



A Review of Military Reforms of Alauddin Khilji

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Abstract : The Turkish sultans' influence was waning by the end of the thirteenth century. After the death of Muizzuddin Kekubad, Jalaludin Feroz Khilji, Balban's grandson, was declared the new Sultan of Delhi in 1290. In a different translation, KS Lal states, "Nawab Jalaluddin was acclaimed to the throne neither by right, nor election, nor plot." Illabari put the throne in khilji's hands as transition and khilji manages to hold onto it by using their might. Khilji did not recognize the assistance of religious figures or clergy. They built everything for the nation even though they had to convince the world the state can move on without religious help. This was a momentous reality in terms of history. Delhi came under the rule of the Khilji dynasty from Turks. Often known as the Khilji revolution of 1290 AD, this reform is referred to as the Khilji revolution.

Introduction : The organisation of the army in the Khilji era was essentially the same, but Khilji Alauddin brought some freshness to it. This was achieved to break down the army division by splitting it into Khan, Malik, Amir, and warlord. He developed an army capable of being deployed at the core at all times during the Khilji dynasty. A lot of the praise for the army's organisation goes to the mighty Khilji, Alauddin. At its height, this large force had 475,000 cavalry.

The Alauddin Khalji period is generally recognized as important due to his contributions to military restructuring. Kingship is held in place by two pillars: administration and conquest. The army is helping these pillars.

Before Alauddin, the Sultans had no permanent army, and instead had to rely on armies supported by the subordinate governors and feudal lords. Alauddin was able to remedy this major shortcoming. To deter the revolts and Mongol invasions from taking place, he kept a large army in the center.



It turned out that the province's regional governors and officers misled the center on the subjects of enlistment and instruction of the troops. His army was divided into three major categories, all of which were under Alauddin's direct supervision.

Under the Sultan's direct supervision, bodyguards were appointed and remained.

During the reign of the Sultan, 2. Permanently enlisted soldiers were often hired by the Sultan and they could marry in the capital under his influence.

The armed powers that could be summoned by the Sultan at a moment's notice. Loners who joined the army out of desperation for plunder. Much of them were Muslims, and they were normally attracted to the army at the time of battle.

Alauddin recognized the importance of a strong military, and he worked to eliminate the military's existing shortcomings. In addition to implementing crucial military reforms, he was the first Muslim leader to reorganize the army into a competent, disciplined, and well-organized unit.

He was especially focused on locating, recruiting, and educating troops, and only those individuals meeting the criteria were hired. Bases of the soldiers were supplied with horses and weapons and monetary reward was given to them from the royal treasury. Yakaspa title was given to the soldier who had only one horse, while Do title was given to the soldier who kept two horses. While cavalry was in use, elephants were used in the battle as well. A number of arms was common during times of war, including swords, bows, arrows, maces, battle-axes, and daggers. While catapults (stone throwing machines) were in style, other kinds of catapults were in use.

The province governors and Jagirdars were well informed that their armies and steeds were not adequately maintained. They employed untrained men to go to war in place of enlisting and educating the soldiers themselves, which depleted the royal army during a time of war.

The sultan had this dilemma in mind and decided to get rid of these weak points. Each soldier Huliya(descriptive roll) and Dag (branding of horses) was started by him. Sometimes, the



army inspections were done to ensure there were no gaps, and the arms of the troops were tested to ensure that they were working properly.

The border of India's northernmost region was still a cause for alarm. Through constructing several forts, Balban took steps to reinforce the frontier. And he had ensured that Chawkies were formed on the frontiers, as well as strong Afghan soldiers. Alauddin put these forts back in place. The Forts at Kampil, Patiali, and Bhojpur were all newly established. He had armed forces stationed in forts with ample reserves of food grains and other provisions in order to give his soldiers more confidence when fighting against the enemy. He reinforced the forts of Delhi and Siri after considering the Mongol assaults. The Mongols couldn't beat Alauddin and finally, terrified, they gave up the idea of conquering India.

Despite being unable to win an easy victory over RANTHAMBHOR, WARANGAL, and the Mongols in the beginning of his reign, Alauddin later on achieved victory in north and south India by making improvements to his military structure. With respect to the Mongols, he also achieved popularity. The organization of a strong army brought order and peace to the Sultanate. Without a doubt, Alauddin's military reforms were highly helpful, but he did not bring anything new. Balban had set out the scheme, but rather than that, he pursued his own plan and thereby won victory.

References :

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