

# **TARIKH-I-FIROZSHAHI AS A SOURCE OF HISTORY (PART-2)**

**UG (HISTORY) SEM-4 PAPER MJC-7**

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# TARIKH-I-FIROZSHAHI

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Barani displays himself a shameless flatterer when he describes Firozshah. He finds divine attributes in the person of Firozshah and considers his court as the court of Allah. He lavishly praises the Sultan for his various works of public welfare. If we judge Barani by the canons laid down by him in the preface to Tarikh-i-Firozshahi, he stands condemned as historian.

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His other historical work Fatawa-i-Jahandari, which he compiled after Tarikh-i-Firozshahi. It analyses the qualities, virtues and talents that a good monarch should possess. He also describes the principles of administration and ideals of government and illustrates them by examples from the history of Iran and other Muslim countries. Barani held that his work was superior to the work of earlier writers. He says' "old writers had many works on administration, but the way in which I have explained the principles and ordinances of administration

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for the guidance of kings, ministers, Maliks and Amirs has not been done so far by any writer”. While it cannot be denied that the detailed account provided by Barani of Sultan, their courts and how they framed their polices as well as the description of the contemporary conditions of immense value in forming an idea about the social and economic conditions of the people in the fourteenth century.

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We notice a number of defects in the historical writings of Tarikh-i-Firozshahi, these include (i) description of events, which were not his liking, in brief, and over-play of the thing which he liked; (ii) His narration lacks Chronological order. His account of the reign of Mohammad bin Tughlaq is an evidence of it; (iii) His work lacks order and arrangement; (iv) his vision was coloured and he interpreted the various measures and policies in terms of his religion (v) He deals with personality and character of the Sultan and other Amirs in details and does not provide detailed accounts of the wars, battles and the life of the people: (vi) Sometimes he makes contradictory statements which makes a proper assessment difficult.

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In spite of the above shortcomings, Barani works have great historical value. Though he had his prejudices, drawback, weakness and obstructions, his account of the Sultan is reliable. Compared with others he is more authentic especially for the Khalji period.