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# HISTORY OF INDIA

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- STUDYING EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA:
  - THE ARAB CONQUEST OF SINDH: NATURE AND IMPACT OF THE NEW SET-UP
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MUHAMMAD BIN QASIM LEADING HIS TROOPS IN BATTLE  
SOURCE: INDIANET.COM



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- MOTIVES BEHIND THE ARAB CONQUEST OF SINDH IN 712 A.D.
  - AFTER THE DEATH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD, THE ARABS SUCCESSFULLY CONQUERED REGION AFTER REGION IN ARABIA AND THUS EMBOLDENED THEY PLANNED TO ATTACK SIND.
  - MORE THAN RELIGIOUS REASONS MILITARY SUCCESS AND THE DESIRE TO EXPAND LED THEM TO THESE CONQUESTS.
  - MOREOVER INDIA'S WEALTH ATTRACTED THEM TO THIS PART OF ASIA.

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- THE ARABS TRADED WITH THE INDIAN RAJAS LONG BEFORE THEY WANTED TO CONQUER AND LOOT THE COUNTRY
  - THE HINDU RAJAS OF INDIA GAVE THEM FAVOURS IN LIEU OF TRADE BENEFITS
  - FIRST ENCOUNTER OF THE ARABS WITH SINDH WAS AGAINST THE HINDU RULER DAHIR OVER THE LOOT OF GIFTS THAT WERE BEING SENT FROM SRILANKA TO THE ARAB RULER HAJJAJ.

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- IN 712 A.D. MUHAMMAD-BIN-QASIM LOOTED AND PLUNDERED SINDH AND ENTERED INDIA AFTER SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATING THE INDIAN RULER DEBAL.
  - MEANWHILE THE RISE OF THE ABBASIDS IN ARABIA STRENGTHENED THE ISLAMIC RELIGION
  - SOME PARTS OF WESTERN INDIA, UPTO UJJAYINI WERE CONQUERED BY THE ARABS.



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- BUT AFTER THE DOWNFALL OF THE ABBASIDS, THE ARABS IN SINDH BECAME FREE FROM THE CONTROL OF THE KHALIFA AND ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS INDEPENDENT RULERS.
  - IN SINDH, HOWEVER, THEY COULD NOT MAINTAIN THEIR UNITY FOR LONG AND CONTINUED TO RULE IN THEIR OWN WAY
  - THE CAUSES BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF THE ARABS

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- ORGANISATION, DISCIPLINE AND A POLITICAL STRATEGY WERE THE MAIN REASONS BEHIND THE ARAB SUCCESS IN SINDH
  - THE ARMY OF MUHAMMAD-BIN-QASIM, ADVANCED WEAPONS AND METHODS OF WARFARE AND QASIM'S MILITARY PROWESS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ARABS IN SINDH
  - THE WEAKNESS OF DAHIR AS A RULER, HIS NEGLIGENCE OF THE SEA PORTS, ABSENCE OF A STRONG NAVY

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- THE FEUDAL LORDS REFUSAL TO FIGHT FOR DAHIR AND HIS SON AND THE SUPPORT OF A SECTION OF THE POPULATION IN SOTHERN SINDH FOR THE ARABS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE ARAB SUCCESS

- MOREOVER AS DAHIR AND HIS SON WERE NOT TOLERANT TOWARDS THE LOWER CASTE HINDUS AND THE OTHER RELIGIONS OF INDIA SUCH AS BUDDHISM, THEY FAILED TO EARN THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMON PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT IN FAVOUR OF THE ARABS



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- ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARABS IN SINDH
  - THE REGION WAS DIVIDED INTO DISTRICTS KNOWN AS IQTAS, IN CHARGE OF AN ARAB MILITARY COMMANDER
  - THEY WERE INDEPENDENT AND HAD TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE KHALIF
  - PIOUS AND LEARNED MEN ENJOYED JAGIRS OR TAX- FREE LANDS

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- SEVERAL INDEPENDENT FEUDAL 'COLONIES' GREW UP UNDER THE ARAB CHIEFTAINS, ADMINISTRATION OFTEN WAS RUN BY THE LOCAL CHIEF
  - HINDU TRADITIONS AND POLICIES CONTINUED IN MANY PLACES
  - ONLY IN THE CASE OF THE REVENUE SYSTEM, SOME CHANGES WERE INTRODUCED. LAND TAX AND THE RELIGIOUS TAX JIJIYA FOR THE NON-MUSLIMS WAS COLLECTED



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- EFFECTS OF THE ARAB INVASION OF SINDH
  - HISTORIAN STANLEY LANEPOOLE HAS COMMENTED THAT THE ARAB INVASION OF SINDH WAS WITHOUT ANY LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES
  - THE EFFECTS OF THE INVASION WAS LIMITED TO A VERY SMALL AREA. THEY COULD NOT PENETRATE INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY.
  - A SMALL PART OF THE INDIAN POPULATION DID EMBRACE ISLAM BUT THE LANGUAGE, CULTURE, TRADITION, ART OF THE COUNTRY WAS NOT AFFECTED BY THE INVASION

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- THERE WERE CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE ARAB WORLD AND INDIA. DURING THE TIME OF HARUN-UL-RASHID AND THE KHALIFA MANSUR SCHOLARS, ARTISTS, MUSICIANS AND MASONRY FROM INDIA WERE INVITED TO BAGHDAD. BRAHMAGUPTA'S BRAHMA SIDDHANTA AND KHAND-KHADYA WRITTEN IN SANSKRIT WERE TRANSLATED INTO THE ARABIC LANGUAGE.
  - SO IT WAS AS A RESULT OF THE ARAB INVASION OF SIND THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF SCIENTIFIC, LITERARY AND CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE BORROWED BY THE ARABS FROM INDIA AND THE INDIANS TOO LEARNT FROM THEM.