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ARAB CONQUEST OF INDIA

Muhammad bin Qasim:

Muhammad bin Qasim was an Arab military commander who played a significant role in the early **Islamic expansion** into the **Indian subcontinent**. He was **born in 695 CE** and was the **nephew of Hajjaj bin Yusuf**, the **governor of Iraq** under the **Umayyad Caliphate**.

He was the **first Muslim** general to **invade India**. His **conquest of Sindh** is considered to be the **beginning of Muslim rule** in India.

Battle Of Rewar :

- Qasim assembled an army of 12,000 men and set out from Arabia in 712 CE. He landed in **Sindh in November 712 CE** and quickly **captured the important port city of Debal**.
- After capturing Debal, Qasim marched inland and **defeated the Hindu king Raja Dahir** in a decisive **battle of Rewar** at **Aror**. **Raja Dahir** was killed in the battle and his army was routed.
- Qasim continued his march inland and **captured** the city of **Multan**. With the capture of Multan, the entire region of **Sindh** was under **Muslim** control.
- Muhammad bin Qasim gave the title to Multan as the **“City of God.”**

Administrative Structure:

- **Conciliatory Policy:**
 - Muhammad bin Qasim **allowed natives to practice their religion** in exchange for accepting Muslim rule.
 - Natives were required to **pay taxes and tribute** for protection by the state.
- **Preservation of Local Laws and Institutions:**
 - Muhammad bin Qasim implemented Islamic **Sharia law** in the region. **However, Hindus retained authority** in their villages, resolving disputes based on their laws. Traditional institutions like **village headmen (rais) and chieftains (dihqans)** were safeguarded and continued to function.
- **Administrative Division:**
 - **Sind and Multan** were divided into districts called **Iqtas**, each under Arab military officers.
 - Local **Hindu officers** administered the **district subdivisions**.

- **Taxation and Governance:**

- **Jizya**, a tax, was levied on **non-Muslims** residing in the region.
- **Muslim officers (amils)** were stationed in towns, managing them **hereditarily** and often with a cavalry troop.

Decline of Muhammad Bin Qasim Rule:

Muhammad bin Qasim's career ended abruptly in **715 CE**. He was recalled by the **Umayyad caliph al-Walid I** after being accused of corruption and disobedience. **Qasim was imprisoned** and tortured upon his return to Arabia. He **died in prison in 717 CE at the age of 23**.

The exact reasons for Qasim's downfall are unclear. Some historians believe that **he was the victim of a political conspiracy**. Others believe that he was genuinely guilty of corruption and disobedience. It is also possible that a combination of factors contributed to his downfall.

Impacts of Arab Conquest In India:

The Arab conquest of Sind had significant effects on the region and beyond:

- **Introduction of Islam:**

- Sind's subjugation marked the entry of Islam into India.
- Arab rule, characterized by tolerance, led to a shift in people's perceptions of Islam.

- **Religious Tolerance and Hindu Support:**

- Hindus were not burdened with additional taxes for practicing Hinduism, fostering goodwill.
- Arabs' religious tolerance and acceptance of Hindu rituals endeared them to the local population.

- **Cultural Exchange:**

- The Arabs' arrival facilitated communication with other Islamic regions.
- **Direct trade** and business with Islamic countries began, stimulating economic growth.

- **Economic and Cultural Development:**

- Sind, once tribal, transformed into an economically strong and civilized region under Arab influence.
- Arab adoption of **Hindu rituals, Astrology, Medicine, and Arthashastra** showcased cultural exchange.
- Numerous **Sanskrit words** were integrated into **Arab dictionaries**, reflecting the cultural amalgamation.

TURKISH CONQUEST OF INDIA

Following the **Arab conquest of Sindh**, the Turks emerged as significant players in India during the **11th century**. The establishment of Muslim rule in India is attributed to the Turks. The Turks were a **nomadic people from Central Asia** who were skilled warriors. They were also Muslims, and they were motivated by a desire to spread Islam to new lands.

The Ghaznavid Empire

- **Alptigin**, a Turkish slave of Samanid king Amir-Abu-Bakr Lawik, established the Ghaznavid dynasty in **963** and occupied Jabul, centered in Ghazni.
- His son-in-law, **Subuktigin**, expanded Ghaznavid territory by capturing regions between Lamghan and Peshawar from Hindushahi ruler Jayapala.
- Despite Hindushahi resistance, Subuktigin's rule marked a continued eastward expansion for the Ghaznavids.
- **Ismail**, Subuktigin's son, was **overthrown by Mahmud**, his brother, in 998, leading to Mahmud's renowned reign as Mahmud of Ghazni.



Mahmud of Ghazni (971-1030 CE) :

- **Mahmud of Ghazni** (971-1030 CE) also known as **Mahmud Ibn Sebuktigin** was a powerful Turkic sultan who ruled over a vast empire in Central Asia. He was also a devout Muslim, and he was motivated by a desire to spread Islam to new lands.
- He invaded India **seventeen times between 1001 CE and 1026 CE**. He plundered many of the region's cities and temples, including the **Somnath temple** in Gujarat.
- In **1011**, Mahmud raided **Nagarkot** in the Punjab hills and Thaneshwar near Delhi.
- In 1018, he plundered the sacred city of **Mathura and attacked Kanauj**. **Rajyapala**, the ruler of Kanauj, fled the city, later meeting his demise. Mahmud returned through Kalinjar, laden with incredible wealth.
- Mahmud conducted raids on the **Gangetic Valley in 1019 and 1029**.
- In **1025**, he attacked **Somanath**, the revered town on the Kathiawar coast. Somanath housed a magnificent temple and immense riches. He and his soldiers breached the walls, resulting in the tragic loss of approximately **50,000 Hindu lives**. They showed no hesitation, even in the face of the formidable strength of the guards and shrine attendants.
- During this campaign, he advanced through **Multan**, **defeated Bhimadeva of Anhilwad**, and eventually reached the renowned Somanath Temple.

- In 1027, Mahmud returned to India for the final time to **punish the Jats** who had troubled him during his journey back from Somanath. The Jats faced severe retribution, including looting their property and enslaving their women and children.

Mahmud of Ghazni's Raids in India:

S.No.	Year	Target	Result
1	1001	Punjab region	Defeat of Hindu Shahi king Jayapala
2	1008	Waihind	Defeat of Hindu Shahi king Anandapala
3	1011	Nagarkot	Raid on Nagarkot in the Punjab hills
4	1011	Thaneshwar	Attack on Thaneshwar near Delhi
5	1018	Mathura	Plundering of the holy city of Mathura
6	1018	Kanauj	Raid on Kanauj after the defeat of its ruler, Rajyapala
7	1019	Gangetic Valley	Raid on the Gangetic Valley
8	1021	Gangetic Valley	Another expedition into the Gangetic plains
9	1023	Gangetic Valley	Further incursion into the Gangetic region
10	1025	Somnath	Notorious attack on the famous temple city of Somnath on the coast of Kathiawar
11	1025	Gangetic Valley	Another raid in the Gangetic Valley, specifically targeting the holy city of Varanasi
12	1026	Gangetic Valley	Continued expeditions in the Gangetic region
13	1027	Gangetic Valley	Further raids in the Gangetic plains
14	1029	Gangetic Valley	One more incursion into the Gangetic valley
15	1032	Gangetic Valley	Another expedition in the Gangetic region
16	1033	Gangetic Valley	Continued raids in the Gangetic plains
17	1034	Gangetic Valley	The final documented raid in the Gangetic region

Decline Of The Ghaznavid Empire :

The **Ghaznavid Empire** began to **decline** after the **death of Mahmud of Ghazni in 1030 CE**. At the age of 58, during an expedition in April 1030, Mahmud of Ghazni **contracted malaria**. Subsequently, he faced complications and developed **tuberculosis**, ultimately leading to his demise. The empire was divided among his sons, and it was weakened by internal conflicts and foreign invasions.

Some of the factors that contributed to the decline of the Ghaznavid Empire include:

- **Internal conflicts:** After Mahmud's death, his sons fought each other for control of the empire. This led to a period of instability and civil war.
- **Foreign invasions:** The Ghaznavid Empire was invaded by a number of foreign powers, including the **Seljuk Turks and the Ghurids**. These invasions weakened

the empire and made it difficult for the Ghaznavids to maintain control over their territory.

- **Economic problems:** The Ghaznavid Empire faced a number of economic problems, such as high taxes and inflation. These problems made it difficult for the government to function effectively.

The **Ghaznavid Empire** was eventually **overthrown** by the **Ghurids** in **1186 CE**.

The **decline** of the Ghaznavid Empire had a significant impact on the region. It led to the rise of new powers, such as the **Ghurids** and the **Delhi Sultanate**. It also led to the **spread of Islam** to new parts of the region.

Ghurid dynasty :

The Ghorid dynasty was a **Muslim dynasty** that ruled over a large territory in **Central Asia and northern India** from the **12th to the 13th centuries**. The dynasty was **founded by Suri**, a **Turkic** chieftain who converted to Islam in the 10th century. The Ghorids rose to prominence in the 12th century under the leadership of **Alauddin Husain Shah**, who expanded the empire into northern India.



Muhammad Ghori:

Muhammad Ghori was born in **1148 CE** into the **Ghurid dynasty**, a Turkic dynasty ruling over present-day **Afghanistan** and parts of **Iran**. He became the ruler of the **Ghurid Empire** in **1173 CE** at the age of 25. Ghori was a skilled military commander and a devout Muslim. He was ambitious and expansionist, and he set out to expand the Ghurid Empire into India.

Invasions Of Muhammad Ghori:

First Battle of Tarain (1191):

The inevitable clash between the ambitious rulers, **Muizzuddin Muhammad(Ghori)** and **Prithviraj**, began due to rival claims for **Tabarhinda**. This confrontation unfolded on the battlefield at Tarain in **1191**. **Muhammad Ghori was defeated**, sustaining a wound on his arm. The Muslim army was routed, and the Rajputs emerged victorious.

Second Battle of Tarain (1192):

Undeterred by his initial defeat, **Muhammad** regrouped and meticulously planned his next attack to avenge his loss. Prithviraj, in response, organized a Hindu confederacy to resist Muhammad's forces. **In 1192**, both armies clashed again on the same battlefield **at Tarain**. This time, **Muhammad emerged victorious, defeating and killing Prithviraj Chauhan**. **The Second Battle** of Tarain marked a crucial turning point in Indian history, **paving the way for further Muslim conquests**. Muhammad occupied **Ajmer and Delhi** after this triumph.

Battle of Chandawar (1194):

In 1194, Muhammad Ghori led another expedition against **Jayachandra of Kanauj**. The battle occurred near Chandawar, along the **Yamuna River**, between Etawah and Kanauj. King **Jayachandra** was **defeated and killed** in this encounter.

Following these successful campaigns, **Muhammad** entrusted the task of **consolidating the Indian** conquests to his **Governor, Qutubuddin Aibak**.

Additionally, **Muhammad-bin-Baktiyar Khilji**, a general under Ghori's command, executed a daring military expedition against **Bihar and Bengal between 1202 and 1205**.

During this period, he attacked Odantapuri, plundered Buddhist monasteries, and **destroyed** the renowned universities of **Nalanda and Vikramashila**. **Khilji also defeated Lakshmansena**, the **ruler of Bengal**, establishing the dominance of the Ghurid Empire in the region.

After the death of Ghori, **Qutubuddin Aibak**, one of Muhammad Ghori's slaves, assumed control over the Indian provinces. Under his rule, he laid the **foundation for the Delhi Sultanate in 1206**, marking a significant era in Indian history.