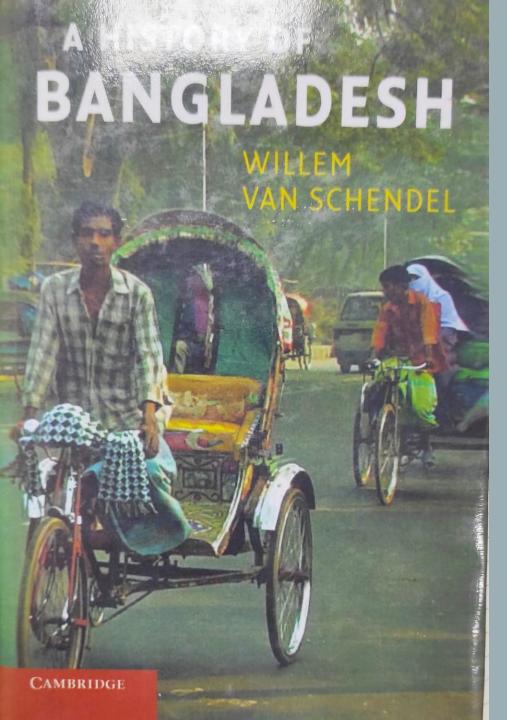
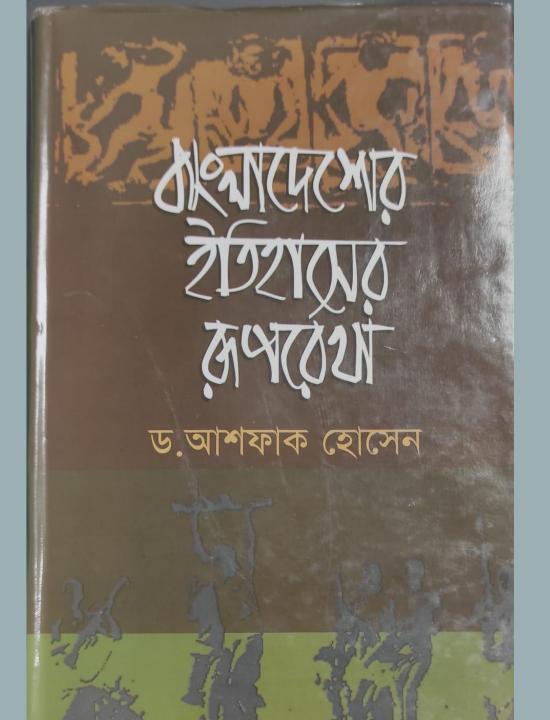
LECTURE 3

Introduction to Bangladesh: History of Ancient



A HISTORY OF BANGLADESH



Bengal

Ganges Delta Civilization

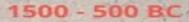
The Glorious History of Bengal Civilization



Gangaridai

Mahasthangarh মহাস্থানগড় 300 BC

Bengal was known to the Greeks as Gangaridai, notable for mighty military power. It was described by Greek historians that Alexander the Great withdrew from South east Asia, anticipating a counterattack from an alliance of Gangaridai



Vanga Kingdom

The Vanga / Banga বঙ্গ রাজ্য Kingdom was an ancient seafaring nation Lived in the

Ganges Delta -

mentioned in various Vedic and

Greek text





Neutral Territory

Gangaridai (Bengal

day of Bengal



800 - 1200 AD

Pala Empire

A **Buddhist** imperial power which originated in the Bengal.



1338 - 1576 AD

Bengal Sultante

The **Sultanate of Bengal** শাহী বাঙ্গলা an **Independent** Bengal Empire.

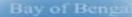






Battle of Plassey

British invaded Bengal in 1757. Last independent Nawab of Bengal Nawab Siraj Ud Daulah was defeated by Robert Clive



200 - 500 AD

Gupta Empire was an empire centered in the Bengal existing from the mid-to-late 3rd century CE to 590 CE

1204 - 1339 AD

Delhi Sultanate

Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khilji Conquered Bengal & Bengal fall to Dellhi Sultanate rule .





1576-1757 AD

Mughal Bengal / Nawab of Bengal

Babur defeated Sultan Nasiruddin Nasrat Shah of the Bengal Sultanate in Battle of Ghaghra.



Bengal Presidency

The economic powerhouse of the British colonial office & center of Armed resistance against British Colonial occupation in South Asia.

Partition of Bengal (1947)

Partition of Bengal Presidency in 1947 resulted in Bengal's division on religious grounds, between the India and Pakistan

1947 - 1971

East Bengal -Later East Pakistan

The Bengal presidency was divided into India and Pakistan, - Pakistan Ruled East Bengal Declared Independence in 1971.

26 March 1971

Declaration of Independence of East Bengal

Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman Declared the Independence of Bangladesh from Pakistani Occupation Forces.

16th December 1971

Independence of Bangladesh
Part of Bengal gained independence after

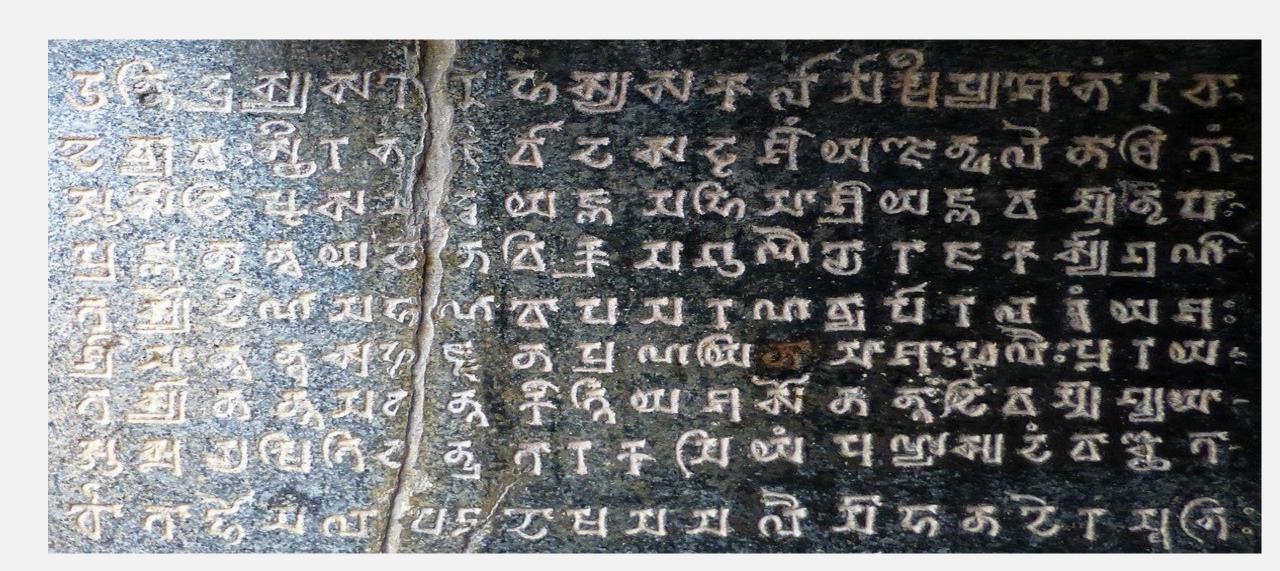
214 years of foreign occupation

While remaining part of Bengal now under the rule of India.

GUPTA

• **Gupta Rule** forms an important chapter in the history of ancient Bengal. Gupta rule spread over Bengal probably in the reign of Chandragupta I or Samudragupta towards the end of the 3rd or the beginning of the 4th century AD. Eulogical inscriptions (*prashasti lipi*), copperplate coins, literary evidences, and foreign accounts bear testimony to the existence of Gupta rule in Bengal.

PRASHASTI LIPI



- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57a2M1Fw99g
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoHKHm3_mYs
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH6JRD844vg

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HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=XWGTCSQLZWW

HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=AUSE2IBCGUG

BBC

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GUPTA

In the Gupta period, Bengal was divided into some well-defined administrative units like

- bhukti,
- visaya,
- mandala,
- vithi, and
- grama.

Each of the units seems to have an adhikarana or office of its own at its headquarters (adhisthana). The title of the administrator of visaya was Kumaramatya and Ayuktaka. From the inscriptions, we know the names of such visayas like Kotivarsa visaya, Panchanagari visaya, Barakmandala visaya etc. There was a kind of officials, named pustapala (record keeper), in the adhikarana of the visaya.

GUPTA

Economically, Gupta rule brought stability, facilitating trade and commerce. This prosperity supported advancements in art, literature, and science, with Bengal contributing to the broader cultural efflorescence of the Gupta era. The architecture and sculpture from this period often depicted Hindu deities and epic narratives, signifying the religious and artistic vibrancy that extended into Bengal.

Sen Dynasty ruled Bengal for little over a century (c 1097-1225). The emergence of the dynasty, who supplanted the Palas in Bengal towards the close of the 11th century AD, is a very important chapter in the history of ancient Bengal. Taking advantage of the revolt of the Samantachakra in the Varendra during the reign of Mahipala II, Vijaysena, the founder of the Sena dynasty, gradually consolidated his position in Western Bengal and ultimately assumed an independent position during the reign of Madanapala. One important aspect of Sena rule in Bengal is that the whole of Bengal was brought under a single rule for the first time in its history.

The rule of the Sens in Bengal is usually connected with the emergence of orthodox Hinduism in a Hindu-Buddhist society which for long had enjoyed the peaceful coexistence of the two religions resulting in an atmosphere of amalgam of the two. The onslaught on the Buddhists in Bengal is believed to have started in this period, which resulted in large scale Buddhist migration to the neighbouring countries.

During this period, the Sena rulers promoted Brahmanical traditions, leading to a revival of Hindu culture and religious practices. They patronized scholars, poets, and religious institutions, contributing to the cultural and intellectual life of Bengal. Ballala Sena, for instance, is credited with codifying social customs and practices through works like *Danasaagara* and initiating the *kulin* system to organize Brahmin society.

Lakshmana Sena, the last significant ruler, was known for his patronage of literature and arts, supporting prominent poets such as Jayadeva, who composed the *Gita Govinda*. The Sena period also witnessed advancements in temple architecture, with a focus on Hindu deities and intricate carvings.

However, the dynasty faced challenges towards the end, culminating in its decline with the invasion of Bakhtiyar Khalji, a general of the Delhi Sultanate, in the late 12th century. This conquest marked the end of Sena rule and the beginning of Muslim influence in Bengal.

Bengal came under the control of the **Delhi Sultanate** after Bakhtiyar Khalji's conquest, marking the beginning of Islamic influence in the region. This period was marked by frequent shifts in power as various governors and regional leaders declared independence from Delhi, leading to the establishment of the Bengal Sultanate in 1352 under Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah. The Ilyas Shahi and later Husain Shahi dynasties brought relative stability and prosperity. The Husain Shahi period, in particular, is remembered as a golden age for Bengal, with advances in trade, culture, and architecture.

Bengal came under the Mughal Empire after the conquest by Emperor Akbar in the late 16th century. The region became a prosperous and integral part of the Mughal Empire, known for its agricultural productivity, trade, and manufacturing, particularly of textiles such as muslin. The Mughals maintained control through powerful subahs (governorships) with Dhaka serving as an important administrative and economic center.

The making of **Suba Bangla**, as an administrative unit under the Mughal imperial system began with Akbars partial conquest of Bengal and achieved its maturity at the close of the eighteenth century. During the time there were remarkable changes both in the political geography of the suba as well as in its internal administration and relationship with the centre.

Akbar breathed his last before his authority was established in Bengal. Akbar's control was limited only in a small area comprising Ghoraghat in the north, Satgam, Burdwan in the south-west. the river Karatoya and Sherpur. Murcha in the east and Rajmahal in the west.

Bengal was a major hub in the Indian Ocean commerce network during the Middle Ages because of its affluence, which drew traders and people from all over the world. It was known across the world for producing exquisite textiles, particularly muslin. Bengal witnessed the cultural blending of Islamic and Hindu traditions, which had an impact on literature, music, and religious rituals. The Sufi and Bhakti traditions gained traction by encouraging inclusion and spiritual devotion.

Semi-independent nawabs emerged in Bengal as a result of the Mughal Empire's fall in the early 18th century. At the Battle of Plassey in 1757, the British East India Company defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, the final independent Nawab of Bengal, marking the end of the era. With this incident, medieval rule came to an end and British colonial rule began.

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