

The History of Bahmani Dynasty: An Overview

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Abstract

The Bahmani Sultanate, also called the Bahmanid Empire or the Bahmani Kingdom and was also known as a Persianate, a Muslim empire of the Deccan region in the South Indian region. Bahmani Sultanate was the first self-governing Muslim empire of the Deccan region and was popularly known for its everlasting wars with its rival from the Hindu religion known as Vijayanagara. Krishnadevaraya of the Vijayanagara Empire defeated the last remnant of Bahmani Sultanate. The Bahmani sultanate is popularly known as the first Muslim state in the Deccan region of India (1347–1518). The Bahmani sultanate was started in 1347 by the ruler named Ala al-Din Bahman Shah, and he was reinforced by various military heads in revolution against the Delhi sultan, Muhammad ibn Tughluq. The capital of Bahmani state was A%sanabad between 1347 and 1425, which is now known as Gulbarga and then Muhammadabad (now known as Bidar) subsequently. Bahmani achieved the highest of its influence during the vizierate of Mahmud Gawan between 1466 to 81.

Keywords

History, Dynasty, Bahmani, Rulers.

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Introduction

In the year 1347 the Bahmani dynasty replaced the imperial rule of the Tughluqs in the Deccan. From this dynasty there were in all 18 kings ascended, who ruled for about 180 years. By the year 1490, the dynasty became practically extinct, however, its titularship continued up to 1527. The rulers initially chose Daulatabad as their capital, and subsequently they moved to Gulbarga, where they remained till 1424. The early kings Alauddin Hasan Gangu, Muhammad Shah-I and Muhammad Shah-II consolidated their kingdom, while during Firoz Shah's reign the kingdom grew to its full stature and blossomed out in all directions. From the last quarter of 15th century the process of slow disintegration of the kingdom set in. The Bahmani kingdom was carved out in the Deccan as a result of a revolt being organized by Ismaeel Mukh, the leader of the Amiran-eSadah (the centurions or the heads of hundreds) against Muhammad Bin Tughluq. Later, after sometime, he abdicated the throne in favour of Zafar Khan, who became the king under the title Sultan Alauddin Bahman Shah. The Bahmani dynasty practically controlled the central Deccan. Its able premier Khwaja Mahmud Gawan successfully held encroaching Hindu and Muslim powers at bay.

Bahmani Rulers

Alauddin Hasan Gangu Bahmani (1347-58)

Alauddin Hasan Gangu Bahmani ascended on the throne at Daulatabad. Very soon he preferred Gulbarga (that he named Ahsanabad, after his own name Hasan) as a capital for his newly carved kingdom. He took this decision for the reasons that; first, he could save his kingdom from immediate attack from the north; secondly, the place of Gulbarga was well situated in the core areas of the Deccan; and lastly, he could easily deal the other neighbouring powers of the Deccan from this place. The first and foremost task of him was to consolidate his kingdom by getting submission of the rulers of the Deccan, when they refused he embarked upon a career of conquests. On his behest commander Sikandar Khan reduced Bidar and Malkhed. Hasan Gangu won victories over many Hindu and Muslim powers, which were compelled to pay tribute. He conquered Goa, Dhabol, Kolhapur and Telengana. In February 1358 he died leaving behind a dominion that extended from the Wanganga River in the north to the Krishna River in the south and from Daulatabad in the west to Bhongir in the east.

Muhammad Shah I (1358-75)

Alauddin Hasan was succeeded by his elder son Muhammad Shah-I. Very soon he organized his ministry, household troops and provincial administration. He

was busy all his life infighting against the rulers of Warangal and Vijayanagar. Against the Vijayanagar, he marched when its king lay waste the country lying between the Krishna and the Tungabhadra. Finally, he scored victory in the battle after a terrible carnage. He died in 1375. Prof. H. K. Sherwani praised his character in these words, "...he (Muhammad Shah-I) always sought the company of the learned, who crowded in his capital and made the Deccan the centre of the learned and the envy of all parts of India."

Alauddin Mujahid Shah (1375-78)

Alauddin Mujahid Shah succeeded to his father Muhammad Shah-I. During his reign the Raichur Doab became the bone of contention between him and the Vijayanagar. When the latter occupied it, the former attempted twice to recover the same, but met with failure. After his defeat, peace was concluded. Mujahid Shah fell victim to the court conspiracy and was murdered in May 1378.

Daud Shah-I (1378)

After the murder of Mujahid Shah, his uncle Daud Shah (son of Mahmud, the second son of Alauddin Hasan Bahmani) proclaimed himself king. He ruled for only one month and five days and fell victim to the counter conspiracy of foster-sister of late Mujahid Shah, named Ruhparwar Agha, on May 19th 1378.

Muhammad Shah-II (1378-97)

Muhammad Shah-II was a brother of Daud Shah-I. Though he was a man of peace and spent all his time in the pursuit of literature and science, but he could not free himself from wars and wine. The success of his administration was due to his able statesman Saifuddin Ghori.

Ghiasuddin Tahamtan Shah (1397)

Ghiasuddin Tahamtan Shah was the eldest son of Muhammad Shah-II. Very soon, the king was blinded by Tagalchin, who developed grudge against him. Thus his rule of one month and twenty days had come to an end

Shamsuddin Daud Shah-II (1397)

Shamsuddin Daud Shah-II was a brother of Tahamtan Shah. Against him Firoz Khan, later Shah, conspired, blinded and got imprisoned the king and his associate Tagalchin. The reign of the king lasted for five months and seven days only.

Tajuddin Firoz Shah (1397-1422)

After dismissing Shamsuddin Daud Shah-II, Firoz Shah, a grandson of Alauddin Hasan Bahmani captured throne in November 1397. During his rule he fought three battles with Vijayanagar respectively in 1398, 1406 and 1420. In two former, he score victories, but in the latter battle he received humiliating

defeat by which the Vijayanagar army occupied the southern and eastern districts of the Bahmani kingdom. In 1422, he died, as result his own brother Ahmad Shah became king.

Shihabuddin Ahmad Shah I (1422-36)

During his reign he fought against the rulers of Vijayanagar, Warangal, Malwa, Konkan, Telengana and other neighbouring states. He shifted his capital from Gulbarga to Bidar. He died in 1436.

Alauddin Ahmad Shah-II (1436-58)

Alauddin Ahmad Shah-II was a son of Ahmad Shah-I. In the beginning of his reign he faced a rebellion of his brother, Muhammad, who in turn was pardoned and given the administration of the Raichur Doab. He defeated the chief of Konkan and Nasir Khan of Khandesh. In 1442 he struggled against Vijayanagar, but due to indecisiveness of result, ultimately peace was made. He died in 1458.

Alauddin Humayun Shah (1458-61)

Alauddin Humayun Shah was a son of Alauddin Ahmad Shah-II. The Persian historians took him as cruel and he got the title of Zalim or the tyrant. Humayun reigned less than three years and a half, and there was not a single campaign against his neighbours during this period. Nevertheless, his reign was marred by almost continuous rebellions and attempts at his throne and his life. He died in 1461.

Nizamuddin Ahmad Shah-III (1461-63)

Humayun was succeeded by his son Nizamuddin Ahmad Shah III. As he was minor, the work of administration was carried on by his mother Makhdumah-e-Jahan with the help of ministers like Khwaja Jahan and Mahmud Gawan. Taking advantages of the minority of the king, the rulers of Orissa and Telengana attacked the kingdom, but they were defeated. The ruler of Malwa also attacked Bidar, but was due to timely help of king of Gujrat the besiegers retired. Once again he attempted in 1462, but met with little success.

Shamsuddin Muhammad Shah-III (1463-82)

Nizamuddin Ahmad Shah-III was succeeded by his brother Shamsuddin Muhammad Shah-III. At the time of accession, Muhammad-III was only nine years of age. Under his able premier Khwaja Jahan and Mahmud Gawan extended the Bahmani kingdom to an extent that never reached before. In 1461, the king committed a blunder by getting murder of his able minister. In consequence, just after some time the kingdom began to disintegrate into petty principalities. After a year, in 1482, the king too passed away.

Shihabuddin Mahmud Shah (1482-1518)

Muhammad Shah-III was succeeded by his minor son Mahmud Shah. During his reign the feud between the Deccanis and the foreigners reached to its height. The provincial governors took advantages of the prevailing confusion and declared their independence. The king died in 1518, his four successors Ahmad Shah-IV (1518-21), Alauddin Shah (1521-22), Waliullah Shah (1522-25) and Kalimullah Shah (1525-27) were puppets in the hands of Qasim Barid ul- Mumalik and his son Amir Ali Barid.

Conclusion

The political and radical control of Muslim sultans in a largely Hindu area was simplified by various joint commissions and noninterference amid the several religious societies. The Bahmani sultans repeatedly stimulated the culture of the Deccan region. The differentiation of the Bahmani sultanate into four parts (marafs) stimulated independence that the modifications of Mahmud Gawan were unsuccessful in battle. The Bahmani Kingdom was divided into five successors from 1490 to 1518, which are named Golconda, Bidar, Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, and Berar. The Bahmani sultanate always pays keen attention to the education system and always tries its best to do so. Learning and teaching Persian and Arabic languages was always endorsed in the Bahmani Kingdom. The Booming of the Urdu language took place in the Deccan region of India and also tried to flourish art and architecture in the Bahmani sultanate. Sultans of the Bahmani kingdom is very much attracted to art and architecture and build up numerous buildings such as libraries, madrasas, and mosques, for instance Gulbarga Juma Masjid, The Golconda Fort, The Golgumbaz at Bijapur, The Muhammad Gawan Madrasa

References

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