



FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CLASS- VII
WORKSHEET NO: 15
HISTORY

NAME:

DATE: 18/04/2020

Instructions:

1. Please do S.ST assignments in a separate notebook for given work.
2. Use black pen for questions and blue for answers
3. Write all the Answers in points.

Note: Please refer below additional link for more insight on same chapter :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45rJIG-KTHY>

TOPIC: New Kings and Kingdoms

Keywords:

Samantas: The subordinates of kings or landlords who used to bring gifts for their kings or overlords.

Maharaja-Adhiraja: A high sounding title used for great king, overlords.

Revenue: The traders had to pay to their lords.

Sabha: The Assembly of Brahmins.

Tribhuvan -Chakra Vardhan -A lord of three worlds.

Prashastis: Prashastis are special kind of inscriptions and is a Sanskrit word which means "in praise for". They are glowing praises of kings and rulers written by poets.

Maha – Mandaleshvara: The samantas who gain power and wealth declared themselves as mahamandaleshwaras or mahasamantas that is the great lord of a circle or region.



Many new dynasties emerged after the seventh century.

Given Map shows the major ruling dynasties in different parts of the subcontinent between the seventh and twelfth centuries.

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. They were expected to bring gifts for their kings or overlords, be present at their courts and provide them with military support. As samantas gained power and wealth, they declared themselves to be maha-samanta, maha-mandaleshvara (the great lord of a “circle” or region) and so on. Sometimes they asserted their independence from their overlords.

One such instance was that of the Rashtrakutas in the Deccan. Initially they were subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka. In the mid-eighth century, Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, overthrew his Chalukya overlord and performed a ritual called Hiranyagarbha (literally, the golden womb). When this ritual was performed with the help of Brahmanas, it was thought to lead to the “rebirth” of the sacrificer as a Kshatriya, even if he was not one by birth.

In other cases, men from enterprising families used their military skills to carve out kingdoms. For instance, the Kadamba Mayurasharma and the GurjaraPratihara Hari Chandra were Brahmanas who gave up their traditional professions and took to arms, successfully establishing kingdoms in Karnataka and Rajasthan respectively.

Administration in the Kingdoms

Many of these new kings adopted high-sounding titles such as maharaja-adhiraja (great king, overlord of kings), tribhuvana-chakravartin (lord of the three worlds) and so on. However, in spite of such claims, they often shared power with their samantas as well as with associations of peasants, traders and Brahmanas. In each of these states, resources were obtained from the producers – that is, peasants, cattle-keepers, artisans – who were often persuaded or compelled to surrender part of what they produced. Sometimes these were claimed as “rent” due to a lord who asserted that he owned the land. Revenue was also collected from traders.

These resources were used to finance the king’s establishment, as well as for the construction of temples and forts. They were also used to fight wars, which were in turn expected to lead to the acquisition of wealth in the form of plunder, and access to land as well as trade routes. The functionaries for collecting revenue were generally recruited from influential families, and positions were often hereditary. This was true about the army as well. In many cases, close relatives of the king held these positions.

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, for example. These were composed by learned Brahmanas, who occasionally helped in the administration

Kings often rewarded Brahmanas by grants of land. These were recorded on copper plates, which were given to those who received the land.



Unusual for the twelfth century was a long Sanskrit poem containing the history of kings who ruled over Kashmir. It was composed by an author named Kalhana. He used a variety of sources, including inscriptions, documents, eyewitness accounts and earlier histories, to write his account. Unlike the writers of prashastis, he was often critical about rulers and their policies.

EXERCISE

a) Match the columns with A to B

Column A	Column B
1. Tribhuvana-Chakravartin	(a) Arabic scholar
2. al-Biruni	(b) Great lord of a region
3. ur	(c) Land of non Brahmanas
4. Muvendavalen	(d) Peasant serving three kings
5. Vellanvagai	(e) Lord of three worlds
6. Maha-Mandaleshvara	(f) Settlement of peasants

b) Answer the following Questions:

Q1. Which new dynasties emerged after the 7th century in subcontinent?

Ans. _____

Q2. Who were samantas? What service did they provide to the existing kings?

Ans. _____

Q3. What happened when Samantas gained power?

Ans. _____

Q4. How did the Rashtrakutas gained power and independent?

Ans. _____

Q5. Give another example of samantas establishing their kingdoms?

Ans. _____

Q6. What titles did the new kings adopt?

Ans. _____

Q7. What were prashastis?

Ans. _____

Q8. How were Brahmanas rewarded?

Ans. _____

