

CC-5:HISTORY OF INDIA(CE 750-1206)

I. STUDYING EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA

RISE OF RAJPUTS AND THE NATURE OF THE STATE

Where and how the Rajputs originated remains a doubt. The four (Agni-kula) clans established their power in western India and over parts of central India and Rajasthan.

The period from 1000-1200 CE saw rapid changes both in west and central Asia and in North India. With the break up of the Pratihara kingdom a number of Rajput states came into existence in northern India. There are many theories regarding the origin of the Rajput. The bards of the 14th century mentions 'Rajput' as a tribe comprising thirty-six clans of which the Pratiharas, Paramaras, the Chauhans, the Solankis, the Gahadavalas, the Tomaras etc played an important role in the history of the period. The Rajputs claimed to be the real descendants of the Kshatriyas of the Vedic times. Their king traced their ancestry either to the Sun family(Suryavansha), or the Moon family(Chandravanshi). But the Pratiharas, Paramaras, the Chauhans, the Solankis traced their pedigree from the Fire family(Agni-kula). The Pratihara clan had further two branches. One branch ruled in the Jodhpur state and was known as the Gurjaras. while the other branch founded a kingdom in Malwa. The four (Agni-kula) clans established their power in western India and over parts of central India and Rajasthan.

Gahadavalas of Kanauj-Following the fall of the Pratiharas, the Gahadavalas were able to establish themselves in the throne of Kanauj in the third quarter of the 11th century CE. Chandradeva was the founder of the new dynasty. He conquered the place from Allahabad to Varanasi and kept the holy places of Kasi, Uttar koshala(Ayodhya) and Indrasthana (Delhi) from the foreign invaders. Chandradeva was succeeded by a number of kings till in 1194 CE Mohammad Ghori invaded the kingdom of the Gahadavalas and defeated and killed the king Jayachandra.

Chandellas- The Chandella dynasty of Bundelkhand was founded by Nannuka in the early years of the 9th century. The important rulers were

Yahovarman Dhanga and Kirtivarman. Peramal was the last Chandella king who enjoyed independence. In 1203 CE he submitted to Qutb-ud-din.

Paramaras-The Paramara dynasty of Malwa founded in 820 CE by Upendra also arose on the ruins of the Pratiharas. The most important king of this dynasty was Raja Bhoja (1018-1060 CE). In 1043 CE he joined a confederacy of the Hindu chiefs. After conquering the Muslim territories of Hansi, Thanesar and Nagarkot they besieged Lahore. He was probably the last independent king of the Paramaras. However it continued to exist as a purely local power up to the beginning of the 13th Century.

Chauhans-The Chauhan clan of the Rajputs ruled over Sambhar and Ajmer. Vigranraja of Visaldeva the Chauhan chief conquered Delhi from the Toamara chief. He was succeeded by his nephew Prithviraj Chauhan who played a very important part in the history of India at the time of the conquest by the Muslims. He overran many small states in Rajasthan, invaded the Bundelkhand area and defeated the Chandella rulers in a battle near Mahoba. Following his failure to annex Gujrat, Prithviraj Chauhan turned his attention towards the Punjab and the Ganga Valley where he came into conflict with Mohammad Ghori. He defeated Ghori in the battle field of Tarain (1191CE) and established his supremacy over Punjab. Ghori repeated the attack next year defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the second battle of Tarain in 1192 CE. Prithviraj was executed and thus ended the Chauhan dynasty.
