

North South University

Spring -2016

Department of History and Philosophy

Course Title: History of the Indo-Bangla

Course Code: 202.1

Course Teacher :ASz (Dr. AKM Shahnawaz)

Office-NAC-1040

Office Hours: 09:00-09:30 AM & 11:20am-12:50 PM

Lecture Days : MW

1. Introduction to the class and the course

2. Sources of South Asian History [An Overview of Sources of Ancient, Medieval and Modern History]

The most baffling problem that confronts a historian of ancient India is the absence of any regular historical chronicle. Despite the existence of Vedic and Puranic literature, the authors of which were men of profound learning, ancient India did not produce a Herodotus or Thucydides, Livy or Tacitus. The sources of Medieval Indian history is richer than the sources of Ancient India. There are plenty of written records and memoirs. They are not without limitation. In fact, a large number of Muslim chroniclers enjoyed the patronage of the ruling princes and looked hardly beyond the court and the capital. There is no shortage of source-material for constructing the history of modern India. There is plenty of information available on the political, socio-economic and cultural developments in the country.

Ancient Period

3. Ancient Indian Civilizations; the Religious Upheavals in Ancient India [The Indus Valley Civilization; the Vedic Civilization and Culture; Jainism & Buddhism]

The Indus Valley Civilization dates to 5000 BCE and grew steadily throughout the lower Gangetic Valley region southwards and northwards to Malwa. The cities of this period were larger than contemporary settlements in other countries, were situated according to cardinal points, and were built of mud bricks, often kiln-fired. India has long been known as a very spiritual, religious heavy area of the world. In India, religion is a way of life. It is an integral part of the entire Indian tradition. For the majority of Indians, religion permeates every aspect of life, from common-place daily chores to education and politics.

4. The Maurya Empire

The Maurya Empire, also known as the Mauryan Empire, was a geographically extensive Iron age historical power in ancient India, ruled by the Maurya dynasty from 322–185 BCE. The Maurya Empire was one of the largest empires of the world in its time. It was also the largest empire ever in the Indian subcontinent. Under Chandragupta and his successors, internal and external trade, agriculture and economic activities, all thrived and expanded across India thanks to the creation of a single and efficient system of finance, administration, and security.

5. The Imperial Guptas

The Gupta Empire was an ancient India empire, founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta, which existed at its zenith from approximately 320 to 550 CE and covered much of the Indian Subcontinent. The peace and prosperity created under the leadership of the Guptas enabled the pursuit of scientific and artistic endeavours. This period is called the Golden Age of India and was marked by extensive invention and discoveries in science, technology, engineering, art, dialectic, literature, logic, mathematics, astronomy, religion and philosophy that crystallized the elements of what is generally known as Hindu culture.

6. Harshavardhana of Thaneshwar

After the fall of Imperial Gupta many provinces and feudatory chiefs declared their independence and the whole of North India was divided into a number of independent states. Among them the important ones were the Later Guptas ruling over Malwa region, the Maukharis ruling over the territories corresponded to the present Uttar Pradesh, the Maitrakas who were ruling over Saurashtra and the Vardhanas ruling over Thaneshwar. It was Harshavardhana belonging to the Vardhana dynasty who was destined to be the last powerful Hindu ruler of north India

7. The advent of Islam in India

Islam arrived in north India in the 12th century with Turkic invasions and has since become a part of India's religious and cultural heritage. Over the centuries, there has been significant integration of Hindu and Muslim cultures across India and the Muslims have played a prominent role in India's economic rise and cultural influence. The Muslim invaders did not force conversion to Islam and permitted the Hindu caste system to continue. Hindu society had a highly feudal structure, and its warlords spent a lot of time fighting each other. This allowed the Muslim invaders to progress further south with few challenges.

Medieval period

8. Foundation of the Delhi

The Delhi Sultanate was a Muslim kingdom based mostly in Delhi that stretched over large parts of the Indian Subcontinent for 320 years (1206–1526). Five dynasties ruled over Delhi Sultanate sequentially, the first four of which were of Turkic origin and the last was the Afghan Lodi. The Lodi dynasty was replaced by the Mughal dynasty. The five dynasties were the Mamluk dynasty (1206–90); the Khalji dynasty (1290–1320); the Tughlaq Dynasty (1320–1414); the Sayyid (1414–51); and the Afghan Lodi dynasty (1451–1526).

9. Khalji Imperialism and the Tughlaq Dynasty

The *Khalji* was a Muslim dynasty of Turkic origin, which ruled large parts of South Asia between 1290 and 1320. It was founded by Jala ud din Firuz Khalji and became the second dynasty to rule the Delhi Sultanate of India. The dynasty is known for their faithlessness and ferocity, as well as their raids into Hindu south and defending the Sultanate against the repeated Mongol invasions of India.

The Tughlaq dynasty also referred to as Tughluq or Tughluk dynasty, was a Muslim dynasty of Turkic origin which ruled over the Delhi Sultanate in medieval India. Its reign started in 1320 in Delhi when Ghazi Malik assumed the throne under the title of Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq. The dynasty ended in 1413.

10 Society and Culture during the Delhi Sultanate

Muslim society during the period was dominated by the Turkish rulers and nobles who sought to maintain their position not only against non-Muslims or the Muslims of indigenous origin, but also against other non-Turkish immigrants, or over other Turks whose long separation from the Turkish homeland marked them off themselves. During this time they produced not only three great rulers, Iltutmish, Ala-ud-din Khalji, and Balban, but also a great poet—Amir Khusrau. The explanation is probably that with the conversion of the Mongols to Islam and the reduction of chaos in Central Asia, inspiration from Persia was now available in architecture as in literature.

11. The Mughal Rule in India Mughal dynasty dynasty of Turkic-Mongol origin that ruled most of northern India from the early 16th to the mid-18th century, after which it continued to exist as a considerably reduced and increasingly powerless entity until the mid-19th century. The Mughal dynasty was notable for its more than two centuries of effective rule over much of India, for the ability of its rulers, who through seven generations maintained a record of unusual talent, and for its administrative organization.

12. Mughal Administration and architecture

The Mughals ruled in India for around 200 years. The Mughal Emperors built an empire and laid the foundations of administration system upon which the British built further. The Mughal dynasty was established with the crushing victory of Babur at Panipat in 1526. During his short five-year reign, Babur took considerable interest in erecting buildings, though few have survived. Babur's son Humayun was dissolute and wayward in his early years and the Mughal empire fell to the Suris in 1540. The tomb of Sher Shah Suri is an architectural masterpiece that was to have a profound impact on the evolution of Indo-Islamic funerary architecture. Humayun reestablished the Mughal empire in 1555. The remarkable flowering of art and architecture under the Mughals is due to several factors. The empire itself provided a secure framework within which artistic genius could flourish, and it commanded wealth and resources unparalleled in Indian history. The Mughal rulers themselves were extraordinary patrons of art, whose intellectual calibre and cultural outlook was expressed in the most refined taste.

Modern India

13. The Decline of the Mughal Empire

The Mughal empire which was established by Babur in 1526 AD. and which flourished during the regime of his worthy successors like Akbar, Jahangir, Shahjahan met its bitter end just after the reign of Aurangzeb. The empire though began to crack during the reign of Aurangzeb; its disintegration became rapid after his death during the reign of his weak successors. They failed to encounter internal problems and foreign invaders. However, there were certain factors which contributed a lot for its disintegrations.

14. Indian States and Society in the Eighteenth Century

The history of India in the 18th century demonstrates the procedure of deterioration and eventual collapse of a once powerful empire (Mughal), and its gradual colonization by the foreign power. During that period India had to endure one of the most chaotic periods in its entire history. The Mughal Empire, which had dominated the Indian subcontinent for two centuries, began to decline with internal and external pressures. Following the decline of the empire, numerous local powers strived for independence, and foreign powers began to invade the area, further deteriorating the situation of India and promoting additional disorder.

15. The Advent of the Europeans in India and the British Conquest [The Portuguese, Dutch, Danes, English and French Settlements in India]

All of us know that the British ruled our country for almost two hundred years. They first came to India in search of trading opportunities, but circumstances made them the masters of this vast country. You also know that the British were not the only trading nation to come to India. There were a few other European countries who aspired to establish commercial relations with her. In this unit, we shall discuss the reasons behind the coming of the Europeans to India. We shall also learn how some of these foreigners transformed themselves from traders to rulers.

16. Socio Religious Reform Movements in India

In the history of modern India, the socio religious reforms occupy a significant place. Social reformers like Raja Rammohun Roy, Swami Dayanand Sarawathi and Swami Vivekananda were responsible for the social and cultural awakening in India. The spread of liberal ideas of the west provided further stimulus for the emergence of freedom movements. These movements introduced important changes in social and religious life of the people of India.

17. The War of Independence 1857: Causes, Nature, the Weaknesses of the Revolt and its Suppression.

The First War of Indian Independence was a period of rebellions in northern and central India against British power in 1857–1858. The British usually refer to the rebellion of 1857 as the Indian Mutiny or the Sepoy Mutiny. It is widely acknowledged to be the first-ever united rebellion against colonial rule in India. The uprising grew into a wider rebellion to which the Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah, the nominal ruler of India, lent his nominal support. Other main leaders were Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi and Tantia Tope. The British cruelly put down the uprising, slaughtering civilians indiscriminately.

18. Political Awakening and the Growth of Nationalism in India: Indian National Congress; Partition of Bengal; The Muslim League

From its foundation on 28 December 1885 until the time of independence of India on 15 August 1947, the Indian National Congress was the largest and most prominent Indian public organization, and central and defining influence of the Indian Independence Movement.

The Partition of Bengal was promoted for administrative regions; Bengal was as large as France but with a significantly larger population. The eastern region was thought to be neglected and under-governed. By splitting the province, an improved administration could be established in the east where, subsequently, the population would benefit from new schools and employment opportunities. Hindus tended to oppose partition, which was more popular among Muslims.

The Muslims of India were greatly disappointed by the anti-Muslim stance that the Congress seemed to have adopted. The events following the partition of Bengal and Urdu-Hindu controversy strengthened the desire of the Muslims to organize themselves politically as separate community. The birth of All India Muslim League at Dacca on 30th December 1906 came as an expression of that desire.

19. Division of the Subcontinent in 1947.

The Partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947 into two postcolonial states of India and Pakistan was a cataclysmic event, accompanied by unprecedented genocidal violence and one of the largest displacements of people in the twentieth century. The Partition was a climax within a pattern of recurrent violence in the name of Hindus and Muslims for several generations before 1947, a pattern that recurs at lower intensity continually. The sense of difference between the religiously defined social categories began in the medieval period -- though the Mughal period saw wide-ranging cooperative activity too. The colonial period saw a major change of phase, with heightened insecurities amidst large changes in polity, economy, and society, and the rise of influential institutions for religious revival on both sides.

20. Pakistani era 1947-1971

The political history of Pakistan is the narrative and analysis of political events, ideas, movements, and leaders of Pakistan. Pakistan gained independence from the United Kingdom on 14 August 1947, when British India was divided by the United Kingdom, in a region what is commonly referred to as the South Asia. Since its independence, Pakistan has had a colorful yet turbulent political history at times, often characterized by martial law and inefficient governments.

Pakistan had a severe shortage of trained administrative personnel, as most members of the pre-independence Indian Civil Service were Hindus or Sikhs who opted to belong to India at partition. Rarer still were Muslim Bengali's who had any past administrative experience. As a result, high-level posts in Dhaka, including that of governor general, were usually filled by West Pakistanis or by refugees from India who had adopted Pakistani citizenship. The inability of the politicians to provide a stable government was largely a result of their mutual suspicions. Loyalties tended to be personal, ethnic, and provincial rather than national and issue oriented.

21. Feed back

Recommended texts:

Wolpert, Stanley. 2000. *A new History of India* (6th edition), Oxford University Press: New York.

Bose, Sugata and Jalal, Ayesha. 1998. *Modern South Asia; History, Culture, and Political Economy*, Routledge: London.

R.C. Majumdar, *History & Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. 1. (The Vedic Age)
 R. C. Majumdar & Others, *An Advanced History of India*.
 A. L. Basham, *The Wonder that was India*.
 S. N. Sen, *Ancient Indian History and Civilization*
 D. N. Jha, *Ancient India: An Introductory Outline*.
 A. B. M. Habibullah, *The Foundation of Muslim Rule in India*
 Ishwari Prasad, *History of Medieval India*
 S. Lane – Poole, *Medieval India Under Mohammadan Rule*
 R.C. Majumdar (ed.), *History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. VI: The Delhi Sultanate
 Azizur Rahman Mallick, *British Policy and the Muslims in Bengal*
 S. N. Sen, *History of the Freedom Movement of India, 1857-1947*
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Learning objectives:

After completion of the course the student should be able to:

- Understanding the history of Indian subcontinent.
- Understanding the deferent phases (from ancient to modern) of the historical development.
- Possible to know the administrative development of India.
- Create conception about socio-cultural life of the Indian people
- Discuss the movements of the Indian people.

Teaching method:

- *Mainly classroom lecture with multimedia projection
- *Feedback topic discussion with the student
- * Special presentation program

Grading Procedure:

There will be two Mid-term Exams based on lectures, notes and required reading. The exams include multiple choice (MCQ), short type or and brief essay type questions. The university will decide the final examination.

Course Requirement:

Quiz 10, Mid-term-1: 25, Mid-term-2: 25, Class Attendance 05, Final Exam 35, Total-100.

Notes:

- * It is student's responsibility to be present for classes, quizzes, mid-terms and final exam.
- * There is no make-up for mid-terms and final exam.

Quiz Calendar

Quiz-1 February, 5th, 2015

Quiz-2 February, 26th, 2015

Quiz-3 March, 12th, 2015

Grading policy: A 93 & above, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76,

C-70-72, D+ 67-69, D 60-66, F below 60.