

**State in Medieval India-II
Monsoon Semester
2016**

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

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The purpose of the Course is to provide an understanding of the emergence and consolidation of major state structures in medieval India. The focus will be on states other than the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire. The themes organized in this Course are based on the case studies of state structures in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Peninsular region and Orissa, since the political formations during this period were several. The themes are organized around the issue of the evolution of the state, political ideologies and institutions, court cultures and the notions of regional identities and the region versus/and the empire.

General Readings: This list contains a set of books, which provide an overview of states and socio-economic conditions in the medieval period of Indian history. These readings are significant as they provide relevant background information.

1. Catherine B. Asher and Cynthia Talbot, *India before Europe*, 2008[2006, 2007] (Cambridge University Press, New Delhi)
2. Hermann Kulke and Dietmar Rothermund, *A History of India, Fourth Edition*, 1991 (South Asia books, New Delhi)
3. K.A. Nilakantha Sastri, *A History of South India: From Prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar*. 2000[1975, 1966, 1958, 1955] (OUP, Delhi) With an Introduction by R. Champakalakshmi and Conclusion by Rajan Gurukul
4. Mohammad Habib and K.A. Nizami, eds, *A Comprehensive History of India, Vol5, Part 2, The Delhi Sultanat (A.D.1206-1526)*, 1993[1970, 1982] (People's Publishing House, New Delhi)
5. Noboru Karashima, ed. *A Concise History of South India. Issues and Interpretations*. 2014 (OUP, Delhi)
6. Satish Chandra, *History of Medieval India*, 2007 (Orient Blackswan, Delhi)

The above books are available in the Central Library and CHS library in Paschimabad.

Themes:

- 1. Rise of States and Regional Political Patterns:**

Changing settlement patterns, spread of agriculture, circulation of population, emergence of peasant and warrior groups, development of lineage and clan networks and the rise of new political elites, spread of state societies, rise of states and emergence of the region:

2. Structures of Polities and Changing Power Configurations:

Negotiations of power, court politics, hierarchies of power, and integration through hierarchy, composition of ruling class and circulation of elites; Warfare and negotiations; State, Economy and Networks of control: Administrative structures, taxation, capital cities as centres of power and control

3. Historiography:

Colonial perspectives, perception of the regions and treatment of issues of polity, economy and society in these writings; Nationalist perspectives, idea of a centralized state, local self-government, concept of a self sufficient village, understanding of the region; Marxist understanding, the concept of feudalism, land grants, role of the temples, issues of land rights and relations; Later perspectives, influence of anthropology, new models in the study of the state, segmentary state, peasant state and society, integrative polity, patrimonial bureaucracy, concept of the 'little kingdom', lineage polities.

4. Forms of Royal Legitimation and Control:

Court etiquette and court paraphernalia, rituals of kingship, festivals, and coronation ceremonies, origin myths and genealogies; religion and legitimation, political iconography, warfare and 'looting' and patterns of architecture and sculptures representing power and authority.

Theme Wise Distribution and Reading List:

Theme One and Two

Rise of States and Regional Political Patterns

The aim of the two themes is to explain the rise and evolution of states in the medieval period and the spread of the state through its ideas and institutions. The focus will be on the historical process and not the events. For a proper understanding of these themes, the period of early medieval India that is from the sixth to the seventh century CE will also be taken into consideration. The central idea is that evolution and growth of states are due to historical processes over a period of time and are not merely the result of political events and dynastic histories. While providing a survey of the processes of state formation, certain case studies, especially related to Peninsular India and Rajasthan- from the sixth to seventeenth centuries will be discussed in detail as specific historical conditions present in any state society become crucial to understand the political complexities of that state.

The following are some of the issues that will be discussed:

Changing settlement patterns, spread of agriculture, circulation of population (migration), emergence of peasant and warrior groups, development of lineage and clan networks and the rise of new political elites, spread of state societies, rise of states and emergence of the region, emergence of regionalism and the idea of state formation, emergence of political identities, the notion of origin of the state and ruling elites, profile of a region.

Reading List:

Since the readings on state and polities are too many, therefore this list is an attempt to provide some representative readings on the state formation and its spread with the focus on Rajasthan, Gujarat, Vijayanagar, Marathas, Bahamanis, Kakatiyas, Orissa and Kashmir. In addition, the students are advised to consult from the general readings provided in the course structure handout. The books in bold are the core readings of this course and the two themes in particular.

The books and essays are available in the DSA and Central Library. Students are advised to locate these books in the libraries. In case they are not available, they should immediately inform me and a copy will be provided.

1. André Wink, *Al Hind, The Making of the Indo-Islamic World. Vol.I Early Medieval India and the Expansion of Islam 7th-11th Centuries*, 1999, (Delhi, OUP). pp. 219-359
2. B D Chattopadhyaya, *The Making of Early Medieval India*, 2012, 2nd Edn (OUP, New Delhi). Introduction (new as well as the old), Chapter II
3. B.P.Sahu, *The Changing Gaze. Regions and Constructions of Early India*, 2014 (Delhi, OUP). Chapters 7 and 11.
4. Burton Stein, *Vijayanagara*. The New Cambridge History of India, 1989, (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge).
5. Chitralekha Zutshi, *Kashmir's Contested Pasts. Narratives, Sacred Geographies, and the Historical Imagination*, 2014 (Delhi, OUP).
6. Cynthia Talbot, *Precolonial India in Practice: Society, Region, and Identity in Medieval Andhra*, 2001 (Delhi, OUP).
7. H.K.Sherwani, *The Bahamanis of Deccan*, 1985 (New Delhi, Munshiram Manoharlal)
8. Kulke, Hermann. 1993. "Maharajas, Mahants and Historians. Reflections on the Historiography of Early Vijayanagara and Sringeri", in *Kings and Cults: State Formation and Legitimation in India and Southeast Asia*. New Delhi: Manohar Publishers, pp.208-39.
9. Nandini Sinha Kapur, *State Formation in Rajasthan. Mewar During the Seventh-Fifteenth Centuries*, 2002 (New Delhi, Manohar Books)
10. Noboru Karashima, *Ancient to Medieval. South Indian Society in Transition*, 2009 (Delhi, OUP).
11. Philip R. Wagoner. 2000. 'Harihara, Bukka and the Sultan: The Delhi Sultanate in the Political Imagination of Vijayanagar', in Gilmartin, David and Bruce B Lawrence (eds.), *Beyond Turk and Hindu: Rethinking Religious Identities in Islamicate South Asia*, pp. 300-26. Gainesville: Florida.
12. R.Champakalakshmi, 1995. "State and Economy: South India. Circa A.D. 400-1300." In *Recent Perspectives of Early Indian History*. Romila Thapar, ed. New Delhi: Popular Prakashan: 275-317.
13. Sameera Sheikh, *Forging a Region. Sultans, Traders and Pilgrims in Gujarat 1200-1500*, 2010 (OUP, New Delhi), pp. 1-61.
14. Satish Chandra, (2003). *Essays on Medieval Indian History*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
15. Suraj Bhan Bhardwaj, *Contestations and Accommodations. Mewar and Meos in Mughal India*, 2016 (Delhi, OUP), Chapters 1, 2 and 3
16. Tanuja Kothiyal, *Nomadic Narratives. A History of Mobility and Identity in the Great Indian Desert*, 2016 (New Delhi, CUP). Pp.1-96.
17. G.D.Sharma. *Rajput Polity. A Study of politics and Administration of the State of Marwar, 1638-1749*. 1977 (New Delhi, Manohar)
18. Karine Schomer, Joan L.Erdman, Deryck O.Lodrick and Lloyd I.Rudolph eds. *The Idea of Rajasthan. Explorations in Regional Identity. Vol.II Institutions*. 1994 (New Delhi, Manohar)

Theme Three

Colonial perspectives, perception of the regions and treatment of issues of polity, economy and society in these writings; Nationalist perspectives, idea of a centralized state, local self-government, concept of a self sufficient village, understanding of the region; Marxist understanding, the concept of feudalism, land grants, role of the temples, issues of land rights and relations; Later perspectives, influence of anthropology, new models in the study of the state, segmentary state, peasant state and society, integrative polity, patrimonial bureaucracy, concept of the 'little kingdom', lineage polities.

Select Readings:

1. Hermann Kulke. Ed. *The State in India.1000-1700*. 1997, (Delhi, OUP).
2. R.S.Sharma. *Indian Feudalism*.
3. Burton Stein. *Peasant State and Society in Medieval South India*. 1980 (New Delhi, OUP)
4. R.Champakalakshmi. *Peasant State and Society in Medieval South India: A Review Article*. 1981. *The Indian Economic Social History Review*, XVIII, Nos 3 and 4, pp.411-26.

Theme Four

Forms of Royal Legitimation and Control:

This theme will focus on set of discourses and symbolic practices by means of which the state and various political groups articulate their relationship to power and elaborate their political ideas. Some of the issues in this theme will include:

Court etiquette and court paraphernalia, rituals of kingship, festivals, and coronation ceremonies, origin myths and genealogies; religion and legitimation, political iconography, warfare and 'looting' and patterns of architecture and sculptures representing power and authority

Select Readings:

- 1.Philip R. Wagoner.2000. 'Harihara, Bukka and the Sultan: The Delhi Sultanate in the Political Imagination of Vijayanagar', in Gilmartin, David and Bruce B Lawrence (eds.), *Beyond Turk and Hindu: Rethinking Religious Identities in Islamicate South Asia*, pp. 300-26. Gainesville: Florida.
2. _____ 1996. "'Sultan Among the Hindu Kings": Dress, Titles and Islamicization of Hindu Culture at Vijayanagar,' *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 55 (4): 851-80.
- 3.Richard Eaton and Philip R.Wagoner, *Power, Memory, Architecture: Contested Sites on India's Deccan Plateau, 1300-1600*. (OUP, 2014), New Delhi. Read the introductions and conclusions of each chapter
4. Ramya Sreenivasan, "Rethinking Kingship and Authority in South Asia: Amber (Rajasthan), ca. 1560-1615", *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 2014, 549-86.
5. _____, "The Marriage of 'Hindu' and 'Turak'. The Medieval Rajput Histories of Jalor. *Medieval History Journal*, 7,1, 2004. 87-108.
6. _____. Alauddin Khalji Remembered: Conquest, Gender and Community in

Medieval Rajput Narratives. *Studies in History*, 2002. Pp.275-96.

7. Cynthia Talbot, "Justifying Defeat:^[1]_[SEP] A Rajput Perspective on the Age of Akbar", *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 2012, 329-68.
