

Discover India

Marathas, Sikhs, Rajput Kingdoms & Bhakti Marg Saints

Rajput Kingdoms (6th – 18th Century)



- ❖ Rajputs rose to prominence during the 6th to 12th centuries, and until the 20th century Rajputs ruled in the overwhelming majority of the princely states of Rajasthan and Saurashtra.
- ❖ In his *New History of India* Stanley Wolpert wrote, "The Rajputs were the vanguard of Hindu India in the face of the Islamic onslaught."
- ❖ Famous Kings:
 - ❖ Bappa Rawal of Chittor in 8th century
 - ❖ Prithviraj Chauhan III of Delhi in 12th century
 - ❖ Maharana Pratap of Mewar in 16th century: The one with whom Akbar could never buy peace
- ❖ Unfortunately, they couldn't establish empire due to infighting

Rajput Kingdoms

Maharana Pratap (1540 – 1597)

- ❖ Ruler of Mewar, with capital at Chittor (Rajasthan)
- ❖ Never accepted Akbar as ruler of India, and fought him all his life. Akbar first tried diplomacy to win over Maharana Pratap but nothing worked.
- ❖ In the siege of Chittor Akbar's army had killed 27,000 civilians. This left a lasting impression on Maharana's mind and he decided he could not bow to such injustice and cruelty.
- ❖ The Battle of Haldighati: On June 21, 1576, the two armies met at Haldighati with Mughal forces greatly outnumbering Pratap's men 4:1. Pratap's men had brave exploits on the field, despite the numerical superiority of the Mughal army and their artillery.
- ❖ Mughal army suffered heavy losses. First Major breakthrough of Rajputs against the Mughals.
- ❖ The story of brave & faithful horse Chetak.



Rajput Kingdoms Forts & Palaces



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur



Lake Palace, Udaipur

Rajput Kingdoms Forts & Palaces



Chittorgarh Fort – One of the largest in Asia



Umaid Bhawan Palace –
One of the largest in the world

The Maratha Empire

Shivaji Maharaj (1630 – 1680)

- ❖ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i01GCCnk1Wo&feature=related>
- ❖ One of the first king in India whose vision encompassed the dev (god), desh (country) and dharma (religion).
- ❖ Learned Ramayan & Mahabharat in childhood from his mother and became very religious.
- ❖ Guerrilla tactics: leveraged strategic factors like demographics, speed, surprise and focused attack to defeat his bigger and more powerful enemies.
- ❖ Competent and progressive civil rule with the help of well regulated and disciplined military and well structured administrative organizations.
- ❖ Firmly opposed prevalent practices of treating women as spoils of war, destruction of religious monuments, slavery and forceful religious conversions.



The Maratha Empire

Shivaji Maharaj (1630 – 1680)

- ❖ In 1645, at the age of 16, Shivaji carried out his first military action by attacking and capturing Torna Fort of the Bijapur kingdom. By 1647 he had captured Kondana and Rajgad forts and had control of much of the southern Pune region.
- ❖ The defeat of Afzal Khan of Bizapur in the battle of Pratapgarh made Shivaji the hero of Maratha folklore.
- ❖ Retreated when joint forces of Bizapur and Mughals attacked in 1661, but attacked back in the disguise of marriage procession and recaptured Pune.
- ❖ Had to surrender in 1666 and put in house arrest, where he feigned almost fatal sickness and he was allowed to send daily shipments of sweets and gifts to saints, fakirs, and temples in Agra as offerings for getting well. Managed to escape from Agra house arrest by hiding in one of those sweet boxes.
- ❖ Within six months, he had regained most of his previously held territory and more.

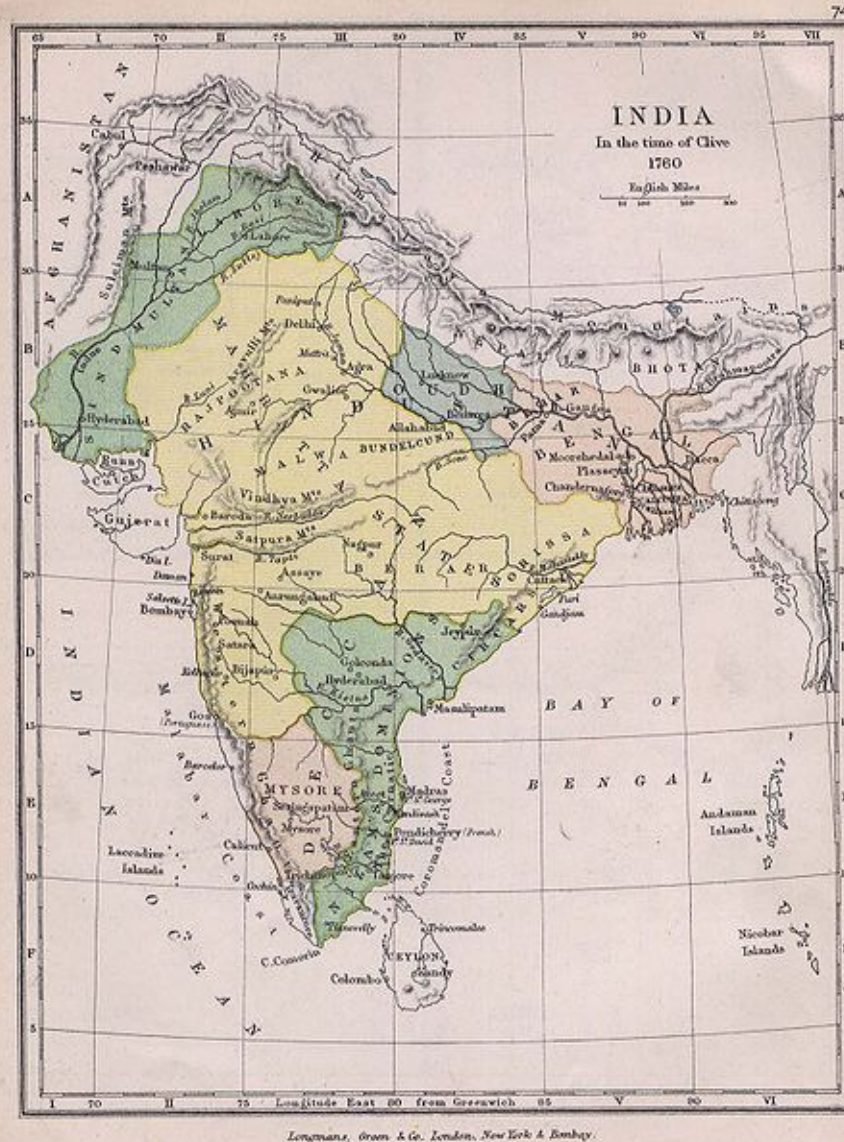




The Maratha Empire (1674 - 1818)

- ❖ Founded and consolidated by Shivaji Maharaj with capital at Raigad, after a lifetime of warfare with Adilshah of Bijapur and Mughal King Aurangzeb
- ❖ Shivaji died in 1680, leaving behind a large, but vulnerable kingdom.
- ❖ The Mughals invaded, fighting an unsuccessful War of 27 years from 1681 to 1707.
- ❖ The Maratha Empire was at its height in the 18th century under Shahu and the Peshwa Baji Rao I.
- ❖ After the death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, the empire expanded greatly under the rule of the Peshwas. The empire at its peak stretched from Tamil Nadu in the south, Attock (modern-day Pakistan) on the Indus River and led Expeditions in Bengal.
- ❖ Semi-autonomy was given to strongest of the knights which created a confederacy of Maratha states. They became known as Gaekwads of Baroda, the Holkars of Indore and Malwa, the Scindias of Gwalior and Ujjain, Bhonsales of Nagpur.
- ❖ In 1775 the British East India Company intervened in a succession struggle in Pune which became the First Anglo-Maratha War. Marathas remained the preeminent power in India until their defeat in the Second Anglo-Maratha Wars (1805–1818) which left Britain in control of most of India.

The Maratha Empire (1674 - 1818)



Maratha Empire Forts & Palaces



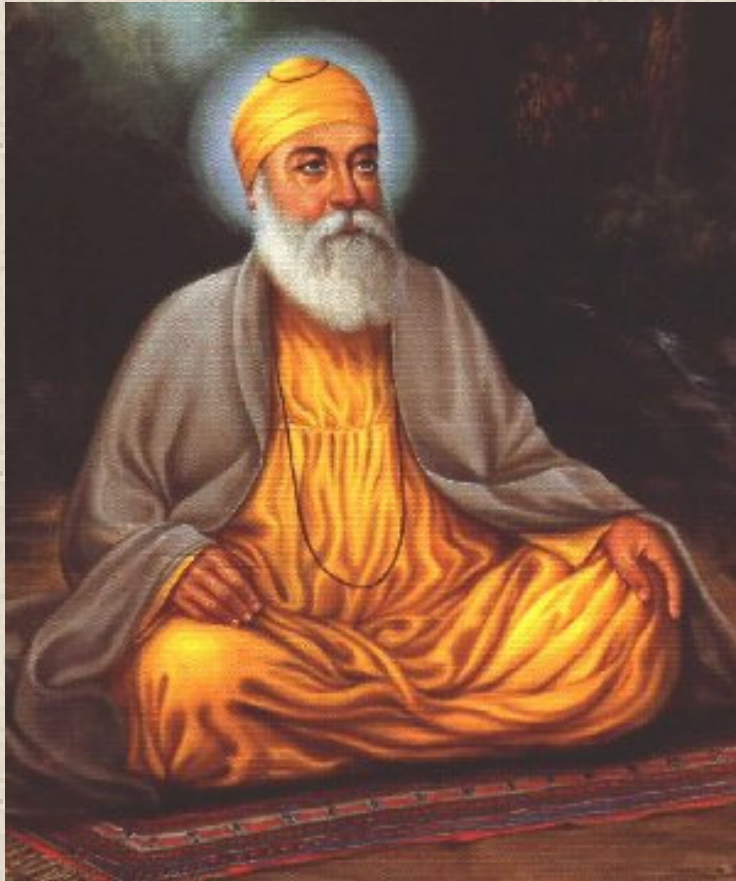
Gwalior Fort



Pratapgarh Fort

Sikh Religion

Guru Nanak Dev to Guru Gobind Singh (1469 - 1708)



Sikh Religion Beliefs



- ❖ Sikhism is a monotheistic religion founded in the fifteenth century Punjab on the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and ten successive Sikh Gurus (the last one being the sacred text Guru Granth Sahib Ji). Sikhism originated from the word Sikh, which in turn comes from the Sanskrit root śiṣya meaning "disciple."
- ❖ The principal beliefs of Sikhism are faith and justice, in Waheguru meaning one God. Sikhism advocates the pursuit of salvation through disciplined, personal meditation on the name and message of God
- ❖ Sikh Gurus: Nanak Dev, Angad Dev, Amar Das, Ram Das, Arjan Dev, Har Gobind, Har Rai, Har Krishan, Tegh Bahadur, Gobind Singh, Granth Sahib
- ❖ The Sikh community's embrace of military and political organisation made it a considerable regional force in medieval India and it continued to evolve after the demise of the gurus.
- ❖ With the decline of the Mughal empire, a Sikh Empire arose in the Punjab under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, with its capital in Lahore and limits reaching the Khyber Pass and the borders of China.

Sikh Religion

5 Ks

- ❖ The Five Ks, or *panj kakke*, are five articles of faith that all *baptized Sikhs* (also called Khalsa Sikhs) are typically obliged to wear at all times, as commanded by the tenth Sikh Guru. The symbols are worn for identification and representation of the ideals of Sikhism, such as honesty, equality, fidelity, militarism, meditating on God. The five symbols are:
 - ❖ Kesh (uncut hair, usually tied and wrapped in the Sikh Turban)
 - ❖ Kanga (wooden comb, usually worn under the Turban.)
 - ❖ Kachchhera (characteristic shorts, usually white in color.)
 - ❖ Kara (iron bracelet, which is a symbol of eternity.)
 - ❖ Kirpan (curved sword)



Sikh Kingdom Maharaja Ranjit Singhji (1780 – 1839)

- ❖ Crowned king in 1801.
- ❖ Rose to power in a very short period, from a leader of a single Sikh misl to finally becoming the Maharaja (Emperor) of Punjab, with capital at Lahore.
- ❖ the Kingdom of the Sikhs had been ruthlessly subjected to the worse kind of atrocities by invading armies coming through the Khyber Pass into the Indian sub-continent, over eight centuries.
- ❖ Drove Afghans out of Punjab and captured Pashtun territory, including Multan.
- ❖ Secular leader, none of the subjects were discriminated against on account of their religions.
- ❖ After death in 1839, the empire began to crumble due to poor governance and political infighting among his heirs.



Sikh Religion Famous Gurudwaras



Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar



Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar

Sikh Religion Famous Gurudwaras



Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar



Nanaksar Gurudwara, Canada



Bhakti Marg Saints (14th – 17th century)

- ❖ Sant Ramanand (15th century)
- ❖ Sant Ravidas (1450 - 1520)
- ❖ Sant Surdas (1478 – 1581)
- ❖ Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486 – 1534)
- ❖ Bhakta Meerabai (1498 -1547)
- ❖ Sant Tulsidas (1532 – 1623)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Klg_f3ga6HY&feature=related
- ❖ Sant Tukaram (1608 – 1650)
- ❖ Swami Ramdas (1606 – 1682)



Bhakti Marg Saints Sant Kabir (1398 – 1448)

- ❖ Sant Kabir's principle: All life is an interplay of two spiritual principles. One is the personal soul (*Jivatma*) and the other is God (*Paramatma*). It is Kabir's view that salvation is the process of bringing these two divine principles into union. His verses were incorporated in Sikh scripture.
- ❖ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt4nwEoCUXc&feature=related>
- ❖ Bura Jo Dekhan Main Chala, Bura Naa Milya Koye
Jo Munn Khoja Apnaa, To Mujhse Bura Naa Koye
[I searched for the crooked man, met not a single one
Then searched myself, "I" found the crooked one]
- ❖ Kaal Kare So Aaj Kar, Aaj Kare So Ub
Pal Mein Pralaya Hoyegi, Bahuri Karoge Kub
[Tomorrow's work do today, today's work now
if the moment is lost, the work be done how]
- ❖ Aisee Vani Boliye, Mun Ka Aapa Khoye
Apna Tan Sheetal Kare, Auran Ko Sukh Hoye
[Speak such words, sans ego's ploy
Body remains composed, giving the listener joy]