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Rajputs and Other States

LESSON 7 OF 17



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CRASH COURSE ON INDIAN HISTORY

PRE-HISTORY TO INDEPENDENCE

PART 7

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ABOUT ME

- BA (Hons.) in History from Lady Shri Ram
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- Love to teach, read and dance



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THE RAJPUTS

- Origins a subject of debate
- Mythically born out of fire from Mount. Abu
- Political prominence after the decline of the Guptas
- Integrated into the Kshtriya varna
- Many different clans and tribes
- Important obstacle to the Arab-Muslim invaders like Muhammed of Ghazni and Muhammed of Ghor

THE GUJARA-PRATI HARAS

- Ruled from Jodhpur over Rajasthan, Gujarat and Ujjain
- 6th century CE to 11th century CE
- King Bhoja even occupied Kanauj
- Last important king, Rajyapala driven out of Kanauj in 1018 by Mahmud of Ghazni

THE TOMARS

- Rajputs
- Dynasty founded by Anangapala
- Founded Dhillika (Delhi) in 736 CE

THE CHAUHANS

- Ruled Jaipur in the 7th century CE
- Later conquered Punjab, Delhi and Bundelkhand
- Last ruler was Prithviraj III
- Fictional love story between him and Sanyogita, daughter of a Gahadavala king
- Prithviraj not invited to her swayamvar, so he came suddenly, took her away and married her

THE CHANDELLAS

- Originally feudatories of the Pratiharas, later became independent
- Ruled Bundelkhand (UP) and MP
- Constructed the Khajurao temples in the 10th and 11th century (Hindu and Jain temples)
- Imp temple: Kandariya Mahadev temple, built around 1000 CE, dedicated to Lord Shiva

THE CHAULUKYAS

- aka the Solankis
- ruled over Gujarat between 940-1244 CE
- do not confuse with the southern Chalukya dynasty
go Vatapi
- Under King Bhima I, Mahmud of Ghazni destroyed
the Somnath temple
- Built Jain temples at Mount Abu, called the Dilwara
temple

THE PALAS AND SENAS

- Palas:
 - Buddhists
 - Ruled from Bengal over Nepal, Assam and Orissa
 - 750-1150 CE
- Senas:
 - Succeeded the Palas
 - Ruled over Bengal
 - Court poet Jayadeva wrote *Gita Govinda* about Krishna and divine love

RAJATARANGINI

- 12th century text
- by Kalhana
- informs about Kashmir
- Talks about the Nagarkota Dynasty, that extended to Punjab and Kanauj under King Lalitaditya Muktapida
- Utpala dynasty of Kashmir was ruled by Queen Didda for sometime

KAMARUPA

- Kingdom from Assam
- 350-1140 CE
- on an important trade route between Tibet and China to eastern and central India
- Assam also ruled by the Ahoms of Burma from 1253

SOCIETY AND CULTURE

- c. 500 to 1200 CE, Northern India
- practice of sati and Jauhar
- Tantricism emerged in east India, spread widely; open to all castes and women
- Cult of Shakti developed
- Miniature painting and illustrated manuscripts
- Indian version of feudalism developed
- Vajrayana Buddhism emerged (recognized female deities; Tara an important deity)

SOCIETY AND CULTURE

- c. 500 to 1200 CE, Southern India
- Religion:
- the Bhakti cults of Nayanars (Shaivites) and Alvars (vaishnavites) emerged
- Lingayat movement in Karnataka, started by Basava: Shaivites against idol worship, caste, Vedas, etc
- Shankaracharya of Kerala (8th/9th century CE) who preached Advaita and travelled throughout India
- Philosophers Ramanuja and Madhava
- Popularization of Tamil, Kannada and Telegu literature