

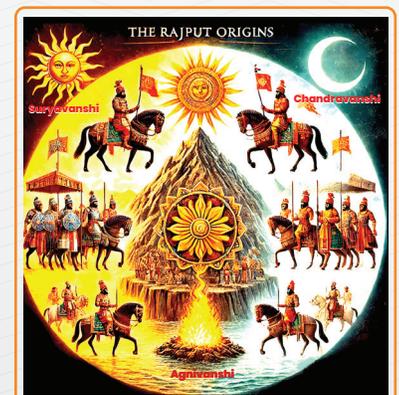
The Rajputs States: A Brief Overview

The **Rajputs** (meaning "son of a king") were a warrior clan that shaped the political and military landscape of **Western, Central, and Northern India** from the 6th to 12th centuries AD. Despite their valor, internal conflicts weakened their defense against foreign invasions.

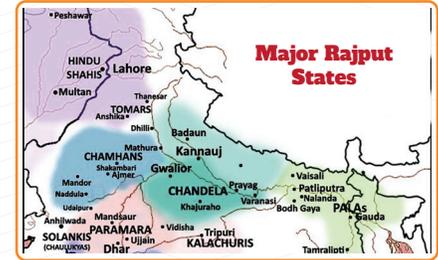
Origins of Rajputs

The origin of the Rajputs is widely debated, with several theories:

- ◆ **Kshatriya Theory:** Some historians argue that Rajputs originated from Vedic Kshatriyas, citing traditions like the Ashvamedha sacrifice, Sati, and Sun worship.
- ◆ **Mythical Lineages:** Rajputs claim descent from three primary dynasties:



- Suryavanshi (Solar)
- Chandravanshi (Lunar)
- Agnivanshi (**Fire-born Origin**): As per **Prithviraj Raso** by Chand Bardai, four Rajput clans—**Parmar, Chauhan, Pratihara, and Chalukya**—emerged from a sacrificial fire pit at **Mount Abu**, under the guidance of sage **Vasistha**.



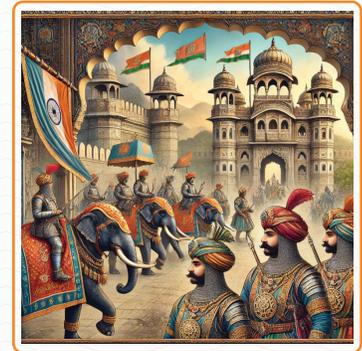
- ◆ **Foreign Descent Theory:** Others suggest Rajputs evolved from assimilated Central Asian tribes such as the Huns, Sakas, Kushanas, and Gurjaras, who later embraced Hinduism. However, this theory is less accepted than the Kshatriya origin theory.

Major Rajput Dynasties:

Hindushahi Dynasty (964–1026 AD):

- ◆ Ruled Afghanistan and Punjab.
- Notable rulers: **Jayapala, Anand Pal**.

After the decline of the Gurjar-Pratihara Empire, several Rajput states emerged in North India. Notable among them were:



The Paramara Dynasty (9th-14th Century CE)

- ◆ Ruled Malwa, with its capital at Dharanagar (modern Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh).

Key Rulers

- ◆ **Siyaka (940–972 CE):**
 - First independent ruler of the dynasty.
 - Defeated the Rashtrakutas and expanded Paramara rule.
- ◆ **Bhoja (1010–1055 CE):**
 - Greatest ruler of the dynasty.
 - Expanded the empire and fought against the Western Chalukyas and Ghaznavids.
 - Renowned patron of literature and architecture.



Decline of the Paramaras

- ◆ Internal conflicts after **Bhoja's death** weakened the dynasty.
- ◆ The **Kalachuris and Solankis** occupied the kingdom in the **late 11th century**.
- ◆ Faced continuous invasions from the **Hoysalas, Yadavas, and the Delhi Sultanate**.
- ◆ Ultimately fell to **Alauddin Khilji in 1305 CE**.

Cultural Contributions

- ◆ Built the **Bhojeshwar Temple** in Bhojapur, a grand but unfinished Shiva temple.
- ◆ Bhoja was a **great patron of literature**.
 - His court poet **Dasabala** wrote Chintamani-Sarnika.
 - Promoted Sanskrit and encouraged scholars in various disciplines.



The Chandella Dynasty (10th - 13th Century CE)

- ◆ Ruled over Bundelkhand (Jejakabhukti) with capitals at Khajuraho, Kalanjara, and Mahoba.



Prominent Rulers

- ◆ **Nannuka (831-845 CE)**: Founder; ruled as a Pratihara feudatory.
- ◆ **Dhanga (950-999 CE)**: Established Chandella sovereignty; ruled over Chedi, Kalinjar, and Gwalior.
- ◆ **Vidyadhar (1003-1035 CE)**: Repelled Ghaznavid invasions and expanded Chandella rule to its greatest extent.



Decline

- ◆ Ghaznavid raids in the 1020s weakened the empire.
- ◆ Kalachuris occupied Chandella territories for four decades.
- ◆ **Parmardi (1165-1203 CE)**: Lost land to Prithviraj Chauhan and faced invasion by Qutb-ud-din Aibak.
- ◆ The dynasty survived for 100 more years but with diminished power.

Cultural Contributions

- ◆ Built the famous **Khajuraho temples**, including **Kandariya Mahadev Temple**.



Kalachuris of Central India (c. 9th – 13th Century CE)

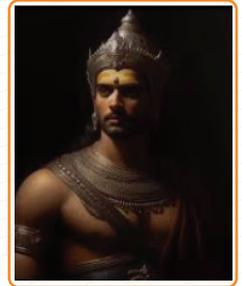
- ◆ The **Kalachuri dynasty** had two major branches:
 - ◆ **1. Northern Kalachuris (Chedi Dynasty)** – Ruled **Central India** (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Malwa, Maharashtra) with **Tripuri (Tewar, near Jabalpur)** as their capital.
 - ◆ **2. Southern Kalachuris (Haihaya Dynasty)** – Ruled **parts of Karnataka**.

The **Northern Kalachuris** rose after the decline of the **Rashtrakutas and Pratiharas**. **Mahishmati (on the Narmada River)** was an earlier stronghold before **Tripuri** became their political center.



Key Rulers:

- ◆ **Kokalla I (c. 850–885 CE)** – Founder; allied with Rashtrakutas; expanded into Konkan.
- ◆ **Shankaragana III** – Defeated Gurjara-Pratihara King Vijayapala.
- ◆ **Gangeyadeva (c. 1015–1041 CE)** – Defeated Chandellas; took the title **Trikalingadhipati**; repelled Ghazni's raids.
- ◆ **Karna (1041–1073 CE)** – Defeated Solankis and Paramaras; campaigned in South India; abdicated in 1072 CE.
- ◆ **Vijayasimha (1175–1195 CE)** – Faced Ghurid invasions; began the decline.

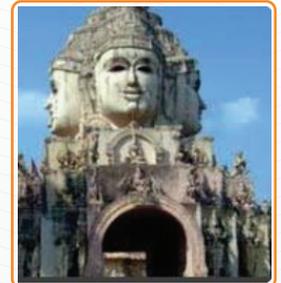


Decline

- ◆ Continuous conflicts with Chandellas, Chauhans, and Paramaras.
- ◆ Ghurid invasions weakened their rule; absorbed by the Delhi Sultanate in the 13th century.

Cultural Contributions:

- ◆ Patrons of Shaivism and Jainism.
- ◆ Built temples at Amarkantak and Tripuri.

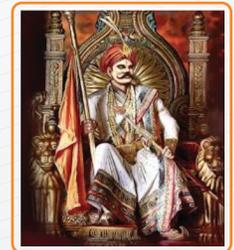


Tomar Dynasty (8th–12th Century CE)

The **Tomar dynasty** ruled **Delhi and Hansi (Haryana)** from the **8th to 12th century CE**. They were originally **feudatories of the Gurjara-Pratiharas** before establishing their independent rule.

Key Rulers:

- ◆ **Anangpal Tomar II (c. 1051–1081 CE)**
- ◆ **Expanded and fortified Delhi**, establishing it as a strategic center.
 - **Built Lal Kot Fort** (the first known fort of Delhi), later expanded by the Chauhans as **Qila Rai Pithora**.
 - Constructed **Aligarh Fort (in Hansi, Haryana)** for defense.
 - Allegedly **aided by Paramara King Bhoja** in repelling **Ghaznavid raids**.



Decline of the Tomars

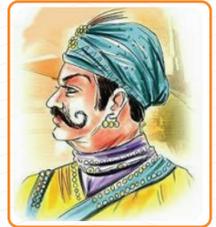
- ◆ Challenged by the Chauhans (Chahmanas) of Ajmer.
- ◆ Prithviraj Chauhan III annexed Delhi in the late 12th century.

The Chauhan (Chahmana) Dynasty of Ajmer

- ◆ The Chauhans of Shakambari (Sambhar) were initially feudatories of the Gurjara Pratiharas.
- ◆ Became independent in the mid-10th century.

Key Rulers:

- ◆ Ajayaraja (1110–1135 CE): Founded Ajayameru (modern Ajmer).
- ◆ Vigraharaj (1150–1164 CE): Annexed Tomar territory. Patron of Sanskrit literature; credited with the play **Harikeli Nataka**.
- ◆ Prithviraj III (1177–1192 CE): Most famous Chauhan ruler.



Decline of Chauhans

- ◆ Internal divisions and conflicts with Gahadavalas, Solankis, and Chandellas.
- ◆ Prithviraj Raso and Prithviraj Vijaya later romanticized his legacy.

Gahadavalas of Kannauj (c. 11th – 13th Century CE)

- ◆ A Rajput dynasty that ruled Kannauj and parts of present-day Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- ◆ Founded by **Chandradeva** (c. 1089–1103 CE).
- ◆ Most prominent ruler: **Govindachandra** (c. 1114–1155 CE), who expanded the empire and resisted Ghaznavid invasions.
- ◆ Faced repeated attacks from **Muhammad Ghori**; Kannauj fell to the Ghurids in **1194 CE** after the defeat of **Jayachandra** in the **Battle of Chandawar**.
- ◆ Practiced extensive temple-building, with inscriptions found at Varanasi and Ayodhya.



Chaulukyas (Solankis) of Gujarat (c. 10th – 13th Century CE)

- ◆ A Rajput dynasty that ruled Gujarat and parts of Rajasthan.
- ◆ Founded by **Mularaja I** (c. 940–995 CE).
- ◆ Peak under **Bhima I** (defended Gujarat against Mahmud of Ghazni in 1025) and **Kumarapala** (patron of Jainism).



- ◆ Notable for **Modhera Sun Temple** and **Dilwara Temples** at Mount Abu.
- ◆ Declined after invasions by **Alauddin Khalji** in the late 13th century.



Conflicts with Foreign Invaders

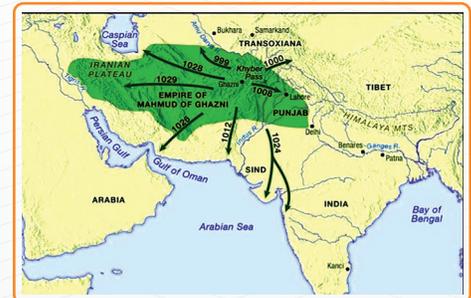
The Ghaznavids: Mahmud of Ghazni (998-1030 CE)

- ◆ Succeeded his father, **Sabuktigin**, founder of the Ghaznavid dynasty.
- ◆ Expanded his empire over **Persia** and **Central Asia**.
- ◆ Patronized scholars like:
 - **Firdausi** (author of *Shahnama*).
 - **Al-Biruni** (author of *Kitab-ul-Hind*).



Major Expeditions in India (1001-1033 CE)

- ◆ **1001 CE:** Defeated **Jayapala** of the **Hindushahis** at the **Battle of Waihind (Peshawar)**.
- ◆ **1018 CE:** Plundered **Mathura** and **Kannauj**.
- ◆ **1025–26 CE:** Attacked **Somnath Temple** twice, faced **Jat** resistance.
- ◆ **1033 CE:** **Varanasi** raided by Ghaznavids after Mahmud's death.

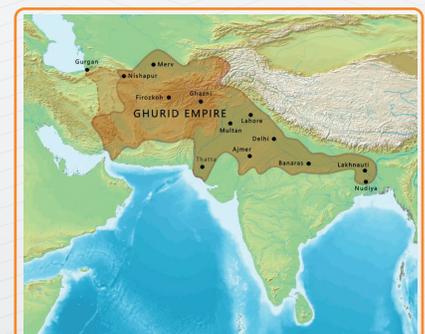


The Ghurids: Muhammad Ghorī (1173-1206 CE)

- ◆ Focused on territorial conquest rather than plundering.
- ◆ **1173 CE:** Captured **Ghazni**, marking the rise of the Ghurid Empire.

Major Battles & Conquests

- ◆ **First Battle of Tarain (1191 CE):** Defeated by **Prithviraj Chauhan**.
- ◆ **Second Battle of Tarain (1192 CE):** Ghorī defeated and captured **Prithviraj**, marking the beginning of Muslim rule in North India.
- ◆ **Battle of Chandawar (1194 CE):** Defeated **Jaichandra** of **Kannauj**.
- ◆ **1203–1206 CE:** **Bakhtiyar Khilji** conquered **Bengal** and **Bihar**, destroying **Nalanda** and **Vikramashila** universities.



Impact of Ghurid Conquests

- ◆ Qutbuddin Aibak became governor of India.
- ◆ Laid the foundation for the Delhi Sultanate.

Limitations and Decline of the Rajputs

- ◆ **Feudal Organization & Lack of Unity:** Divided into various clans and states, internal rivalries prevented a unified resistance against external threats.
- ◆ **Rigid Caste System:** Social hierarchy alienated the masses and restricted broader participation in governance and the military.
- ◆ **Absence of a Written Law:** Dependence on local customs led to administrative inefficiencies.
- ◆ **Multiple Rivals:** Faced threats from both Indian dynasties (Solankis, Chandelas, Gahadavalas) and foreign invaders.
- ◆ **Conservative Warfare Strategies:** Stagnation in military and administrative strategies left them at a disadvantage.



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