

UNIT 4

KALHANA

Very little is known about Kalhana. He was the son of Chanpaka, a minister in the employ of King Harsha of Kashmir (1089-1101 CE). Chanpaka is referred in Rajatarangini as *dvarapati* or the Lord of the Gates; commander of the frontier troops. Kalhana was born in Parihaspura now known as Paraspore in the Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir. Kalhana was well-versed with the numerous chronicles of Kashmir. Thus, he relied on early chronicles, biographies, inscriptions, royal grants and charters, sthala puranas, traditions and customs of the people. He was an eyewitness of the events which occurred the spring of 1121 A.D. during the reign of Sussala in Srinagar. Fortified with the literary, inscriptional, numismatic and monumental evidences and personal observations Kalhana produced his magnum opus Rajatarangini.

ABUL FAZAL

Abu'l-Fazl ibn Mubarak, also known as **Abul Fazl**, **Abu'l Fadl** and **Abu'l-Fadl 'Allami** (14 January 1551 – 12 August 1602), was the grand vizier of the Mughal emperor Akbar, and author of the *Akbarnama*, the official history of Akbar's reign in three volumes, (the third volume is known as the *Ain-i-Akbari*) and a Persian translation of the Bible. He was also one of the Nine Jewels (Hindi: *Navaratnas*) of Akbar's royal court and the brother of Faizi, the poet laureate of Emperor Akbar. The *Akbarnama* is a document of history of Akbar's reign and his ancestors spread over three volumes. It contains the history of Akbar's ancestors from Timur to Humayun, Akbar's reign up to the 46th regnal year (1602), and an administrative report of Akbar's empire, the *Ain-i-Akbari*, which itself is in three volumes. The third volume of *Ain-i-Akbari* gives an account of the ancestry and life of the author. The *Ain-i-Akbari* was completed in the 42nd regnal year, but a slight addition was made to it in the 43rd regnal year on the account of the conquest of Berar.

JAMES MILL

James Mill was born on 6 April 1773 at Northwater Bridge in the county of Forfarshire in the parish of Logie Pert in Scotland. He is counted among the founders of the Ricardian school of economics. He also wrote the monumental work *The History of British India*. He was the first writer to divide Indian history into three parts: Hindu, Muslim and British, a classification which has proved surpassingly influential in the field of Indian historical studies, but which is seen in recent decades as being deeply problematic. Mill also played a great part in British politics, and was a dominant figure in the establishment of what was called "philosophic radicalism". His writings on government and his personal influence among the Liberal politicians of his time determined the change of view from the French Revolution theories of the rights of man and the absolute equality of men to the claiming of securities for good government through a wide extension of the franchise. Mill was the father of John Stuart Mill, a noted philosopher of liberalism and utilitarianism, and a colonial administrator at the East India Company.

J.N.SARKAR

Sir Jadunath Sarkar, (born Dec. 10, 1870, Karachmāria, Bengal [now in Bangladesh]—died May 15, 1958, Calcutta, India), foremost Indian historian of the Mughal dynasty (1526–1857). Sarkar chose Aurangzeb, the last major Mughal emperor, as the object of his life's work. His first book, *India of Aurangzib*, was published in 1901. His five-volume *History of Aurangzib* took 25 years to complete and was published in 1924. Two of Sarkar's single-volume works are *Chaitanya: His Pilgrimages and Teachings* (1913) and *Shivaji and His Times* (1919). All his works demonstrate his vast knowledge of Persian-language sources and are skillfully written in English. Sarkar served as vice chancellor of the University of Calcutta (1926–28) and on the Bengal legislative council (1929–32).

K.A.NILAKANDA SASTRI

Kallidaikurichi Aiyah Nilakanta Sastri (12 August 1892 – 15 June 1975) was an Indian historian who wrote on South Indian history. Many of his books form the standard reference works on the subject. Sastri was acclaimed for his scholarship and mastery of sources and was a recipient of the third highest Indian civilian honour of Padma Bhushan. Nilakanta Sastri is regarded as the greatest and most prolific among professional historians of South India. Tamil historian A R Venkatachalapathy regards him as "arguably the most distinguished historian of twentieth-century Tamil Nadu",

D.D KOSAMBI

Damodar Dharmananda Kosambi (31 July 1907 – 29 June 1966) was an Indian mathematician, statistician, philologist, historian and polymath who contributed to genetics by introducing *Kosambi map function*. He is well known for his work in numismatics and for compiling critical editions of ancient Sanskrit texts. His father, Dharmananda Damodar Kosambi, had studied ancient Indian texts with a particular emphasis on Buddhism and its literature in the Pali language. Damodar Kosambi emulated him by developing a keen interest in his country's ancient history. Kosambi was also a Marxist historian specialising in ancient India who employed the historical materialist approach in his work. He is particularly known for his classic work *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*.

He is described as "the patriarch of the Marxist school of Indian historiography". Kosambi was critical of the policies of then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, which, according to him, promoted capitalism in the guise of democratic socialism. He was an enthusiast of the Chinese revolution and its ideals, and, in addition, a leading activist in the World Peace Movement.

ROMILA THAPAR

Romila Thapar (born 30 November 1931) is an Indian historian whose principal area of study is ancient India. She is the author of several books including the popular volume, *A History of India*, and is currently Professor Emerita at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi. In 2008, the US Library of Congress named Thapar a co-winner, with Peter Brown, of the Kluge Prize for the Study of Humanity. In 1992, and again in 2005, she was awarded the Republic of India's third-highest civilian honour, the Padma Bhushan, but she declined each time, citing her decision to accept only academic honours awarded for her work. Thapar's major works are *Aśoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*, *Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations*, *Recent Perspectives of Early Indian History* (editor), *A History of India Volume One*, and *Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300*.

IRFAN HABIB

Irfan Habib (born 1931) is an Indian historian of ancient and medieval India, following the methodology of Marxist historiography. He is well known for his strong stance against Hindutva and Muslim communalists. He has authored a number of books, including *Agrarian System of Mughal India, 1556–1707*. Habib has worked on the historical geography of Ancient India, the history of Indian technology, medieval administrative and economic history, colonialism and its impact on India, and historiography.

BIPIN CHANDRA

Bipin Chandra (27 May 1928 – 30 August 2014) He was an Indian historian, specialising in economic and political history of modern India. An emeritus professor of modern history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, he specialized on the Indian independence movement and is considered a leading scholar on Mahatma Gandhi. He authored several books, including *The Rise and Growth of Economic Nationalism*. Chandra was a sectional president and then the

general president of the Indian History Congress in 1985. Chandra was at the forefront of the communist movement in India since independence. His co-authored book, *Freedom Struggle*, was censored by the new central government that came to power in India in 1977. He collaborated with historians such as Nurul Hasan, Ram Sharan Sharma, Sarvapalli Gopal, Satish Chandra, Romila Thapar, Irfan Habib, Barun De and Arjun Dev and some of his students, such as Mridula Mukherjee, Aditya Mukherjee, Sucheta Mahajan and Vishalakshi Menon, some of whose textbooks have previously been prescribed in the history syllabi of schools in India.

ANNALS SCHOOL

Annales school, School of history. Established by Lucien Febvre (1878–1956) and Marc Bloch (1886–1944), its roots were in the journal *Annales: économies, sociétés, civilisations*, Febvre's reconstituted version of a journal he had earlier formed with Marc Bloch. Under Fernand Braudel's direction the Annales school promoted a new form of history, replacing the study of leaders with the lives of ordinary people and replacing examination of politics, diplomacy, and wars with inquiries into climate, demography, agriculture, commerce, technology, transportation, and communication, as well as social groups and mentalities. While aiming at a "total history," it also yielded dazzling microstudies of villages and regions. Its international influence on historiography has been enormous.

POST MODERNISM

Postmodernism, also spelled **post-modernism**, in Western philosophy, a late 20th-century movement characterized by broad skepticism, subjectivism, or relativism; a general suspicion of reason; and an acute sensitivity to the role of ideology in asserting and maintaining political and economic power. Postmodernism is largely a reaction against the intellectual assumptions and values of the modern period in the history of Western philosophy (roughly, the 17th through the 19th century). Indeed, many of the doctrines characteristically associated with

postmodernism can fairly be described as the straightforward denial of general philosophical viewpoints that were taken for granted during the 18th-century Enlightenment, though they were not unique to that period.

STRUCTURALISM

Another important theoretical approach to the concept of social structure is structuralism (sometimes called French structuralism), which studies the underlying, unconscious regularities of human expression—that is, the unobservable structures that have observable effects on behaviour, society, and culture. French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss derived this theory from structural linguistics, developed by the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure. According to Saussure, any language is structured in the sense that its elements are interrelated in nonarbitrary, regular, rule-bound ways; a competent speaker of the language largely follows these rules without being aware of doing so. The task of the theorist is to detect this underlying structure, including the rules of transformation that connect the structure to the various observed expressions.

SUBALTERN STUDIES

The **Subaltern Studies Group (SSG)** or **Subaltern Studies Collective** is a group of South Asian scholars interested in the postcolonial and post-imperial societies. The term *Subaltern Studies* is sometimes also applied more broadly to others who share many of their views and they are often considered to be "exemplary of postcolonial studies" and as one of the most influential movements in the field. Their anti-essentialist approach is one of history from below, focused more on what happens among the masses at the base levels of society than among the elite.

Scholars associated with Subaltern Studies include:

- David Arnold
- Gautam Bhadra
- Dipesh Chakrabarty
- Partha Chatterjee
- Ranajit Guha
- David Hardiman
- Sudipta Kaviraj
- Gyanendra Pandey
- Gyan Prakash
- Sarojini Sahoo
- Sumit Sarkar (later dissented)
- Ajay Skaria
- Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak
- Eric Stokes
- Susie Tharu