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Critically examine the motives of Sultan Mahmud's Invasion of India. Also discuss the effects of these invasions:

Give numbering to headings and subheadings

Introduction:

Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi considered one of the greatest military strategists in the world history. Throughout his campaign he had never lost a single battle in his life, which makes him unique as compared to any other ruler. Over and above, due to his first attack on South Asia, he is considered one of the earliest rulers, who opened the door of Islam in India. As

per K. A. Nazim,

"Mahmud played an essential role in the growth of Islam in subcontinent."

Nothing about his motives has been discussed in introduction. At least give a hint of what you think of his motives in the introduction

Different School of

thoughts have different

views on Mahmud

invansion

1st
School
of thought

→ Mahmud was religious motivated person. Hence, he wanted to spread islam across india

2nd
School
of thought

→ Mahmud wanted to gain and acquire the wealth of India.

3rd
School
of thought

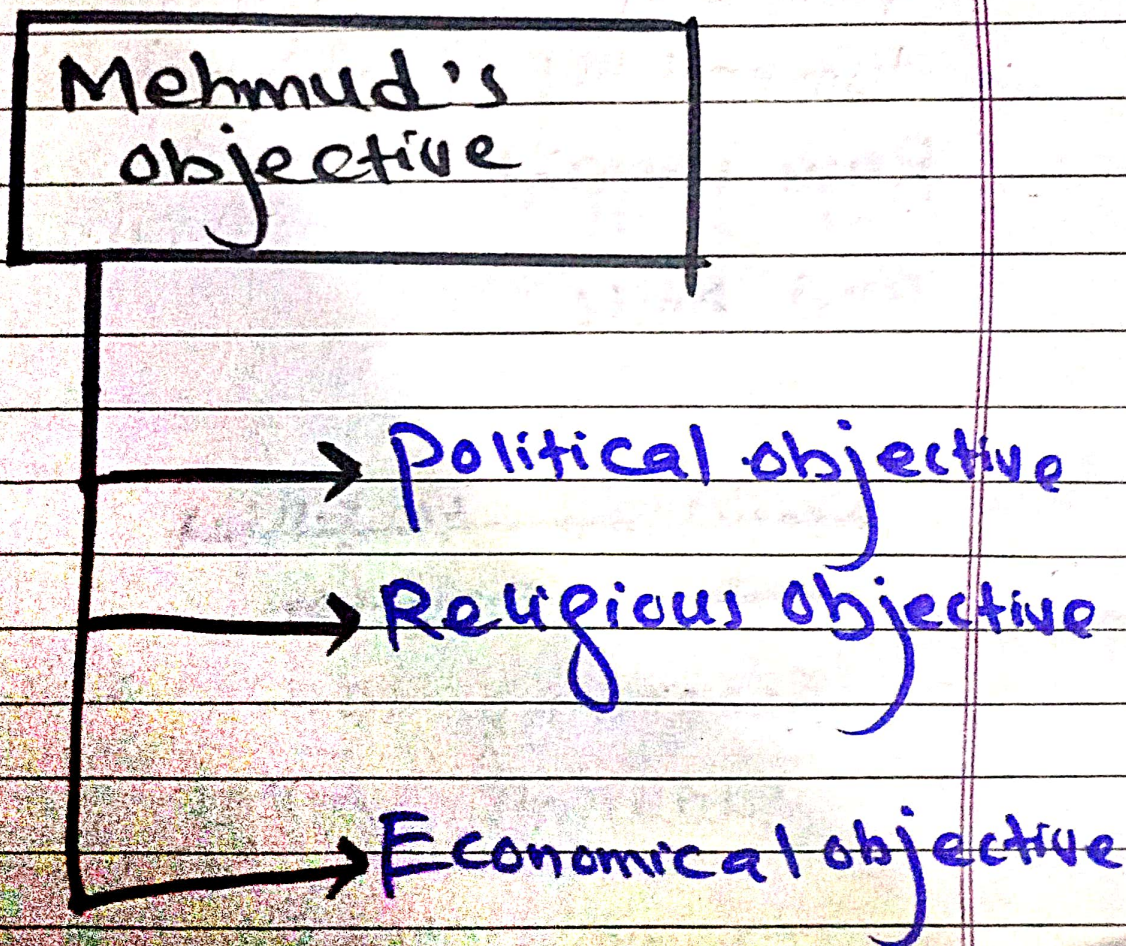
→ Mahmud character is complex

Ultimate objective of Mehmud's Invasion

and Different Scholar's

view point:

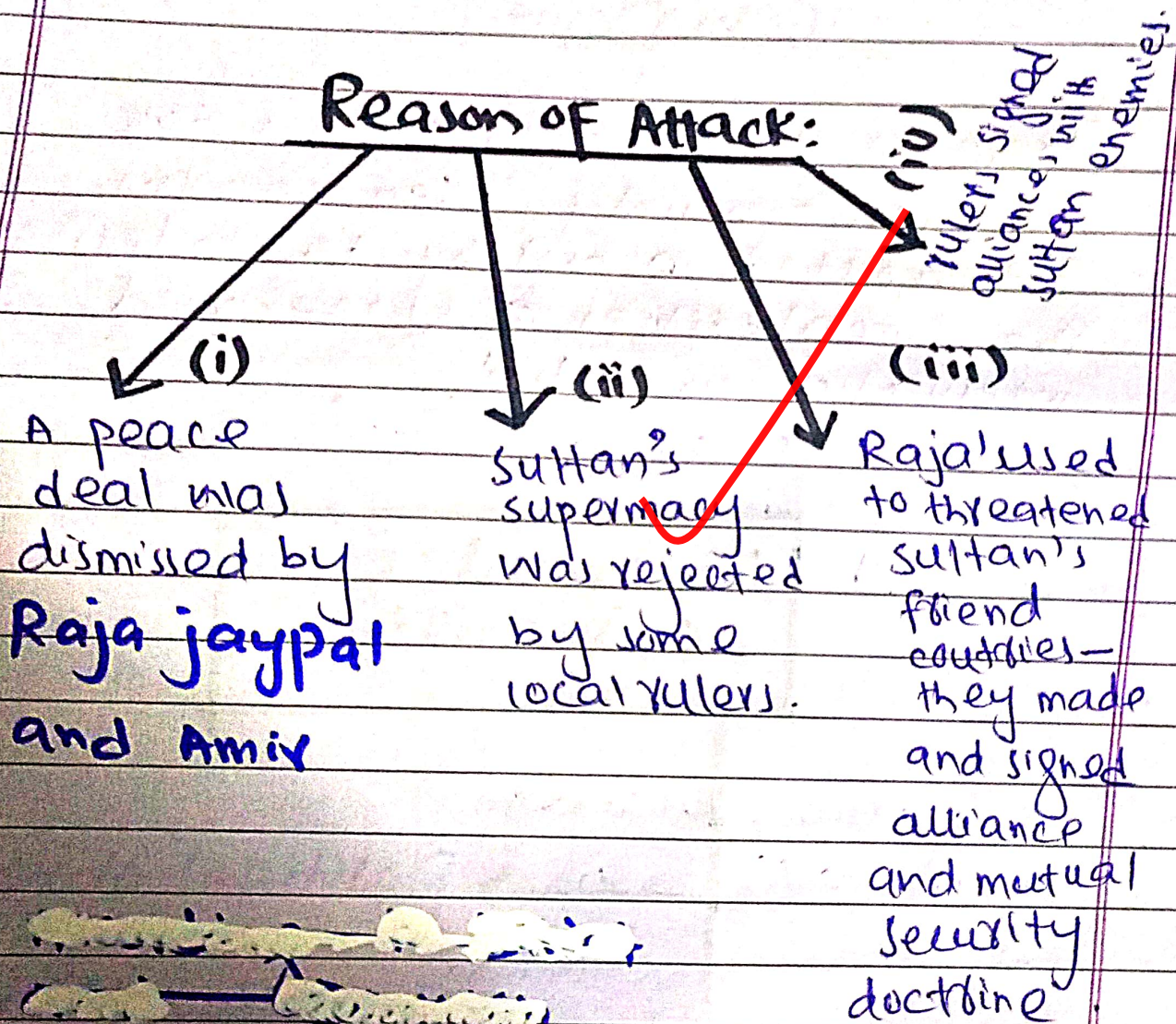
There might be other reasons too. However, mainly three reasons are quoted in history to understand the complexities of Mehmud intervention in India.



(i)

Political Objective:

Different reasons highlighted that the attack of mehmud was based on political objective.



According to **Jadunath Sarkar**

"Mehmud's campaigns were calculated moves to establish **Gaznavid** hegemony in North West."

Religious Objective:

Some muslim historian, including english historian considered the move of Ghaznavid towards India as a religious cause.

As Lane-pool said,

"Mehmud's sword was the sword of Islam, cleaving the idols of Hinduistan".

Actually, considering his move as a religious cause, because he demolished and conquered the **Somnath Temple**. Hence, his conquest considered as religious cause.

Economical Objective:

Some historian believe that the main cause of expedition toward India was simple. The Gaghavi knew the importance of wealth. Hence, he was well aware about

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the richness of Indian soil. Therefore he moved his attack towards India to strengthen its own empire. Actually, this argument is mainly put off to him due to looting a great number of amount of wealth from Somnath Temple.

According to Elliot and Dowson,

"Mehmud expedition towards India was clear like crystal. He simply interested in the wealth of Indian subcontinent".

Effect of Ghaznavi's

Attack on India:

Mehmud Ghaznavi attack has following impacts on the history of India.

(i)

Open the door for Islam Propagation.

Mehmud's attack opened the gate of Islam propagation. The Muslims had realized that they can promote the teaching of Islam across the India easily.

(ii)

Interact two different culture: Hindus and Muslims

Hindus and Muslims were interacted first time after the conquest of different regions - i.e. Sindh, Punjab, etc.

(iii)

Made alliances with other Kingdoms

Mehmud's built an alliance with Hindu Raja's, which has a great impact on the medieval history of subcontinent.

(iv)

Mehmud's territorial expansion

Mehmud's conquered many region. However, he included only four

region in his empire

(v)

Economical impact on

Indian subcontinent:

Mehmud considered as a plunderer in history. Hence, he took and recovered a large amount of wealth from Somnath Temple.

Critical Analysis:

As per aforementioned that different schools have different point of view. After evaluating the character of Mehmud, it appears like, Mehmud's character is complex to understand. He has different objectives and different reasons to attack on the territory of India.

Modern historian

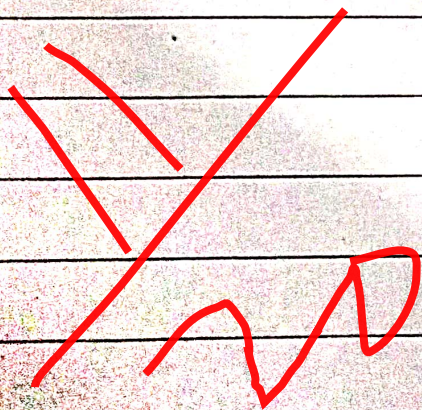
Romila Thapar

"Mahmud's motives can't define in a single dimension".

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Conclusion:

Mehmud has set the pillars of Ghaznavid empire. However, after his death the empire wasn't sustain its foundation. Additionally, the character of Mehmud is quite complex to understand different historian has different view of point regarding his expedition. However, besides his political, religious and economical ideology. He was a great warrior, who made a pompous record in the pages of history.



Did he want to create a Turkic empire?