

Early-Medieval Period (650-1206)

I. North India (Raiputa Period)

After Harshavardhana, the Rajputas emerged as a powerful force in Northern India and dominated the Indian political scene for nearly 500 years from the 7th century.

S. No	10 Important Rajputa Kingdoms	Period	Capital	Founder
1.	Chauhan/Chahaman of Delhi-Ajmer	7th Cen.-1192	Delhi	Vasudeva
2.	Pratihara/Prihar of Kannauj	730-1036	Avanti, Kannauj	Nagabhata I
3.	Pawar/Parmar of Malwa	790-1150	Ujjain Dhar	Seeakll 'Sri Harsha'
4.	Chaulukya/Solanki of Kathiyawar	942-1187	Anhilwada	Mularaja I
5.	Rastrakuta of Malkhand	752-973	Malkhand Manyakheta	Dantidurga (Danti Varman II)
6.	Chandela of Jejakabhukti.	831-1202	Khajuraho, Mahoba, Kalinjar	Nannuk Chandela
7.	Kalchuri/Haihay Chedi.	800-1211	Tripuri	Kokkala I
8.	Gadhawal/Raor of Kannauj	1090-1194	Kannauj	Chandradeva
9.	Guhilota Sisodiya of Mew	8th.Cen.-1193	Chittor	Bappa Rawal, Hammir I

Tripartite Struggle

1. Towards the close of the 8th century AD, there were three great powers in India—the Palas in the East, the Gurjar-Pratihara in the North and the Rashtrakutas in the Deccan.

2. The tripartite struggle for the supremacy among the Palas, Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas was the important event of these centuries.

3. The main cause for this struggle was the desire to possess the city of Kannauj (Farrukhabad Distt., UP) Which was then a symbol of sovereignty.

The Palas : 750-1150

Capital: Muddagiri/Munger (Bihar)

1. Gopala founded the Pala empire in 750 AD.
2. His son Dharpala (770-810) succeeded him. Dharpala revived Nalanda University.
3. He founded the Vikramshila University.
4. The Pala dynasty was succeeded by Sena dynasty of Bengal. Jyotishka ('Gita Gobinda') was the great court poet of Luxman Sen.

The Pratiharas: 730-1036

1. The Pratiharas are also called Gurjara-Pratiharas probably because they originated from Gujarat or South-West Rajasthan.
2. Bhoja/Mihir Bhoja (836-882) was the greatest ruler of this dynasty..
3. He was a devotee of Vishnu and adopted the title of 'Adivrah'.

The Rashtrakutas: 752-973

1. Dantidurga (752-766), who fixed his capital at Malkhand/Malkhed (Gulbarga distt., Karnataka), founded the Kingdom.
2. The greatest Rashtrakuta rulers were Govinda III (793-814) and Amoghavarsha (814-878). Amoghavarsha ruled for 64 years but by temperament he preferred pursuit of religion and literature to war. He was himself an author and wrote Kavirajamarga, the earliest Kannada book on Poetics.
3. The famous rock-cut temple of Kailash (Shiva) at Ellora was built by one of the Rashtrakuta kings Krishna I.

Other Important Rulers

1. Prithviraj Chauhan (1178-92): He ruled over Delhi and Agra and fought two important battles, viz. First Battle of Tarain was fought in 1191 between the forces of Prithviraj Chauhan and Mohammad Ghori in which the latter was

defeated. Second Battle of Tarain was fought in 1192 when Mohammad Ghori again invaded India in which Prithviraj Chauhan was defeated and captured and later on slain. The Kingdom of Delhi fell to Mohammad Ghori.

2. The Battle of Tarain had great significance in the political scene as it led to the establishment of Muslim rule over North India and, subsequently, in the South for several centuries.

3. Jai Chand Gadhawal/Rathor (1169-94): He was the last Rajputa King who was also defeated and killed by Mohammad Ghori in the Battle of Channahwa (1194).

4. Rana Kumbha, the Sisodiya ruler of Mewar (1433-68) : Rana Kumbha was the famous ruler of Mewar. He defeated Mohammad Khilji and erected the Tower of victory (Vijay Stambha) in Chittor. His successors Rana Sangra Singh (Rana Sanga) and Rana Pratap were also great kings of Mewar state.

5. Salient features of the Rajputa Kingdoms : The country remained free of invasions but lost foreign contact. The caste system was rigid. The Rajputas were proud, warrior and people but hospitable. In the field of culture many great fortresses and temples were built by them such as Kalajuraho (MP), Lingaraja temple (Bhubaneswar, Orissa), Sun temple (Konark, Orissa), the Jagannath temple (Puri), Dilwara temple (Mount Abu).

6. Causes of the Decline of Rajputas: Lack of unity and foresightedness, caste the system, and defective military organization were some of the causes for the downfall of the Rajputas.

II. South India (Cholas and Others)

The Chola Empire 850-127 AD

Capital Tanjore, Gangaikondacholapuram

1. The founder of the Chola dynasty was Vijayalaya, who was at first a feudatory of the Pandalas. He captured Tanjore in 850 AD.

2. The greatest Chola rulers were Rajaraja (985-1014AD) and his son Rajendra I (1014-1044AD)

3. Rajaraja built Vrihadeshwar / Rajarajeshwar temple (attributed to Shiva) at Tanjore.

4. Rajendra I conquered Orissa, Bengal, Burma and Andaman and Nicobar islands. The Chola dynasty was at its zenith during his reign.

5. Rajendra I assumed the title of Gangaikondachola and built a city called Gangaikondacholapuram.
6. The last ruler of Chola dynasty was Rajendra III.
7. The king was the head of central authority helped by a council of ministers, but the administration was democratic.
8. The Chola empire was divided into Mandalams (Province) and these in turn were divided into Valanadu (Commissionary), Nadu (District) and Karamam (a group of villages).
9. The arrangement of local self-government is regarded as the basic feature of the administration of Cholas.
10. Land revenue and trade tax were the main sources of income.
11. The style of architecture which came into vogue during this period is called Dravida e.g. Kailashnath temple of Kanchipuram.
12. Another aspect was image-making which reached its climax in dancing figure of Shiva called Nataraja.
13. Kambana who wrote Ramavataram was one of the greatest figures of Tamil poetry. His Ramayana is also known as Kamba Ramayana. Kambana, Kuttana and Pugalendi are considered as 'three gems of Tamil poetry'.
14. In the temples, the Vimana or the tall pyramidal tower dominates the whole structure of the shrine and impart an extraordinary dignity to it.
15. Gopuram and Gahagriha are the other two important structures. The best specimens are the temples of Vijayalaya, Choleswara, the Nageshwara temple, the Koranganatha temple and the Muvarakovitha temple.

Other Kingdom of South

S. No	Kingdom	Capital	Real Founder
1.	Western / Later Chalukyas (973-1200)	Kalyani, Karnataka	Tailapa II
2.	Kakatiyas (1110-1326)	Warangal, Andhra Pradesh	Prolaraja II
3.	Yadavas (1187-1312)	Devagiri, Maharashtra	Bhillama V

4.	Hoyasalas (1173-1342)	Dwarasamudra, Karnataka	Vittigadev 'Vishnuvardhan'
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Note : The temple of Hoyasaleshwara at Dwarasamudra (Modem Halebid) is the greatest achievement of Hoyasala art.

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