

# History chapter-1

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## Tracing changes through a thousand years

### 1. Who was considered a "foreigner" in the past?

**Answer:**

Any stranger who did not belong to a certain society or culture and was not a part of that particular village was regarded as a foreigner. For example, a forest-dweller was a foreigner for a city-dweller. But two people belonging to the same village were not foreigners in spite of their different religious or caste backgrounds.

### 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.

**Answer:**

- (a) False; Historians rely on coins, inscriptions, architecture and textual records for information for the study of period from 700 to 1750.
- (b) True
- (c) True
- (d) False; Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban (1266-1287) ruled a vast empire that stretched from Bengal (Gauda) in the east to Ghazni (Gajjana) in Afghanistan in the west and included all of south India (Dravida).

### 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.

**Answer:**

- (a) Archives are places where manuscripts are kept.
- (b) Ziyauddin Barani was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
- (c) Potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

**4. List some of the technological changes associated with this period.**

**Answer:**

Some of the technological changes that were associated with this period are mentioned below:

- (i) Use of spinning wheel in weaving
- (ii) Use of Persian wheel in irrigation
- (iii) Use of firearms in combat

**5. What were some of the major religious developments during this period?**

**Answer:**

Some of the major religious developments during this period include:

- (i) Worship of new deities
- (ii) Building of new temples by the royalty
- (iii) Increasing importance of Brahmanas; the priests, as dominant groups in society.
- (iv) The emergence of the idea of bhakti among people.
- (v) Appearance of many new religions like Islam.
- (vi) Teachings of the holy Quran were brought by the merchants and the migrants in India.

**6. In what ways has the meaning of the term "Hindustan" changed over the centuries?**

**Answer:**

The meaning of the term 'Hindustan' has changed over the past centuries in the following different ways:

- (i) In the 13th century, The term 'Hindustan' was used for the first time by Minhaj-i Siraj, a thirteenth century Persian chronicler. With this term,

he meant the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna.

(ii) During the 14th century, the term 'Hind' was used by Amir Khusrau to refer to the culture and people of the Indus river.

(iii) During the early 16th century, Babar used the term 'Hindustan' to describe the culture, geography and fauna of the inhabitants of the sub-continent.

Thus, earlier, the term "Hindustan" was used to represent the geographical and cultural entity but it did not carry the political and national meanings which we associate with it today.

### **7. How were the affairs of Jatis regulated?**

#### **Answer:**

People belonging to Jatis (the sub-castes) were ranked on the basis of occupations and backgrounds. The affairs of Jatis were regulated in the following ways:

- They framed their own rules and regulations in order to control the conduct of their members.
- These rules and regulations were enforced by an assembly of elders from the jati, known as the 'jati panchayat'.
- The jatis were also required to follow the rules of their villages, which were governed by a chieftain.

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

#### **Answer:**

The term pan-regional empire is referred to an empire spanning diverse regions. The dynasties of the Mughals, Cholas, Khaljis and the Tughluqs were extended over pan-region.

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

#### **Answer:**

During the past, the historians faced a lot of difficulties in using the manuscripts which were as follows:

- Due to the lack of printing press during those periods, the historians had to scribe the manuscripts by hand.
- During copying, different historians introduced small changes in words or sentences which were not clear to them. They presented their own vision.
- The changes made in new copies grew over centuries of copying. So, the original manuscript of the author is rarely found today.
- Historians have to read different manuscript versions of the same text to guess what the author had originally written

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

### **Answer:**

Historians divide the past into periods on the basis of economic and social factors to characterise the major elements of different moments of the past.

Yes, the historians face a lot of problems because economic and social factors do not exist in a stasis, they have a tendency to change constantly. In the period from 700 to 1750, Indian history witnessed a considerable change. After all, the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries were quite different from the eighth or the eleventh. Therefore, describing the entire period as one historical unit is not without its problems. Moreover, the "medieval" period is often contrasted with the 'modern' period. The term 'modernity' implies a sense of material and intellectual progress. This further implies that there was no progress before, which is not true. This seems to suggest that the medieval period was lacking in any change whatsoever. But we know that this was not the case.

## **V. Very Short Answer Type Questions**

### **Question 1. Who was al-Idrisi?**

**Answer:** al-Idrisi was an Arab cartographer.

### **Question 2. Who is a 'cartographer'?**

**Answer:** Cartographer is one who draws a map.

### **Question 3. What difference do you notice in the map drawn by al-Idrisi?**

**Answer:** In the map drawn by al-Idrisi we find a completely different view. Here south India is shown at the present north India and Sri Lanka is the island at the top

### **Question 4. Who used the term Hindustan for the first time and when?**

**Answer:** Minhaj-i Siraj used the term 'Hindustan' for the first time in the thirteenth century.

### **Question 5. What sources do the historians use for the study of a particular period of history?[V. Imp.]**

**Ans.** The historians use the sources like coins, inscriptions, architectures and textual records for the study of specific period.

### **Question 6. What do you mean by archives?**

**Answer:** Archives were the places where manuscripts were collected.

**Question 7. Who were scribes?**

**Answer:** Scribes were those professionals who used to copy down the manuscripts.

**Question 8. How did the scribes copy down the manuscripts?**

**Answer:** Scribes copied down the manuscripts by hands.

**Question 9. What changes took place during 700 and 1750? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** Many technologies like Persian wheel in irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving, and firearms in combat made their appearance. Some new foods and beverages like potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee also arrived in the subcontinent.

**Question 10. What factors contributed to the variety of developments?**

**Answer:** The new technologies and innovations came to the subcontinent with the people who came from other areas and settled here.

**Question 11. What were the new groups of people to be prominent in this age? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** Rajputs, Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Ahoms and Kayasthas were the groups which came to be prominent in this age. They availed most of the opportunities of the society.

**Question 12. What do you mean by Jati Panchayat?**

**Answer:** Jati Panchayat was the assembly of elders which controlled the conduct of the members of their jati. They had their own rules and regulations.

**Question 13. Who was the Chief of the village?**

**Answer:** Villages were controlled by a Chieftain. Even the smaller Jati Panchayats were bound to follow the village administration.

**Question 14. What was the stretch of Delhi Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban's Empire?**

**Answer:** According to a Sanskrit Prashasti Delhi Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban's empire was stretched from Bengal (Gauda) in the east to Ghazni (Gajjana) in Afghanistan in the west. It also included all of south India (Dravida)

**Question 15. Why did Brahmanas dominate in the society during this period? [Imp.]**

**Answer:** Brahmanas were the only class of people who were proficient in Sanskrit language. This was the reason that made them prominent.

**Question 16. Who were the patrons?**

**Answer:** Patrons were a group of the rulers and rich class of people who provided protection and livelihood to the brahmanas, artists and poets.

**Question 17. What was the major development of this age?**

**Answer:** The emergence of the idea of bhakti was the major development of this age.

**Question 18. How history was divided by historians during the middle of the nineteenth century?**

**Answer:** The British historians divided the history of India into three periods—:P

- Hindu,
- Muslim and
- British.

**Question 19. What was the basis of such division?**

**Answer:** Such division was made on the basis of the religion as the historians did not consider any aspect more prominent other than the developments in religions.

**Short Answer Type Questions**

**Question 1. What difference do you trace out in the region of Hindustan of thirteenth century and the modern India?**

**Answer:** The term 'Hindustan' in the thirteenth century implied the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna. Minhaj-i Siraj used the term in a political sense for lands consisting of a part of the dominions of the Delhi Sultanate. The areas included in this term shifted with the extent of the Sultanate. However, it never included south India.

**Question 2. What does time mean for historians? How does it help them? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** Time, for historians, doesn't mean just a passing of hours, days or years. Instead it reflects changes in social and economic organization, in the persistence and transformation of ideas and beliefs. In order to study historical developments historians divide the past into large segments. It makes the study convenient. The historians study different aspects of the specific period and then assess the comparative developments their impact on society and their contribution to future generation.

**Question 3. What do you mean by pan-regional rule? What was its impact? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** Pan-regional rule applies to the trend of extending the empire to the region beyond one's own state. With the decline of the Mughal Empire in the eighteenth century many regional states emerged. Consequently a chance of sharing different traditions in the realms of governance, economy, elite cultures and languages was brightened. People knew a lot of new thing, manners, etc, without losing their own culture and identity.

## Long Answer Type Questions

### Question 1. What was the process of copying manuscript? What were its drawbacks? [Imp.]

Answer: As there was no printing press during the period between 700 and 1750, Scribes used to copy down the manuscripts which were hand-written. Sometimes it was difficult to recognize the original script. So the Scribes used their own way of interpreting the facts. Consequently, there were differences were found in the copies written by different Scribes. As all the copies were handwritten, it was difficult to recognize which was the original one. It was the drawback of such copying.

### Question 2. Trace out the major changes in the society during 700 and 1750? What was its main reason? [V. Imp.]

Answer: A number of changes took place in society during 700 and 1750. This period traced the technological appearance of Persian wheel in irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving and firearms in combat. Potatoes, com, chillies, tea and coffee were some of the new foods and beverages. These developments came with the arrival of the people who migrated to this land. As a result this period saw various changes in the economic, political, social and cultural life.

### Question 3. What was the change in the religion of the time? Trace out major developments? [V. Imp.]

Answer: The period between 700 and 1750 witnessed major changes in religion. It was seen prominently in Hinduism. The worship of new deities, the construction of temples by royalty and the growing importance of Brahmanas, the priests, as dominant groups in society were some of the major developments. The idea of bhakti emerged. Merchants and migrants brought the new teachings of 'Quran', the holy book of the Muslims. A class of patrons emerged. They were the rulers who provided shelter and protection to the ulemas—the learned theologians and jurists. Muslims were divided into two groups—Shia and Sunni. Shia Muslims believed in Prophet Muhammad's authority while the Sunnis accepted the authority of the early leaders—Khalifas.