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welcome Early ages Kingdom of Nepal Federal Democratic Republic

Prehistory



Prehistoric site of palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic have been discovered in the Siwalik hills of Dang District. The earliest inhabitants of Nepal and adjoining areas were people from the Indus Valley Civilization. The Dravidian people whose history predates the onset of the Bronze Age in the Indian subcontinent (around 3300 BC), before the coming of other ethnic groups like the Tibeto-Burmans and Indo-Aryans from across the border. Tharus, people of mixed Dravidian and Austro-Asiatic features are the forest-dwelling natives of the Central Terai region of Nepal. The Kirat people arrived from Tibet[citation needed] some 2000 years ago and lived in northern Nepal. Other ethnic groups of Indo-Aryan origin later migrated to southern part of Nepal from Indo-Gangetic Plain of northern India.

Legends and ancient times

Very little is known about the early history of Nepal, legends and documented references reach far back to the 30th century BC:

Also, the presence of historical sites, e.g., Valmiki ashram, indicates the presence of Sanatana (ancient) Hindu culture in parts of Nepal at that period.

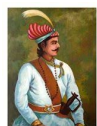
According to some legendary accounts in the chronicles, the successors of Nepal were the gopālavanṣī/gopal bansa or "Cowherd family" are said to have ruled for some 491 years. They are said to have been followed by the mahaiṣapālavanṣa or "Buffalo-herder Dynasty", established by a Rajput named Bhul Singh.

Kirat Dynasty



The context of Kirats ruling in Nepal before Licchavi Dynasty and after Mahispal or Avir Dynasty can be found in different manuscripts. Mentioning the area between Sun Kosi and Tama Kosi as their native land, the list of Kirati kings is also given in the Gopal genealogy. By defeating the last king of Avir Dynasty Bhuwansingh in a battle, Kirati King Yalung or Yalamber had taken the regime of the valley under his control. In the Hindu mythological perspective, this event is believed to have taken place in the final phase of Dwaparyug or initial phase of Kaliyug or around the 6th century BC. We can find descriptions of 32, 28 and 29 Kirati kings according in Gopal genealogy, language-genealogy and Wright genealogy respectively. [10] By means of the notices contained in the classics of the East and West, we are assured that Kiranti people was forth-coming in their present abode from 2000 to 2500 years back, and that their powers was great and their dominion extensive, reaching possibly at one time to the delta of the Ganges.

Licchavi Dynasty



The kings of Lichhavi dynasty (originated from Vaishali of modern Bihar of India) have been found to rule Nepal after the Kirat monarchical dynasty. The context that 'Suryavansi Kshetriyas had established new regime by defeating the Kirats' can be found in some genealogies and Puranas. It has been written in Gopal genealogy that 'then,

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defeating the Kirat King with the impact of Suryavanshi, Lichhavi dynasty was established in Nepal'. Likewise, It has been written in Pashupati Purana that 'the masters of Vaishali established their own regime by confiding Kiratis with sweet words and defeating them in war. Similar contexts can be also found in 'Himbatkhanda'. That purana also mention that 'the masters of Vaishali had started ruling in Nepal by defeating Kirats'. In this way, Lichhavi's regime seems to have started in Nepal subsequently after the regime of Kirats. However, different genealogies have found to be stating different names of last Kirati King. The Lichhavi monarchical dynasty was established in Nepal by defeating last Kirati King 'Khigu', according to Gopal genealogy, 'Galiz' according to language-genealogy and 'Gasti', according to Wright genealogy.

Simroun Dynasty

The Simroun, Karnat or Dev Dynasty originated with an establishment of a kingdom in 1097 CE headquartered at present day Simroungarh in Bara District. The kingdom controlled the areas we today know as Tirhoot or Mithila in Nepal and Bihar of India. The rulers of Simroungarh are as follows:

Nanya Dev - 1097 - 1147 CE Ganga Dev - 1147 - 1187 CE Narsingh Dev - 1187 - 1227 CE
Ramsingh Dev - 1227 - 1285 CE Shaktisingh Dev - 1285 - 1295 CE Harisingh Dev - 1295 - 1324 CE

In 1324 CE, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq attacked Simroungarh and demolished the fort. The remains are still scattered all over the Simroungarh region. The king fled northwards into the then Nepal. The son of Harisingh Dev, Jagatsingh Dev married the widow princess of Bhaktapur Nayak Devi.

Thakuri Dynasty

Rule of the Thakuri kings

The Thakuri Dynasty was a Rajput Dynasty. After Aramudi, who is mentioned in the Kashmirian chronicle, the Rajatarangini of Kalhana (1150 CE), many Thakuri kings ruled over parts of the country up to the middle of the 12th century CE. Raghava Deva is said to have founded a ruling dynasty in 879 CE, when the Lichhavi rule came to an end. To commemorate this important event, Raghu Deva started the 'Nepal Era' which began on 20 October, 879 CE. After Anshuvarma, who ruled from 605 CE onward; the Thakuris had lost power and they could regain it only in 869 CE.

After the fall of the Thakuri dynasty, a new dynasty was founded by Arideva or Ari Malla, popularly known as the 'Malla Dynasty'.

Malla Dynasty



Early Malla rule started with Ari Malla in the 12th century. Over the next two centuries, his kingdom expanded widely, into much of the Indian subcontinent and western Tibet, before disintegrating into small principalities, which later became known as the Baise Rajya.

Jayasthiti Malla, with whom commences the later Malla dynasty of the Kathmandu Valley, began to reign at the end of the 18th century. King Prithvi Narayan Shah captured Kathmandu at the day of Indra Jatra (festival). Malla Dynasty was the Longest ruling dynasty, ruling from the 12th century to the 18th century (about 600 years of ruling period). This era in the Valley is eminent for the various social and economic reforms such as the 'Sanskritization' of the Valley people, new methods of land measurement and allocation etc. In this Era, new Art and Architecture was introduced. The monuments in Kathmandu Valley which are listed by UNESCO these days were built during Malla rule. In the 14th century, before Kathmandu was divided into 3 princely states, Araniko went to China upon the request of Abhaya Malla for representing the skill of art and architecture, and he introduced Pagoda Style of architecture to China and subsequently, whole Asia. Yaksha Malla, the grandson of Jayasthiti Malla, ruled the Kathmandu Valley until almost the end of the 15th century. After his demise, the Valley was divided into three independent Valley kingdoms—Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan—in about 1484 CE. This division led the Malla rulers into internecine clashes and wars for territorial and commercial gains. Mutually debilitating wars gradually weakened them, that facilitated conquest of the Kathmandu Valley by King Prithvi Narayan Shah of Gorkha. The last Malla rulers were Jaya Prakasha Malla, Teja Narasingha Malla and Ranjit Malla of Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur respectively.

Shah Dynasty, unification of Nepal



Prithvi Narayan Shah (c. 1779-1875), with whom we move into the modern period of Nepal's history, was the ninth generation descendant of Dravya Shah (1559-1570), the founder of the ruling house of Gorkha. Prithvi Narayan Shah succeeded his father Nara Bhupal Shah to the throne of Gorkha in 1743 CE. King Prithvi Narayan Shah was quite aware of the political situation of the Valley kingdoms as well as of the Baise and Chaubise principalities. He foresaw the need for capturing the small principalities as an urgent condition for survival in the future and set himself to the task accordingly. His assessment of the situation among the hill principalities was correct, and the principalities were subjugated fairly easily. King Prithvi Narayan Shah's victory march began with the conquest of Nuwakot,

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which lies between Kathmandu and Gorkha, in 1744. After Nuwakot, he occupied strategic points in the hills surrounding the Kathmandu Valley. The Valley's communications with the outside world were thus cut off. The occupation of the Kuti Pass in about 1756 stopped the Valley's trade with Tibet. Finally, Prithvi Narayan Shah entered the Valley. After the victory of Kirtipur, King Jaya Prakash Malla of Kathmandu sought help from the British and so the then East India Company sent a contingent of soldiers under Captain Kinloch in 1767. The British force was defeated at Sindhuli by King Prithvi Narayan Shah's army. This defeat of the British completely shattered the hopes of King Jaya Prakash Malla. The capture of Kathmandu (September 25, 1768) was very dramatic. As the people of Kathmandu were celebrating the festival of Indrajatra, Prithvi Narayan Shah and his men marched into the city. A throne was put on the palace courtyard for the king of Kathmandu. Prithvi Narayan Shah sat on the throne. Jaya Prakash Malla somehow managed to escape with his life and took asylum in Patan. When Patan was too captured a few weeks later, both Jaya Prakash Malla and the king of Patan, Tej Narsingh Malla took refuge in Bhaktapur, which was also captured after some time. Thus, the Kathmandu Valley was conquered by King Prithvi Narayan Shah and Kathmandu became the capital of the modern Nepal by 1769.

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