

Class 7

Subject : S.st (History)

Chapter 1

Tracing changes through A Thousand Years

Answer the following questions

1. Who was considered a “foreigner” in the past?

Ans. Any stranger who appeared say in a given village, someone who was not a part of that society or culture was considered a 'foreigner' in the past.

2. State whether true or false.

1. We do not find inscriptions for the period after 700. False
2. The Marathas asserted their political importance during this period. True
3. Forest-dwellers were sometimes pushed out of their lands with the spread of agricultural settlements. True
4. Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban controlled Assam, Manipur and Kashmir. False

3. Fill in the blanks.

1. Archives are places where Manuscripts and documents are kept.
2. Ziyauddin Barani was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
3. Potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

4. List some of the technological changes associated with this period.

Ans. i) The Persian wheel in irrigation,
ii) The spinning wheel in weaving.
iii) Firearms in combat.

5. What were some of the major religious developments during this period?

Ans. The Hindus started worshipping new deities. The construction of temples by royalty, and the growing importance of Brahmans, the priests were other developments of this period. One of the major developments of this period was the emergence of the idea of bhakti- of loving, personal deity that devotees could reach without the end of priests or elaborate rituals. Muslims regard the Quran as their holy books and accept the sovereignty of the one God, Allah.

6. In what ways has the meaning of the term “Hindustan” changed over the centuries?

Ans. In the thirteenth century the term “Hindustan” meant the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna. The term was used in the political sense for lands that were a part of the dominions of the Delhi sultan. In the early sixteenth century Babur used Hindustan to

describe the geography, the fauna and the culture of the inhabitants of the subcontinent. Today we understand the term "Hindustan" as "India", the modern nation-state.

7. How were the affairs of jatis regulated?

Ans. Jatis framed their own rules and regulations to manage the conduct of their members. These regulations were enforced by an assembly of elders, described in some areas as the jati Panchayat. But jatis also required to follow the rules of their villages. Several villages were governed by a chieftain.

8. What does the term pan-regional empire mean?

Ans. The term pan-regional empire means an empire spanning diverse regions.

9. What are the difficulties historians face in using manuscripts?

Ans. The historians face several difficulties in using manuscripts. There was no printing press in those days so scribes copied manuscripts by hand. Manuscripts copying is not an easy job. As scribes copied manuscripts, they also introduced small changes- a word here, a sentence there. These small differences grew over centuries of copying until manuscripts of the same text became substantially different from one another. This is a serious problem because we rarely find the original manuscript of the author today. We are totally dependent upon the copies made by later scribes.

10. How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?

Ans. Historians divide the past into large segments- periods- that possess shared characteristics. In the middle of the nineteenth century British historians divided the history of India into three periods: "Hindu", "Muslim" and "British". This division was based on the idea that the religion of rulers was the only important historical change, and that there was no other significant developments- in the economy, society or culture.

Historians face many problems while dividing the past into periods. The reason is that there was a good amount of technological development in the medieval period which can be called modern in the contemporary context.