

Chapter - 2 New Kings and Kingdoms

Short Notes -

The emergence of new dynasties

By the seventh century there were big landlords or warrior chiefs in different regions of the subcontinent. Existing kings often acknowledged them as their subordinates or samantas. As samantas gained power and wealth, they declared themselves to be maha-samantas and asserted their independence from their overlords.

Administration in the Kingdoms

Many of these new kings adopted high-sounding titles such as maharaja - akhiraaja. In spite of such claims, they often shared power with their samantas as well as with associations of peasants, traders and Brahmanas.

Prashastis and Land Grants

Prashastis contain details that may not be literally true. But they tell us how rulers wanted to depict themselves - as valiant, victorious warriors, these were composed by learned Brahmanas. King often rewarded them by grants of land.



Types of land

Chola inscriptions mention several categories of land:

- 1) Vellanagai - land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors.
- 2) Brahmadeya - land gifted to Brahmanas.
- 3) Shalaboga - land for the maintenance of school.
- 4) Devadana, virudamattukani - land gifted to temples.
- 5) Pallikudam - land donated to Vaishnavite institutions.

* Sabha Chola bronze images are considered amongst the first in the world.

* Settled settlements of the peasants, ~~not~~ known as ur. Group of such villages formed larger units called nadu.

* Associations of traders known as nagarams.

Sabha - It was a group of Brahmanas.

Answer the following questions:-

Ques:1 Who were the parties involved in the "tripartite struggle"?

Ans:1 The Gujjaras - Pratiharas, Rajputs and Palas dynasty were

involved in tripartite struggle.

Ques:2 What were the qualifications of necessary to become a member of a committee of the Sabha in Chola Empire?

Ans:2 The qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the Sabha in the Chola Empire were-

- 1) All those who wish to become members of the Sabha should be owners of land from which land revenue is collected.
- 2) They should have their own homes.
- 3) They should be between 35 and 70 years of age.
- 4) They should have knowledge of the Vedas.

Ques:3 What were the two major cities under the control of Chahamanas?

Ans:3 Delhi and ~~Agara~~ ^{Ajmer} were the two major cities under the control of Chahamanas.

Ques:4 How did the Rashtrakutas become powerful?

Ans:4 Rashtrakutas were large royal dynasty ruling large of Indian subcontinent. They were initially subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka. In the mid eighth century Dantidurga Rashtrakuta chief overthrew his Chalukya overlord

and founded the Rashtrakuta dynasty. Thereafter, they fought with Gujars, Pratiharas and Pala dynasty, got victory and became powerful.

Ques: What did the new dynasties do to gain acceptance?

Ans: To gain acceptance, the following measures adopted by the new dynasty—

- 1) They performed rituals to declare themselves as Kshatriyas.
- 2) Many of the new kings adopted high sounding titles like maharaja-adhiraja.
- 3) They gained access to land and trade routes by waging wars.

Ques: What kind of irrigation works were developed in the Tamil region?

Ans: A variety of methods were used for irrigation in Tamil region. In some areas, wells were dug. In some places, huge tanks were constructed to collect rainwater. Canals were constructed to carry water in the fields.

Ques: What were the activities associated with Chola temple?

Ans: Chola temples were not only places of worship but

also the hub of economic, social and cultural life. Thus apart from the priests, we find a number of people who engaged in various activities were associated with the Chola temple. They were garland makers, cooks, sweepers, ~~musicians~~ musicians, dancers, etc.

Ques
Ans



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