



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAM PURA, DELHI-110034

CLASS –VII

SUBJECT: - SOCIAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER- TRACING CHANGES THROUGH A THOUSAND YEARS (Part 3)

GUIDELINES:

- Read the notes and the Chapter 1 of History- 'Tracing Changes through a Thousand Years' and follow the instructions given below.
- Do not copy the notes in the notebook.
- All the activities and questions are to be done in the Social Science notebook.

Reference Book Our Past II (NCERT History book class VII)

Chapter Link - <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?gess1=1-10>

RECAPITULATION FROM PART 1 &2:

- ❖ The period from 8th to 18th century is known as the medieval period of Indian history.
- ❖ Over a period, the map of an area made by a person differs significantly from that made by another person. This is because of the changes in the information about that region.
- ❖ The information about medieval period is derived from two sources: Archaeological and Literary.
- ❖ The development of literary sources increased dramatically in the medieval period.
- ❖ Two problems associated with manuscripts

Copying of manuscripts

Revision of Chronicles

NEW SOCIAL AND POLITICAL GROUPS

The study of the thousand years between 700 and 1750 is a huge challenge to historians largely because of the scale and variety of developments that occurred over the period.

Some instances of these are as follows:

❖ Emergence of 'new':

- During this period, new technologies made their appearance like the Persian wheel in irrigation, Spinning wheel in weaving and Firearms in combat.



Persian wheel



Spinning wheel



Firearm

- New foods and beverages arrived in the subcontinent like potatoes, corn, chilies, tea and coffee.
- Economic, social, political and cultural changes also took place during this period. This was a result of the ideas of people, who also brought new ideas.

❖ Castes and sub-castes

- **Castes:** This was a period of great mobility, i.e. groups of people travelled long distances in search of opportunities offered by the subcontinent. The subcontinent had immense wealth and opportunities for people to carve a fortune.

Rajputs were a group of people who became popular during this time. The name Rajput is derived from 'Rajaputra' which means 'son of the ruler'. The term was applied more generally to a group of warriors during the period between the eighth century and the fourteenth century.

- These groups of warriors claimed the Kshatriya status. The term 'Kshatriya'* included, apart from rulers and chieftains, the soldiers and commanders who served in the armies of different monarchs all over the subcontinent.
- Qualities attributed to Rajputs by their poets were extreme valour and a great sense of loyalty.



Other groups which used the opportunities of the period for becoming politically relevant were Jats, Marathas, Sikhs, Ahoms and Kayasthas (a caste of scribes and secretaries).



The division of society based on occupation in the Early Vedic period led to the development of four classes or Varna.

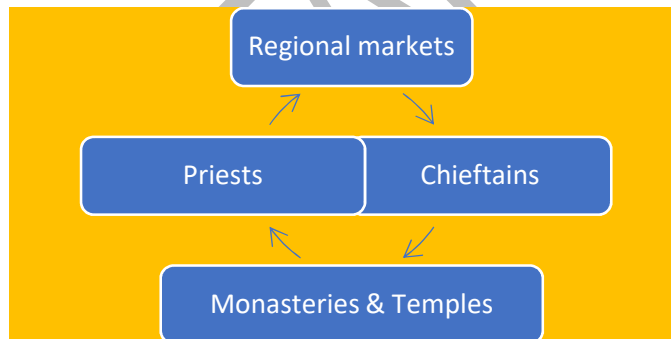
➤ **Sub-castes:**

- This period was marked by the migration of forest-dwellers due to a change in their habitat. This change in habitat was due to

Clearing of forests

Extension of agriculture

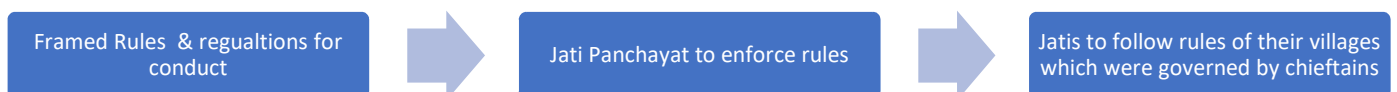
- These new peasant groups slowly began to be influenced by the



Huge differences emerged among the peasants, socially and economically.

These differences in the society led to the grouping of the people into Jatis or sub-castes which were ranked based on their backgrounds and occupations.

Functioning of Jatis:



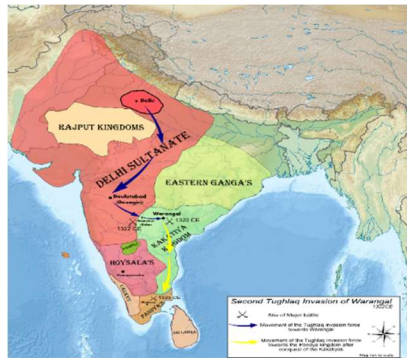
Together, the Jatis were one small unit of a state.

Watch the video given below for further understanding:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxGtom54iUM>

❖ Region and empire

- Large states like those governed by the Cholas, Tughluqs and Mughals covered many regions. For example- the Delhi Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban was the ruler of a vast empire that stretched from Bengal in the east to Ghazni in Afghanistan in the west and included all South India also. He was a great conqueror and people of many regions. According to a “Prashashti” in praise of Balban, his empire included Gauda in the east to Ghazni in the west and all South India.



- By 700; many regions had their distinct geographical boundaries, languages and culture. They were associated with specific ruling dynasties. Some of these dynasties built an empire that was pan-regional i.e. spanning different diverse regions. All these empires were not equally stable or successful.
- The character of the different regions, through the thousand years felt the impact of pan-regional forces of integration. But these regions did not lose their distinctiveness.

Watch the video given below for further understanding:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN9AX-bKS-s> (Till 1.28 min)

Old and new Religions

- Major developments in religious traditions took place in these thousand years i.e. between 700 and 1750.
- The belief people had in the divine was sometimes deeply personal, but more often it was collective in nature. This collective belief in religion was influenced by the social and economic organization of local communities.

Hinduism

Many major changes took place during this period in what we call Hinduism today. These changes include-

- The worship of new deities
- Construction of temples by royalty and
- The growing importance of Brahmanas (the priests) as dominant groups in the society. Brahmanas earned a lot of respect in the society due to their knowledge of Sanskrit texts. Their patrons (a person who gives financial or other

support to a person, organization, or cause.) played an important role in enhancing their respect in the society.

- Another major development during this period was the emergence of the Idea of Bhakti- of a loving, personal deity that devotees could reach without the aid of priests or elaborate rituals.

Emergence of new religion- Islam

The teachings of the holy Quran were brought by the merchants and migrants in the seventh century. Quran is regarded as the holy book of Muslims and they accept the sovereignty of one God Allah. Many rulers patronized Islam and the ulama.

Different interpretations of Islam

Shia Muslims	Sunni Muslims
Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law Ali was the legitimate leader of the Muslim community, whereas another group	They accepted the authority of the early and succeeding leaders (Khalifas) of the community.

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN9AX-bKS-s> (From 1.30-Till 2.10 min)

CLASSIFICATION OF HISTORY

For historians' 'time' does not have a relation with clock or calendar only. In other words, it is not just the passing of hours, days or years. It also reflects-

- The changes in the social and economic organizations.
- The transformation of ideas and beliefs.

The study of time is made simpler by dividing the past into large segments called periods. These large segments of time shared some common characteristics.

- **Period classification by the British**

The British historians in the mid-nineteenth century divided India's history into three periods, namely



The premise of dividing it this way was that the religion of rulers was the only important historical change, and there was no change in the social, economic and cultural aspects. Such classification also ignored the rich diversity of the subcontinent.

➤ **Classification based on social and economic factors**

- Few historians did not follow the classification based on the religion of the rulers mentioned above.
- They considered the major developments in the economic and social front for the purpose of periodisation.
- Accordingly, the historical periods are described as



This 'medieval' period (From 8th to 18th century) has witnessed the following:

- spread of peasant societies,
- the rise of regional and imperial state formations,
- the development of Hinduism and Islam as major religions,
- the arrival of European trading companies.

Criticism of periodization

There were many changes that happened in any given period. Therefore, describing the entire period as one historical unit does not give a clear picture of the period.

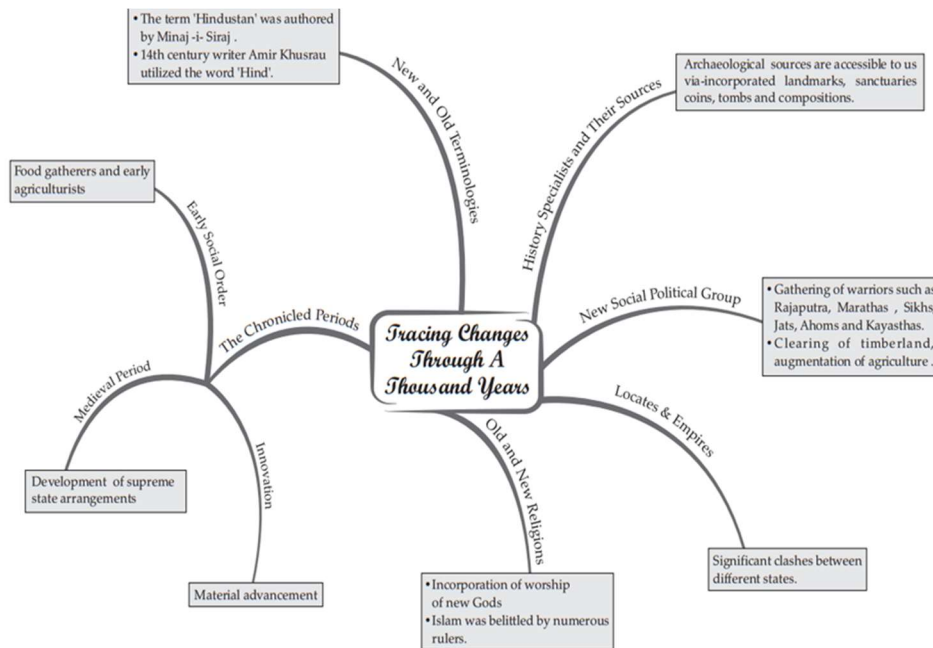
Moreover, often the 'medieval' period is contrasted with the 'modern' period. The term modernity refers to material and intellectual progress. But this does not mean that the medieval period lacked in advancement or was quite static without any changes. It was a dynamic period having a lot of advancement and transformation.

Many regions also reached a level of prosperity to the extent that it attracted the interest of European trading companies.

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEliSpfr64A>

Summary:



Guidelines: All the questions are to be done in the Social Science notebook.

- Q1: Enlist some of the technological changes associated with the medieval period.
 Q2. What were 'Jatis'? How were the affairs of Jatis regulated?
 Q3. Explain the classification of history on the basis of social and economic factors.
 Q4. Define the following. You can refer to the book/ chapter link.
 i. Pan- regional ii. Rajputs iii Habitat iv. Bhakti
