

**ESTABLISHMENT OF TURKISH RULE IN INDIA
(PART-1)
B.A. PART-3, PAPER-V**

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INTRODUCTION

The Arabs certainly established initial contact between Islam and India but the credit for establishing Muslim rule in India goes to Turks. The invasion of the Turks into India took place in two distinct phases. The first phase of invasions was carried out by Mahmud, the ruler of Ghazni between 1000 and 1027 C.E. Mahmud led military campaigns across a vast area in northern India that extended from the coast of Gujrat to the Ganges valley. After about one hundred and fifty years, the ruler of Ghour Shihabuddin Muhammad again conducted military campaigns in India.

INTRODUCTION

Between 1175 and 1206 C.E. he and his two main military generals Aibak and Ibn Bakhtiyar Khalji conquered the plains of North India extending from Punjab to Bengal and established the power of the Turks in North India. The assassination of Ghouri in 1206 and the subsequent division of his empire led to the establishment of the first Turkish ruled states in India, which later became known as the Delhi Sultanate. With this the history of Turkish rule in India began.

THE CAUSES OF MUHAMMAD GHOURI INVASION

Muhammad was an ambitious, greedy aggressive ruler. Like all great rulers of the age he wanted to expand his empire for power and glory.

The royal families of Ghour and Ghazni were hereditary enemies and by that time, the Ghaznavids still ruled in the Punjab. Muhammad wanted to recover Sindh and Punjab in India, so that he could finish remaining strength of Ghanvavids.

The rising power of the Khwarizmi Empire severely limited the Central Asian ambitions of the Ghourids. Khurasan, which was the bone of contention between the two, after being conquered by the Khwarizmi Shah left no option for the Ghourids but to look for expansion towards India. Muhammad also desired to acquire wealth from India and also to extend the sway of Islam.

POLITICAL CONDITION OF INDIA ON THE EVE OF GHOURI INVASION

Nearly 150 Years had lapsed after the last invasion of Mahmud in 1027. Unfortunately, Indian did not learn any useful political lesson from Ghaznis rides and they failed to develop foresight necessary to meet the new challenge. There was not a single remarkable change in the condition of India expect changes in ruling dynasties and territories. Politically India was divided into many kingdoms both in North and South. The North India witnessed the rule of many Rajput princes. The chief among them were (a) Prithviraj Chauhan was ruling over Delhi and Ajmer (b) Jayachandra was the ruler of Kanauj (c) the Solanki king Mularaja II was ruling over Gujarat (d) the Sena king Lakshmanasena was ruling over Bengal etc., They indulged in constant internecine warfare which ultimately weakened all the Rajaput states.

INVASIONS

Muhammad Ghouri's first invasions were on the Multan and fortress of Uch, with a view to bring back the Muslim states of India and conquered it easily in 1175. In 1178, he attacked on Anhilwara in Gujarat, but was defeated by its king Mularaja II. Soon Muhammad realized that the right way to enter Hindustan was through Punjab. Muhammad conquered Peshawar in 1179 and Sialkot in 1185. Finally, he marched against Lahore defeated its ruler Kushrau Shah. Thus, he conquered Sindh and Punjab, ultimately ended the Ghaznavid empire.

FIRST BATTLE OF TARAIN 1191

The annexation of Punjab, the boundaries of the kingdom of Muhammad and Prithviraj, the Chauhan ruler of Delhi and Ajmer touched each other. In 1191 Muhammad attacked and captured Bhatinda, a part of Prithviraj dominion. This led Muhammad to come into direct clash with Prithviraj Chauhan one of the most powerful Rajput rulers. The enemies met each other in the battle field at Tarain, 80 miles from Delhi. This was known as first battle of Tarain. Muhammad Ghouri was defeated in the battle and also wounded in the arm. The Muslim army was routed and battle was completely won over by the Rajputs.

SECOND BATTLE OF TARAIN 1192

Muhammad was not dishearten and prepared his army for the next attack to avenge his defeat with much strategy and power. Prithviraj also organized Hindu confederacy to resist to Muhammad. In 1192 both the armies met again in the same battle field of Tarain. This time Muhammad defeated Prithviraj and killed.

The second battle of Tarain is well known as one of the turning points in Indian history. The battle opened the way for further conquests of India by the Muslims. Ajmer and Delhi were occupied by Muhammad.

After the battle of Tarain, Muhammad appointed Qutubuddin Aibak, one of his slaves, as the Viceroy of the Indian provinces. He consolidated the Indian conquests of his master, conquered Meerut, Bulandshahar, Aligarh etc. made Delhi as the capital in 1193.

BATTLE OF CHANDAWAR 1194

In 1194 Muhammad Ghouri led another expedition against Jayachandra of Kanauj. The battle between Muhammad and Jayachandra took place near Chandawar on the river Yamuna between Etawah and Kannauj. King Jayachandra was defeated and killed in the battle. According to R.S. Sharma “the fall of Jayachandra made Muhammad Ghor the master of political as well as religious capitals of Hindusthan – Kanauj and Banaras”.

After successful campaigns Muhammad rested the responsibility of consolidating the conquests in India on his Governor Qutubuddin Aibak. Aibak as viceroy extended the influence of Muhammad over many Rajput states of Gwalior, Ajmer, Anhilwara, Badaun, Banaras, Bundhelkhand and Kalinjar.

Muhammad-bin-Baktiyar Khalji, a general of Ghouri, led a daring military expedition against Bihar and Bengal.

In between 1202 - 1205 he attacked Odantapuri and plundered Buddhist Monastery, destroyed the university of Nalanda and Vikramasila and defeated Lakshmansena of Bengal.

Muhammad Ghori conquered India but did not declare himself as Independent King of India and remained a loyal brother to Ghiyasuddin. He became ruler of vast empire in 1202 after the death of his brother Ghiyasuddin and ruled west Asia as well as India until his assassination in 1206. Muhammad came back to India in 1205 and fought a battle against Khokars. After defeating Khokars Muhammad Ghori immediately rushed back to Ghazni, but he was not fated to reach his homeland alive. He was assassinated by the Khokars on the bank of river Indus in 1206, while engaging his evening prayers.

Muhammad Ghazni opened the gate for the Turkish conquests in India, but the task of consolidation was done by Muhammad Ghouri. Muhammad was one of the most remarkable figures of medieval history. He was a man of vision, almost all historians have praised him for his qualities of head and heart. Muhammad Ghouri rose from smaller beginnings than Mahmud Ghazni, but he carried arms further and left indisputable footprints in India. His greatest achievement was the establishment of Turkish empire in India which added a fresh chapter to the Indian history. With his death the central Asian empire was broken into pieces. Qutubuddin Aibak, one of the slaves of Muhammad Ghori became the master of his Indian provinces and laid foundation for Delhi Sultanate in 1206.

(To be Continued)