued and after the continuous war they accepted the policy of co-existence. Cholas was on the decline. The last Chola King

Rajendra III was defeated by the Pandyan King in 1267 AD. The Pandyas captured the chola capital Kanchi and thus the Chola rule came to an end.

### VIII. 7 Cheras or Perumals

Kerala was formed as a separate political entity in the ninth century AD. This time the latter Cheras or the Perumal's rule was established at Mahodayapuram. The rulers were generally known as the Perumals and some of them adopted the coronation title of Kulasekhara. The political history of the Perumals is reconstructed through the numerous inscriptions of the period. All the rulers were not identified by the scholars. According to the scholars Rajashekara is the first ruler and Stanuravi Kulasekhara is the first ruler and Stanuravi Kulasekhara is the most important ruler of this dynasty. Vijayarama Varma Ravikotha Varma, Indukotha and Bhaskararavi Manukalditya were the other important rulers of the Kulasekhara. The last ruler of the Perumals was Ramavarma Kulasekhara.

### VIII. 8 Summary

In the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century Pallavas engaged in the South India as a major power. Vishnu was the first ruler of the Pallava dynasty. Chalukyas came into power as the successors of Vakaravas. Pulikesi I was the founder of the Chalukya dynasty and Pulikesi II was the most important ruler among the Chalukya I stage. The feudatories of Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas became the rulers of a small territory and expanded their kingdom. Cholas and Cheras or Perumals were the older two dynasties which ruled in South India.

## Chapter IX

## THE DELHI SULTANATE

## IX. 1. Objectives

After reading this unit you will be able to

- Understand the dynastic history of the Sultanate.
- Know the administrative structure and the social structure of the Sultanate period.

## IX. 2. Introduction

The Delhi Sultanate was established in North India in 1206 with Delhi as the Centre of Power. Qutubuddin Aibak was the first ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. Iltutmish succeeded him. He ruled from 1210 to 1236. Raziya, the one and only female ruler of the Sultanate was the successor of Iltutmish. This time the nobles emerged as a strong force and Raziya became a prey to the enmity of the nobles.

After Raziya, Ghiyasuddin Balban captured power from 1265 to 1286. He ruled the Delhi Sultanate. He introduced Persian traditions in the court ceremonies and prevented the threat of Mongols and Rajputs. Historians considered Balban as the real architect of the Delhi Sultanate.

The first phase of Sultanate ended with Balban and the ruler of Khilji dominated the next phase. This was the time of territorial expansion. Alauddin Khilji was the designer of Khilji dynasty. He defeated rulers and collected wealth through plunder and tributes.

In 1320 Tughlaqs came in to power. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq was the first Tughlaq ruler. Muhammed Tughlaq was the most important ruler among the Tughlaqs. The next ruler was Firoz Tughlaq. After his death in 1387, the Sultanate began to decline. The Sayyids and Lodis ruled in Delhi Sultanate in the fifteenth century. But their rule was

not enough to bring back the glory of Sultanate.

## IX. 3. Administration

Sultan was the head of the Sultanate. His name was mentioned in the Khutba (Friday prayer) as the head of the community. Some scholars say that Sultanate was a theocratic state. But modern historians do not accept this view. They prove the existence of the 'Zawabits' (Secular regulations), a part of the shariat laws (Islamic law).

There were many officials in the royal household. The royal household matters were managed by the 'waki-i-dar'. The amir-i-hajib looked after the ceremonies in the court.

Diwan-i-Wizarat was an important department, which controlled the collection of revenue, control of expenditure, keeping of accounts and disbursement of salaries etc. The head of Diwan-i-Wizarat was Wazir who was next to the Sultan. Mushrif-i-Mumalik (The Accountant General) helped the wazir in the administration.

Diwan-i-Arz (military department) was controlled by Ariz-i-Mumalik. In the time of Khilji, the system of dagh (branching of horses and chehra, descriptive roll of soldiers) was introduced. Nobles also maintained their own troops. Alauddin Khilji and his successors paid the salary of the soldiers in cash.

Diwan-i-Insha, the head of Dabir-i-Mumalik controlled the correspondence of the state. Barid-i-Mumalik was in charge of the state's news agency. The religious matters were controlled by the Sudar-us-Sudar. He appointed the 'quazis' with the approval of the Sultan. The civil and criminal cases were dealt with by the king with the help of the chief judge Quzi-ul-Mumalik. Generally, the chief sudar and Quzi were the same person.

Slaves were used for personnel service and as body guards. Feroz Shah Tughlaq started a department for slaves.

The Turkish rulers introduced the Iqta system in India. They made revenue assignments to their nobles in lieu of cash. The Iqta holder was known as the Muqti or Wali, Muqti collected revenue from these area and the surplus expenses were sent to the centre. The Muqti had no right on the land and it was not a hereditary one. They got the power of administration, military and revenue collection. In other words, they were the provincial administrators.

#### IX. 4. Society

In the sultanate so many social groups existed. Nobles, land owners, officials, peasants, artisans, slaves were the main groups. Nobles and the sultan led a luxurious life. They built luxury palaces. The royal karkhanas (factories) manufactured very costly goods like Silk, Gold and Silver. All sultans maintained a 'haram'.

Nobles competed with each other to lead a luxurious life. They built palaces and kept harems. They used slaves for the house hold works.

Agricultural workers were the majority of the population. The muqadams (village headman) and 'Khuts' (smaller land lords) enjoyed a higher standard of living. But most of the peasants lived in a very bad condition.

Slaves was an important section in the sultanate society. They were either born in the house holds or purchased. Majority of them were war captives.

In the Hindu society Brahmanas had a high status. Sudras were the servants of the upper class. They were not allowed to mingle with outcastes and the Chandalas. The position of the women was like that in the pre-Sultanate period. The sati and the ban on widow marriage existed. 'Pardah' was wide spread among the upper class women.

Many Muslim groups were also there. The Turks, the Iranians, the Afghans and the Indian Muslims were the main groups.

#### IX. 5. Summary

Qutubuddin Aibak was the first ruler of Delhi Sultanate. Raziya, the female ruler of Sultanate came into power in 1236 and the first phase of sultanate came to end. After that, Balban and then Khiljis came in to power. Tughlaqs, Sayyids and Lodis continued. Sultan was the head of the administration. Nobles, land owners, officials peasants, artisans slaves were the important social groups which existed in the sultanate society. Slaves were an important section who were used for house hold works. Brahmins dominated the Hindu Society. Position of women was not better than the previous time Pardha system and sati existed in the society.

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## Chapter X

## BAHMANI KINGDOM AND VIJAYANAGARA KINGDOM

## X.1. Objectives

*After reading this unit you will be able to*

- Know the dynastic history of Bahmani kingdom and Vijayanagara kingdom.
- Understand the administrative structure and social structure of the Bahmani kingdom and Vijayanagara kingdom

## X.2 Introduction

The southern part of Vindhya ranges was ruled by the Vijayanagara and Bahmani Kingdoms. They ruled from 14<sup>th</sup> Century A.D to 16<sup>th</sup> century. A.D North India this time was disturbed by the destruction of dynasties. But in South India stable political powers ruled.

## X.3 Bahmani Kingdom

Alauddin Khilji started an expedition towards the Deccan area and Muhammad Tughlaq conquered and annexed the Deccan to the sultanate. He appointed Ulughkhan as the Governor of this region. After the failure of the transfer of capital sultan reorganized the administrative set up and appointed new officers. The nobles of Deccan rebelled against this action and they declared independence. Hasan Kangu or Alauddin Hasdan Bahman Shah was their leader.

Alauddin Hassan Bahman Shah laid the foundation of Bahmani kingdom in 1347. The History of Bahmani kingdom was divided into two phases. The first phase (1347-1422) the center of political activities at Gulbarga, the time of conquests and expansion. The second phase (1338-1422) was with its center of power at Bidar. The fight between Bahmani and Vijayanagar continued at that time.

Muhammed Gawan was the chief minister of Muhammed III (1463 to 1482). As the

ruler was young, Gawan controlled the kingdom. He prevented the outside attacks his campaigns against the western coastal plains, and the konkan area were a great success. He annexed Hubli, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Goa. He reduced the power of the provincial governors and suppressed their revolts. But because of the conspiracy of the nobles in 1481, Gawan was murdered by the orders of Sultan.

After the death of Gawan the Bahmani kingdom began to collapse. The nobles held the powers of sultan. Finally five states came up namely Berar, Bidar, Ahemadnagar, Bijapur and Golkonda.

## X.3.1. Administration

They copied the administrative system of Delhi sultanate. The sultan, was at the top of the administration. 'Wakil' managed royal household and the controlled the personal staff of the sultan. The Wazir was in charge of finance and Quazi was the head of judicial department.

Kingdom was divided into four taraf (provinces) Provinces were controlled by tarafdar. They maintained a standing army. 'Amir Umara' was the head of the army. Sultan appointed large number of body guards.

## X.3.2. Society and culture

The society was comprised of Muslims, Hindus, Iranians, Iraqis, Transoxanians and Abyssinians. Nobles lead a very luxurious life. The Bahmani rulers were patronised by many sufi saints. Shia sect among the Muslims were the dominant section in the Bahmani society.

In the art and architecture, the North Indian styles and Persian styles were highly influential. The Juma masjid was build in

1367 at Gulbarga. It was one of the earliest buildings and was designed and built by a Persian.

#### X.4. Vijayanagara Kingdom

Vijayanagar kingdom were the feudatories of the Kakatiyas of Warangal. When the Kakatiyas came to an end, the people served the Kampili ruler. Muhammed Tughlaq conquered Kampili and Harihara and Bukka, who later established the kingdom were taken to Delhi. Later they converted to Islam and were sent back to Kampili to suppress the rebellion of the local. They won in their duty. But this time they reconverted to Hinduism with the help Vidyaranya., the local religious leader and declared independence from the sultanate in 1336.

The city of Vijayanagar was built in 1343 near Hampi. Krishnadeva Rayar (1509-24) was the most important ruler of the Vijayanagar kingdom. This time, the Portuguese arrived in the western coast. He maintained a friendly relation with them. After his death, the struggles for power started in Vijayanagara. Finally Sadasiva Raya came into power in 1543. But the rule was controlled by Raffia Raya. Raffia Raya was the son-in-law of Krishna Devaraya and the minister of Sadasiva Raya. He planned a fight against the Bahmani kingdom with the help of the Portuguese.

But the Bahmani states united under the leadership of Ibbrahim Qutab. They attacked and defeated Rama Raya. After this defeat

the Vijayanagara kingdom continued to exist without any glory for more than a century.

#### X.4.1. Administration

The direct control of the King was only in the center. The rulers ruled on the basis of Dharma. The Brahmins got great importance in the political field. They dominated the official jobs. They worked as *durga danniks* (fort in charge) *Niyogis* (work in the imperial secretariat) and military commanders.

Feudal organization existed in the Vijaya Nagara. 'Amaram' was the land, which was assigned to the Amaranayaka who was given the right to collect revenue. In later period theses amaranayakas became very strong.

#### X.4.2. Society

Vijayanagara society was dominated by the Brahmanas. They were the main functionaries of the temple and they got the control of the rituals.

#### X.5 Summary

Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah laid the foundation of Bahmani kingdom in 1347. The Sultanate administrative system was continued by Bahmani rulers. Sultan was the head of the administration. Many religious sects were included in the Bahmani society. Persian style and North Indian style highly influenced the art and architecture of this time. Harihara and Bukka laid the foundation of the Vijayanagara kingdom. The direct control of the king was applicable only in the centre of the country. A feudal organization existed in Vijayanagara. Society was dominated by the Brahmins.

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## Chapter XI

## THE MUGHALS

## XI.1. Objectives

*After reading this unit you should be able to*

- Understand the dynastic history of the Mughals.
- Know the administrative structure of Mughal India
- Analyse the social stratification of Mughal Society.
- Analyse then causes which led to the decline of the Mughal empire.

## XI.2. Introduction

In the beginning of the sixteenth century, North India was under political chaos due to internal struggle and the absence of the centralized authority. This situation was utilized by Babar who came to India. His invasion started the establishment of Mughal empire in India.

## XI.3. The Mughals

The invasion of Babar took place in 1526. He defeated Ibrahim Lodi, the ruler of Delhi, in the famous battle of Panipat. Through this victory Babar established the Mughal rule in North India. Babar fought against Rana Sange, the Rajput ruler at Khanwa in 1527 and also the Afghans. The winner of these battles, Babar died and his son Humayun succeeded him.

Humayun accepted his brothers as semi independent rulers in the regions. This situation was utilized by the Afghans and they fought against the Mughals under the leadership of Sherkhan. He defeated Humayun in the battles of Chausa in 1539 and in Kanuj in the next year and established the Sher dynasty. The successors of Sher Shah were not able to rule kingdom. This situation

was exploited by Humayun and he came back and re-established the Mughal rule in 1555.

His successor Akbar was the greatest ruler among the Mughal rulers. He ruled from 1556 to 1605. He introduced an effective system of administration and adopted a secular religious policy. Akbar was succeeded by two capable rulers. Jahangir from 1605 to 1627 and Shahjahan from 1628 to 1658.

After Shahjahan, an internal struggle for power was started and Aurengzeb, the last great ruler of Mughal empire came into power. The decline of Mughal empire started in the last phase of Aurengzeb. Many revolts took place and regional areas began to declare their independence. Finally this great empire covered only the area around Delhi. It lasted nominally upto 1857 when the British put an end to the Mughal rule in India.

## XI.4. Administration

The Mughal administration system was developed by Akbar. He used the sur administration as the basis of his administrative system. King was the supreme authority of the state. The nobles were very influential in th Mughal administration Wazir or the Prime Minister was the next powerful man after the emperor. The post of Wazir was changed to Wakil by Akbar. Wazir was the head of the revenue departments. Wazir was also known as Diwan during the period of Akbar. Akbar appointed two persons, as the heads of the revenue department.

'Mir Baksh' was the head of nobles and the military department. The news reporters, 'Waqia navis' and he spies, barids worked under the control of 'Mir Baksh'. Mir Suman managed the affairs of royal palace. Chief Qazi was in charge of judicial system. The

religious activities were looked after by the Chief Sadar.

Akbar divided his empire into twelve separate 'Subhasr for administrative convenience. Subedar was the ruling head of the provinces. Each province was divided into 'Sarkar' or districts and each sarkars were again divided into 'parganas'. The parganas were comprised of several villages. Village was the smallest division of administration.

### XI.5. Society

The Mughal society comprised of many social groups. The nobility was the actual ruling class in the Mughal period. They controlled the society and economy. The nobility included the Indian muslims, Sheik Zadas, Turanians, Persians, Tajkistanis and Khotasanas and Afghans. From the time of Akbar, the Hindus, especially the Rajputs, were also included in the nobility. Each noble led truly an aristocratic life. They maintained hundreds of slaves, artisans, horses, elephants etc. They kept separate 'harams'. They competed in wearing costly jewelry. They paid tribute to the emperor twice a year.

The Zc lindars were the rural counterpart of the nobles. They lived in fortified houses. They were known by different local names like Deshmukhs, 'Patil', 'Nayak' etc.

The shopkeepers, traders, petty mansabdars, small zamindars, government officials, professional class like the musicians, artists, historians, scholars, qazis and theorlogians were the middle class which existed below the Nobles and Zamindars.

Peasants formed a major group in the society. The artisans and craft man belonged to the lowest social groups. Slavery also existed in the Mughal Society.

### XI.6. Religion

Hindus and Muslims were the two important religious groups in the Mughal India. Hindus, the majority, was ruled by the minority group, Muslims. All the Mughal rulers except Aurangazeb, adopted a tolerant attitude towards all religions. Akbar stopped the collection of 'Jiziya' (religious tax) from the non muslims. He put an end to forced conversion. He appointed Hindus in the higher posts. Akbar married Hindu women

and allowed them to practice their religion.

Akbar believed that there was no necessity for several religions in India. He invited many spiritual leaders for religious discussion. But these discussions were developing religious conflicts instead of religious unity. He stopped the discussion in 1582. He himself formed a new order called 'Tanhid Ilahi' or popularly known as the 'Din Ilahi'.

### XI.7. Decay of Mughal Empire

The decay of Mughal Empire started during Aurirangazeb's period. In 1657, Shahjahan became bed ridden and in July 1658 his son Aurangazeb declared himself as the ruler of the Mughal Empire.

The religious policies followed by Aurangazeb was intolerable to Hindus. Nourva Festival was abolished, Muhtuzib's were appointed in all provinces to make sure that the citizens were living according to muslim laws. Muslim traders were given exception to pay their taxes. Jhesia (a tax) was collected. Many temples were destroyed, which include the Somnath Temple in Gujarat.

Afghanese invaded Mughal empire several times. Due to their aggression, Aurangazeb focused his army in the north west region. Due to this, the Deccan region was invaded by Shivaji.

Sikh also fought against the Mughal. After the murder of the Guru Thej Bahadur, the rivalry between the Sikhs and Aurangazeb increased. Guru Govind Singh formed a Kulsu and made its head quarters at Ananthpur. Ananthpur fort was invaded by Mughals and captured. So they changed their Head quarters to Thalvandi.

The Rajaputra countries, Murvur and Mevad, also stood against the Mughal Empire. The policies of Mughals to intrude in the internal policy matters of Rajputra countries made them rivals.

The rise of Marathi kingdom made the Mughals lose their control in the Deccan region. In 1674 after the defeat of Khond Dev the whole poonajugar was under the control of Shivaji. Shivaji fought many times with the Mughals. In 1674, Shivaji declared himself as a Chatrapathi.

The decay of the Mughal empire was also due to the economic, and socio political conditions also. The a certain extend these problems were resolved by Akbar. But he was incapable of making the changes in the social structure on Aurgangazeb's death, his three sons fought among themselves for the throne. The 65 year old Bahadur Shah became the emperor. The incapability of the successors of Aurangazeb increased the speed of down fall of the great empire.

#### XI.8. Summary

The Mughal period was one of the glorious periods in the Indian history. Their administrative system was a continuation of the Sultanate and sur administrations. The noble were the social group in the first rank. They were the artistocratic groups. Rajputs got high status in the Mughal society. Mughal rulers tolerated all religions. Aurangazeb was the only exceptional case. His religious policy was one of the main causes for the decline of the Mughal empire.

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## Chapter XII

## EUROPEAN PENETRATION AND THE BRITISH CONQUEST

## XII.1. Objectives

*After reading this unit you will be able to*

- Understand who were the main European powers who came to India.
- Analyse the methods by which the British conquered India.
- Know about the main powers which existed at the time of British conquest.

## XII.2. Introduction

India's trade with Europe was carried out by the Arabians. The old sea routes between India and the West came under Turkish control after the Ottoman conquest of Asia minor and the capture of Constantinople in 1453. Spain and Portugal lost their track at sea. So these countries tried to make new sea routes. The seamen of these nations began a great era of geographical discoveries.

## XII.3. European Encounter with India

In 1498, Vasco-da Gama of Portugal discovered a new and all-sea route from Europe to Kerala. The enormous amount of goods like pepper and ginger made many Europeans to invade India. In the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century, the Portugal had a monopoly of the highly profitable eastern trade in India. They established trading settlements at Cochin, Goa, Diu and Dallan.

In 1602, Dutch East India Company was established. They fought against Portuguese and established depots in Soorath, Brouch, Keinbe and Ahemdabad. The latter end of 16<sup>th</sup> century saw the domination of English in the Eastern trade. The Defeat of Spain in 1588 made England a "Never Sun Down" imperialists. English east India company started it first voyage in 1608 towards the east. The English fought against Portuguese in 1611 and 1614 in Soorath. In 1615, their

ambassador Sir Thomas Roe reached the Mughal court to get permission for establishing factories.

The English became powerful in India due to their naval supremacy. So they became capable of interfering the internal politics of India. In 1698, the company acquired the Zamindari of the three villages near their Fort William.

## XII.4. Anglo-French Struggle in South India

The uncertainty in South India increased due to the disappearance of a strong central authority. The politically unsettled condition raised many wars. The administrative disorganization gave great opportunity to the intruders. By the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century British eliminated Portuguese and Dutch from the scenario. France had appeared as a new rival. For the control over the trade, wealth and territory of India they waged bitter war from 1744 to 1763.

The French East India company was under the strict rule of Frerich Government the control by the Government of this company was injurious to them. The English east India company was always in the rivalry clashes. Duple ix, the French Governor-General at Pondichery was a tactful diplomat. He intruded in the political matters of Indian kings and preserved French interests in the battle of Ambur and Hyderabad. The French were successful. Dupleix's plans had succeeded beyond his dreams. The French power in South India was now at its height.

But the English had not been silent spectators of their rival successes. The Arcot war was a defeat to the French dreams. Clive assaulted and occupied Arcot with a small army. In 1754 due to the peace negotiations made by the French, the English, recalled Duple ix from India.

The decisive battle of the war was fought at Wandiwash on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1760. The English General Eyrecoot defeated Lally, the French Officer. Within a year the French had lost all their possessions in India.

The absence of nationalism in India was the main cause for the advancement of these western powers.

### **XII. 5. The Growth of East India Company**

The East India Company became the real master of Bengal at least from 1765. The Nawab of Bengal depended on it for his internal and external security. This formed a dual system of administration. In such a system, the great advantage for British is that they had power without responsibility. The Company and the Nawab did not care the welfare of the people. The famine in 1770 made the condition more terrible. About one third of the population died in this famine. In such a time also the company collected huge revenue from the people and using this capital they purchased goods and sold it inside the country. The Company was thus accumulating huge profit.

Warren Hastings (1772-85) who was an experienced Governor General faced many challenges in India. The British had to face the powerful combination of Marathas under Peshwa, Mysore under Hyderali and from the Nizam of Hyderabad. On neither side was there war victory and the war came to a stand still. The treaty of Salban, by which *status quo* was maintained, saved the British.

After Hyder Ali's death, the war between Mysore and English was carried on by his brave son Tipu Sulthan. By the treaty of Sreerangapatanam, Tipu created half of his territories to the English and their allies and an indemnity was also paid.

Under the subsidiary alliance system of Lord Wellesley the Indian states came under the control of British. Under Lord Hastings, even the powerful states of Rajaputanas and Marathas accepted British supremacy. The conquest of Sindh occurred as a result of the growing Anglo Russian rivalry in Europe and Asia.

The political instability after the death of Maharaja Ranjith Singh in 1839 was utilized by Lord Hastings. Finally Punjab became a vassal state.

Lord Dalhousie came to India as the Governor General in 1842. He was determined to extend direct British rule in Indian states. The Indian allies of British ruling suffered mal-administration due to the British policies. So the people were against the Indian kings. Most of the countries were annexed to British India by the 'Doctrine of laps'. Under this law, no ruler can adopt a heir.

If there is no direct heir for ruler, the country will be annexed to British India. This rule was not suitable to annexe the Kingdom of Avadh. So he annexed Greadh Avadh as a consequence of Maladministration. To make available cotton producing states for the growing needs of Britain, they took away the province of Berai from Nizam in 1853.

### **XII. 6. Summary**

In 1498 Vasco-da-Gama discovered a new sea route to India, from Europe. The profit earned by the Portuguese through the trade attracted the attention of all European countries towards India. In 1602, the Dutch East India Company was established. In 1608, the British East India Company and their the French East Indian Company and then the French East India Company came to India. But the final victory was by the English.

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## Chapter XIII

### REVOLT OF 1857

#### XIII.1. Objectives

*At the end of this unit you will be able to :*

- have an idea about the back ground of the Revolt of 1857.
- understand who were the leaders of the revolt.
- critically analyse the causes, which led to the failure of the Revolt.
- evaluate the results of the revolt.

#### XIII.2. Introduction

The revolt of 1857, a mighty popular revolt, broke out in northern and Central India. It was a glorious chapter in the history of India. The revolt was started by the Indian soldiers of British army. The native chieftains, Zamindars, peasants, artisans, priestly man and all sections in the society joined them.

#### XIII.3. The cause of the Revolt

The British used political power effectively to control the whole economic, socio-religious and cultural life of Indians. All the sections of India felt discontent. The revolt was a product of various factors.

##### XIII.3.1. Economic Causes

The Primary cause of the revolt was economic factors. The economic exploitation of the country by the British and the destruction of its traditional economic fabric impoverished the vast mass of peasants, artisans and handicrafts man and also the zamindars and the chieftains. The textile industry of India completely lost their place in the market. Now the market was controlled by them.

British machine made goods. The land revenue policy, the system of law and administration, and the corrupt practices of the police and officials made the life of the

peasants a great misery. Most of the peasants lost their land property and they reached into the hands of the traders or to the money lenders. Corruption at the lower levels of administration was very strong. The religious preachers, artists and craftman who patronaged by the rulers in the early time lost their patronage and they became unemployed. All these causes led to the revolt of 1857.

##### XIII.3.2. Social Factors

The middle and upper class of North India were in high position of administration in the Pre-British period. But the British did not give any higher posts to the Indians. Indians felt the discrimination very deeply. The British treated the Indians with contempt, speaking of them as 'Niggers' and addressing them as 'Suar' (pig). All these hurt the Indian sentiments and created a strong anti-British feeling which ultimately culminated in the revolt.

##### XIII.3.3. Religious Causes

Religion also became a main cause of the revolt. The missionary activities of the British created discontent among the people. The open attack on Hinduism and Islam and the criticism of the religious activities, customs and traditions made the Indians angry against the British. The British abolition of sati, providing education to girls, Remarriage Act of widows, the taxing of religious properties etc. disturbed the conservative Indians.

##### XIII.3.4. Political Reasons

The policy of territorial expansion of the East India company created discontent among the people. They abolished the titles of the rulers. It led to the discontent of the ruling princes and nobles of India. They used Dalhousie's "Doctrine of lapse" for the

annexation of the states like Satara; Jaipur, Sambalpur, Baghat, Udaipur, Jhansi, Nagpur etc. The British did not give any respect to the right of 'adoption' which was allowed by the ancient Hindu faith. Dalhousie annexed A wadh and rectified his action by saying that he did this to free the people from the Nawab's mismanagement. But the people got no relief. The soldiers of the Bengal army was mainly from the Awadh. They were against the annexation of Awadh.

The British did not give any respect of the Mughal ruler, Bahadurshah. The Mughals claimed a high respect in the minds of Indians. So the British attitude led to the discontent in the people. When a native state was annexed by the British, thousands of nobles were thrown out of their jobs.

Another basic cause was the foreignness of the British rule. The British remained perpetual foreigners in the country. Unlike other conquerors in the Pre-British period they did not mix socially with classes of Indians but on the otherhand they ruled from Britain, by Britain and for Britain.

#### XIII.3.5. Military Causes

The revolt started as a revolt of the sepoys. Sepoys were a part of Indian society. All the discontents that affected the Indians also affected the soldiers. Indians were the majority in the army. They were ill-treated in ways. They were paid, lodged and lived in a worse manner. Though, to serve outside India was against the Hindu religion, the soldiers were compelled to serve outside India without extra batta. The British prohibited the wearing of sectarian marks, beards or turbans. This added to their grievances. The discontent of sepoys also had occurred prior to 1857. The Bengal mutiny of 1764, the sepoy mutiny at Vellore in 1806, the sepoy revolt at Barrackpur in 1824, the sepoy revolt in the Afghan war etc. are some examples.

Now they got another occasion to fight against the British. This was the introduction of the "greased cartridge" of the enfield rifle. The enfield rifle had a greased pasting inside. The cartridge had a greased paper cover which was bitten off before the bullet was used. The grease was in some instances composed of beef and pig fat. Cow was a

'sacred' animal to the Hindus, pig was profane to the Muslims. The sepoys, Hindus as well as Muslims were enraged. The sepoys revolted against this cartridge and this gave the civil population an occasion to start the revolt.

#### XIII.4. The course of the Revolt

The revolt began at Meerut on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1857. It spread to a vast area very quickly. In April 1857, 96 soldiers at Meerut refused to use the new cartridge. 85 of them were dismissed and imprisoned. But the other soldiers stationed at Meerut shot their officers and freed the soldiers. They marched to Delhi and when they reached Delhi the soldiers at Delhi also joined them. They murdered some European officers and declared Bahadur Sah, the Mughal ruler the emperor of India.

The revolt spread among the sepoys in Northern and Central India. The revolt in the army was followed by popular revolts of civilian population. Peasants and artisans widely participated in the revolt. Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Gwalior, Bareilly, Arrahand, Faizabad etc. were the main centers of Revolt.

The capture of the Delhi was a prestige issue for the British. Bahadurshah was arrested and deported to Rangoon. Begum Hazarat Mahal of Oudh led the revolt at Lucknow. With the help of Gorkha Regiments, the English suppressed this revolt. Nana Sahib proclaimed himself as the Peshwa of Kanpur. Tantia Tope, an extreme patriot who was his general, used the guerrilla way of fight. But the British power suppressed Nana Sahib. He escaped to Nepal. Tantia Tope went to Jhansi and helped Rani Lakshmi Bai to regain her state lost through the 'Doctrine of Lapse'. When they were defeated at Jhansi they moved to Gwalior and attempted to capture it. But in the fight, Rani died on 17 June 1858. Tantia Tope escaped into the jungles of central India but was captured by the British and put to death in April 1859. At Bareilly, Arrahand and Faizabad the revolt was led by Khan Bahadur Khan, Kanwar Singh and Moulavi Ahamadulla respectively. By 1859 almost all the leaders of the revolt were dead and the rebellion was completely suppressed by the

British.

### XIII.5. Causes for failure

Many factors led to the failure of the revolt. The revolt was localized and it did not spread to all groups and classes of society. The south of Narmada was not effected by the revolt. Many rulers and zamindars like Sindhia of Gwalior, the Holkar of Indore, the Naizam of Hyderabad, the Raja of Jodhpur and some Rajput rulers, Nawab of Bhopal, rulers of Patiala and Sind etc. supported the British and helped them to suppress the revolt and most of the others remained neutral.

The modern educated group did not support the revolt. They thought that the revolt was against the progressive measures that the British applied in India.

Another causes for the failure was that they didn't have any modern weapons. Most of them fought with swords and spears. There was not a good leader to organize the rebels and they did not have any common action and common aim. Patriotism or any common sentiment did not lead the revolters. They were centered on their own grievances. The English had vast resources in men and material. They had experienced general, modern weapons etc. The Indian leaders were brave enough, but they were not a match for the facilities the British had. The telegraphic net work also helped the British to suppress the revolt.

### XIII.6. Results of the Revolt of 1857

The Revolt of 1857 put an end to the last vertige of the Mughal rule in India. It also ended the British East India Company rule.

The British Queen proclaimed as the Empress of India. Secretary of State for India, a member of British cabinet, assisted by a council known as Indian council managed the rule in India. The British put an end to the territorial annexation and began a new era of economic exploitation. The army was reorganized. The strength of European troops were increased. All high posts were reserved for Europeans and the army was isolated from the people. The Indian Civil Service Act and Indian Councils Acts was the after effect of the Revolt. Though the Revolt of 1857 was an effort to free India from the British under the traditional leadership, it led to the rise of modern national movement. Muslims and Hindus, Zamindars and peasants were all prepared to shed their blood together and this provided a great legacy to the national movement.

### XIII.7. Summary

In this unit, we saw how the annexation policy of British provoked the Indian rulers. Economic exploitation, racial discrimination and religious inconvenience of the British were the main causes of the revolt. The revolt began at Meerut and spread to northern and Central India. Delhi, Kanpur, Luknow, Jhansi, Gwalior, Bareilly, Faizabad were the main centers of the revolt. Bahadurshah, Nana Sahib, Tantia Tope, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Kahn Bahadur Khan, Kanwar Singh, Moulavi Ahammadulh were the main leaders of this revolt. Many reasons like the use of ancient weapons, no good leader, no mass participation, no common sentiments etc. led to the failure of the revolt. But this revolt, led to many administrative changes in India and this was an inspiration for the modern Indian Nationalists.

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## Chapter - XIV

### INDIA AFTER THE REVOLT

#### XIV.1. Objectives

After reading this unit you should be able to:

- have an idea how the British exploited Indian economy.
- understand the main criticism of the Nationalists towards the economic policy of Britain
- discuss the administrative changes after 1857 Revolt.

#### XIV.2 Introduction

The governmental structure of British India was totally changed after 1857. British had changed the Indian economy drastically. They started to drain the wealth of India. The modern educated Indian intelligentsia realized this and they began to react against it. Along with economic exploitation the British made some changes in the administrative field as well.

#### XIV.3 Economics impact of British rule

The independent economic development of India was controlled by the British and utilized it for their own objectives. Production of materials in India become market-oriented. All economic activities in India was controlled by the British and the whole of Indian economic development was distorted.

##### XIV.3.1 Destruction of Traditional Industries

The basic economic life of India which was the self-sufficient rural economy was destructed by the British. The famous handicraft industry of India quickly collapsed. Britain imported the cheaper machine-goods to India. The Indian handmade goods could not compete with these cheap goods.

The aristocratic section of India were the main patrons of the handicraft industries.

But when Britain conquered Indian states, the industries lost their biggest customers and patrons. They imposed customs duties on Indian goods. So the doors of internal trade was also closed. Thousands of weavers and other craftsman abandoned their profession. The new educated group also preferred to western goods.

##### XIV.3.2 De-Industrialisation

Ten percentage of Indian population who depended on handicraft industries were thrown out from their job in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The decay of rural and urban handicraft industries was not accompanied by the growth of modern industries. They had no alternative except agriculture and most of them became agricultural labourers and a small section who bought land became peasant proprietors.

##### XIV.3.3 Agrarian Changes

The colonial agrarian policy destroyed the traditional Indian agrarian system. The existing system was based on community ownership of land and village need production. But the British policy led to the rise of landlordism and commercialization of agriculture.

The British introduced a new revenue system namely the Zamindari and Ryotwari. The zamindars who were the revenue collectors become the landlords. the peasant cultivators were become tenants. Zamindars collected rent from the tenants and gave bulk of it as tax to the Government in the Ryotwari system. The Government collected land revenue directly from the individual cultivators. In both system, peasant suffered high rent, illegal dues and cesses.

These land Revenue systems improve rished, Indian peasantry. To pay the taxes they borrow from money lenders who

exacted excessive interests for their loans. In the course of time the peasant cultivators lost their lands to the money lenders.

Indian peasants were compelled to produce for the market. In the pre-British times they produced for their village use only. The farmers were forced to sell the products immediately after the harvest when they got very less price for their product. British compelled them to produce materials which were needed as raw materials by the industries of Britain.

#### XIV.4. Changes in Administrative policies

In 1958 British Parliament passed the Government of India Act. The act ended the rule of East India Company and transferred the power to the British crown. The proclamation of Queen Victoria was read out by Lord Canning at a Dharbar held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1858 at Allhabad. The Queen assured no more British annexation of territories in India and guaranteed the native states as independent sovereign states. But in 1876 an Act was passed by which all Indian states were brought within the British Empire and the crown held the paramount power over Indian rulers. Queen Victoria became the 'Empress of India' in First January, 1877. She promised non-interference in religious matters, equal opportunity for recruitment to services, equality in front of law etc. But these promises never became practical. The Board of Control and Court of Directors were abolished and the Secretary of State for India, a member of parliament was given the control over the Government of India.

#### XIV.5. Indian National Congress

Politically conscious Indian nationalists workers planned to form an all-Indian organization. But the credit of this idea went to A.O. Hum, a retired English Civil Servent. He was supported by the Governor General Lord Dufferin. The first session of Indian National Congress met at Bombay in December 1885. 72 delegates participated in the meeting held in the Gotual Das Tejpal Sanskrit College in the precidium of W.C. Bannerjee, Pherozechah, Dadabhai Naoroji, K.T. Telang, Dinshaw Wacha etc., were the prominent delegates. The promotion of

friendly relations between nationalist political workers, the development and consolidation of the feeling of unity irrespective of caste, religion or province, the formation of popular demands and their presentation before the Government and the training and organization of public on Indian problems.

The criticism against the moderates were many. Some people opined that it could achieve nothing and that it had no root among the masses. It was called as "political mendicancy" or Tea-party politics. But they succeeded in creating a wide nationalist political awakening in India.

#### XIV.6. Nationalist critiques of Colonialism

The modern educated Indian intelligentsia responded to British rule very positively. They thought that the British modernized India. But in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century they realized that British was cokolonialising India and was exploiting her wealth. This thinking led to the formulation of nationalist critiques of colonialism.

The critique of colonialism, understood that the essence of the British imperialism was the economic exploitation of India. Indians criticized the British attempt to make India a supplier of raw materials and a market for British products and a field of investment for foreign capital. They organized a powerful agitation against these economic policies. They popularized the idea of swadeshi and the boycott of British goods.

Dadhbhai Navaaraji's Poverty and Un-British Rule in India published in 19-4 introduced the 'Drain theory'. The Drain theory says that a major part of - wealth was drained by the British, mainly through the salaries, incomes and saving by the English civil, military, the railway employees, lawyers, doctors etc. Service pensions and the interest and profits on the English capital investment in India also exploited India's wealth. This exploitation led to increase poverty in India. This theory inspired the activities of the early moderate nationalists. That was why Dadabai Navaraji was called as "the father of India Nationalism". Mahadev Govinda Ranade, Pherozechah Mehta and RC Dutt were the other important critiques of the conomic exploitation of colonialism.

#### XIV.7. Summary

The main economic impact of the British rule in India was the destruction of traditional industries, de-industrialization, commercialization of agriculture etc. Through the new tenurial system, the Zamindari and Ryotwari, landlordism was established in India.

Through all these measures British captured a major part of India's wealth. This was explained in the 'Drain' theory that was introduced by the early nationalists like Dadhabai Navaraji, Ranadi, Pherozhah Mehta, RC Dutt, etc. There were some changes in the British administrative policies since 1858. British parliament passed the Government of India Act and the rule of British crown started.

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