

- The tenth century witnessed a westward movement of a warlike nomadic people inhabiting the eastern corners of the Asian continent.
- Then came in wave upon wave, each succeeding invasion more powerful and more extensive than the last.
- In a relatively short span of time, the barbarians brought down the prosperous empires & kingdoms of Central & West Asia, reaching the shores of the Mediterranean & the Black Sea.
- While between the tenth & twelfth centuries the invaders were primarily 'Turks', the invasion of the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries involved a kindred but more ferocious people, the Mongols.
- Mahmud of Ghazni's invasions of India at the close of the tenth century, followed some hundred years later by the Ghorian invasions (both Ghazni & Ghor are in Afghanistan) were distant projections of these vast nomadic movements.
- As in other parts of Asia, the Turkish irruption in India culminated in the formation of an independent political entity; the Delhi Sultanate in the early years of the thirteenth century.
- The term 'Delhi Sultanate' signifies the rule of Turks over large parts of Northern India from their capital at Delhi.
- In more than two centuries of existence, the Sultanate gave birth to institutions – political, social and economic – different from the ones existing earlier – a unique combination of what the Turks had brought with and what they found in India.
- In political and military terms, the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni were the actual precursors of the Delhi Sultanate.
- After military conquests, the rulers of the Delhi Sultanate set themselves on the track of consolidating the Sultanate.



#### CONFLICT & CONSOLIDATION

- The period from 1206 to 1290 :- the formative & the most challenging period.
- Marked by a prolonged, multi-cornered conflict within the Ghorian ruling class & against the renewed Rajput resurgence.
- Muhammad Ghor's sudden death in 1206 resulted in a tussle for supremacy among his three important generals, Tajuddin Yalduz, Nasiruddin Qabacha and Qutbuddin Aibak.
- Yalduz held Kerman & Sankuran on the route between Afghanistan & upper Sind.
- Qabacha held the important charge of Uchh, while Aibak deputed as the 'viceroy' of Muhammad Ghor and the commander of the army in India.
- Though, technically still a slave, the title of sultan was conferred upon him soon after the death of his master.
- The formal establishment of the Delhi Sultanate, is traced back to this event.
- Early in his brief reign of four years, Aibak (d. 1210) moved his capital to Lahore in order to frustrate Yalduz's ambition of annexing Punjab.
- With the Khwarizm Shah steadily advancing on Ghor, forced Yalduz's attempt to establish himself in India.
- Aibak was succeeded on the throne by his son-in-law Iltutmish who brought back the capital to Delhi.
- Large portions of the territories conquered by the Turks had slipped out of control and

subjugated Rajput chieftain had 'withheld tribute and repudiated allegiance'.

- Iltutmish's quarter century reign (1210-1236) displays a concerted drive to re-establish control on the lost territories
- In 1215, Yalduz was defeated at Tarain and in 1217 Iltutmish wrested the province of Lahore from Qubacha

- In 1220, the Mongols, under Chenghiz Khan's leadership, appeared on the banks of the Indus in pursuit of Jalaluddin Mangbarni ( Khwarezmian prince) who had taken refuge in Punjab.
- So Mongols remained a constant threat to the Delhi Sultans.
- Mongol presence had upset Iltutmish's plan of consolidation on the north-west & created conditions for the destruction of Qubacha – held Uchh & faced the brunt of Mangbarni's invasion.



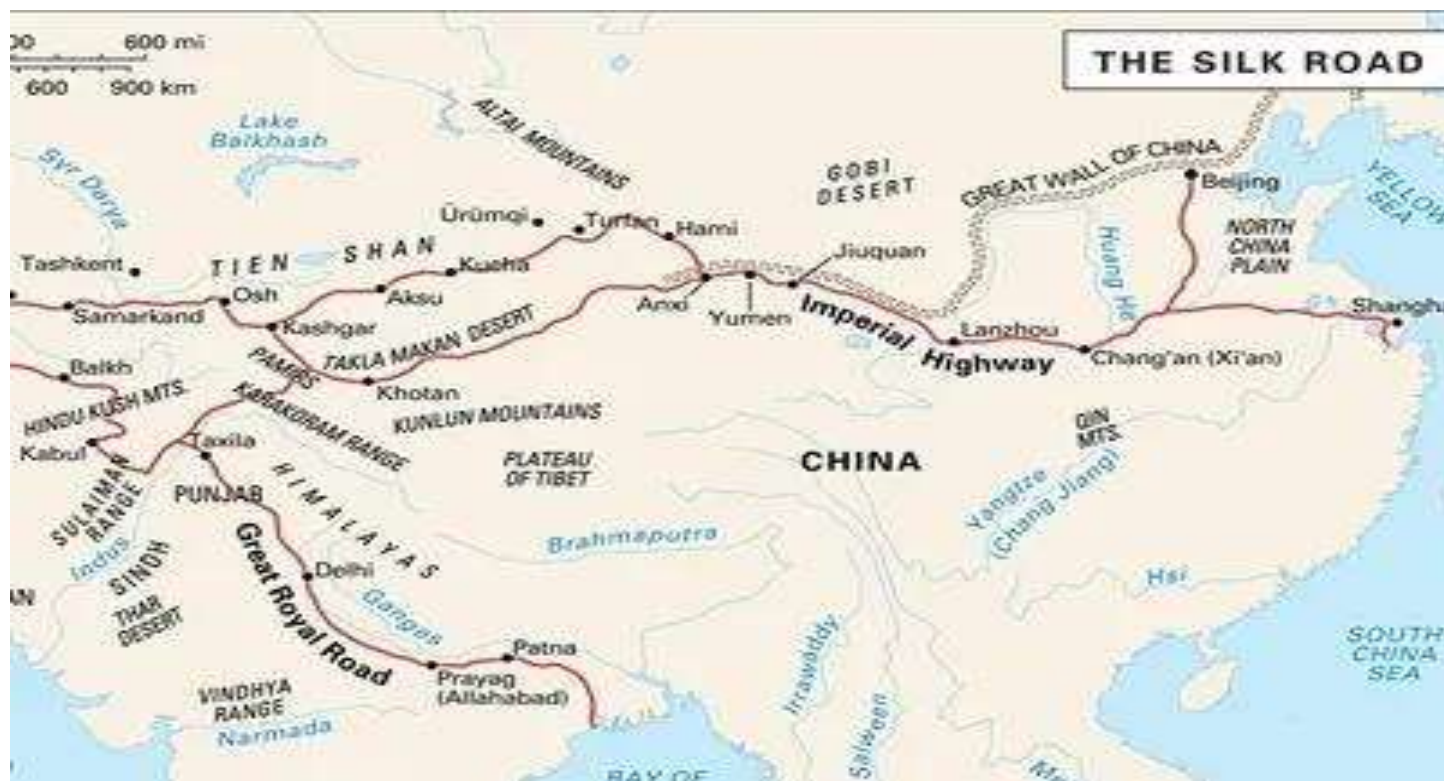
- As a consequence, Iltutmish was able to seize Bhatinda, Kuhram, and Sarsuti.
- About 1228, he launched two-pronged attack on Multan and Uchh.
- Defeated, Qabacha drowned himself in the Indus.
- Unified control over the north-west now became possible for the Delhi Sultanate.
- In Rajputana, the Turks were able to reclaim Ranthambore, Mandor, Jalor, Bayana and Thangir.
- After 1225, Iltutmish could turn towards the east.
- Apart from sporadic military

successes, however, Lakhnauti (in Bengal) and Bihar continued to evade the authority of the Sultanate.

- Iltutmish's death saw more sharpened factionalism and intrigue among the Turks
- In a period of some thirty years, four rulers (descendants of Iltutmish) occupied the throne.
- The most prominent group, to decide the course of high politics during these years is identified as the turkan-i chihalgani bandagan Shamsi (the 'forty' Turkish slave 'officers' of Iltutmish).
- According to Ziauddin Barani, Iltutmish deployed wise & educated people in his machinery .
- But after the death of the Sultan, his 'forty' Turkish slaves got the upper hand & due to the supremacy of the Turkish slave officers, all these wise men were destroyed under various pretexts during the reigns of the successors of Shamsuddin.
- Barani's account in 1235-1265 - the political developments revolved around a conflict between the crown & a military aristocracy determined to retain its privileged position with the balance often increasingly tilting in favour of the latter.
- The recalcitrance of smaller Rajput chiefs on one hand & the growing Mongols threat in Punjab the Political instability was exacerbated
- Rise of a strong leader in the name of Balban, in 1265 as the sultan – he worked on two objectives : —
  - 1) to elevate the prestige & dignity of the crown through elaborate & complex court ceremonials & imitating Sasanian traditions that distanced the ruler from common masses , converting him into a symbol of awe;
  - 2) consolidating Turkish power: Crushing all the rebellions & streamlining administrative procedures.
- With the death of Balban, struggle for the throne started.
- Balban had nominated Kai Khusrau his grandson & son of Muhammad (Balban's eldest son) but the nobles helped Kaiqubad, son of Bughra Khan, to ascend the throne.
- A prominent noble Jalaluddin Khalji , finally captured the throne – resulted into rise in discontentment because it was thought that the Khaljis were not Turks but belonged to a different race
- Ziauddin Barani didn't mention about his race in details.
- During the period 1206-1290, Khaljis had been occupying important positions For example, Bakhtiyar Khalji was the muqti of Bengal. Even Jalaluddin Khalji was the muqti of Sunam in Western Punjab
- Alauddin Khalji captured the throne, by killing his uncle, Jalaluddin Khalji in 1296.

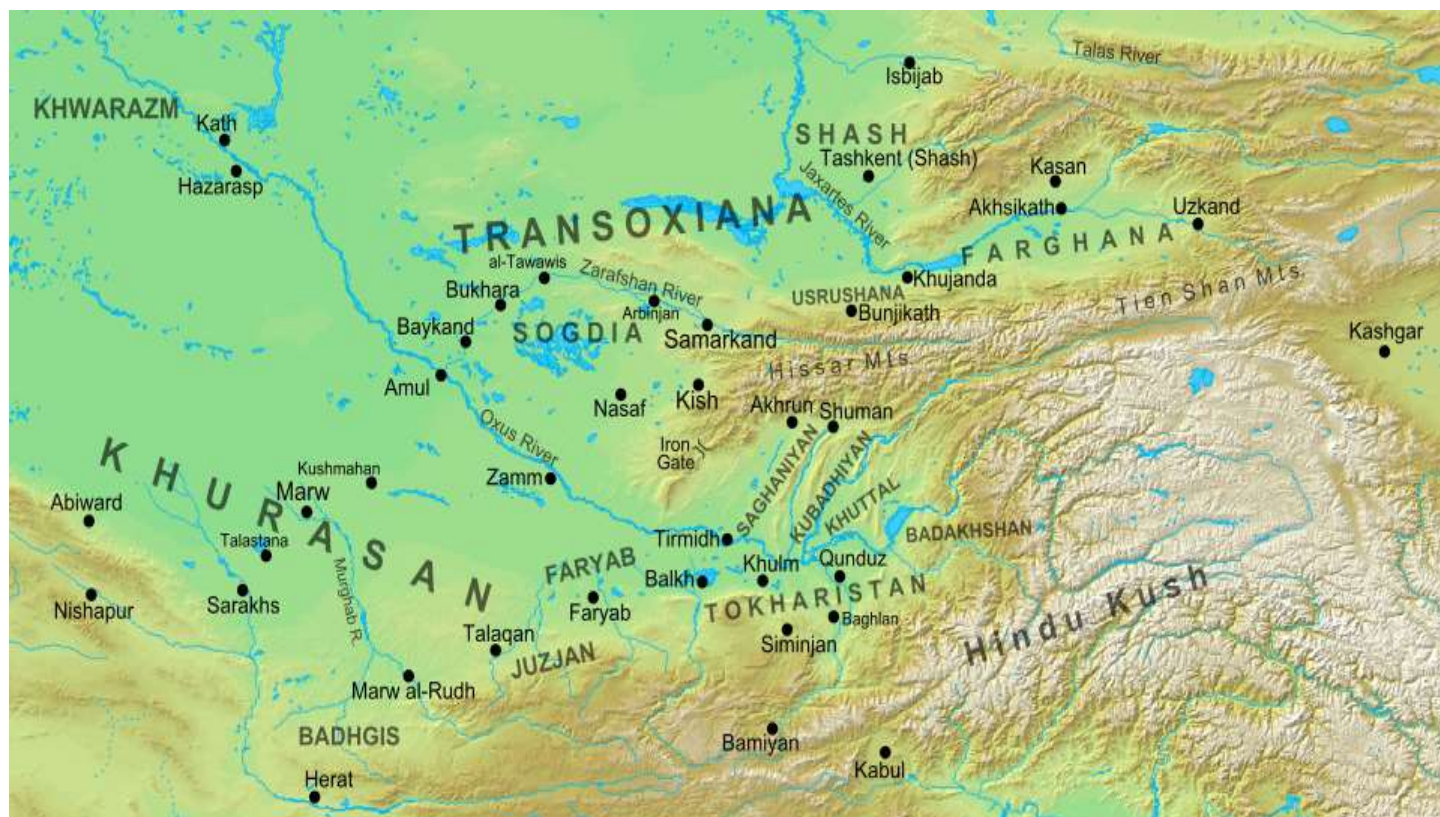
#### MONGOL PROBLEM

- For the Delhi Sultans, control over Kabul- Ghazni-Kandahar was very important . It was flanked by the Hindukush – it helped stabilizing the 'scientific frontier' & connected India with the major silk-route passing from China through Central Asia and Persia.
- The situation on account of the Mongol onslaught compelled the Delhi Sultans to take comfort along the Chenab, while the cis-Sutlej region became the cockpit of confrontations.
- Thus, the 'Indus remained only the cultural boundary of India,' & for all practical purposes the line of control was confined to the west of the Indus only.



- Professor K.A. Nizami has categorized the response of the Sultanate towards, the Mongol challenge into three distinct phases: (i) aloofness, (ii) appeasement, & (iii) resistance.
- Iltutmish followed the policy of 'aloofness' – The Delhi Sultanate met the earliest Mongol attacks in 1221 CE – Chengiz Khan, reached the Indian frontiers in pursuit of the crown-prince Jalaluddin Mangbarani after destroying the Khwarizm Shahi.
- To protect his life, Jalaluddin crossed the Indus & entered the cis-indus (Commonwealth of independent states).
- Iltutmish had two challenges to deal with : — 1) Mongols knocking at the north west frontier & 2) presence of Mangbarani in the cis-Indus region.
- Iltutmish was worried about , a possible alliance of Qabacha and the Khokhars with Mangbarani.
- But, Qabacha & Mangbarani got into struggle for political ascendancy – Mangbarani and the Khokhars formed a matrimonial alliance – consolidated in the northwest.
- In "Tarikh-i Jahan Gusha", Ata Malik Juvaini opines that Iltutmish smelt danger from Mangbarani.
- Iltutmish was also aware of the weaknesses of the Sultanate. These factors compelled Iltutmish to follow the policy of 'aloofness'.
- Chengiz Khan is reported to have sent his envoy to Iltutmish's court – the response from sultan remained undecided.
- But so long as Chengiz Khan was alive (d. 1227 CE), Iltutmish did not adopt an expansionist policy in the north-west region.
- An agreement of non-aggression against each other might have possibly been arrived at.
- Iltutmish avoided any political alliance with the Khwarizm Prince.
- Jalaluddin Mangbarani sent his envoy Ain-ul Mulk to Iltutmish's court requesting for asylum but Iltutmish denied by saying that the climate was not congenial for his stay - rather he killed that envoy.
- Minhaj Siraj mentions that Iltutmish led an expedition against Mangbarani but the latter avoided any confrontation
- A change in Iltutmish's policy of 'aloofness' to 'appeasement' was due to threat of mongol incursion into the extended territories of the Sultanate frontier up to Lahore and Multan — with no buffer state left between them.
- Raziya disagreed to creation of anti-Mongol alliance, proposed by Hasan Qarlugh of Bamiyan is the indicator of her appeasement policy.
- Mongols policy of non-aggression on the part of their weakening due to the partitioning of the Chenghiz's empire among his sons ; & also on account of the Mongol pre-occupation in West-Asia.
- The period between 1240-66, the Mongols for the first time embarked upon the policy of annexation of India
- The increasing threat of Mongols for Sultanate was due to the rapidly changing dynamics in Central Asia.
- The Mongol Khan of Transoxiana was struggling to retain in front of the might of the Persian Khanate and, thus, was planning to test his strength in India
- In 1241, Tair Bahadur Mongol destroyed the Lahore city — followed by two successive invasions in CE 1245-46.





- During the reign of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud, even after endeavours of Balban, Sultanate frontier during CE 1241-1266 stood at Beas – And, yet, the appeasement policy continued for sometime.
- In CE 1260 Halagu's envoy to Delhi was well received and this diplomatic gesture was reciprocated by Hulagu also.
- A paradigm shift is witnessed during the reign of Balban in his policies – his energies concentrated mainly in keeping away the Mongols, at least from the Beas
- According to Ziauddin Barani, Balban decided not even to get away from Delhi – it may give chance to Mongols to occupy Delhi.

- Balban used both 'force and diplomacy' against the Mongols – he worked on his line of defence – Forts at Bhatinda, Sunam and Samana were reinforced to check any Mongol advance beyond Beas.
- Balban succeeded in occupying Multan and Uchh – Balban's son, Prince Muhammad led expeditions against the Mongols - he died in CE 1285 while defending Multan.
- Mongols did not show much enthusiasm to occupy Delhi till 1295 CE.
- Mongols attempted to ravage Delhi for the first time in CE 1299 under Qutlugh Khwaja during the reign of Alauddin Khilji
- Delhi became a regular target of the Mongols.
- Qutlugh Khwaja in CE 1303 attacked Delhi again, when Alauddin was busy in his Chittor campaign.
- Mongols besieged Delhi, Alauddin could not enter the city – repeated mongol attacks made Alauddin to think of a permanent solution – He recruited a huge standing army and strengthened the frontier forts – As a result, the Mongols were repulsed in 1306 and 1308.
- Another reason for the Mongol reversal was the death of Dawa Khan in 1306, followed by civil war in the Mongol Khanate.
- It helped the Delhi Sultans to extend their frontier as far as the Salt Range.
- The last significant Mongol invasion was under the leadership of Tarmashirin (1326-27) during the reign of Sultan Muhammad Tughlaq
- Thus, the Delhi Sultans succeeded in tackling the Mongol problem – It shows the strength of the Sultanate
- Mongol destruction of Central & West-Asia resulted in large-scale migration of scholars, mystics, artisans and others to Delhi, which transformed it into a great town of Islamic culture area.

## POLITICAL IMPACT OF TURKISH CONQUEST OF INDIA

- It replaced the 'feudal', multi-centred, polity by a centralized state, in which the king enjoyed practically unlimited powers
- Introduction of iqta system : - transferable revenue assignments, an institution founded by Seljuks in operation in the Abbasid ruled areas – which they updated in the light of their own requirements – the officers of the king were assigned territories to realize revenue – maintain troops & cavalry contingents – holders of such assignments were known as muqti – Unlike the pre-Turkish system wherein land grantees had acquired permanent rights of ownership, the iqta-holders were regularly transferred — this system made the assignee dependent on the central authority
- The rais, ranas & thakurs failed to unite the country, the Turks succeeded in establishing an 'all-India administration by bringing the chief cities and the great routes under the control of the government of Delhi.'
- The iqta system provided the base for a despotic state, it was also a means of extracting the agricultural surplus.
- The Turks had brought with them the tradition of living in the cities and, as a result, the large surplus produce of the countryside found its way into the cities in the form of land tax.
- This led to a considerable growth of urban economy.
- Turks also brought with them the Persian wheel and the spinning wheel – helped greatly in increasing the agricultural production

## KHALJI INVASION

- Initial foundation of the Turkish sultanate was established till the middle of the 13th century – Later Sultans focussed on the consolidation of the Sultanate – Khaljis expanded the boundaries of their sultanate beyond their early gains
- The overthrow of the Turkish hegemony at the end of the thirteenth century & its replacement with the Khaljis, under whom the exclusive racial character of the ruling class was thoroughly diluted
- The opening up of the Sultanate & diversified participation of ruling groups in managing the affairs of the Sultanate made territorial expansion a feasible proposition
- After coming to the throne of Jalaluddin Firuz Khilji to the Sultanate of Delhi, territorial expansion became a political necessity.
- Alauddin adopted an expansionist policy which had a prospect of the acquisition of wealth, at the beginning of the fourteenth century
- Jalaluddin Khalji had no aspiration for expansion nor had resources – his six years long regime shown, internal contradiction of having to reconcile between the policies of the Sultan & the interests of his supporters.
- Alauddin Khalji, his assassin and successor, had a different imperial design – expanded the territorial fronts upto the southern tip of Indian peninsula by the middle of the fourteenth century.

## WEST & CENTRAL INDIA

- After consolidating his position at Delhi, Alauddin Khalji, undertook the first expedition in the region of Gujarat in 1299.
- Possibly he was attracted by the wealth of Gujarat
- Ulugh Khan & Nusrat Khan, two of Alauddin's best army generals jointly commanded his forces
- Its capital Anhilwara was sacked – The administrative control of Gujarat was entrusted to Alp Khan as governor.
- The next kingdom to fall to Alauddin was that of Malwa in 1305.
- It was governed from the capital Mandu by Rai Mahalak Dev with the assistance of a powerful minister Koka Pradhan.
- The imperial army was outnumbered by the forces of Rai but did eventually succeed & the fort of Mandu was captured.
- The Malwa, after its fall, was given for administration to Ainul Mulk who brought Ujjain, Dhar and Chanderi, too, under his control.
- Malwa was followed by Siwana, a town situated to the south-west of Jodhpur
- Alauddin's army had been besieging Siwana for five or six years beginning 1304-05 without much success.
- The fort was finally captured in 1309 – The ruler of Siwana, Rai Sital Dev, was killed in action and the fort and territory was put under the charge of Kamaluddin Gurg.
- Kamaluddin Gurg annexed Jalor in (1309) by defeating its ruler Kanhar Dev.

## NORTH & NORTH-WEST INDIA

- The surviving members of Jalaluddin's family who had fled to Multan started the revolts
- Arkali Khan was imprisoned at Multan and escorted to Delhi.
- Multan expedition was not an act of territorial expansion but the part of policy of consolidation.
- In 1300, Alauddin sent Ulugh Khan to march against Ranthambore ruled by Rai Hamir. Nusrat Khan, then posted at Awadh, joined Ulugh Khan.
- The Imperial army captured Jhain (Sawai Madhopur) on the way and then laid a siege.
- Alauddin had to personally take the command of the campaign. The siege lasted for over six months.
- Ultimately, the women inside the fort performed jauhar and one night the gates of the fort were opened by Hamir Dev who died fighting.



- Alauddin attacked the kingdom of Chittor in 1303.
- After several assaults, the ruler of Chittor suddenly sent an offer of surrender to the Sultan on his own.
- The heir apparent Khizr Khan was assigned the governorship of the territory.
- But soon the fort was bestowed upon Maldeo, nephew of the earlier ruler of Chittor who remained loyal to Delhi till the end of Alauddin's reign.
- By the end of the first decade of Alauddin's rule the frontiers of the Delhi Sultanate had expanded to whole of north, west & central India.
- From Multan in the northwest to the Vindhyas in central India, and almost the entire Rajputana, had now been brought under the expanse of the Delhi Sultanate.

#### DECCAN

- Alauddin plundered Devagiri in the Deccan in CE 1296 during his tenure as the governor of Kara(Kaushambi dist)
- The next in the list was Rai Ram Chandra Dev of Devagiri in 1306-7 – due to unduly long delay in sending the annual tribute to Delhi in 1296.
- The Deccan campaign was led by Malik Kafur & Ainul Mulk Multani & Alp Khan for provided assistance.
- Ram Chandra Dev easily surrendered to the under the assurance of personal safety.
- His son, however, fled with a part of the army
- Ram Chandra Dev gave his daughter in marriage to the Sultan.
- Ram Chandra Dev was accorded great honour by the Sultan and restored to the throne of Devagiri in return for the assurance of regular and prompt payment of an annual tribute
- Alauddin's policy was not to annex Devagiri but retain it as a protectorate and amass as much wealth as possible from the kingdom
- Malik Kafur's careful handling of the affair of Devagiri enhanced Sultan's confidence in his abilities as a military general
- Kafur made the supreme command for the campaign in south
- Not actual territorial annexation but acquisition of wealth from southern kingdoms ,seems to have been the prime motive in sending these expeditions.
- Amir Khusrau has given details of these campaigns in his Khazain-ul Futuh.
- Malik Kafur made a surprise assault on the fort at Sirpur(in Adilabad District).
- The nobles of Sirpur fled to Rai Rudra Dev of Warangal & the fort was captured by the Imperial army.
- On 14 February 1310, Kafur attacked the fort of Warangal, Rai Rudra Dev decided to surrender & agreed to part with his treasures and pay an annual tribute as token of submission.
- The booty comprised of 20,000 horses, 100 elephants, and an enormous stock of gold and precious stones laden on thousand camels.
- The province was not territorially annexed but accorded the status of a protectorate.
- The sight of the Sultan was now set on Dwarasamudra(KRN), further south of Warangal.
- Malik Kafur was instructed to capture nearly 500 elephants besides the treasures of gold and precious stones.
- The fort was besieged in February 1311 & the very next day a message seeking peace came from Ballala Dev, the ruler of Dwarasamudra.
- Like earlier cases the terms included parting of much wealth and a promise for annual tribute.
- Malik Kapur decided to move further south. He marched towards Malabar in a little less than a month's time reached Madura, the capital of the Pandyas.
- Sundar Pandya, the ruler, had already fled. The elephants and treasure were captured by Malik Kafur.
- There were 512 elephants, 5000 horses and 500 mans of precious stones.
- Alauddin's Deccan & southward campaigns were aimed at : (i) a formal recognition of the authority of Delhi Sultan over these regions, and (ii) the amassing of maximum wealth at the minimal loss of life.
- In the Deccan called for a review of the policy of non-annexation.
- After death of Ram Dev, Devagiri, in 1312 — his son & successor Bhillama refused to accept the suzerain status of the Sultan & declared his independence.
- Alauddin sent Malik Kafur to suppress the rebellion & to take temporary charge
- But Kafur was soon called back & asked to handover charge of the province to Ainul Mulk.
- In January 1316, after Alauddin's death, even Ain-ul-Mulk was called back to Delhi, leaving the affairs of Devagiri unsettled.
- Thus, Mubarak Khalji, the successor of Alauddin, wanted to march to Devagiri soon after his accession, but was advised by his nobles to take some more time so as to consolidate his position in Delhi.
- Devagiri offered no resistance, and the Maratha chiefs submitted before the Sultan. The province was annexed to the Sultanate.

#### EXPANSION UNDER TUGHLAQ

- Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq ascended the throne in 1320.

- The Sultanate was suffering from unsettled political conditions
- The outlying provinces had proclaimed independence as the effective control of the Sultanate had shrunk only to the heartland.
- The administrative machinery was completely out of gear and the treasury had been completely depleted.
- Ghiyasuddin started consolidation at restoring the exchequer & the administration.
- The acceptance of Alauddin's suzerainty & the promise of loyalty by the rulers of the South were only nominal.
- Fresh military expeditions were certainly needed
- Devagiri, had been annexed to the Sultanate by Mubarak Khalji.
- But the southern states beyond Devagiri had completely overthrown
- The Telangana, therefore, claimed Ghiyasuddin's immediate attention
- In 1321, Ulugh Khan (later Muhammad Tughlaq) started for the south with a large army.
- Without much resistance on the way he reached Warangal
- After two sieges, each lasting four or five months, the ruler Rai Rudra Dev finally decided to surrender.
- But this time there was no forgiving the recalcitrant: the fort was occupied, plundered and some demolitions effected.
- The Rai was made a prisoner and escorted to Delhi.
- Warangal was annexed to the Sultanate under direct imperial administration.
- In continuation of the same policy Ulugh Khan also brought Malabar to submission and set up direct imperial administration there.
- The local talent was abundantly employed in the administration and acts of vandalism against the vanquished were forbidden.

#### EAST

- The expedition in the eastern parts of India came as a consequence of the wars in the South.
- Bhanudeva II, the ruler of Jainagar in Orissa, had given support to Rai Rudra Dev of Warangal during imperial offensive
- Ulugh Khan, therefore, after leaving Warangal in 1324, marched against Jainagar. A fierce battle took place in which victory sided with Ulugh Khan.
- He plundered the enemy camp & collected large booty. Jainagar was annexed and made a part of the Sultanate.
- Bengal, in the east had always been a hotbed of seditions – its governors would asserting independence
- In 1324 after the death of Feroz Shah who was a ruler of this independent principality – a fratricidal quarrel broke out in Lakhnauti
- Some nobles from Lakhnauti came to Ghiyasuddin for help
- Ghiyasuddin decided to march to Bengal in person – He deputed Bahram Khan with a host of other officers to march to Lakhnauti
- The forces of Delhi easily pushed back Bengal army
- One of the warring groups led by Nasiruddin was conferred a tributary status at Lakhnauti.

#### NORTH-WEST & NORTH

- After Alauddin's expedition to Multan, the north-western frontier of the Sultanate had remained consolidated.
- So, subsequent Sultans were mostly occupied with the affairs of the South and Gujarat.
- Muhammad Tughlaq paid attention to the north-west frontier – led campaign to Kalanaur & Peshawar – aimed at securing north-western frontier of the Sultanate against future Mongol attacks.
- Sultan stayed at Lahore & ordered his army to conquer Kalanaur & Peshawar.
- The Sultanate settled the administrative arrangement of the newly conquered regions and marched back to Delhi.
- In 1332, Muhammad Tughlaq planned the conquest of the Qarachil region (Kulu, Kangra district, Himachal) – to fortify north and north-west frontier – under the command of Khusrau Malik – succeeded in occupying Jidya, an important place in Qarachil region
- Khusrau Malik was then instructed to return – But in his enthusiasm, he marched ahead towards Tibet.
- Soon the rains set in & the army was overtaken by disease & panic.
- Qarachil expedition led to tremendous waste of resources and erosion in the authority of Muhammad Tughlaq.
- Even before the Qarachil expedition, Muhammad Tughlaq had launched a project of bringing Khurasan under submission.
- More than 370,000, soldiers were recruited for this purpose and the soldiers were paid a year's salary in advance.
- Huge amount of money, was invested in the purchase of costly equipments for the army.
- But the project was abandoned as an unrealistic scheme and the army disbanded, it led to a tremendous financial loss.
- The authority of the Sultan also suffered a serious setback and a series of rebellions followed that hollowed the most extensive of the empire of Delhi Sultanate.

#### THE PATTERN OF STATEHOOD

- Power could be wrested by a group of people, who possesses superior military skills

- Still Rulers felt the need to legitimize their authority through various other means.
- Legitimization included : — patronage of important groups of people like the nobles or religious classes , architectural constructions, instituting systems of administration & revenue.
- These administrative structures helped the rulers to mark their presence in areas that were far away from the central/political capital of the kingdom.
- In the Delhi Sultanate, the nobility, was a strong state organ, comprised largely of Turkish slaves who had a very complex relationship of loyalty with individual rulers.
- Once their master-ruler died, they had no attachment with the new ruler and often revolted against him.
- Struggle between the sultans & the nobles for power was a common phenomenon of the Sultanate.
- With the coming of the Khaljis, the character of the nobility changed, a blow given to the monopoly of Turkish nobles
- In the subsequent period different sections of the Muslims, including Indian Muslims, got a berth in the nobility.
- The ruling class in spite of its narrow social base was sensitive to the composite character of the local society.
- Growth of Sufism and Bhakti movements during the rule of the Delhi Sultanate indicates the spirit of toleration prevailing within the state.
- Two main sources used by modern historians to figure out nature of state : – 1) Adab ul harb wa'sh Shujat ('Customs of Kings & Maintenance of the Subjects') written by Fakhr-i Mudabbir & 2) Zia Barani's Fatawa-i Jahandari ('Precepts on Governance')
- Focus on foundation of delhi in debates because, it is considered as the groundwork upon which the Mughal Empire was later able to build
- Max Weber in his Economy & Society, said that the Delhi Sultanate was a 'patrimonial state'.
- According to Jakob Rösel sultanate was a state in which the rulers were dependent upon a small number of trained & loyal officers to exert control over the kingdom.
- Jacob mentioned about them in specialized administrative functions such as collection of taxes, control over trade and commercial activities, law and order, etc.
- In most other matters, it vests power in the hands of local power-groups and intermediaries at various provincial and regional levels – This idea, however, requires much investigation
- Historians like Stanley Lane-Poole, Ishwari Prasad, A.B.M. Habibullah, Mohammad Habib, K.A. Nizami, etc. and, more recently, Peter Jackson has characterized the Delhi Sultanate as a 'centralized state'
- According to Simon Digby (War-Horse & Elephant in the Delhi Sultanate: A Problem of Military Supplies) — Turks were able to establish a base in the subcontinent because of their superior military strength and organizational capabilities
- According to Romila Thapar, (Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300) the disunity and in-fighting among the local Rajput power- blocs, along with inferior military tactics led to the defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan in 1192 CE.
- Sultanate was relatively stable & was able to expand and consolidate its political base in course of time
- Rulers of sultanate were able to harness various resources available to them– which was not possible without a centralized, authoritarian state .
- Hermann Kulke place the state at the end of a continuum of pre-modern state formations — They depict the post-1200 medieval state as a polity headed by a strong ruler, equipped with an efficient and hierarchically organized central administration based on a religiously legitimated monopoly of coercion in a clearly defined territory.
- The survival & consolidation of Turkish rule was not a smooth process
- The degree to which the state was 'centralized', has been much debated and there is as yet no consensus about it
- Such studies suggest that the state at this time was only slightly bureaucratized, and there is no agreement about the degree of political fragmentation
- Central political power was constantly being challenged by various local power groups.
- It is agreed that there was a certain degree of centralized authority at work in the empire and even where local powers were dominant they were expected to acknowledge the court and the sultan as their superiors.
- Centralisation can be seen in the action dealing with crushing the rebellions
- The centre was present in various parts of the kingdom through activities viz. tax collection, building roads, architecture, mosques, giving charity to religious foundations and individuals
- An important feature of the presence of the state was the constant movement of the army from one part to the other
- Often, local areas had to extend hospitality – in the form of providing food and shelter – to the central armies
- In many cases the local areas were governed by local chiefs, and even everyday administration continued according to local custom
- A uniform administration across the empire would occur only with the maturation of political and administrative rule under the Mughals, which would be more than 200 years later.
- Stephan Conermann , has suggested a more economic ('prebendal') nature of the Delhi Sultanate on the basis of his study of the Rihla of the 14th century traveller Ibn Battuta, while also emphasizing the features of 'patrimonialism'.



- The effectiveness of the state was often hindered because of the power of the sufi spiritual masters (pir) who had a strong influence over the people.
- The religion of the local population did not come in the way of the influence of the sufis.
- Usually the sufis settled in areas that were a little away from the urban areas
- But in the reign of Sultan Alauddin Khalji (r. 1296-1316), sufi pir Shaikh Nizam ud-din Auliya set up his hospice in the capital city itself, thereby posing a challenge to the effectiveness of the sultan's political rule
- For the effective execution of the policies of the 'state', it was necessary for rulers to keep politics separate from religion
- The theologians were said to occupy the superior and authoritative position in the court but, offices of the great importance, like military command, went to able & loyal warriors who never practiced religious dogmatism
- The theologians were in reality a group who remained in the official bureaucracy & served the purpose of legitimizing kingly rule, of dispensing justice & education in madrasas.
- Sultanate may have sometimes used religion as a means to mobilize people or to explain certain actions, but all actions were in their essence political
- The 'state' manifested itself through a variety of other actions in the larger realm—Chief among them were acts of building, and charity
- As part of the dominance of the state, as also a physical marker of its presence, the state often encouraged construction of buildings, mosques, or canals and wells, etc — seen as also, manifestation of the glory of the state
- The state under the Delhi Sultanate was not a unified entity – it was the coming together of various actions of the ruling classes as part of their act of effective governance.
- Some of its components were universal, such as taxation; others were variable
- A newly emerging 'state' at the beginning of the 13th century were different from those of a more mature and confident political 'state' at the end of the 14th century.
- The 'state' was an expression of the vested interests of the ruling classes, it was a public political institution whose primary function was to bind together its subject population into a, universally disciplined mass
- 'Justice', was the central axis of the state, and the degree of its success depended upon the skill with which the rulers were able to mobilize the (mainly economic) resources at their disposal



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