

## Chapter- 1 (HISTORY)

# WHERE, WHEN and HOW- Medieval Period in India?

**STUDY NOTES**

1. History as you learnt last year is study of the human past.
2. It has been divided in three periods-
3. Last year we learnt of ancient period of human history: this year, you will explore the history of medieval period India.
4. The word 'medieval' comes from the Latin words **medius** and **aevum**, which mean 'middle age'. Therefore, when a period is called medieval it means that period which is in the middle of human history.
5. The ancient period is said to end by death of emperor Harshavardhana's during in 647 CE.
6. The medieval period of Indian history is taken to extend from 647 to 1700 CE.
7. It is again divided into two periods- Early Medieval period and later medieval period.
8. The medieval period of India is divided into two 647-1200 CE( Early Medieval) and 1600-1700 CE is known as Lateral Medieval Period.
9. The medieval period in India saw far- reaching changes in all fields of political, social, cultural and economical.
10. The lack of unity by the Indian rulers gave opportunities to tribes of central Asia, to enter India from mountain pass from north-west.
11. Taking advantages of the political instability and lack of unity among the Indian rulers, tribes from Central Asia entered India from mountain passes in the north-west.
12. The medieval period of Indian history is identified today with series of Turikesh, Afghan, Persian and Mongol dynasties that ruled in India from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> CE.

**13. The Impact of geography on History**

- Indian History we showed you some of the great rivers of this country. The Himalayan rivers – the Sindhu, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra; and the peninsular rivers – Krishna, Kaveri, Godavari and the Mahanadi. These rivers, along with their numerous tributaries, fulfil one of the most basic needs for life survival –water. That is why we find all ancient civilizations of the world taking birth on the banks of major rivers. Similar is the case with India whose first recorded civilization is the Harappan on the banks of the

river Indus.

- Himalayan in the North and sea on the three other sides. As a result India lived in isolation and evolved her own style of life and development. No doubt, some of the foreign cultures and civilizations found their way into India through the northern passes but their influence was very limited.
- The varied physical features of the sub-continent of India have led to the formation of different local zones, political and cultural units. On account of the difference in the physical features and natural barriers, India has come to be divided into different political and cultural units.
- The northern India, the Deccan Plateau, Peninsular plains and the Ghats-all possess special political and social characteristics of their own, which are quite distinct from each other. The Aryan civilization could not exercise much influence on the Deccan. In the Far South the non-Aryans language, customs, and ideas continued to dominate.
- The separation of India from the rest of the world by natural barriers gave to the people of ancient India a sense of security and they completely ignored the defence of the country
- On the contrary, the Southern Peninsula faced fewer threats of invasion. The Vindhya and Saptara ranges acted as a barrier, to discourage the southern movement of the Turks and The Mughals.

#### **14. Terms used to describe the subcontinent.**

During Vedic Period India was called as – **Sapta Sindhu** ( Land of Seven rivers)Examples

Indus , Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi ,Beas, Sutlej, and Mythical Saraswati).

- India in ancient time was know to be **HINDU** . It was derived from the holy book of **Persian Zend Avesta** as HAPT SINDHU which in Sanskrit replace “S”. to “H”. And India got its name by Hindu.
- **In Sanskrit Hindu** was derived from word **Indu**. **Indu** was known as **soma**(holy drink )which all people drink after offering to their god. As a mark India was land of Hindu for which it hot the name Hindustan.
- After Aryans came to India it was called as **Bharatvarsha**( land of Aryans)
- In Arabic and Persian literature India was known as HIND.
- In Greek India was known as land of **Indica** which is the modern name of **India**.

#### **15. Sources of Information Medieval History.**

● The sources used by historians in the period 700 to 1750 (the Medieval Period) were quite different from the ones used in the period of Gupta dynasty and Hashavardhana. There is definitely some continuity in the sources used by the historians of both the distinct periods. For example, for obtaining information they still relied on

- **Coins- Numismatic Evidence.**
- **Inscriptions- Epigraphic Evidence**
- **Architecture- Archaeological Evidence**
- **Artistic Evidence- Paintings**
- **Literary evidence- (historical Writing)**
- **Coins- Numismatic Evidence- Coins are pieces of metal that are used as money.**

They were usually issued by the ruler of a kingdom. The study of coin is called **numismatic**. The information gather from coins tells us about the kingdom, confirms date during which particular kings ruled, their special interests and achievements.

- **Inscriptions** are written engraved on hard surfaces like metal, rock and stone. The study of Inscriptions is called **epigraphy**. Inscriptions were initially made on the face of cliff , on stone pillars, inside caves and on rocks. Inscriptions were short as two line dedication of a temple or a statue, or lengthy, such as long poems praising the achievements of kings. These long pomes were called as **prashasti**. **Copper plate inscriptions often record land grand by the rich to temple.**

- **Architecture-** Monuments and buildings provide information about the period during which they were built. For example:- Mosques Like the jama Masjid in Delhi , forts in Gwalior, Agra, Jaipur, Jodhpur etc. are the evidences of medieval period architectures.

- **Paintings:-** The art and the subjects narrated in art are always like a mirror. It reflects the contemporary society; and so did the art of painting known as Mughal Miniatures, that was a style of painting developed in sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Descended from the art of Persia and Turkey, these miniature paintings and the artists were supported by Mughal Emperors the Rajput Kings.

- **Literary Evidence:** Medieval period history is rich in collection of literary source. Literary Sources are divided into two:-

- a) **Indigenous Sources:-** Those literary sources created within the country.
- b) **Foreign Sources:** Those written by foreign travelers.

a) **Indigenous Sources:-**

Writer Names	Book Written

Colonel Todd	Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan.
Kalhana	Rajatarangini
Bilhana	Vikramankadeva Charita
Chand Bardai	Prithviraj Raso

**b) Foreign Sources:-**

Writer Names	Book Written
Alberuni	Tahaqiq-i-Hind
Ibn Batuta	Biography on Mohammad Bin Tughlaq
Mughal Emperor Babur ( Autobiography)	Baburnama

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