TRACING CHANGES THROUGH A THOUSAND YEARS

I. POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. This chapter tells us about some of those major historical changes which took place in India from second half of the 8th century up to first half of the 18th century or we can say that changes which took place during the medieval period of the Indian history.

2. Historians have used different sources to learn about this age. During this age, there were no printing press. People used to make copies from original copies by writing with their hands. They had to consult different manuscripts of the same text and that’s why biases came in the writings of historians.

3. A number of political, economical, social and cultural changes came during this period. For example, this period saw many vast empires as that of Cholas, Khaljis, Tughluqs, Mughals etc.

4. Hundreds of small states were there in India which possessed distinct geographical dimensions, own cultural characteristics, language and art also.

5. A number of social and economic changes came during this age. For example, new variety of foods, new changes in the field of agricultural technology like use of Persian wheel and gradual clearing of new areas of forests and extension of agriculture.

6. Many European traders and travellers came to India during this period. India’s trade relations with European countries had far-reaching effects on India’s different aspects of life. Writings of European travellers provide an important source material for historians.

7. Caste system was an unique and powerful feature of the Indian society during this age. This period saw many new religions also along with some ancient religions and faiths. Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism were already existing in India. But Islam, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Sikhism, came to existence in India. Thus new religious movements—Sufism and Bhakti—were very popular in India during this period.

II. KEYWORDS

1. Medieval Period: The age from second half of the 8th century up to first half of the 18th century is known as the medieval period of the Indian history.

2. Medieval India: It is divided into two major phases—Early medieval and later medieval periods. During first phase—Cholas, Rajputs and Turks controlled the
reins of government, while during the second phase along with Rajputs, Mughals, Marathas and Sikhs controlled the reins of government.

3. **History**: The period for which we have written record is called history.

4. **Cartographer**: A person who makes maps is called cartographer.

5. **Foreigner**: One who belongs to another country is termed as foreigner.

6. **Historians**: The persons who study the past in chronological order are said to be historians.

7. **Dynasty**: Clan, the family.

8. **Pardesi or Ajnabi** means foreigner or the person who does not belong to the people of the locality or neighbourhood.

9. **Inscriptions**: Messages carved on the stone slabs or wooden slabs are known as inscriptions.

10. **Architecture**: Art of building structures or the science of building houses etc. is termed as architecture.

11. **Textual Records**: Written records.

12. **Archive**: Archive is a place where documents and manuscripts are stored.

13. **Scribe**: Scribe is the writer or a copier of a manuscript.

14. **Manuscript**: Hand written document is termed as manuscript.

15. **Nastaliq**: Clear handwriting.

16. **Shikaste**: Illegible handwriting or the handwriting which is difficult to be read and understood.

17. **Habitat**: Habitat refers to the environment of a region, the social and economic lifestyle of the residents.

18. **Patron**: Patron is an influential wealthy individual who supports another persons, who are an artiste, craftsmen, learned persons or a noble.

19. **Jatis**: Groups of people ranked on the basis of the backgrounds and occupations are called *jatis*.

20. **Jati Panchayat**: Regulations enforced by an assembly of elders in a village are called *jati panchayat*.

21. **Periodisation**: Dividing of a period of thousand years into several sub-periods is termed as periodisation.

22. **Region**: In the early times, vast area, governed and ruled by a ruler or a king was called, the region.

   Areas which possess distinct geographical dimensions, their own language and cultural characteristics are termed as regions.

23. **Autobiography**: Account of a person’s life written by himself (or herself) is called autobiography (आत्मकथा).

24. **Periodic**: Occurring or appearing at intervals.

25. **Chronicles**: Keeping record of historical events as they have taken place or happened during the ages.

26. **Khalifas**: *(Or Caliphs)* Legitimate leaders of Muslim community *(after Prophet Muhammad)* were called Khalifas *(or Caliphs)*.
27. **Chieftain**: Head or chief who governs a village (or many villages).

28. **Rajaputra**: Son of a ruler is called Rajaputra. *This word was (or is) used for a caste or jati also.*

29. **Cartography**: Science of making map is called cartography.

30. **Travelogue**: Any traveller’s account written by her or him while visiting any country or region, is called travelogue.

31. **Archaeology**: The study of historical or other remains of the past, is called archaeology.

32. **Saptsindhu**: The land (or region) covered with seven rivers is called Saptsindhu (सप्तसिंधु).

33. **Monuments**: Buildings belonging to past either dug out of the earth or found still standing are called monuments.

34. **Biography**: Written account of a person’s life by another author.

### III. NCERT TEXTBOOK EXERCISES

*(Pages 14–15)*

**IMAGINE**

*You are a historian. Choose one of the themes mentioned in this chapter, such as economic, social or political history, and discuss why you think it would be interesting to find out the history of that theme.*

**Ans.** Social and political history

- Period 700–1750 AD
  - Numerous developments
  - Period of economic, social, cultural and political changes
  - Period of great mobility.

**LET’S RECALL**

**Q. 1. Who was considered a ‘foreigner’ in the past?**

**Ans.** In the past, a person who was stranger or who was not a part of the society or culture was considered to be a ‘foreigner’.

- In Hindi a foreigner is termed as *pardesi*.
- In Persian a foreigner is called *ajnabi*.

**Q. 2. State whether true or false:**

(a) We do not find inscriptions for the period after 700.

(b) The Marathas asserted their political importance during this period.

(c) Forest-dwellers were sometimes pushed out of their lands with the spread of agricultural settlements.

(d) Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban controlled Assam, Manipur and Kashmir.

**Ans.** (a) False (b) True (c) True (d) False.
Q. 3. Fill in the blanks:
(a) Archives are places where ...................... are kept.
(b) ...................... was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
(c) ..........., ..........., ..........., ..........., and ................ were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.
Ans. (a) manuscripts/documents/records (b) Ziyauddin Barani (c) Potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee.

Q. 4. List some of the technological changes associated with this period.
Ans. Some of the technological changes associated with this period are:
- Persian wheel in irrigation.
- Spinning wheel in weaving.
- Fire arms in combat.
- New foods and beverages: Potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee.

Q. 5. What were some of the major religious developments during this period?
Ans. Some of the major religious developments during this period:
- Changes in Hinduism.
- Rise of Bhakti movement.
- Rise of Sufi movement.
- Rise of Sikhism
- Arrival of Muslim religion:
  - Shia Muslims.
  - Sunni Muslims.
- Hanafi
- Shafi'i Two schools of law for Muslims.

Q. 6. In what ways has the meaning of the term ‘Hindustan’ changed over the centuries?
Ans. The meaning of the term ‘Hindustan’ has changed over the centuries in the following manner:
- In the thirteenth century Minhaj-i Siraj used the term ‘Hindustan’. He meant areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between Ganga and Yamuna. He used this term in a political sense that were a part of the dominions of the Delhi Sultan.
- In the sixteenth century poet Babur used the term ‘Hindustan’ to describe the geography, the fauna and the culture of the inhabitants of the subcontinent.
- In fourteenth century poet Amir Khusrau used the term ‘Hind’ in the same sense as Babur did in the sixteenth century.
- ‘Hindustan’ did not carry the political and national meanings as the term ‘India’ does today.

Q. 7. How were the affairs of jatis regulated?
Ans. The affairs of jatis were regulated in the following way:
- Jatis formed their own rules and regulations.
There was an assembly of elders called *jati panchayat*.

It enforced the rules and regulations.

*Jatis* were also directed to follow the rules of the village.

Several villages were governed by a chieftain.

**Q. 8. What does the term pan-regional empire mean?**

**Ans.** Pan regional empire means the empire crossing its region and spreading over several other regions.

**LET’S DISCUSS**

**Q. 9. What are the difficulties historians face in using manuscripts?**

**Ans.** The historians face the following difficulties in using manuscripts:

- Manuscripts are in dissipated condition. If one touches them they get torn.
- Their copies have been distorted—a word here, a sentence there.
- Some are written in shikaste (illegible) script.

**Q. 10. How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?**

**Ans.** Historians divide the past into periods on the basis of continuity. This continuity is further based on:

(i) Coins  
(ii) Inscriptions  
(iii) Architecture  
(iv) Textual records

But they face difficulties in doing so as discontinuity exists.

(v) Textual records increased tremendously  
(vi) They gradually displaced other types of available information.

Thousand years of the human history (or of any country or region) witnessed a number of changes. After all, the ancient history of India is different from other two periods *i.e.*, the medieval period and modern period. Therefore describing the entire period as one historical unit is not the easy task.

**LET’S DO**

**Q. 11. Compare either Map 1 or Map 2 (See NCERT pages 1 and 2) with the present-day map of the subcontinent, listing as many similarities and differences as you can find.**

**Ans.** Comparison of either Map 1 or Map 2 with present-day map of the subcontinent.

**Map 1**

- Made in 1154 CE (*Christian Era*) by geographer al-Idrisi
- The section reproduced is a detail of the Indian subcontinent from larger map.

**Map 2**

- Made 600 years later in 1720s by French cartographer.
- This map is more familiar to us.  
  – Coastal areas are surprisingly detailed.  
  – Other inland areas are distorted.
• In this map South India was at that place where North India is at present and Sri Lanka is the island at the top.
• Place names are marked in Arabic – Kanauj in UP is spelt as Qanauj.
• Used by sailors and merchants of Europe when they were on their voyages.
• Science of map making (cartography) differed in the two periods.
• Method of information giving also differed.

Conclusion
• Present-day map of the sub-continent is more clear.
• It has been made to scale, projection and direction.

Q. 12. Find out where records are kept in your village or city. Who writes these records? Is there an archive? Who manages it? What kinds of documents are stored there? Who are the people who use it?

Ans.
• Records are kept in our city at the archives. These records are written by the officials of Revenue Department.
• The incharge of the Archives/Deputy Director of Archives manages these records.
• Rare manuscripts, government records and other valuable books etc. are stored there.
• Scholars, researchers and government officials use them.
I. POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. In this chapter we come to know about an outline of political development (700–1200 AD). Many new dynasties emerged after the seventh century. For instance, the Rashtrakutas (in the Deccan), the Kadamba, Mayurasharman and the Palas and the Gurjara-Pratiharas, etc.

2. Administration of these kingdoms was carried by the rulers themselves but their powers were shared by their Samantas as well as with associations of peasants, traders and Brahmanas. The Samantas and the Brahmanas were granted the land by rulers.

3. During this period Kanauj (now a days in U.P.) was considered very important from many points and that’s why there was a struggle between three political-powers (i.e., Palas, Rashtrakutas and Gurjara-Pratiharas) to gain control over Kanauj.

4. During this age Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India 17 times. Main aim of the invasion was plunder to India. He got success in his aim everytime. Muhammad Ghori also invaded India. He was defeated by Prithviraj Chauhan in first battle of Tarain in 1191 AD but Ghori got success next year (1192) in defeating him (Prithviraj Chauhan).

5. During this period, Southern part of India also saw the emergence of Chola dynasty. They got constructed many splendid temples and sculptures. They had very good local administration. Agriculture was very much developed in their empire.

II. KEYWORDS

1. Samanta: Samantas were big landlords or warrior chiefs in different regions of the subcontinent. or Samantas were the subordinates of the kings.

2. Maha-samantas: Those Samantas who gained power and wealth were called maha-samantas.

3. Maha-mandaleshvara: The great lord of a circle or region is termed as maha-mandaleshvara.

4. Maharaja-adhiraja: Great king, overlord of kings or king of kings.

5. Hiranya-garbha means the golden womb, a ritual performed by Dantidurga.

6. Dantidurga: A Rashtrakuta chief was called Dantidurga.
7. Sultan: Sultan is an Arabic word which means ruler.

8. Tripartite Struggle: Struggle fought by three parties, rulers belonging to Gurjara-Pratihars, Rashtrakutas and Palas dynasties for control over Kanauj is described by the historians as ‘Tripartite Struggle’.

9. Nadu: The larger form of groups of villages is termed as nadu.

10. Temple: Temples are defined as the places of worship for the Hindus.

11. Sabha: The present day assembly was called sabha of the law makers assembled there.


14. Valanadu: A province in the Chola empire was called Valanadu.

15. Manigraman: The name of a merchant guild.


17. Shikhara: A spire like structures over the central shrine of temple.


III. NCERT TEXTBOOK EXERCISES
(Pages 28–29)

IMAGINE

You are present in an election for a sabha. Describe what you see and hear.

Ans. To be done by the student (Refer to NCERT page 27, The Uttaramerur inscription).

LET’S RECALL

Q. 1. Match the following:

| Gurjara-Pratihars | Western Deccan |
| Rashtrakutas | Bengal |
| Palas | Gujarat and Rajasthan |
| Cholas | Tamil Nadu |

Ans.

| Gurjara-Pratihars | Gujarat and Rajasthan |
| Rashtrakutas | Western Deccan |
| Palas | Bengal |
| Cholas | Tamil Nadu |
Q. 2. Who were the parties involved in the “tripartite struggle”?
Ans. ● Parties involved in the “tripartite struggle”
   – Gurjara-Pratiharas
   – Rashtrakutas
   – Palas.

Q. 3. What were the qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the sabha in the Chola empire?
Ans. Qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the Sabha in the Chola empire:
   ● Land of their own and get revenue from it.
   ● Age between 35 to 70 years.
   ● Knowledge of vedas.
   ● Anyone who has been a member in last three years cannot be a member.
   ● Have to submit accounts.

Q. 4. What were the two major cities under the control of the Chahamanas?
Ans. The two cities under the control of the Chahamanas:
   ● Delhi.
   ● Ajmer.

LET’S UNDERSTAND

Q. 5. How did the Rashtrakutas become powerful?
Ans. Rashtrakutas became powerful in the following manner:
   ● Rashtrakutas were subordinates to the Chalukyas of Karnataka.
   ● In the mid-eighth century Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, overthrew his Chalukya overlord.
   ● He performed a ritual called Hiranya-garbha with the help of Brahmanas.
   ● This ritual was, then, considered to lead the rebirth of the sacrificer as Kshatriya, even if he was not Kshatriya by birth.
   ● Other influential families left their professions and took to arms and spread their rule in Karnataka and Rajasthan.

Q. 6. What did the new dynasties do to gain acceptance?
Ans. The new dynasties did the following to gain power:
   ● The new dynasties were based in their specific region.
   ● They tried to control other areas.
   ● The most prized area was the city of Kanauj in the Ganga valley.
   ● Rulers belonging to Gurjara-Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas and Palas fought each other to get control of Kanauj for centuries.
   ● There rulers also built temples to demonstrate their power and wealth.
   ● When they attacked others’ kingdoms, they generally attacked temples as these were the treasure houses of that period.
Q. 7. What kind of irrigation works were developed in the Tamil region?

Ans. Tank kind of irrigation works were developed in the Tamil Nadu region:

- Water was carried to the fields through canals built for the purpose.
- To regulate water from a tank into the channels sluice gates were built.
- Forests were cleared, land was levelled and in delta region embankments were made to prevent flooding.
- Other methods like wells, dug-wells and tanks were also used.

Q. 8. What were the activities associated with Chola temples?

Ans. Activities associated with Chola temples

- Settlements around the temples.
- Land grants by both kings and others.
  - Produce went for the livelihood of priests, garland makers, cooks, sweepers, musicians, dancers etc.
- Hub of economic, social and cultural activities.
- Crafts-making of bronze images of deities and also devotees.

LET’S DISCUSS

Q. 9. Look at Map 1 (See NCERT Textbook, page 16) once more and find out whether there were any kingdoms in the state in which you live.

Ans. Yes.

Different answers for students living in different states. Some examples:

- West Bengal → Palas
- Orissa → Utkalas, Gangas, Kalinga
- Tamilnadu → Cholas, Pandyas
- Kerala → Cheras
- Maharashtra → Rashtrakutas
- Karnataka
- Gujarat → Andhra
- Rajasthan → Chahamanas

Q. 10. Contrast the ‘elections’ in Uttaramerur with present-day panchayat elections.

Ans. Elections in Uttaramerur were through lotteries of the eligible members with a restriction on re-election. On the other hand, present day elections are through ballots. (or EVM—Electronic Voting Machines) and no restriction on re-election.

LET’S DO

Q. 11. Compare the temple shown in this chapter (of your textbook) with any present-day temple in your neighbourhood, highlighting any similarities and differences that you notice.

Ans. Comparison between temples shown in the chapter and present-day temples in our neighbourhood.