

# India During Medieval Period: Sources

by  
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# MEDIEVAL INDIA



Study the medieval map of India and answer the question that follow without looking at the map.

## Questions

1. Name any five rivers on the map.
2. Name the kingdoms who ruled India during the medieval period.
3. How many rivers kingdoms are located on the banks of the rivers and with fertile lands?

# INTRODUCTION

Ancient Period



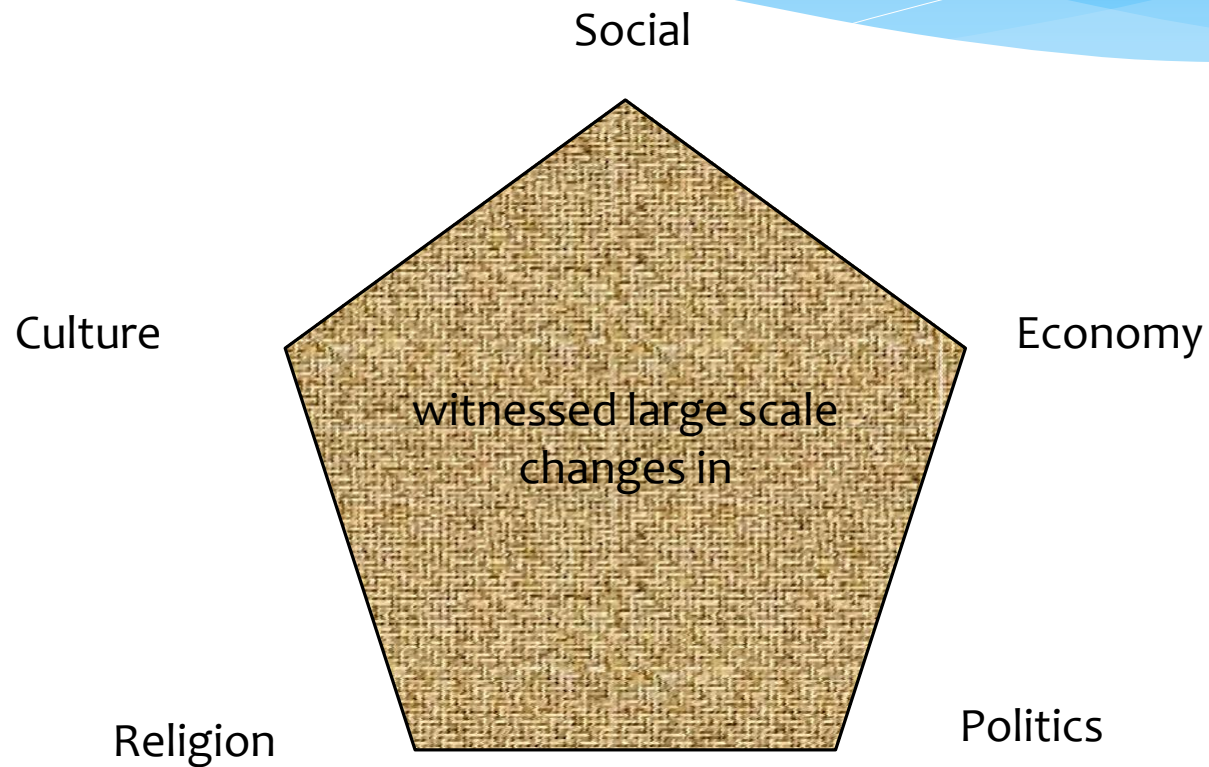
Modern Period

Medieval Period

The three divisions of history of India

# Introduction

## Medieval period of India



## Questions

1. Name few changes that have taken place in Modern India in all the areas mentioned in the previous slide.
2. List both positive and negative changes.
3. Describe your possible role in converting those negative changes into positive in the future when you grow up and talk about the same in the assembly

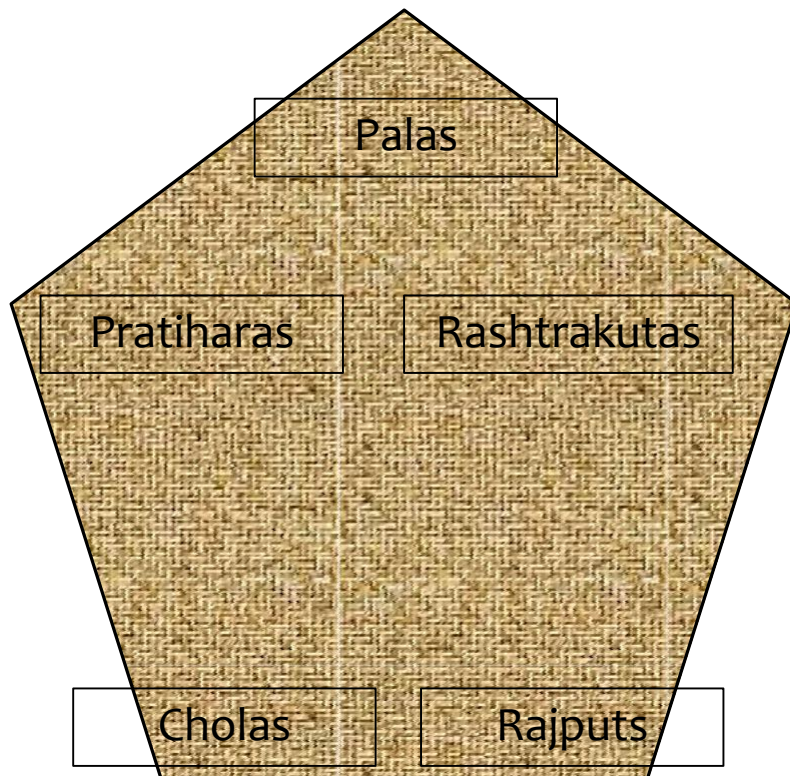
# Medieval Period

1. Medieval period is sub divided into

Early medieval: 8 cent to 12 cent

Late medieval: 13 cent to 18 cent

Starts with the estd of Delhi Sultanate and extends till the reign of Mughals



## Changing names of regions in India

1. Republic of India is called Bharat, union of states. (Republic means a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch)
2. Hindustan is mostly used in historical contexts.
3. Bharat is derived from the name Bharata, son of Dushyanta, a legendary ruler mentioned in Mahabharata.





## Changing names of regions in India

1. The name India is in use since 17<sup>th</sup> cent.
2. Derived from the Greek word '*Indoi*' which means the region beyond the River Indus.
3. The name is ultimately derived from *Sindhu* which is the Sanskrit name of the river.
4. Delhi Sultanates and Moghuls called their Indian dominion as Hindustan.
5. Minhaj us Siraj a chronicler in 13 cent CE used the term to denote the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between Ganga and Yamuna under the Delhi Sultanate.
6. In 16<sup>th</sup> cent Babur used the term Hindustan to describe the geography, fauna and culture of the inhabitants of the subcontinent.
7. Hindustan became synonymous with India only during British Raj

# Sources of Medieval Period

1. For the study of medieval period Historians use a variety of sources such as



Inscriptions



Coins

Religious and non  
religious literature



Historical  
buildings



## Questions

1. Collect olden coins and try to list the information you can derive from your observation.
2. Visit a historical monument in your area and try to list your observations.
3. Have you ever read your religion's scripture. Collect information about them from your parents and grandparents.
4. What information can paintings, coins, historical monuments and inscriptions give us about the period they belong to?

# Sources of Medieval Period

## Sources of Medieval period



Literary Sources



Archaeological Sources

## Sources of the Medieval Period

1. The number and variety of literary or textual records increased during this period.
2. Literates and chroniclers wrote chronicles of rulers, petitions, judicial records, accounts and taxes.
3. The teachings of



4. Saints and traders transactions were also recorded on these papers.
5. Manuscripts were collected by rich people, rulers, monasteries and temples and stored in archives.

# Sources of the Medieval Period

## 1. Scribes copied manuscripts by hand.



a person who copies out documents, especially one employed to do this before printing was invented.

## Sources of the Medieval Period


1. As scribes copied manuscripts they introduced small changes unknowingly.
2. And there is a possibility that these small changes went on increasing generation after generation.
3. The changes went to such an extent that the manuscripts of the same text became substantially different from one another.
4. Medieval chronicles were written by court historians, freelancers, travelers.
5. Writings had their own prejudice and bias.

## Important foreign travelers and their accounts

قرون اولی

**Abu al-Hasan Ali ibn al-Husayn al-Masudi**  
(896-956)

- ✦ He was an Abbasid-era Arab historian based in Baghdad
- ✦ He traveled the world journeying from Persia, Central Asia, India, the Near East, Madagascar and the China Sea

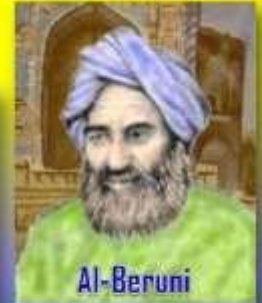
A portrait of Abu al-Hasan Ali ibn al-Husayn al-Masudi, an Arab historian. He is depicted with a long, grey beard and a brown turban, wearing a brown robe. The background is a dark, textured green.

He gave an extensive account of India

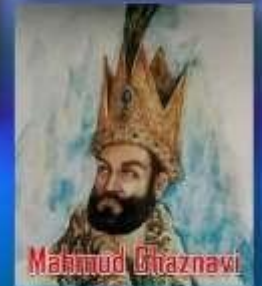


# Important foreign travelers and their accounts

## Al-Beruni In the Court of Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi



Al-Beruni



Mahmud Ghaznavi

Al-Biruni, born 5 September 973 in Kath, Khwarizm (now in Uzbekistan), died 13 December 1048 in Ghazni (today's Afghanistan), was a Persian scholar and polymath of the 11th century

## Alberuni's work pages from his manuscript on chronology of World & Ancient Nations



Al Biruni's Chronology of the World



Al Biruni's Chronology of the Ancient Nations



Al Biruni's Chronology of the World

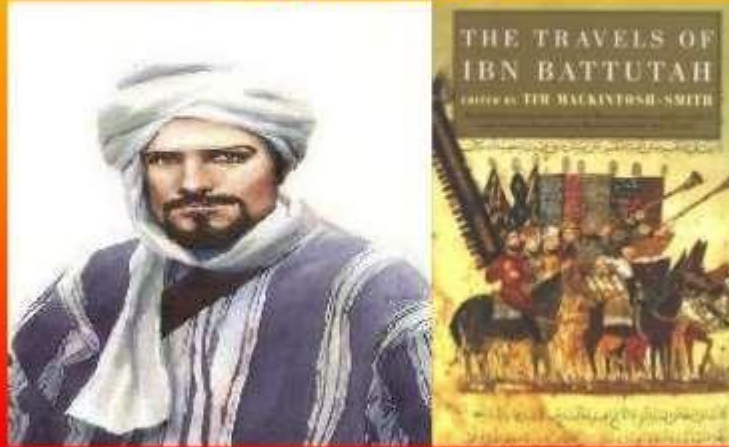
He travelled all over India and wrote a book *Taqiq I Hind*

# Important foreign travelers and their accounts

## IBN BATTUTA

(Abū  $\square$  Abdal-Lāh Muḥammad ibn  $\square$  Abdal-Lāh l-Lawātī ṭ-Ṭangī ibn Baṭūṭah)

1304 – 1369



75.000 miles through 44 countries  
29 years of travel

By : Bagus Jatmiko

A Moorish traveler who visited India during the reign of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq and wrote a book called Rehla

## Important foreign travelers and their accounts



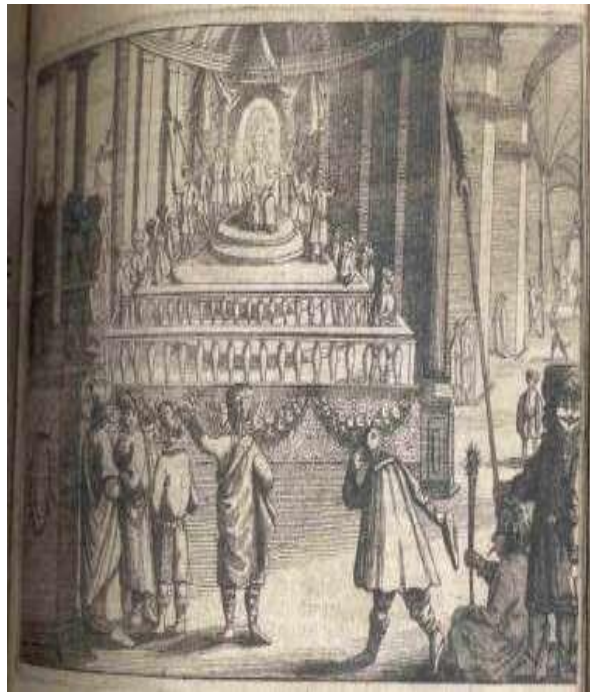
Visited the Court of King Krishnadevaraya during  
Vijayanagar Empire

## Important foreign travelers and their accounts



An English Ambassador of King James at the Court of Jehangir

# Important foreign travelers and their accounts



An English Ambassador of King James at the Court of Jehangir

## Important foreign travelers and their accounts



Sir Thomas Roe, an English Ambassador of King James I at the Court of Jehangir

# Archaeological Sources



- of Medieval period are a valuable source of information about historical events
- They give an idea about the economic conditions of that period.



Monuments and paintings are also important archaeological sources of the period

## Emergence of New Social & Political groups

1. Many foreign invaders were attracted by the wealth of Medieval India during 700 and 1750 CE.



Mahmud Ghazni



Muhammad of Ghor



The Turks who founded the Delhi Sultanates





# Sources of the Medieval Period



The Delhi Sultanates were replaced by Mughals who established the Mughal empire

Apart from the foreign invaders there were several other groups of new rulers who emerged within the borders of Indis

## Sources of the Medieval Period

1. Increase in agricultural products created more markets in rural and urban areas.
2. Trade and commerce developed between buyers and sellers.
3. These buyers and sellers were required to pay taxes.
4. Farmers and merchants offered goods and services to local lords.
5. There were rich and poor farmers as well as artisans.
6. Foreign invaders brought their own technology with them and introduced it in India.

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PERSIAN INDUS The Persian Wheel

Foreign invaders brought their own technology with them and introduced it in India.



Fire Arms were introduced in battles.

Paper was introduced for writing.

Potatoes, corn, chilli, tea and coffee were introduced to India by these foreign invaders.

## From Region to Empire

1. Many small kingdoms emerged in medieval India.
2. They fought against each other to expand their territory.
3. The Tripartite Struggle is one of the most well known conflicts which was among Palas, Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas.

In North India  
the Delhi  
Sultanates  
and Mughals  
were created



Many regional  
kingdoms were  
created after the  
decline of Delhi  
Sultanates and  
Mughals

From Region  
to Empire

Many regional  
kingdoms were  
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In South India the Cholas  
became powerful and  
established trading  
contacts with South East  
China and China

## Religious Traditions

1. There were major developments in religious traditions in medieval India.
2. Emergence of idea called '*Bhakti*'.
3. A new religion called *Islam* appeared in India.
4. Sufi tradition came to India from West Asia.
5. Bhakti and Sufi saints taught the gospel of equality to all the mankind.