

(Part-III)

■ **Sultanate Period (1200 AD - 1526 AD)**

■ **Mughal Period (After 1526 AD)**

- **Political** : 1. Political expansion (State, Empire, Dynasty)
2. Administration
- **Economic** : Agriculture, Industry, Trade, Currencies and Urbanisation
- **Social** : Horizontal and Vertical division of society and status of women
- **Cultural** : Religion (Bhakti and Sufism), language and literature, Architecture, Paintings and Music

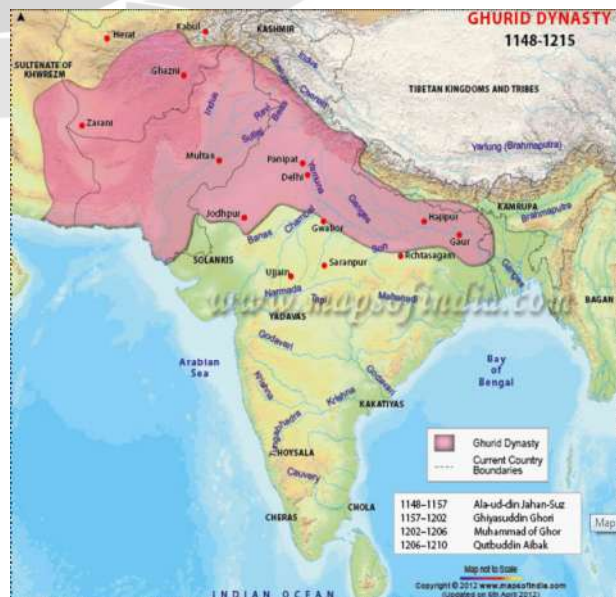
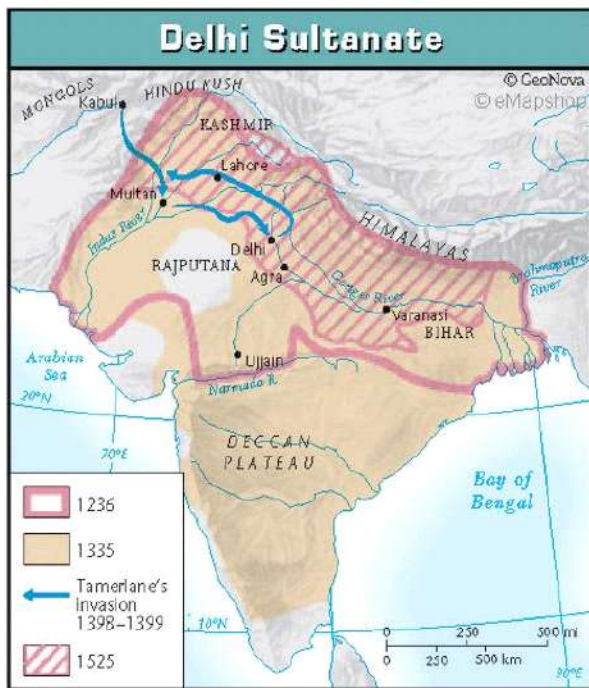
Sultanate Period

Since the establishment of Islam, there have been persistent efforts by the Islamic army to conquer India. However, it was only in 712 AD that the Arab invaders found an opportunity to conquer Sindh. Despite their aspirations to expand into North India, they faced limited success. In contrast, the Turks from Central Asia achieved relatively greater accomplishments. Mahmud of Ghazni, in the early 11th century, launched frequent attacks on northern India with Punjab as his base, but he did not directly establish control over the region. In a significant turn of events, Muhammad Ghori emerged victorious in the second battle of Tarain in 1192 AD, capturing Ajmer and Delhi. This marked the establishment of the Turkish state in North India.



Ilbari or Mamluk dynasty
(1192 AD—1290 AD)

The founder of this dynasty was Muhammad Ghori (1192-1206). However, his primary interests lay in the regions of Ghazni and Gaur. It was his slave, Qutbuddin Aibak, who effectively administered the affairs in India. In the battle of Chandawar in 1194 AD, Muhammad Ghori defeated Jaichand and seized control of Kannauj. Muhammad Ghori passed away in 1206 AD.



■ **Qutbuddin Aibak (1206-1210 AD)** - Qutbuddin Aibak selected Lahore as his capital and pursued territorial expansion in the upper

doab of Ganga-Yamuna. Hasan Nizami, a renowned scholar, was part of his court and wrote the book 'Taj-ul-Maasir'. However, Qutbuddin Aibak's reign was tragically cut short by his sudden demise in 1210 AD.

- **Ilutmish (1211-1236 AD)** - It is considered the architect of the Delhi Sultanate as it not only reclaimed independent Indian states but also implemented significant administrative reforms. The establishment of the 'Turk-i-Chahalgani', a body consisting of 40 nobles, in key positions contributed to effective governance. Recognizing the economic significance of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab, it facilitated the settlement of Muslim communities in that region. It holds the distinction of being the first Sultan to receive ruling authority from the Khalifa, marking the beginning of the legitimate Sultanate period.

- **Razia (1236-1240 AD)**-Razia proved herself as a capable ruler, but her tenure was cut short due to the envy of the Amirs and the Ulemas. Unfortunately, after the battle of Kaithal in 1240 AD, Razia met a tragic end and was killed.

- **Bahram Shah (1240-1242 AD)**- During his reign, in 1241, the first Mongol invasion led by Tair Bahadur occurred.

- **Mas'ud Shah (1242-1246 AD)**

- **Nasiruddin Muhammad (1246-1266 AD)** – He was the youngest son of Ilutmish. During his reign, Balban, a member of the Turk-i-Chahalgani, held actual power. The court also patronized the renowned writer 'Minhaj-us-Siraj', who authored the Persian work 'Tabaqat-e-Nasiri'.

- **The Balban (1266-1286 AD)**- Balban is recognized as the real architect of the Delhi Sultanate. Despite being a member of Turk-i-Chahalgani, he dismantled their power to consolidate the Sultan's authority. He played a pivotal role in shaping the Mongol policy during the Sultanate era, establishing two defensive lines in the northwest to guard against Mongol invasions..

- **The Kaiqubad (1286–1290 AD):**

After Balban's demise, his grandson Kaiqubad ascended to the throne. However, he proved to

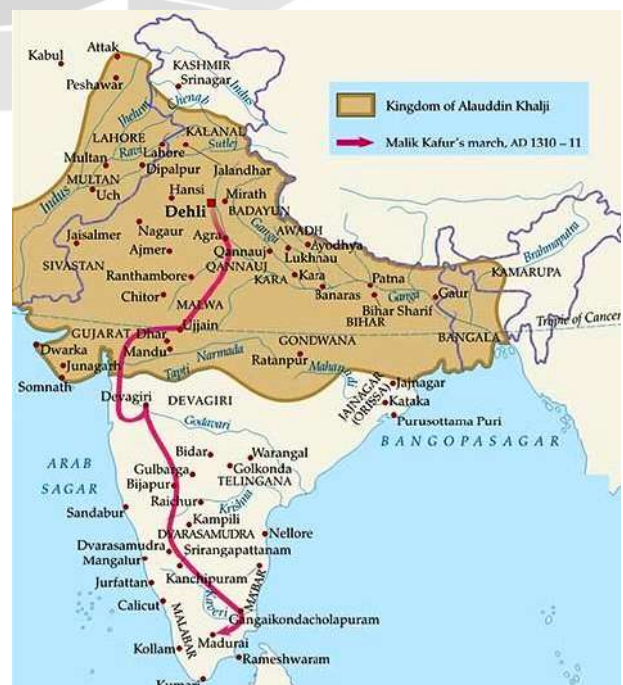
be a weak and ineffective ruler. His reign was marred by political instability, leading to a state of chaos. Exploiting this opportunity, Jalaluddin Khilji, Muqti of Samana, seized control of Delhi.

Khilji Dynasty (1250E—1320E)

- **Jalaluddin Khilji (1290-1296 AD)** - Jalaluddin Khilji founded the Khilji dynasty and ruled from 1290 to 1296 AD. However, his rule was cut short when he was overthrown by his nephew and son-in-law, Alauddin Khilji.

- **Alauddin Khilji (1236-1314 AD)** - Alauddin Khilji ushered in an era of imperialism in India. His reign saw extensive territorial expansion, reaching its pinnacle during the rule of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.

Initially, Alauddin Khilji consolidated his power in North India by conquering regions such as Gujarat (1299 AD), Ranthambore (1301 AD), Chittor (1303 AD), and Malwa (1305 AD). He then launched military campaigns in South India under the leadership of his general Malik Kafur. These campaigns included the first military expedition against Devagiri and Warangal in 1306-07 AD, followed by a second expedition against Dwarasamudra and the Pandya kingdom. While Alauddin Khilji extracted revenue and received tributes from these southern states, he did not directly administer them.



- **Mubarak Shah Khilji (1316-1320 AD)** - Mubarak Shah Khilji became the first Sultan to declare himself as Caliph and assumed the title of 'Al Wasiq Billah'. Departing from Alauddin Khilji's policy of limited expansion, Mubarak Shah successfully conquered Devagiri and incorporated it into the Delhi Sultanate.

- **Khusrau Shah (1320 AD)** - After the demise of Mubarak Shah Khilji, his minister **Khusrau** proclaimed himself as the Sultan under the name 'Khusraushah'. However, in 1320 AD, Ghazi Malik, the governor of Dipalpur, launched an attack on Delhi, resulting in the death of Khusro and the establishment of the Tughlaq dynasty.

Tughlaq dynasty (1320 E—1412 E)

- **Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1320-1325 AD)** - After assuming the title of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, Ghazi Malik ascended to the throne. During his reign, his son Jauna Khan successfully conquered Warangal in 1324 AD, incorporating it into the Delhi Sultanate. Unfortunately, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq met with an untimely demise in 1325 AD due to an accident while returning from a campaign in Bengal.

- **Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq (1325-1351 AD)** - The reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq is often regarded as a highly controversial period in history. While he had progressive ideas, his policies were marked by repeated failures. These failures led to widespread rebellion and ultimately resulted in the disintegration of his empire.

He expanded his empire extensively, establishing the All Indian Empire. During his rule, he embarked on various experiments such as changing the capital, introducing token currency, implementing progressive taxation in the Doab region, launching military campaigns in Khurasan and Karachil. However, all of his experiments met with successive failures, leading to the gradual disintegration of his empire.

- **1335 AD:** Mabar (Madura) kingdom gained independence led by Ahsan Shah.
- **1336 AD:** Vijayanagara kingdom declared

independence under Harihara and Bukka.

- **1338 AD:** Bengal achieved independence under Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah.
- **1347 AD:** Bahmani kingdom became independent under Bahman Shah.



- **Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388 AD)** - The emphasis of Firoz Shah Tughlaq was on the following policies -

1. He focused on religious fanaticism as a policy to appease dissident Ulemas.
2. He implemented public welfare programs within the state.
3. Emphasizing extensive construction projects, he commissioned the translation of Sanskrit texts on music into Persian.
4. He prioritized irrigation development, constructing canals from the Yamuna and Sutlej rivers.

- **After the Firoz Shah Tughlaq**

After the reign of Firoz Shah Tughlaq, a period of weak rulers ensued, with frequent changes in leadership. The final ruler of this dynasty was Nasiruddin Mahmud. During his rule, Timur invaded India in 1398 AD, further weakening the empire's prestige. Subsequently, the empire faced disintegration. By 1401 AD, Gujarat, led by Jafar Khan, Malwa, led by Dilawar Khan, and Jaunpur, led by Khwaja Jahan, declared

independence. Khwaja Jahan, titled 'Malik-us-Sharq,' established the Sharqi dynasty in Jaunpur. Nasiruddin Mahmud died in 1412 AD, and Khizr Khan, the governor of Punjab under Timur, captured Delhi.

Sayyid dynasty (1414 AD—1451 AD)

Khizr Khan, an officer of Timur, established the Lodi dynasty. Mubarak Shah was succeeded by Khizr Khan. In Khizr Khan's court, the writer Yahya bin Ahmad Sirhindi composed 'Tarikh-I-Mubarak Shahi.' The final ruler of this dynasty was Alam Khan, who later abdicated the throne in favor of his general, Bahlol Lodi. This marked the establishment of the Lodi dynasty.

Lodi dynasty (1451 AD—1526 AD)

The Lodi dynasty, the first Afghan dynasty in India, was founded by Bahlol Lodi. His capable successor, Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517 AD), proved to be a skilled Sultan. He successfully conquered Jaunpur and incorporated it into the Delhi Sultanate. In 1504 AD, he strategically founded Agra to exert control over eastern Rajasthan. Sikandar Lodi also made efforts to instill discipline among his noble (Amirs). Moreover, he gained recognition in the literary world for his poetic compositions under the pen name 'Gulrukhi.'

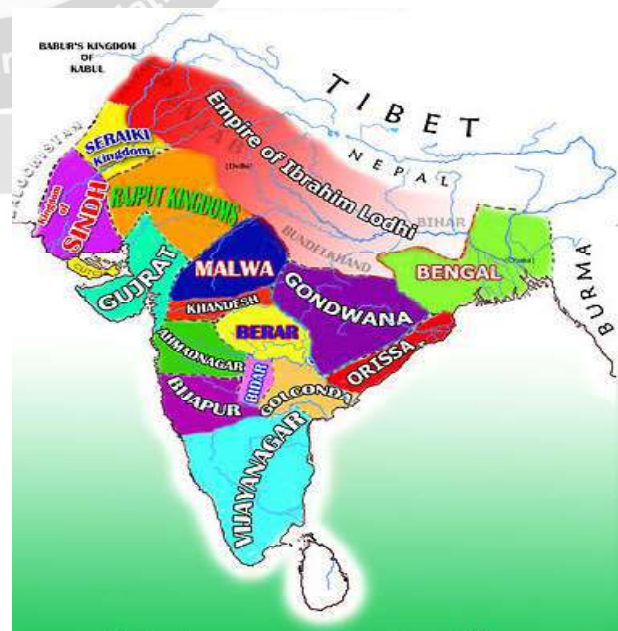
Ibrahim Lodi (1517-1526 AD) succeeded Sikandar Lodi. He attempted to impose discipline on the Afghan nobles (Amirs), which led to their rebellion. In 1518 AD, he launched an attack on Maharana Sanga, the ruler of Mewar, but suffered defeat in the battle of 'Khatoli. Meanwhile, as the Rajputs and Afghans were fighting for supremacy in North India, Babur was preparing to invade Hindustan. Ibrahim Lodi met his demise while fighting against Babur in the first battle of Panipat in 1526 AD.

Notably, the 16th century marked a period of political upheaval in North India. The political landscape of India during this time was

decentralised, which created a favourable environment for potential invaders. During this period, the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi, aimed to establish a centralised empire. However, challenges to his authority arose from various quarters. Daulat Khan Lodi, the Subedar of Punjab, and Ibrahim Lodi's uncle, Alam Khan Lodi, contested his rule. Additionally, Rana Sanga, a Rajput ruler, also challenged Ibrahim's supremacy.

In a bid to overthrow Ibrahim from the Delhi throne, Daulat Khan sent an envoy to Babur, led by his son Dilawar Khan. The purpose was to seek Babur's assistance in removing Ibrahim and installing Alam Khan Lodi as the ruler. Babur himself recounted this incident in his autobiography, detailing how he received the ambassadors of Alam Khan Lodi and Rana Sanga when he was in Kabul. This scenario underscores how the dynamics of mutual political struggles had an impact on Babur and consequently influenced the political landscape of the Sultanate. Eventually, Babur defeated Ibrahim and established the foundation of Mughal power in India.

Mughal Period (after 1526 AD)



Indian subcontinent on the eve of Babur's Invasion

■ **Babur (1526-1530 AD)** - After successfully capturing Kabul in 1504 AD, Babur turned his attention towards India. In 1518 AD, he achieved a significant victory in the fort of Bhira, marking the first use of cannons in his conquests. Subsequently, in 1525 AD, Babur conquered Punjab. The decisive first battle of Panipat took place in 1526 AD, where Babur emerged victorious against Ibrahim Lodi by skillfully combining cannons with the Tullgama system. In 1527 AD, he defeated Maharana Sanga in the battle of 'Khanwa'. Babur continued his expansion by capturing Alwar in 1528 AD and emerging victorious in the war of Ghaggar against the Afghans in 1529 AD. However, his journey to suppress the rebellion in Kabul was cut short when he passed away in Lahore in 1530 AD.

■ **Humayun (1530-1556 AD)**- Soon after ascending to the throne, Humayun encountered numerous challenges. The most formidable among these were the Western Afghan and Eastern Afghan conflicts. On one side, his ambitious brother Kamran seized control over Kabul, Kandahar, Lahore, Punjab, and Hisar-Firoza. On the other side, Humayun emerged victorious over the Eastern Afghan forces in the Battle of Daurah in 1532 AD. Subsequently, he faced a challenge from Bahadur Shah, the leader of the Western Afghans. However, by 1534 AD, Humayun conquered Malwa and Gujarat, although he eventually lost control over these territories. Nevertheless, Bahadur Shah's power was significantly weakened.

In the eastern region, Humayun's greatest adversary was Sher Shah. After suffering defeats in the Battles of Chausa in 1539 and Kannauj in 1540 against Sher Shah, Humayun was forced to flee to Iran.

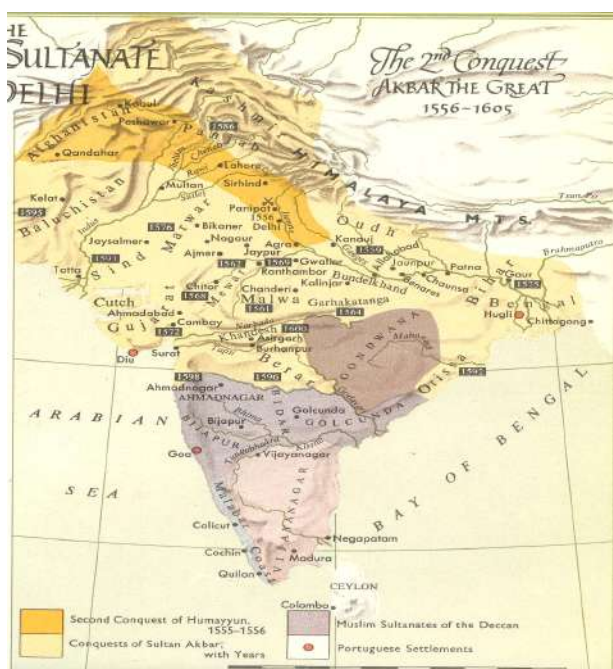
With the support of Iran, Humayun managed to regain his lost territories. He reclaimed Kandahar in 1545 AD and Kabul in 1553 AD from his brother Kamran. Following Sher Shah's demise and the subsequent fragmentation of the

Afghan Empire, Humayun seized Punjab in 1555 AD, as well as Delhi and Agra in the same year. He met his untimely demise in an accident in January 1556 AD.



■ **Akbar (1556-1605 AD)**- Akbar, one of the greatest rulers in Indian history, was renowned not only for his vast empire-building but also for his transformative state policies. Upon assuming the throne, his first notable achievement was the victory in the Second Battle of Panipat against Hemu, which he achieved with the assistance of Bairam. Subsequently, in 1556 AD and 1560 AD, Akbar successfully captured Ajmer, Gwalior, and Jaunpur.

After his triumph in the Battle of Merta in 1562, other Rajput states followed suit and surrendered to his authority. Akbar's expansion continued as he annexed Gujarat in 1573 AD, Bihar in 1575-76 AD, Kabul in 1585 AD, and Kashmir in 1586 AD. By 1601 AD, his empire spanned from Kashmir in the north to Berar, Balaghat, and Khandesh in the south, and from Kandahar in the west to Bengal in the east.



■ **Jahangir (1605-1627 AD):** During Jahangir's reign, there were no major territorial expansions. In the south, Shahzada Khurram achieved victories over the armies of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, and Golconda. Pleased with his accomplishments, Jahangir bestowed upon him the title of 'Shah Jahan'. Amar Singh, the ruler of the Sisodia dynasty and the successor of Maharana Pratap, surrendered for the first time during Jahangir's rule. However, in 1622 AD, the Iranians captured Kandahar.

■ **Shah Jahan (1628-1658 AD):** Shah Jahan faced several challenges during his reign. Bundela Sardar Jujhar Singh revolted, followed by the rebellion of Khan-i-Jahan Lodi, the Subedar of Deccan. Shah Jahan decided to conquer Ahmednagar and successfully achieved this goal in 1633 AD, integrating it into the Mughal Empire. Although he temporarily obtained Kandahar in 1638 AD, the Mughals ultimately lost it in 1648 AD.

■ **Aurangzeb (1659-1707 AD):** In 1658 AD, Aurangzeb engaged in a war of succession with his brothers during Shah Jahan's illness. Eventually, he ascended the throne in 1659 AD. His reign was marked by various rebellions, including the Jat rebellion, the Satnami rebellion, the Afghan rebellion, the Rajput rebellion, the Sikh rebellion, and conflicts with the Marathas.

Aurangzeb faced a major challenge in the south with the Marathas. He made a second mistake by aggressively expanding his empire in the region, conquering Bijapur in 1686 AD and Golconda in 1687 AD. These territories were incorporated into the Mughal Empire. Aurangzeb's policy of expanding southward from the Krishna River resulted in disastrous consequences, and he found himself embroiled in a long struggle in the south that lasted for 25 years. Eventually, in 1707 AD, Aurangzeb passed away while these conflicts were still ongoing.

