

The Delhi Sultanate

Exercises

Short answer questions:

1. Why was the first dynasty of the Sultanate called the Slave Dynasty?
2. What were the achievements of Iltutmish?
3. What were the innovative reforms introduced by Alauddin Khajji?
4. What was the biggest mistake committed by Muhammad Tughluq?
5. How was Firuz Shah Tughluq intolerant towards the Hindus?
6. What were the reasons for the decline of the Sultanate?
7. Write down three innovative reforms introduced by Alauddin Khajji.

Solutions

Short-answer questions:

1. The dynasty established by Qutb-ud-din Aybak was known as the Slave Dynasty since many of the rulers had originally been military slaves themselves or the descendants of these slave rulers. That is why the rulers belonging to this dynasty are generally known as the "Slave Rulers" or the Mamluk Sultans.
2. After securing his position, Iltutmish extended his empire and brought the whole of north India under his control. He also averted the attack of famous Mongol Genghis Khan. He also received the title of Sovereign Sultan of Delhi from the Caliph of Baghdad. Iltutmish introduced many administrative reforms. He also introduced new coins — the silver tanka and the copper jital. He set up a group of 40 loyal slaves known as 'Chalga'. He built canals and worked towards improving the living conditions of the people. Iltutmish was a patron of art and architecture. The construction of Qutb Minar in Delhi was completed by him. He also built the magnificent Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque.
3. Alauddin Khajji introduced many innovative reforms. He introduced a market control policy and fixed the prices of all essential items. He also established separate markets for food grains, cloth, horses, fruits, etc. Very strict punishments were prescribed for cheating and under-weighting. He controlled taxation and fixed the rate of land revenue. He also curbed the powers of the nobles and banned alcohol and parties. He confiscated the lands given to the nobles. Also, he introduced the first permanent standing army of India. He reorganised the army and directly appointed the soldiers. The salaries were given in cash. Horses were also branded.
4. The biggest mistake committed by Muhammad Tughluq was the introduction of token currency. The innovative scheme was good but it ended in a failure. Due to the shortage of gold and silver, he introduced currency of copper and brass coins in place of gold and silver coins. The plan in itself was good but the Sultan could not take any step to check forgery and the result was that people began to mint coins in their houses. As a result, foreign trade suffered. The state treasury was thus flooded with forged coins. At last, the Sultan decided to withdraw the copper coins and the people were paid back in gold and silver coins. The royal treasury suffered immense losses and it ruined the economy.

- 5.** Firuz Shah Tughluq followed a very orthodox religious policy and ruled according to Islamic laws. He consulted the ulemas in all matters. For the first time, he imposed 'Zazia', a tax on non-Muslims. He demolished Hindu temples and built mosques in their places. He destroyed the Jagannath Puri temple in Odisha and killed a large number of priests.
- 6.** The decline of Delhi Sultanate occurred due to many reasons:
- The nobles were greedy and there was no unity.
 - The Mongols invaded and plundered the Sultanate.
 - The wars and the failure of policies cost the Sultanate dearly.
 - There was a constant struggle for the throne.
 - The size of the empire was too big and there were many revolts.
- 7.** Alauddin Khalji introduced a market control policy and fixed the prices of all essential items. He also established separate markets for food grains, cloth, horses/ fruits/ etc. Very strict punishments were prescribed for cheating and under-weighing. He controlled taxation and fixed the rate of land revenue.