

# **THE KHALJI DYNASTY**

## **(1290-1320)**

### **PART-1**

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# INTRODUCTION

The Khalji dynasty was a Muslim dynasty of Turkish origin. The advent of the Khalji dynasty *marked the zenith of Muslim imperialism in India.* Jalaluddin Firoz Khalji was the founder and became second dynasty to rule the Delhi Sultanate. They were vassals of the Slave / Mamluk dynasty and served the Sultan of Delhi, during the reign of emperor Balban. At first Jalaluddin entered the services of Balban as the head of the royal body guard. He also served as the warden of the marches in the north-west and had fought many successful expeditions against the Mongols. Balban's successors were

# INTRODUCTION

murdered, and the Slave dynasty succumbed to the factional conflicts within the Slave dynasty and the Muslim nobility. As the struggle between the factions raged, Jalaluddin Firuz Khalji led a coup and murdered the 17 year old Mamluk successor Kaiqubad, the last ruler of Slave dynasty.

The *Khalji revolution* marked the overthrow of the Slave dynasty and the establishment of the rule of Khalji dynasty in 1290. Jalaluddin Firuz Khalji was accepted as Sultan by a faction of Muslim amirs of Turkish, Persian, Arabic factions and Indian-Muslim aristocrats.

# INTRODUCTION

It inaugurated an era of ceaseless conquests, unique experiments in the state craft and of incomparable literary activity. The brief period of Khalji rule, saw important changes in the socio-economic and administrative structure of the Delhi sultanate.

# ALAUDDIN KHALJI (1296-1316)

His original name was Jauna Khan. He was nephew and son-in law of Jalaluddin Khalji(1290-1296) the founder of Khalji dynasty. Jalaluddin, out of compassion and affection, made Alaluddin as the governor of Kara. It was here that the seeds of ambition were sown in Alauddin's mind. Alauddin had accumulated a vast treasure by invading Devagiri in the Deccan. Jalaluddin had gone to visit his nephew at Kara in the hope of getting hold of this treasure. During the reception there

# ALAUDDIN KHALJI (1296-1316)

Alauddin Khalji treacherously murdered his father in law. Jalaluddin, then assumed the power as Sultan. Alauddin successfully captured power, but he faced a series of problems. He faced all the difficulties with great vigor and determination and came out successful. He won over most of the nobles and soldiers to his side by a lavish use of gold. Alauddin adopted methods of utmost severity and ruthlessness to overawe his opponents. Most of the

# ALAUDDIN KHALJI (1296-1316)

nobles who had defected to him by lure of gold were either killed or dismissed and their properties confiscated. Severe punishments were given to the rebellious members of his own family. Alauddin Khalji was a great imperialist. Within a span of 20 years, the armies of the Delhi Sultanate not only brought Gujarat and Malwa under their control and subdued most of the princes of the Rajasthan. They also overran the Deccan and South India up to Madurai.

## **ALAUDDIN KHALJI (1296-1316)**

In due course, an attempt was made to bring this vast area under the direct administrative control of Delhi. In his conquests, he was greatly helped by his four trusted generals viz., Ulugh Khan, Zafar Khan, Nusrat Khan and Alap Khan.

# ALAUDDIN KHALJI (1296-1316)

- ❖ Alauddin Khalji had to face more than six Mongol invasions. The first two were successful. But the third Mongol invader Khwaja came up to Delhi but they were prevented from entering the capital Delhi.
- ❖ The next three Mongol invasions were dealt with severely.
- ❖ The seriousness of the Mongol invasions forced Alauddin to follow certain effective measures.
- ❖ Not only the old forts in the Punjab, Multan and Sindh were repaired but also new forts were built.

# ALAUDDIN'S MONGOL POLICY

- ❖ These forts were garrisoned and adequately equipped with troops. The most capable and trusted generals were placed in charge of these forts.
- ❖ Establishment of new workshop to manufacture weapons and to produce them in large quantity.
- ❖ A highly efficient spy system was introduced and this enabled the Sultan to get information regarding the latest activities of the Mongols in the north-western frontier.

# ALAUDDIN'S MONGOL POLICY

- ❖ Raised a very huge and centrally organized army. He struck terror in the hearts of the Mongols by inflicting the most barbaric and brutal punishments. He resorted to wholesale massacre of Mongols.
- ❖ According to Ferishta all the Mongols women and children were taken as captives. They were sent to different parts of the kingdom and were sold in the market as slaves.

# ALAUDDIN'S MONGOL POLICY

- ❖ It was in one of these raids, the great general Zafar Khan was killed and on one of the occasions even Alauddin took shelter in the Fort of Siri.
- ❖ The last Mongol invasion was severely put down in by general Ghazi Malik and thereafter Mongols ceased their raids.
- ❖ Thus the Mongol policy of Alauddin succeeded in achieving the desired results.

(To be continued)