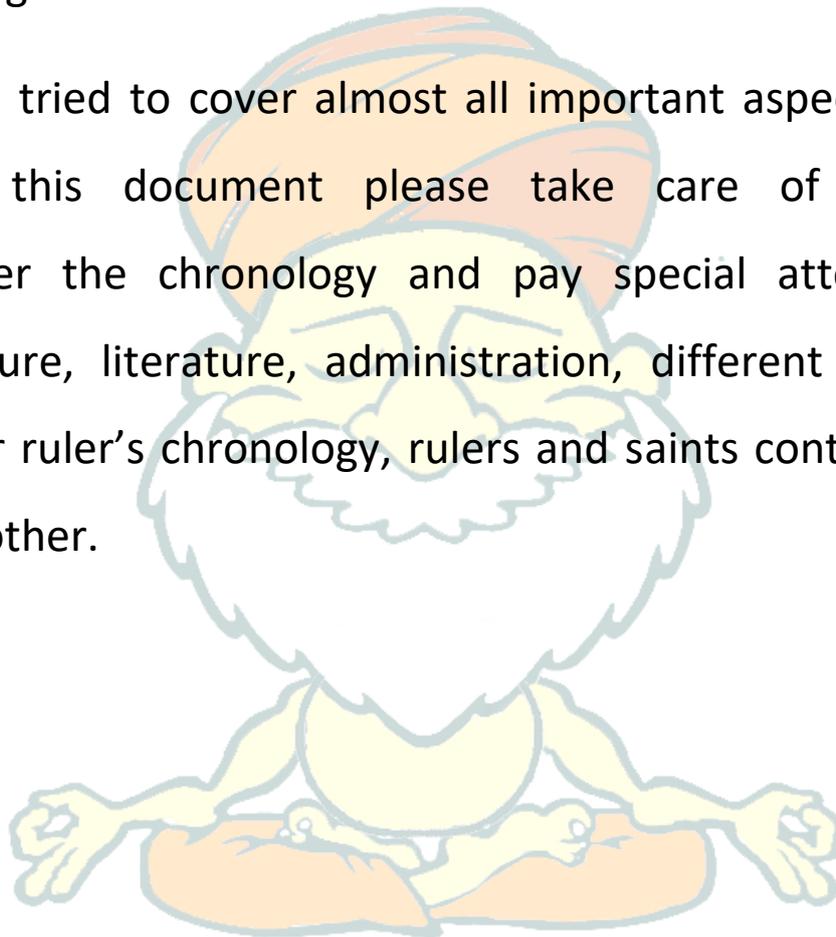


These documents on Medieval History cover important events and concepts to focus. Despite not many questions are asked from this section in the past few years, still you need to prepare this smartly without overlooking or taking UPSC for granted 😊

We have tried to cover almost all important aspects. While reading this document please take care of timeline, remember the chronology and pay special attention to architecture, literature, administration, different dynasty's and their ruler's chronology, rulers and saints contemporary to each other.



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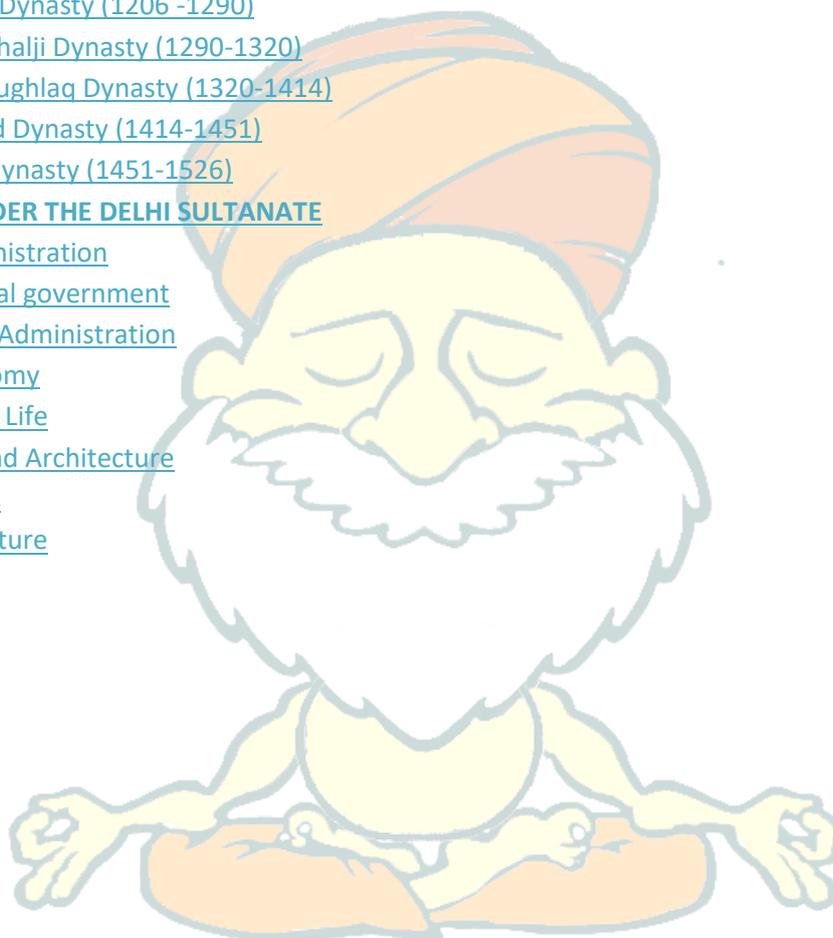
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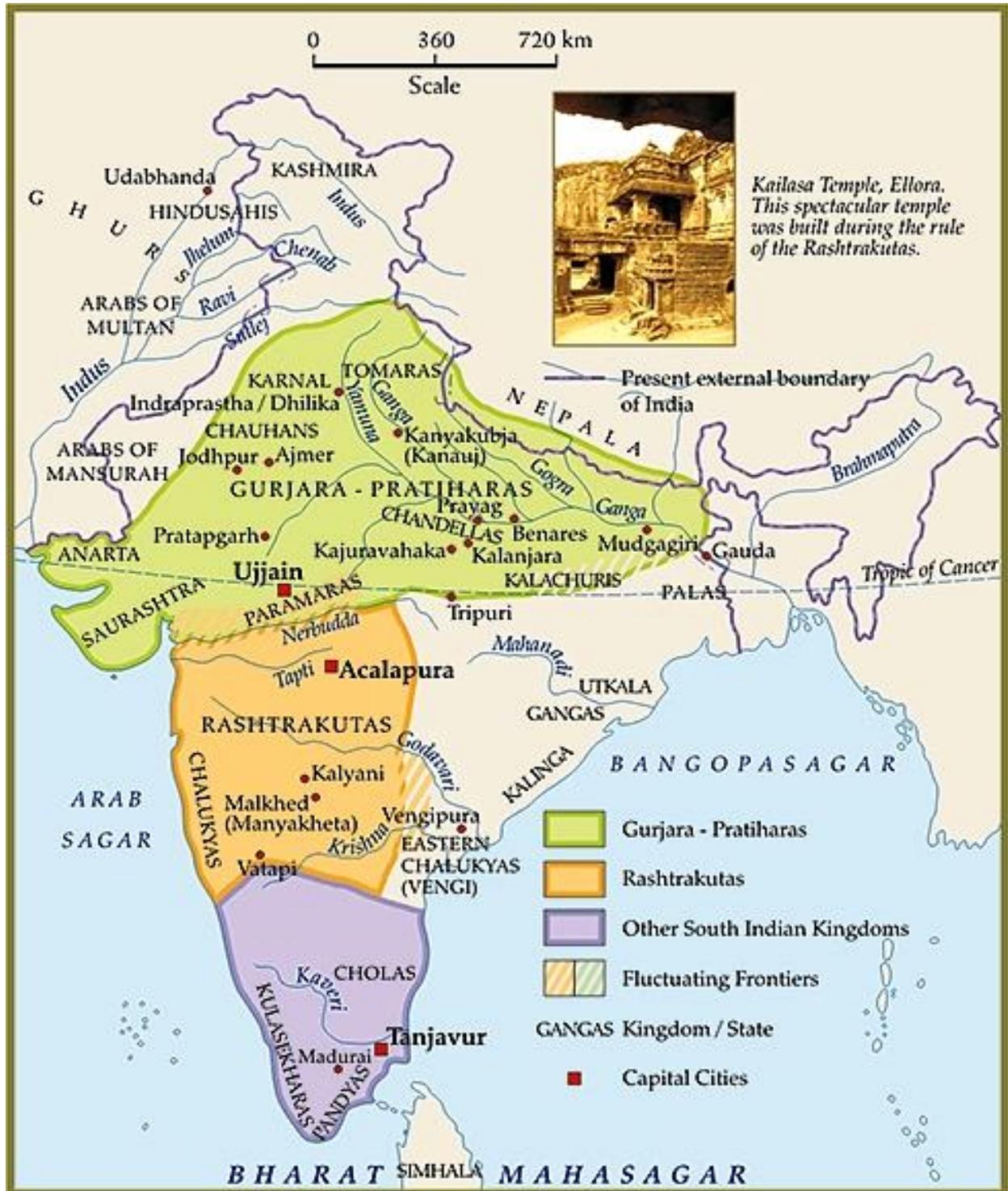
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EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA

After death of Harsha



## IASbaba ILP 2017: Sample Value Add: History

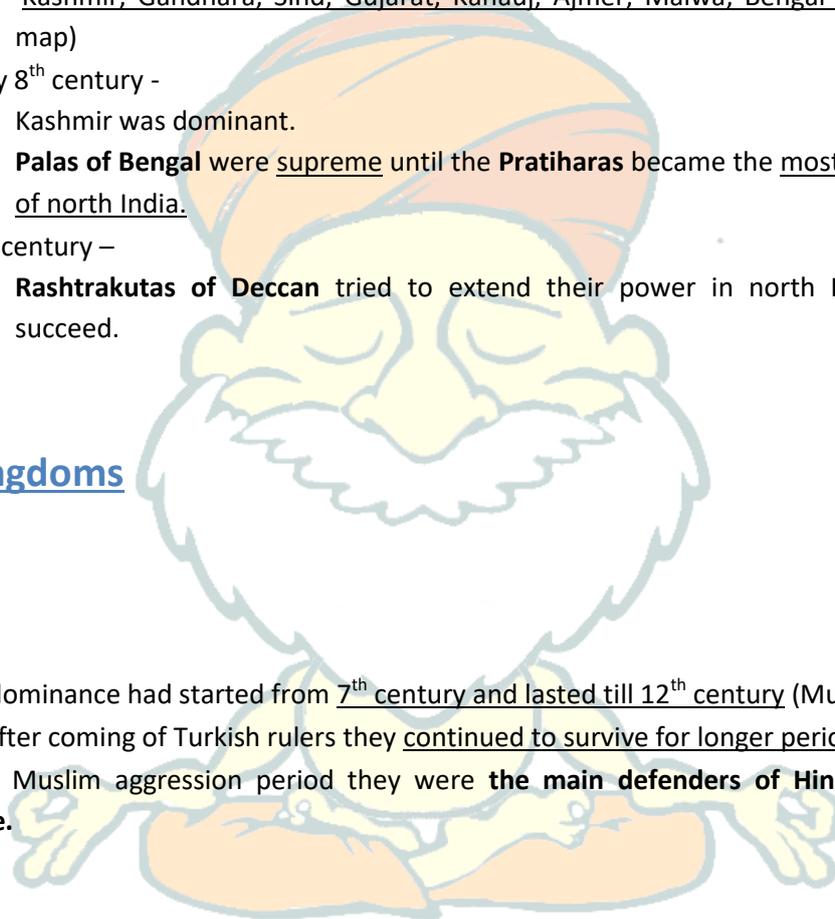
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- Period between **750 to 1750** have large scale changes & variety of developments.
  - **New technologies** – Persian wheel in irrigation, spinning wheel in weaving and firearms in combat
  - **New foods and beverages** – potatoes, corn, chilies, tea and coffee
- This period was also **period of great mobility**
- People travelled long distances in search of opportunity.
  - One group of people who became important in this period were the **Rajputs**.
- For next 5 centuries - **no political unity** in north India.
- The country was **split up into a number of states** which were **constantly fighting** and because of this their **frontiers keep on changing**.
- **Important kingdoms** in north India were
  - Kashmir, Gandhara, Sind, Gujarat, Kanauj, Ajmer, Malwa, Bengal and Assam (see map)
- In early 8<sup>th</sup> century -
  - Kashmir was dominant.
  - **Palas of Bengal** were supreme until the **Pratiharas** became the most powerful rulers of north India.
- In 10<sup>th</sup> century –
  - **Rashtrakutas of Deccan** tried to extend their power in north India but didn't succeed.

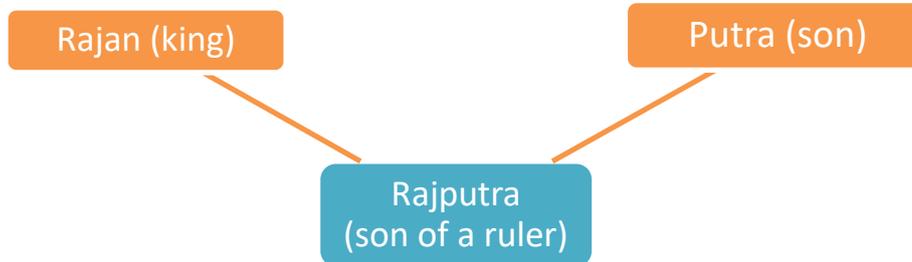
### Rajput Kingdoms

#### **Background**

- Their dominance had started from 7<sup>th</sup> century and lasted till 12<sup>th</sup> century (Muslim conquest).
- Even after coming of Turkish rulers they continued to survive for longer period of time.
- During Muslim aggression period they were **the main defenders of Hindu religion and culture**.



## Origin of Rajputs



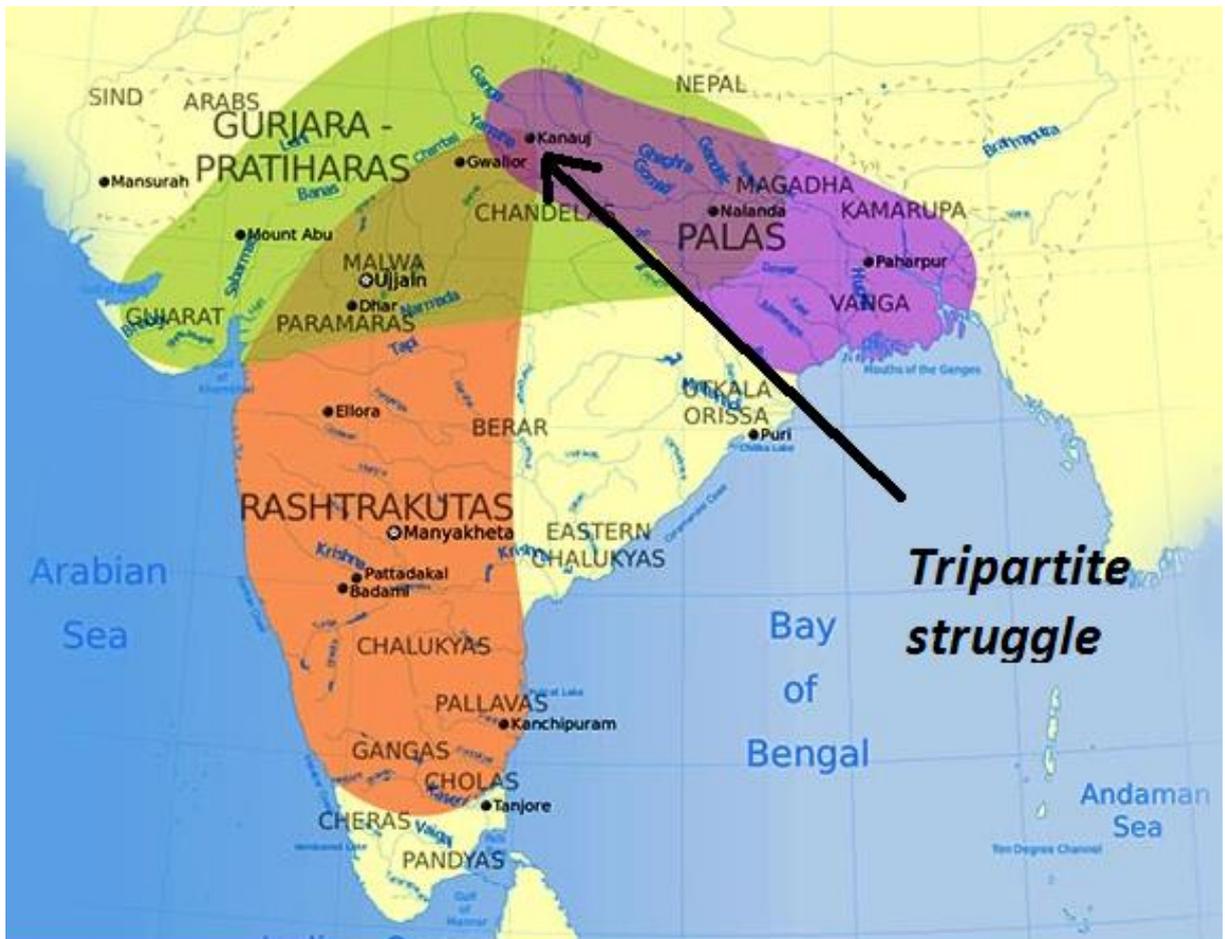
- They were considered to be the **descendants of foreign invaders and Indian Kshatriyas**.
- Rajput clan is shaped by diverse elements and one fact which supports it is that these foreign invaders were Indianized and absorbed into Indian society.
- Homogeneity in this clan came by constant intermarriages and by adopting common customs and traditions.
- Their chief occupation – **War**.
- But **trade and agriculture** was also there
- According to Arab travelers –
  - Land was prosperous
  - Trade was flourishing in cities
  - Built strong forts

## Gurjar-Pratiharas

### Gurjar Rajputs

- Earliest of Rajput rulers.
- 1<sup>st</sup> great leader – **Harischandra**
- He conquered extensive territory in Rajaputana.
- His capital - **Bhinmal**.
- The Gurjaras were in different branches.
  - One branch ruled **Gujarat**
  - Second ruled at **Avanthy**.

Pratihara Rajputs



- **Tripartite struggle** - For centuries, rulers belonging to the Gurjara-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties fought for control over Kanauj. Because there were three “parties” in this long drawn conflict, historians often describe it as the “**tripartite struggle**”.

**Q. Why the 3 rulers fought for control over Kanauj or what is the significance of Kanauj in Tripartite struggle?**

Kannauj was located on the Ganga trade route and was **connected to the Silk route**. It made Kannauj **strategically and commercially** very important. It was also the erstwhile capital of Harshvardhana's empire in north India.

- Later the Pratiharas became weak.

### Chauhans

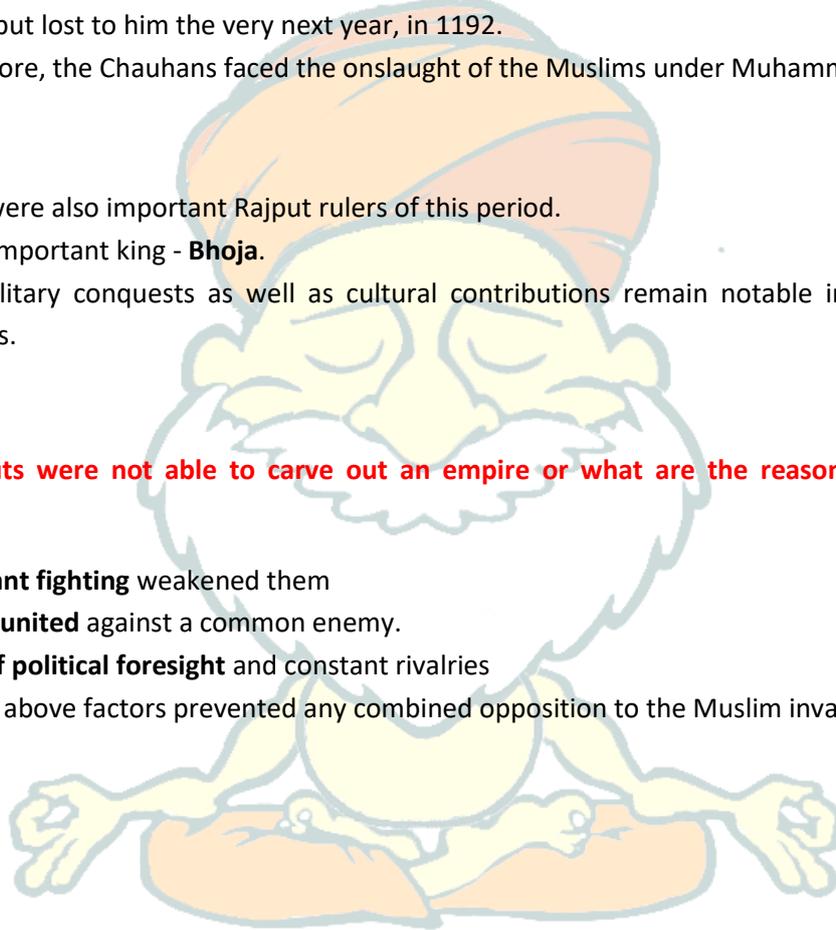
- **Chahamanas**, later known as the Chauhans, who ruled over the region around **Delhi and Ajmer**.
- The **most valiant** of the Rajput races.
- They attempted to expand their control to the west and the east, where they were opposed by the Chalukyas of Gujarat and the Gahadavalas of western Uttar Pradesh respectively.
- The best-known Chahamanana ruler was **Vigraharaja and Prithviraja III**.
- **Vigraharaj** had occupied Delhi.
- **Prithviraja III (1168-1192)**, who defeated an Afghan ruler named Sultan Muhammad Ghori in 1191, but lost to him the very next year, in 1192.
- Therefore, the Chauhans faced the onslaught of the Muslims under Muhammad of Ghori.

### Paramaras

- They were also important Rajput rulers of this period.
- Most important king - **Bhoja**.
- His military conquests as well as cultural contributions remain notable in the history of Rajputs.

### Q. Why Rajputs were not able to carve out an empire or what are the reasons for failure of Rajputs?

- **Constant fighting** weakened them
- **Never united** against a common enemy.
- **Lack of political foresight** and constant rivalries
- All the above factors prevented any combined opposition to the Muslim invaders.



## Arab Conquest of Sind (712 A.D.)

### Islam religion

- **Born** - at Mecca in Arabia.
- **Founder** - Prophet Muhammad.
- But his teachings made the wealthy people of Mecca his enemies. Therefore, he migrated to Medina in 622 A.D., which was **the starting point of the Muslim calendar** and the **Muslim era called Hijra**.
- After 8 years Prophet returned to Mecca with his followers.
- Prophet died - 632 A.D.
- Islam was interpreted in a variety of ways by its followers
- The **Sunni branch of Islam** stipulates that, as a head of state, a caliph should be elected by Muslims or their representatives.
- Followers of **Shia Islam**, however, believe **a caliph should be an Imam chosen by God** from the Ahl al-Bayt (the "Family of the House", **Muhammad's direct descendants**).
- The followers of Muhammad set up an empire called the **Caliphate**.
- The **Umayyads** and the **Abbasids** were called the **caliphs**. They expanded their rule by conquests and spread their religion Islam.

### Caliphate

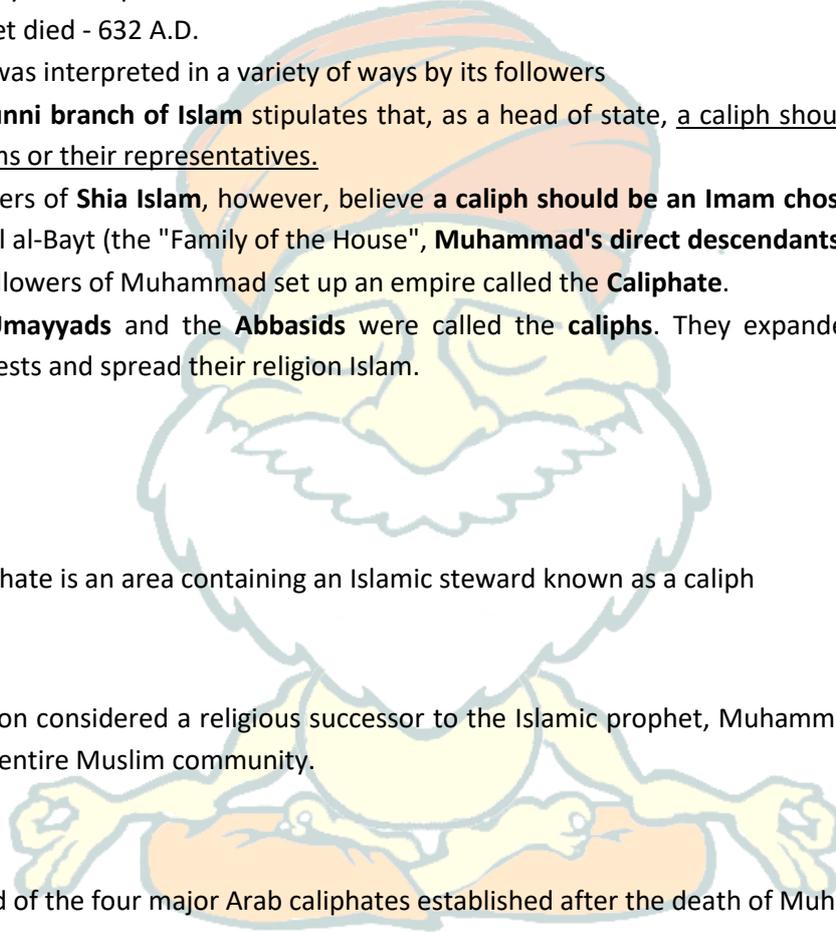
- A caliphate is an area containing an Islamic steward known as a caliph

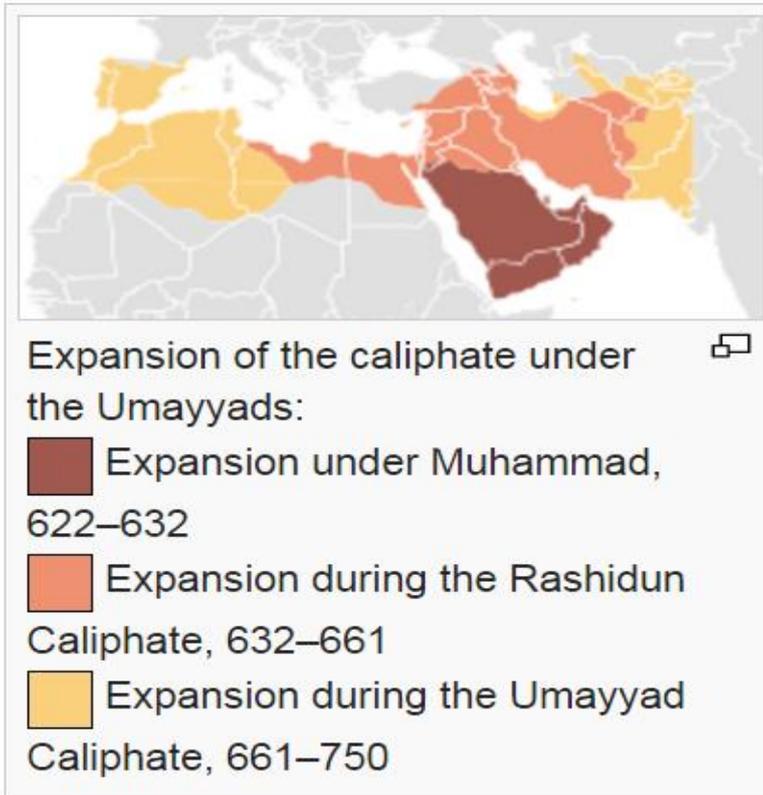
### Caliph

- A person considered a religious successor to the Islamic prophet, Muhammad, and a leader of the entire Muslim community.

### Umayyads

- Second of the four major Arab caliphates established after the death of Muhammad.





**Abbasids**



- Third of the Islamic caliphates to succeed the Islamic prophet Muhammad. The Abbasid dynasty descended from Muhammad's youngest uncle, Abbas ibn Abd al-Muttalib (566–653 CE), from whom the dynasty takes its name.

### Conquest of Sind

- In 712 A.D., Muhammad bin Qasim, commander of the Umayyad kingdom, invaded Sind.
- **Qasim defeated Dahir**, the ruler of Sind and killed him in a well-contested battle.
- Dahir's capital Aror was captured.
- Qasim extended his conquest further into Multan.
- Qasim organized the administration of Sind.
- The people of Sind were given the **status of zimmi**s (protected subjects). There was no interference in the lives and property of the people. Soon, Qasim was recalled by the Caliph.
- The Arabs lost control over Sindh in 779 AD.

### Q. What was the result of conquest of Sind by Muslims or How Indian culture diffused abroad?

- There was diffusion of culture between Sind and Indian people
- Arab travelers visited Sind. They had carried Indian medicine and astronomy to far off lands
- The Indian numerals in the Arabic form went to Europe through them.

### Q. Why Muslims could not expand their authority further into India?

- Due to the presence of the powerful Pratihara kingdom in western India.

### Q. How Islam came to India?

- Arab conquest of Sindh resulted in the spread of Islam to North India.
- **Merchants and migrants** first brought the teachings of the holy Quran to India in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.
- But Islam was **first** introduced in India by **Malik Ibn Dinar in Kerala in 644 AD**.
- Muslims regard the Quran as their holy book.

