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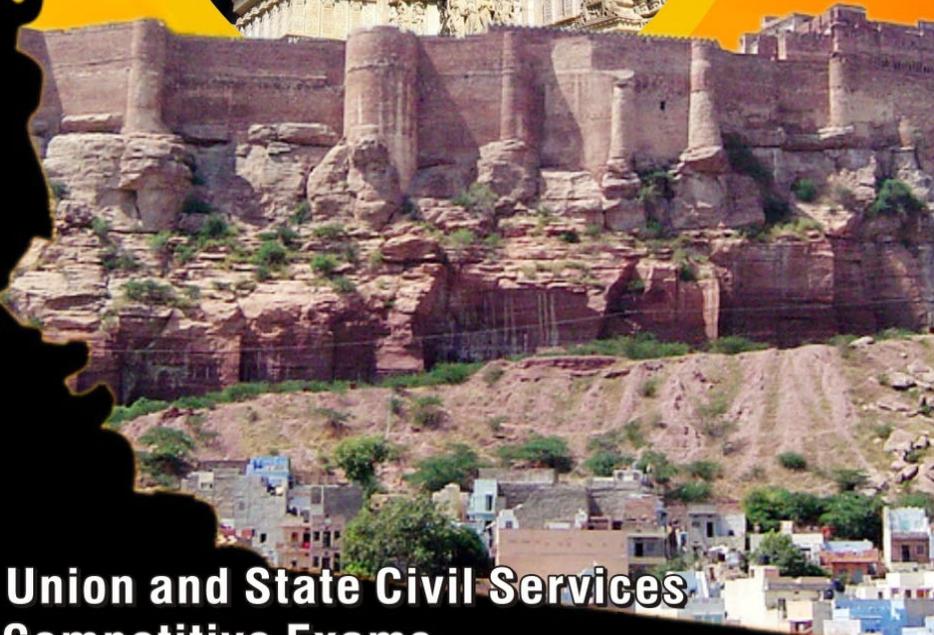
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PRATIYOGITA DARPAN

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Nurture Good Thoughts

We seldom realise that our thoughts affect not only those with whom we come into contact, but also the nature outside. Though vibrations have immense potential of creating bad or good outside environment, thoughts do deeply affect our nervous system. Our evil thoughts will cause harm to us first, somebody else later. In order to have a healthy life, we should nurture good thoughts. We must at all cost stop thought pollution which does no good to anybody, but harms one and all. All of us like to live in an atmosphere free of the negative thoughts like jealousy, cunningness, fraud, deceit, treachery, malice, distrust and fear. Let us inculcate healthy and positive thoughts so as to make the environment livable to all.

These days environmental pollution is a subject of universal concern among the thinkers. Various magazines and journals are full of material concerning the subject. The main idea behind it is that the danger posed by environmental pollution is more damaging than that of the atomic blasts. Out of the discussions the idea comes up that the human life pollutes the environment. The trees purify the environment. The environmental pollution affects adversely both human life and trees.

While talking of environmental pollution we centralise our thoughts on the physical life and the things which create pollution. Subtle world or subtle causes of pollution are often ignored. We miss the point that our thoughts affect environment on a wider scale. We often read such conclusions of research that the milch animals yield more milk and trees go better in an atmosphere replete with music and trees also give more fruits. Even then we remain indifferent towards thought pollution.

Thought motivates all actions and also determines the outline of all activities.

Our personality is formed according to our thought so much so that our physical body is deeply affected by our thought power.

Thoughts create vibrations in the atmosphere which affect other persons. How the thought forms affect

the other side can be understood with the help of the example given here below. Once a king went in a garden to take rest. Without introducing himself he asked the gardener to give him some water to drink—The gardener plucked a pomegranate and presented its juice in a tumbler to the king. The king was surprised to see that the juice of a pomegranate had filled the whole tumbler. The king made up his mind that he would levy suitable tax on this garden as these fruits must be a source of a great income.

After some time the king called the gardener and said, “give me one more tumbler of juice.” The gardener was surprised to see that this time the juice of the fruit could fill only half the tumbler. He immediately questioned, “Are you a king and have an evil eye on my garden ?” The king had to say yes. The king silently went from there.

Do we ever think that our polluted thoughts may be behind the whirlwind, storms, accidents and other disturbances of nature. Our evil thoughts take us to the evil actions. And for our evil actions they create desired atmosphere also. Jealousy, malice, hatred, classstruggle etc. have created the painful atmosphere of plunder, murder, terror, insecurity etc. The government full of goodwill and without economic inequalities is called the welfare state. The welfare

state is considered to be the gift of the best cultural and political thought of the modern age. The Indian thinkers have visualised the welfare state as Ram-Rajya, which has been beautifully described by Tulsidas in Ramcharitmanas.

The effect of good thoughts is not limited to human life but also it affects the outer atmosphere and the behaviour of nature.

We want to solve these problems on political and social levels, while they are concerned with moral aspect or formation of ideas. Evil thoughts induce evil behaviour. On examining the hearts of cunning people we will find a sea of fraud, tricks and cunningness. The psychologists after examining minutely the human behaviour have come to the conclusion that the thoughts greatly affect the behaviour and health of the person. We know it too well that anger makes the man lose himself and even makes him mad. Jealousy makes a man very narrow-minded. It is said that thoughts of Jealousy and anger even adversely affect the flow of blood and emotions of malice and hatred make the man intolerant and bad tongued. Hundreds of years ago the Upanishads declared that the negative thoughts destroy the power and potential of the person.

The Australian thinker Bishop Lead-Beater in his book, ‘Thought forms’, has dealt with thought forms at length in the book. Persons coming into our contact leave some effect without uttering a word. But why ? It is due to the thought forms created by them.

Evil thoughts create bad effect and healthy thoughts create healthy effect. Our young men will do well to realize the power of thought forms which are our life and blood and they will always try to have healthy thoughts. This would make them lovable and dear to all those who come into their contact.



RAJPUT AGE

(From 750 A.D. to 1200 A.D.)

Origin of Rajputs and Prominent Rajput Dynasties

The mid of the 7th century A.D., present a changing scenario and carves out certain amazing facts. The suzerainty of Harsha Vardhan over the entire North India was a landmark in Indian history. The way he brought under his sway, different states to establish one organised state was remarkable feat but in the absence of able and worthy successors, the entire north India was divided into small estates and it remained divided till 12th century. In the meantime, many small estates sprang up in western India. All of these estates were called 'Rajput estates' and the main region where the Rajput dynasties ruled was, in course of time, designated as Rajasthan. The Rajputs were brave, fearless and self-respecting people. It is difficult to trace as to who were the Rajputs and how did they rise to power. The historians have propounded a number of theories regarding their origin. Main principle theories of their origin which can be relied on are as under—

1. Foreign Origin

There are occasional references to the 'Gurjaras' in the records of the early period which enable us to trace their existence as from the latter part of the sixth century A.D. According to **Cunningham** they were the descendants of the Kushans or Gushans. **AMT Jackson** propounds another theory about their origin. He points out that a tribe known as the Khazars lived in South Armenia and Media in the fourth century A.D. The **Arab** writers believed that the Khazars were Geo-regions. A Georgian tradition relates that the Georgian king Vakhtang (469AD–500AD) led an army to India. About this time the white Huns also invaded India. It seems that the Khazars along with the Huns poured into India and settled.

There in the early years of the sixth century A.D. These Khazars were known to the Indians as 'Gurjaras.'

2. Theory of Descent from Kshatriya Heroes

Some Indian scholars do not agree to the theory of foreign origin of Rajputs. They assert that the origin of Rajputs came from Suryavanshi and Chandravanshi Kshatriyas. The main protagonists of this theory are Vaidya and Ojha etc. They assert that Anthropology, Totems and other factors emphasize upon the fact that the origin of Rajputs has been from the indigenous heroes and not from foreign races. They have supported their views as under—

(i) Many traditions of the Rajputs resemble the Aryan traditions.

(ii) The physical constitution of Rajputs is like Aryans.

(iii) The rulers of Mewar, Jaipur and Bikaner etc. feel proud on their Aryan ancestry. They consider themselves as Suryavanshi or the descendant of Ram.

(iv) The fire worship among the Rajputs came from the Aryans and not from the foreign races. The Indian literature refers to fire worship among the Aryans before the rise of Buddhism. It was not a tradition exclusively among the foreigners.

(v) Likewise the traditions of Sacrifice and Yajana existed among the Aryans.

3. Theory of Descent from Original Inhabitants of India

Some scholars hold that the castes of Rajputs who mainly lived near Vindhya mountain, have originated from the original inhabitants of India. This theory is supported

by the fact that Chandel Rajputs of Bundelkhand originated from the Gonds. The famous queen Durgawati belonged to this Gond tribe. The modern historians do not give any importance to this theory although there are many supporting proofs.

4. Origin from Fire (Agnikund)

This theory was propounded by Chandbardai in his book 'Prithviraj Raso'. According to this theory some Rajput clans believe that their forefathers were born from the holy fire burnt on the Abu Mountains. According to it when Parshuram killed all Kshatriyas and there remained no Kshatriya on the earth to protect the Brahmins, the Brahmins burnt holy fire on mount Abu and performed Yajna for forty days. They prayed to God to grant them for their security a heroic race. Ultimately their prayer yielded results and four heroes were born of the **Agnikund** (fire place). These four heroes founded four lineages of Chauhans, Chalukyas, Parmars and Pratiharas. Some historians do not agree to it. They assert the possibility of a big Yajna performed on mount Abu for converting the foreign races to Hinduism. No proofs have been available to support this view. And so the origin of Rajputs is still a controversy.

5. Most Plausible Theory of Mixed Origin

Though all the above mentioned theories have some truth, still no single theory completely satisfies the historians. Historians like V.A. Smith conclude that, "Rajput is a mixed race." Some Rajput castes were the descendants of foreign aggressors like Saka, Kushans and Huns and some were the descendants of ancient Kshatriya clans who could wield sword efficiently and fought in the battle field with extraordinary courage, began to be called as Rajputs transformed into a social group were the Rajputs.

In the words of V. A. Smith, 'the term Rajput is used for such a social human group who had no reference to caste and blood relations. They are known only as a war loving race who possess sovereignty and the Brahmins designate them as Kshatriyas.' According to V. A. Smith, the Rajputs were born of various races and castes.

RASHTRAKUT DYNASTY

The southern neighbours of the Traikutakas were the Rashtrakutas who rose into prominence during the last quarter of the 4th century A.D. Their original home was Lattalura, modern Latur in the Osmanabad district of Maharashtra. The founder of the dynasty is said to be **Nannaraja** whose rule extended from 630 AD to 650 AD. He selected the eagle as the insignia of the family, which was accepted by his successors. **Nannaraja** was succeeded by **Dantivarman**, who ruled from 665 AD to 700 AD. Dantivarman was succeeded by his son and grandson. His grandson was succeeded by his son Karkkaraja from 700 AD to 715 AD. He was staunch Vaishavite. Indra, the son of Dantivarman was highly ambitious though he remained feudatory of contemporary Chalukya emperor, he extended his principality north wards, which included the majority of the Marathi speaking districts of Madhya Pradesh. he forcibly married a Chalukya Princess, named Bhavanaga.

Dantidurga

Son of Indra, Dantidurga began his career as a feudatory of Chalukyas. He was very strong and laid the foundation of lasting empire. He was given the title of **Prathivallabha**. He destroyed the Gurjara Kingdom of Nandipuri. He led an expedition into Malwa. He brought eastern Madhya Pradesh under his control. Ultimately he became the master of central and southern Gujarat, whole of Madhya Pradesh and Berar. By defeating the Chalukya ruler Kirtivarman II became the master of whole of Maharashtra.

Krishna I

He ruled from 758 to 773 AD. He defeated the reorganised forces of

Kirtivarman II and thus brought the end of Chalukya empire. Encouraged by this, he defeated the Gangas who were ruling in Mysore. Southern Konkan was also conquered. Great conqueror, Krishna was equally great as builder. He got a magnificent temple of Shiva constructed at Ellora. The temple is considered to be a marvel of architecture.

Govinda II

Worthy son of Krishna I, Govinda II was a fun loving king and he practically left the whole empire to the care of his younger brother Dhruva.

Dhruva

Dhruva, served his elder brother Govinda II faithfully as a governor of Nasik and Khandesh. But his ambition compelled him to seize the throne for himself. He ruled from 780 AD to 793 AD. He wanted to rule over the entire Northern India. He defeated Vatsaraja, the Pratihara ruler. He also defeated Dharmapala of the Pala dynasty. The ruler of Vengi was humbled. He brought the Rashtrakuta power to its zenith.

Govinda III

Like Dhruva, he was also an ambitious ruler like Dhruva. He defeated Nagabhata II to put his own nominee on the throne. Govinda III advanced as far as the Himalayas. He was unrivalled in courage, generalship, statesmanship and marital exploits.

Amoghavarsha

Govinda III was succeeded by his son Amoghavarsha who ruled from 814 AD to 878 AD. There were dissensions in the royal family and consequently there was a lot of trouble. But he won a decisive victory over the Eastern Chalukyas in a battle of Vengavalli. He then turned his attention to the Gangas and crushed them. His reign was long but lacked vigour and brilliance of his father and grandfather. In his later life he was attracted towards Jainism. He was devotee of Mahalaxami.

Krishna II

He succeeded his father Amoghavarsha and ruled for 32 years from 878 AD to 914 AD. His important

wars were against the Pratiharas and Eastern Chalukyas. He wanted to put his grandson on the Chola throne but all in vain.

Indra III

Grandson of Krishna II, he ruled from 940 AD to 968 AD. He unsuccessfully attacked Cholas in 943 AD but the attempt was foiled. But he defeated them in the battle of Takkolam and marched upto Rameshwaram. He also marched into Bundelkhand. He led an expedition to Malwa. He usurped a large part of Chola Kingdom.

Kotting

During his reign, Parmara king Singaka reached Malked, in Rashtrakuta capital. The imperial capital was completely ransacked.

Karakka II

Taila II, who was as feudatory of the Rashtrakutas revolted in 973 AD and defeated Karakka II in 975 AD. It was under these circumstances that the Rashtrakutas disappeared from the history.

ADMINISTRATION

Central

The head of all the administrative affairs was the king. It was hereditary and the crown usually passed to the eldest and sometimes to the ablest one. A group of ministers, consisting of Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Revenue Minister, Treasurers, Chief Justice, Commander in Chief and Purohita, helped the king in the performance of his administrative duties.

Provincial

The Rashtrakuta empire was divided into several Provinces or Rashtras, which were further divided into Vishyas or districts, which in turn were divided into bhuktis. The bhuktis were further divided into small groups of 10 to 20 villages.

The provinces were headed by Rashtrapati. He was also in charge of revenue administration and was responsible for the tax collection.

Vishyas were headed by Vishyapati and Bhogapati at Tehsil level. They performed their duties of revenue collection.

Village administration was carried on by the village headman and the village accountant. The headman was responsible for maintaining law and order. The headman had a local militia at his disposal.

Military

The Rashtrakutas were very ambitious and no wonder they did all that they could to make their military machine powerful and efficient. They maintained big and powerful armies to fulfil their aspirations.

Revenue

In the Rashtrakuta empire, there were many sources of revenue. Jendatories contributed their share in the form of tributes. Besides, land tax brought in a huge amount of money. It was one-fourth of the produce. Taxes on fruits, vegetables etc. were also collected.

Religion(s)

The worship of Siva and Vishnu was popular. Besides, many Brahmanical sacrifices were performed during this period. Temples were constructed to install images. The only important temple of this period is the Shiva temple at Ellora. Jainism was patronised by Amoghavarsha I, but Buddhism had witnessed a steep fall during this period.

Art

The Rashtrakutas made a splendid contribution to the Indian art. The rock-cut shrines at Ellora and Elephanta belong to this period. The temple of Kailasa at Ellora is the most extensive and sumptuous. The sculptured panels of Dasavatara, Bhairava, Ravana shaking Shiva, the mount Kailasa, dancing Shiva, Vishnu and Laxmi listening to music are superb.

GURJAR PRATI HARAS

The Pratiharas, to which Nagbhata II belonged, appears to have been of foreign extraction. Indeed the phrase "Gurjara—Pratihara-vayah" *i.e.* Pratihara clan of Gurjaras occurring in the line four of the Rajore stone inscription indicates that they were a branch of the famous Gurjaras. One of these central Asian tribes poured into India.

Nagbhata I was the first significant ruler who started this dynasty. He defended the western India from the onslaught of the Arab invaders. He captured the Gurjar state of Nandipur. He gave to his successor a mighty empire in which Malwa, Rajputana and Gujarat were included.

After Nagbhata I, Kakkuk and Devraj ascended the throne but they were not very influential rulers. The son of Devraj named Vatsaraj became a powerful king and he ascended the throne in 778 A.D. He included Malwa and Rajputana in his empire. Vatsaraj seized the kingdom of the Bhandi people, which was perhaps included in Kannauj. He defeated the ruler of Bengal named Dharampal and seized even his crown.

Taking advantage of the time, the Rashtrakut ruler Dhruva invaded upon Vatsaraj and defeated him. He was forced to take refuge in the Desert. Nothing is known about Vatsaraj after he was defeated by Dhruva. Possibly, his empire remained centralized in Rajputana.

The son of Vatsaraj, Nagbhata II ruled from 805 to 833 A.D. He tried to reinstate the lost glory of the Pratihara dynasty. He was defeated by the Rashtrakut ruler Govind III. Nagbhata II defeated Chakrayudh of Kannauj. He captured the hill forts of the kings of Aavert, Malwa, Kirat, Vatsa, Matsya and Tumshka. It is said that Nagbhata II went into hibernation due to fear of Govind III. The Pala rulers got an opportunity to extend their empire. Rambhadra, the son of Nagbhata II ascended the throne after him.

The son of Rambhadra named Mihirbhoj ruled from 836 A.D. to 885 A.D. During the reign of king Bhoja, the Pratihara dynasty was at the zenith of its glory. Within a few years he strengthened the empire and established his suzerainty up to the region of Himalaya. Later, he thought of taking revenge with Devpala but his pride was shattered away by Devpala. Then, Bhoja changed the direction of his expeditions towards south. He subjugated the regions of Narmada. In 867 A.D. he was defeated by the Rashtrakut ruler, Dhruva II. Mihirbhoj had to wage war upon Krishna II and the struggle continued for a long time.

The Arabian author writes about Bhoj that, "This king keeps a big army. No king had such a best cavalry as his. No other state in India was safe and secure from the dacoits as his state."

After him, his son Mahendrapal I ruled from 885 to 910 A.D. He conquered a large portion of Bihar and Bengal. It seems that he suffered a defeat at the hands of the king of Kashmir.

After Mahendrapal, his son named Bhoj II ascended the throne, but his step brother Mahipal deposed him. Mahipal ruled from 912 to 944 A.D. During his tenure, Indra III destroyed Kannauj. The Pala rulers took the advantage and extended their kingdom on the east bank of river 'Son.' Yet Mahipal again established his stronghold over his empire.

After Mahipal's death, Rajyapal successfully ruled his kingdom since 948 A.D. He was the last famous king of Pratihara dynasty. When the army of Mahmud Ghazni entered the city of Kannauj he fled away out of fear. Ghazni not only plundered the city but also destroyed beautiful buildings and temples. This act of cowardice offended the Rajputs who killed him and enthroned his son Trilochanapala. He too was defeated by Mahmud Ghazni. Yashopal was perhaps, the last ruler of this dynasty. The Pratihara kingdom was divided among the Chalukyas of Anhilwara, Chandels of Jajjakhukti, Chedi of Kalchuri, Parmars of Malwa, Guhils of eastern Rajputana and Chauhans of Shakambhari.

PALA DYNASTY

It is significant that the Palas do not trace their descent from any ancient hero. We merely learn from an inscription discovered at Khalumpur that the Pala dynasty, so called because the name of all its members had the termination—Pala, sprang from one Dayitavinsu, whose son was Vapyata. Probably this shows that the family rose from humble beginnings, and had no illustrious ancestry. Later on, however, attempts were made to connect it with sea or the Sun.

The foundation of Pala dynasty about the middle of the 8th century A.D. marks a new epoch in the history of Bengal. After the death of Shashank about a century, there was lack of a central authority in Bengal for Political instability continued. Due to political uncertainty there prevailed anarchy in entire Bengal. It was urgently felt in Bengal that a central authority was required. The people selected Gopal through a 'Sabha' (Great meeting) and enthroned him as king. Gopal removed all anarchy and successfully ruled over Bengal from 750 A.D. to 770 A.D. He became the founder of Pal dynasty in Bengal. He was a Kshatriya. His empire was extended in eastern Bengal. The historian Lama Taranath writes that Gopal built the famous monastery or 'Vihar' of Odantpur.

Dharampal who succeeded Gopal was a brave and illustrious king of Pala dynasty. He ruled from 710 to 810 A.D. He had to his credit many achievements. He sent military expeditions to some foreign countries. During his time, the Rashtrakuta and Pratihara rulers were busy in consolidating their strength and expanding their kingdom. It was quite obvious that both of them had to clash with Dharampal. Dharampal invaded Kannauj and defeated Indrayudh. He had enthroned Chakrayudh on the throne of Kannauj. His suzerainty was acknowledged by Bhoj, Matsya, Bhadra, Kuru, Yadu, Yavan, Avanti and Gandhar states. Dharampal established his power in north India. He is called 'Swami' of north. Yet he could not rule peacefully. The Pratihara king Vatsaraj defeated him in the Doab of Ganga and Yamuna and Vatsaraj took away the royal insignia—Rajchhatra. Vatsaraj was defeated by the Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva. He had to run away to the Desert for taking refuge. Afterwards Dhruva defeated Dharampal II. However, he could not do much harm to Dharampal. When Dhruva returned to south, Dharampal again established his power in north India.

After some years, Dharampal had to face the Pratihara ruler Nagbhata who conquered Kannauj. Near Moongher, a fierce battle was fought between Dharampal and Nagbhata.

In this battle, Dharampal was defeated. Nagbhata, after some time, was defeated by Govind III. So Dharampal did not bear a heavy loss. In Swayambhoo Puran, it is referred that Dharampal conquered Nepal and adopted the title of 'Parmeshwar, Param Bhattarak' and 'Maharajadhiraj'. Dharampal founded the Vikramshila University and built the Sompur Vihar. He established the Odantpur Buddhist Vihar which earned great reputation.

After Dharampal, his son Devpal ruled from 810 to 850 A.D. He extended his empire and established his power in north India. He conquered Pragjyotishpur and defeated the Gurjar and Dravida rulers. His brother Jaipal and other family members were his main supporters. Rambhadra, the son of Nagbhata II and Amoghvarsh, his grandson were defeated by Devpal. He was a great patron of Buddhism. He provided shelter to the Buddhist monks. He donated five villages for the maintenance of Vihar constructed by Balputradeva. Devpal built a number of Vihars and temples of Buddha.

After Devpal, Vighrapal ascended the throne. He abducted the throne after three or four years and became a Sanyasi. After him, Narayanpal became the king and ruled about fifty years. The kingdom faced many ups and downs and at a time his kingdom shrunk to the region of Bengal only. In his later years, he reconquered the lost territories. In 908 A.D., just before his death he established his power in Bihar and Bengal.

After Narayanpal, three kings ruled upto 988 A.D. They were Rajpal, Gopal II and Vighrapal II. Mahipal I, the son of Vighrapal ruled from 988 to 1038 A.D. In his kingdom, the states of Divajpur, Muzzaffarpur, Patna, Gaya and Tibwera were included. He conquered north Bengal. In Sarnath inscription, it is referred that Mahipal built Gandhkuti. During his rule Rajendra Chola invaded north India between 1021 and 1025 A.D. He defeated Govind Chandra and Mahipal. In last days of his rule, the Kalchuri ruler Gangeydev invaded upon him and defeated him.

After Mahipal, Nayapal ruled from 1038 to 1055 A.D. He defeated

the Kalchuri ruler Karnadev. But the Professor of Vikramshila Deepankar Shri Gyan gave shelter to Karna. The ruler of Kosala, Mahasiv Gupta also had to face Nepal's invasion.

During the time of Vighrapal III, clashes between the Pals and the Kalchuris became the order of the day. Karnadev again invaded the Pal ruler but he himself was defeated. He married his daughter, Yovanshree to Vighrapal III. In 1068 A.D. the Chalukya ruler Vikramaditya VI defeated Vighrapal III who died in 1070 A.D. After him three rulers—Mahipal II, Sukhpal and Rampal became kings, but Sukhpal ruled only for two years and Rampal was the last successful ruler of this dynasty. He had defeated the leader of Kaivert named Bhim. He had also invaded upon Kamrup and Kalinga. Yadav Verma tried to secure his protection. Rampal jumped into Ganges and died.

Kumarpal succeeded Rampal. His minister Vidyadeva suppressed the rebellion which occurred in Kamrup and then established his independent Kingdom there. All rulers were incapable and weak after Rampal. The rise of feudal lords into independent rulers and the emergence of Vijay Sen limited the Pala dynasty. The last of the Pala rulers was Govindpal whose reference has been found in an inscription of 1175 A.D.

TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE

In the early decades of 8th century, Kannauj was ruled by Ayudha rulers. They were too weak in comparison to their contemporaries like Gurjar Pratiharas, Palas and the Rashtrakutas and they were bound to bow before them. All of them had a tempting eye on Kannauj. It led to regular conflict between the three powers. The conflict has been designated by the historians as Tripartite struggle. This struggle continued for about a century in an uncommon and interesting manner. Kannauj was sometimes under one authority and sometimes under the other. After about a struggle of hundred years, ultimately the Gurjar Pratiharas succeeded in conquering Kannauj.

Yet, only the ascendancy of Kannauj was not the reason of this long struggle. In fact the ambitions of the three great powers clashed with each other and all of them were desirous of being known as the Master of north India. So they used to quarrel mutually .

During Harsha’s time, Kannauj occupied an important reputation in north India. In Gupta age, the importance of Patliputra was supreme and the same status was occupied by Kannauj in this era. It was the symbol of prosperity and culture. It was situated besides the Ganga and from the river-trade point, it was very important place in between north and central India. It was very fertile due to its situation in the midst of Ganga and Yamuna. So the Gurjar Pratiharas and Palas were restless to occupy it. Rashtrakuts, keen to unfurl their conquest flag in north India, used to fight with these two powers. It therefore assumed the shape of a tripartite struggle. It is notable that by participating in these wars, Rashtrakuts became the first southern power to interfere in the politics of north India and the first southern power to attack north India. They played the same role as later was played by the Marathas in 18th century.

To establish their ascendancy upon Kannauj, the Gurjar Pratiharas were very keen and restless. The Rashtrakuts had become all powerful and were hammering regularly on the Gurjar Pratiharas. So they decided to establish themselves at a distance

from them. For this, they could not find a better and safer place than Kannauj. They were impatient to occupy this prosperous region. It may be remembered that Malwa was under the Gurjar Pratiharas. The southern limits of Malwa state touched the Rashtrakuta kingdom. The Rashtrakuts were already interfering in the politics of north India. They had become very powerful. This also gave the reason to Gurjar Pratiharas to occupy Kannauj.

The tripartite struggle started with the defeat of Indrayudh and Kannauj at the hands of Vatsaraj. The Pal ruler, Dharampal was also desirous to extend his suzerainty to north India. This led to the compulsion of a struggle between Dharampal and Vatsaraj. In the meantime, the Rashtrakut king Dhruva also invaded north India. He first defeated the Gurjar Pratihar and drove Vatsaraj to Rajputana. Afterwards he defeated Dharampal in the plains of Doab, situated in the midst of Ganga and Yamuna. For the ascendancy of Kannauj, a long struggle thus started.

The interference of the Rashtrakuts in the politics of north India, proved of immediate benefit to Dharampal because after the defeat of Gurjar Pratiharas at the hands of Rashtrakuts had led to a fall in their prestige and power. When the Rashtrakut ruler Dhruva returned to south India after his conquest of north, Dharampal snatched the opportunity to invade Kannauj. He defeated Indrayudh and enthroned Chakrayudh

in his place. The ascendancy of Kannauj went to Pal rulers.

The Gurjar Pratiharas could not bear it. They defeated Chakrayudh under the leadership of Nagbhatt, the son of Vatsaraj and occupied Kannauj. It was a great challenge for Dharampal and he accepted it. He made preparations and fought with the Gurjar Pratiharas near Moongher. Dharampal was badly defeated. However the success of Nagbhatt was short lived. Hardly the Pratihar king could celebrate his victory, the Rashtrakut ruler Govind III attacked and badly defeated him breaking their dream of occupying the ascendancy of Kannauj. An inscription of Rashtrakuts tells that Dharampal and Chakrayudh invited the Rashtrakut king Govind III against their enemy Nagbhatt II. After this conquest of Govind III against Gurjar Pratiharas, Dharampal and Chakrayudh both surrendered to the Rashtrakut king just to win his sympathy. Gobind III attained this victory about 809 and 810 A.D.

After the defeat of Nagbhatt II, the Pratihar power degenerated for some time. When Govind III went back to south, Dharampal and his son Devpal seized the opportunity to recapture the north India. After the death of Dharampal, Nagbhatt II again cultivated the desire to conquer Kannauj. After capturing it, he made Kannauj as the new kingdom of the Pratihar empire. The changed circumstances favoured him. The Rashtrakuts were facing internal trouble due to mutual conflict in their state and external dangers. Amoghvarsh, their king was not a good commander and conqueror like his father. He was a peace loving ruler. The Gurjar Pratiharas had occupied Kannauj and had become the supreme power in north India due to the exit of Rashtrakuts from this struggle and due to the Pal ruler’s adopting Buddhism. However, their enmity did not end and the struggle continued. As a result of this struggle, Pratiharas ultimately assumed power in the north India.

Tripartite Rulers		
Pala Rulers	Pratihara Rulers	Rashtrakuta Rulers
1. Dharampala (780-815 A.D.)	1. Vatsaraj (783 A.D.)	1. Dhruva (779-793 A.D.)
2. Devapala (815-855 A.D.)	2. Nagabhata (815 A.D.)	2. Govinda III (793-813 A.D.)
3. Vighrapala (855-860 A.D.)	3. Rambhadra	3. Amoghavarsha (814-877 A.D.)
4. Naryanpala (860-915 A.D.)	4. Bhoja (836-885 A.D.)	4. Krishna II (877-914 A.D.)
	5. Mahendrapala (885-910 A.D.)	

Other Prominent Rajput States

Chandelas of Jijakbhukti

There is no definite view accepted by all the historians regarding their origin. Different theories propounded about their origin are as follows :

1. Inscriptional evidence describe them as the Kshatriyas of Chandravansi. According to Chandbardai, they were born out of a Brahmin girl Hemavati and Moon. According to V. A. Smith they were mixture of Gonds, Bhars and Gahadvals.

2. The original home of the Chandellas were Khajuraho, Chhatarpur, Mahoba, Kalinjar, Rajgarh etc. Nannuka was the first ruler of this dynasty. The other important rulers of this dynasty includes Vakapati, Jaysakti, Yasovarman, Ganda, Vidhyadhar, Vijaipal etc. Parmardi was the last important ruler of the Chandellas who was defeated by Prithviraj Chauhan.

3. Chandella dynasty immensely contributed in the field of Art and architecture. Jaganika's composition of 'Alaha-Udal' is a famous book written during the reign of Parmardi. The Chandellas are chiefly known for the temples of Khajuraho. Fort of Kalinjar, palace of Mahoba etc.

The Paramaras

In the beginning, the Pratiharas possessed Malwa but after their downfall, the Parmar dynasty captured it. Vakpati II and Bhoja were two prominent kings of Parmar dynasty. Vakpati II ruled from 973 to 996 A.D. During his period, the military strength of Malwa increased much and lot of development took place in cultural field. The boundaries of his empire spread far and wide. After Vakpati II, Sindhuraj ruled for some years. After Sindhuraj.

Bhoj became the king who was the most powerful king of this dynasty. He ruled from 1010 to 1055 A.D. *i.e.*, about 45 years. During his time, he fought many wars and conquered Chedi, Karnad, Laat, Turushk etc. Bhoja fought throughout his life.

Besides being a great ruler and conqueror, Bhoja was a great poet, scholar and a lover of art and literature. He has been described as Kavirai. His wife Arundhati was also a great scholar. He accorded patronage to scholars like Dharampala, Solhara and poetess Sita. After Bhoja many rulers succeeded him but all were weak and incapable. In 1135 A.D. Malwa was captured by the Chalukya ruler, Jai Singh Siddhraj. Till 1155 A. D. Malwa remained under Chalukyas. But Vindhya Varman of the Parmar clan defeated the Chalukya king Moolraj II and captured again the region of Malwa. At the time of the invasion of Muhammed Ghori, Vindhya Varman ruled over Malwa. He died in 1193 A.D. In the thirteenth century, Malwa came under Muslim rule.

Chalukyas of Anhilwara

The Chalukyas are also called as Solankis dynasty. This state of Chalukyas had much significance because the foreigners (Muslims) ruled over the north-western regions of this state. The bravest and ablest ruler of this dynasty was Jai Singh Siddhraj who ruled from 1094 to 1142 A.D. He successfully tried to extend the frontiers of his empire. After him in 1143 A.D., Kumarpal became the king of Chalukyas. He defeated the king of Konkan named Mallikarjuna. He also conquered the ruler of Ajmer named Arnoraj. He captured Saurashtra. After him Ajaypal ruled from 1173 to 1176 over this region. His son Moolraj II, succeeded him as ruler of Anhilwara. During his time Mahmud Ghori attacked on India. Moolraj defeated him in a war. After his death Bhim II succeeded him. He bravely faced the invasion of Qutubuddin Aibak and forced him to go back.

Senas

The Senas, who gave the death blow to the Pala power in Bengal were probably of Southern origin. The founder of the dynasty, Samantasena, is described as descendent of

Virasena. Senas, as they are termed as Brahma-Kshatriyas which signifies that the Senas were at first Brahmans, but subsequently adopted the military profession and became Kshatriyas.

Vijayasena—Grandson of Samanta sena, brought the family into prominence during his long reign of over sixty two years. Vijayasena drove out the Palas from Northern Bengal. He extended his authority over Eastern Bengal also. He defeated a number of his contemporaries, the chief among them being Nanyadeva of Tirhut and the kings of Kamarupa and Kalinga.

Vallalsena—He succeeded his son, Vallalaseana, whose mother was vilasadevi, a princess of the sura line of western Bengal. Traditions affirm that he introduced Kulirism and reorganised the caste-system in West Bengal.

Lakshmanasena—Lakshmanasena or Rai Lakhmaniya was the last important member of the dynasty. He is credited with extensive conquests. But if the Moslem historians deserve any credence, he must have been extremely cavern hearted man, for he fled, as has been told, from the back door without offering any resistance, at the approach of Mohammad ibn Bakhtyar Khilji. After his death, the Senas continued to exercise authority in eastern Bengal, for almost another half a century when it ultimately passed into the hands of the Moslems.

In fact the Senas were generous and devout Shaiva. They took many tasks for the welfare of the common being. They excavated an artificial lake, and built a splendid temple of Pradyumnasvara Siva at Deopara. Besides, vallalsena was also Shaiva and he is said to have compiled two well known works, the 'Danasagar' and the Abhutasagara. Under the guidance of his preceptor. On the top of everything, Laxman encouraged the cultivation of literary hands. Among the literary ornaments of his court, Dhokiya, who wrote the Pavan-duta and Jaidev, the celebrated author of the Gita Govinda deserve special mention. Laxmanasena himself was something of a poet, because he is credited to have completed the Adbhuta-Sagara, begun by his father.

Gurjar Pratiharas rulers and some facts about them

1. Nagbhatt I	—	He was the founder of the Gurjar Pratihara state. During his time, the Arabs invaded upon India. The Gwalior inscription tells that he defeated the Arabs.
2. Kakkuk	—	He was nephew and successor of Nagbhatt.
3. Devraj	—	He was younger brother of Kakkuk and a follower of Vaishnav Cult.
4. Vatsaraj	—	He extended the empire and conquered Rajputana and Kannauj. He conquered Dharampal. He was defeated by the Rashtrakut ruler, Dhruva.
5. Nagbhatt II	—	He changed the capital from Ujjain to Kannauj. He subjugated Andhra, Sindh, Vidarbha, Kaling, Malwa, Turasp and Vatsa. He was defeated by Gobind III in 802. He defeated Dharampal in Moongheyr.
6. Raj Bhadra	—	He was the weak successor of Nagbhatt II and many kingdoms declared their freedom.
7. Mihirbhoj	—	He was son of Rambhadra and he succeeded him. He adopted the title of Adi Varah and Prabhas. He defeated Bundelkhand, Guhil and Kalchuris. He conquered southern Rajputana and Saurashtra. Gunambodhideva was a feudal lord of Mihirbhoj.
8. Mahendra Pal	—	He was son and successor of Mihirbhoj. He defeated Pals and captured Bengal. He conquered the Rashtrakutas. He gave patronage to the poet Raj Shekhar.
9. Bhoj II	—	He ruled from 910 to 912 A.D.
10. Mahipal		No important event occurred and after him no worthy ruler occupied the throne.
11. Rajyapal	—	During his time, Mahmud Ghazni invaded Kannauj. He ran away and was killed by Chandela ruler Vidhya Dhar.
12. Trilochanpal	—	He was appointed the king under Vidya Dhar. He had to face the invasion of Mohammad Ghori.

Sindh—In 8th century the Arabs conquered Sindh. After them Mahmud Ghazni occupied it. Later, the Sumra rulers of the Shia sect captured it.

Multan—In north of Sindh, Multan is situated in western Punjab. In 12th century, the Karmathian Muslims established their kingdom in Multan. They were also Shias. When Mohammad Ghori invaded India, they were ruling over Multan.

Prominent Dynasties and their Founders	
Parmar dynasty	— Vakpati Munj
Gahadwal dynasty	— Chandra Dev
Pala dynasty	— Gopal
Sen dynasty	— Vijay Sen
Shahi dynasty	— Kallar
Kalchuri dynasty	— Vam-Rajdeo
Mall dynasty	— Arimall Deo
Lohar dynasty	— Sangram Raj
Karkot dynasty	— Durlabh Varman
Utpala dynasty	— Avanti Varman
Gurjar Pratihara (Ujjaini branch)	— Nagbhatt I

Punjab—Mahmud Ghazni occupied Punjab and since then it was an integral part of his empire. The boundaries of Punjab were vast. In the north-east it spread upto Jammu. In south and south-west the frontiers often increased and decreased. In the

north it spread upto Peshawar and Sialkot. In 1186 Mohammad Ghori invaded upon the capital of Punjab *i.e.* Lahore and occupied it. The local ruler Malik Khusrav was imprisoned and he died in 1192.

Theories of Rajput Origin

1. Foreign Origin
2. Kshatriya Origin
3. Indian Origin
4. Agnikul Origin
5. Accepted view of Mixed Origin

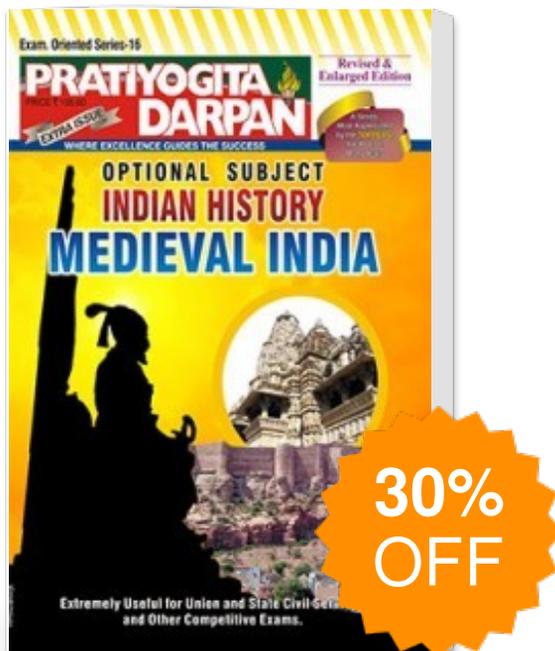
Nepal—In the early 11th century, the feudal lords had become very powerful. There were a few powerful nobles who made their capital in Patan and Bhatt villages and Kathmandu. But in the last decade of 11th century, the ruler of Tirhut, Nanyadev occupied Nepal. After his death the rulers of Nepal ruled under the suzerainty of Tirhut. After some years, the Mall dynasty ruled over Nepal. It was founded by Arimalldev.

Kannauj—The Gahadwal Rajputs ruled over Kannauj. In the beginning their state extended upto Banaras, Awadh, Allahabad and Delhi. The rulers of Gahadwal dynasty were brave and powerful. They conquered a number of states and extended their frontiers far and wide. They were counted as the most powerful kings of north India. The

most powerful ruler of this dynasty was Govind Chandra who defeated the Turk aggressors. His great grandson was Jai Chandra, who was the ruler of Kannauj when Mohammad Ghori invaded India contemporary historians have described him as a powerful king of north India. He was the last ruler of Kannauj. He was defeated by Mohammad Ghori in the battle of Chandawar.

Chedi—Kalchuris ruled over Chedi and their capital was Tripuri. Its founder was Vamrajdev. Gangeydev and Lakshmi Karna are considered to be powerful rulers of this dynasty. Gangeydev not only improved his administration but extended the frontiers of his state. He captured Prayag and Banaras and conquered Orissa. According to Rewa inscription, with the blood of elephants killed by the soldiers of Gangeydev, the whole region of sea coasts turned into mud. This statement testifies to the cruelty of Gangeydev. He died in 1041 A.D. After him, Lakshmi Karna became the ruler who ruled upto 1072 A.D. Lakshmi Karna followed the policies of his father and conquered many states. He was even more powerful than his father. Many other Kalchuri kings ruled after him. During the invasion of Mohammad Ghori, Vijaysingh Kalchuri ruled over Chedi.

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