



Orient BlackSwan

# History of Medieval India

SATISH CHANDRA

NEW EDITION



# Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <i>List of Maps</i>  | <i>ix</i> |
| <i>Preface</i>   | <i>xi</i> |
| <b>1. India and the World</b>  | <b>1</b>  |
| Europe • The Arab World • Africa   |           |
| <b>2. Northern India: Age of the Three Empires</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| <i>(800–1000)</i>  |           |
| The Struggle for Domination in North India: The Palas<br>• The Pratiharas • The Rashtrakutas • Political Ideas and<br>Organisation   |           |
| <b>3. South India: The Chola Empire</b>  | <b>26</b> |
| <i>(900–1200)</i>  |           |
| The Rise of the Chola Empire • Age of Rajaraja and<br>Rajendra I • Chola Government—Local Self Government<br>• Cultural Life   |           |
| <b>4. Economic and Social Life, Education and Religious Beliefs</b>  | <b>36</b> |
| <i>(800–1200)</i>  |           |
| Trade and Commerce • Nature of Society • The Caste<br>System • Condition of Women • Dress, Food and<br>Amusements • Education, Science and Religious Learning<br>• Religious Movements and Beliefs |           |
| <b>5. The Age of Conflict</b>  | <b>57</b> |
| <i>(Circa 1000–1200)</i>   |           |
| The Ghaznavids • The Rajput States • The Turkish Conquest of<br>North India • The Battle of Tarain • Turkish Conquest of<br>the Ganga Valley • Causes of the Defeat of the Rajputs                 |           |
| <b>6. The Delhi Sultanat—I</b>   | <b>76</b> |
| <i>(Circa 1200–1300)</i>   |           |
| The Mameluk Sultans (Thirteenth Century) • Struggle for the<br>Establishment of a Strong Monarchy • Iltutmish (1210–36)<br>• Raziya • Era of Balban (1246–87) • The Mongols and the                |           |

- Problem of the Northwest Frontier • Internal Rebellions and the Struggle for Territorial Consolidation of the Delhi Sultanat
- 7. The Delhi Sultanat—II**  
(*Circa 1300–1400*) 92
- The Khaljis and the Tughlaqs • The Khaljis (1290–1320)  
• The Tughlaqs (1320–1412) • Expansion of the Delhi Sultanat • Internal Reforms and Experiments • Muhammad Tughlaq's Experiments • Decline and Disintegration of the Delhi Sultanat: Firuz and his Successors
- 8. Government, and Economic and Social Life under the Delhi Sultanat** 118
- The Sultan • Central Administration • Local Administration • Economic and Social Life • Peasants and Rural Gentry • Trade, Industry and the Merchants  
• The Sultan and the Nobles • Town Life: Slaves, Artisans and Others • Caste, Social Manners and Customs • Nature of the State • Religious Freedom under the Sultanat
- 9. The Age of Vijayanagara and the Bahmanids, and the Coming of the Portuguese**  
(*Circa 1350–1565*) 138
- The Vijayanagara Empire—Its Foundation and Conflict with the Bahmani Kingdom • The Bahmani Kingdom—Its Expansion and Disintegration • Mahmud Gawan  
• Climax of the Vijayanagara Empire and its Disintegration  
• The Advent of the Portuguese
- 10. Struggle for Empire in North India—I**  
(*Circa 1400–1525*) 162
- Eastern India—Bengal, Assam and Orissa • Western India—Gujarat • Mahmud Begarha • Malwa, Mewar  
• Northwest and North India—The Sharqis, the Lodi Sultans  
• Kashmir
- 11. Cultural Development in India**  
(*1200–1500*) 182
- Architecture • Religious Ideas and Beliefs • The Sufi Movement • The Chishti and Suharwardi Silsilahs

- The Bhakti Movement. The Vaishnavite Movement
  - Literature and Fine Arts
- 12. Struggle for Empire in North India—II**
- Mughals and Afghans (1525–1555)* **202**
- Central Asia and Babur • Conquest of India • The Battle of Panipat (20 April 1526) • The Battle of Khanwa
- The Afghans • Significance of Babur's Advent into India • Humayun's Conquest of Gujarat and his Tussle with Sher Shah • Sher Shah and the Sur Empire (1540–55)
  - Contribution of Sher Shah
- 13. Consolidation of the Mughal Empire**
- Age of Akbar* **226**
- Early Phase—Contest with the Nobility (1556–67)
- Early Expansion of the Empire (1560–76)
  - Administration • Mansabdari System and the Army
  - Organization of Government • Relations with the Rajputs
  - Rebellions and Further Expansion of the Mughal Empire
  - Towards Integration: State, Religion and Social Reforms
- 14. The Deccan and South India**
- (Up to 1656)* **259**
- Mughal Advance Towards the Deccan • Conquest of Berar, Ahmadnagar and Khandesh • Rise of Malik Ambar and Frustration of Mughal Attempt at Consolidation
- Extinction of Ahmadnagar, and Acceptance of Mughal Suzerainty by Bijapur and Golconda • Cultural Contribution of the Deccan States
- 15. India in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century** **276**
- Political and Administrative Developments in India • Jahangir • Nur Jahan • Shah Jahan's Rebellion • Mahabat Khan
- Foreign Policy of the Mughals—Shah Jahan's Balkh Campaign • Mughal-Persian Relations—the Last Phase
  - Growth of Administration: Mansabdari System and the Mughal Army • The Mughal Army
- 16. Economic and Social Life under the Mughals** **297**
- Economic and Social Conditions • Standard of Living: Pattern of Village Life and the Masses • The Ruling

|            |   |            |
|------------|---|------------|
|            | Classes: The Nobles and Zamindars • Zamindars and the Rural Gentry • The Middle Strata • Organization of Trade and Commerce • Foreign Trade and the European Traders  |            |
| <b>17.</b> | <b>Cultural and Religious Developments</b>  | <b>317</b> |
|            | Architecture, Painting • Language, Literature and Music • Music • Religious Ideas and Beliefs, and Problems of Integration  |            |
| <b>18.</b> | <b>Climax and Disintegration of the Mughal Empire—I</b>   | <b>328</b> |
|            | Problems of Succession. Aurangzeb's Reign—His Religious Policy. Political Developments—North India • Northeast and East India • Popular Revolts and Movements for Regional Independence: Jats, Afghans and Sikhs • Relations with the Rajputs—Breach with Marwar and Mewar  |            |
| <b>19.</b> | <b>Climax and Disintegration of the Mughal Empire—II</b>  | <b>355</b> |
|            | The Rise of the Marathas • Early Career of Shivaji • Treaty of Purandar and Shivaji's Visit to Agra • Final Breach with Shivaji—Shivaji's Administration and Achievements • Aurangzeb and the Deccani States (1658–87) • The First Phase (1658–68) • The Second Phase (1668–84) • The Third Phase (1684–87) • Aurangzeb, the Marathas and the Deccan—the Last Phase (1687–1707). Decline of the Mughal Empire—Responsibility of Aurangzeb |            |
| <b>20.</b> | <b>Assessment and Review</b>  | <b>379</b> |
|            | <i>Appendix</i>   | <b>385</b> |
|            | <i>Books for Further Reading</i>  | <b>387</b> |
|            | <i>Index</i>  | <b>391</b> |