CHAPTER – VI

CONCLUSION

The present study assumes great significance because a majority of the historians have neither understood nor appreciated in right earnest, the significance of Bahmani dynasty which proved to be the most powerful of the Muslim Kingdoms in the Indian sub-continent. This investigation makes an analytical narrative of the factors and forces which made Bahmani dynasty prosperous educationally, socially, economically and culturally in South India under the rule of Bahmani Sultans on the basis of a wide range of primary and secondary sources. The methodology of historical materialism was primarily followed in the present study. Modern historians have not lived upto the expectations of scholars in terms of documenting and appreciating the historical contributions made by the rulers of Bahmani dynasty for the integrated progress of Deccan. The rulers brought about series of reforms to consolidate and administer the kingdom on the basis of sound principles and practices which were greatly influenced by the Sufi saints and nobles of a high order. Alauddin Bahman Shah, Muhammad Shah II, Firuz Shah, Ahmad Shah, Muhamad Gawan, Faizullah Anju, Gesu Daraz and other eminent rulers, scholars and saints made Bahmani kingdom a model state in every sense. Firuz
Shah’s political adventurism, Muhammad Gawan’s developmental sagacity, Faizullah Anju’s scholarship and Gesu Daraz’s spiritual excellence brought about the commendable progress of Bahmani kingdom during medieval India. The vision, adventurism, diplomacy and developmentalism of these noble builders of Bahmani kingdom were the crucial factors which brought about a peaceful and prosperous Bahmani dynasty in South India. The summary of the study, inferences of the study, implications on future research and the epilogue are furnished in this chapter.

The study of the contributions of Bahmani rule for the attainment of socio-economic progress of upper Deccan region assumes great significance in the history of medieval India. India and the Arab world have long shared a unique relationship. Muhammad-bin-Tughlak was the most striking figure of medieval Indian history who experienced series of revolts by the local rulers during the fag end of his rule. Firuz recognized the independence of the Deccan and founded the Bahmani dynasty which dominated the history of South India during 1347–1684 A.D.

The previous scholars have not focused the attention of readers on the social, economic, political and cultural development of Deccan during Bahmani rule which saw many visionaries and rulers such as Ala-ud-din
Hasan (1347-1358 A.D), Muhammad Shah I (1358-1375 A.D), Muhammad II (1378-1397 A.D), Firuz Shah Bahmani (1397-1422 A.D.), Ahmad Shah (1422-1436 A.D), Ala-ud-din II (1436-1458 A.D) and Muhammad Gawan.

The social, economic, political and cultural contributions of Bahmani rulers warrant scientific assessment and meaningful documentation in the present times. Basing on a wide range of primary and secondary sources this thesis makes a critical assessment of the factors and forces which constituted the history and progress of Deccan under the Bahmani rulers, adopting the methodology of historical materialism. The records preserved in Daftar-i-Diwani, Hyderabad and other sources precisely deal with the salient features of Bahmani rule in Upper Deccan.

Modern historians do not subscribe to the theory of Ferishta in regard to the origin of Bahmani Kingdom which was the most powerful of all the independent Muslim Kingdoms in the Deccan. The correspondence between the Deccani Sultanates and Mir Jumla with the Court of Persia also provide relevant information about Bahmani Kingdom of Deccan. John Brigg’s 4 volumes entitled History of the Rise of the Mahomedan Power in India also provide an account of the conquest by the Bahmani Kings and their multi-faceted administrative
and developmental endeavors which enriched the culture of Deccan region. The English also have left valuable records which are available in the Andhra Pradesh Archives, Hyderabad which cover various historical aspects pertaining to the Bahmani Kingdom. The ancient history of Bahmani Kingdom written by the previous scholars with the help of inscriptions provides useful primary sources of data.


The Bahmani dynasty consisted of about 18 Sultans who shared different perceptions about governance. There were very few honorable exceptions which are found in the history of Bahmani Kingdom. The founder of the dynasty was indeed a non entity who rose from obscurity to aristocracy and provided a new dimension to the governance of Bahmani Kingdom on the basis of his past political experience at Delhi Sultanate.

There was always a conflict of interest between the localities and foreigners who shared an altogether different ideologies and cultures. The Muslims enjoyed the major positions while the Hindus were given miscellaneous responsibilities. The temples and other holy places were
reduced to that of ashes while the Muslim monuments cropped up on the strength of royal patronage. Muhammad Gawan was mainly responsible for the consolidation and enrichment of Bahmani Kingdom on the strength of vision and missionary zeal. The Bahmani Kingdom enjoyed all the basic infrastructural facilities and civic amenities.

The Bahmani rulers also plundered the resources of their adversaries and every victorious march brought large trousers into the Kingdom. Most of the rulers and nobles were pleasure seekers which resulted in the economic marginalization of the people. The architectural excellence of monuments represents Middle Eastern values and aspirations rather than the Indian values and aspirations. The annals of the Bahmani dynasty are replete with instances of organized and inhuman violations of human rights which were carried out right under the nose of the rulers.

Sufism is a way of life which facilitates the attainment of union with God and that people must actualize these divine qualities in themselves by surrendering before His Almighty. Sufism is considered as an important way of life which was practiced in Iraq particularly in Basra. The Sufi saints were persuaded by the Bahmani rulers to establish institutions and eradicate social evils which impeded the progress of the people of Deccan.
The Bahmani Rule predominantly institutionalized Islamic culture in Deccan which was reflected in literature, art, architecture and other spheres of life. The rulers attached great significance to the advancement of culture in Deccan and contributed notably for the cultural promotion of the region. They invited scholars, saints, artists and other cultural personalities from the Middle East and enabled them to institutionalize the salient features of Persian culture which enhanced the status of Deccan in several ways.

The travelogues of Ibn Batuta, Nicolo Conti, Barbosa and a score of other foreign travelers revealed that Deccan during medieval ages under Bahmani rulers was rich and prosperous. The rulers conquered several provinces and brought huge resources while the traders generated plenty of income and brought to Deccan gold, silver and precious metals which they exchanged for spices, cloth and ivory goods. The economy of the Deccan under Bahmani Sultans rose to the high position in terms of agricultural productivity, industrial profit, income generation through trade, promotion of handicrafts and participation in international trade.

The economy was primarily based on agrarian culture which was dominated by feudal lords who controlled the land. The rulers were concerned with the welfare of peasants who were mostly landless tenants. The Sultans also developed many industries which fetched economic
benefits considerably. The development of transportation and communication facilities also boosted the economy of Bahmani kingdom. There were international trade and commerce activities between Bahmani kingdom and other provinces of Indian sub-continent and overseas nations in Turki, Persia, Iran, Portughese, China and so on. The Bahmani Sultans also promoted the artisans who produced the handicrafts which earned international sales and marketing benefits. The Bahmani rulers concentrated on the enhancement of the economic status of the Deccan despite several wars, internal conflicts and other adverse circumstances.

A vast and veritable reservoir of sources pertaining to the Bahmani rule in Deccan is available in Persian language. There are some significant translated versions which are available in English about this subject. But the Indian historians have not done justice to their role since they have highlighted the historical significance of Vijaynagar kingdom rather than Bahmani kingdom purely because of religious bias. The colonial historians were highly biased and practically provided one-sided and manufactured accounts of the Indian history pertaining to medieval period including the Bahmani Kingdom of Deccan. There are some historical documents which are preserved in the State Archives of Hyderabad pertaining to the Bahmani rulers who gave a new dimension to history of Deccan in the medieval India through their heroic battles and
developmental endeavors which brought about commendable social and
economic transformation in Deccan.

The Bahmani Kingdom of the Deccan was the most powerful of all the independent Muslim Kingdoms that arose on account of the disintegration of Delhi Sultanate. The Bahmani dynasty consisted of about 14 Sultans who shared different perceptions about governance. The founder of the dynasty was indeed a non entity who rose from obscurity to aristocracy and provided a new dimension to the governance of Bahmani Kingdom on the basis of his past political experience at Delhi Sultanate. The Bahmani Kingdom enjoyed all the basic infrastructural facilities and civic amenities. Several historians and travelers have documented the contrast between the splendor of the court, the opulence of nobles and the poverty and squalor of the common masses. The Bahmani rulers also plundered the resources of their adversaries and every victorious march brought large treasures into the Kingdom.

The Sultans of Bahmani kingdom were indeed formidable rulers in South India who defied the Delhi Sultanate and refused to become tributary to the Delhi Sultanate in the medieval India. They consolidated, expanded and enriched Bahmani kingdom which has carved a niche for itself in the history of Deccan in particular during the medieval period.
The Bahmani rulers enhanced the dynasty but they did not enrich the pluralistic culture of Deccan in letter and spirit.

The Sufi saints practically lived like the torch-bearers of the principles of equality and social justice without any organizational network, resources and operations. They succeeded in achieving the goals of communal harmony, social integration and social transformation in Deccan under the patronage of Bahmani rulers. The Bahmani Rule predominantly institutionalized Islamic culture in Deccan which was reflected in literature, art, architecture and other spheres of life. The rulers attached great significance to the advancement of culture in Deccan and contributed notably for the cultural promotion of the region. They invited scholars, saints, artists and other cultural personalities from the Middle East and enabled them to institutionalize the salient features of Persian culture which enhanced the status of Deccan in several ways.

Bahmani kingdom – Persian Gulf trade achieved commendable progress during the reigns of Firuz Shah and Mahammad Gawan. The heroism of Firuz Shah played a historical role in the consolidation and enrichment of Bahmani kingdom while the diplomacy of Mahammad Gawan paid richest dividends to the kingdom in the promotion of art, architecture, literature, social transformation, political consolidation and economic prosperity of Deccan under the Bahmani rule. Muhammad
Gawan was mainly responsible for the consolidation and enrichment of Bahmani Kingdom on the strength of vision and missionary zeal.

The Bahmani rulers gained an upper hand over the Vijayanagar kings in terms of military capability by reorganizing the military force and rejuvenating the military system in terms of advanced arms, ammunitions, manpower and strategy making. The Bahmani rulers strived to transform the Bahmani society by according a red carpet welcome to the Sufi Saints, scholars, statesmen and other nation builders who came from the Persian Gulf. The Bahmani rulers and diplomats achieved notable success in the enrichment of Deccan culture by incorporating the best features of the architectural and cultural excellence of the Middle Eastern countries.

The Persian literature, art, architecture and culture had definite bearing on the Deccan. The architectural and artistic evidence suggests that both religious bonds and the long-standing commercial links between Persia and the Deccan provided important conduits for cultural traditions during the reign of Bahmani rulers.

It is proved beyond all reasonable doubts that Ala-ud-din Hasan laid a strong political and economic foundation for the Bahmani kingdom while Muhammad Shah I, Muhammad II, Firuz Shah Bahmani, Ahmad
Shah and Ala-ud-din led the Bahmani kingdom on a modernizing path politically and economically by developing fruitful diplomatic and economic relations between the Deccan and the Persian Gulf.

These inferences are drawn on the basis of an extensive review of authentic primary and secondary sources of information which put the search light on the social transformation, cultural promotion, political diplomacy, military adventurism, trade relations and economic pursuits carried out by Bahmani rulers Firuz Shah Bahmani and Muhammad Gawan. The abundant historical documents provide credible details and sound justifications on the historical contributions of Bahmani rulers and diplomats for the development of social, cultural, political and economic bonds between the Deccan and the Persian Gulf.

This study is an attempt to document and evaluate the social and economic life under the rule of Bahmani Sultans. There were quite a few rulers, diplomats, saints and scholars who made historical contributions for the consolidation and enrichment of Bahmani kingdom. But, during the course of the study, it is understood that there are many areas which warrant serious research in this important subject of study. Firuz Shah and Mahmud Gawan had acquired multi-faceted personalities and rendered multifarious services to Bahmani kingdom. Besides them, there were great saints, scholars, architects, cultural personalities, educationists,
diplomats, administrators and social reformers who enriched the history of Bahmani kingdom. The Bahmani rulers were also greatly responsible for the integrated development of Bahmani kingdom. Their contributions for the promotion of arts, architecture, literature, culture, polity, economy and other spheres of human life in Deccan can also be studied exclusively by future generation of researchers. An extensive quantitative and qualitative content analysis of all the archival records preserved by various agencies could also be undertaken by researchers in future. Hence, a combination of historical research, case study and content analysis is strongly advocated to understand the multi-faceted personalities and multifarious services of Bahmani rulers in Deccan during the medieval period.

The Bahmani kingdom produced several scholars, saints, philosophers, statesmen, architects and other nation builders who created a parallel history in Deccan during the medieval period. In particular, Firuz Shah, Mahamud Gawan and Gesu Daraz became the towering personalities of medieval India who command the esteem and high regards of historians. The whole historical fraternity reverentially salutes them and gratefully acknowledges what they have done for the Deccan, its people and more importantly to the cause of social and economic transformation of Deccan in medieval India. In particular, Mahamud
Gawan will continue to be the fragrant flower, success story, milestone and role model in the history of medieval India. The immense contributions made available by the Bahmani rulers are available for researchers for study and judgment. To the scholars Firuz Shah and Mahamud Gawan appeared as great rulers, to the fraternity of historians they are great role models and to lovers of philosophy, they were great philosophers. The main thing, the present study reveals is that Firuz Shah and Mahamud Gawan lived like statesmen and the contributions they made are marvelous for the progress of Deccan. In conclusion, it could be stated with great pride that Sultan Ala-ud-din Hasan (1347-1358 A.D), Sultan Muhammad Shah I (1358-1375 A.D), Sultan Muhammad II (1378-1397 A.D), Sultan Firuz Shah Bahmani (1397-1422 A.D.), Sultan Ahmad Shah (1422-1436 A.D), Sultan Ala-ud-din II (1436-1458 A.D) and Prime Minister Muhammad Gawan occupy an honored place for their historical contributions which enriched the Bahmani kingdom in several ways.