

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY OF
TELANGANA LAND & ITS PEOPLE
(1000 CE – 1948 CE)**

THE HISTORIC BACKDROP BEFORE 1000 CE

- From around 400 BCE till 1000 CE, the present day Telangana lands had been ruled by Mauryans, Satavahanas, Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas. All these rulers controlled the territories from the capitals lying outside Telangana, like Pratishthana, Vatapi, Manyakhed and Kalyana.
- Economy was a mix of animal keeping (sheep, goat), crop husbandry, (jowar, paddy) and trade including export of 'wootz' and cotton textiles. Roman coins have been unearthed in plenty in Deccan, including Telangana lands.
- Kakatiya times can be dated from 1000 CE – 1323 CE. From 1000 CE to 1158 CE, there was struggle for supremacy amongst various feudatories of Kalyan Chalukyas. Kakatiyas were one of the feudatories.
- Various feudatories were Chalukyas of Mudigonda (Khammam, Korvai); Polavasa Chiefs (Polavasa in Jagtial District); Kanduru Chodas (Jadcherla and Achampet); Pamara Jaggadeva (Kollipaka Province) and Kakatiyas (Anumkonda).
- In the end, Kakatiyas came to the top in this struggle for supremacy.

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- The resistance of Koya tribes under the famous Sammakka - Sarakka was subsumed in 1159 CE by Prola II, the imperial minded founder of Kakatiyas Dynasty. He silenced the voice of forests.
- The Kakatiya Imperium ruled from 1158 CE – 1323 CE. Rudradeva, Mahadeva, Ganapathi Deva, Rudramba and Prataprudra were the rulers. Polity was stable and power conflicts during the currency of a ruler were minimal.
- Feudatories of Kakatiyas were many and they belonged to various social background. Recherla chiefs were Reddies; Viriyala chiefs had matrimonial relations with Kakatiyas; Malyala chiefs; Natavadi chiefs; Cheruka chiefs; Kota chiefs (family from Dharnikota or Dhanyakataka near Amaravati); Kayastha chiefs (Kurnool – Kuddapah region); Induluri chiefs (Brahmins) and Padma velama (Rachakonda and Devarkonda) were other important feudatories during Kakatiya times.

- In 1323 CE, the Kakatiyas were defeated by Ulugh Khan, the army general. However, Forts and Nayankara system of administration survived. Tanks were either destroyed or fell in disuse due to political upheaval. The Kakatiya imperium broke up. The territories north of river Krishna came under the sway of Padma Nayakas and south of Krishna came under the sway of Kondaveedu rulers.
- Victory has many suitors; defeat is an orphan. Pratap Rudra was in a similar situation in 1324 CE, when he took 'Jala Samadhi' on the banks of river Narmada while being escorted to Delhi.
- Reasons of Kakatiya defeat are as follows. Sustained attack at least 5 times between 1301 CE – 1313 CE by the imperial forces of Alauddin Khilji and Mohammed Bin Tughlaq. Internal conflicts amongst Deccan kingdoms, namely Kakatiya, Deogiri and Hoyasalas; social divide at the top in Kakatiyas's court; Fiscal supremacy of Delhi over Deccan Kingdoms, Technological factors due to availability of a swift fleet of horses over oxen and elephants of Kakatiya's army; Management of troops was decentralized, so its mobilization needed time. The Delhi's army was under centralized command and control.



ADMINISTRATION

- There were Nadus - Venginadu, Velanadu, Sabbinadu, Kammanadu, Palanadu, Pakanadu, Renadu etc.
- Nadus were divided into Sthalas; consisting a group of about 20 villages.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

- Ayagaras looked after taxes and their collection. Talari and Nirukattu were other functionaries.

SOCIETY

- Besides four Varnas, the society was further categorized as 'Astadasa Praja' or 'eighteen sects' of people. They covered almost all the livelihoods required for sustaining village like carpenter, weaver, potter, oil presser, tailor, cow herds, hunter, barber and washerman etc.
- People had intense faith in rivers, mountains, Gods and more particularly Goddesses. Nalla Pochamma, Bathukamma, Katta Maisamma, Poleramma & Durgamma are common deities, revered by the entire society.
- Status of woman was quite high in the family as well as in the society.

TANK - A SPIRITUAL VIRTUE

- Constructing a tank is one of the 'Sapta – Santanas' i.e., seven deeds of everlasting virtues; namely producing a son, building a temple, laying a garden, constructing a tank, establishing an Agrahara, undertaking a literary work and accumulating a treasure. Tank construction was always preceded by installation of Varuna, the God of water to ensure good rains. Katta Maisamma was the Goddess installed nearby to protect the tank's bund.
- Innumerable tanks were constructed during Kakatiya times.
- People lived in thousands of habitations with a couple of hundred population in each village. Tank or a perennial vagu nearby was an absolute essential ingredient for a settlement.
- Several temples with mainly 'Shiva' as the deity were constructed by Kakatiya rulers.
- Tank, temples and festivals had an organic linkage.

TAXATION

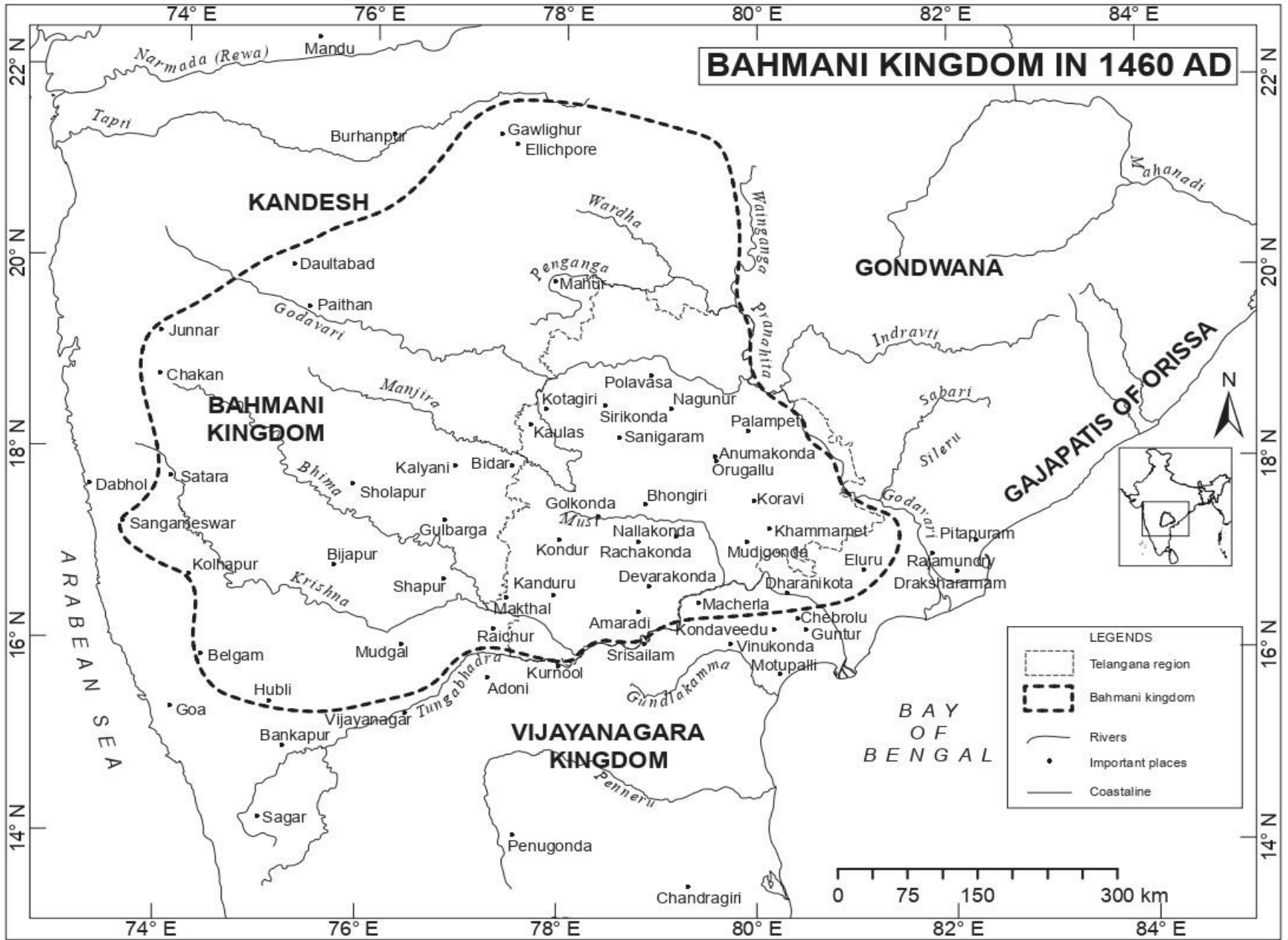
- ❖ Pannu was the primary tax levied on land.
 - ❖ Shatabhaga (one sixth of the produce) was the sovereign's share. It could be increased during war times.
 - ❖ Pullari was tax on cattle. Illari was tax on houses.
 - ❖ There was profession tax, to be paid even by military personnel.
 - ❖ Bamtela Ayamu was the levy imposed for maintenance of Bomtus or warriors.
 - ❖ Export and import duty was 3.3%
 - ❖ Sumuka, the commercial tax was 2.5%.
 - ❖ Dashbandha is water tax was 10%
- Merchant guilds consisted of members of not only Settis but also from other castes of Reddies, Nayudus, Boyas and Dasaris.
 - These guilds were dealing in paddy, green gram, jowar, salt, oil, ghee, pepper, mustard and honey. Metals like zinc, copper, camphor, musk, silk, precious stones, pearls, beads, turmeric, onions, ginger, roots and yarn etc.
 - Orugallu was at the apex of the overall trade pyramid. The market at this place was called 'Mathiya', which over a period got changed to Mattewada. Pangallu, Jadcherla, Alampur, Manthena, Perur, Durgi, Gantasala, Tripurantakam and Dornal were amongst others important trade centers.

THE BAHMANI TIMES

- It may be dated from 1347 CE to 1512 CE. The kingdom witnessed the reign of 18 kings, five of whom were murdered, three deposed, two blinded and two died due to intemperance.
- The founder of the kingdom, Alauddin Hasan Gangu was the most noble, able and probably destined. His important successors were Muhammad Shah, Firoz Shah, Ahmad Shah, Alauddin, Humayun and Muhammad Shah.
- The administration was based upon the overall system followed by Khilji and Tughlaq dynasty from Delhi. Sultan was considered as Jille-e-elahi (The shadow of God on earth). The concept draws inspiration from Persian ideologue Firdausi in his 'Shahnama'.
- The dominion was divided in Taraf and later 'Subas'. They were headed by Tarafdaars and Subedaars. There was judicial administration carried out by Qazi, Revenue system was based upon Mansabdaari, Military administration had secret service and postal system.

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- Enterprising Persians held crucial positions in Governance and Theology. Gesu Daraz and Mahmud-e-Gawan are important characters of those times.
- Taxation was uniform based upon the canonical principle of Al-Kharaz. 50% of the gross produce from each cultivator was mandated to be the sovereign's share. There were additional taxes too. The same system travelled from Delhi to Gulbarga.
- The contemporary polity in most other parts of India like Bengal, Gujarat, Malwa and Kashmir was under Islamic rule. However, the Vijayanagar Empire lying south of Krishna was under Hindu rulers.
- People on the land, especially peasantry was left with just subsistence wherewithal to make their ends meet. Famine started visiting different parts of Bahmanis kingdom, including Telangana lands quite frequently.
- People got emaciated; crops were dessicated and animals lost their vigour.
- During those times, European continent was agog with new inventions like Printing Press. Navigation Technology, gave them a tremendous reach across the Globe.



THE QUTB SHAHIS TIMES

- By the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century, the Bahmani's imploded into five regional kingdoms. The Qutb Shahi Sultanate of Golconda was the eastern most kingdoms whose territories mostly mapped upon Kakatiya kingdom of the past.
- Qutb Shahis also inherited Vijayanagar as their neighbours and main adversaries.
- Sultan Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of the dynasty belonged to the Turkish race. He was followed by Jamsheed, Ibrahim, Muhammad Quli, Qutb Shah, Abdullah and Abul Hassan.
- Broadly speaking, the same system of administration as during Bahmanis including revenue collection continued. It was based on 'Revenue Farming'.
- Cotton weaving and cotton printing industry, diamond industry, with a vigorous import / export regime was prevalent.
- Important posts were held by influential Persians. Shia was the official religion and Persian was the official language. Mustafa Khan-e-Ardastani, Mir Momin, Ibu-e-Khatim and Mohammad Khaza-e-Astarabadi were important persons in administration.

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- They encouraged Afaquis (the immigrants from Persia). That created jealousy in the minds of Deccanese (the local ones). The last ruler Abul Hasan encouraged Deccanese. Madanna and Akkanna, the two Brahmins from Hanumkonda became powerful. They encouraged their own relatives apart from Deccanese. Fracture in loyalty at the top was also responsible for the collapse of the kingdom in 1687 AD at the hands of Aurangzeb army.
- Printing press did not arrive in India, including Qutb Shahis dominion. The books in Persian were written by experts in calligraphy. They were few and therefore the books could not multiply. Therefore, literacy could not become a mass phenomena.
- Important aspects during the Qutb Shahi times are as follows:
 - ❖ Compared to Bahmanis, the times were relatively peaceful. Out of eight rulers, only two were deposed by force. Defeating Vijayanagar by the combined forces of Deccan Sultans including Qutb Shahis gave them peace along with a share in the booty.
- Several innovative projects like Hussain Sagar lake, the very foundation of Hyderabad city at Charminar, Mecca Masjid, Puranapul, Darul Shifa and Badshahi Ashur Khana were taken up.
- Moghuls in Delhi were the contemporary of Qutb Shahis. There are some parallels. Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri and Char kaman in Hyderabad have similarities.

THE MUGHAL TIMES

- In 1687 CE, the Golconda kingdom fell. From 1687 CE to 1723 CE, the power shifted to Mughals who were ruling from Delhi.
- The transitory Mughal rule for 36 years from 1687 CE – 1723 CE witnessed countless governors been appointed from Delhi to control Golconda dominion and other Deccan territories like Bijapur.
- After Aurangzeb's departure in 1707 CE, the authority in Delhi became unstable and therefore, the Mughal imperium itself started disintegrating. By 1723 CE, the Bengal, Awadh and Deccan declared their independence. Chin Koolich Khan came to capture power in Deccan. The Mughal ruler, Mohammed Shah 'Rangeela' declared him as 'Nizam-ul-Mulk'.
- In the uncertain political ambience lasting for 36 years, countryside was laid waste due to repeated army marches. Roads became unsafe; trade collapsed and the economy took a nose dive.
- Papa Rayudu, a local Sardar sprouted grew, peaked and was liquidated in those fluid circumstances.

THE ASAF JAHI TIMES

- From 1724 CE – 1948 CE, the present day Telangana lands were ruled by Asaf Jahi dynasty. It can be split in two phases. Phase one is from 1724 CE till 1853 CE. It witnessed several Nizams like the founder himself, followed by Nizam Ali, Sikandar Jah and Nasir-ud-daula.
- In 1724 CE, the overall dominion started with six Subas, almost covering the entire Deccan peninsula. Gradually the territories of Carnatic, Northern Circars, Guntur Circar and the Ceded district (mostly the Rayalseema area) were lost. Even Berar was lost and by 1853 CE. By then, the Hyderabad State was less than one-third of its area obtaining in 1724 CE.
- Loss of territories was accompanied with the loss of fiscal freedom. Under the watch of Chandulal, the partisan appointee by the British East India Company, the finances of Hyderabad State kept sinking. Debt mounted and the sovereign gold and precious stones were mortgaged in the 'Bank of Holland'.

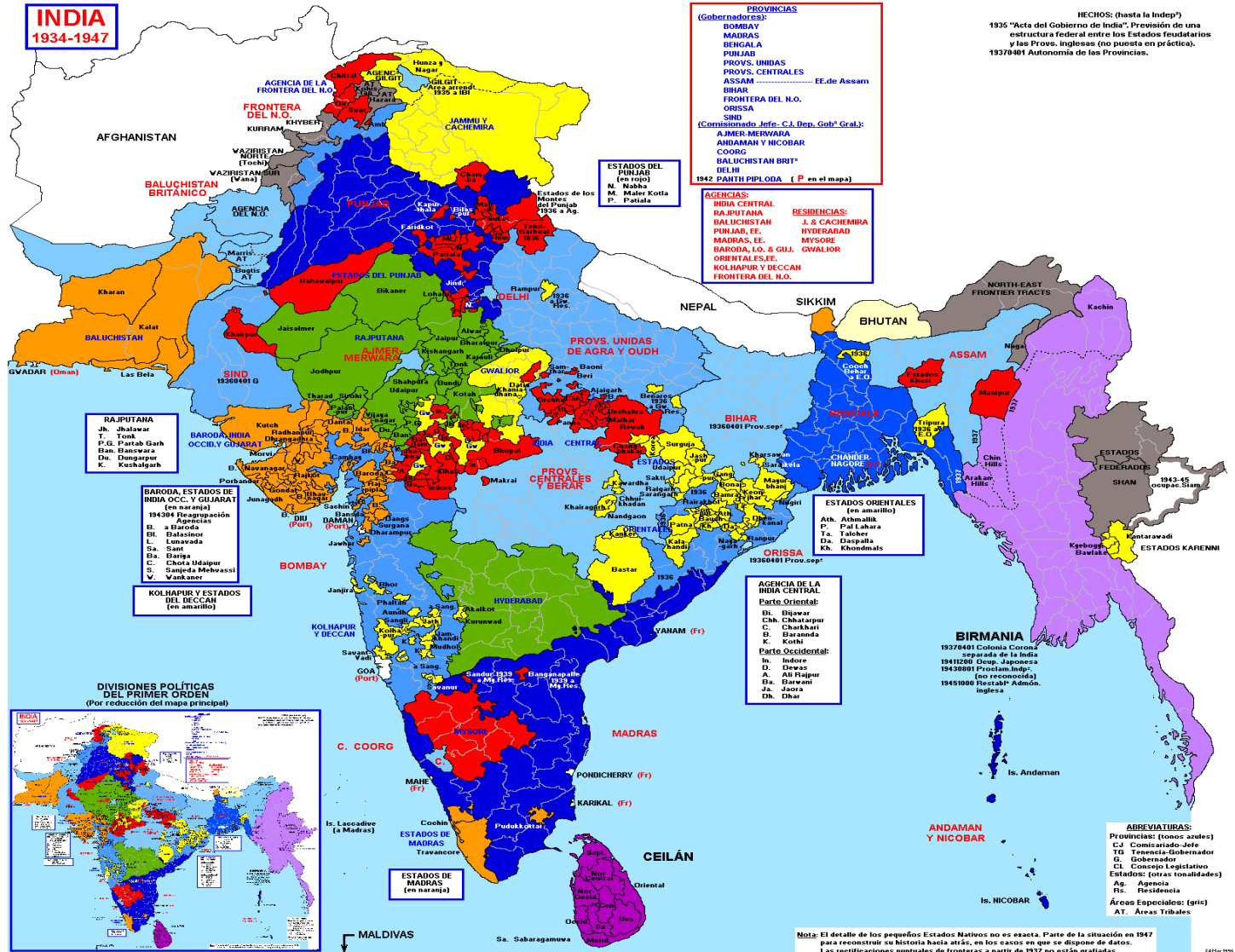
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- From 1853 CE – 1948 CE is the second phase. It commenced with the arrival of Salarjung. He was there from 1853 CE – 1883 CE. A set of comprehensive reforms brought a new life to revenue, finances, judiciary, education and health sectors. Railway lines were laid and the best and the brightest from across the country came to serve in Hyderabad State.
- From 1883 CE – 1948 CE saw the rule of Mahboob Ali Khan followed by Osman Ali Khan. This period witnessed three phases. From 1883 CE till the World War I (1914) was the first phase. It witnessed social, cultural and educational developments. In 1892 CE Arya Samaj, in 1898 CE 'Ganesh Utsav'; library movement, establishment of Osmania University and Bhagya Reddy Verma as a social activist are important watermarks during this period.
- The second phase was sandwiched between the two World Wars. Osman Ali Khan concentrated on building a modern state infrastructure like High Court, Legislature, Public Gardens, drinking water and underground drainage. The countryside also witnessed several irrigation projects like Nizam Sagar and various industrial projects.

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- During the same phase, the Gandhi arrived on the sub-continental horizon. His policy was mass based. It was diametrically opposed to the colonial British rule in various provinces. It also threatened the continuation of autocratic rulers in various native states, including Hyderabad State.
- The third phase commenced after the Second World War. The British Empire was drawing to a close in the Indian sub-continent. The nationalist forces strode the waves unleashed during wars which propelled India towards freedom. Jinnah's dream of Pakistan was realized too.
- However, the Nizam's concept of the 'Third Dominion' located squarely within Indian borders collided head-on with Patel's vision of strong India. As superior forces merged the Hyderabad State with Indian Union, The Asaf Jahi dynasty melted into history, by the middle of the twentieth century.
- In 1948 CE, it was merged physically. In January 1950 CE, the Hyderabad State became an organic part of the 'Indian Union'.

INDIAN POLITY ON THE EVE OF INDEPENDENCE



INDIA
1934-1947

PROVINCIAS
(Gobernadores):
BOMBAY
MADRAS
BENGAL A
PUNJAB
PROVS. UNIDAS
PROVS. CENTRALES
ASSAM
FRONTERA DEL N.O.
ORISSA
SIND
(Comisionado Jefe: C.J. Dep. Gob. Gral.):
AJMER-MERWARA
ANDAMAN Y NICOBAR
COORG
BALUCHISTAN BRIT*
DELHI
1942 PANTH PIPLODA (P en el mapa)

HECHOS: (hasta la indep*)
1935 "Acta del Gobierno de India". Presión de una estructura federal entre los Estados feudatarios y las Provs. Inglesas (no puesta en práctica).
1937/401 Autonomía de las Provincias.

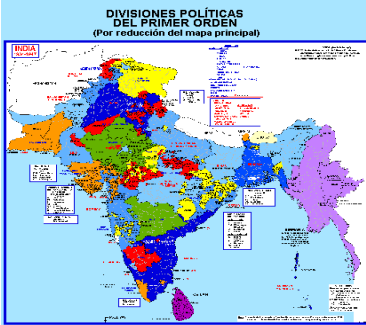
AGENCIAS:
INDIA CENTRAL
RAJPUTANA
BALUCHISTAN
PUNJAB, EE.
MADRAS, EE.
BARODA, IO. & GUJ.
ORIENTALES, EE.
KOLHAPUR Y DECCAN
FRONTERA DEL N.O.

RESIDENCIAS:
J. & CACHEMIRA
HYDERABAD
MYSORE
BARODA, IO. & GUJ.
GWAJLIOR

RAJPUTANA
Jh. Jhalawar
T. Tonk
P.G. Partab Garh
Bm. Banswara
Dh. Dungarpur
K. Kuzhalgarh

BARODA, ESTADOS DE INDIA OCC. Y GUJARAT
(en naranja)
1942/41 Desagregación
Agencias:
B. a Baroda
Dl. Balasinor
L. Lamnada
Sa. Sant
Da. Darga
C. Chota Udaipur
S. Sanjida Mehwasi
W. Wankaner

KOLHAPUR Y ESTADOS DEL DECCAN
(en amarillo)



AGENCIA DE LA INDIA CENTRAL
Parte Oriental:
Dl. Bhopal
Chh. Chhatargarh
C. Charkhari
E. Barannda
K. Kotli

Parte Occidental:
In. Indore
D. Dewar
A. Alh Rajpur
Ba. Barwan
Ja. Jaora
Dh. Dhar

BIRMANIA
1937/401 Colonia Corona separada de la India
1941/2/30 Ocup. Japonesa
1943/3/31 Proclam. Indig. (no reconocida)
1945/10/30 Restabl. Admón. Inglesa.

ABREVIATURAS:
Provincias: (tonos azules)
CJ Comisariado-Jefe
TG Tenencia-Gobernador
G. Gobernador
CL Consejo Legislativo
Estados: (otras tonalidades)
Ag. Agencia
Rs. Residencia
Áreas Especiales: (gris)
AT. Áreas Tribales

Nota: El detalle de los pequeños Estados Nativos no es exacta. Parte de la situación en 1947 para reconstruir su historia hacia atrás, en los casos en que se dispone de datos. Las rectificaciones puntuales de fronteras a partir de 1937 no están graficadas.

THANK YOU