

Ch- 3

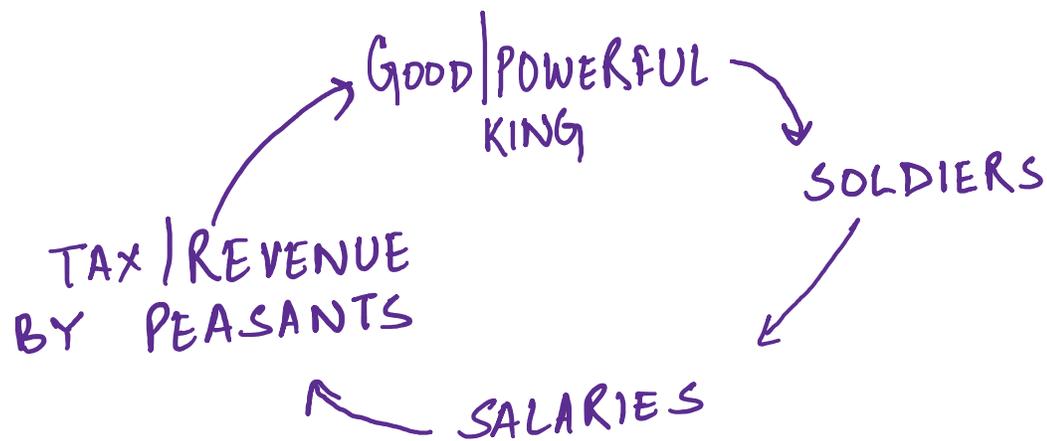
The Delhi Sultans

Important terminologies

1. Dehliwal: Coins that are minted by the Delhi Sultans
2. Tawarikh: 'histories' which are valuable source of information written in Persian.
3. Birthright: Privileges claimed on account of birth.
4. Gender distinctions: Social and biological differences between women and men
5. Hinterland: The lands adjacent to a city or port that supply it with goods and services
6. Garrison town: A fortified settlement, with soldiers
7. Internal frontier: the hinterland of the garrison town.
8. External frontier: the areas beyond the hinterland of the garrison towns.
9. The Masjid: An Arabic word meaning mosque, where a Muslim prostrates in reverence to Allah.
10. Imam: the most respected and a learned man chosen as the leader from the congregation
11. Khutba: sermon delivered by the Imam during the Friday prayer
12. Qibla: The direction towards which Muslims turn while offering prayer or namaz.
13. Bandagan: special slaves purchased for military services
14. Client: someone who is under the protection of another; a dependent or hanger-on
15. Iqta: land where monarchs had appointed military commanders as governors of territories
16. Kharaj: tax on cultivation

Question and Answers

1. Which ruler first established his or her capital at Delhi?
Ans: The Tomara Rajputs were the first rulers who established their capital at Delhi.
2. What was the language of administration under the Delhi sultans?
Ans: Persian, was the language of administration under The Delhi sultans.
3. In whose reign did the Sultanate reach its farthest extent.
Ans: The Sultanate reached its farthest extent during the reign of Muhammad Tughluq.
4. From which country did Ibn Battuta travel to India?
Ans: Ibn Battuta belonged to Morocco, Africa and travelled to India.
5. According to the "circle of justice", why was it important for military commanders to keep the interests of the peasantry in mind?
Ans: According to the 'circle of justice' it was important for military commanders to keep the interest of peasantry in mind. As is clear from the following:
 - a) A king survived on soldiers.
 - b) Soldiers worked for salaries.
 - c) Salaries came from revenue collected from peasants.
 - d) Peasant would pay revenue when they are prosperous and happy. This in turn will happen when there is justice and honest governance.



6. What is meant by the “internal” and “external” frontiers of the Sultanate?

Ans: The ‘internal’ frontier means the hinterland of the garrison town.

The ‘external’ frontier means the areas beyond the hinterland of the garrison towns.

7. What were the steps taken to ensure that muqtis performed their duties? Why do you think they may have wanted to defy the orders of the Sultans?

Ans: Steps taken to ensure that the muqtis performed their duties well:

- Appointment of accountants to check the amount collected by the muqtis.
 - Collection of revenues only which were prescribed by the state, not more than that in any circumstances.
 - Fixation of limit to keep the required number of soldiers.
 - They might be shifted to another area.
 - The muqtis may have wanted to defy the orders of the Sultans because restrictions imposed on them were very rigorous.
 - Their appointment was temporary.
8. What was the impact of the Mongol invasions on the Delhi Sultanate?
- Ans: The Delhi Sultanate mobilized a large standing army in Delhi. It posed a big administrative challenge.

- Alauddin Khalji constructed a new garrison town at Siri for his soldiers. He imposed taxes on land to feed the army at the rate of 50 percent of peasant’s yield. He began to pay the soldiers in cash.
- Muhammad Tughluq shifted people of Delhi to Daulatabad in south and thus converted Delhi into a garrison town. He also disbanded the army. He also paid the soldiers in cash.

In text questions:

9. Name the five dynasties that together made the Delhi Sultans.

Ans: The five dynasties were:

- Early Turkish rulers (1206-1290)
- Khalji Dynasty (1290-1320)
- Tughluq Dynasty (1320-1414)
- Sayyid Dynasty (1414-1451)
- Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526)

10. Who were the authors of tawarikh? Write in brief about them.

Ans:

- a) The authors of tawarikh were learned men like secretaries, administrators, poets and courtiers who recounted events as well as advised rulers on governance, emphasizing the importance of just rule.
- b) The authors of tawarikh lived in cities mainly in Delhi.
- c) They used to write histories in praise of the Sultans and in return got rich rewards.
- d) These authors advised rulers that they should follow an ideal social order based on birthright and gender distinctions.
- e) Common mass had nothing to do with their ideas.

11. Who was Raziyya? Why was she not accepted as a Sultan in spite of being talented?

Ans: Raziyya was Sultan Iltutmish's daughter and an exceptionally talented ruler. She became Sultan in 1236.

According to the chronicler of the age, Minhaj-i-Siraj, she was more able and qualified than all her brothers. But she was not accepted when she became a ruler. Those were the days when women were not allowed to enjoy independent identity. They were supposed to be subordinate to men. This led to her removal from the throne in 1240.

12. Give an account of Alauddin's administrative measures.

Ans: During the reign of Alauddin Khalji Mongol attacks increased. It was a huge administrative challenge for the Sultan. He introduced several administrative measures:

- a) Alauddin Khalji raised a large standing army as a defensive measure.
- b) He constructed a new garrison town known as Siri for his soldiers.
- c) 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% of the peasant's produce.
- d) He paid his soldiers cash salaries rather than iqta. This was done in order to make soldiers able to buy their supplies from merchants in Delhi. It was feared that merchants would raise their prices.
- e) In order 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.

Alauddin's administrative measures were successful because he efficiently withstood the threat of Mongol attacks.

13. Muhammad Tughluq's administrative measures were a failure'. Explain with examples.

Ans: Muhammad Tughluq's administrative measures were a failure, we can prove this statement with following points:

- a) He campaigned into Kashmir which was finally a disaster. He then gave up his plans to invade Transoxiana and disbanded his large army.
- b) His administrative measures created problems. He shifted the residents of the old city to the new capital of Daulatabad in the south. People did not like this step taken by Muhammad Tughluq. They resented collectively.

- c) Tughluq, in order to meet the expense of maintaining a large number of soldiers, levied additional taxes which increased the burden of common people.
- d) The famine in the Ganga-Yamuna belt led to widespread rebellion.
- e) Muhammad Tughluq's policy of 'token' currency also proved a failure. People of the 14th century did not trust this currency. They were very smart. They saved their gold and silver coins and paid all their taxes to the state with the token currency. This cheap currency could also be counterfeited easily.

Fill in the blanks:

- i. Mughal emperor Humayun was defeated by **Sher Shah**
- ii. The founder of the Sayyid dynasty was **Khizr Khan**
- iii. During **Alauddin Khalji's** reign, the Sultanate faced maximum Mongol invasion
- iv. The Chauhan dynasty which ruled Delhi from 1165, came to power after defeating **Tomaras.**
- v. The idea of 'three orders' was first formulated in **France.**
- vi. **Begumpuri Mosque** was the main mosque of Jahanpanah.
- vii. The other name of Iqtadar was **muqti.**
- viii. Bandagan came into existence during the reign of **Sikander Lodi**
- ix. **Ibn Battuta** was a famous traveler who came from Morocco in the 14th Century.
- x. **Kharaj** was a tax on cultivation.

State whether True or False

- 1. Timur attacked India in 1398 AD and later defeated Tughlaqs. (True)
- 2. Alauddin Khilji established a separate department to carry out the assessment and collection of the land revenue. (True)
- 3. Ibn Battuta belonged to Persia. (False)
- 4. The Quwat-al-Islam is located in Bengal. (False)
- 5. Sikander Lodi was the emperor in charge of the Moth ki Masjid. (True)