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MIRAJ

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PREMIUM

## New Kings and Kingdoms Chapter-2

1. Who were Samantas ?

Ans = (a) By the seventh century there were big landlords or warrior chiefs in different regions of the subcontinent. Existing kings often acknowledged them as their subordinates or samantas.

(b) (i) They were expected to bring gifts for their kings and overlords,

(ii) Be present at their courts and

(iii) Provide them with military support.

(c) As samantas gained power and wealth, they declared themselves to be maha-samantas, mahamanbaleshvaras etc.

(d) Sometimes they asserted their independence from their overlords.

2. What was the Hiranya Garbha ritual who performed it?

Ans@ Hiranya-Garbha (literally, the golden womb). When this ritual was performed with the help of Brahmanes, it was thought to lead to the "rebirth" of the sacrificer as a Kshatriya, even if he was not one by birth.

(b) One such instance was that of the Rashtrakutas in the Deccan. ~~Initially~~ Initially they were subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka.

(c) In the mid-eighth century, Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, overthrew his Chalukya overlord and performed this ritual.

3. Give two examples of Brahmanas who gave up their traditional professions and took to arms.

Ans= Kadamba Mayurasharma and Gujara Gujara-Pratihara Harichandra

were Brahmanas who gave up their traditional professions and took to arms, successfully establishing kingdoms in Karnataka and Rajasthan respectively.

4. Give two examples of high sounding titles adopted by the new kings.

Ans = Maharaj - adhiraja (great kings, overlord of kings), Tribhuvana - Chakravartin (Lord of the three worlds).

5. How were resources collected by the new kings?

Ans (a) Resources were obtained from the producers, that is, peasants, cattle-keepers, artisans, who were often forced to surrender part of what they produced.

(b) Sometimes these were claimed as "rent" due to a lord who asserted that he owned the land.

(c) Revenue was also collected from traders.

6. How were these resources used?

Ans@ These resources were used to finance the king's establishment, as well as

(b) For the construction of temples and

(c) Forts.

(d) They were also used to fight wars.

7. Who collected the revenue?

Ans@ The functionaries for ~~for~~ collecting revenue were generally recruited from influential families.

(b) Positions were often hereditary.

(c) This was true about the army as well.

(d) In many cases, close relatives of the king held these positions.

8. What are Prashastis?

Ans@ Prashastis contain details that may

not be literally true.

~~a) Pro~~

a) Prashastis contain details that may not be literally true.

b) These were composed by learned ~~Brahma~~ Brahmanas.

c) Kings often rewarded Brahmanas by grants of land.

d) These were recorded on copper plates, which were given to those who ~~received~~ received the land.

9. Who was Kalhana? How was his Prashasti different?

Ans) Kalhana was an author, who in the twelfth century wrote a long Sanskrit poem containing the history of kings who ruled over Kashmir.

b) He used a variety of sources, including inscriptions, documents, eyewitness accounts, and earlier ~~account~~ accounts.

histories, to write his account.

© Unlike the writers of ~~praha~~prashastis, he was often critical about ~~their~~ rulers and their policies.

10. What was the tripartite struggle?

Ans = (a) The city of Kanauj in the Ganga Valley was a prized area because it was very ~~stragg~~ strategically placed.

(b) For centuries, rulers belonging to the Gurjara-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties fought over control over Kanauj.

(c) Because there were ~~there~~ three 'parties' in this long drawn & conflict, historians often describe it as the "tripartite struggle".

11. When rulers attacked one another's kingdoms why did they target the temples?

Ans = (a) Rulers also tried to demonstrate their power and resources by building large

temples which were sometimes extremely rich

(b) So, when they attacked one another's ~~king~~ kingdoms, they often chose to target temples.

12. Define Sultan.

Ans = Sultan is an Arabic ~~Term~~ Term meaning ruler.

13. Who was Sultan Muhammad of Ghazni? What ~~to~~ did he do with the looted wealth?

Ans (a) Sultan ~~Mahmud~~ Mahmud of Ghazni, ruled from 997 to 1030, and extended control over parts of Central Asia, Iran and the north-western part of the subcontinent.

(b) He raided the subcontinent almost every year — his targets were wealthy temples including that of Somnath Temple & Gujarat.

(c) Much of the wealth Mahmud carried

away was used to create a splendid capital city at Ghazni.

14. Who was al-Biruni?

Ans (a) Sultan ~~Alauddin~~ Mahmud of Ghazni was interested in finding out more about the people he conquered, and entrusted a scholar named al-Biruni to write an account of the subcontinent.

(b) This Arabic work, known as the Kitab-Al-Hind, remains an ~~an~~ important source for historians.

(c) He consulted Sanskrit ~~scholar~~ scholars to prepare this account.

15. Who were the ~~Chahama~~ Chahamanas?

Ans (a) They were rulers who engaged in warfare later known as the Chauhan, who ruled over the region around Delhi and Ajmer.

(b) The best known Chahamanas ruler was Prithviraj III (1168-1192) who defeated



an Afghan ruler named Sultan Mahmud Muhammad Ghori in 1191, but lost to him in the very next year, 1192.

16. How did the Cholas rise to power?

Ans - (a) A minor chief family known as the Muttaraiyar held power in the Kaveri Delta.

(b) They were subordinate to the Pallavas in Kanchipuram.

(c) Vijayalaya, who belonged to the ancient chief family of the Cholas from Uraiyur, captured the delta from the Muttaraiyar in the middle of the ninth century.

(d) He built the town of Thanjavur and a temple for Goddess Nishukhandini there.

(e) The successors of Vijayalaya conquered neighbouring regions and the kingdom grew in size and power.

(f) The Pandya and the Pallava territories

to the south and the north were made part of this kingdom.

17. Who were Rajaraja I and Rajendra Chola?

Ans: (a) Rajaraja I, considered the most powerful Chola ruler, became king in 985 and expanded control over most of the areas.

(b) He also reorganised the administration of the empire.

(c) Rajaraja's son Rajendra I continued his policies and even raided the Ganga valley, Sri Lanka and countries of Southeast Asia, developing a navy for these expeditions.

18. Who built the big temples of Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram?

Ans: They were built by Rajaraja and Rajendra.