

BA HISTORY HONOURS  
SEMESTER III

Paper 5: Society and Culture in Medieval India

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Credits: 04  
CLASS ID: 12 BHS 03  
COURSE ID BHS 301

**UNIT I**

**ROYALTY, COURT AND ELITE CULTURE**

1. Courtly ceremonies and etiquettes under the Sultans, Vijayanagar kings and the Mughals
2. Architecture and paintings
3. Court histories and bardic literature
4. Women in Medieval courts and politics

**UNIT II**

**RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIONS**

1. Medieval Islamic views of India and Hindus
2. Representations of Muslims in Sanskrit and vernacular literature
3. The process of Islamisation and Hinduisation in Medieval India; Islamic culture in Indian environment
4. The growth of 'composite culture', religious 'syncretism': Akbar's world view and Dara Shikoh's synthesis, *Sulh-i-Kul* and *Wahdat ul Wujud*

**UNIT III**

**SUFI AND BHAKTI MOVEMENTS**

1. Growth of *sufi silsilahs*, *sufis* and the state, *sufi* shrines and their socio-political role
2. Nathpanthi movement; growth of *Nirguni* monotheistic and *Saguni bhakti*, *bhaktas* and the Medieval state
3. Women *bhaktas* and the nature of their devotion
4. Nature of *bhakti-sufi* Interaction

**UNIT IV**

**GROWTH OF REGIONAL LITERARY CULTURES**

1. *Bhakti* based regional literary cultures
2. *Malfuz* literature and Sufi biographies
3. *Hindavi-sufi* romance narratives
4. Rise and growth of Urdu language

## Readings

1. Harbans Mukhia, *The Mughals Of India*, Blackwell Publishing, 2005.
2. Irfan Habib, *Akbar and His India*, Delhi, OUP, 1997.
3. -----, *Religion in Indian History*, New Delhi, Tulika Books, 2007.
4. Satish Chandra, *Essays on Medieval Indian History*, Delhi: OUP, 2003.
5. M. Athar Ali, *Mughal India: Studies in Polity, Ideas, Society and Culture*, Delhi, OUP, 2006.
6. Milo Cleveland Beach, *Mughal and Rajput Painting*, Cambridge, 1992.
7. S.P. Verma, *Mughal Painters and Their Work*, New Delhi, OUP, 1994.
8. Aziz Ahmad, *Intellectual History of Islam in India*, 1969.
9. -----, *Islamic Culture in Indian Environment*, 1964.
10. Richard M Eaton, *Sufis of Bijapur, Social Role of Sufis in Medieval India*, 1978.
11. -----, *The Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier, 1204-1760*, 1993.
12. -----, *Essays on Islam and Indian History*, 2000.
13. -----, ed., *India's Islamic Traditions 711-1750*, New Delhi, OUP, 2006.
14. David Gilmartin and Bruce B. Lawrence eds., *Beyond Turk and Hindu; Religious Identities in Islamicate*, South Asia, 2002.
15. Pushpa Prasad, *Sanskrit Inscriptions of Delhi Sultanate*, New Delhi, OUP, 1990.
16. Sheldon Pollock, ed., *Literary Cultures in History: Reconstructions from South Asia*, Delhi, OUP, 2003.
17. Carl W. Ernst, *Eternal Garden: Mysticism, History and Politics at a South Asian Sufi Centre*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2004.
18. Mohammad Habib, *Politics and Society During the early Medieval Period (Collected Works of Mohammad Habib, 2Vols. K.A Nizami, ed., 1974.*
19. Muzaffar Alam, *The Languages of Political Islam in India 1200-1800*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2004.
20. Charlotte Vaudeville, *A Weaver Named Kabir*, Delhi, OUP, 1993.
21. David N. Lorenzen, ed., *Bhakti Religion in North India: Community Identity and Political Action*, Delhi, Manohar, 1996.
22. David N. Lorenzen, ed., *Religious Movements in South Asia 600-1800*, Delhi, OUP, 2004.
23. Karine Schomer and W.H McLeod, eds., *The Sants: Studies in a Devotional Tradition of India*, Delhi, Motilal Banarsidas, 1987.
24. John Stratton Hawley, *Three Bhakti Voices*, Delhi, OUP, 2005.
25. W.H. Mcleod, *The Evolution of Sikh Community*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn., Delhi, OUP, 1996.
26. Catherine B Asher and Cynthia Talbot, *India Before Europe*, Cambridge, CUP, 2006.
27. B.D Chattopadhyaya, *Representing the Other? Sanskrit Sources and the Muslims, Eighth to the Fourteenth Centuries*, Delhi, Manohar, 1998.
28. Romila Thapar, Somnath, *The Many Voices of a History*, Delhi, Penguin, 2004.

BA HISTORY HONOURS  
**SEMESTER III**  
Paper 6: Medieval World  
(Sixth to the Fifteenth Century CE)

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Credit: 04  
CLASS ID: 12 BHS 03  
COURSE ID BHS 302

**UNIT I**

1. Europe after the collapse of Rome (fifth till tenth century) -
  - (a) Collapse of the Roman Empire; the Byzantine Empire; Spread of Christianity in Medieval Europe.
  - (b) Growth of Feudalism: Interactions of the Germanic tribes with settled peoples, Features of Feudalism.
2. Arabia (sixth till ninth century)-
  - (a) The Arab World in the sixth century: economic and political institutions, society.
  - (b) Trade and its Influence, Crisis within the tribal structure, Rise of Islam and initial stages of its spread.
  - (c) The Early Abbasid Caliphate.
3. China: (from sixth to the tenth century) -
  - (a) Sui (589-616 AD) and Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD): unification of China, emergence of centralized state systems.
  - (b) Trade and the reopening of the Silk Route. Cultural developments, technological innovations, emergence of woodblock printing, the printing of the book and literary practices.

**UNIT II**

4. Feudalism from eleventh to thirteenth century -
  - (a) Dynamics of change in feudal Europe: technology, demography, markets
5. Arabised West Asia and Africa (seventh to the twelfth century)-
  - (a) Emergence of non-Arab states, disintegration of the Caliphate.
  - (b) Political and economic changes: theory of kingship, *Iqtas* and Agrarian relations.
6. China: (tenth to fourteenth century) -
  - (a) State, nomadic invasions and sinification
  - (b) Trade, commerce and urbanisation, “Medieval Economic Revolution”.

**UNIT III**

7. Economic and social changes in Europe (fourteenth and fifteenth centuries) -

- (a) Crisis in the feudal mode of production and decline of feudalism.
- 8. Economic and social changes in West Asia (twelfth to the fifteenth century) -
  - (a) The rise and development of the Ottoman Empire.
- 9. Economic and social changes in China (twelfth to the sixteenth century)-
  - (a) Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD), rise of urban centres, markets, new crops especially rice, neo-Confucianism, “Xenophobia”, rise in population, absolute and per capita growth.

#### UNIT IV

- 10. Intellectual and economic interactions between Europe and Asia;
  - (a) Scientific and intellectual exchange.
  - (c) Feudal culture.
  - (d) Medieval cities.

#### **Reading List**

##### Medieval Europe:

1. Anderson, Perry. *Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism*. London, 1974.
2. Bloch, Marc. *Feudal Society*. 2 Vols. Chicago, 1961. **(Also in Hindi)**
3. Carlo M. Cipolla, (ed.) *The Fontana Economic History of Europe, Vol.1: The Middle Ages*. Glasgow. 1972.
4. Farooqi, Amar. *Early Social Formations*, Manak, 2001. **(Also in Hindi)**
5. Pirenne, Henri. *Mohammad and Charlemagne*. New York, 1939.
6. White Jr., Lynn. *Medieval Technology and Social Change*. Oxford, 1962.
7. Leo Hubberman. Man’s Worldly Goods. (Relevant parts).

##### Medieval West Asia:

1. Ali, S. Amir. *The Spirit of Islam. A History of the Evolution and Ideals of Islam with a Life of the Prophet*. London, 1922.
2. Boyle, J.A., (ed.) *The Cambridge History of Iran. Vol.V: The Saljuq and the Mongol Period*. Cambridge, 1968.
3. Crone, Patricia. [\*Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam\*](#) (1987)
4. \_\_\_\_\_. *Slaves on Horses: The Evolution of the Islamic Polity* (1980).
5. Hitti, Philip K. *The History of the Arabs*. Revised: 10th Edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.
6. Hodgson, M.G.S. *The Venture of Islam*. Vol.1. Chicago, 1974.
7. Hourani. A.G., *A History of the Arab Peoples*. London, 1991.
8. Rodinson, Maxime. *Mohammad*. London, 1971.
9. *The Cambridge History of Islam, Vol.I: Central Islamic Lands*, Cambridge (Latest Editions).
10. UNESCO, *History of Humanity, Vol.III: From Seventh Century BC to Seventh Century AD*. London, 1996.
11. Zakaria, Rafiq. *The Struggle within Islam. The Conflict between Religion and Politics*. USA.
12. Engineer, Asghar Ali.

##### Medieval China:

1. Deng, Gang, *Development versus stagnation: technological continuity and agricultural progress in pre-modern China*, Westport, Conn., 1993.
2. Elvin, Mark, *The Pattern of Chinese Past*, Stanford, 1973.

3. Fairbank, John K, (ed.) *The Chinese World Order*, Cambridge, 1968. pp. 1-20.
4. Fuma, Susumu, 'Late Ming Urban Reform and the Popular Uprising in Hangzhou' in Linda Cooke Johnson ed., *Cities of Jiangnan in Late Imperial China*, New York, 1993. pp. 47-79.
5. Ho Ping-ti, *Studies on the population of China 1368-1953*, Cambridge, Mass., 1959.
6. Johnson, Linda Cooke, 'Shanghai: An emerging Jiangnan Port, 1683-1840' in Linda Cooke Johnson ed., *Cities of Jiangnan in Late Imperial China*, New York, 1993, pp.151-87.
7. *The Cambridge History of China*, Vol.3-8. (latest editions)
8. Deng, Kent. "A Critical Survey of Recent Research in Chinese Economic History." *Economic History Review*, 53(1), 2000. pp.1-28.

BA HISTORY HONOURS  
SEMESTER III  
Paper 7: Political History of Medieval India: 12<sup>th</sup> to Mid 16<sup>th</sup> CE

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Credit: 04  
CLASS ID: 12 BHS 03  
COURSE ID BHS 303

**UNIT I**

**EARLY MEDIEVAL POLITIES IN THE 11<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

1. The Rajput states in western and central India: An overview.
2. The Regional states in Peninsular India: An overview.
3. Historiography of the Early Medieval Period- Part I: Dark Age, regional states vis-à-vis the empire, centralization versus fragmentation, the emergence of a region.
4. Historiography of the Early Medieval Period- Part II: debate on feudalism, theory of segmentary state, concept of integrative polity.

**UNIT II**

**THE DELHI SULTANATE (1206-1526): POLITICAL EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION**

1. Sources for the Study of Delhi Sultanate; historiography of Turkish invasions and conquest.
2. Territorial expansion and consolidation: administrative measures of Iltutmish, Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
3. Rebellions and disintegration; relations with rural chiefs.
4. Political structure of regional Sultanates; the Lodis (1451-1526).

**UNIT III**

**THE DELHI SULTANATE (1206-1526): FORMS OF POLITICAL LEGITIMIZATION AND CONTROL**

1. Theory of Kingship and forms of political legitimization; relations with *ulama* and *sufis*.
2. *Iqta* System and the changing composition of the ruling class.
3. Architecture as representation of power and hierarchy: the Qutb Complex and the settlement of Mehrauli; urban settlements of Delhi.

**UNIT IV**

**VIJAYANAGAR KINGDOM AND SOUTH INDIA**

1. Sources for the study of medieval south Indian History.

2. Emergence and growth of Vijaynagar Empire (1336- 1565); Vijaynagar-Bahmani relations, disintegration of Vijaynagar Empire.
3. Interpreting the nature of Vijaynagar state- *Nayankara* system and *Amaram*.
4. Political structure of post-Vijaynagar Nayak states.

### Reading List

1. Mohammad Habib and K.A. Nizami, eds., *A Comprehensive History of India*, Volume V (The Delhi Sultanate), New Delhi, Peoples' Publishing House, 1970. **(Also in Hindi and Urdu)**
2. Catherine B. Asher and Cynthis Talbot, *India before Europe*, Cambridge, 2006.
3. Hermann Kulke and Dietmar Rothermund, *A History of India*, London, Routledge, 1998. (relevant chapters).
4. *IGNOU reading materials for B.A. Program- EHI -03 and EHI-04. (Also in Hindi).*
5. Irfan Habib, *Medieval India: The study of a Civilization*, Delhi, UTB, 2007.
6. Peter Jackson, *The Delhi Sultanate: A Political and Military History*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1999.
7. Burton Stein, Peasant, *State and Society in Medieval South India*, Delhi, OUP, 1980.
8. Sunil Kumar, *The Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate*, Delhi, Permanent Black, 2008.
- 'Politics, the Muslim Community and Hindu-Muslim Relations Reconsidered: North India in the Early 13<sup>th</sup> century' in *Annals: Economies, Societies, Civilization*, 2005, pp. 239-264.
- 'Courts, capitals and kingship: Delhi and its sultans in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries CE' in Albrecht Fuess and Jan Peter Hartng, eds., *Court Cultures in the Muslim World*, London and New York: Routledge, 2011, pp. 123-148;
- 'Qutb and Modern Memory' in *The Present in Delhi's Pasts*, New Delhi; Three Essays, 2002, pp. 1-61.
9. Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui, *Authority and Kingship under the Sultans of Delhi (13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries)*, Delhi, Manohar, 2006.
10. Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui, *Composite Culture under the Sultanate of Delhi*, Primus Books, Delhi, 2012.
11. Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui, *Indo-Persian Historiography up to the thirteenth century*, Primus Books, Delhi, 2010.
12. H.K. Kaul, ed., *Historic Delhi, An Anthology*, Delhi, OUP, 1985.
13. Moulavi Zafar Hasan, *Monuments of Delhi, Lasting Splendour of the Great Mughals and Others*, Vol. 3, *Mahrauli Zail* and Vol. 4: *Badarpur Zail –Shahadra Zail*. New Delhi, Aryan Books International, 2008, 2<sup>nd</sup> rpt. P. 8
14. M. Athar Ali, 'Capital of the Sultans: Delhi during the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries', in R.E. Frykenberg, ed. *Delhi through the Ages. Selected Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society, in the Delhi Omnibus*, New Delhi, OUP, 2002.