MEDIEVAL INDIA

U. N. BALL
Medieval India

From the beginning of the Arab Invasions to the downfall of the Mughals

BY

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PREFACE

The present volume is an attempt to give a brief and connected account of the life and thoughts of the people of India in the middle ages when the serenity of ancient India was broken by the advent of a new culture. The materials are vast, and it has not been possible for me to explore every source, specially on account of my ignorance of Persian and Arabic. I have relied entirely upon the translations. A list of the books in English which I have utilised besides the large number of papers which appeared in the journals and magazines is given at the end.

My thanks are due to Prof. Susobhan Chandra Sarkar B. A. (Oxon) of the Calcutta University, Dr. J. Van Manen of the Bengal Asiatic Society and Babu Sureendra Nath Kumar of the Imperial Library for valuable assistance. My special thanks are due to Babu Karunabindu Biswas but for whose ready help the book would not have seen the light.

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CONTENTS

Chapter I. Arab Invasions

Rise of the Moslem Power 1, Conquest of Sind 2, Settlement of Sind 5, End of the life of Muhammad bin Kasim 6, The Arab Rule in Sind 7, Effects of the conquest upon Moslem culture 9.

Chapter II. Invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni 11—33

Rise of the Turks 11, Subuktagin 12, Sultan Mahmud 14, Expedition against Jaypal 15, Last stand of Ananga Pal 16, Sack of Nagarkot 18, Expedition to Kanauj 20, Kalinjar Campaign 21, Somnath 22, Last days of Mahmud 25, An estimate of Mahmud 26, Successors of Mahmud 29.

Chapter III. The Political and Social condition of India before the Muhammadan Conquest 34—59


Chapter IV. The Muhammadan Conquest 60—75

The House of Ghor 60, Muhammad Shahab-ud-Din Ghori 61. Invasion of Hindustan 62, Battle of Tarain 64, The second battle of Tarain (1192 A.D.) 65,
Conquest of Kanauj (1194 A.D.) 67, The achievements of Qutub-ud-Din 69, Conquest of Behar and Bengal 70, The last days of Muhammad Ghori 73,

Chapter V. The Muizziiya Sultans. 77—115

Sultan Qutub-ud-Din Aibek 77, Sultan Aram Shah 79, Sultan Shams-ud-Din Altamsh 80, Chengiz Khan 81, Subjugation of Behar and Bengal 83, Expedition against Nasir-ud-Din Kubacha 83, Altamsh and his government 86, Ruku-ud-Din Firoz Shah 87, Sultana Riziah Begum 88, Muizz-ud-Din Bahram 91, Ala-ud-Din Masaud 92, Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud 93, Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban 98, Rebellion of Tughril Khan 104, Death of Prince Muhammad 108, Character of Balban 109, Muizz-ud-Din Kaikubad 112,

Chapter VI. The Khilji Dynasty 116—155

Jalal-ud-Din Khilji 116, Ala-ud-Din's march to the Deccan 121, The last days of Jalal-ud-Din 123, Sultan Ala-ud-Din Khilji 125, Invasion of Gujarat 127, The Mughal Invasion 128, Ala-ud-Din's wild projects 129, Fall of Ratnambhar 130, Capture of Chitor 133, Fresh inroads of Mughals 134, Conquest of Malwa 137, Subjugation of Devagiri 137, Expedition to Telengana 140, March to the extreme South 141, Rebellions and Intregues 143, Ala-ud-Din's Character and Policy 145, The Successors of Ala-ud-Din 151.
Chapter VII. The Tughlak Dynasty 156-176

Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlak 157, Muhammad Tughlak 161, His wild projects 162, Revolts and disturbances 166, Confirmation by the Caliph 171, Affairs in the Deccan and Guzerat 172.

Chapter VIII. Firoz Shah 177-197


Chapter IX. Fall of the Turks 198-212

The successors of Firoz Shah 198, Invasion of Timur 201, Sack of Delhi 206, Timur's Retreat 208, Fall of the Tughlaks 209.

Chapter X. Decline of the empire 213-237

Chapter XI. The Smaller Kingdoms 238—273


Chapter XII. Life in the middle ages 274—304

of his heart. His songs are so very popular with the Mahrattas that they can be heard anywhere, among the educated as well as the uneducated. Besides the growth of Chaitanya literature in Bengal we find a new literature connected with Chandi, the conception of God as mother. The songs of Ram Prosad (1718-78), a saint and poet tell us the growth of a deeply devotional spirit in Bengal. All these things indicate that the spirit of the Indians was not crushed under the strong government of the Mughals. The Indian civilization was revivified, and one thing more we find in Northern India is the growth of the Urdu as the common medium of expression between the Hindus and Musalmans. The Hindus who accepted service under the Moslem rulers, learnt Persian with perfection, and interpreted the spirit of Islam and Islamic literature to their fellow-believers. The industries developed under the patronage of the rulers, and agriculture prospered. The European merchants came to India in expectation of good trade. The conditions of the peasants in villages was not very enviable, but there is evidence to believe that they were not very miserable.

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