

Medieval Bengal

RISE OF ISLAM

Rise of Islam in Bengal

A more significant role was played by the activities of sufi teachers. Sufis arrived in Bengal for propagation of Islam much earlier than the political conquest of the area by Muslims, almost surely by the mid-eleventh century.



Rise of Islam in Bengal

Sufis belonging to four major orders;

- ❑ Chishtiyah
- ❑ Suhrawardi'yah
- ❑ Qldiriyah, and
- ❑ Naqshbandi'yah

They exerted a great deal of influence in Bengal.



Example-

Shah Abdullah Kirmani introduced Chishtiyah order in Bengal at the beginning of the thirteenth century.

Another Chishtl sufi, Akhi Sirajuddin contributed to the spread of the order in Bengal



Example-

Shaikh Jalaluddin Tabrez introduced the Suhrawardi'yah order in Bengal before the establishment of Muslim rule.

His piety, ideal character, and humanitarian services are reported to have had a great impact on the common people of Bengal.



Suhrllwardi'yah

Shaikh Jalal, popularly known as Shah Jalal, has been credited with spreading Islam in Sylhet district and adjacent areas.



why Bengal witnessed such intensified
islamization?

Language

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The Brahmanic Sen kings suppressed the Bengali language and attempted to impose Sanskrit on the Bengali-speaking population. After the establishment of Muslim rule the use of Bengali language received a remarkable boost.

First, Persian speaking rulers appointed Bengali poets at their courts in order to promote the language as well as to communicate with the common people in the region.

Why Bengal witnessed such intensified islamization?

Second, the sufi teachers learned the language and adopted it as the medium of their da 'wah activities in Bengal. Their contribution to the development of puthi literature and of ascetic ma'Tifan and murshidi songs is remarkable.

Most of these works deal with the life of the Prophet of Islam and stories of his disciples, or with the miraculous activities performed by the Muslim saints.

why Bengal witnessed such intensified Islamization?

The theory of low caste Hindus converting to Islam in Bengal is difficult to accept on historical grounds.

For, if that were the case, then all low caste Hindus would have accepted Islam and now modern India would not have been a low-caste Hindu majority area.