



# KHALJI IMPERIALISM (PART-1)

## खलजी साम्राज्यवाद (भाग-1)

(UG , SEM-4, PAPER MJC-7)

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# INTRODUCTION(परिचय)

After the death of Balban, his grandson Kaiqubad (1287-1290) was established on the throne by Fakhruddin, the kotwal of Delhi, who assumed high political authority during the last days of Balban. But Kaiqubad was killed by the Khalji family, which saw the end of the Mamluk dynasty and the beginning of the Khalji Dynasty at the throne of Delhi. The Khaljis served under the Ilbari dynasty of Delhi. Malik Firuz (later on Jalaluddin Khalji) was the founder of the Khalji dynasty who

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was originally the *Ariz-Mumalik* appointed by Kaiqubad during the days of the decline of the Ilbari Dynasty.

## Khalji Revolution

The Khaljis ruled from 1290 to 1320. Barani does not consider them as Turks. The most acceptable view is that they were also Turks. As they lived in a place called Khalj in Afghanistan for a long period they had imbibed the customs and manners of the Afghans. They, therefore, appeared to be more Afghan than Turk. The replacement of Balban's dynasty by Jalaluddin Khalji in 1220 is described as Kalji revolution.

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This revolution is important in many ways.

The Khaljis were not Ilbari Turks who regarded all others as inferior and therefore unfit to rule the country. They were not nobles. Therefore, their rise to power marked the rejection of the principle that ordinary man could not assume royal power. Till now the Sultans of Delhi owed their positions to heredity, election by nobles or election by the people. The Khaljis got into the possession of the throne of Delhi through a military coup. So they decided to defend it with military force.

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Thus was established a militarist rule in the country. The Khalji revolution was responsible for the announcement of a new theory of kingship.

Alauddin Khalji declared that what he considered good for the people he would do and that he would not care whether his act was in conformity with Islamic law or not.

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The Khalji revolution was followed by the introduction of a system of price-control. It was during the time of the Khaljis that the Muslim forces crossed the Vindhyas and conducted a successful expedition into the South. It was under them that the Turkish imperialism reached its zenith. They were the people who prevented the establishment of the Mongol rule in India. There was a great outburst of cultural activity under the Khaljis.

(To be continued)