ABSTRACT

Sind, the cradle of one of the great ancient civilizations of the world has played a very significant role in the making of our history. Its cities and towns have been centre of culture and religion since almost the dawn of the history in the region.

From the geographical points of view, the main importance of Sind lies in the fact that it was the gateway of India and had served as a conduit through which many foreign communities including Arabs were able to establish commercial and cultural relations with India. The Arab rulers used it as a base for the military operations to conquer the region further north of Sind.

Before the Arab conquest, Sind was an independent kingdom ruled by Raja Dahar. Muhammad bin Qasim conquered it in 712 A.D. and made it a part of the Umayyad Empire. Apart from being a part of the Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphate for about two hundred years, it had been under the rule of different independent dynasties mainly Habbari, Banu Sama, Ismailis, Sumirahs and the Summahs. It was incorporated into Delhi Sultanate and for long it was ruled by the governors appointed by Delhi Sultans. Afterward, it came under the rule of Arghuns of Central Asia in 1520 A.D. before passing into the hands of the Mughals during the reign of Akbar.
The present thesis deals with the history of Sind in pre-Mughal period. It has been divided in seven chapters (i) Sind under the Arabs (ii) Sind under the Ghaznavids (iii) Sind under the Delhi Sultanate (iv) Sind under the Sumirah (v) Sind under the Sammah (vi) Socio-cultural life of Sind (vii) Economic conditions of Sind.

The first chapter deals with the history of Sind from the Arab conquest in 712 A.D. till the disintegration of the Central Arab authority in the region and the rise of some local Arab dynasties. The second chapter concerns with the history of the Ghaznavid rule in Sind. The main importance of the Ghaznavid rule lies in the fact that it was during this period that the Ismailis who had entrenched themselves in the region were finally rooted out. The third chapter relates to the establishment of the control of Delhi Sultanate over the region. The fourth chapter describes the history of Sumirah rule over the region and their rise and fall as a ruling dynasty of lower Sind. The fifth chapter narrates the history of the Sammah rule, their rise to power and their conflict with the Tughluqs for the control of the region in which they ultimately succeeded. These Sammahs better known as Jams of Sind, continued to rule over the region till they were finally overthrown by the Arghuns of Central Asia in
1520 A.D. The sixth chapter recapitulating the socio-cultural life of the region, tries to identify different components of the Sindi society including the tribal population. Educational institutions played an important role in the cultural developments of the region and gave a strong impetus to social mobility. Sind was also the centre of Suhrawardi Silsilah of sufis and Suhrawardi saints along with sufis of other silsilahs made enormous contribution to the shaping of cultural and religious pattern of the region. These aspects as well as Sind's style of architecture have been taken note of. The seventh chapter highlights the economic history of the region. Their main professions, items of export and import, particular kinds of product which were necessitated by the peculiar geographical terrain and climatic conditions of the region have been discussed at length.

In the light of the above discussion a clear picture of the history of the region of Sind during the pre-Mughal period had emerged enabling us to identify main lines of political, cultural and economic developments in the region.