



International Journal of **Kannada** Research

www.kannadajournal.com

ISSN: 2454-5813

IJKR 2019; 5(3): 107-108

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www.kannadajournal.com

Received: 19-05-2019

Accepted: 23-06-2019

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The bahamani kingdom, the political history of two major rulers

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Abstract

The Bahamani kingdom was founded by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah in 1347 AD. With its initial capital at Gulbarga and later Bidar. A total of eighteen Sultans ruled over this kingdom and therefore the present study aims at understanding the two major rulers and the political history of the Bahamani Kingdom in North Karnataka, the study fetches the secondary data to analysis to gather the different roles of rulers. The study also projects the contribution made by rulers in north Karnataka, especially for political aspects i.e. their approaches to people, development and cultural aspects.

Keywords: Political history, bahamani kingdom

Introduction

Alauddin hasan bahman shah: (1347-1358.A.D.)

Bahamani Kingdom was founded by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah, he was the descendant from the great persian ruling family of 'Kakuyds' of the Irana Dynasty and Isfandar, leading right up to Bahman Gaur. Alauddin Hasan migrated to India from Ghaznah, then a province of Khurasan, in Iran, where Alauddin Hasan established a new dynasty, on the disintegration of the Tughluq empire, on 1357, he adopted Iranian dynastic title of "Bahman" and hence his sobriquet "Bahman Shah", and consequently the dynasty was called Bahmani. Alauddin Hasan naturally inherited the glorious traditions of the legendary kings of Iran with rich heritage of Islam which he introduced in the Deccan. The Iranian culture was implemented in the Deccan. He and his successors tried to maintain cultural contacts with Islamic countries.

Further Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah named Gulbarga as his main capital city for his administrative work. He decorated the capital with a number of buildings. The administration of the country was done on a sound basis by dividing it into four provinces called tarafs, each under a governor.

He reigned for eleven years and most of his time had been spent in waging wars which were destined to extend his territory. He had to meet opposition from the nobles who still professed their loyalty to the Tughluq Sovereign. He expanded his rule in the Bijapur district, and some parts of the Konkan coast and passes leading to them were controlled by Gulbarga. Bahmani Kingdom had two powerful adversaries i.e. Warangal and Vijaynagara. The closeness of these two Kingdoms was the cause of the unceasing warfare for the next hundred years that characterized the history of the Deccan. Kapaya Nayak of Warangal was defeated by Alauddin Hasan and was ordered to pay tribute in 1349 A.D.

He had also attacked Vijaynagara and occupied all the territory up to the Tungabhadra river. He had become unquestioned master of an extensive territory at the time of his death. This territory extended up to the sea on the west and on the east to the fortress town of Bhongir.

Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah died at the age of sixty seven. He was a self made man and consolidated his innovative ideas with few years from conjunction of interregnum with small potentates and adventures plaguing the country all around to a strong state extending to thousands of square miles by his industry, tact and sense of discipline.

He was the powerful first Muslim king who ordered that no Jiziah should be levied from non Muslims in lieu of military service, and he also allowed agricultural produce of all kinds and domestic animals to enter the Kingdom free of tax.

At the end of the life he called his three sons, Muhammad, Mahmud and Dawood and admonished them that if they wanted the Kingdom he had created to last then they should all

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stand united as one man, and asked the younger two to obey Muhammad, the heir to the throne.

Muhammad shah-I: (1358-1375.A.D.)

Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah died in 1358 A.D, and succeeded by his son Muhammad Shah-I, who was a strong admired and humbled administrator. Muhammad implemented a council of eight ministers. He had taken measures for suppression of brigandage and decentralized the administration. Gulbarga gained in importance by the splendid court maintained by Muhammad Shah-I. In the beginning of his reign, he was content with the silver throne which belonged to his father, but in 1363 A.D, he replaced this by a magnificent Turquoise throne sent to him by the ruler of Telangana. This throne was made of ebony and was three yards long by two yards broad, and was called the Turquoise throne as (Takht-i-Firoza) it was originally covered with an enamel of Turquoise, but each new Sultan after Muhammad Shah-I added fresh Jewels and Ornaments to the Turquoise throne till there was nothing visible except precious stones.

With the advice of his chief minister Muhammad Shah-I organized the administration of the Kingdom which continued practically right up to the end of the Bahamani period. During the early years of the sultanate most of the time the Sultan was taken up by military campaigns and the country was governed more or less under martial law. Muhammad-I, however, put the administration on semi- civil basis. He divided the Kingdom into tarafs or provinces centered at Daulatabad, Berar, Bidar and Gulbarga, entitling the provincial governors respectively as Masnad-i-Ali, Majlis-i-Ali, Azam-i-Humayun and Malik Naib.

There are at least three large monuments dating back to Muhammad Shah-I, which are still almost intact, i.e.,

Jami masjid in the Gulbarga fort

The most important masjid to survive in Gulbarga is the Jama Masjid or the congregational mosque built in 1367 A.D during the reign of Sultan Muhammad Shah-I. It is the first example of Iranian influence; and marks a turning point in the history of the Deccan architecture. The central dome resembles that at the great masjid at Cordova Spain.

Shah bazaar mosque in Gulbarga town

The oldest masjid at Gulbarga is Shah Bazar masjid, which is endorsed to Muhammad Shah-I and dated to the late fourteenth century.

Tomb of hazrat shamsuddin, Osmanabad

The tomb of Hazrat Shamsuddin at Osmanabad, which is the one which clearly shows the foreign and Tughluq influences.

There was a continuous wars between Telangana and Vijaynagara. The River Krishna and Tungabhadra were demanded by the King of Vijayanagara. Muhammad Shah-I consistently refused this demand, but Bukka invaded the Raichur doab in 1362 A.D. Muhammad Shah-I had to concede the Vijaynagara demands. His campaign in Telangana lasted for about two years and concluded with a treaty fixing Golconda as the boundary between the Bahmani Kingdom and Telangana. After this campaign, there was a period of peace and prosperity, Muhammad Shah-I reorganized his artillery on efficient lines and began to use it in fights against the enemy.

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