

Magadh Mahila College

Patna University

Department of History

Bhawana Singh(Guest Faculty)

Email id- singhbhawana47@gmail.com

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Sources of Sultanate Period

The basic difference between ancient Indian history and medieval Indian history is that we have a huge amount of contemporary literary sources of medieval Indian history as available as compared to ancient Indian history. The reasons behind increase in history writing during medieval India are as follows:

- Under Islam writing related to the Prophet and the Caliphs was considered to be pious and was appreciated.
- The introduction and wide usage of paper also made writing easy.

During this era the rulers too took personal interest in history writing and provide patronage to the authors and poets in their courts.

In 8th century (712A.D) when the Arabs gained victory over Sindh and annexed it to the Turkish Empire from there we begin to get the literary sources of medieval India. Thus, from Fatahnama this is wrongly named as Chachanama to Alamgirnama are all considered to be the contemporary literary sources of medieval Indian history.

But the contemporary literary sources have their demerits as well. Such writings lacks authenticity. They contain the biasness of the contemporary writers. As a result of which there are various misconceptions and misinformation spread about the time. The medieval Indian writer did not write about the role and contributions of the common masses so their writings were mainly ruler centered.

The medieval Indian writings were mostly written in Persian language. A few writings were also available in Arabic language. Lahore was the center of Persian language. Numerous sources of medieval Indian history are as follows:

- **Chachnama:**

The writer of Chachnama is anonymous. The actual name of Chachnama is Fatahnama. It was written in Arabic language. This work provides information about Muhommad-bin-quasim. Thus, this work is considered as the first work of medieval Indian history.

- **Tarikh-i-hind:**

The writer of Tarikh-i-hind is Abu rehan alberuni. This text was written in Arabic language. This book is also famous as Kitab-ul-hind. This book provides information about the Indian society and culture from 1018A.D-1030A.D. Alberuni visited India along with the army Mahmud Ghaznavi. He was the first muslim writer who learnt Sanskrit language in order to understand Indian culture and society. He began the trend of writing history in chronological order in India. Thus, the actual history writing is considered to have started being written from the time of Alberuni.

- **Tabqate-i-nasiri:**

This work was written by Minhaj-uddin-siraj. This book provides us information about the invasion of Muhommad Ghori in India and establishment of Delhi Sultanate by the Turks. Minhaj-uddin-siraj was the head of Nasiriya Madarsa during the time of Nassir-uddin-mehmmud and also the chief Quazi of Delhi. He for the first time in his book used the word Bihar. This book consists of information from the reign of Muhommad Ghori to Nassir-uddin-mehmmud.

- **Tarik-i-firozshahi:**

This book was written by two writers. It was started by Ziauddin Barni. He provided information about the political condition of the reign of and Khilji dynasty and Tughlaq dynasty. Later this book was completed by Shamsh siraj afif. In this he covered the history of Tughlaq dynasty in detail

especially about Firoz shah tughlaq. Ziauddin Barni also wrote Fatwa-i-jahandari.

- **Futuh-i-firozshahi:**

This book was written by Firozshah Tughlaq himself. He gave a detailed information about political, administrative and economic policies of his empire.

- **Kitab-i-rehla:**

This book was written by Ibn Batutah. This book was written in Arabic language. This is a travel loge of Ibn Batutah. This book consists of detailed information about the postal system of Sultanate period. Ibn Batutah was the resident of Morocco. He visited India in 1333A.D during the reign of Muhommad-bin-tughlaq.

- **Books of Amir Khusro:**

1. **Kiran-uss-sadein:** this books provides information about the meeting of Qakubad with his son Boghra Khan.
2. **Miftah-ul-futuh:** it is the history of expeditions of Jallauddin Khilji.
3. **Khajain-ul-futuh:** this book provides information about the Deccan expedition s of Allauddin Khilji.
4. **Aashiqa:** it provides information the love story of Deval Rani the daughter of Kamla Devi and Khijra Khan the son of Allauddin Khilji.
5. **Nuh-i-sipahar:** it gives information about the political condition of Mubarak shah khilji.
6. **Aizaz-i-khushravi:** it is the compilation of letters documents of Amir Khusro.
7. **Tughlaqnama:** this is the last book written by Amir Khusro. It consists of information about the expeditions of Ghiyasuddin tughlaq.

A few Sanskrit texts written during Medieval India:

Books

1. Brahmasutra
2. Karmamimansa

Authors

- Ramanuja
- Parth sarthi

3. Geet Govind
4. Mitakshara
5. Daaybhag
6. Pritviraj raso
7. Rajtarngini

Jaidev
Vigyaneshwara
Jimutvahana
Chandravardai
Kalhana