

Names, terms, topics, etc. from lecture on general trends in early medieval India

I am distributing these so that you do not have to distract from the lecture to write them down and I can save time ditto.

The lecture has the following main topics:

- a) The many (and usually short-lived) dynasties of the early medieval period, ca. 500 – ca. 1000
- b) The emergence of decentralized polities, example of Harsha
- c) Importance of trade in state formation
- d) Regionalizing processes, including:
 - religious change,
 - literary development,
 - expansion of temple worship and associated expansion of royal ideologies
 - trade
- e) Tamil influence in South-East Asia

Burton Stein – historian of the medieval period

Maharashtra and Gujarat – in western India

Punjab, Sind, and Baluchistan – included in northwest India

Mughal Empire

Akbar – 3rd Mughal emperor, 16th – 17th century CE

Pulakesin II – major ruler of the Chalukyan kingdom, in the Deccan

Krishna III – major ruler of the Rashtrakutas, in the Deccan

Harsha – post-Gupta ruler, during 1st half of the seventh century

Kanauj – Harsha's capital city

Copper-plates – used to inscribe important transactions, because of their durability

Mahasamanta – a “great neighbour” of a major king, independent ruler of a realm near the core tracts of an overlord

Maharaja – a “great king” who acknowledged the chakravartin’s overlordship

Chakravartin – “universal ruler”, a king aiming for the status of emperor

Samantachakra – the circle of subordinates of a king

Cholas – an ancient south Indian dynasty; the name is used in the medieval period by another dynasty

Pandyans – an ancient south Indian dynasty

Satavahanas – rulers of the Deccan plateau in the early 1st millennium CE

Kalinga – kingdom on the eastern coast, Orissa

Pallavas – south Indian dynasty, capital city in Kanchipuram

Kharavela – a Jain king of Kalinga

Pala kingdom – Buddhist rulers of Bengal in eastern India

Nalanda – a major city of Buddhist learning in Bengal

Shankara (788-820)

Bhakti – religious devotionism

Mathura – center of medieval Krishna cult

Marathi – language spoken in Maharashtra, in western India

Sanskritization – processes of altering beliefs and behaviour to fit high ritual status, Sanskrit norms

Samanta – sub-regional lord giving allegiance to a regional king

Agamas – texts outlining ritual of temple worship, puja

Ayyavole – one of the capitals of the Chalukyan kings, major center for traders

Cochin – port town on the Kerala coast, south-west India

Gujara-Pratiharas – high-ranking warriors who ruled in 10th century north India

Madurai – site of Shiva temple endowed by Pandyan kings in Tamil Country