



Haryana under the Delhi sultans in medieval times

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Abstract

In the medieval times, great change took place owing to the coming of the Muslims. Although the Muslims touched Haryana in the tenth century for the first times, their real socio-religious impact came to be felt in a substantial manner in the beginning of the thirteenth century when Qutb-ud-din Aibak established Turkish Empire over here 1206. A New revolutionary religion, Islam, created a stir in the extant social system. As a result, the Haryana society, as it happened elsewhere, was divided into two vertical socio-religious – Hindus and Muslims. But that was not all. A large number of Hindus, in due course of time, embraced the new faith which divided the Muslim populace horizontally, for the new converts changed their religion, but retained their jatis.

Keywords: Haryana, Haryana society, medieval period, Delhi sultans, Turkish Empire

Introduction

Title of the study

The title of the proposed research study may be written as follows

- Haryana under the Delhi sultans in Medieval Times.

Limitation of the research paper's

- Limitation of the research paper's 1206 to 1526 (only Delhi sultan)

Objectives of the study

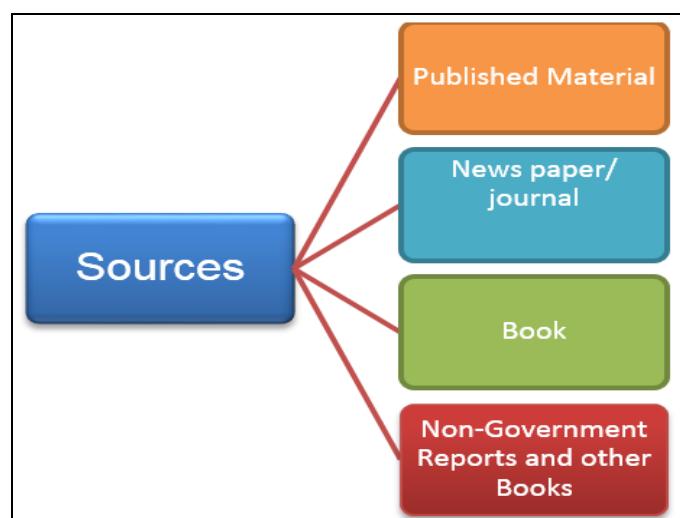
- study of Delhi Sultanate
- To study impact of the Delhi Sultanate

Material

Only secondary data use research paper.

- Book (published history book and article)
- Library (Use Library Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtri Hindi Vishwavidyalay, wardha, Maharashtra, 422001.)
- Internet and some useful website (related research paper)

The Sources



Method

The paper is based on secondary data sources. This study is based on Historical method.

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Introduction

The battle of Taraori (1192) was decisive and it laid the foundation of Muslim domination northern India ^[1] the subsequent attempts of the relation of Prithvi raj to recover their lost power proved to be of no avail. Different parts of northern India were conquered in the course of few years by Qutb-Ud-Din-Aibak, the most faithful of Muhammad's Turkish officers. There after he tried to strengthen his position by matrimonial relations. In 1192, he captured Hansi and Delhi. He chastised Bhim-dev of Gujarat for his having caused some trouble and plundered his capital and returned to Delhi by way of Hansi ^[2]. So new chapter opened in the history of Haryana, which affected the future of the whole country. During the following 600 years which covers the period of the Delhi sultanate and the Mughals Empire, historians and court chroniclers have mostly related the stories of king and sultans, their court life, their fights and battles, the harem in intrigues and conspiracies of the nobles against one another and against the ruling sultan, but little about the people themselves. Haryana being close to the capital suffered the most during this period. The people, however, bore it all patiently and stoically. Apart from the repeated disorders due to frequent changes of dynasties till the coming of the Mughals on the scene, there were other atrocities sometimes resulting in mass persecutions and total destruction of village. The invasion of Timurlan forwards the end of the 14th century played havoc with the imperial city of Delhi and the surrounding area. The region suffered similarly during the 18th century when nadir shah and Ahmad shah Abdali invaded the country ^[3].

It is not an accident that all decisive battles which changed the

¹ Majumdar, R.C. Raychaudhuri. H.C, Datta, K. 1967, *Advanced history of india*, P.270

² Haryana state gazetteer, volume-1. p.34

³ Varma, D.C, singh, sukhbir, 1975, *Haryana*, p.21

fate of India were fought Haryana, at Panipat. Every invader and aspirant to loot and power, after traversing the Punjab had to fight a pitched battle in Haryana before reaching Delhi.

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The Delhi sultanate established in 1206^[4] or Qutb-ud-din Aibak cemented the foundations of the Turkish rule in India on July 24, 1206. The territory now comprising Haryana became a part his is newly established kingdom along with adjacent territories. References to his having established military outpost here are found in contemporary literature. Of these, outpost at Hansi, Hisar, Sirsa, Mewat, Rohtak, Sonipat, Rewari, and Thanesar were important the official's in charge of the outpost were called *darogas*. The main duties of these *darogas* were to collect the land revenue and suppress in uprisings. Aibak's death in A.D.1210 brought chaos and confusion for a while. Nassir-ud-din Qubacha, the governor of Punjab, tried to fish in the troubled water. He occupied the Sirsa district and began to rule over it independently. But his sway over the district proved short-lived. Taj-ud-din Yildiz the ruler Ghazni snatched the territory from him along with other territory. But they could not hold this territory for a longer period. In A.D. 1214, taj-ud-din Yildiz being driven from Ghazni by sultan Muhammad, the Shah of khwarzan, feld to Lahore, conquered Punjab up to Thanesar and tried to establish his independent power^[5].

This was what Iltutmish could hardly tolerate. He promptly marched against his rival and defeated him in a battle near Tarain in January, A.D. 1216. Qubacha helped Iltutmish, for after the battle of Taraori, Sirsa came under Qubacha control. A cunning fellow as Qubacha was, he enhanced his power very rapidly. So much so that in 1227 he became independent Iltutmish launched a fierce attack on him. Having defeated Qubacha, Iltutmish brought the Sirsa district under his control. After making his position strong and stable, Iltutmish is reported to have made some serious changes which had great impact on the administration. He divided his kingdom into several *iqtas* of which hansi, Sirsa, pipli; Rewari, Narnaul and Palwal were from Haryana region. The officers called *muktas* or *Bali* controlled the affairs of the *iqtas* under the direct supervision and control of the sultan. Nassir-ud-din Mahmud, the eldest son Iltutmish died in April A.D. 1229. While governing Bengal as his father's deputy. The surviving sons of the sultan were incapable of the task of administration. Iltutmish, therefore, nominated on his death-bed his daughter, Raziya, as his heiress. But the nobles of his court were too proud to bow their head before a woman, and disregarding the deceased Sultan's wishes, raised to the throne his eldest surviving son, Rukn-ud-din firuz who indulged in low taste and proved to be unfit to rule the state. Matters were made worse by the activities of his mother; Matters were made worse by the activities of his mother Shah Turkhan, ambitious women of humble origin, who seized all powers while her son remained unmarried and spent time in enjoyment. The whole kingdom was plunged into disorder and authority of the central Government was was set naught in Multan, hansi and Lahore. The nobles of Delhi, who had been seething with discontentment about the undue influence of queen-mother, made her a prisoner and placed Raziya on the throne of Delhi.

⁴ Ibid.p.21

⁵ Haryana state gazetteer, volume-1. p.35

Rukn-ud-din firuz met his doom on the 9th November, A.D 1236^[6].

The queen was not, however destined to enjoy a peaceful reign. The undue favour shown by her to slave jala-ud-din Yakut, who was elevated to the post of master of stables, offended the Turkish nobles, who stood organized against her. Altuniya, the governor of Sirhind openly revolted against her. The queen marched with a large army to suppress the revolt, but in the conflict the rebels slew Yakut, and imprisoned her. She was placed in the charge of Altuniya and her brother Muiz-ud-din Bahram was proclaimed Sultan of Delhi. Raziya tried to extricate herself from the critical situation by marrying Altuniya but to no effect. She marched her husband towards Delhi, but on arriving near kaithal she was deserted by the followers of Altuniya and defeated on 13th October 1240 by Bahram. She was put to death next-day. The removal of Raziya was followed by a period of disorder and confusion. Her successors on the throne of Delhi, Muiz-ud-din Bahram and Ala-ud-din Masud, were worthless and incompetent and during six years of rule the country knew no of Hindustan. The Amirs and Malik raised to the throne Nasir-ud-din Mahmud, a younger son of Iltutmish on 10th June 1246. As a ruler, Nasir-ud-din's abilities fell far short of what the prevailing complicated situation demanded Ghiyas-ud-din Balban, his minister, and later on his deputy was the real power behind the throne. Nasir-ud-din Mahmud died on the 18th February A.D 1266, leaving no male heir behind him. This had extinguished the line of Iltutmish, Balban, a man of proved ability, whom the deceased sultan is said to have designated as his successor, and then ascended the throne with the acquiescence of the nobles and the officials. Balban was confronted with formidable and difficult task on his accession. Mewat area was much turbulent since the death Iltutmish. Balban had to chastise the rebels when he was minister^[7].

The struggle against the Meos continued and the ferocity of soldiery was stimulated by the reward of on silver *tanga* for every head and two for every living prisoner. During this campaign many were massacred. Some were trampled to death by elephants, other were cut to pieces and more than hundred were flayed alive by scavengers of the city. Those who haved saved themselves by fight returned their homes and ventured of reprisals by infesting the highways and slaughtered wayfarers. Balban having ascertained from spies the hunts and movements of the bandits, surprised them as before by forced march, surround them and put to sword 12,000 men, women and children^[8].

In spite of these invasions and slaughter of population en masse, it appears that during the period of early Muslim rule. The area known as Mewat was never permanently conquered. The depredations of Meos, extended at times to the walls of Delhi and beyond Yamuna into doab and northward in the neighborhood of Delhi^[9].

Up to 1290, the hissar district was under the subjugation of Shams-ud-din, the last so called slave Kings; since then it came under the control of khaljis. The new rulers followed a policy of ruthless financial exploitation and bloody repressing

⁶ Ibid.35

⁷ Wolsey Haig, 1958, *The Cambridge history of India, Volume- II, Turks and Afghans*, pp. 72-88

⁸ Ibid.p.72

⁹ Majumdar R.C. 1967, *The History and culture of the Indian people, Volume VI, The Delhi sultan*, p.97

of the people which they tolerated under compulsion until the death of Ala-ud-din. However, after this powerful ruler passed off the stage; the suffering masses rose up against the Khaljis tyranny and freed themselves. This situation continued until 1320 when Ghiyas-ud-din, Tughluq noble, who having effectively fished in the troubled waters usurped the Delhi throne. Ghiyas-ud-din brought the people under his tight control. Sirsa was the first place to have been possessed by the Tughluq noble; the area came to occupy somewhat important position as long as he remained the sultan of Delhi. Ghiyas-ud-din gave a place of succession to Muhammad Tughluq in whose reign, no significant event recorded in the history of Haryana. Firuz was the next ruler Tughluq dynasty. He brought hissar district into prominence. The new ruler followed somewhat unusual fancy for the tract. Being on the direct road from Khusran, Multan and the west Punjab, which ultimately reached Delhi; it had a great importance from military and trade point of view. Besides, the place was admirably adapted as a starting point for the hunting expedition in which sultan frequently indulged [10].

Firuz established towns of Fatehabad and Hissar and Built two, canal, Ghaggar at Phulad and western Yamuna Jamuna Canal. The head - quarters of the *shikk* or division of Hansi which included the tract comprising present Hissar district. Hindus raised their heads when Muhammad Tughluq successor. Firoz-shah Tughluq stared oppressive activities and destroyed their temples at sohna and Gohana [11].

To subdue them, firoz shah did like his predecessor, a large number of 'rebels' were either put to sword or converted to Islam. But the Tughluq ruler seems to have changed his stand after some time when he devoted his time, money, and energy to developmental work. He liked the Hansi-Hisar-Sirsa tract and took special delight in going on hunting expeditions in the jungles over there. He founded the town of Firozabad near Rania in 1360 and got drawn a canal from the Ghaggar, passing by the walls of sarsuti (Sirsa) to hissar. The situation worsened further when Timur (1336-1405), the Amir of Samarkand, launched a free attack on India in 1398. After crossing the Indus in September, and traversing through the plains of Punjab and Rajasthan in the succeeding two months the Sirsa district in November. Timur made a halt for some time at Kinar-i-Hauz, probably the Annakai Chhamb Lake near Rania. Having relaxed here, he resumed his march with speed. His first attack was on Firozabad where he met little opposition. Emboldened by this, he attacked Sirsa. Here, too, the story of Firozabad was repeated [12].

The inhabitants opposed him fiercely. But they were easily overpowered. Timur's soldiers captured the town of Fatehabad. Wealth was looted and a large number of people were killed. Timur soldiers set fire to the fort of Alhruni and plundered the houses and not a house was left standing. From Ahrwan Timur went to Tohana and from Tohana he went to Samana (Punjab). Timur has no desire to stay in India. After halting at Delhi for 15 days he returned Meerut and defeated Hindu armies near Haridwar, after Timur's departure, chaos and confusion prevailed everywhere. In that hour, Khirzar khan captured Hisar but it was recovered by sultan Mahmud.

In 1411 Hansi came into the hands of Khizar khan, who with the help of Amirs of Hisar-A-Feroza defeated Daulat Khan Lodhi, who has ascended the throne in A.D. 1413. The later surrendered and was kept prisoner at Hisar. Khizar khan took possession of Delhi and set up sayyad dynasty (A.D. 1414). In A.D. 1428, the fief of Hisar was conferred upon Mahmud Hassan as a reward for his good services. Lastly, Behlol Lodhi controlled the affairs until 1526 when Lodhi were Knocked down by the Mughals.

Conclusion

This history of India from A.D.1526 to 1556 is mainly the story of the Mughals Afghan contest for supremacy in this land. An opportunity came to Babur when he was invited to India by a discontented party. At that time India was distracted by ambitions, disaffections and rivalries of the nobles and the Delhi Sultan-ate existed in nothing but in name. The last nail in its coffin was driven by the ambitious and revengeful spirit some of the nobles. Two of them, Daulat khan, the most powerful noble of the Punjab who was discontented with Ibrahim Lodhi because of his cruel treatment he had meted out of his son, Dilawar Khan and Alam Khan, an uncle of Ibrahim Lodhi and a pretender to the throne of Delhi; went to the length of inviting Babur to invade India, probably Rana Sanga had some negotiations with Babur about this time.

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¹⁰ Hissar District Gazetteer, 1915, p.21

¹¹ For details see *Futuhat-i-Firozshahi*, p.11

¹² Timur, Malfuzat vide Elliot and Dowson, 1969, *History of India as told by its own Historians*, 8