



Origin and ruling period of Delhi sultanate

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Abstract

The Delhi Sultanate emerged following the invasion of northern India by Muhammad Ghori of Afghanistan between 1175 and 1206. One of his military slaves, Qutb al-Din Aibak, was made the primary sultan of Delhi and was the author of the Mamluk tradition. It was trailed by other Turkic lines – the Khalji, and the Afghan Lodi line which offered route to the attacking Mughals in 1526. 'Ala' ud-Din Khalji is outstanding for his monetary changes, for his expansionism, and especially to repel Mongol assaults, however numerous rulers were insufficient and feeble notwithstanding a capable nobility and a dominant part Hindu populace over whom Muslims framed an unmistakable, regularly abusive, administering standing. Outside dangers were additionally huge, from both the Mongols and the Timurids, and prompted enormous separation and disturbance. Political unsteadiness coming about because of a culture of individual government was exacerbated by the issues of administering a tremendous domain with deficient interchanges and solid provincial governors. Hindu– Muslim concurrence dependably stayed delicate however delivered some social combination, including "Indo-Muslim" design improvement.

Keywords: imperialism and conquest, India, Islamic empires, medieval history, revolts, slavery etc.

Introduction

Until the beginning of the 12th century, there was no mention of the kingdom with Delhi as the capital city. Moreover, Al-Biruni who came to India during the reign of Mahmud of Ghazni wrote about the city of Delhi. In his work *Kita-ul-Hind*, he specified some different urban areas like Kanauj, Mathura and so on. His work, written in Arabic gives an imperative asset to the history specialists. Delhi turned into a critical city just when it turned into the capital of Rajput rulers. Amidst the twelfth century, it created as an imperative business focus. With the foundation of Delhi Sultanate in the thirteenth century, it was changed into a capital city covering a tremendous zone of the subcontinent. The sultans of Delhi assembled landmarks here. Delhi Sultanate contained five traditions. These traditions ruled from 1206 to 1526 A.D. The Delhi Sultanate was a Muslim sultanate based for the most part in Delhi that extended over huge parts of the Indian subcontinent for a long time (1206– 1526). Five traditions controlled over the Delhi Sultanate consecutively: the Mamluk administration (1206– 90), the Khalji line (1290– 1320), the Tughlaq line (1320– 1414), the Sayyid line (1414– 51), and the Lodi line (1451– 1526). The sultanate is noted for being one of only a handful couple of states to repulse an assault by the Mongol Empire, and enthroned one of only a handful couple of female rulers in Islamic history, Razia Sultana, who ruled from 1236 to 1240. Amid and in the Delhi Sultanate, there was an amalgamation of Indian human advancement with that of Islamic development, and the further coordination of the Indian subcontinent with a developing world framework and more extensive global systems traversing huge parts of Afro-Eurasia, which significantly affected Indian culture and society, and the more extensive world. The season of their administer incorporated the soonest types of Indo-Islamic

engineering, expanded development rates in India's populace and economy, and the rise of the Hindi-Urdu dialect. The Delhi Sultanate was additionally in charge of repulsing the Mongol Empire's possibly obliterating attacks of India in the thirteenth and fourteenth hundreds of years. Be that as it may, the Delhi Sultanate likewise caused extensive scale pulverization and profaning of sanctuaries in the Indian subcontinent. In 1526, the Sultanate was vanquished and prevailing by the Mughal Empire. The setting behind the ascent of the Delhi Sultanate in India was a piece of a more extensive pattern influencing a great part of the Asian landmass, including the entire of southern and western Asia: the flood of migrant Turkic people groups from the Central Asian steppes. This can be followed back to the ninth century, when the Islamic Caliphate started dividing in the Middle East, where Muslim rulers in match states started subjugating non-Muslim migrant Turks from the Central Asian steppes, and raising a considerable lot of them to end up steadfast military slaves called Mamluks. Before long, Turks were relocating to Muslim terrains and getting to be Islamicized. A considerable lot of the Turkic Mamluk slaves in the end ascended to wind up rulers, and vanquished expansive parts of the Muslim world, building up Mamluk Sultanates from Egypt to Afghanistan, before turning their thoughtfulness regarding the Indian subcontinent. It is likewise part of a more extended pattern originating before the spread of Islam. Like other settled, agrarian social orders ever, those in the Indian subcontinent have been assaulted by roaming clans all through its long history. In assessing the effect of Islam on the subcontinent, one must note that the northwestern subcontinent was a regular focus of clans striking from Central Asia in the pre-Islamic time. In that sense, the Muslim interruptions and later Muslim attacks were not at all like

those of the prior intrusions amid the first thousand years. By 962 AD, Hindu and Buddhist kingdoms in South Asia were under a flood of assaults from Muslim armed forces from Central Asia. Among them was Mahmud of Ghazni, the child of a Turkic Mamluk military slave, who assaulted and ravaged kingdoms in north India from east of the Indus stream to west of Yamuna waterway seventeen times in the vicinity of 997 and 1030. Mahmud of Ghazni attacked the treasuries yet withdrawn each time, just broadening Islamic govern into western Punjab. The influx of strikes on north Indian and western Indian kingdoms by Muslim warlords proceeded after Mahmud of Ghazni. The attacks did not build up or broaden lasting limits of their Islamic kingdoms. The Ghurid sultan Muizz promotion Din Muhammad Ghori, generally known as Muhammad of Ghor, started a deliberate war of venture into north India in 1173. He tried to cut out a realm for himself by extending the Islamic world. Muhammad of Ghor looked for a Sunni Islamic kingdom of his own expanding east of the Indus River, and he accordingly established the framework for the Muslim kingdom called the Delhi Sultanate. A few students of history annal the Delhi Sultanate from 1192 because of the nearness and geological cases of Muhammad Ghori in South Asia at that point. Ghori was killed in 1206, by Shia Muslims in a few records or by Hindu Khokhars in others. After the death, one of Ghori's slaves, the Turkic Qutb al-Din Aibak, accepted power, turns into the principal Sultan of Delhi.



Fig 1: Origin of Delhi Sultanate

Muhammad Ghori died in 1206AD. He had no son. His commander, Qutbuddin Aibek, therefore, became master of his Indian Empire. He was the slave of Muhammad Ghori. Dynasty founded by him was, therefore, called 'Slave Dynasty'. All the Sultans after Aibek made Delhi as the capital of their kingdom. It was, therefore, named as Delhi Sultanat and its rulers were called as Sultans of Delhi. The period from 1206 to 1526 AD in the Indian History is called the Age of Sultans. During this period, five dynasties ruled:

1. Slave dynasty of Delhi Sultanate (1206-90)

The Slave dynasty was also known as Mamluk dynasty. They were turkish in origin. Qutub-ud-din-Aibak established the slave dynasty. He was a slave of Mohammad Ghori. Other important rulers of this dynasty were:

- a. Qutub-ud-din-Aibak constructed 2 mosques, 'Quwat-ul-

Islam' at Delhi and 'Adhai din ka Johpra' at Ajmer. He also commissioned the construction of Qutub Minar in honour of Sufi saint Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar.

- b. Iltutmish was a slave of Aibak. He belonged to Ilbari tribe. Iltutmish is credited for shifting the capital of his empire to Delhi from Lahore. Iltutmish saved India from Mongol wrath of Chengiz Khan. Iltutmish issued silver Tanka, introducing arabic coinage in India. Various sufi saint Minhaj-us-Siraj, Taj-ud-din, Nizam-ul-mulk, Fakhrul-Mulk Isami. Iltutmish completed the construction of Qutb Minar at Delhi.
- c. Raziya was nominated by Iltutmish as his successor. She was the first and only Muslim lady who ever ruled India. In 1240 AD, Raziya was defeated and killed.
- d. Ghiyasuddin Balban usurped the throne when the previous Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud, his son-in-law. He created a strong centralised army to handle internal disturbances. Balban introduced rigorous court discipline. He introduced the Persian festival of Nauroz. He established a separate military department known as diwan-i-arz.

2. The Khilji Dynasty of Delhi Sultanate (1290-1320 AD)

The Khilji dynasty was founded of Jalauddin Khilji.

Alauddin Khilji (1296-1316 AD)

He killed his father-in-law to usurp the throne. He was the first Turkish Sultan of Delhi who separated religion from the State. He ordered the measurement of land. He established four separate markets in Delhi. There were separate department called Diwani Riyasat was created under an officer known as Naib-i-Riyasat. There were secret agents called munhiyans. He seized Chittor in Rajasthan. His greatest achievement was conquest of Deccan. He patronized poets like Amir Khusrau and Amir Hasan. He built Alai Darwaza and constructed a new capital at Siri.

3. The Tughlaq Dynasty of Delhi Sultanate (1320-1414)

Ghiyassudin Tuglaq was the founder of Tughlaq dynasty. He killed Khusrau Khan, the last king of Khilji dynasty.

Muhammad bin Tuglaq (1325-1351)

He is considered to be ahead of his time. He had relations with China, Egypt, and Iran. He was the only Delhi Sultan who had received a comprehensive literary, religious and philosophical education. Mohamad-bin-Tuglaq shifted the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad. But then again shifted the capital back to Delhi after two years. He introduced copper based token currency, for the first time in India. But he was not able to prevent forging of the coins and the experiment had to be abandoned. He began the scheme of giving loans to farmers for cultivation known as takkavi loans.

Firoz Shah Tuglaq (1351-1388 AD)

Under his reign, Jaziya became a separate tax and was strictly imposed on non-muslims. He built Firozabad near Red Fort, popularly known as Firoz Shah Kota. He established a new department called Diwan-ikhairat to take care of widows and orphans. Firoz Shah was intolerant towards Shia Muslims and Sufis.

After Firoz Shah

The Delhi Sultanate disintegrated. The final blow to the Tughlaq dynasty was by invasion of Timur in 1398. Timur sacked and plundered Delhi before returning back to Central Asia. Timur was a Turk who left his nominee to rule.

4. Sayyid Dynasty of Delhi Sultanate (1414-1451 AD) -

Timur's nominee was Khizr Khan, who was the governor of Multan. He captured Delhi and tried to rule. After him, Mubarak Shah, Muhammad Shah ruled for a little while. The last Sayyid ruler descended the throne in favour of Bahlol Lodi.

5. Lodis of Delhi Sultanate (1451-1526 AD)

The Lodis were Afghans; Bahlol Lodi founded the Lodi dynasty. He was succeeded by Sikandar Lodhi. Sikandar Lodhi was the greatest of the three Lodi sovereigns. He conquered Bihar, while also defeating many Rajput chiefs. He was a good administrator. He shifted the capital from Delhi to Agra. He was a bigot who destroyed many Hindu temples. Ibrahim Lodi succeeded Sikandar Lodi. He was defeated by the Afghan Mughal Babur in the 1st Battle of Panipat in 1526. He was the last king of Delhi sultanate.

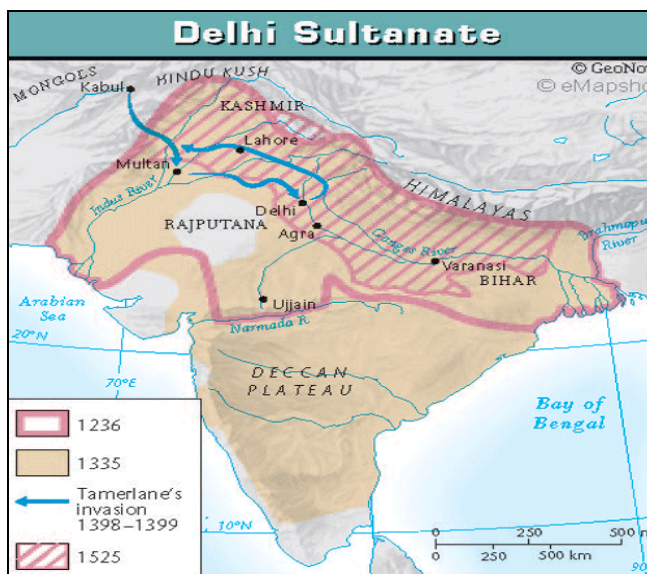


Fig 2

Causes of the disintegration of the Delhi sultanate

- a. **Moral degradation of the Muslims:** The Muslims, in course of time became pleasure-loving and lazy. Their physical and mental strength declined, they could not face the Mughals. Consequently, the Delhi Sultanate suffered a great setback in 1526 A.D
- b. **Absence of law of succession:** There was no definite law or convention for the appointment of successors. Every member of the royal family considered himself to be competent for the succession. There was infighting for the throne after the death of a king because every Sultan had generally dozens of sons from his different wives who were jealous of one another. Sometimes, the war of succession began in the life-time of the Sultan. No doubt this was fatal for the Sultanate.

- c. **Responsibility of Mohammad Tughlaq:** The character Mohammad Tughlaq was to a great extent responsible for the downfall of the Sultanate. All his plans were a failure. He spent a great sum of money on these plans and this gave a severe blow to the economy. The Sultan used force in the implementation of his plans. Thus, he added to the miseries of people and also encouraged the disruptive tendencies to raise their head and ruin the Sultanate.
- d. **Timur's Invasion:** The invasion of Timur disintegrated the Delhi Sultanate and soon one province after the other became independent of Delhi Sultanate. There was no Sultan on the throne of Delhi for 3 months. The disintegration began and by 1525 A.D., it was reduced to a small state surrounded by areas near Delhi.

Conclusion

In this paper, the author studied that the process of disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate had started during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. However, Firuz Shah Tughlaq tried to control the situation but failed. During this period, some of the provincial rulers declared their independence from the rule of the Sultanate.

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