

Rajputs:

- The dominance of Rajputs began from 7th and 8th centuries and lasted till the Muslim conquest in the 12th century.
- Even after that, many Rajput states continued to survive for a long time.
- There are numerous theories regarding the origin of Rajputs.
- However, scholars agree that during initial phases there were heterogeneous warring tribes of both native and foreign origin, which through constant intermarriage and adoption of common customs became part of the Indian society.
- Considered as a part of Kshatriya Varna, they patronized Hinduism and made war as their chief occupation.
- During the Muslim invasions they acted as a protector of Hindu religion.
- The Gurjara-Pratihara were the earliest of the Rajput rulers.
- Later, many Rajput dynasties emerged, such as Chauhans, Chandelas, Gahadvalas, Parmars etc. which ruled over North India.
- The Rajput rulers most notably the Chauhans under Prithviraj III had to face Muslim incursions coupled with constant internal rivalries which weakened their hold over the Indian subcontinent.
- However, during the medieval period they were still a force to be reckoned with especially in Western India.
- For instance, Rajput states like Mewar and Marwar.