

Q: Discuss in detail about the causes of  
\* Conquest of Sindh and Suweis by Arabs.

1- **Introduction:-** Condition of India before conquest:-

Before the Arrival of Muhammad Bin Qasim, Harshavardhana, was an Indian Emperor who ruled north India from 606 to 647 CE. India was divided into small kingdoms. After his death, there was lack of unity and no central power observed. Economic conditions were rich in Sindh. Progressive economy with rich sources of gold, land and water revenues were the target of most of the rulers. Hinduism was prominent. Caste system was divided. No unity and Discipline was observed in that region.

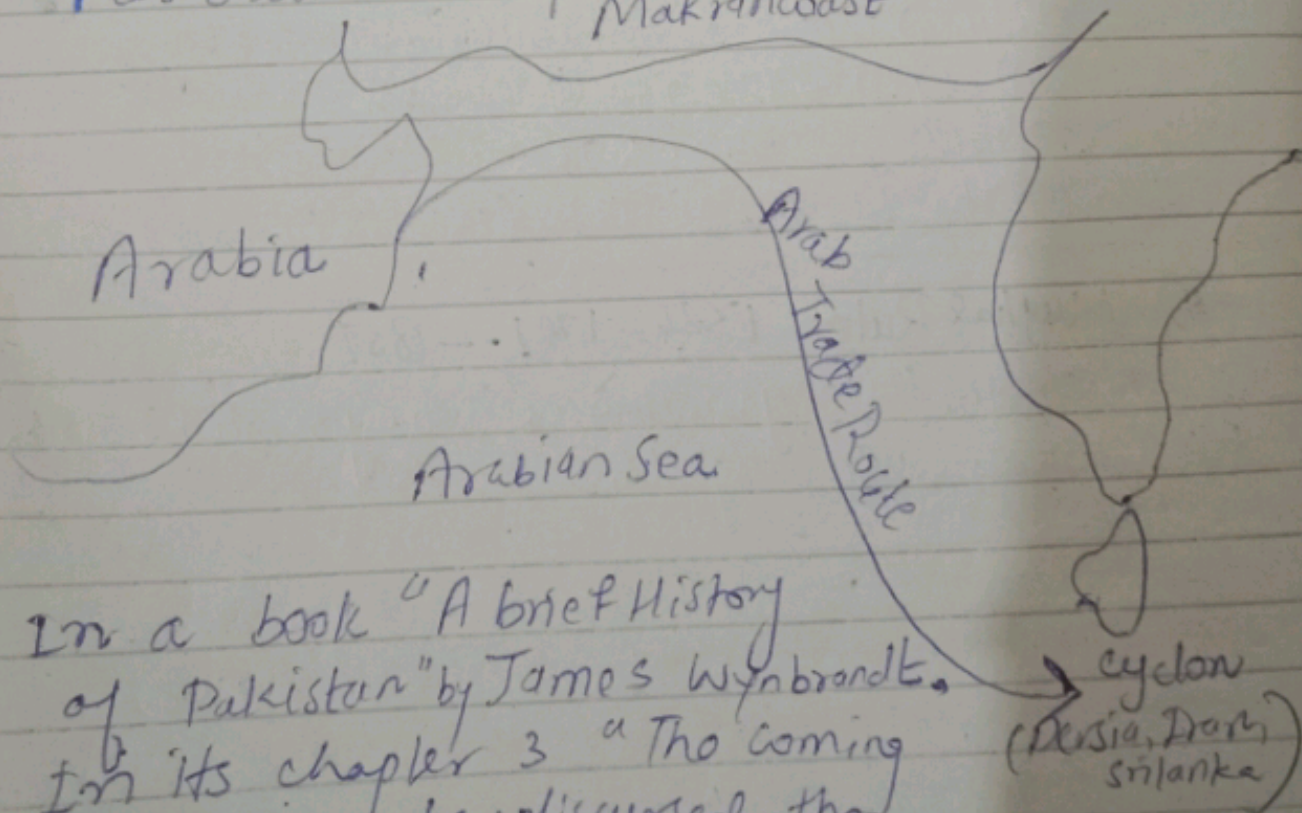
\* **Causes of Arab Conquest: 712 AD**

1- **Plunder of Ships:-**

There was trade between East and West.

as observed in map.

Makran coast



In a book "A brief History of Pakistan" by James Wynbrandt. In its chapter 3 "The coming of Islam" he discoursed the causes of Arab conquest.

Arabs in Sindh as noted, the Arabs were familiar with the coast of the Subcontinent, having sailed along its western shores playing a bustling trade with Ceylon (today's Sri Lanka) for centuries. In addition to the challenge of the elements, pirates and hostile coastal kingdoms made the voyage perilous. At the mouth of the Indus river (called the Mehran by the Arabs), the port city of Debal served as the stronghold of Meds, one such kingdom. Noted seafarers, they engaged in trade, fishing, and piracy and extorted seafarers for protection payment.

In 710, news reached Arabia that Debal pirates had seized an Arab ship, stolen its cargo, and imprisoned its crew and passengers Arab families returning home from a visit to Ceylon. Exacerbating the outrage, the ship had been carrying gifts from the King of Ceylon to Caliph Walid (r. 705-715) Hajaj Bin Yousaf, then Governor of the Islamic Empire's eastern end, demanded the kingdom's ruler, Raja Dahir (d. 712), pay for ships and its cargo and free its passengers. Dahir claimed he held no sway with the pirates, and negotiations broke down. Two limited campaigns against Dahir subsequently failed. Finally Yousaf received permission for a major campaign against all of Sindh. His young nephew, Muhammad Bin Qasim (695-715), was given command. Qasim now marched on Sehwan, under the rule of Dahir's cousin, Bhoj Rai.

## 2 - Shelter to Arabian Rebels:

### 2 - Propagation of Islam:-

Propagation of Islam was one of the key factors behind Arab invasion of Sindh. After the spread of Islam in Egypt and Syria, the Caliph Walid I of Damascus had permitted the Arabs to go ahead with their Indian mission. Further the followers of Islam were dead against idolatry practice of Hindus of India. So they thought the spoliation of the idolaters would be means of earning.

### 3 - Fabulous wealth of India:

India was known to the world for her fabulous wealth and splendor. So like other invaders of the past, it had tempted the Arabs to grab her wealth.

### 4 - Political condition of India:-

Political condition of India was also a major factor behind the Arab invasion of Sindh. There was mutual rivalry and wars among the kings of petty provinces of India. Dahir, the ruler of Sindh was unpopular and not liked by many. The Arabs took full advantage of it.

### **Invasion of Sindh by Muhammad Bin Qasim**

Muhammad Bin-Qasim was a young man of hardly seventeen years when he was entrusted with the work of invading Sindh.

• He was very bold, courageous and ambitious.

The story of his adventures, "Wives Stanley Lane-Poole," is one of the romances of

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History. Reflecting of his rise to power, his achievements and his fall, Ishwari Prasad writes "His blooming youth, his dash and heroism, his noble deportment throughout the expedition and his tragic fall have invested his career with the halo of martyrdom."

#### capture of Debal:

Muhammad Bin Qasim led his army toward Debal, a famous seaport, where Arab ships were looted by some pirates. A nephew of Dahir was Governor of Debal. He tried to resist Qasim but became futile, when a treacherous Brahmin deserted the fortress and gave Qasim information regarding secrets of its defence. However, after a fierce battle Qasim brought down the red flag and the Arabian Army restored to massacre. Despite a bold fight the hillmen of Debal were defeated by Arabs.

#### Fall of Nirun:

Nirun was under the charge of Dahir's son Jaisindh. With the approach of the Arabs, Jai Sindh fled away after handing over the fort to a priest. It is said Nirun fell because of the treachery of some Buddhist citizens. Whatever may be the fact, Dahir had the matter lightly and did not attempt to check the further advances of the Arabs.

#### Fall of Sehwan:

After capturing Debal & Nirun, Muhammad Bin Qasim marched against Sehwan, a town under Bajhra. The town was inhabited by the merchant class and priests. Bajhra could not defend the town in the face of the

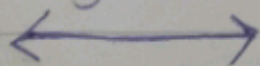
Arabian attack and fled away with panic. After his flight, the people of Sehwan surrendered to Muhammad-Bin-Qasim. Sehwan fell because of poor defence.

Fall of Sisom and victory over the Jats, the battle of Rawar Muhammad-Bin-Qasim became victorious. Nevertheless he took about eight months to acquire control over Sindh because his army had to face tough resistance by the local people of many other towns and palaces including Alor and Brahmanabad.

### • Conclusion:

According to Stanley Lane-Poole, "The Arab conquest of Sindh was only an episode in the history of India and of Islam - a triumph without results.

Wolsely Haig writes, "It was a mere episode in the history of India and affected only a small portion of the fringe of that vast country." According to Professor Habibullah, "The Arab was not destined to raise Islam to be a political force in India, politically the Sindh affair led to a dead end. The Indian powers also did almost nothing to drive them out of Sindh. Hence the Arab invasion of Sindh is regarded as an episode."



Q: Conquest of Sindh in 712 opened the corridor to both Islam and Trade.

### Introduction:

Arabs conquest of Sindh was of great significance and impact, politically, socially, socio-culturally, religiously, intellectually and even economically. Though the Arabs were not the actual conquerors of India, they were the path finders and torch bearers. Most of them, of course, relate to the province of Sindh, which has been called "the Hijaz of the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent." According to Stanley Lane Poole, "the Arab conquest of Sindh is an episode in the history of India and of Islam, a triumph without a result."

### 1) Corridor to Islam:

Professor Syed Abul Qadir Shuja-ud-Din, "After the conquest of Sindh a large number of scholars, traders inhabited in Sindh. Local people embraced Islam. Today Sindh is the Islamic region like the Iraq and Egypt, in these circumstances we cannot deny the greatness of the Arab conquest of Sindh, its historical importance and its consequences."

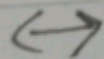
In M. Kabir's point of view "Undoubtedly establishment of Islamic Government in Sindh is the greatest event in the history of Islam and sub-continent."

with Muhammad Bin Qasim, Arabs entered India as victors for the first time.

Though many other Islamic schools of thought had their presence in Sindh and Multan, the 712 conquest of Sindh is considered to speed up the process of the spread of Islam. The Buddhists and lower-caste Hindus converted to Islam who lived a miserable and socially segregated life in Sindh and Multan. It is noted that Arabs did not force the locals to embrace Islam. They were rather impressed by the equality, caste-less system, and social justice of Muslims. The Arab travelers, writers and missionaries encouraged by the conquest came to India and played a pivotal role in spread of Islam. That's why today scholars call Sindh the gateway for Islam to other parts of India.

## 2) Corridor to Trade:

As far as economic impact is concerned, the Arabs had pre 712 trade relations with the Indian Subcontinent. The coastal areas of India and Ceylon were inhabited by many Arabs along with the indigenous communities long before. However, the Umayyad conquest of Sindh further increased trade and economic interaction with India. ??



I am unable to attempt this question. Kindly guide me how to attempt it. What are main points and impact of conquest on trade and Islam (thank you)