

Outline Lecture Nine—The Legacy of Muslim Rule in India

Main Focus:

- 1) Muslim strategies of ruling a defiant Hindu majority
- 2) Akbar's experiment with religious syncretism

I) The Initial Encounter

- a) Muslim entry into the Punjab as early as the 8th century
 - i) Origin of the term "Hindu"?
- b) Mutual Prejudice
 - i) 11th century Muslim account from al-Biruni

II) The Delhi Sultanate (1205-1526)

- a) Reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji (1296-1316)
 - i) Policy of heavy taxation
 - (1) Attempt to find religious sanctioning
 - (2) Zia ud-din Barni's assessment of clergy's role
- b) Ibn-Battuta's account of Delhi Sultanate's repressive policy
 - i) Personal Background
 - (1) Map of travels
 - ii) Expulsion of Hindus to Dawlat Abad
- c) Muslim-Hindu Relations
 - i) Desecration of Hindu temples
 - ii) Failure of religious and cultural assimilation

III) Akbar's Syncretic Experiment

- a) Height of the Mughal empire
 - i) Reigned from 1556-1605
- b) Akbar's Inclusive Method of Governing
 - i) Abolished the *jizya* imposed on Hindus
 - ii) Grand Vizier Birbal
- c) Elaboration of the "Divine Faith" or *Din-i-Ilahi*
 - i) Akbar's ecumenical interest in religions
- d) Reversion to repression
 - i) Aurangzeb, his great grandson (1659-1707)

IV) The Significance of *Dar al-Islam*

- a) Lack of Seamless Uniformity
 - i) Not unified politically
 - ii) Diverse culturally
 - (1) Different manners and protocols
 - (a) E.g. Politics of Prostration
 - (b) Synthesis of local sumptuary laws and Islamic protocol
 - iii) Coherent Legal System
 - iv) Demographic Diversity

