

CHAPTER-3

THE DELHI SULTAN

DELHI SULTANS

- Delhi first became the capital of a kingdom under the Tomara Rajputs.
- The transformation of Delhi into a capital that controlled vast areas of the subcontinent started with the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate in the beginning of the thirteenth century.

The rulers of Delhi

RAJPUT DYNASTIES

Tomaras	early twelfth century - 1165
Ananga Pala	1130 - 1145
Chauhans	1165 - 1192
Prithviraj Chauhan	1175 - 1192

EARLY TURKISH RULERS 1206-1290

Qutbuddin Aybak	1206 - 1210
Shamsuddin Iltutmish	1210 - 1236
Raziyya	1236 - 1240
Ghiyasuddin Balban	1266 - 1287



Iltutmish's tomb

KHALJI DYNASTY 1290 - 1320

Jalaluddin Khalji	1290 - 1296
Alauddin Khalji	1296 - 1316

TUGHLUQ DYNASTY 1320 - 1414

Ghiyasuddin Tughluq	1320 - 1324
Muhammad Tughluq	1324 - 1351
Firuz Shah Tughluq	1351 - 1388



Alai Darwaza

SAYYID DYNASTY 1414 - 1451

Khizr Khan	1414 - 1421
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LODI DYNASTY 1451 - 1526

Bahlul Lodi	1451 - 1489
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Firuz Shah Tughluq's tomb

Finding out about the Delhi Sultans

- Although inscriptions, coins and architecture provide a lot of information, especially valuable are “histories”, tarikh (singular) / tawarikh (plural), written in Persian, the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans.
- The authors of tawarikh were learned men: secretaries, administrators, poets and courtiers, who both recounted events and advised rulers on governance, emphasising the importance of just rule.

The expansion of the Delhi Sultanate

- The first set of campaigns along the “internal frontier” of the Sultanate aimed at consolidating the hinterlands of the garrison towns.
- The second expansion occurred along the “external frontier” of the Sultanate. Military expeditions into southern India started during the reign of Alauddin Khalji and culminated with Muhammad Tughluq.
- In their campaigns, Sultanate armies captured elephants, horses and slaves and carried away precious metals.

Administration and consolidation under the Khaljis and Tughluqs

- Rather than appointing aristocrats and landed chieftains as governors, the early Delhi Sultans, especially Iltutmish, favoured their special slaves purchased for military service, called bandagan in Persian.
- They were carefully trained to man some of the most important political offices in the kingdom. Since they were totally dependent upon their master, the Sultan could trust and rely upon them.
- The patronage of these humble people by the Delhi Sultans also shocked many elites and the authors of Persian tawarikh criticised the Delhi Sultans for appointing the “low and base-born” to high offices.

Administration and consolidation under the Khaljis and Tughluqs(cont...)

- Like the earlier Sultans, the Khalji and Tughluq monarchs appointed military commanders as governors of territories of varying sizes.
- These lands were called iqta and their holder was called iqtadar or muqti. The duty of the muqtis was to lead military campaigns and maintain law and order in their iqtas.
- In exchange for their military services, the muqtis collected the revenues of their assignments as salary. They also paid their soldiers from these revenues.

Administration and consolidation under the Khaljis and Tughluqs(cont...)

- Under Alauddin Khalji the state brought the assessment and collection of land revenue under its own control.
- There were three types of taxes –
 - (1) on cultivation called kharaj and amounting to about 50 percent of the peasant's produce,
 - (2) on cattle and
 - (3) on houses.

Alauddin Khalji	Muhammad Tughluq
Delhi was attacked twice, in 1299/1300 and 1302-03. As a defensive measure, Alauddin Khalji raised a large standing army.	The Sultanate was attacked in the early years of Muhammad Tughluq's reign. The Mongol army was defeated. Muhammad Tughluq was confident about the strength of his army and his resources to plan an attack on Transoxiana. He therefore raised a large standing army.
Alauddin constructed a new garrison town named Siri for his soldiers. See Map 1.	Rather than constructing a new garrison town, the oldest of the four cities of Delhi (Delhi-i Kuhna) was emptied of its residents and the soldiers garrisoned there. The residents of the old city were sent to the new capital of Daulatabad in the south.
The soldiers had to be fed . This was done through the produce collected as tax from lands between the Ganga and Yamuna. Tax was fixed at 50 per cent of the peasant's yield.	Produce from the same area was collected as tax to feed the army. But to meet the need of the large number of soldiers the Sultan levied additional taxes. This extended with famine in the area.
The soldiers had to be paid . Alauddin chose to pay his soldiers salaries in cash rather than iqta's. The soldiers would buy their supplies from merchants in Delhi and it was thus feared that merchants would raise their prices. To stop this, Alauddin controlled the prices of goods in Delhi. Prices were carefully surveyed by officers, and merchants who did not sell at the prescribed rates were punished.	Muhammad Tughluq also paid his soldiers cash salaries. But instead of controlling prices, he used a "token" currency, somewhat like present-day paper currency, but made out of cheap metals, not gold and silver. People in the fourteenth century did not trust these coins. They were very smart: they saved their gold and silver coins and paid all their taxes to the state with this token currency. This cheap currency could also be counterfeited easily.
Alauddin's administrative measures were quite successful and chroniclers praised his reign for its cheap prices and efficient supplies of goods in the market. He successfully withstood the threat of Mongol invasions.	Muhammad Tughluq's administrative measures were a failure. His campaign into Kashmir was a disaster. He then gave up his plans to invade Transoxiana and disbanded his large army. Meanwhile, his administrative measures created complications. The shifting of people to Daulatabad was resented. The raising of taxes and famine in the Ganga-Yamuna belt led to widespread rebellion. And finally, the "token" currency had to be recalled.

The Sultanate in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries

- You will notice that after the Tughluqs, the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties ruled from Delhi and Agra until 1526.
- This was also the period which saw the emergence of new ruling groups like the Afgans and Rajputs.
- Some of the states established in this period were small but powerful and extremely well administered.
- Sher Shah captured Delhi and established his own dynasty.

SUMMARY

- THE RULERS OF DELHI
- FINDING ABOUT THE DELHI SULTANS
- THE EXPANSION OF SULTANATE
- ADMINISTRATION AND CONSOLIDATION UNDER THE KHALJIS AND TUGHLUQS
- COMPARISON BETWEEN ALAUDDIN KHALJI AND MUHHAMMAD TUGHLUQ
- THE SULTANATE IN FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

Thank You