

Chapter 2 New Kings And Kingdoms

1. Match the following:

Gurjara-Pratiharas	Western Deccan
Rashtrakutas	Bengal
Palas	Gujarat and Rajasthan
Cholas	Tamil Nadu

Answer: Gurjara-Pratiharas	Gujarat and Rajasthan
Rashtrakutas	Western Deccan
Palas	Bengal
Cholas	Tamil Nadu

2. Who were the parties involved in the “tripartite struggle”?

Answer: Three parties were involved in the “tripartite struggle” and fought for control over Kannauj. These three parties were the Gurjara-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties.

3. What were the qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the sabha in the Chola empire?

Answer: The following qualifications were necessary for becoming a member of the sabha in the Chola empire :

- To become members of the sabha one should be the owner of the land from which land revenue is collected and should have their own home.
- One should be aged between 35 years to 70 years of age and should have knowledge of the Vedas.
- One should be honest and well-versed in administrative matters.
- If anyone has been a member of any committee in the last three years, he cannot become a member of another committee.
- Anyone who has not submitted his accounts or of his relatives, cannot contest the elections.

4. What were the two major cities under the control of the Chahamanas?

Answer: The two major cities that were under the control of the Chahamanas were Delhi and Ajmer.

5. How did the Rashtrakutas become powerful?

Answer: The Rashtrakutas in the Deccan were the subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka. It was during the mid-8th century when Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, overthrew his Chalukya overlord and performed a ritual called hiranya-garbha with the help of Brahmanas. During this ritual, it was thought to lead to the rebirth of the sacrificer as a Kshatriya, even if he was not one by birth. Also, they fought against the dynasties of Gurjara Pratihara and Palas thus successfully establishing kingdoms in Karnataka and Rajasthan respectively.

6. What did the new dynasties do to gain acceptance?

Answer: To gain acceptance, the new dynasties took on new titles and performed religious rituals to become a part of the Kshatriyas. They were regarded as the subordinates or Samantas by their overlords and later declared themselves to be maha-Samanta after gaining power and wealth. The new dynasties also engaged themselves in warfare to assert their power and carve kingdoms for themselves.

7. What kind of irrigation works were developed in the Tamil region?

Answer: During the fifth or sixth century, the areas near the Kaveri river in Tamil Nadu were opened up for large-scale cultivation. The irrigation works that were developed in the Tamil region were the development of water channels for agriculture, construction of embankments to prevent floods, digging of wells and tanks for storage of water.

8. What were the activities associated with Chola temples?

Answer: Chola temples were centres of craft production and often became the nuclei of settlements which grew around them. The Chola temples were not only places of worship but also the hub of economic, social and cultural life. They were also endowed with land by rulers as well as by others and the produce of this land went into maintaining all the specialists who worked at the temple. Amongst the crafts associated with temples, the making of bronze images became the most distinctive and are still considered the finest in the world. Most of these bronze images were of deities while sometimes, these images were made of devotees as well.

