

The Age of Conflict

CAUSES OF SUCCESS OF MUSLIMS

The Rajputs had been ruling over India for centuries when the Muslims attacked them. Even then, they suffered defeat at the hands of the Muslims. There were many factors responsible for the success of the Turks against the Rajput's.

1. ***Lack of Political Unity***: The India of the 11th and 12th centuries was a disunited and disintegrated India. The country was divided into small states. The kings of these states were jealous of each other. When Mohammad Ghori attacked Prithvi Raj, Jai Chand looked at the event from a distance. He did not anticipate that the same thing could happen to him also.

2. ***Lack of Farsightedness in the Rajput Rulers***: The Rajputs were brave but short-sighted. They were forgetful of their defence. They never tried to check the enemy. They never strengthened the forts at the frontiers. They rose from their sleep only when the invader was at their door. This factor was also responsible for the defeat of the Rajputs.

3. ***Absence of Permanent Army***: The Indian rulers were religious people. They never tried to reform or reorganize army. There was no planning. They depended on feudal lords whose soldiers fought differently in the war. Thus, they were defeated.

4. ***Difference in Warfare***: The warfare of the Rajputs was old fashioned. They had full faith in their elephants. But their elephants were no match for the agile horses of the Muslims.

5. ***Fine Military Organisation of the Muslims***: The Rajput kings divided their army into three parts – the southern the left and the central. The Muslims divided their army into five units. The Anga –Rakshak and 'Prithak Rakshak' units were very significant.

6. ***High ideals of the Rajputs***: The Rajputs held high ideals. They considered it cowardice to attack the unarmed soldiers. The Muslims, on the contrary, were wily and crafty. They employed both fair and foul means to win the war.

7. ***Fanaticism of the Muslims***: The Muslims considered the Hindus as 'Kafirs'. It was their religious duty, thus, to end the Kafirs. So, they fought with religious zeal. It was also responsible for their victory.

ESTIMATE OF MAHMUD GHAZNAVI

1. **A great General and Military Leader**: Mahmud was one of the greatest conquerors of the world. He never suffered any defeat not did he ever beat a retreat in the face of heavy odds. By his perpetual conquests, he transformed his small hill-kingdom into a vast empire which placed him in the same rank as the great generals of the world like Alexander and Napoleon.

The Age of Conflict

2. **Great Lover of Justice** : Mahmud was a great lover of justice . High and low, rich and poor, the royal princes or the ordinary people, none could escape the rigour of this justice.

3. **A great Lover of Art**: During his reign, Ghazni became the most beautiful capital in the world. Mahmud also built a university at Ghazni which had a big collection of books in all the languages. He also built a beautiful mosque which is considered as the Wonder of the East. Besides the mosque and the university, he also built a museum, a library, several bridges and other buildings.

4. **Great Lover of Learning**: Mahmud was not only a great lover of learning but also a patron of the learned scholars. His court was adorned by great writers, artists, scholars and poets. Besides Alberuni who was a great scholar of Sanskrit and a great astronomer and Utabi, who recorded the history of his period, his court was adorned by poets like Unsure and Farrukhi. The great Persian poet Firdausi who composed 'Shahanama' was also a gem in his court.

5. **As a Religious Man**: Mahmud was a staunch Muslim who had special love for his own religion. He followed the principles of Islam and said his five prayers daily. He also revered Muslim holymen and gave financial help to the poor and destitute Muslims.

6. **Faults in Mahmud's Character**: There were certain faults in Mahmud's character as well. Sometimes he acted like a cruel heartless man. Though the Muslims branded him as a Ghazi, for the Hindus he was the worst plunderer and killer of men. Mahmud was very greedy.

7. **His Failure as a Statesman and an Empire Builder**: Mahmud was undoubtedly a great general but he did nothing to improve his administration. That is why his empire crumbled and disintegrated soon after his death. He spent his life in expanding his empire, but did nothing to give it a proper administration. His wealth encouraged extravagance and fostered luxury among his successors.

MAIN INVASIONS OF MAHMUD GHAZNAVI

(a) **War against Jaipal 1001 A.D**: Mahmud's first invasion was against King Jaipal of Punjab who was planning to recapture his lost territories across the Indus. The main battle was fought near Peshawar which claimed more than 15,000 Hindu soldiers. Jaipal, himself was captured alongwith 15 of his kith and kin but was released on payment of 2,50,000 dinars. Jaipal felt greatly humiliated by this defeat and he soon immolated himself.

(b) **War against Anandpal, 1008, A.D**: After defeating Jaipal in 1001 A.D., Mahmud was busy in conquering the territories of Bhera and Multan till 1008 A.D. On the other hand, Jaipal's son, Anandpal was alarmed at Mahmud's growing

The Age of Conflict

power. He therefore invited the Rajput rulers of Ujjain, Gwalior, Kanauj, Delhi and Ajmer to organize a confederacy of these rulers. The Khokhars, a warrior tribe of the Punjab, also sided with the Rajputs, a wave of unprecedented patriotism ran through the whole land, in this way the forces of race, religion and patriotism were arrayed against Mahmud for the preservation of the Hindu culture and civilization. Ultimately a fierce war was fought in 1008 A.D. near Peshawar. The Hindus had an upper hand and were at the point of winning the battle when the ill-luck turned tables on them. Anandpal's elephant took fright and fled from the battle-field. It caused panic among the Hindu soldiers who ran helter and skelter in utter confusion. For two days and nights the Muslim soldiers chased and hunted the retreating Hindu soldiers. It was the greatest of Mahmud's victories which made him the master of the whole of the Punjab.

(c) **The Invasion of Nagarkot or Kangra, 1009 A.D.**: The very next year Mahmud invaded Nagarkot in Kangra, which fell an easy prey to his armies. Mahmud plundered mercilessly the wealth of the Nagarkot temples and returned to Ghazni with a huge booty comprising mounds of gold, silver and costly jewels that had been treasured there for several centuries. Mahmud carried so much wealth with him that 'Many people from far off countries came to Ghazni to see them.'

(d) **Invasion of Thanesar, 1014 A.D.**: Mahmud had heard about the immense wealth of the temples of Thanesar. Tempted by his greed for plunder he invaded Thanesar in 1014 A.D. His armies let loose a reign of terror and plundered and desecrated all the holy Hindu temples.

(e) **Invasion on Mathura and Kanauj, 1018 - 1019 A.D.**: Mahmud now planned to invade another famous city of North India, Kanauj. He marched on Kanauj in 1018 A.D. On the way he recklessly plundered the huge wealth of big and beautiful temples of Mathura which he ordered to be burnt and razed to the ground. He reached Kanauj in 1019. A.D. The Paratihara King of Kanauj, Rajyapal submitted without resistance and surrendered numerous booty to Mahmud. Thereafter, Mahmud also invaded Gwalior, Alwar and Kashmir.

(f) **Invasion on Kalinjar, 1021 A.D.**: The Chandela ruler of Kalinjar, Ganda, resented Rajyapal's cowardice on submitting before Mahmud without fighting against his armies. He therefore invaded Kanauj and killed Rajyapal. When Mahmud came to know of Rajyapal's death he was beyond himself with anger. Then he marched on Kalinjar in 1021 A.D. The Chandela ruler fought bravely but was defeated. In this way huge booty fell in Mahmud's hands.

(g) **The Somnath Expedition, 1025 A.D.**: The 16th and the most famous of Mahmud's invasion was on Somnath, a holy Hindu Temple on the sea-shore in Kathiawar. It was one of the most beautiful and richest Hindu temples of that

The Age of Conflict

period. Mahmud marched from Ghazni in December 1025 and marching through Multan and Ajmer he crossed the Rajputana desert to reach Somnath. The brave Rajput soldiers got ready to sacrifice their lives for the protection of this holiest and richest temple of India. A fierce battle was fought for three days but the victory went to Mahmud, who entered the main temple and broke the idol of Somnath. He had amassed a numerous booty before he returned to Ghazni. This victory made Mahmud's name resound everywhere. It is said that from this temple Mahmud collected a huge booty worth two hundred million dinars.

(h) **Mahmud's Last Expedition, 1025 - 1027 A.D.**: Mahmud's 7th and the last expedition was against the Jats of Punjab who had harassed the armies of Mahmud, while they were returning from Somnath. The Jats were routed and hundreds of them were slain. Mahmud, however, died on April 30, 1030 A.D. and thus ended his stormy life.

OBJECTIVES OF MAHMUD'S INVASIONS

Historians hold divergent views as to what objective prompted Mahmud to make repeated invasions over India. Those objectives can be discussed as under:

(a) **To Seek Wealth (Economic Objective)**: Prof. Habib, Dr. Jaffar and Majumdar etc. scholars are of the opinion that Mahmud Ghaznavi had greed of wealth. He made frequent invasions over India with the object of seeking fabulous wealth. One of the causes was that he was the ruler of a poor hilly region. He needed wealth to make his people prosperous and to run the administration efficiently. Besides, the events of his life reveal that he had greed for wealth. Thus, in invading India, the objective of Mahmud was to seek fabulous wealth of India.

(b) **Indian Conquest (Political Aims)**: A few historians hold the opinion that the objective of Mahmud's Indian invasions was political one. He was an imperialistic ruler. After conquering Afghanistan and Khurasan, he decided to establish his empire in India. He had also annexed Punjab in his empire. But it does not appear true. He had occupied Punjab not with the aim of founding his empire in India but, with the idea of defending Ghazni. Had he wished to found an empire in India, he could have done it with ease, because he had defeated almost all the kings of north India.

(c) **Propagation of Islam (Religious Aim)**: It is the statement of Utbi, the court historian of Mahmud that the main objective of Mahmud's invasions over India was the propagation of Islam and break the idols of kafirs (non-believers). Contemporary scholar Al-Beruni also agrees to it. But Prof. Habib, Dr. Nazim and Dr. Jaffar Mahmud do not accept propagation of Islam as the aims for Mahmud's invasions. They hold that Mahmud was a conqueror. He invaded the temples because they contained fabulous wealth.

The Age of Conflict

RESULTS OF MAHMUD'S INVASIONS

Mahmud invaded India 17 times and each time, he achieved grand success. But he did not establish a stable empire in India because his aim was wealth and not an empire, destruction of idol-worship, not conquest and expansion. His invasion decidedly produced results which are as under:

1. Punjab and frontier region was annexed into Ghazni Empire. As a result, Muslims found a suitable base for Indian conquest.
2. Invasions of Mahmud massacred thousands of Indian soldiers. It gave a severe blow to Indian military power.
3. Repeated defeats of Indian kings exposed hollowness of India's political and military system.
4. Due to the invasions of Mahmud, the power of Indian kings was weakened which made the establishment of Muslim rule in India easier.
5. Due to the invasions of Mahmud, there was great devastation of men and money.
6. By invading India, Mahmud destroyed several artistic temples and idols. It gave severe setback to Indian art.
7. As a result of Mahmud's invasions, several Hindus embraced Islam.

SHAHABUDDIN MUHAMMAD GHORI

Conquests of Muhammad Ghori (1175 – 1206 AD)

1. *Invasion over Uchch and Multan*: Muhammad Ghori led his first expedition against Multan in 1178 AD. Multan was a weak state on north-west frontier. Defeating Shia ruler of Multan with ease, he occupied his kingdom. Then he conquered the state of Uchch with deceit.

2. *Attack on Anhilwara*: In 1178 AD., Muhammad Ghori invaded Anhilwara (modern Gujarat). But king Bhimdev of Anhilwara defeated him disastrously. This defeat panicked Muhammad Ghori to the extent that for next 20 years he dared not peep into Gujarat.

3. *Conquest of Punjab*: After his defeat against Gujarat, Muhammad Ghori deserting the route of Sindh made a plan to invade India through the route of Punjab. Punjab was being ruled by Khusro Malik, a descendant of Mahmud Ghaznavi. Muhammad Ghori made him a prisoner by deceit and got him assassinated. Thus, Punjab also came under Muhammad Ghori and gates for his Indian conquest were opened.

4. *First Battle to Tarain (1191 AD)*: After conquering Punjab, the boundaries of the kingdom of Muhammad Ghori lased with powerful Chauhan kingdom of Ajmer and Delhi. Muhammad Ghori captured frontier fort of Bhatinda of Chauhan state. Prithviraj Chauhan, therefore, combining himself with several Rajput kings fought a

The Age of Conflict

battle against Muhammad Ghori at the battle-field of Tarain in 1191 AD. Muhammad Ghori was wounded seriously. A Khilji horse-rider took him away from the battle-field. In order to protect their life, Muslim army got scattered. Never before had the Muslims suffered such crushing defeat at the hand of the Hindus. Prithviraj chased the army of Muhammad Ghori till 67 km. He took away the forts of Sirhind and Bhatinda from the Muslims.

5. **Second Battle of Tarain (1192 AD):** To have himself avenged upon Prithviraj, Muhammad Ghori invaded India again in 1192 AD with 1, 20,000 infantry. Prithviraj also came forward with a huge army to face Muhammad Ghori. A ferocious battle was fought between Muslims and Rajputs at the battle-field of Tarain. In the beginning, the Rajputs had upper hand but Muhammad Ghori played a trick which turned the tables in the war. He fled away from the battlefield along with his armies. Rajputs pursued the fleeing armies. Then, the Muslims, according to their plan turned and invaded the Rajputs. As a result, scattered Rajput forces were defeated. Prithviraj was wounded. He was arrested and butchered mercilessly.

6. **Invasion over Kanauj (1194 AD):** Kanauj was a powerful kingdom in northern India. Jaichand, ruler of Rathore dynasty, was ruling over Kanauj. It was difficult to found Islamic state in India without conquering it. Muhammad Ghori, therefore, attacked Kanauj in 1194 AD. A ferocious battle was fought between Muslims and the Rajputs at Chandrawar (modern Ferozabad) between Agra and Etawah. Jaichand, king of Kanauj was defeated and killed. Muhammad Ghori occupied Kanauj and Benares.

7. **Conquest of Gujarat nad Bundelkhand:** After conquering Kanauj, appointing one of his slave Qutbuddin Aibak, governor of his Indian empire, Muhammad Ghori returned to Ghazni. Attacking Bhimdev, king of Gujarat in 1197, Aibek defeated him and occupied Gujarat. In 1202 AD, attacking Kalinjar, the capital of Bundelkhand, he also conquered it.

8. **Conquest of Bengal and Bihar:** Other commander of Muhammad Ghori, Muhammad-bin Bakhtiyar Khilji, defeated Indra Daman, the king of Bihar in 1197 AD. He reansacked Buddhist viharas of that place and destroyed them. He massacred thousands of Buddhist monks and burnt their libraries. He also defeated Laxman Sena, the king of Bengal. Making Ghori as his capital, he became the ruler of Bengal and Bihar as representative of Muhammad Ghori.

9. **Revolt of Khokhars and Murder of Muhammad Ghori:** Khokhars, the war loving race of Punjab, revolted against Muhammad Ghori in 1205 AD. Muhammad Ghori crushed the revolt ruthlessly. But when he was returning to Ghazni, a Khohar, on the bank of Jhelum River at the place of Dhamiyak, assassinated him on 15 March 1206.

The Age of Conflict

RESULTS OF THE INVASIONS OF MUHAMMAD GHORI:

Chief results of the Indian expeditions of Muhammad Ghori were as under:

1. By leading continual invasions over northern India, he crushed the power of Rajput Kings.
2. Seeing the weak political conditions of India, he established stable Muslim rule in India.
3. He handed over the rule of his Indian territories to one of his slaves, Qutbuddin Aibek. Muhammad Ghori had no issues. Aibek, therefore, after his death became the ruler of his Indian possessions and laid the foundation of Slave Dynasty.
4. Through the Invasions of Muhammad Ghori, India's trade relations were established with countries such as Ghazni, Khurasan, Persia etc.
5. Muslim invaders destroyed invaluable treasures of Indian art and literature. It not only ruined the treasures of art and literature but also destroyed invaluable historical sources.

COMPARISON BETWEEN MUHAMMAD GHORI AND MAHMUD GHAZNAVI:

Muhammad Ghori and Mahmud Ghaznavi, both were daring imperialist, ambitious Turkish invaders. Realizing the political weakness of India, they led expeditions against India in the eleventh and twelfth century AD. To exploit the religious frenzy of their soldiers, both labeled their Indian expeditions as Jihad (holy wars). Both claimed themselves as preachers of Islam and Ghazi (Protector of faith). Both the invaders were the rulers of Ghazni. Both of them fought several wars against Rajput kings in India. Both these storms occurring in Indian had their distinctive features. In spite of the above-mentioned similarities, they had certain contrasts:

1. *Means of Muhammad Ghori were limited:* At the time of accession to the throne Mahmud had inherited a vast empire of his father. Thus, he sought adequate means to fulfill his ambitions. But Muhammad Ghori was ruler of Ghazni under his brother. Thus, neither did he inherit a vast empire nor did he seek adequate means to found an empire.

2. *Muhammad Ghori was cheat, deceitful but full of family affection:* Muhammad Ghori materialized his plans with deceit, conspiracies etc. He gained victory over queen of Uchch, ruler of Lahore, Khusr Malik etc. by deceit but Mahmud Ghaznavi had no faith in the policy of deceit and breach of trust. He did

The Age of Conflict

lack in family affection and brotherly sentiments. He had imprisoned his brother for life where as Muhammad Ghori always remained loyal to his brother.

3. *Muhammad Ghori was not an efficient military commander and great conqueror:* Muhammad Ghori was not an efficient military commander in comparison to Mahmud Ghaznavi. Mahmud was a daring warrior and an efficient military commander.

4. *Muhammad Ghori was not a patron of art and literature:* Mahmud was a great patron of art and literature. He himself was not educated but was a patron of learning. He also founded a university and a library in Ghazni for spreading education. He gave patronage to the scholars like Farukhi, Utbi, Firdausi and Alberuni etc. Under his patronage, Ghazni became a centre of art and culture. He had assembled several scholars, artists and craftsmen at his court. But Muhammad Ghori in spite of being educated had no importance as lover of learning and patron of art.

5. *Muhammad Ghori was a foresighted statesman:* Muhammad Ghori was a foresighted statesman more than Mahmud Ghaznavi. Mahmud Ghaznavi launching repeated invasions against India, brought about great devastation and took away large booty from here. Thus, he was a conqueror but not a clever statement. But Muhammad Ghori was adept in statesmanship. He, therefore, instead of looting Indian wealth, established a consolidated and stable empire in India.

6. *Muhammad Ghori was an empire-builder in India:* Mahmud was a conqueror but he made no efforts to make his conquests stable. He left his empire in such a feeble condition that it collapsed immediately after his death. But Muhammad Ghori organized his conquered territories in an efficient way and laid the foundation of Muslim rule in India.

Early Life of Balban

Balban came of a noble family but in early childhood he had fallen in the hands of Mongol raiders who sold him to a merchant for Basra. Later on, he was purchased by Iltutmish. But dint of his ability, he gradually rose to the position of the personal attendant of the King and thus became a member of the group of 'Forty Nobles'. Razia promoted him to the office of 'Amir-i-Shikar'. When Bahram became the Sultan he gave him the fiefs of Rewari and Hansi. Then he rose rapidly and became the Prime Minister of Nasir-ud-Din. During this period Balban held the reins of the administration in his hands and when Nasir-ud-Din died in 1266 A.D., he himself became the Sultan. He ruled as a king till his death in 1286 A.D.

The Age of Conflict

Balban as a Minister (1246 – 1266 A.D)

Balban served his master very efficiently and faithfully for full twenty years and defended the country against the internal rebellions and external invasions. Below we give some of the important events of this period.

(1) **Suppression of the Rajputs:** Taking advantage of the chaos that prevailed after the death of Iltutmish, the Rajput chiefs of Gwalior, Ranthambhor, Chanderi and Malwa were clamouring to regain their lost freedom. Balban suppressed them with an iron hand and re-occupied these territories.

(2) **Suppression of the Mewatis:** The Mewatis were a warlike people that lived in the vicinity of Delhi. They used to carry raids of plunder in the whole region which caused panic among the innocent people, Balban dealt with them severely and consequently the people began to have a sigh of relief.

(3) **Suppression of the Rival Nobles and Amirs:** Growing power of Balban became source of jealousy among other Amirs and nobles. They hatched a conspiracy under the leadership of another Amir, Rehman and ultimately succeeded in getting him removed from this post in 1253 A.D. But Balban's removal from ministership gave license to all-round chaos. It forced Nasir-ud-Din to recall Balban and to again appoint him as the minister. Now Balban got a chance and he suppressed his rival so sternly that they could not raise their heads again.

(4) **Suppression of the Rebellious Subedars (Governors):** In 1255 A.D., Qutlugh Khan, the Subedar of Oudh, and later on Kishlu Khan, the Subedar of Sindh rose in rebellion. They were helped and abetted by some Muslim nobles and Hindu Kings. Balban suppressed these rebellions with an iron hand and restored peace.

(5) **Checking the Mongol Invasions:** After Chagiz Khan's death the Mongols under various leaders, invaded India frequently. But every time, they were repulsed by Balban who thus saved India from their scourge.

Balban as a King (1266 – 1286 A.D)

After Nasir-ud-Din's death Balban became the Sultan in 1266 A.D. He was at that time surrounded by many difficulties. There was total chaos and disorder. Dacoits roamed about fearlessly and there was no fear or respect for the authority. The Mongol raids had become more frequent and the 'Forty' were deeply involved in intrigues against him. Balban succeeded in crushing not only the internal revolts but also in checking the external invasions with the help of his strong army.

(1) **Suppression of the Mewatis:** The Mewatis had become such a dread around Delhi that soon after the evening prayer the gates of Delhi had to be shut and no girl could dare to go to a well alone for fetching water. Balban cleared the whole area

The Age of Conflict

around Delhi of forests which were the usual hide-outs of these Mewatis. He also set up posts and ordered general massacre of thousands of Mewatis. In this way, he succeeded in liquidating the Mewatis menace and in restoring peace in the capital.

(2) **Destruction of the Thieves and Robbers:** The areas of the Doab and Bundelkhand were infested with thieves and robbers. Balban got the forests cleared and built roads in these areas as well. He also built forts and stationed his strong troops there. The robbers and dacoits were hunted out of their dens and the country was made safe. Thus peace was restored.

(3) **Crushing the Power of the 'Forty':** The 'Forty' had grown so powerful that they were plotting against the Sultan. Balban realized that he could not be safe unless their power was finally crushed. He awarded severe punishments to them, confiscated their lands and fiefs, imposed on them heavy fines and taxes to make them so powerless that they could never challenge the Sultan's authority again.

(4) **Suppression of the Bengal Revolt:** Taking advantage of the Sultan's old age and the long distance from Delhi, the Governor of Bengal, Tughril Beg raised the standard of revolt and declared his independence. He also defeated the two armies that were sent against him from Delhi. It compelled Balban to personally march against him. He suppressed the revolt mercilessly with an iron hand and Tughril Beg was killed. He did not spare even his remote relatives, friends and supporters who were all mercilessly killed. Balban appointed his own son Bughra Khan as the governor of Bengal with the warning of a similar fate in case he chose to revolt.

(5) **Checking the Mongol Invaders:** The Mongol invasions became more frequent during the Balban's reign. Therefore, Balban was forced to adopt a definite policy to check their invasions. He removed old and infirm soldiers and replaced them by recruiting young and brave soldiers. Special attention was given to the administration of the frontier provinces of Multan, Samana, Dipalpur etc. a series of strong forts were built along the whole border from the North-West Frontier to Delhi. Arrangements were made to manufacture better arms and ammunition at large scale. The administration of the frontier provinces was put in the hands of his own trusted and nearest relatives. The Sultan also pledged himself never to move on distant expeditions away from Delhi.

Balban's Administration

With a view to end corruption and chaos and to establish law and order in the country by creating in the minds of the people fear as well as respect for his authority, Balban adopted several measures to tone up and reform his administration;

The Age of Conflict

(1) **Organizing a Dignified Court:** To raise the prestige of royalty in the minds of his own subjects and the foreigners Balban organ used a magnificent court modeled on the Persian style. He knew that all heads bow automatically before anything that is magnificent and majestic, similarly anybody who entered his magnificent court had to prostrate before that king. Every body had to strictly observe the rulers and manners of the court. Laughing around or talking around were strictly prohibited.

(2) **Adopting a Dignified Reserve:** Balban himself adopted a dignified reserve and avoided free-missing with the noble s and Amirs as he fully knew that such things were detrimental to both the king and his authority. He seldom laughed himself nor did he permit his nobles to do so in his presence. Even before his servants and officers, he appeared in full royal dress. He gave up drinking, dancing etc. and forbade and ministers form indulging in these evils.

(3) **Equal Justice to All:** Balban was stern but not cruel. He was in favour of dispensing equitable justice. He adopted the policy of 'Blood and Iron' only to establish peace in the country and to save the poor form injustice. To quote Barani, "In the administration of justice he was inflexible showing no favours to his brethren or children, to his associates or attendants." Malik Baq Baq, the Jagirdar of Badaun and Hiabat Khan, the Subedar of Oudh was sternly dealt with and severely punished. They were left only when they made good the loss to the complainants and begged mercy.

(4) **Raising a strong Army:** Balban knew the importance of a strong standing army to maintain justice, to repel foreign invasions and to suppress internal revolts as well as to uphold the glory of his throne. For this purpose, Balban organized a strong standing army. Of and inefficient soldiers were replaced by young, efficient, experienced and loyal soldiers.

(5) **Organization of a Strong Spy-System:** Balban organized a strong network of spy-system to protect het country and his people form thieves, robbers and rebels. These spies played an important role in tracing the conspiracies and unearthing the intrigues of his Amirs and nobles and Subedars etc.

Balban's Theory of Kingship

Balban occupied an important place among the Delhi Sultans. He held the reins of the government for over 40 years – 20 years (1246 - 66) as the Prime Minister and for another 20 years (1266 - 86) as the sultan of Delhi. He strongly believed that the King was the God's representative on earth. Hence he was not prepared to tolerate his disobedience. He also constantly sought to increase the power and prestige of the monoarchy. It was natural for him to do so as at time of his accession to the throne, the prestige of the Sultan had reached its lowest ebb and even his subjects had no fear or regard for him. Breach of law and contempt ofr the

The Age of Conflict

government was quite common. Loyalty to the crown and respect of the throne had taken wings. Particularly, the group of Forty Turkish nobles had let loose a reign of virtual terror. In such conditions, it's essential to take measure that would restore the prestige of the crown. He, therefore, enunciated a new theory of kingship which recognized the King as the representative of the God on earth. To achieve this, he maintained a splendid court and kept a kin-like appearance. He also dispensed justice by treating all his subjects alike and raised a strong army. He maintained a strong spy net-work and quelled any revolt with an iron hand.

