

Chandra Gupta by Conquest of South India: With Special References to Mysore

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Abstract—Chandragupta, also spelled Chandra Gupta, also called Chandragupta Maurya or Maurya (died c. 297 BCE, Shravana Belagola, India). founder of the Mauryan dynasty (reigned c. 321–c 297 BCE) and the first emperor to unify most of India under one administration. After the Kushana, the Guptas were the most important dynasty. The Gupta age is called the classical age. It refers to the period when most of North India was united under the Gupta Empire. It was perhaps, sometimes late in the obscure period of the 3rd century, that the Gupta dynasty emerged. The first two Guptas, Srigupta and Ghatotkach, were rulers of conquest and are known only through respectful mention by Chandragupta I, the real founder of the Gupta empire. The first Gupta ruler was Chandragupta I, son of Ggatotkacha. By marrying a Lichhavi princess, Kumaradevi, he sought to gain in prestige, though Vaishali does not appear to have been a part of his kingdom. His rule remained confined to Magadha and part of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. He took the title of *MAHARAJADHIRAJA*, and his accession in about AD319-320 marked the beginning of the Gupta era. The territorial heads ruling over various parts of India could not counter the superior armed forces of Chandragupta I and had to surrender before him. It is conjectured that at the end of his reign, the boundary of the Gupta Empire already extended to Allahabad.

Index Terms—Sustainable Chandra Gupta by conquest of South India: with special References to Mysore. An Indian state by developed in Mysore state.

Methodology

By the state of being utilized both primary and secondary sources, this paper has been attempted, Chandra Gupta by conquest of South India: with special References to Mysore. The main work is in the southern state of Mysore. The methodology adopted in this study is descriptive and analytical.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 322BC, Magadha, under the rule of Chandragupta Maurya, began to assert its neighboring areas. Situated on rich alluvial soil and near mineral deposits, especially iron, Magadha was the centre of bustling commerce and trade. The primary source of our knowledge about the Mauryan empire is based on the *Arthashastra* by Chanakya or Kautiliya, which is a treatise on statecraft. It gives us a picture of the administration, society, and the economy of the country. In the book, he explains how a strong and efficient government should be organized and what the duties of a ruler are. Chanakya was Chandragupta's Chief Minister and mentor. The Sanskrit play *Mudrarakshasa* by Visakadatta is a political literature revealing the struggle undertaken by Chandragupta Maurya with the help of Chanakya to overthrow the Nandas. It is also an insight into Chandragupta's life. The *Jataka* tales of the Buddhist literature and the *Indica* written by Megasthenes, the Greek traveler to Chandragupta's court, give an account of the Mauryan capital, its administrative system, and social life. The Ceylonese chronicles, the *Dipavamsa* and the *Mahavamsa*, give the accounts of the conversion of Ceylon to Buddhism. They have also helped in reconstructing the history of Asoka. The rock edicts of Asoka provide information about the Mauryan rule. According to them, India constructed a new world on the basis of peace, brotherhood, and cultural unity under the rule of the Mauryans.

II. CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA (320- 300 BC)

Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Mauryan Empire. He founded the dynasty by overthrowing the Nandas around 320 BC. There is no clear account available about his early life. He was born in Pataliputra, but was raised in the forest in the company of herdsmen and hunters. It was Chanakya who spotted him, and he was struck by his personality. Chanakya trained and transformed him into one of the most powerful rulers of that era. Chanakya trained him in arts, sciences, logic, administration, and warfare at the Taxila University. Chanakya had decided a task for Chandragupta: to free India from Greek dominance. Some smaller kingdoms in Punjab and Sindh helped Chandragupta. Soon, Chandragupta defeated the Greeks and freed Punjab, Sindh and other north-west regions of India. He then defeated the Nanda rulers in Pataliputra and captured the throne of Magadha. Chandragupta Maurya's army included over 6, 00,000 infantry, 50,000 cavalry, 10,000 elephants, and 7,000 chariots.

Early life of Chandragupta Maurya and his rise to power

The early life of Chandragupta Maurya was spent amidst family misfortunes. According to Buddhist tradition, his father was a chief of the Mauryan clan. He was killed in a battle. His widowed mother took shelter in Pataliputra, where she gave birth to Chandragupta Maurya in 345 B.C. The young Chandragupta was renamed among cowherds and hunters. One day, while young Chandragupta was playing a mock royal court with his village playmates, Kautilya happened to pass by that way. Being impressed by the dignity of bearing and potentiality of the boy, Chanakya purchased him on the spot from his adopted father, the cowherd, by paying

1000 karshapanas (coins). Kautilya then took him to the city of Taxila and gave him an education in humanities, arts, crafts, and military science, in order to equip him properly for the future royal office. Chanakya or Kautilya had come to Pataliputra for higher recognition. But he was insulted by King Dhana Nanda for his ugly appearance and uncouth manners, which wounded his feelings deeply. Chanakya's vanity and personal dignity were so much affected that he took a vow of revenge. According to Plutarch, Chandragupta Maurya worked as a soldier in the Magadha army in his young days. Gradually, he rose to the rank of a general. But one day, he incurred the displeasure of Dhana Nanda for resisting his authority. Dhana Nanda ordered to kill him, so Chandragupta Maurya escaped to Punjab, and there he met Alexander. He appealed to invade Magadha. But his bold and brave conduct annoyed Alexander, who ordered his arrest and execution, so he fled to the Vindhyas, where he met Chanakya. Then both Chanakya and Chandragupta Maurya considered the Nanda King as their common enemy and hatched out a plot to overthrow him from the Magadhan throne. Towards 326 B.C. or 325 B.C. Chandragupta Maurya came to the forefront of politics. It was Chanakya's Machiavellian brain that worked for the rise of Chandragupta Maurya to power. He was the friend, philosopher, and guide of Chandragupta. It was a favourable time for Chandragupta Maurya to carry on his plan, because there was no political stability in the North-West. India, after Alexander's departure and the oppressive Nanda rule, was not liked by the people. Chandragupta Maurya raised a big fighting force with men from the heroic tribes of the north-west and the Punjab, as well as from the fallen republican states of those areas. The Drama Mudrarakshasa also mentions that the army raised by Chandragupta Maurya included various tribes. After this, Chandragupta Maurya embarked upon his career of conquest.

Importance of Chandragupta's Rule

Chandragupta was the first Indian ruler whom we can call a national ruler in a real sense. He established such a system of the Coming of Chandragupta Maurya, the Macedonian ruler Alexander's invasion of north-western India, and the increasing unpopularity of the Nanda rulers, resulting in their decline. With the help of Chanakya, Chandragupta overthrew the Nandas and assumed the throne. After invading Seleucus, Alexander's successor in Persia, he undertook a treaty liberating the empire from Greco-Persian authority. It also assured him a respectful place in later Greek and Roman histories. He used the administrative system established by the Nandas to his full advantage and established close and friendly relations with Babylon and the lands farther west. He was acknowledged as a brilliant general with an army of well over half a million soldiers. He was also a brilliant king who united India, restricting himself to not going beyond the subcontinent. Pataliputra became a cosmopolitan city of such a large proportion that Chandragupta had to create a special section of municipal officials to look after its welfare, and special courts were established to meet its judicial needs.

The administration, which was autocratic in nature and centrally based, was assisted by a council of ministers. He also created a functional espionage system to keep his enemies within his watch.

It is widely believed that his advisor Chanakya contributed considerably towards the success of Chandragupta. He established a highly centralised and hierarchical system of governance with the help of a large staff, with systematic tax collection; trade and commerce, industrial arts; mining; vital statistics, welfare of foreigners; maintenance of public places, including markets and temples, and welfare of prostitutes.

Conquest of South India

After annexing Seleucus' provinces west of the Indus River, Chandragupta had a vast empire extending across the northern Indian sub-continent from the Bengal to the Arabian Sea. Chandragupta began expanding his empire southwards beyond the Vindhya Range and into the Deccan Plateau. By the time his conquests were complete, Chandragupta's empire extended over most of the subcontinent. Two poetic anthologies from the Tamil Sangam literature corpus, Akananuru and Purananuru, allude to the Nanda rule and the Maurya empire. For example, poems 69, 281, and 375 mention the army and chariots of the Mauryas, while poems 251 and 265 may be alluding to the Nandas. However, the poems dated between the first century BCE and the fifth century CE do not mention Chandragupta Maurya by name, and some of them could be referring to a different Maurya dynasty in the Deccan region in the fifth century CE. According to Upinder Singh, these poems may be mentioning the Mokur and Koshar kingdoms of the Vadugars (northerners) in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, with one interpretation being that the Maurya empire had an alliance with these at some point in time

Chandragupta Maurya had extended the Mauryan Empire in the South up to Mysore. From the Rock Edicts XIII and II, it is known that Ashoka's empire in the South extended up to Mysore and Nellore. Ashoka had only the Kalinga War to his credit, and Bindusara had not conquered any part of India. So it was Chandragupta Maurya who had completed the conquest of the South. The Jain tradition refers to the fact that Chandragupta Maurya, during his old age, became a Jain and migrated to a place called Sravana Belgola in Mysore, where he practiced his penance. The inscriptions and monuments found at Mysore testify to the fact that Mysore was a part of Chandragupta's empire. Some of the inscriptions and monuments also refer to the name of Chandragupta Muni, who was no other person than Chandragupta Maurya. The Ashokan Edicts discovered from Chitaldrug districts of Mysore support the Jain tradition that Mysore was included within the empire of Chandragupta Maurya.

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Empire

There are no records of Chandragupta's military conquests and the reach of his empire. It is based on inferences from Greek and Roman historians and the religious Indian texts written centuries after his death. Based on these, the North-West reach of his empire included parts of present-day Afghanistan that Seleucus Nicator ceded to him, including Kabul, Kandhar, Taxila, and Gandhara. These are the areas where his grandson Ashoka left the major Kandahar rock edict and other edicts in the Greek and Aramaic languages. In the west, Chandragupta's rule over present-day Gujarat is attested to by Ashoka's inscription in Junagadh. On the same rock, about 400 years later, Rudradaman inscribed a longer text sometime in the mid-second century. Rudradaman's inscription states that the Sudarshana lake in the area was commissioned during the rule of Chandragupta through his governor, Vaishya Pushyagupta, and conduits were added during Ashoka's rule through Tushaspha. The Mauryan control of the region is further corroborated by the inscription on the rock, which suggests that Chandragupta controlled the Malwa region in Central India, located between Gujarat and Pataliputra.

Rule

After unifying much of India, Chandragupta and Chanakya passed a series of major economic and political reforms. Chandragupta established a strong central administration from Pataliputra (now Patna). Chandragupta applied the statecraft and economic policies described in Chanakya's text Arthashastra. There are varying accounts in the historic, legendary, and hagiographic literature of various Indian religions about Chandragupta's rule, but Allchin and Erdosy are suspect; they state, "one cannot but be struck by the many close correspondences between the (Hindu) Arthashastra and the two other major sources, the (Buddhist) Asokan inscriptions and (Greek) Megasthenes text. The Maurya rule was a structured administration; Chandragupta had a council of ministers (*amatya*), with Chanakya as his chief minister.

Conquest of Mysore

Bindusara was the second emperor of the Maurya dynasty and the son of Chandragupta Maurya. He is believed to have conquered the Deccan, which was a region in southern India. Amudragupta succeeded his father, Chandragupta I, in 335 CE, and ruled for about 45 years. He conquered the kingdoms of Ahichchhatra and Padvavati early in his reign, then attacked neighbouring tribes, including the Malwas, Yaudheyas, Arjunyanas, Maduras, and Abhiras.

Extent of Chandragupta's Empire

Thus, Chandragupta Maurya became the Raja Chakravati and made the ideal of the political unification of India a very real one." His empire extended up to the borders of Persia in the North – West, Bihar in the East, up to the sea near Saurashtra in the West, and the Chitaldrug district in Mysore and the Nellore district of Madras in the South, with Pataliputra as its capital. R.K. Mookherji writes that, "Chandragupta undoubtedly ruled over a vast empire." According to Plutarch and Justin, the whole of India had come under the possession of Chandragupta Maurya. V. A. Smith writes, "In the course of some eighteen years, Chandragupta had expelled the Macedonian garrisons from the Punjab and Sind, repulsed and humbled Seleucus, the conqueror, and established himself as undisputed supreme lord of at least all Northern India and a part of Ariana. These achievements fairly entitle him to rank among the greatest and most successful kings known to history". P.L. Bhargava writes, "Chandragupta was undoubtedly the mightiest ruler of his time and one of the most lustrous stars in the firmament of monarchy." Chandragupta Maurya died in 298 B.C. after a reign of 24 years.

Political Administration

Chandragupta maintained a large standing army and a well-organised espionage system. He divided his empire into provinces, districts, and villages. All the administrative units were governed by centrally appointed local officials who performed the functions as directed by the central administration. The capital city had magnificent palaces, temples, a university, a library, gardens, and parks. Megasthenes stayed with Chandragupta for over five years, travelling through the Mauryan empire, and wrote an account of his travels in the book *Indica*. Chandragupta, who ruled from 324 to 297BC, was the architect of the first Indian imperial power whose capital was Pataliputra, near modern-day Patna in Bihar. The rule of this remarkable king came to an end in 297BC. After ruling for twenty-four years, Chandragupta abdicated the throne in favor of his son, Bindusara, and became a Jain ascetic. According to a Jain text, he starved himself to death to attain *nirvana*. His son, Bindusara, extended the empire into central India and parts of southern India. Only the kingdom of Kalinga was unconquered at the time of his death. His son, Asoka, succeeded him in 273BC.

Death

The circumstances and year of Chandragupta's death are unclear and disputed. According to Digambara Jain accounts, Bhadrabahu forecast a 12-year famine because of all the killing and violence during the conquests by Chandragupta Maurya. He led a group of Jain monks to South India, where Chandragupta Maurya joined him as a monk after abdicating his kingdom to his son Bindusara. Together, states a Digambara legend, Chandragupta and Bhadrabahu moved to Shravanabelagola, in present-day south Karnataka. These Jain accounts appeared in texts such as *Brihakatā kośa* (931 CE) of Harishena, *Bhadrabāhu charita* (1450 CE) of Ratnanandi, *Munivamsa bhyudaya* (1680 CE), and *Rajavali kathe*. Chandragupta lived as an

ascetic at Shravanabelagola for several years before fasting to death as per the Jain practice of sallekhana, according to the Digambara legend.

III. CONCLUSIONSS

(350-295 BCE) was a ruler of the Iron Age in South Asia who expanded a geographically extensive kingdom based in Magadha and founded the Maurya dynasty. He reigned from 320 BCE to 298 BCE. The Maurya kingdom expanded to become an empire that reached its peak under the reign of his grandson, Asoka, from 268 BCE to 231 BCE. Chandragupta freed Punjab and Sindh from foreign control and brought these areas under his rule. The whole of the northern region of India (from Palaliputra to the Hindukush mountains in the northwest) and to the Narmada in the south came into his direct control. His empire included the regions of Kabul and Herat. Texts are associated with theoretical situations, but some parts represent real conditions and the strategy present at the time of the Mauryas. The book informs about a centralised administrative system which also had provincial governors' levels of bureaucrats, the tax system, and a royal army. It also mentions the methods by which peasants can be encouraged to increase agricultural productivity. The Arthashastra also presents a model on foreign affairs called the circle of states. As per the model, all states are surrounded by natural adversaries. A ruler who desires to be a conqueror is always surrounded by enemies, so are his enemies. A sensible ruler relies on the power of his enemies' enemies along with his own power. The book describes various strategies for making and breaking alliances using military force or treaties, and engaging spies or propaganda to weaken opponents and take advantage of the situation.

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