



General & Higher Academic Programme

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Composite Culture under the Sultanate of Delhi

by Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui

The book

Very little has been written on the cultural orientation of the sultanate of Delhi. The architects of the sultanate introduced a new system of governance with novel social and cultural institutions and, Persian as an official language. These moves were significant as they served as catalysts for social change. Alongside, the emergence of new urban centres as well as the addition of colonies of foreign immigrants from lands of more advanced culture, to the old towns led to the transfiguration of culture in the sultanate. Thus, *Composite Culture under the Sultanate of Delhi* examines those aspects of culture that have hitherto not been paid adequate attention.

Divided into the three parts, the first explores the role played by the metropolis of Delhi as an integrating nucleus, and examines the cultural and social relationship between the Hindus and Muslims, and the intellectual and diplomatic atmosphere of the times. The second part concerns itself with the nature of the relationship between the sultans of Delhi and Mongol rulers of Central Asia. In the third part is discussed the life and position of women and the difference in treatment meted out to them by men from different classes of society.

Like the earlier works of the author, this volume too is marked by an impressive array of sources and offers a paradigm shift from conventional historiography. The book expects to open vistas for further research in the history and culture of the sultanate period.

Contents

Preface

Introduction

LIFE AND CULTURE

1. The Role of Hazrat-i-Delhi in the Process of Acculturation

2. The Position of Hindus in the Sultanate of Delhi

3. The Science of Medicine and the Emergence of Hospitals

4. The Role of Time and Space in History and Culture

5. Life and Culture under the Lodi Sultans (AD 1451–1526)

6. Interstate Relationship: The Sultanates of Delhi and Gujarat

DELHI SULTANATE AND CENTRAL ASIA

7. Sultan Jalal u'ddin Khwarazm Shah and the Mongol Advance

8. Mongols in North-West India

GENDER STUDIES

9. Socio-Political Role of Women in Delhi
Sultanate

10. Sufi Perspectives on Women and Marriage

Bibliography

Index

The Author

Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui retired as Chairman, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh in 1997 and Co-ordinator, Centre of Advanced Study, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. He has published a number of articles in several journals and has contributed to the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (Leiden); *Encyclopaedia Iranica* (USA); and *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Civilization in Arabic* (Jordan). Professor Siddiqui is the author of several books, including *Some Aspects of Afghan Despotism in India* (1969); *Sher Shah Sur and His Dynasty* (1995); *Mughal Relations with the Indian Ruling Elite* (1983); *Islam and Muslims in South Asia: Historical Perspective* (1986); *Perso-Arabic Sources of Information on the Life and Conditions in the Sultanate of Delhi* (1992); *Islamic Heritage in South Asia*, vol. I (2001) and vol. II (2003); *Medieval India: Essays in Intellectual Thought and Cultures* (2003); *Authority and Kingship under the Sultans of Delhi* (2006); *Indo-Persian Historiography up to the Thirteenth Century* (2009); and *Medieval India: Essays in Diplomacy and Culture*, vol. II (forthcoming).

Market

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