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HISTORY OF DELHI SULTANATE



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1. Introduction to Delhi Sultanate

Introduction to Delhi Sultanate

1.1 Historical background

The Delhi Sultanate represents an important phase in Indian history, marked by the dominance of Islamic rule in the Indian subcontinent. The period up to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate saw the fragmentation of central authority after the fall of the Gupta Empire. This fragmentation created a power vacuum, exploited by ambitious rulers such as Mahmud of Ghazni, whose invasions in the 11th century weakened the indigenous Hindu kingdoms. These invasions paved the way for the subsequent influx of Central Asian Turkic tribes into the region.

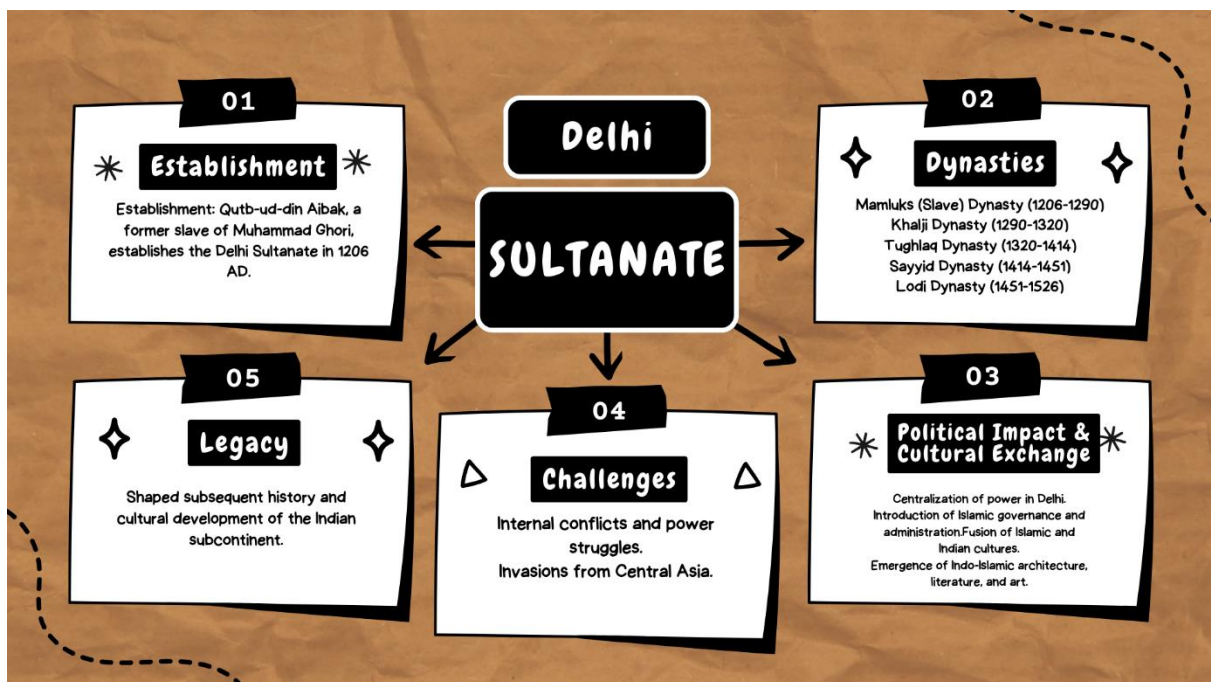
1.2 Establishment of Delhi Sultanate

The Delhi Sultanate was established in 1206 AD by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, a Turkic ruler and former slave of Muhammad Ghori, marking the onset of Muslim rule in the Indian subcontinent. Over three centuries, successive dynasties including the Mamluks, Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis ruled from Delhi, reshaping the political, cultural, and religious fabric of the region. The sultanate's capital in Delhi became a hub of power and cultural exchange, witnessing the amalgamation of Islamic and Indian influences in architecture, literature, and art. Despite periods of stability, the era was characterized by internal conflicts, invasions from Central Asia, and power struggles among rival factions. Nevertheless, the Delhi Sultanate's legacy profoundly influenced the subsequent history and cultural development of the Indian subcontinent.

1.3 Geographical expansion

At its peak, the Delhi Sultanate controlled a vast expanse of territory encompassing parts of present-day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. However, the Sultanate's control over these territories was

often weakened, with frequent rebellions, challenges from rival Hindu states, and invasions by external forces such as the Mongols. Despite its ambitions for territorial expansion, the Sultanate faced significant limitations in its ability to rule territories beyond the Northern Heartland. For example, southern India remained largely outside the direct control of the Sultanate for most of its existence.



Key elements	Description	Vocabulary	Meaning
Installing as of an idol	The Delhi Sultanate was established in 1206 by Qutb-ud-din Aibak after the assassination of Muhammad Ghori.	Sultanate, Marriage	This establishment marks the formal beginning of the Delhi Sultanate under the rule of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, marking the dominance of Islamic rule in northern India.

Dynastic succession	A succession of ruling dynasties including Ghulam, Khilji, Tughlaq, Sayyid and Lodi dynasties.	Dynasty, Succession	Dynastic succession refers to the transfer of power from one ruling family or dynasty to another in the context of the Delhi Sultanate.
Regional Expansion	Expanding the Sultanate's control over northern India, facing challenges in ruling distant territories.	Expansion, Governance	Territorial expansion refers to the expansion of the territory of the sultanate through conquests and annexes, while governance refers to the administration and management of territories under its control.
Cultural synthesis	The fusion of Islamic and indigenous Indian cultures, leading to the emergence of Indo-Islamic architecture, art and literature.	Synthesis, Fusion	Cultural synthesis refers to the blending or amalgamation of different cultural elements to create a new cultural identity. In the context of the Delhi Sultanate, it symbolizes the integration of Islamic and Indian cultural influences, resulting in unique artistic and literary expressions.
down fall	The gradual weakening of the Sultanate due to internal conflicts, external invasions and the rise of regional powers.	Decline, weak	The decline of the Delhi Sultanate marks a period of declining power, influence, and territorial control, which eventually leads to its eventual demise and the emergence of new ruling institutions

			such as the Mughal Empire.
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1. **Sultanate:** A state or region ruled by a sultan.
2. **Ascension:** The rise of power or dominance.
3. **Dynasty:** Successive rulers from the same family or dynasty.
4. **Inheritance:** The act or process of inheriting a title, office, property, etc.
5. **Expansion:** The act of becoming larger or broader.
6. **Governance:** The act or way of controlling a state or organization.
7. **Synthesis:** Combining ideas to form a theory or system.
8. **Fusion:** The process or result of mixing two or more things together.
9. **Decline:** Gradual and continuous loss of strength, number, or quality.
10. **Becoming weaker:** The process of becoming less strong or powerful over time.

This period of history is characterized by significant cultural exchanges, the development of Indo-Islamic art and architecture, and the emergence of Urdu as a language. Additionally, it marks the beginning of a long-standing Muslim presence in the Indian subcontinent, which is still shaping the cultural and social landscape of the region today.

2- Slave Dynasty (1206- 1290)

Ruler	Key Elements	Important Vocabulary	Dates
Qutub-ud-din Aibak	Founder of the Slave Dynasty	Founder	1206-1210
	Former slave of Muhammad Ghori	Slave Dynasty	
	Established Delhi Sultanate in India	Delhi Sultanate	
Iltutmish	Consolidated power after Aibak's death	Consolidation	1210-1236
	Introduced the Iqta system for revenue administration	Iqta system	
	Faced challenges from external and internal threats	Revenue administration	
Razia Sultan	First and only female ruler of the Delhi Sultanate	Female ruler	1236-1240
	Faced opposition from nobles and conservative elements	Nobles, conservatives	
	Known for her administrative reforms and just rule	Administrative reforms	
	Executed by nobles who opposed her rule	Execution	

Important Vocabulary

Sultanate: A state or territory under the rule of a Sultan.

Consolidation: The process of combining or uniting separate entities into a single, stronger entity.

Iqta system: A system of revenue administration in which the state granted land revenue rights in lieu of salary or stipend.

Nobles: People of high social rank or noble birth, often holding land or titles granted by the ruler.

Administrative reforms: Changes made to the structure or procedures of government with the aim of improving efficiency or effectiveness.

Execution: The carrying out of a sentence of death on a condemned person.

Dates:

1. Qutb-ud-din Aibak: 1206-1210
2. Iltutmish: 1210-1236
3. Razia Sultan: 1236-1240

2.1 Qutb-ud-din Aibak- Founder

Qutb-ud-din Aibak was the founder of the Slave Dynasty, which marked the beginning of the Delhi Sultanate in India. He was originally a slave of Muhammad Ghori, a prominent ruler of the Ghurid dynasty. After Ghori's death, Aibak seized power and established himself as the Sultan of Delhi in 1206. His reign lasted until 1210. Aibak is credited with laying the foundations of the Delhi Sultanate, marking a significant shift in the political landscape of the Indian subcontinent. His establishment of centralized authority in Delhi paved the way for subsequent Muslim rulers to exert control over large parts of India.

Important Vocabulary

- **Founder:** The person who establishes or originates something.
- **Slave Dynasty:** A dynasty founded by a former slave, in this case, Qutb-ud-din Aibak.
- **Delhi Sultanate:** A Muslim kingdom based mostly in Delhi that stretched over large parts of the Indian subcontinent.

Dates:

Reign: 1206-1210

2.2 Iltutmish- Consolidation and Administration

Iltutmish succeeded Qutb-ud-din Aibak and played a crucial role in consolidating and expanding the Delhi Sultanate. During his reign from 1210 to 1236, Iltutmish faced various challenges, including threats from external invaders and internal rebellions. One of his significant contributions was the introduction of the Iqta system, a form of revenue

administration where land revenue rights were granted in exchange for services rendered to the state. This system helped in the efficient collection of revenue and strengthening the central administration. Despite facing numerous challenges, Iltutmish successfully maintained stability and expanded the territories under his control.

Important Vocabulary:

- Consolidation: The process of combining or uniting separate entities into a single, stronger entity.
- Iqta system: A system of revenue administration where land revenue rights are granted in exchange for services rendered to the state.
- Revenue administration: The management and collection of revenue, usually by the government.

Dates:

Reign: 1210-1236

2.3 Razia Sultan- Challenges and Achievements

Razia Sultan, the daughter of Iltutmish, ascended to the throne in 1236, becoming the first and only female ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. Despite facing opposition from nobles and conservative elements within the court, Razia Sultan embarked on a series of administrative reforms aimed at improving governance and justice. Her reign, though short-lived, is remembered for her efforts to promote equality and just rule. However, her progressive policies faced strong resistance from the conservative nobility, ultimately leading to her execution in 1240 by nobles who opposed her rule.

Important Vocabulary:

- Female ruler: A woman who holds the position of sovereign or monarch.
- Nobles: People of high social rank or noble birth, often holding land or titles granted by the ruler.
- Administrative reforms: Changes made to the structure or procedures of government with the aim of improving efficiency or effectiveness.
- Execution: The carrying out of a sentence of death on a condemned person.

Dates:

Reign: 1236-1240

2.4 Decline of Slave Dynasty

The decline of the Slave Dynasty can be attributed to several factors including internal strife, succession disputes, external invasions, and the weakening of central authority.

Major Highlights of Decline of the Slave Dynasty

1240: Execution of Razia Sultan

The reign of Razia Sultan, the first and only female ruler of the Slave Dynasty, ended abruptly with her execution in 1240.

Razia Sultan faced opposition from the nobility and conservative elements within the court, which ultimately led to her downfall.

1246: Assassination of Nasiruddin Mahmud

Nasiruddin Mahmud, the son of Iltumish and successor of Razia Sultan, was assassinated in 1246, further destabilizing the dynasty.

His short reign was marked by internal conflicts and challenges to his authority.

1250s: Weak Rulers and Factionalism

The period following the assassination of Nasiruddin Mahmud saw a succession of weak rulers who were unable to assert control over the Sultanate.

Factionalism among the nobility and court officials weakened the central authority and led to administrative inefficiencies.

1290: Usurpation by Jalal ud-Din Firuz Khalji

The final blow to the Slave Dynasty came in 1290 when Jalal ud-Din Firuz Khalji, a former officer in the Delhi Sultanate, seized power and established the Khalji dynasty.

The Khalji takeover marked the end of the Slave Dynasty and the beginning of a new era in the history of the Delhi Sultanate.

Overall Factors Contributing to Decline

- Weak and incompetent rulers who were unable to maintain stability and control over the Sultanate.
- Internal dissent and factionalism among the nobility and court officials.
- External threats from Mongol and Turkic invasions, which further weakened the Sultanate's defences.
- Economic challenges and administrative inefficiencies, leading to a decline in revenue and governance.

3- The Khalji Dynasty (1290-1320)

The Khalji Dynasty, reigning from 1290 to 1320 CE, marked a significant era in Indian history. Led by ambitious rulers such as Jalal-ud-din and Alauddin Khilji, the dynasty's reign was characterized by centralization of power, military conquests, and innovative administrative and economic policies. Despite its achievements, internal dissent and external threats led to its downfall, paving the way for the rise of the Tughlaq Dynasty in 1320. Nonetheless, the Khalji Dynasty's legacy endures, offering insights into medieval Indian governance and imperial dynamics.

3.1 Jalal-ud-din Khilji: Rise to Power

Jalal-ud-din Khilji was the founder of the Khalji dynasty. He rose to power in the following manner:

Assassination of Kiliq Arslan: Jalal-ud-din Khilji, originally named Malik Firuz, assassinated the last ruler of the Khilji dynasty, Kiliq Arslan, and took control of the Delhi Sultanate in 1290.

Support from Nobility: He garnered support from the nobility and elite classes to solidify his rule.

Establishment of Authority: Jalal-ud-din focused on consolidating power and establishing his authority over the region.

3.2 Alauddin Khilji: Administration and Reforms

Alauddin Khilji, the most prominent ruler of the Khalji dynasty, introduced several administrative reforms:

Centralization of Power: He centralized power in the hands of the Sultanate, reducing the influence of nobles and regional governors.

Military Reforms: Alauddin strengthened the military by implementing reforms such as the introduction of a standing army and the expansion of the military apparatus.

Expansion of Territories: Through successful military campaigns, he expanded the Sultanate's territories significantly.

Spy Network: Alauddin established a sophisticated spy network to monitor the activities of nobles and potential threats to his rule.

3.3 Economic Policies and Market Controls (1296-1316)

Alauddin Khilji introduced various economic policies and market controls aimed at bolstering the economy and increasing state revenue. He implemented market regulations to stabilize prices and prevent hoarding of essential commodities. Price controls were enforced to ensure affordability for the common people and curb inflation. Market monitoring mechanisms were put in place to prevent exploitation of consumers, while revenue reforms, such as the 'Zabt' system, were instituted to improve tax collection efficiency.

Decline of Power (1316-1320)

The decline of the Khalji dynasty began after the death of Alauddin Khilji in 1316. His successors lacked his administrative acumen and faced internal dissent and external threats. Factionalism among nobles and the weakening of central authority led to instability within the Sultanate. The Tughlaq dynasty eventually supplanted the Khaljis in 1320, marking the end of their rule.

Jalal-ud-din Khilji: Rise to Power	Alauddin Khilji: Administration and Reforms	Economic Policies and Market Controls	Decline of Power
1290: Assassination of Kiliq Arslan	1296-1316: Centralization of Power	1296-1316: Market Regulation	1316-1320: Internal Dissent
Diplomatic Approach	Expansion of Territories	Price Control	Weakening of Central Authority

Support from Nobility	Authoritarian Leadership Style	Market Monitoring	Rise of Tughlaq Dynasty
Consolidation of Authority	Establishment of Spy Network	Revenue Reforms	End of Khalji Rule

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4-Tughlaq Dynasty (1320-1414)

4.1 Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq: Founding of the Dynasty (1320-1325)

Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq ascended to power in 1320, marking the establishment of the Tughlaq dynasty after the decline of the Khalji dynasty. He ruled for a brief period until 1325. Ghiyas-ud-din's leadership style was characterized by the consolidation of power and the establishment of a new ruling dynasty. However, his reign was cut short by an accident, leading to succession by his son, Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

4.2 Muhammad bin Tughlaq: Policies and Experiments (1325-1351)

Muhammad bin Tughlaq, known for his ambitious and innovative policies, ascended the throne in 1325. His leadership was marked by a series of bold but often poorly executed experiments and policies. Notably, he attempted to implement the token currency experiment and initiated the controversial decision to shift the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad. Additionally, Muhammad bin Tughlaq encouraged agricultural expansion and trade during his reign. However, his impulsive decisions and resistance from nobles and common people led to unrest and discontent throughout the empire.

4.3 Degradation and Fragmentation (1351-1414)

Following Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign, the Tughlaq dynasty faced degradation and fragmentation. The empire experienced rebellions, revolts, and economic crises, which weakened its power and stability. Failed military campaigns, including conflicts with the Mongols, further contributed to the decline of the dynasty. After Muhammad bin Tughlaq's

death in 1351, his successors struggled to maintain control over the empire, leading to its eventual fragmentation by 1414.

Ruler	Date	Leadership Style and Policies	Historical Events	Decline of Power
Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq	1320-1325	Established the Tughlaq dynasty.	Founded the dynasty after the decline of the Khalji dynasty.	Died due to an accident, leaving the throne to his son.
Muhammad bin Tughlaq	1325-1351	Ambitious and innovative, but often impulsive.	Implemented various policies such as the token currency experiment and capital relocation.	Faced rebellions, revolts, and economic crises.
		Attempted to shift the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad.	Faced resistance to his policies from nobles and common people.	Empire fragmented after his death due to internal conflicts.
		Encouraged agricultural expansion and trade.	Failed military campaigns, including against the Mongols.	Struggled to maintain control over the empire.

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