(Bengal in the Mediaeval Period)

Early Middle Ages

- **The Pala Dynasty**
    - Pala dynasty were the first independent Buddhist dynasty of Bengal.
    - The name *Pala* (Bengali: পাল *pal*) means *protector.*
    - Gopala was the first ruler from the dynasty.
    - He came to power in 750 in Gaur by a democratic election. This event is recognized as one of the first democratic elections in South Asia.

Early Middle Ages

- **The Pala Dynasty**
  - Dharmapal is the greatest ruler in pala dynasty.
  - Gobinda pal is the last ruler in pala dynasty.
  - The [Buddhist](#) [dynasty](#) lasted for four centuries (750-1120 AD).

Early Middle Ages

- **Sena Dynasty**
  - The Palas were followed by the Sena dynasty who brought Bengal under one ruler during the 12th century.
  - Hemanta sen established the Sena Empire.
  - The fourth king of this dynasty Lakshman Sen was the last ruler in Sena Dynasty.
  - The Sena dynasty brought a period of revival in Hinduism in Bengal.

Late Middle Ages - Advent of Islam

- [Islam](#) made its first appearance in the Bengal region during the 7th century AD by Arab Muslim traders.

- And the subsequent Muslim conquest of Bengal in the 12th century lead to the rooting of Islam across the region.

❑ A.D. stands for two Latin words, 'Anno Domini', meaning 'in the year of the Lord' (i.e., Christ). The year 2007, also written as A.D. 2007, means 2007 years after the birth of Christ. (ii) B.C. stands for 'Before Christ', meaning before the birth of Christ.

Late Middle Ages - Advent of Islam

- Beginning in 1203, a military commander [Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji](#) conquered Nabadwip from the old emperor [Lakshman Sen](#) and established Muslim Rule.

- The political influence of Islam began to spread in Bengal with the conquest of Nadia, the capital city of the Sen ruler Lakshmana, by him.

- Bakhtiyar captured Nadia in a unique way.

Mughal period

- Bengal came into the domain of Mughal Empire during the reign of Akbar.
- At that time Dhaka became the capital of the Mughal province of Bengal.
- **Islam Khan**
  - Islam Khan was appointed the Subahdar of Bengal in 1608 by Mughal emperor Jahangir.
  - He ruled Bengal from his capital Dhaka which he renamed as Jahangir Nagar.

Mughal period

- **Shaista Khan**
  - Shaista Khan was appointed the Subahdar (Governor) of Bengal upon the death of Mir Jumla II in 1663.
  - He was the longest-serving governor of Bengal.
  - He ruled the province from his administrative headquarters in Dhaka for almost 24 years from 1664 to 1688 AD.
  - As governor, he encouraged trade with Europe, Southeast Asia and other parts of India.

The Nawabs of Bengal (1717–1880)

- Murshid Quli Khan ended the nominal Mughal rule in 1717 when he declared Bengal's independence from the Mughal empire.

- **Battle of Plassey**
  - It was a decisive victory of the British East India Company over the Nawab of Bengal and his French allies on 23 June 1757.
  - The battle established the Company rule in Bengal which expanded over much of India for the next hundred years.

The Nawabs of Bengal (1717–1880)

- **Battle of Plassey**
  - The battle took place at **Plassey** on the banks of the Bhagirathi River.
  - The belligerents were Nawab Siraj-ud-daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, and the British East India Company.
  - When Alivardhi Khan died in 1756, Siraj-ud-daulah became the nawab of Bengal, the last nawab of Bengal.

The Nawabs of Bengal (1717–1880)

- **Battle of Plassey**
  - He ordered the English to stop the extension of their fortification.
  - [Robert Clive](#) bribed Mir Jafar, the commander in chief of the nawab's army, and attacked Calcutta.
  - He defeated the Nawab at Plassey in 1757 and captured Calcutta.