

Slave King's Contributions towards the Stability and the expansion of Muslim rule in India

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Abstract: This paper will enumerate the history of Muslim conquest in India, as well as the roles played by various Muslim rulers in subjugating local Indian rulers from time to time until 1290 C.E. And will pay special emphasis to the vigour and extension of the Delhi Sultans' initial rule. Without a doubt, Muslim rule was established in India first by the Arabs in the eighth century, that is, in 712 C.E., but it was severely constrained to Sindh and lower Punjab. The Ghaznavids were more interested in Central Asian power struggles, but their repeated raids and wars exposed the internal weaknesses of the Indian defence system. The credit for establishing and consolidating Muslim rule in India goes to the Ghurids, later their heirs, who were primarily their slaves.

Mohammad Ghori's immediate successor was his slave and son-in-law Qutubdin Aibek, who gained autonomous leadership of Indian possession following the Sultan's demise and firmly entrenched authority in India. The epoch saw the emergence of a formidable elite of Mamluk Turks that granted monarchs full chance regardless of their genealogy. As a corollary, only those who had shown their worth climbed to the pinnacle posts. Qutubdin Aibek, Altamish, and Balban presided for the bulk of the first hundred years, not just establishing an intricate internal administrative system and military control, but also outlining a frontier defensive doctrine that not only the Mughals, but even the British, inherited.

Introduction:

Abu Mansur subuktigin¹, the monarch of Ghaznavi in Afghanistan, had such an ambition to erect an Islamic empire in India amongst Turkish overlords. He assaulted numerous occasions beyond the River Indus but has been defeated by Hindushahi ruler Jaipal². Eventually, the horrific expeditions of Mahmood Ghaznavi³, approximately seventeen in total, decimated the sovereignty and authority of Indian emperors, crippled them financially, and revealed the weaknesses of various factions, notably Rajputs. The emerging hegemony of the Ghaznavids in Afghanistan, as well as other regions of Central Asia, made Mahmood as world's most successful combat general, awarding him the moniker of Iconoclast among non-Muslims. His spectacular campaigns throughout India in central Asia, and also his charisma and leadership, caught the attention of Khalifa (Caliph) Qadir ul Billah, who had sent him a letter or a royal prerogative. His successful battles in India and central Asia, as well as his personality and leadership, caught the attention of Khalifa (Caliph) Qadir ul Billah, who had sent him a letter or a royal prerogative. All of his expeditions proved lucrative, where he accumulated riches in the booty, that was eventually lavished on growth and betterment across his dominating realms. Mahmood made India politically feeble, and so many regions bowed and sent tribute to him anyway as a consequence of his terror, but then in actuality, Punjab became a permanent part of the Ghaznavid Hegemony, that he controlled straight from his headquarters.

From 1000 till 1027 C. E. Mahmood was never defeated by any sovereign, hence why Muhammad had been successful in establishing the vast empire and making Ghaznavi one of the wealthiest capitals, wherein he erected a Mosque dubbed Celestial Bride, an epitome of gorgeous craftsmanship, a museum, and a university. His demise in 1030 C. E. crippled his lineage, and almost none of his predecessors seemed to be quite as good as Mahmood. "Mahmud exhibited a professional military brilliance." He was a methodical warrior, adept at planning and meticulous in execution." When his feudatories gained control, they ransacked Ghaznavi, and Alauddin Jahan Soz⁴ razed it for seven days and seven nights. While his feudatories gained power, they ravaged Ghaznavi, eventually blazing it for seven days and seven nights underneath the leadership of Alauddin Jahan Soz. Khusrauv, the last ruler of the lineage of Ghaznavids, got expelled to Punjab, first by Ghuzz and then by Ghur. Nevertheless, the new chapter of Muslim conquests had opened by Ghayasuddin Ghur, Afghanistan's defector lord; the latter nominated his younger brother

¹ Sabuktigin lived as a slave during his youth and later married the daughter of his master Alptigin, the man who seized the region of Ghaznavi in Afghanistan from Samanids of Bukhara after the fall.

² From 964 until 1001 CE, Jayapala was indeed the monarch of Hindu Shahi dynasty. He spent considerable time protecting his kingdom against by the Ghaznavids from what is now eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan.

³ Mahmood Ghazni, who reigned from 999 until 1030, became the first legitimate monarch of Ghaznavid dynasty. "Sultan Mahmud seemed to be unquestionably one of classiest military commanders that world had ever seen and," writes Dr. R.C. Majumdar. It is indeed undeniable that he had never faced any debacle.

⁴ Alauddin Jahan Soz ,when Qutubdin Mouhammad Gor and Saifudin were cruelly executed by Baaharam Shah of Ghazni. Aladun Hussain the brother of the victims, took revenge sacking and burned the city of Ghazni for seven days and seven and earned sobriquet Jahan Sauz means World Burner.

Muizuddin Mohammad bin Sam, normally recognized as Mohammad Ghori. He, 145 years later, commenced conquering as a lieutenant of his brother Ghayassudin Ghori⁵.

From 1175 through 1192 C.E., he stormed numerous instances, albeit his assaults have not been as horrible or scary as Mahmood Ghaznavi's, which fostered an aura of panic amongst India's native rulers. Ghori suffered numerous losses until the second battle of Tarain 1192 C.E., whilst also in the first battle of Tarain 1191 C.E., the Turks had repelled by Prithviraj's onslaught against the Turks and the heroism of his commander in chief Govind Raj, Shahabuddin was evacuated by one Khilji youngster at the First Battle of Tarain in 1191 C.E., upon which 'the band of Umara, the Ghorian warriors (lit. Youth), and notables' gathered around the Sultan⁶. Nonetheless, by 1192 C.E., their days of wandering came to an abrupt end, and Shahubbidin Ghori lay the foundation for the Islamic empire, a goal now realised by Shahubbidin Ghori. And shattered the back of all subsequent non-Mohammadan rulers. Muslims now have to confront numerous obstacles to set up an Islamic Empire, however, the backing of some Hindu leaders including Jai chand or Jaichandra ⁷aided Chuhun stand firm when he was confronted by Ghori's troops. Mahmood Ghazni's dream of establishing an Islamic dominion was subsequently accomplished by a Ghori prince Shahubbdin Mohammad, who had been previously a vassal of the Ghaznavids. However, as time passed, the political structure altered, and individuals who were bought slaves climbed to extremely high ranking positions, stepping the stage to become the accountable runners of their master's governance. Qutubdin Aibek, Tajudin Yildiz, NaseerUddin Qabacha, and Bakhtiyar Khilji were among the four who shattered Indian kingdoms for Ghori. The credit was given to Aibek seeing as he obtained the preponderance of Shahubdin's domains, which we dubbed his Indian acquisitions. The provinces were divided between two Aibek and Bakhtiyar Khilji, however, the majority was under Aibek's control. Qutubdin Aibek, who had been recognized as his heir by Ghori, founded and established his kingdom with its capital at Lahore, where he ruled until 1210 C.E., from 1206 C.E., and was afterwards preceded by several great rulers.

Discussions

The victory of Train, from the second battle of Tarain (1192 C.E.) to the death of Muhammad Ghori, apparently known as Muizuddin Mohammad Bin Sam, signalled the end of the very first Turkish Islamic rule, that lasted from 1192 to 1206 C.E. The victory of Train in 1192 C.E. to the death of Muhammad Ghori, was a defining moment in Indian history. Most of Northern India's domains fell under the authority of Qutubdin Aibek, Tajudin Yildiz ruled Ghazni and Kirman, Naseeruddin Qabacha ruled Sind and Multan, and Bakhtiyar Khilji ruled Bengal. Aibek, the Sultanate's originator, established Lahore as the Sultanate's first capital, which is considered to have been the first capital of the Sultanate's 320-year rule. Numerous kings moved capitals whenever their aspirations evolved, but Malik Shamsudin Altamish's selection to establish Delhi was a superb decision, and thus the sultanate was known as the Delhi Sultanate. According to sources, Aibek has not even been involved in any new conquests, but he has been complimented for his philosophy on how to defend territories that have been taken. Shariyat became the base of his regime. He did not even attempt to associate his kingdom with the Caliph or Khalifa throughout the four years, nor did he utilise the title Sultan, Instead, he was given the title Lakh Bakash, which denotes "lakh giver"(one who gives lacs of rupees in charity). He went on to found the Sultanate of India, albeit he commenced his life as a slave. The soonest ruling dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate was renowned as the Slave dynasty, the illbari Turk dynasty, Mamluk dynasty, or Early Turkish dynasty, because three prominent rulers, Aibek, Altamish, and Balban, commenced their careers as slaves. "Qutbuddin was the legit progenitor of the Muslim dominion in India," as, according to Stanley Lanepoole, Aibek was indeed a proficient soldier, accomplished warrior, and clever negotiator who instantaneously detached the Indian kingdom of Ghori from his central Asian intrigues just after his master's (Muizuddin Mohammad) death, and emerged victorious from the other crown contenders. His ingenuity and brilliance astounded historians, like Abul Fazal remarks, "he (Aibek) accomplished enormous and decent things." "He united the intrepidity of the Turk with the sophisticated taste and charity of the Persian," writes A. B. M. Habibullah. "Qutbuddin delivered even-handed justice to the people and exerted himself to foster peace and prosperity of the realm," Hasan Nizami says in honour of his peace and fairness. "During his period, wolf and sheep drank at the same pond." In 1199 C.E., he erected the foundation of Qutub Minar, which was named after a Sufi saint of Ush Central Asia, Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki. But even after his demise in 1210 C.E. while playing Chagun (Polo) at Lahore, his seat of governance of the newly formed kingdom, however after his death he was succeeded by Aram Shah, who have had no significant connection to Aibek but then was available upon this exact place and grew to the position of head of the kingdom. Aibek had no son but only three daughters, and S.A.A Rizvi, in wonder that India referenced Aram Shah as Aibek's son, besides within six months of his leadership, Altamish vanquished Aram Shah in small skirmishes near Delhi. As ruler Aibek had neither invaded other territories nor indulged in newer hostilities, he conservatively concentrated all emphasis exclusively on the stability of the newly established dominion, which was still in its infancy, in other words, the slightest effort of a structured kingdom was needed to perish it. But kudos to Aibek for not losing patience and staying calm till the roots got strengthened. As Ghori's general, Aibek conquered Delhi from the Tomars, toppling Govindraj's son, who seized over like the Muizuddin's vassal after Govindraj's death. In the battle of Chandiwar in 1194 C.E., Aibek defeated Jai Chand and conquered Kannauj and Etawa.

⁵ Ghayassudin Ghori was one who ousted the Guzz Turks out of Ghaznavi and then sent his younger brother Shahubbdin to spearhead the conquests in India.

⁶ Irfan Habib, (Edited) Medieval India 1' Researches in the History of India 1200-1750 , p. 4 by Oxford University Press 1999.

⁷ King Jaichand of Ayodhya and Varanasi belonged to the Gaharwal Rajput clan. He supported Muhammad Ghori instead of Prithvi Raj Chouhan, who was forced to marry his daughter Sanyukti. So he sought vengeance from his opponent's enemy, the Chuhun, also known as Rai Paithora by Muslims.

After Aram Shah's brief reign (1211 C.E.), Altamish⁸ becomes the first ruler of the newly established sultanate of Aibak. Aram Shah proved to be a wuss and had been deposed by Altamish, who'd been afterwards attributed as the real founder of said Sultanate, that ruled till the 1526 C.E.⁹, when its last Sultan, Ibharim Lodhi of the Ghazali Afghans, was vanquished in a bloody battle at Panipat on April 21, 1526 C.E., and indeed the Sultanate was overtaken by the Mughals. In 1229 C.E., the reigning Caliph of Baghdad Al-Mustansirul Billah of Abbasid Khalifat conferred the moniker Sultan¹⁰ on Altamish, "affirming him in the ownership of the land and waters that he acquired as Sultan-i-Azam (Great Sultan)"¹¹. With Altamish's defeat and dethronement of Aibek's heir Aram Shah, including the subsequent capitulation of his loyalists, the Ilbari Turks ruled from 1211 until 1290 C.E.¹², even though he (Altamish) belonged to the Ilbari Clan, also known as Ghulam (Slave) or Mamluk rulers (both terms mean slaves')¹³. Even inside the Ilbari dynasty, three lineages of three prominent emperors ruled: the Qutubi, Shamsi, and Balbani dynasties¹⁴. This was not a bed of rhododendrons for Altamish after he sat on the throne, for the recently established empire seemed to have no deep roots inside the terrain of India, and his compatriots, like Yilduz and Qabacha, still aspired to grab the Delhi environs and create troubles for Altamish. The growing controversy between Qabacha and Yildiz offered Altamish an edge in winning the confidence of one of the two, therefore when Yildiz was driven out from Ghazni by Khwarazam Shah, Yildiz annihilated Qabacha and snatched Punjab from him, which was on the fringes of Altamish's dominions, but the latter couldn't bear it that his formidable foe does assume control over Punjab. Yildiz's claim for the hegemony of Lahore triggered confrontations between the two, though, in a minor squabble near Delhi in 1215 C.E., Yildiz could not even fend off the wrath of the new wise monarch of Delhi, Altamish. He had been captured and taken to Badayun, where he had been afterwards decapitated. Sultan then decided to return Punjab to Naseeruddin Qabacha (who ruled from 1202 to 1228 C.E.). One such deed of the Sultan earned Naseeruddin Qabacha's loyalty, but it also disclosed the increasing danger surrounding the infant Muslim sultanate. Altamish planned oneself effectively, and then within two years of returning the kingdom to Qabacha. The same was snatched, with this intention to safeguard the Muslim power in India, Qabacha retreated to Mansura after this setback in 1217, but Altamish chased him. There had been no actual cause of antagonism between Qabacha and the Altamish, but they're still a nearby real and present danger to the recently formed Sultanate there at moment, and also a political rival. The advent of Mongols, spearheaded by Teumchign, commonly known as Changiz Khan, severely damaged powerful Muslim empires in Central Asia around 1216 C.E. and arrived amid Altamish's tussle against Qabacha, transformed the overall scenario. He didn't want to risk himself against Mongols during this juncture; its underlying reason had been Jalaluddin Mangabarni, the last Khawarizm prince, who crushed Mongols then under the leadership of Changaiz's Tatar adopted son Sigi Khutukhu in the battle of Parwan Durrah 1221 C.E. in Afghanistan¹⁵; to seek revenge one such defeat, Changaiz marched himself against Jalaluddin, accompanied by Mongol commander Bala, marched towards Jalaluddin throughout Lahore region, invading neighbouring region Multan or even sacked the suburbs of Lahore to avenge that defeat. While on the fugitive into Punjab, Jalaluddin clashed against local elites. He (Jalaluddin) retreated towards the fringes of Punjab, seeking asylum in Multan, after already being defeated by several of them in the open. As a result, when Jalaluddin Mangbarani, the son of Shah of Khawarizm, sought refuge at Altamish's court to escape the Mongols, Altamish turned him away due to the Mongol threat. Jalaluddin stayed in India for about three years and allied with the native Khokra chief.

As longer even as Mongol menace had been apparent, Shamsuddin Altamash did not even bother Naaseruddin Qubacha. Meanwhile, just after the departure of Jalaluddin Mangabarni and his pursuer Changez Khan around 1224 C.E., Altamash did not intervene with Qabacha, who remained a buffer between Mongols and Shamsuddin Altamash's kingdom till almost Changaiz's death in 1227 C.E.¹⁶ The outcome of Mangbarani's narrative inside the Panjab was Qabacha's power crumbling.

With just the death of Changaiz Khan on August 1227 C.E., the hostilities among both Altamash and Qabacha reigned, however, the scenario deteriorated after Qabacha declared full-fledged resistance at Uch, which had been besieged by Altamish troops. And in 1228 C.E., by Altamish's orders, Nasirudin Aiyitim, his administrator of Punjab, seized Multan, and he immediately marched to Uch; the two frontal assaults upon Multan and Uch could not have been withstood by Qabacha for long, thus he felt his position insecure, and Qabacha fled to lower Sindh island citadel of Bhakkar, Qabacha got terrified by ferocious onslaught upon Bhakkar he drowned before retreating towards shelter. The whole of his holdings vanished from his clutches, and also the lands

⁸ He was the slave Aibek, a Ilbari Turk whose prior slave status was incontrovertible, and thus the slave of slaves had become the real progenitor of Muslim dominance in Northern India. Sultan Iltutmish, in the words of Ibn Battuta, was the first to administer Delhi with autonomous authority.

⁹ The fate of India was determined three times upon this battlefield of Panipat: first, while Babur defeated Ibhairim Lodhi, second, Akbar and Barim Khan killed Hemu, and third, when Ahmad Shah Abdali crushed united Marathas, English, and Mughal troops in 1764 C.E.

¹⁰ Sultan is just a recognition given to Muslim monarchs in medieval era, it has been said that Mahmood Ghzni was the first to use it after he got the letter of investiture from the Caliph Qadirul Billah of Baghdad.

¹¹ The epithet 'Caliph' comes from the Arabic word 'Khalifa,' which means 'deputy.'

¹² R.C Majumdar, H.C Raychaudhuri, Kalinkar Datta, "An Advanced History of India" 1995, by Macmillan India Delhi pp. 275

¹³ S.A.A Rizvi, "The wonder that was india-vol.II" Picdor London 2018.

¹⁴ Qutbi kings were Qutubdin Aibek and Aram Shah, Shamsi kings belonged from the line of Malik Shamsudin Altamish that followed by his successors after 1236 to 1266 C.E were Rukin Din Feroz 1236, Razia Sultana 1236-1239 C.E Behram Shah 1239-1242 C.E, Alaudin Masud Rukindin's son 1242-1246 and Balbani from the line of Balaban, that end when its last nominal ruler Kaiumars in 1290 C.E, a three year old child put aside by the leader of Turkish party that time Malik Feroz later assumed and to be renowned as Jalal Uddin Faeroz Khilji, regarded the founder of Khilji rule or which is popularly called Khilji revolution.

¹⁵ Tony Jacques, " Dictionary of Battles and sieges" 2007, Greenwood Publishing Group USA.

¹⁶ S.A.A Rizvi, "The wonder that was india-vol.II" Picdor London 2018. P.25

descended from Yildiz and Qabacha's share of Mohammad Ghori's inheritance fell under Altamish's control within only eleven years.

The Khawarizmi military conflict, as well as the Mongol foothold nearby Sind, adversely affected Qabacha's position, so Altamish rapidly seized Bhatinda, Quhram, Sarsut, and also Hakar River's shores¹⁷, as well as Lahore after Changaiz's withdrawal from Afghanistan. Altamish extended his authority up to Sialkot and Juner in the north-east in Punjab, or perhaps Jalandhar after Sultan Sumra ruler¹⁸ Shimuddin Chanisar of Deval acknowledged Altamash's overlordship and permitted him to rule as a vassal of the Delhi Sultanate. Governors of Lahore, Multan, as well as Sindh provinces also were directed to include entire Punjab well within Sultanate's foothold. The governors at Lahore and Multan proved successful in bringing the castles of Nandana, a stronghold of the Khokhar tribe, and Kunjah, which were entrusted underneath the authority of Aitign, as just a consequence of these directives. The establishment of such outposts and also the earlier warfare safeguarded the central, north-eastern, and western Punjab to Altamish or Iltutmish.

Since Aibek's death, when the Delhi Sultanate's rule had indeed vanished from Bengal's soil, Altamish concentrated on getting control of the provinces; Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khilji, a member of the Khaliji ethnic group, managed to conquer Bihar in 1200 C.E. and North-western Bengal in 1201, from an aged ruler Lakshman Sena. When a troop of foreign cavalry was galloping on loose reins towards the city of Nadia in the dry season of 1201 C.E., the troops, numbering nineteen, halted the pace of their ride at the gates of the city then adopted the peaceful demeanour of merchants. The outsiders found their way unchecked through into the city to Lakshman Sena's palace, wherein they unexpectedly drew swords¹⁹. The elderly king Lakshman Sena fled his fort in the middle of an incident and sailed down to the water to East Bengal for refuge. As recounted by Isami in *Futuh-us-Salatin*²⁰, Bhaktiyar's soldiers joyously entered the city, brought it under control, and ended the conquest. King Lakshman Sena reigned peacefully at Vikrampur until 1206 C.E.²¹ The humiliating defeat of Bhaktiyar in Tibet severely harmed his reputation; shame and remorse drove him away from society, and perhaps a lurking suspicion of murder haunted his mind; Ali Mardan Khilji is said to have murdered Bakhtiyar Khilji three months after his return from Devkot in 1206 C.E²² and buried him somewhere in the neighbourhood of Devkot²³. Muhammad Shiren Khilji (1206-1208 C.E.) of his clan succeeded him, both were natives of Garmisir, Afghanistan. Malik Ikthiyar Udin Muhammad Bhaktiyar Khilji is the architect of Bengal's mediaeval history, according to J.N Sarkar's History of Bengal. Muhammad Shiren Khilji's reigned only a year, and Husamuddin Iwaz Khalji succeeded him, who afterwards willingly handed over the throne to Ali Mardan²⁴, who declared its independence from the kingdom of Delhi in 1210 C.E. and began ruling under the name of Alaudin. He ruled for two years without opponents before being brutally murdered by his officials. For the second time, Iwaz Khalji was elected to power. He took the name Ghiyasuddin Iwaz Khalji²⁵ and ruled Bengal as an absolute Sultan at this time. From 1212 until 1227 C.E., he was indeed the Sultan of Bengal, although he got a letter of recognition from the Abbasi Caliph Al-Nasir. In addition, he focused on expanding his realm. Hindu kings of neighbouring kingdoms such as Kamrup, Orissa, and Banga (south-east Bengal) were forced to pay him tribute²⁶.

The Sultan of Delhi Altamish, who had been lurking among hope and hazard from the presence of Mongols northern side of his empire near Indus, never could bear the popularity of the independent kingdom of Iwaz Khalji. Earlier, Altamish quashed the danger of Qabacha, and pretended his gesture of piece before Changiz Khan, eventually gaining success due to his diplomacy with Mongols. Just after a threat of a Mongol onslaught had disappeared, Iltutmish launched an operation towards Iwaz Khan. He took over parts of south Bihar once and selected his preferred administrators. Iwaz Khilji also has arrived in Bihar to confront him. Though there was a compromise, it's conceivable that no fight was fought. Iltutmish had been formally recognized as emperor by Iwaz Khilji (Ayaz) and promised to pay reparation. Iltutmish subsequently annexed Bihar and put it under Malik Jani's leadership. However, shortly after, he (Iwaz Khan) broke the agreement and occupied Bihar once again, proclaiming his autonomy. Iwaz Khilji's approach prompted Iltutmish to urge his eldest son and heir, former governor of Lahore Naseeruddin Muhammad, who at the time held the Iqta of Awadh, to punish him (Iwaz Khilji). Naseeruddin quickly and effectively annexed that to the Delhi Sultanate by taking advantage of Iwaz's nonappearance on a plundering foray in Kamrup (Assam) in 1227 C.E. He was able to take Lakhnawati (Lakhnuti) and beat and execute Iwaz on his return²⁷. Naseeruddin Muhammad continued to serve as the Sultan's

¹⁷ Aniruddha Ray, "The Sultanate of Delhi 1206-1526" 2019, Manhor Publishers New Delhi, p 61

¹⁸ Sumra family, the house is ascribed a Arab ancestry by it's own scribes, but historians believe it to be of Rajput ancestry, as per Britannica Encyclopedia. The Sumras ruled for even more than three centuries before being superseded by Sammas, that dominated Sindh until it had been conquered by Mughal emperor Akbar.

¹⁹ History of Bengal J.N Sarkar, 1948, University of Dacca p-4

²⁰ History of Bengal J.N Sarkar, 1948, University of Dacca p-4

²¹ History of Bengal J.N Sarkar, 1948, University of Dacca p-9

²² History of Bengal J.N Sarkar, 1948, University of Dacca p-11

²³ History of Bengal J.N Sarkar, 1948, University of Dacca p-16

²⁴ Ali Mardan de novo, who having won over his custodian Baba Haji Ispahani (The kotwal of some place in Ali Mardan's fief), escaped from his confinement, took refuge with Qutubdin Aibek at Delhi about the middle of the year 1207 C.E and instigated him to send an army against Muhammad Shiran, sultan Qutubdin ordered his governor of the province of oudh, Qae-maz Rumi, to march into the territory of Lakhnawati ostensibly to settle disputes among Khilji Amirs and place each in his own fief.

²⁵ Among the Khalji Maliks, Sultan Ghiyasuddin Iwaj Khalji was unquestionably the best. He worked hard to create and secure the Muslim dominion of Bengal, whom Bakhtair had formed. For administrative purposes, he moved his capital from Devakota to Gaur or Lakhnauti.

²⁶ Aniruddha Ray, "The Sultanate of Delhi 1206-1526" 2019, Manhor Publishers New Delhi, p 62

²⁷Peter Jackson, "The Delhi Sultanate A Political History" 1999, Cambridge University Press UK.

viceroy in Bengal governance structures for less than two years, dying in the first months of winter 1229 C.E Lakhnuti, turmoil reigned in Bengal politics once again, and also the province's authority was usurped by Ikthiyaral-Din Dawaiat Shah, whose real name was Balka, presumably a former officer of the Sultan Iltutmish, now the challenging task emerges against Iltutmish, With the reconquest of Lakhnuti, Iltutmish emerged India's sole Muslim ruler.

With the brief reign of Aram Shah, as a weakling, the political landscape of the Delhi Sultanate diminished, and thus the subordinate kingdoms proclaimed their independence, refusing to provide tribute and allegiance to the Delhi Sultanate. The menace of Rajput autonomy and their expanding attempts to de-garrison their native regions from Turks proved effective when Turks were forced out of several places by Rajputs, specifically in Gwalior by Parithihars, who captured Jhansi, Narwar, and many other areas previously occupied by Turks. Uday Singh's Chuhans of Jalor, in keeping with Hassan Nizami, subjugated Mandore, Nadol, Ratanpur, and Ranthambore. Concurrently, Jaden Bhatis attained autonomy in Northern Alwar, Ajmer, Bayana, and Thangir, deposing the Turkish manager and seceded. Doab did the precise equal thing, taking complete benefit of Aram Shah's feeble albeit quick tenure and sooner or later Altamish's frontline squabbles with political adversaries, overseas fugitives, and the Mongols lurking alongside the Indus to interrupt far from the Sultanate's yoke. Furthermore, whilst Mongols left and his competitors subjugated the area, the system changed into executed till 1224 C.E., whereupon Sultan Altamish tried to bring again the provinces that had proclaimed independence and discontinued paying tribute to the Delhi Sultanate beneath neath his authority from 1226 C.E. In 1226 C.E., Altamish besieged Ranthambore and managed to bring it under the Delhi Sultanate, marking this the primary Rajput territory to be annexed to the Sultanate. And with inside the subsequent year, 1227 C.E. Mandore too turned into occupied. But the notable improvement in his enlargement coverage has been visible after the demise of Qabacha and the conquest of Bengal, whilst Altamish paid his complete interest closer to the Rajputana the developing anger and the unification of those kingdoms turned into the largest task to any new strength within the region, Altamish deputed his depended on commanders and different trustees for the conquest. As said in Tabaqat-i-Nisari Uday Singh of Jalor widely wide-spread Altamish's vassalage and agreed to pay tribute; and the Bayana and Ajmer too have been conquered and the equal phrases have been applied on them. In 1229 C.E., Rawal Jitra Singh Mewar, an impartial ruler, needed to face a horrible assault by the Muslim military of the Delhi Sultan, who meant to invade Gujarat from this route²⁸. Muslim military on its manner to Gujarat entered Mewar attacked its capital Nagda²⁹, however, preliminary benefits of the Muslims did now no longer show lasting and shortly they needed to take recourse to flight³⁰. After the Guhilots of Mewar, Altamish couldn't defeat the Chalukyas of Gujarat, but he added Biyana and Thaneshwar to his conquest, and his (Altamish's) trustees or directors continued the siege against Rajputana. In 1230 C.E., Jodhpur had been beleaguered. Mangal Bhava Dev, a Prathiara king of Gwalior who already had affirmed his independence during the easy interlude of Aram Shah then, fought for almost eleven months but couldn't hold out because of the Turks, and it was eventually put down in 1231 C.E., and its charge of the administration was handed over to amir-i dad, Majdul Mulk Ziyauddin Muhammad Junaidi, and Rashiduddin. Meanwhile, Malik Teyasi Altamish, a former Muizzi slave, acquired the territory from Kalingar to Chanderi. In 1234-35 C.E., Malwa and Bhilsa were annexed to the Sultanate. From the other extreme, after just a protracted war, his (Iltutmish's) son Naseeruddin Mohammad vanquished the Hindu chieftains of the provinces Badayun, Kannauj, and Banaras only at Kathiar in present Rohilkhand. Before yielding, the Turks experienced vehement resistance from the local Raja, which would have been much worse than what this Altamish son Naseeruddin endured from Britu or Pritu, 120,000 Muslim warriors were slain in battling with Britu, according to S.A.A Rizvi in the wonder that was India-II; another view is that his name was Prithwi, as cited by Minhaj Siraj. To bolster the Sultanate of Delhi's power and influence, Altamish decided to launch an expedition far outside India, to Bumyan, the Afghan landmass ruled by the Khawarizims, and afterwards ruled by Jalaluddin Mangabarni's representative Saifuddin Hasan Qarlug, for whom Mongols intended but failed to detach from its rule. The campaign proved to be Sultan Malik Shamsudin Altamish's final propaganda effort; he fell ill at Bumyan and died on 30 April 1236 C.E. Neither of his successors, Rukindin Feroz, Muizuddin Behram Shah, and Alaudin Masud Shah, he preferred to appoint for the monarchy because of lack of trust as well as profane conduct, and his eldest son Naseerudin Mohammad died in 1229 C.E

Though Altamish's death caused bewilderment amongst nobility, none of his sons had been deemed fit for rule excluding his daughter Razia. Throughout her four years of rule, hardly anything changed politically, and besides she faced antipathy from his Turkish aristocracy, who had been reluctant to accept women as leaders but instead believed that women to become rulers was an act of disrespect to all male warriors and nobility. And then there's the issue of her preferring Yakut, the Abassian Siddi who used to be a slave which is now the master of the hunt. She is alleged to have rejected to be referred as a Sultana (as per her gender) since such term signified "wife or mistress of a Sultan," and instead claimed the title "Sultan" because she was the premier.

After her brother Rukindin Feroz had been assassinated in a court plot in November 1236, Razia ascended the throne, but she was met with overwhelming hostility from Turkish aristocracy who refused to acknowledge a woman as their ruler, thinking as women become rulers is an insult to all male soldiers and nobility. She abandoned the rebel governor of Bhatinda to Altunia only after a few months in power. The conspirators plotted a revolt against her, but Razia gallantly proceeded against Altunia, who originally dethroned her but later softened because they were childhood friends and get married, but with this defeat, she lost her throne, and to recapture it, both Altunia and Razia rushed to Delhi, where Bahram Shah Razia's brother commanded the throne, but the royal forces thwarted them and prompted them to flee from Delhi, the co-conspirators are alleged to have murdered both afterwards.

Balban ascended the crown of Sultanate in 1266 C.E, just after the end of Naserudin Mohammad's reign, widely regarded by his cognomen "Darvesh" king by his virtues, he was the eighth sultan from the scion of Mamluk sovereigns and the sixth of

²⁸ Mathur, M. L. "RAWAL JAITRA SINGH OF MEWAR: A SURVEY OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY." Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, vol. 14, 1951, pp. 343–352. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/44303995

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Ibid

the Shamsi line, and even some sources inaccurately interpreted him the grandson of Altamish. He was the Governor of Bahraich until becoming Sultan. Minhaj-U-Siraj dedicated Tabaqat Nisari to Naseeruddin Mohammad, and Minhaj mentioned in Tabaqat Nisari that he had been Altamish's son. The book is a legitimate source of this epoch. He replaced Alaudin Msusaud in 1246 and reigned until 1266 AD. He was not enamored with his political spirit, hence he entrusted all his courtships to Balban and designated him as his delegate. The ultimate authority had been in the hands of his deputy or Naib Ghayasuddin Balbann Ulugh Khan or Premier Khan, even as the office of Naib had been vacant after Masud's fall. Qutubudin Hassan, Masud's naib, had departed from his position after Masud's downfall a few years before, and indeed the post had become vacant. In 1249-50, Balban seized it for himself. He remained Naib-i-Mamlakat throughout Nasiruddin's reign, except in the year A.D. 1253C.E when Immadudin Raihan was appointed to this post. Pursuant to Balban's authoritarianism and dogmatism, the entire epoch of Naseeruddin was chaotic; throughout his twenty years as Sultanate's Naib-i-Mumalikyat, the Sultanate's inner tranquillity hadn't been seen in any area of the Sultanate. Balban's doctrine of "Blood and Iron" resulted in an insurgency in every province; local chieftains, political foes, well-wishers of the Sultanate, or even Naseeruddin's family members also weren't exempted, and thus no new province or region had been added to the Sultanate when he was Naseeruddin Mohammad's deputy. After Naseeruddin Mohammad's reign, ended in 1266 C.E., no historian has ever given a credible explanation for his death; contemporaneous records are quiet on the matter, however, some researchers accept he was assassinated by Balban.

Undoubtedly, the most conspicuous advancement of the Delhi Sultanate after Altamish occurred during Balban's leadership, when the entire structure was remodelled as per new systems. He didn't indulge in further conquest, preferring to retain a tight grip upon the territories left from him by his legendary predecessor Altamish. Balban safeguarded the Sultanate from internal uprisings and Mongol incursions³¹. He restored ideal security and stability inside his sovereign control and eradicated the control and influence of Turkani Chalghani³², as well as crushing all anti-social elements, primarily robbers, who had created a situation of fear and panic throughout the Sultanate. Balban brought an end to the potential danger with iron hands, by using the "Blood and Iron" policy which he had used since his days as Naseeruddin Mohammad's (Darvesh king) deputy.

Balban's theory of kingship was akin to that of the divine rights of kings as professed by the Tudor and Stuart monarch of England". He took the name Zil-i-ilahi, which means "God's Shadow." Some historians agree his philosophy of kingship was structured as just a result of Persia's influence³³. Dr K.A. Nizami. said, "Balban's idea of sovereignty took its form and essence from Sassanid Persia, where monarchy had been elevated towards the greatest conceivable degree as well as its metaphysical and celestial character was publicly accepted". A king's place on Earth, according to Balban, was most divine or exalted. He said that the only person who became a ruler who was blessed by God is that's why he was not answerable to any worldly authority. The king can do anything he wants. He was unquestionable. Nobody could put a question mark on him or his workings³⁴.

Balban deserves the credit for establishing an effective intelligence network within Delhi Sultanate; before him, no such system existed in the manner of the Umayyad Caliphs. He used barais as spies to snoop upon his officials. Balban developed a strict court protocol all through his tenure, while spies were autonomous authorities who had been solely accountable to the Sultan. He deported himself with great dignity, never letting anybody accompany him on his journey. Even his attendant is believed to have never seen him half-dressed, bare-headed, or without socks and shoes. Bengal was lost to the Delhi Sultanate under the time of Sultan Nasir-ud-din, when Arsalan Khan proclaimed himself independent, while Balban's first operation as ruler was against the Bengal province when its governor Tughril Khan revolted against his master. When Balban gained the crown, Tatar Khan, Arsalan Khan's son, avoided making an explicit proclamation of sovereignty to prevent clashes with Sultan, and instead sent numerous presents to Balban as a mark of respect. Balban nominated Tughril Khan as governor of Bengal when Tatar Khan was removed from the post. Tughril Khan then revolted in 1279 C.E., declared independence, and adopted the title of Sultan Mughis-ud-din. Balban's power was shaken by the uprising. Amin Khan, the governor of Oudh, had been immediately dispatched by Balban to attack Bengal. Amin Khan, on either side, was routed and executed by Balban. The next two expeditions met the same fate. Balban was outraged by this. He pledged that he would never return without the rebel's scalp and led a massive army into Bengal. He boosted his forces with extra Avadh men and proceeded to Bengal with his son, Bughra Khan. Tughril Khan fled from Lakhnauti, but Balban chased him and eventually killed him near Hajinagar, East Bengal. Balban subsequently returned to Lakhnauti and dealt Tughril's followers a horrible punishment. Balban nominated his son Bughra Khan as governor of Bengal and cautioned him to stay faithful to the Delhi Sultanate. His most formidable military expedition was against the Mewatis or Meo³⁵, bandits who roamed in the woods around Delhi and created fear in the hearts and minds of citizens and traders, preventing any caravan from reaching Delhi securely. Balban got concerned and ordered the clearing of forests near Delhi, wherein robber's nests had been identified. Balban spent a year prosecuting criminals and quelling rebellions in the Doab region, Patiala, Bhojpur, and Kampil regions. He erected

³¹ The word Mongol is derived from the Mong which means Daredevil. The Mongols were one of numerous nomadic herders that roamed Eurasia's wide open meadow plains, termed as Gobi desert. The Mongols, and most other itinerant peoples were notorious for fighting for themselves for dominance, rarely unifying underneath a single authority. Hunt, horse riding, plus archery were valued in Mongol culture were techniques that everyone accomplished people both women included required to learn.

³² Altamish or Iltutmish formed Turkan Chalghani or Chelsa, or a group of forty nobles, overwhelmingly among the Turkish nobles, that govern the newly formed Muslim Sultanate onto Indian land.

³³ Mehta. J.L, Advanced study in the history of Medieval India; pp.116

³⁴ Amit Kumar Sing and Pratima "An Analysis of the Persian Influence on Balban's Socio-Political Policies" International Journal of Research E-ISSN: 2348-6848 , pp 344

³⁵ The natives in Mewat, also known as Meo or Mayo, then used rob the folk during the day, creating a fearful environment throughout the Delhi.

forts and established Muslim settlements to make sure the region's security. He next shifted his focus towards the Mongols, organizing Sind and the west Panjab's government. Sher Khan Sunqar had been appointed commander of the area, and then after his death, Balban's eldest child, Prince Muhammad Khan, son and heir of Sultan Balban, was appointed governor, who defended the area for a few years before succumbing to Mongol wrath in the Battle of the Beas River on March 9, 1285 C.E., the prince was given the title Khan Shaheed (Martyr Prince). Balban was traumatised by Prince Mohammad's assassination, so he perished two years later, heartbroken. Later Balbani princes ruled until 1290 C.E. due to unrest and inefficiency within the house of Balban, which caused a political void that had been filled by Khalji's in less than three years. When Malik Firuz later Jalaluddin Feroz Khalji put down the last nominal ruler, Kaimars, and started the Khalji aeon, which lasted from 1290 to 1320 C.E.

Conclusion:

We witnessed Muslim leaders, from Subuktigin to Shahubdin Ghori, struggle to establish Muslim dominance; the effort was undertaken by Turks following the Arab defeat in Sindh. After Subuktigin's death, who had been attributed with being the first Turk to attempt to grab control of Indian territory, Mahmood Ghazni became the most widely discussed protagonist primarily concerned with his Indian incursions, who aspired to make India part of his hegemony and wrecked the country's political unity, as well as making it fiscally weak, and paved the way to his progeny. Subsequently, Shhubdin Ghori benefited from Mahmood Ghazni's act, and he eventually gained the title pioneer of Muslim authority at Tarain in 1192 C.E when he vanquished Prithvi Raj Chuhan, and the victory later laid the basis of the Sultanate. Although it was Qutubdin Aibek, a Ghurid slave, who originally established the Sultanate subsequently famous as Delhi Sultanate in 1206 C.E., amidst violent confrontations against his comrades Ghurid slaves Tajudin and Qabacha, Aibek worked only for the Sultanate's sovereignty and strength from his internal and external incursions. Over his reign as a king, he never pondered war or annexation, preferred instead to seek out possibilities for safety and strength in a variety of ways, such as marriage partnerships or defensive agreements. Moreover, his sudden and unexpected death in Lahore the Sultanate's seat of governance left a chasm inside the Sultanate, enabled it to rot at the hands of his inheritor Aram Shah in 1211 C.E., who was replaced by Altamish or Iltutmish same year after the latter's expulsion from the throne in brief skirmishes next to Jud 1211 C.E. and earned the fame of the real architect of the Delhi Sultanate. Altamish entrusted the Sultanate's privileges to Turkish and Tajik nobles known as Turkan-i-Chalghani or Chelsa, also introduced the Iqta system and transferred the capital from Lahore to Delhi and diplomatically saved the Sultanate which was at that time in a stage of infancy from the incursion of Mongols, that time led by Changiz Khan himself. He is credited with creating durable foundations, organizing the administration and evolving statesmanlike basic political policies. After Aibek, the duo Altamish and Balban played a vibrant role to spread and make Sultanate strong in the soil of India.

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