

M.A. Monsoon Semester 2018

State in Medieval India I

4 Credits: Two tutorials (2 credits) & End Semester Examination (2 credits)

Najaf Haider

General readings: intended to provide students with references that serve as the basis for specialized reading (listed below) and navigate the search for further reading

Habib, *Medieval India. The Study of a Civilization*; Chandra, *History of Medieval India*, 2007; Jackson, *The Delhi Sultanate*; *idem*, 'Muslim India: the Delhi Sultanate', *New Cambridge History of Islam (NCHI)*, 3, pp. 100-127*; Richards, *The Mughal Empire*; Dale, 'India under Mughal Rule', *NCHI*, 3, pp. 266-314*; Streusand, *Formation of the Mughal Empire*; Schimmel, *Empire of the Great Mughals*; Moosvi, *Episodes in the Life of Akbar*; Banarasidas, *Ardhakathanak*, text and tr. Rohini Chowdhury

1. Definition, Sources, Apparatus: ruling classes; system of governance; state and economy

Definition of state; textual and documentary sources; population and territory; Arab polity in Sind; imperial polities in medieval India (Turkish, Afghan & Mughal); composition of nobility & changes; structure of administration: *iqta*, *mansab*, *jagir*; taxation & distribution of the agrarian surplus; lower bureaucracy & language of administration; law & local administration; local ruling classes (chieftains, *zamindars* and village oligarchies): allies in sharing resources, adversaries in times of crisis (decline of the Mughal Empire); state & economy

Readings: M. Habib, *Politics and Society*, 1, pp. 59-96 (Urban and Rural Revolution); vol. 2, pp. 1-35 (Arab conquest of Sind); Asif, *A Book of Conquest*; I. Habib, *Economic History of India 1206-1526* (Chs. 1 & 2); N. Hasan, *Religion, State and Society in Medieval India*, 2005 (Chs. 10 & 11); Ibn Hasan, *Central Structure of the Mughal Empire*; Habib, 'Social Distribution of Landed Property in Pre-British India', *Essays in Indian History* (pp. 80-118); Habib, *Agrarian System of Mughal India*, rev. ed. (chapters V-VII); Raychaudhuri, 'The State and the Economy: Mughal Empire', *Cambridge Economic History of India*, I; Richards, 'Mughal State Finance and the Premodern World Economy', *CSSH*, 1981*; Haider, 'Monetary Integration of India under the Mughal Empire', *India. Studies in the History of an Idea*; Haider, 'Language, Caste and the Secretarial Class in Mughal India'; Habib, 'Formation of the Sultanate Ruling Class of the Thirteenth Century', *Medieval India I*; Khan, 'Hindu Chiefs in the Sultanate Polity'; *idem* 'Mughal Court Politics during Bairam Khan's Regency', *India's Polity in the Age of Akbar*; *idem*, 'The Nobility under Akbar and the Development of His Religious Policy, 1560-80.' In *India's Islamic Traditions, 711-1750*, ed. R.M. Eaton; Ali, 'Nobility under Muhammad Tughluq' *PIHC* 1981, repr. *Mughal India* (Ch.3); *idem*, *Mughal Nobility Under Aurangzeb*; Siddiqui, 'The Composition of the Nobility under the Lodi Sultans', *Medieval India Miscellany*, 4, 1977, pp. 10-66; Satish Chandra, 'Mughal Relations with the Rajput states' in *Essays on Medieval Indian History*, pp. 357-445; Nurul Hasan, 'The Theory of Nurjahan Junta' *PIHC* 1958, repr. *Religion, State and Society in Medieval India* (chapter 11); Habib, 'The Family of Nurjahan', *Medieval India Miscellany* 1, 1969; Norman Ziegler, 'Some Notes on Rajput Loyalties during the Mughal period', in *The Mughal State*, pp. 168-212

2. Kingship: theories, rituals, images

Theories of kingship: king as protector of social order (Barani); Turko-Mongol traditions; social contract & king as vicegerent of God (Abul Fazl); court culture and ceremonies: *jharoka darshan*; *tuladan*; *nauroz*; images of the ruler

Readings: Ahmad, 'Trends in the Political Thought of Medieval Muslim India'; Habib, 'Two Indian Theorists of the State: Barani and Abul Fazl', *Mind over Matter*, eds. Vanina & Jha; Richards,

'Economic History of the Lodi Period'*; Aquil, 'Reconsidering Sovereignty & Governance under the Afghans', *South Asia* 2003*; Haider, 'Review of Aquil, *Sufism, Culture & Politics*', *MHJ* 2008*; Ali, *Mughal India* (Ch.11); Mukhia, *Mughals of India* (Chs. 2 & 4); Chandra, *Essays on Medieval Indian History* (Chs. 15, 16, 22); Kolff, 'A Warlord's Fresh Attempt at Empire', *The Mughal State*, eds. Alam & Subrahmanyam; Siddiqui, *Some Aspects of Afghan Despotism in India*, 1969; Tripathi, 'Turko-Mongol Theory of kingship'*; Khan, 'Turko-Mongol Theory of Kingship'*; Dale, 'Legacy of the Timurids', *JRAS*, 1998*; Balabanlilar, 'Lords of the Auspicious Conjunction: Turko-Mongol Imperial Identity on the Subcontinent'*; Habib, 'Timur in the Political Tradition and Historiography of Mughal India'*; Moin, *Millennial Sovereign: Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam*; Haider, 'Monarch and the Millennium: A New Interpretation of the *Alf* Coins of Akbar'*; Skelton, 'Imperial Symbolism in Mughal Painting'*; Heike Franke, 'Emperors of Surat and Mani', *Muqarnas*, 31, 2014; Koch, 'Mughal Ruler as Solomon, Majnun, and Orpheus'*

3. Historiography

Oriental and Asiatic Despotism (Bernier, Marx), segmentary state (Burton Stein); patrimonial-bureaucratic empire (Blake); polity of local urban groups (Bayly, Hasan); Medieval Indian state, centralized, not feudal (Aligarh School); processual approach (Subrahmanyam, Kumar, Aquil); counter-perspectives on Mughal polity (Talbot, Pauwels, Busch)

Readings: Moosvi, 'The pre-colonial state', *Social Scientist*, 2005*; *idem*, 'Problems of the History of Bengal under the Mughals', *Journal of Historical Studies*, 1999-2000; Kulke, *The State in India 1000-1700*, 1995 (Intr. & chs. 4, 8 & 9*); Bernier, *Travels in the Mogul Empire*, pp. 200-238; Tambiah, 'What did Bernier actually say? Profiling the Mughal Empire'*; Ray, 'Francois Bernier's Idea of India' *India. Studies in the History of an Idea*, ed. Habib; Burke, 'The Philosopher as Traveller; Bernier's Orient'*; Habib, *Medieval India* (pp. 3-11, 57-65, 75-108, 111-259); F. Hasan, *State and Locality in Mughal India*, 2006; Subrahmanyam, 'Mughal State-structure or process', 1992*; Ali, 'Mughal State-Critique of Revisionist Approaches', 1993*; Kumar, *Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate*; Review of Kumar's book by Shahabuddin Iraqi, *Medieval India*, 293-300*; Cynthia Talbot, 'Justifying Defeat. A Rajput Perspective on the age of Akbar', *JESHO* 2012; Heidi Pauwels, 'The saint, the warlord and the emperor', *JESHO* 2019

4. Ideology and Political rule

Elements of political ideology: juristic & Sufi Islam; statecraft; absolute peace (*sulh i kul*); 'intellectual' projects: histories & translations; political norms & state; *Chachnama* as a book of political theory; power, piety & Indo-Islamic architecture; state, caste and social conflicts

Readings: Rizvi, *Religious and Intellectual History of the Muslims in Akbar's Reign*; Ali, *Mughal India* (Chs. 11, 14, 16, 17, 21) N. Hasan, *Religion, State and Society in Medieval India* (chapters 6, 7, 8); Darling, "'Do Justice, Do Justice, For That is Paradise'"*; Alam, 'Sharia, Akhlaq and Governance', *Languages of Political Islam in India*; Khan, 'Tracing Sources of Principles of Mughal Governance: A Critique of Recent Historiography'*; Haider, 'Justice and Political Authority in Medieval Indian Islam'*; 'Translating Texts and Straddling Worlds. Intercultural Communication in Mughal India'*; Arjomand, 'Legitimacy and political organisation', *NCHI*, vol. 4, pp. 268-73*; Eaton (ed.), *India's Islamic Traditions* (Introduction); Mukhia, *Mughals of India* (Ch. 1); Khan, 'Economic Theories of Medieval India'*; Truschke, *Culture of Encounters*, pp. 1-25, 101-165; *idem*, *Aurangzeb*; Asif, *Book of Conquest* (Ch. 3); Review of Asif's book by Habib, *Studies in People's History*, 2017, 105-9*; Lefevre, 'State Building and management of diversity', *MHJ* 2013*; Flood, *Objects of Translation*

Note: Most articles/assigned portions of books are available with Shubho Photostat in the form of a Reader. References can also be consulted in the Central Library & the CHS Library. Articles marked with asterisk (*) are available in soft copies through JNU Library's search engine. You can also send a mail on snajafhaider@gmail.com for soft copies. Some readings can be downloaded from <https://an-in.academia.edu/NajafHaider>. Please note that more readings will be recommended as we go.

Contact Hours: Monday (1-3 PM) & Wednesday (11 AM-1 PM) Room 319. For out of hours meetings call 9871575587/26741286