

THE CENTRAL ISLAMIC LANDS. (Learning and culture-1)

Class XI. History.

Changing ideas in Islamic society.

- **As the religious and social experiences of the Muslims deepend through contact with the other people, the community was obliged to reflect on itself and confront issues pertaining to God and the world.**
- **Answers to search questions came from learned Muslims who acquired and organised knowledge of different kinds to strengthen the social identity of the community as well as to satisfy their intellectual curiosity.**

Ulamas and Islamic laws.

- **The ulama and their interpretation of Islamic laws governed every aspect of Islamic society.**
- **In framing Islamic law, judicious also made use of reasoning, since not everything was apparent in the Quran and hadiths and life had become increasingly complex with urbanization.**

Sharia.

- **Different interpretations of Islamic laws led to the formation of different schools of law.**
- **Maliki, Hanafi, Shafii, Hanbali where the four prominent schools of law. Hanbali was the most conservative one.**
- **Although the Sariya provided guidance on all possible legal issues but it was focused on the questions of personal status, like the marriage, divorce, inheritance etc.**

Customary laws
and the
implementation
of Sharia.

- **Sharia was adjusted to take into account the customary laws of various regions as well as the laws of the state on political and social order.**
- **Customary laws, however, retained their strength in large parts of the countryside and continued to bypass the Sharia in matters such as the inheritance of land by daughters.**
- **The matters related with the security of the state were directly dealt by the ruler or officials.**
- **Only selected matters were sent to the Qazi or the Sharia judge and he too often acted as arbitrator rather than a strict enforcer of Sharia law.**
- **Although the central in that society was Islam but the Islamic laws were not implemented rigorously.**

Quran.

- **The Quran is in Arabic. It is the most sacred book in Islam. Quran is divided into 114 chapters (suras) and arranged in descending order.**
- **According to Muslim traditions, the Quran is a collection of Allah's messages which were sent to prophet Muhammad between 610 to 632 ad.**
- **The use of Quran as a source of material for the history of early Islam as post some problems the first is that it is a scripture.**
- **The second problem is that the Quran very often speaks the metaphors and unlike the old testament it does not narrate events but only refers to them.**

Homework

- 1. Limitation of Quran as the historical source of early Islamic history.**
- 2. The importance of Ulamas and their interpretation of Islamic texts.**

THE CENTRAL ISLAMIC LANDS. (Cultural changes-1)

Class XI. History.

Sufi philosophy.

- **A group of religious minded people in mediaeval Islam known as sufis, sought a deeper and more personal knowledge of God through asceticism and mysticism.**
- **In the eighth and ninth centuries, ascetic inclinations were elevated to higher stage of mysticism by the ideas of pantheism and love.**
- **Pantheism is the idea of oneness of God and his creation which implies that the human soul must be united with its maker.**
- **This is unity with God can be achieved through an intense love for God.**

Sufism and Islam.

- **Rabia of Basra, Bayazid Bistani, Dhulnum Misri were the notable Sufis of ninth century.**
- **Sufis used musical concert to induce ecstasy and stimulate emotions of love and passion.**
- **By making religion more personal and less institutional, Sufism gained popularity and posed a challenge to orthodox Islam.**
- **The Sufis believed the core ideas of Islam.**

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Influence of other cultures.

- **An alternative vision of God and the universe was developed by Islamic philosophers and scientists under the influence of Greek philosophy and Science.**
- **Scholar with a theological bent of mind, such as the group known as Mutazila, used Greek logic and methods of reasoning to defend Islamic beliefs.**
- **Philosophers posed wider questions and provided fresh answers.**

Homework

- 1. Sufism and Islam.**
- 2. Raed the topic.**