

BA LLB II SEM

HISTORY PPT LECTURE

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SHARAD KATIYAR

INSTITUTE OF LAW(HISTORY)

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THE DELHI SULTANATE

THE CONCEPT OF ISLAMIC STATE:

Probable questions-

1. Discuss the nature of delhi sultanate
2. Delhi sultanate was theocratic as well as military state. Discuss.
3. Delhi sultanate was a theocratic state. Analyse.

The concept of islamic law:

- An islamic state is a form of government based on the islamic laws .

Historian K S Lal writes about the concept of “Muslim State” in medieval india in his book ‘Theory and practice of muslim state in india’.

The first islamic state was the political entity estd. By Muhammad in Medina in 622 CE.

CONCEPT OF LAW

During the muslim rule in india, islamic law of shara was followed by all the sultans and mughal emperors.

The primary sources of islamic law are;

1. Al-Quran
2. Sunnah
3. Hadees
4. Izma
5. Qiyas

NATURE OF DELHI SULTANATE

In theory, Delhi sultanate was theocratic state as well as military state i.e. it combined religious elements as well as military elements. A theocratic state is one whose entire functioning is based on the tenets of a religion and a military state is one which depends on the military strength for its survival.

ELEMENTS OF THEOCRATIC STATE

- Its political and administrative institutions were derived from the islamic law(shariat).
- Entire islamic world was united under the religious and political authority of the caliph.
- Most of resources of delhi sultanate were meant for the expansion of islam and the conduct of sultan was also decided by the Al-Quran.

- Every muslim state or muslim ruler had to pay honour to the caliph to rule as the deputy of the caliph.
- Islam being the religion of the state so it was the primary duty of the state to promote islam.
- The office of shaikh-ul-islam and sadra-us-sadra were opened for this purpose.
- The theocratic law was supreme and the civil law was subordinate to it.
- A govt. official Mohtasib was appointed to supervise the religious conduct of the muslim subjects.

- Economic and financial help was provided to the ulema, muslim scholars and orthodox muslims.
- Mosques were built and jihad was declared against the hindu rulers.

But Dr. I.H. Qureshi opines that the nature of delhi sultanate was not theocratic. He mentions that it was not based on religion because the chief characteristics of a theocratic state is that it should be based on priestly class.

In practice however, this theory passed through some modifications because it was not possible to maintain the full rigidity of the islamic law as non-muslims(hindu) constituted a large majority of population

ELEMENTS OF MILITARY STATE

- During the period of sultanate, the military commanders were appointed as governors(iqtadar) of the provinces(iqta).
- The state's major revenue was spent in maintaining the army.
- Accordingly state's revenue policy was directed by military expenditure.
- The sultan himself was the commander-in-chief of the army.

- The sultan's success primarily depended upon his military skill

So the nature of delhi sultanate was theocratic as well as military.

Sultan also took interest in the public welfare programmes like construction of roads, canals, postal arrangements and currency reforms etc. Several sultans patronized art and literature etc. Thus we can say that the delhi sultanate state combined several elements.

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THANK YOU

SHARAD KATIYAR

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Research scholar, JU