

Medieval History of Maharashtra

The Tughlaq dynasty was Turkic in origin. This dynasty ruled over Delhi Sultanate in Medieval times, starting its reign in 1320 in Delhi with Ghazi Malik assuming the throne as Ghiyathal-Din Tughluq. The reign of the Tughlaq dynasty ended in 1413. But it was under Muhammad bin Tughluq the dynasty expanded its territorial reach to most of the Indian subcontinent. During his reign, the dynasty was at its zenith between 1330 – 1335.

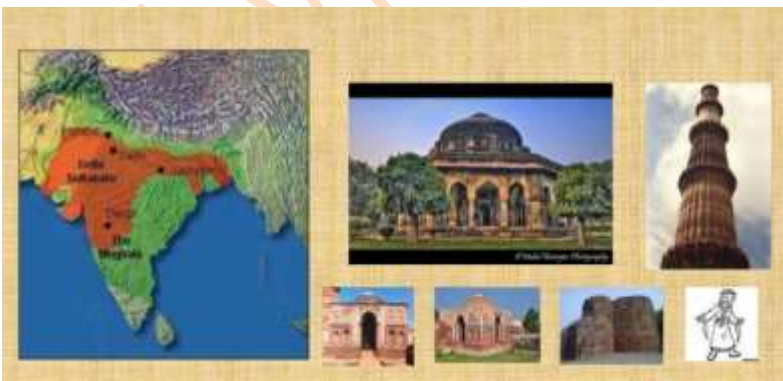


Bahmani Sultanate

- In 1347, after the collapse of the Tughluqs, the Bahmani Sultanate governed the region for the next 150 years. The empire was ruled by Gulbarga and later from Bidar.
- Imposition of Jizya tax on Muslims, forcible conversion and temple destructions such atrocities were seen in the early period of Islamic rule.
- With time and efforts by local residents, these incidents were eventually ceased.
- Each stratum of society was assigned various departments:

- Brahmins were in charge of accounts

- Revenue collection was given to Marathas as they had hereditary rights (watans) at the village level (patiliki) and over the large area (Deshmukhi).



- Some of the loyalist families of Maratha origin that have served loyally to different sultans at different period of time were Bhosale, Ghorpade, Shirke, Jadhav. Many of them were Hindu and converse in Marathi; it was also adopted as the court language.
- As the court language, Marathi was used for record-keeping and administration.
- Bahmani sultanate disintegrated in 1518.
- Maharashtra region after the disintegration of the Bahmani sultanate was split between five Deccan Sultanates:

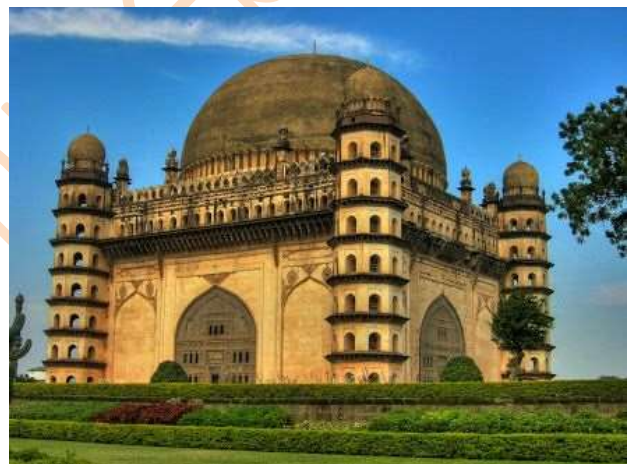
- Nizamshah of Ahemadnaga Sultanate

- Adilshah of Bijapur

- Qutubshah of Golkonda

- Bidarshahof Bidar and

- Imadshah of Elichpur



- These sultanates often fought with each other, but they unitedly defeated Vijayanagar Empire in 1565 in south India.

Sultanate of Gujarat

- It ruled the present area of Mumbai before it was captured by Portugal in 1535.

Faruqi dynasty (1382-1601)

- The Khandesh area was ruled by the Faruqi dynasty from 1382 to 1601. In 1601 was annexed by the Mughal empire.

Mughal Empire





- Towards the end of the 16th century, Akbar, the Mughals, started capturing territories that were held by the Deccan Sultanate.
- For almost a century, this policy continued under his successors to the present-day area of Maharashtra, which came under the control of Mughals.
- The Mughal rule was challenged multiple times by these sultanates during this period.
- During the early period of this century, frequent resistances were shown by Malik Ambar, who was the regent of the Nizamshahi dynasty of Ahemadnagar from 1607 to 1626.
- To oppose the Mughal rule, he increased the strength and power of Murtaza Nizam Shah II by providing a large army.
- In the Deccan region, Malki Ambar was a proponent of guerilla warfare and was considered a foe by Mughal emperor Jehangir.
- The second half of the 17th century witnessed Mughals getting constantly challenged by the Marathas under Shivaji and followed by his successors.
- Hence, the decline of Islamic rule started under Shivaji's annexation of the Bijapur Sultanate. Eventually, Shivaji became a symbol of Hindu resistance and self-rule.