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Research Article

Historical View of the Political Role of Delhi Sultanates in the Punjab

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the history of the Punjab region during the Sultanate period, a time when Muslim rulers established their authority over the region. It examines the political, social, and cultural developments that occurred during this era, which lasted from the 13th to the 16th centuries. The article focuses on the various dynasties that ruled over Punjab during this period, including the Ghurids, the Mamluks, the Khiljis, the Tughlaqs, and the Lodis. It discusses the impact of these dynasties on the region's economy, trade, and urbanization, as well as the growth of religious and cultural institutions. The article also examines the impact of the Sultanate period on the region's people, including the impact on gender roles, social hierarchy, and religious practices. Overall, the article provides a comprehensive overview of Punjab's history during the Sultanate period, highlighting the key political and cultural changes that shaped the region during this time.

Keywords: Sultanate, Sub-continent, Society, Politics and Culture.

INTRODUCTION

Punjab, a region located in the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent, played a significant role during the Sultanate period (1206-1526). The Sultanate period saw the rise of various Muslim dynasties in northern India, including the Delhi Sultanate, which controlled much of the region including Punjab. During this period, Punjab witnessed significant socio-economic and cultural changes. The arrival of Muslims led to the spread of Islamic culture and traditions in the region. The Sultanate rulers brought with them a new style of architecture, which can be seen in the construction of mosques and tombs in various parts of Punjab. The Sultanate period also saw the rise of Sufi saints who played a crucial role in spreading Islam in Punjab. These Sufi saints, who belonged to various orders, preached the message of Islam through their teachings and practices. They also established Sufi khanqahs, or spiritual centers, in various parts of Punjab. The most prominent among these Sufi saints was Baba Farid, who is considered the father of Punjabi poetry. Baba Farid was a disciple of Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, a Sufi saint of the Chishti order. Baba Farid's poetry, which was written in Punjabi, spread the message of Islam among the masses and helped in the growth of Punjabi literature. The Sultanate period also witnessed significant economic changes in Punjab. The region was an important center of trade, and the arrival of the Sultanate rulers led to the expansion of trade networks. The Sultanate rulers encouraged the growth of trade and commerce by constructing roads and bridges, and by providing security to traders. Punjab was also an important center of agriculture, and the Sultanate rulers introduced various



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irrigation techniques to improve agricultural productivity. The Sultanate rulers also encouraged the growth of cotton, which was used to produce textiles. The Sultanate period in Punjab came to an end with the arrival of the Mughals in the 16th century. However, the impact of the Sultanate period can still be seen in various aspects of Punjabi culture and society. The legacy of the Sufi saints, the architecture of the mosques and tombs, and the agricultural techniques introduced during this period continue to be a part of Punjab's cultural heritage. The district was known for its development of sugarcane, which was utilized to create sugar and jaggery. The Sultanate rulers likewise empowered the development of cotton, which was utilized to deliver materials. The Sultanate time frame in Punjab reached a conclusion with the appearance of the Mughals in the sixteenth hundred years. In any case, the effect of the Sultanate time frame can in any case be seen in different parts of Punjabi culture and society. The tradition of the Sufi holy people, the design of the mosques and burial chambers, and the farming strategies acquainted during this period go on with be a piece of Punjab's social legacy.

DYNASTIES OF PUNJAB

During the Delhi Sultanate, several dynasties played an important role in Punjab. Some of the significant dynasties are:

Ghaznavids

The Ghaznavids were the first Muslim dynasty to conquer parts of Punjab in the 11th century. They established their rule in Lahore and Multan, which became important centers of Islamic culture.

Mamluk Dynasty

The Mamluk dynasty, also known as the Slave dynasty, ruled Delhi and parts of Punjab from 1206 to 1290. They established their capital in Delhi and expanded their rule to Lahore, Multan, and other parts of Punjab.

Khilji Dynasty

The Khilji dynasty ruled Delhi and parts of Punjab from 1290 to 1320. They were known for their military campaigns and conquests, and they expanded their rule to the Deccan region.

Tughlaq Dynasty

The Tughlaq dynasty ruled Delhi and parts of Punjab from 1320 to 1413. They were known for their administrative reforms and their efforts to centralize the administration of the Delhi Sultanate.

Sayyid Dynasty

The Sayyid dynasty ruled Delhi and parts of Punjab from 1414 to 1451. They were known for their efforts to restore law and order in the Delhi Sultanate, which had been weakened by internal conflicts and external invasions.

Lodhi Dynasty

The Lodhi dynasty ruled Delhi and parts of Punjab from 1451 to 1526. They were known for their military campaigns against neighboring states and for their patronage of the arts and literature. The last ruler of the Lodhi dynasty, Ibrahim Lodhi, was defeated by Babur in the Battle of Panipat in 1526, which marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire in India.

Mamluk Dynasty

The Mamluk Dynasty, also known as the Slave Dynasty, ruled over the Delhi Sultanate from 1206 to 1290. During this period, Punjab was an important part of the Sultanate and played a crucial role in the administration and economy of the region. The Mamluk rulers of the Delhi Sultanate established several important towns and cities in Punjab, including Multan, Lahore, and Sialkot. They also constructed several important buildings and monuments, including mosques, palaces, and tombs. One of the most famous Mamluk rulers of Punjab was Razia Sultan, who ruled from 1236 to 1240. She was the first female Muslim ruler in South Asia and was known for her military and administrative skills. However, her reign was also marked by several rebellions and conspiracies, which eventually led to her downfall. Another important Mamluk ruler of Punjab was Ghiyasuddin Balban, who ruled from 1266 to 1287. He was known for his strong and centralized administration, and his efforts to strengthen the Delhi Sultanate's military and economic power. He also introduced several reforms in the administration of Punjab, including the division of the region into several districts.

Khilji Dynasty

The Khilji dynasty was a Muslim dynasty that ruled parts of present-day India and Pakistan from 1290 to 1320. The Khilji dynasty was founded by Jalal-ud-din Khilji, who became the first Muslim ruler of the Delhi Sultanate after he overthrew the previous ruler, the last of the Mamluk dynasty, in 1290. During the Khilji dynasty, Punjab was an important part of the Delhi Sultanate, and it was ruled by various Khilji rulers. The most famous Khilji ruler in Punjab was Alauddin Khilji, who ruled from 1296 to 1316. Alauddin Khilji was known for his military conquests and his strict

law and order policies. He was also responsible for building several new cities and forts in Punjab, including Siri and Tughlaqabad in present-day Delhi. The Khilji dynasty in Punjab was marked by several significant events, including the conquest of the Deccan region of India, the invasion of the Mongols, and the establishment of a strong centralized government. However, the dynasty was also marked by political intrigue and conflict, with several Khilji rulers being assassinated or deposed by their own courtiers.

Tughlaq Dynasty

The Tughlaq dynasty was a Muslim dynasty that ruled parts of India, including Punjab, from 1320 to 1413 AD. The founder of the dynasty, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, was a Turkic governor under the Khilji dynasty who rose to power after the death of the last Khilji ruler. The Tughlaq dynasty had a tumultuous reign in Punjab, with constant conflicts and battles with neighboring kingdoms. The Tughlaq rulers of Punjab were known for their ambitious building projects, including the construction of several forts, mosques, and canals. One of the most famous Tughlaq rulers of Punjab was Muhammad bin Tughlaq, who ruled from 1325 to 1351 AD. Muhammad bin Tughlaq was known for his failed attempt to move the capital of the Delhi Sultanate from Delhi to Daulatabad, which resulted in a great loss of life and resources. The Tughlaq dynasty faced many challenges during its reign, including invasions from the Mongols and internal rebellions. The dynasty finally came to an end in 1413 AD when the Sayyid dynasty took control of the Delhi Sultanate.

Lodhi Dynasty

The Lodhi dynasty was an Afghan dynasty that ruled over the Delhi Sultanate in India from 1451 to 1526. During their reign, the region of Punjab was an important part of their empire. The first ruler of the Lodhi dynasty, Bahlul Khan Lodhi, was a governor of Punjab before he established himself as the Sultan of Delhi. He was succeeded by his son, Sikandar Lodhi, who was known for his administrative and military reforms. Sikandar Lodhi continued his father's policy of expanding the empire, and he conquered several territories in Punjab, including Multan and Lahore. He also established several new towns and cities, including Agra and Delhi's Purana Qila. After Sikandar Lodhi's death, his son Ibrahim Lodhi became the Sultan of Delhi. However, his reign was marked by political instability, and he was ultimately defeated in the Battle of Panipat in 1526 by the Mughal Emperor Babur. During the Lodhi dynasty's rule over Punjab, the region saw significant developments in trade, agriculture, and infrastructure. The dynasty also patronized art and literature, and several notable poets and scholars flourished during this time.

Sayyid Dynasty

The Sayyid dynasty ruled over the Delhi Sultanate from 1414 to 1451. During their reign, the territory of the Sultanate expanded to include parts of present-day Punjab. The Sayyid dynasty's founder, Khizr Khan, established his capital in Delhi and maintained a strong military presence in the region. He also appointed governors to administer the territories under his control, including Punjab. Under the Sayyid dynasty, Punjab remained an important center of trade and agriculture. The region's rich agricultural resources were utilized to feed the growing population of the Sultanate, while its strategic location along the trade routes between Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent brought wealth and prosperity to the region. The Sayyid dynasty faced numerous challenges during their reign, including invasions by Timur and internal rebellions. These challenges weakened the dynasty and paved the way for the rise of the Lodi dynasty in 1451, which eventually led to the Mughal Empire's establishment in India.

ADMINISTRATIONS

Mamluk

The Mamluk Dynasty, also known as the Slave Dynasty, ruled parts of the Indian subcontinent from 1206 to 1290. The Mamluk sultans had their capital in Delhi, but they also established provincial administrations in different parts of their empire, including Punjab. During the Mamluk Dynasty, Punjab was divided into several regions, each governed by a provincial governor or a wazir. The governor was responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting revenue, and overseeing the local administration. The Mamluk sultans also appointed a separate officer called the diwan-i-mustakhraj to collect revenue from the Punjab region. The diwan-i-mustakhraj was also responsible for maintaining accounts and auditing the accounts of the provincial governors. The Mamluk sultans also established a network of forts and military outposts across Punjab to maintain their authority and defend against foreign invasions. Some of the notable forts built during this period include the Gurdaspur Fort, the Bathinda Fort, and the Hoshiarpur Fort.

KHILJI INFLUENCE IN PUNJAB

The Khilji dynasty was a Muslim dynasty that ruled over a large part of India from 1290 to 1320. The administration of the Khilji dynasty in Punjab was marked by a number of significant changes in governance and economic policies. One

of the key administrative changes made by the Khiljis was the division of Punjab into several smaller administrative units, each with its own governor or amir. This was done to ensure greater control over the region and to prevent local rebellions and uprisings. The amirs were responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting taxes, and ensuring the loyalty of their prosperity. The Khiljis also introduced a number of economic policies aimed at increasing revenue for the state. One of the most significant of these was the imposition of a new tax called the 'jiziya', which was levied on non-Muslims. This tax was controversial and unpopular, and led to a number of protests and uprisings among the non-Muslim population of Punjab. Despite these policies, the Khiljis were largely successful in maintaining control over Punjab during their reign. They built a number of new cities and forts in the region and improved the infrastructure by constructing new roads and bridges. They also encouraged the growth of trade and commerce, which helped to increase economic activity and prosperity. The administration of the Khilji dynasty in Punjab was marked by a number of important changes and reforms.

Tughlaq

The Tughlaq dynasty was a Muslim dynasty that ruled over the Delhi Sultanate from 1320 to 1413 AD. During their reign, they made significant administrative and political changes to the region, including the province of Punjab. The administration of the Tughlaq dynasty in Punjab was characterized by a centralized system of governance. The Sultanate appointed governors or walis to govern the province, who were responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting revenue, and enforcing the Sultanate's policies. One of the notable administrative reforms introduced by the Tughlaq dynasty in Punjab was the introduction of the "doab" system. The doab was a revenue collection system where the land between two rivers was considered as a separate unit of revenue collection. This system helped the Sultanate to increase its revenue and control over the region. Another significant development during the Tughlaq dynasty was the construction of several new cities and forts in Punjab, including Tughlaqabad, which was built by Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq. Despite these administrative changes, the Tughlaq dynasty faced several challenges in Punjab, including conflicts with local tribes, rebellions, and invasions by neighboring kingdoms.

Lodhi

The Lodi dynasty ruled over the Sultanate of Delhi in the late medieval period of Indian history, from 1451 to 1526. During their rule, administrative reforms were implemented in various parts of their kingdom, including Punjab. One of the notable administrative reforms introduced by the Lodhi dynasty in Punjab was the division of the province into several smaller administrative units called "sarkars." Each sarkar was further divided into several "parganas," which were local administrative units. The Lodi dynasty also introduced a new system of revenue collection in Punjab, which involved the assessment of land based on its productivity and the imposition of taxes accordingly. This system was known as the "zabti" or "fixed assessment" system and was intended to increase the revenue of the state and provide a stable source of income. Another important administrative reform introduced by the Lodhi dynasty was the appointment of local officials to oversee the administration of each sarkar and pargana. These officials were responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting taxes, and resolving disputes among the local population. Overall, the administrative reforms introduced by the Lodhi dynasty in Punjab were aimed at improving governance, increasing revenue, and ensuring stability and peace in the region.

Sayyids

The Sayyids are a regarded local area in Punjab and play had a significant impact in the district's set of experiences and organization. Sayyids are accepted to be relatives of Prophet Muhammad and are viewed as one of the noblest and most esteemed networks in Islam. During the Mughal period, Sayyids were given significant managerial situations, as they were viewed as scholarly and devout people. This custom went on in Punjab during the English provincial time frame also, where Sayyids were named as judges, income authorities, and other regulatory positions. Notwithstanding, it's essential to take note of that during the English frontier time frame, the organization depended on merit as opposed to station or religion. So, while Sayyids stood firm on significant footholds in Punjab's organization, it was not exclusively founded on their economic wellbeing or heredity. IN advanced Punjab, Sayyids keep on standing firm on footholds of regard in the public eye, in spite of the fact that their part in the organization is not generally founded on their heredity or rank. They have contributed essentially to different fields, including training, writing, and legislative issues.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Sultanate period in Punjab began with the arrival of Muslim conquerors in the early 13th century and lasted until the arrival of Babur and the Mughal Empire in the 16th century. During this time, Punjab underwent significant

changes in its economic structure, trade patterns, and social organization. One of the major economic changes that took place during the Sultanate period was the shift from an agrarian-based economy to a more diversified economy. This was due to the introduction of new crops and irrigation techniques, as well as the growth of trade and commerce. The Sultanate rulers encouraged trade and commerce, and this led to the growth of cities and urbanization. Another important factor in the economic development of Punjab during the Sultanate period was the growth of handicrafts and industries. Textile production, metalworking, and other crafts were important sources of employment and income for people in the region. The Sultanate rulers also encouraged the growth of industries by providing support and patronage to artisans and craftsmen. Trade and commerce played a significant role in the economy of Punjab during the Sultanate period. The region was strategically located on the trade routes connecting Central Asia, Iran, and the Indian subcontinent. The Sultanate rulers encouraged trade by building roads and providing security to merchants and traders. The most important trade items were textiles, spices, precious stones, and metals. Overall, the economic condition of Punjab under the Sultanate period was characterized by a shift from an agrarian-based economy to a more diversified economy, with the growth of handicrafts and industries and an increased emphasis on trade and commerce. This period laid the foundation for the economic development of the region in the centuries to come.

SOCIO CULTURE POLICIES

During the Sultanate period in Punjab, which lasted from the 13th to the 16th century, several socio-cultural policies were implemented by the rulers to strengthen their grip on power and to promote their religion and culture.

Patronage of Islamic Scholars

The Sultans of Punjab patronized Islamic scholars and theologians to promote the teachings of Islam. They established madrasas and mosques where students could learn about Islam and its principles. The Sultans also encouraged the translation of Islamic texts into Persian and other local languages.

Promotion of Persian Language and Literature

Persian was the official language of the Sultanate period, and the Sultans encouraged the development of Persian literature and poetry. Many Persian poets and writers were invited to the Sultan's court to compose works in praise of the Sultan and his reign.

Construction of Mosques and Religious Buildings

The Sultans of Punjab commissioned the construction of several mosques and religious buildings. The most famous of these is the Qutub Minar in Delhi, which was built by Sultan Qutub-ud-din Aibak.

Encouragement of Sufi Orders

Sufi orders were popular during the Sultanate period, and the Sultans encouraged the development of Sufi institutions and the propagation of Sufi teachings. Many Sufi saints and scholars were invited to the Sultan's court, and their teachings were promoted throughout the kingdom.

Land Grants to Scholars and Religious Institutions

The Sultans of Punjab granted land to scholars and religious institutions as a means of promoting Islamic learning and the study of Islamic texts. Overall, the socio-cultural policies of the Sultanate period in Punjab were designed to promote Islam and its principles, and to strengthen the power of the rulers through the patronage of scholars and religious institutions.

POLITICAL CONDITION

During the Sultanate period, Punjab was managed by different Muslim administrations, including the Ghaznavids, Ghurids, and Delhi Sultanate. The political state of Punjab during this time was set apart by a combination of dependability and turmoil, with various rulers and districts encountering fluctuating degrees of harmony and struggle. One of the most noticeable administrations to administer Punjab during this period was the Delhi Sultanate, which laid out its power over the district in the thirteenth 100 years. Under the Delhi Sultanate, Punjab was isolated into a few regions, including Multan, Lahore, and Sirhind. Every one of these regions was represented by a commonplace lead representative, who was liable for keeping up with the rule of law, gathering charges, and regulating nearby undertakings. While the Delhi Sultanate carried a degree of solidness to Punjab, it likewise confronted various difficulties and uprisings from nearby rulers and networks. One of the most remarkable of these was the disobedience of Raja Bhim Chand of Bilaspur, who tested the power of the Delhi Sultanate in the mid fourteenth 100 years. Regardless of these difficulties, the political state of Punjab during the Sultanate time frame was by and large

described by the foundation of Muslim rule, the spread of Islam, and the development of metropolitan focuses and exchange.

EDUCATIONAL REFORM

During the Sultanate period, Punjab underwent several educational reforms that aimed to promote the spread of knowledge and Islamic education. Here are some of the significant educational reforms of Punjab under the Sultanate period:

Establishment of Madrasas

The Sultanate period saw the establishment of several Madrasas in Punjab. These Madrasas provided education in Islamic theology, law, and philosophy, and were the primary source of education for Muslim students.

Promotion of Persian Language

Persian was the official language of the Sultanate period, and it became the language of education and administration in Punjab. The promotion of Persian led to the growth of Persian literature and poetry, and several Persian works were translated into regional languages.

Establishment of Libraries

Several libraries were established in Punjab during the Sultanate period, and these libraries were the primary sources of knowledge and information. Many of these libraries were attached to Madrasas and contained valuable manuscripts and books.

Ed Curriculum Reforms

The curriculum of Madrasas was reformed during the Sultanate period. The new curriculum emphasized the study of Islamic theology, law, philosophy, and literature. Students were also taught mathematics, astronomy, and medicine. Overall, the educational reforms of the Sultanate period in Punjab led to the growth of Islamic education, the promotion of Persian language and literature, and the establishment of several libraries and educational institutions.

CONCLUSION

During the Sultanate period, Punjab was an important province of the Delhi Sultanate, and it witnessed significant political, cultural, and economic developments. The Sultans of Delhi established their rule in Punjab through the conquest of various principalities and the patronage of local chieftains. The Punjab region saw the rise of several powerful dynasties, including the Ghaznavids, Ghurids, and the Mughals. These dynasties contributed to the growth of trade and commerce, the development of agriculture, and the spread of Islamic culture and education. The Sultanate period also witnessed the emergence of several prominent Sufi saints, who played a significant role in spreading Islam and establishing a syncretic culture in Punjab. Among these saints were Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh, Hazrat Baba Farid, and Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya. Overall, the Sultanate period was a period of significant change and development in Punjab, and its legacy can still be seen in the cultural, linguistic, and architectural traditions of the region.

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