

Trace the history of the Muslim Conquests of present day Pakistan areas highlighting their contributions in transforming the society and culture.

**Answer:**

The Muslim conquests of the regions that now constitute modern-day Pakistan mark a significant chapter in the annals of the South-Asian history. Beginning with the arrival of Muhammad Bin Qasim in 711 CE, these conquests spanned several centuries and were driven by diverse dynasties, including the Ghaznavids, Ghurids, and Mughals. Each wave of conquest brought profound changes, not only in the political landscape but also in the social, cultural, and Economic fabric of region. The muslim rulers introduced administrative innovations, judicial reforms, and economic policies that fostered trade and agriculture. This historical trajectory significantly shaped the identity of regions leaving an enduring legacy that continues to influence contemporary Pakistani society.

### **1-The Dawn of Islam in South Asia:**

#### **The Early Muslim Conquests**

The roots of Islam in the subcontinent extends back to the campaigns of the conquests



waged by Arab armies in first years after the birth of their religion in the seventh century. Its real impact began when Muslim Rulers from central Asia invaded the subcontinent through what is now Pakistan in the 11th century. For 500 years a succession of Islamic dynasties - the Ghaznavids, Ghurids, and Delhi Sultanate among them - ruled significant portions of region, battling Hindu kingdoms and migrating nomads. James Wynbrandt explicates on this in his book "A brief History of Pakistan":

"The Subcontinent was accustomed to incursions from outsiders seeking land, treasures and dominions. But unlike the nomads, Persians, or Greeks who preceded them, the Muslims introduced strong central government and many other social innovations. Their influence transformed the Subcontinent and left a legacy of incomparable art and architecture, scientific knowledge, and other priceless contributions to World heritage."

712-714	Mahmud of Ghazni	1175-1206
Muhammad Bin Qasim	998-1030	Sultan Muhammad Ghuri

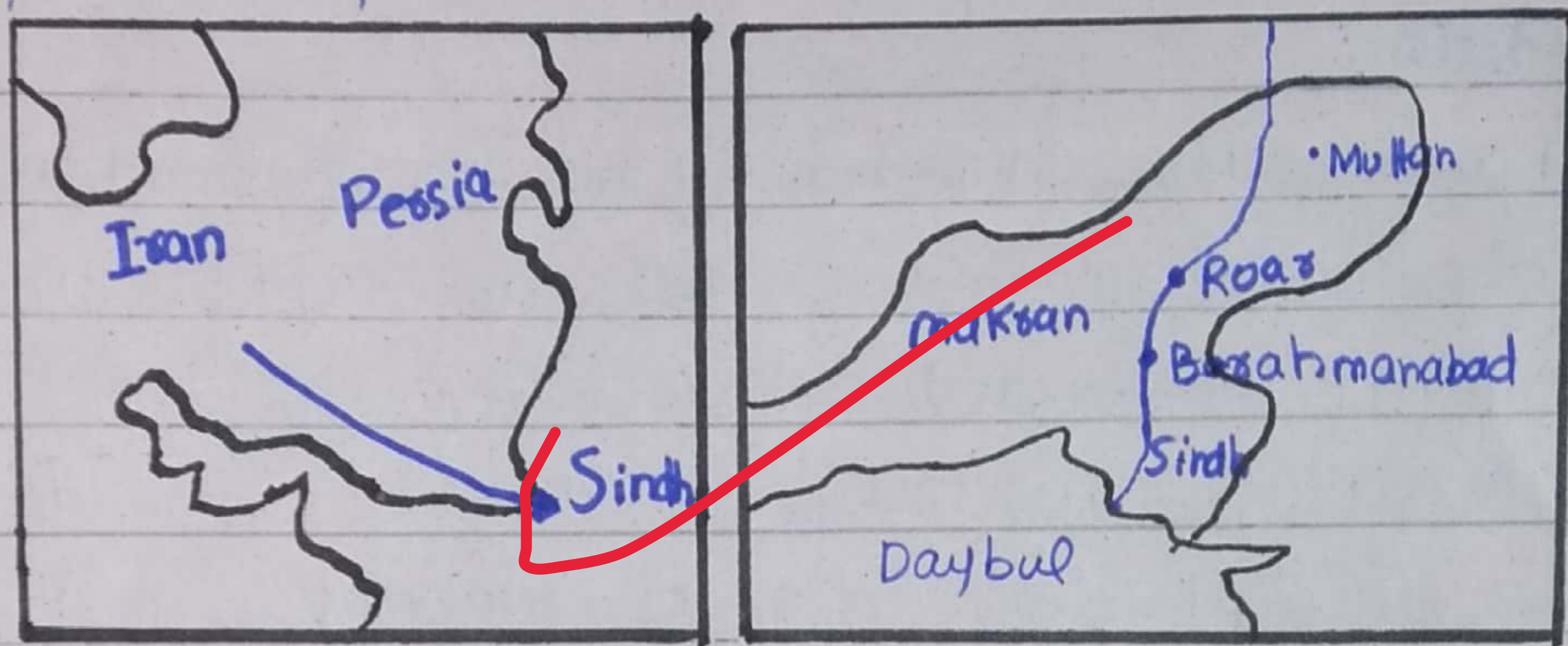
Early Muslim Expeditions



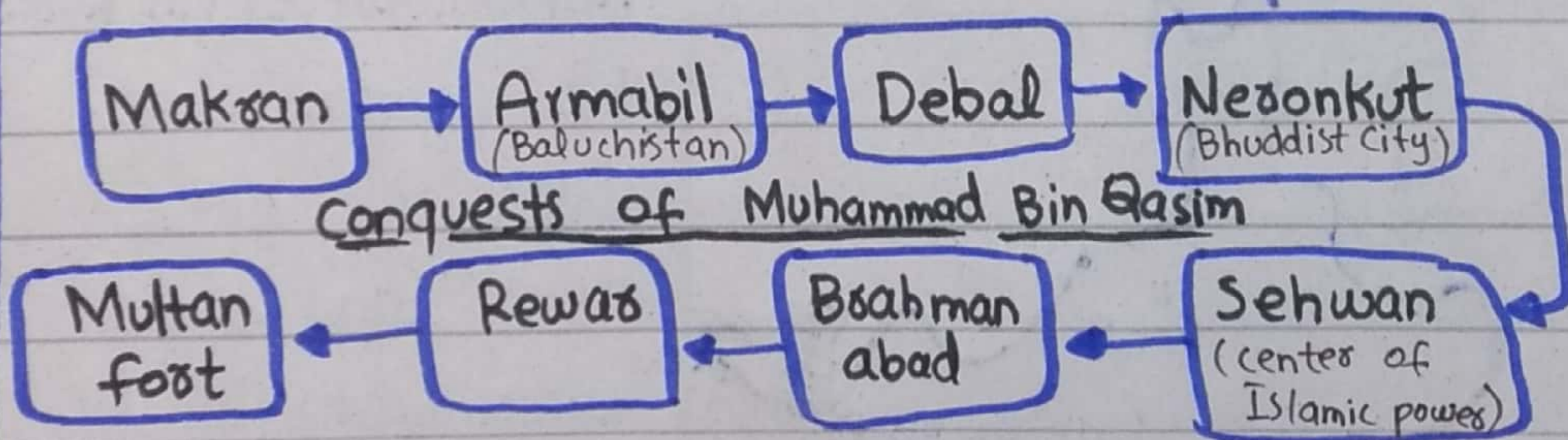
## i- Arrival of Muhammad Bin Qasim:

### Opening the Gates of Sindh:

By 711, Hajaj Bin Yousuf sent 6000 Syrian horsemen, 6000 troops on camels, and 2000 Bactrian camels under the command of his nephew Muhammad Bin Qasim to attack Sindh. The coastal strip of Makran was the first region of Sindh attacked and first to fall.



He didn't stop at Makran. He started a chain of conquests and expanded his rule till Multan.



### Reforms Under His Rule:

Qasim's conquests brought peace and prosperity in the region. Law and order was restored and the local people breathed a sigh of relief due to his tolerance and end of

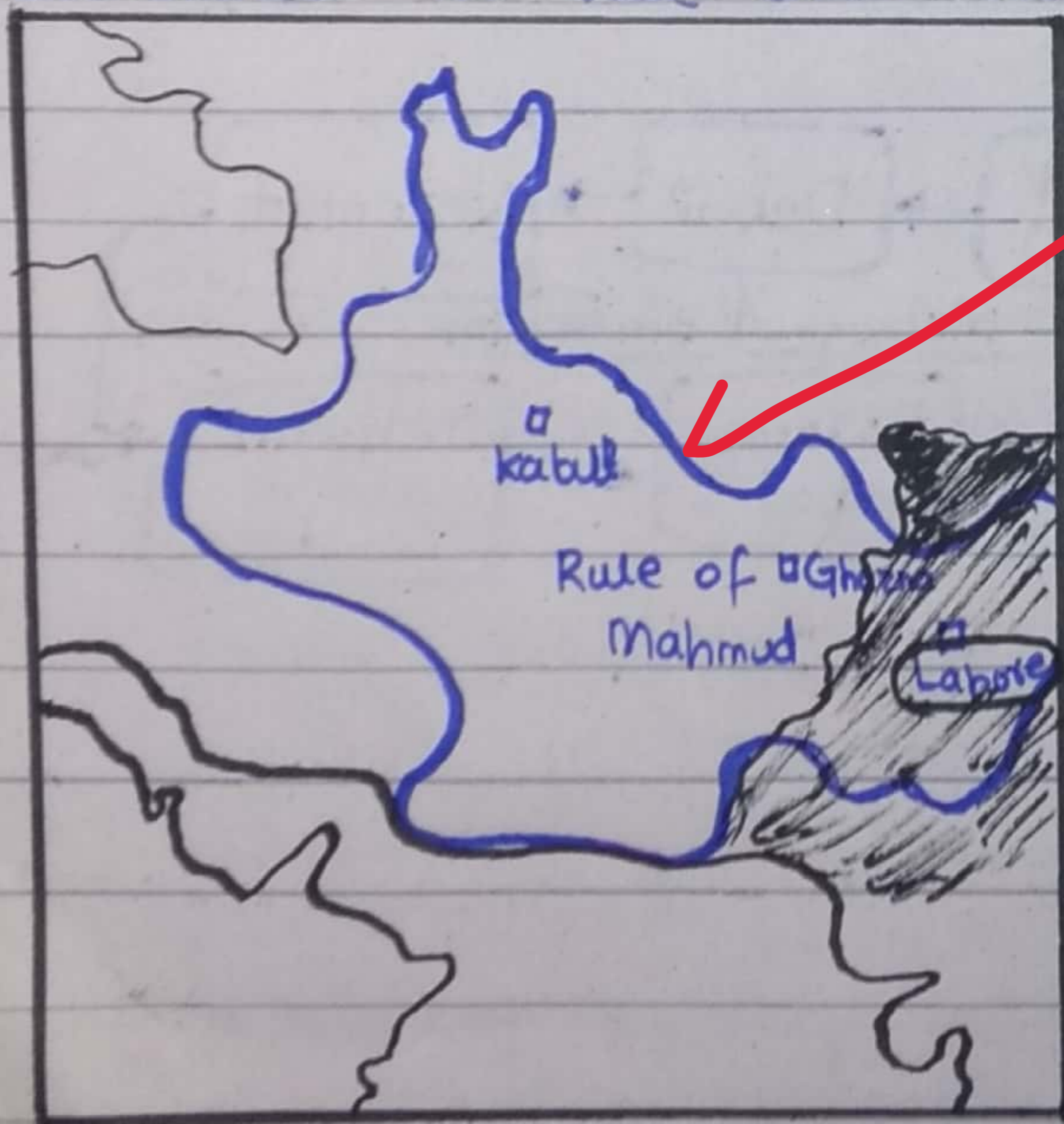


cruelty in the region. On the conquest of Debal, Qasim issued a decree:

"In my religion, only those who are kind to fellow human beings are worthy of respect. Cruelty and oppression are prohibited in our law. We fight only those who are unjust and enemies of truth."

## ii - The Ghaznavid Era: Mahmud of Ghazni's Expeditions

Sebuktagin was succeeded by his son, Mahmud, who marked another glorious period of conquests in subcontinent. He invaded India 17 times and during his 17th attack in 1025, he crushed Somnath Temple, the political center of Maharakasat that time. He conquered a number of places, but never established his rule over them except Punjab.



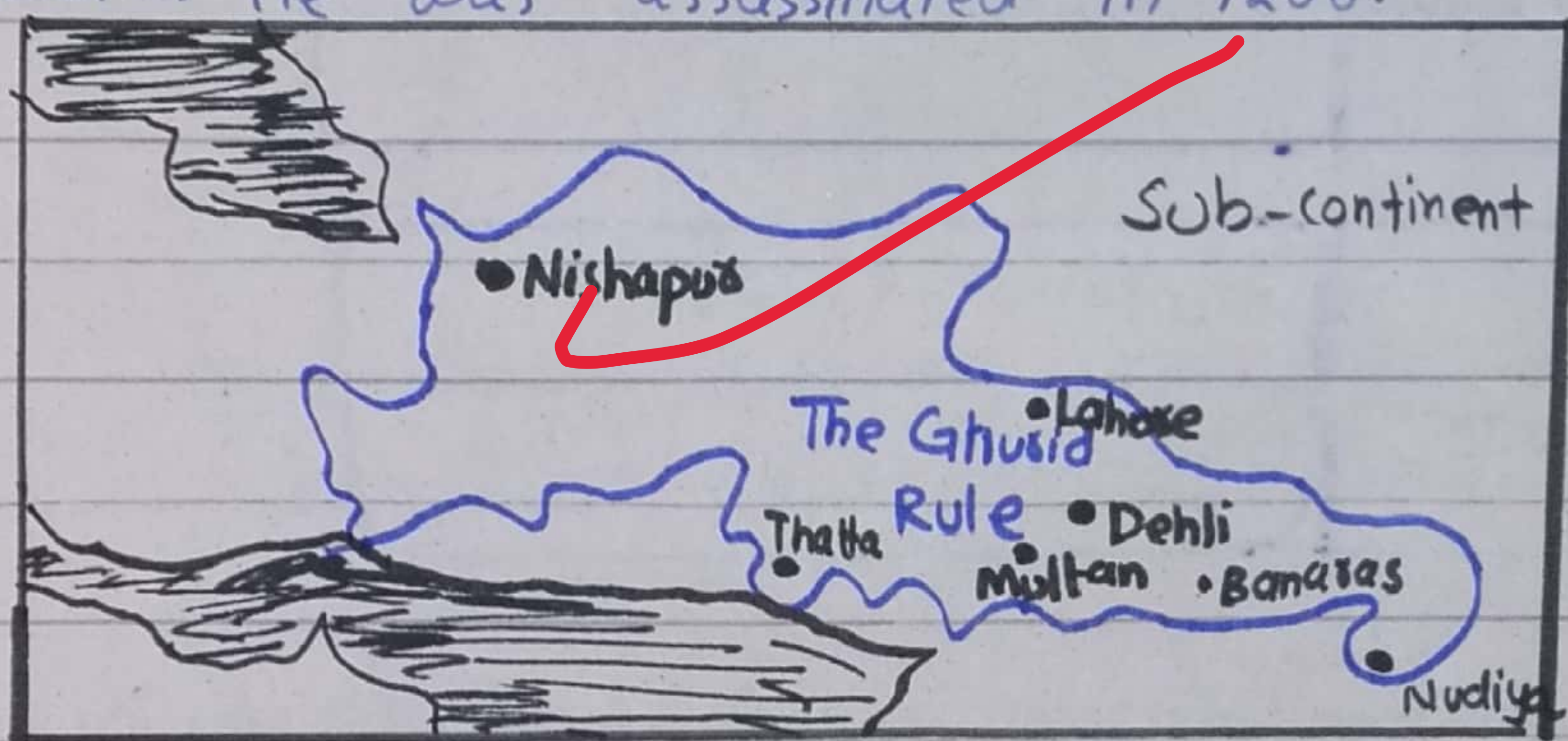
### Reforms under His Rule:

He revived trade under the silk route through land route development. He also minted coins to facilitate commerce. Lahore became a major center of learning as Sheikh Ismail Bokhari started preaching here.



### iii - The Ghurid Invasion: Muhammad Ghuri's Conquests

Based in Afghanistan, Muhammad of Ghur replaced the Ghaznavid empire and laid his rule on Lahore. During 1190s, he fought two battles of Tairan with Prithvi Raj Chohan and took Dehli under his rule. He captured most of Northern India up till Bihar. He is the real creditor for the establishment of Muslim rule in Northern India. The concept of equality in Islam and Muslim tradition reached its climax in the history of South Asia when slaves were raised to status of Sultan. He was assassinated in 1206.



### 2. Delhi Sultanate: Powerful Empire of Muslim Rule (1206 - 1526)

The Delhi Sultanate, established by Qutub-ud-Din Aibak, established Islamic rule throughout much of Subcontinent, and it maintained its prominence in the region for more than three centuries. The rule expanded to almost every corner of subcontinent. Rule under Delhi Sultanate is divided



into five Dynasties:

<b>Slave Dynasty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sultan Qutab-ud-Din Aibak</li><li>• Sultan Shamas ud-Din - Iltutmush</li><li>• Sultan Ghiyas-ud-Din-Balban</li></ul>
----------------------	--

<b>Khilji Dynasty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sultan Jalal-ud-Din Firuz Khilji</li><li>• Ala-ud-Din Khilji</li></ul>
-----------------------	--

<b>Tughluq Dynasty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ghiyas-ud-Din - Tughluq</li><li>• Firuz Tughluq</li></ul>
------------------------	---

<b>Sayyid Dynasty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Timur Lenk</li><li>• Khizar Khan</li></ul>
-----------------------	--

<b>Lodhi Dynasty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bahlul Lodhi</li><li>• Sikandar Shah</li><li>• Ibrahim Lodhi</li></ul>
----------------------	--

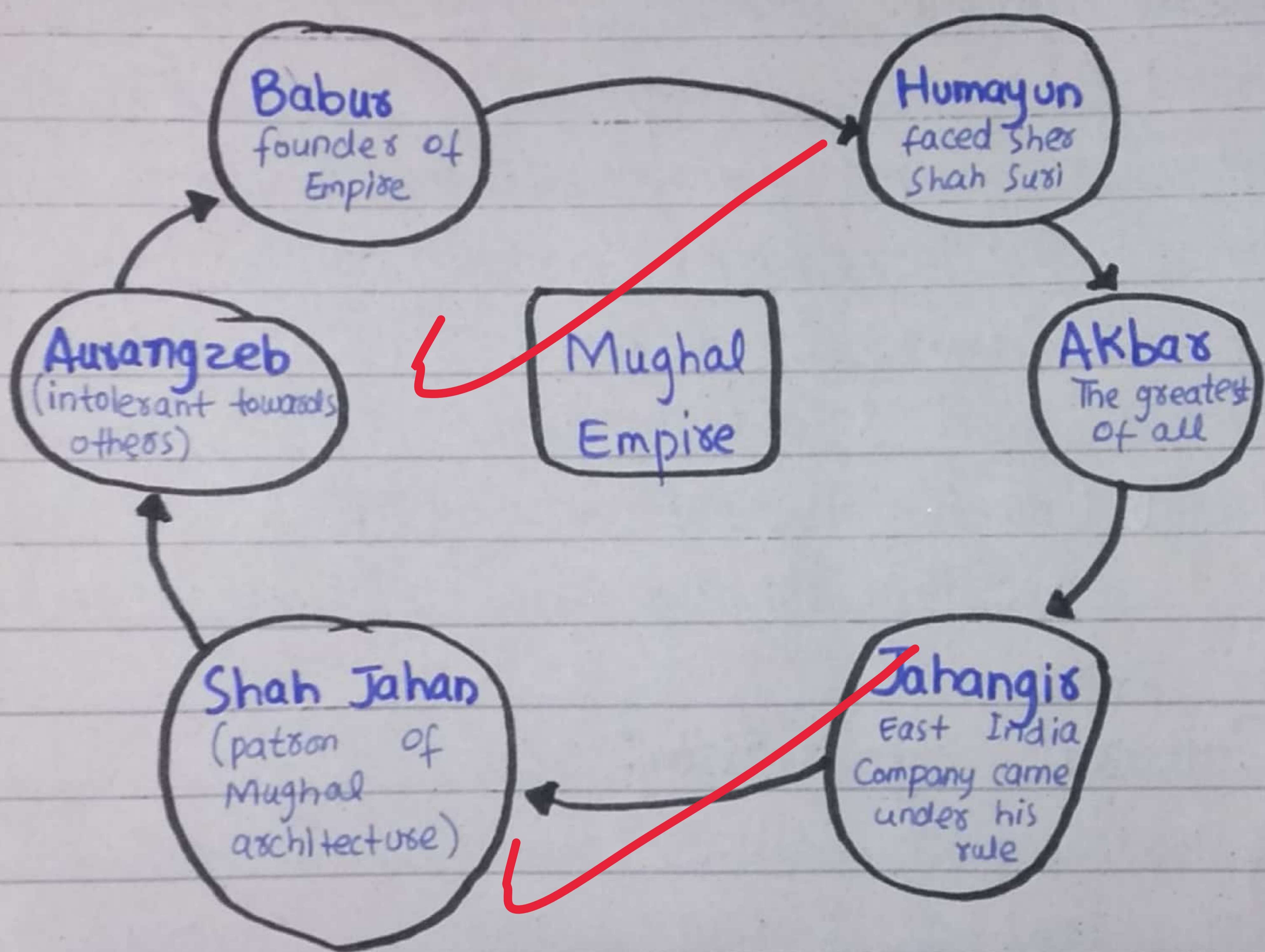
The Sultanate was a unique epoch of Muslim achievements as the young Sultanate dynasties checked the Mongol attacks. They built great Empires buildings that motivate an aesthetic sense and inspire imagination uptill now.

### 3. The Mughal Empire : Flourishing of Culture and Administration (1526 - 1707)

The Mughal Empire marked a high point in the history of the Subcontinent. While its hold over present



day Pakistan wavered, the Empire's military campaigns, governance, trade policies and cultural achievements had a large impact on the region. Mughal rose with the defeat of Ibrahim Lodhi in battle of Paniput. Babur is today celebrated as first of Six Great Mughals: Babur (1526-30), Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb.



#### 4- Transforming the Heartlands: Contributions to Modern-Day Pakistani Regions

##### i- Punjab: The Cradle of Sufi Mysticism

Punjab became a vibrant center of Sufi-Mysticism under Muslim Rule. Key contributions include:

**Sufi Shrines:** Various revered shrines were



established, such as Data Darbar, which became a pilgrimage sites and center of spiritual learning was made under the Muslim Rule. The early Muslim Rulers, including the Ghaznavids, and Ghurids supported the construction of such shrines, fostering Sufi practices. Shaikh Ismail Bukhari, began preaching in Lahore in 1005 under the reign of Mahmud.

**Social harmony:** Promotion of interfaith harmony and social cohesion through Sufi teachings that emphasized love and tolerance. Mughal emperors during his reign introduced religious and ethnic tolerance. Akbar also favored the marriages among Mughals and Rajputs to enhance social harmony. Hazrat Data Ali Hajveri who came to Lahore in 1039 under the Ghaznavi rule also emphasized love and peace.

**Cultural Syncretism:** Mahmud's court attracted scholars, poets, artists leading to cultural exchange and spread of Persian and Arabic literature. Alau-d-Din's conquest of Southern India brought an infusion of new cultural<sup>in</sup> cities of kingdom. Sitar, and Tabla was invented by Amir Khusro.

## ii - Sindh: A melting Pot of Cultures

Babul Islam, Sindh, the initial point of



Muslim entry saw a significant socio-cultural transformation:-

**Linguistic Evolution:** Muhammad Bin Qasim's initial conquest incorporated Persian, and Arabic vocabulary into Sindhi language enriching its literary tradition. After his rule, he replaced the Devanagiri script with Arabic script. This linguistic blend contributed to the creation of a rich body of Sindhi literature and poetry.

**Trade and Commerce:** During Qasim and Ghaznavid's rule, Sindh became a crucial trade hub, connecting the region with Central Asia and Middle East. Cities like Thatta became bustling centers of trade and industry, facilitating the exchange of goods and ideas. Mahmud introduced minted coins to facilitate commerce.

**Islamic Learnings:** Early Muslim expeditions profoundly impacted the religion of society. With the advent of Muhammad Bin Qasim, Sindh became a center of Muslim or Islamic learning. And this religion gained foothold during the reigns of Ghaznavids and Mughals. The first Mosque of <sup>Southern</sup> ~~North~~ Asia was built in Sindh.

**Administrative Developments:** Sindh became a central hub of administrative reform, as taxes were abolished and Jaziya was imposed.



and law and order was restored in society.

### iii Baluchistan and Khyber

#### Pakhtunkhwa : The frontiers of Resistance and Assimilation

These areas of Pakistan were of strategic importance as they were the pathways for the reforms. These areas grew under Muslim's rule.

**Infrastructure Development :** Construction of roads and caravanserais, was a major step to facilitate and travel. The development of these infrastructures made Balochistan an essential link in the trade routes between Persian and Indian Subcontinent. It developed many under Mughal Empire.

**Military fortification:** Muslim rule, especially the Mughal Empire introduced a number of forts for defence purposes. Fortresses like Bala Hissar became a strategic military installation. The fort was built by Babur in 1526.

### 6- Conclusion : Legacy of Muslim Conquests in Pakistan.

The Muslim Conquest of the Regions that constitute present day Pakistan were not merely military victories. But were of pivotal, as they worked as catalyst for social and cultural transformation. They introduced new administrative



system, fostered social and cultural integration, and laid the foundation for a rich and diverse heritage that continues to shape Pakistan's identity today.

