

"Pakistan Affairs PrePartition"

(Muhammad Bin Qasim 695-715)

- The first Muslim Conqueror of the Indian Subcontinent.
- MBQ stands as a pivotal figure in the early Islamic expansion into South Asia.
- Appointed by the Umayyad Caliphate, he had a military campaign into Sindh and Multan that resulted in the establishment of the first Muslim rule in the Indian Subcontinent.

Background:

- Born in 694 CE in Taif (Saudi ^{New} Arab)
- Belonged to Thaqif tribe
- Nephew of Hajjaj Bin Yusuf.

Military Campaigns and Conquests:

- Conquest of Debal, first major victory; Muhammad used siege tactics and siege engines (mangonies) or catapult.
- After conquering Debal, a mosque was built - the first in South Asia.

→ Victories

Cities captured include:

Nirun (Hyderabad), Sehwan, Alor, Raor, Brahmanabad and Multan.

along few other important towns in Sindh.

Military Strategy:

- Use of advanced siege warfare
- Integration of local tribes into his

- forces after victories.
- Diplomatic negotiations when necessary.

Administration and Governance:

- Retained many local administrators to manage day to day affairs
- Introduced Islamic law, Arabic became the official language in his governance and Umayyad coinage.

Religious Policy:

- Practiced religious tolerance
- Hindus and Buddhists were recognized as dhimmis (protected non muslims)
- Allowed to continue practicing their religion upon payment of jizya (tax).
- Encouraged cooperation between Muslims and local populations.
- Allowed existing social structures to remain largely under Islamic rule.

Political Impact:

- First establishment of Muslim rule in India.
- Opened the door for later Islamic dynasties like Ghaznavids, Delhi Sultanate and Mughals.

Cultural and Economic Exchanges:

- Arab traders, scholars, and settlers began interacting with Indian society.
- Initiated a long-lasting Arab-Indian relationship in trade, culture and religion.

Salient Features of Tenure:

- Brought peace and prosperity to The region.
- followed a kind and generous approach towards the local population.
- Ensured fairness and equality under the law.
- More people from The local population embraced Islam.
- Sindh became a hub of learning and knowledge.
- Mosques and educational institutions called "madaris" were built.
- Scholars, writers and ~~readers~~^{poets} emerged from the region and shared their knowledge.
- The Muslim community also learned from the Indian sciences like medicine, astronomy, and mathematics.
- Sanskrit books were translated into Arabic and vice versa.

Death:

MBG was recalled to Iraq, He was imprisoned and died in captivity / executed in 715 CE, at 21 years old.

Conclusion:

- He had a profound and lasting impact on the Indian Subcontinent.
- His military success, diplomatic

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governance, and policies of integration paved the way for centuries of Muslim presence in South Asia. He was remembered both as a conqueror and a statesman.