

**History of India worth reading  
Hindu tolerance over the ages !  
An exhibition mounted by FACT – India**

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India before the advent of Islamic imperialism was a country with plenty of wars fought by Hindu princes. But in all their wars the Hindus had observed some time honored conventions sanctioned by the Shastras. The Brahmins and Bhikshus were never touched. The chastity of women was never violated. The cows were never killed. There was no ravage of the soil. The temples were never touched. The non-combatants were never killed or captured. A human habitation was never attacked unless it was a fort. The civilian population was never plundered. The martial class (kshatriyas) who clashed, mostly in open fields, had a code of honor.

Hindus found it very hard to understand the psychology of this new invader. For the first time in their history, Hindus were witnessing a scene which was described by Kānha Dade Prabandha (1456 AD) in the following words:

“The conquering army burnt villages, devastated the land, plundered people's wealth, took Brahmins and children and women of all classes captive, flogged with thongs of raw hide, carried a moving prison with it, and converted the prisoners into obsequious Turks.”

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**Mahmud of Ghazni**  
997 to 1030

Mahmud's campaigns were motivated by religious zeal against non-Muslims. He launched 17 separate invasions of Hindu India and his main objective in invading India was plunder and the destruction of Hindu temples.

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### Somnat idols sent to Mecca & Medina

Mahmud of Ghazni led his armies to Nahrwala and Gujarat, carried off the idol (manat) from Somnat, and broke it into four parts. One part he deposited in the Jami Masjid of Ghazni, one he placed at the entrance of the royal palace, the third he sent of Mecca, and the fourth to Medina.

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**Mahmud of Ghori**  
1202 to 1206

Mahmud of Ghori came to India with the purpose of establishing a permanent Muslim empire. It was with this aim that he appointed his generals to look after his conquered territories.

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### **The story behind Hindu-kush**

Mahmud of Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the battle of Tarain (Taraori) in 1192. He then gorged out the eyes of Prithviraj Chauhan, blinded him and tied him to his horse and dragged him along. Along with the Prithviraj Chauhan, the army of Mahmud of Ghori enslaved about 50,000 soldiers and their wives as part of the war booty. They were dragged along, not just across the battle field but from the battle field of Tarain (Taraori), which is in present day Haryana, across the plains of Pakistan and over the hills into Afghanistan to the capital city of Ghori. This arduous journey over the mountains gave endless misery to the Hindu prisoners of war. Most of them perished in this journey. To constantly remind Hindus of this crushing defeat and the misery they went through, this mountain range was called Hindu-kush by the Afghan rulers.

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**Kutbu-d-din**  
1206 to 1210



Kutbu-d-din was a strict follower of Sunni Islam and was extremely cruel against the native Hindu and other non-Muslim population.

**Jami Masjid of Delhi**

Kutbu-d-din built the Jami Masjid at Delhi, and adorned it with the stores and gold obtained from the temples which had been demolished by elephants, and covered it with inscriptions in Toghra, containing the divine commands.

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**Ala-ud-din Khalji**

1296 to 1316

The Sultan made rules and regulations for grinding down the Hindus, and for depriving them of their wealth and property. The Hindu was to be so reduced as to be left unable to keep a horse to ride on, to carry arms, to wear fine clothes, or to enjoy any of the luxuries of life. Regulations were made to effect these important objects of government.

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**Sultan Firoz Shah**  
1351 to 1388

**First recorded instance of Jizya**

I encouraged my infidel subjects to embrace the religion of the prophet, and I proclaimed that every one who repeated the creed and became a Musulman should be exempt from the jizya, or poll-tax. Information of this came to the ears of the people at large, and great numbers of Hindus presented themselves, and were admitted to the honour of Islam. - Sultan Firoz, Futuhat-i-Shahi

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### **Destruction of Jagannath**

In December, 1360, Firuz Shah with his army proceeded to the holy city of Puri, where he demolished the temple of Jagannath and desecrated the images.

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"... and after its destruction, he ordered the nose of the image of Jagannath to be perforated and disgraced it by casting it down on the ground. They dug out other idols which were worshipped by the polytheists in the kingdom of Jajnagar, and overthrew them as they did the image of Jagannath, for being laid in front of the mosques ... so that the body and sides of the images might be trampled at the time of ascent and descent, entrance and exit, by the shoes on the feet of the Muslims" - Firuz Shah, Sirat-i-Firuz Shahi

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**Sikandar Shah Lodi**  
1489 to 1517

Sikandar was deeply devoted to Islam and was intolerant to other faiths. In his time, Hindu temples were razed to the ground, and neither name nor vestige of them was allowed to remain. In the city of Mathura, if a Hindu wished to have his head or beard shaved, there was not a barber that dared to comply.

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### Stone idols used as meat-weights

Sikandar Shah Lodi was so zealous a Musulman that he utterly destroyed diverse places of worship of the infidels, and left not a vestige remaining heathenism, and turned their principal Hindu places of worship into caravanserais and colleges. Their stone images were given to the butchers to serve them as meat-weights, and all the Hindus in Mathura were strictly prohibited from shaving their heads and beards, and performing their ablutions.



### **Buddhism & Islam**

Muslim invaders treated Buddhists as infidels and attacked their places of worship. They razed every single Buddhist temple they encountered, burnt libraries and killed monks. This is why we cannot find Buddhist structures in India, except a few stupas. Sikandar Lodi and Aurangzeb were mainly responsible for the ravage and subsequent desertion of Lumbini, Buddha's birth-place, and Kapilavastu regions.

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**Muhammad bin Tughluq**  
1325 to 1351

The rebellion of Gurshasp, brought into the darker side of his character. When Gurshasp was carried as prisoner to the Sultan, he ordered the rebel to be flayed alive. Not satisfied with this; Gurshasp's flesh, cooked with rice, was sent to his wife and children, while his skin, stuffed with straw, was exhibited in the principal cities of the kingdom. This instance gave a foretaste of the barbarous spirit of the Sultan, and it was not long before he displayed it on a massive scale during his campaigns in Delhi.

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**Timur**  
1370 to 1405

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**Timur** inflicted on India more misery than had ever before been inflicted by any conqueror in a single invasion.

"My object in the invasion of Hindustan is to lead an expedition against the infidels that, according to the law of Muhammad (upon whom and his family be the blessing and peace of God), we may convert to the true faith the people of that country, and purify the land itself from the filth of infidelity and polytheism; and that we may overthrow their temples and idols and become ghazis and mujahids before God." - Timur, Malfuzat-i-Timuri

Massacre of 1,00,000 Hindus  
Delhi, 12th December, 1398

"We had taken more than 1,00,000 infidels and Hindus prisoners, and that they were all in my camp... I directly gave my command... that every man who had infidel prisoners was to put them to death... when this order became known to the ghazis of Islam, they drew their swords and put their prisoners to death. 1,00,000 infidels, impious idolaters, were on that day slain. - Timur, Malfuzat-i-Timuri

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### Slavery

Slavery was fairly common and Muslims took delight in enslaving Hindu women en masse from the highest to the lowest rank, and many of them, including even those who once were princesses, were forced to entertain the Muslim court and the nobility with dance and music.

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"Then enter the musicians, the first batch being the daughters of the infidel rajas - Hindus - captured in war that year. They sing and dance, and the Sultan gives them away to the amirs and a'izza. Then come the other daughters of the infidels who sing and dance; and the Sultan gives them away to his brothers, his relations, his brothers-in-law and the maliks' sons" - Ibn Batutah referring to the Id ceremony at Delhi in the Muhammad bin Tughluq's place

The presents sent by Muhammad bin Tughluq to the Emperor of China included "one hundred male slaves and one hundred slave song stresses and dancers from among the Indian infidels" - Ibn Batutah

#### Slaves for sale

In Ala-ud-din Khalji's reign, the price of a serving girl was fixed from 5 to 12 tankas, or a concubine at 20, 30 or 40 tankas. The price for a male slave was 100 or 200 tankas, or less. Handsome lads fetched from 20 to 30 tankas; the price of slave labourers was 10 to 15 tankas, and of young domestic slaves 17 or 18 tankas.

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**The Vijayanagar kingdom**  
1336 to 1565



The Vijayanagar kingdom was formed in South India to resist the Muslim invasions. However, within fifty years, the Vijayanagar kingdom became a powerful empire and reigned the entire Southern peninsula for nearly 200 years. It took four Muslim kingdoms to come together to destroy the unwieldy large empire at the battle of Talikota.

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### The Sack of the Kingdom of Vijaynagar (1565)

"for five months the Mohammedans with fire and sword, with crowbars and axes carried on day after day their work of destruction. Never perhaps in the history of the world has such havoc been wrought so suddenly, and reduced to ruins amid scenes of savage massacre and horrors begging description." - Robert Sewell, A Forgotten Empire

"the river which ran near the field was dyed red with their blood. It is computed that 1,00,000 infidels were slain during the pursuit." - Ferishta



**Zahiruddin  
Mohammed  
Babur**

1526 to 1530

Babur the first Mughal Emperor, descended from the Turkic conqueror Timur on his father's side and from Chagatai, second son of the Mongol ruler Genghis Khan, on his mother's side.

"For Islam's sake, I wandered in the wilds,  
Prepared for war with pagans and Hindus,  
Resolved myself to meet the martyr's death.  
Thanks be to God! a ghazi I became."  
- Babur-Nama, Memoirs of Babur

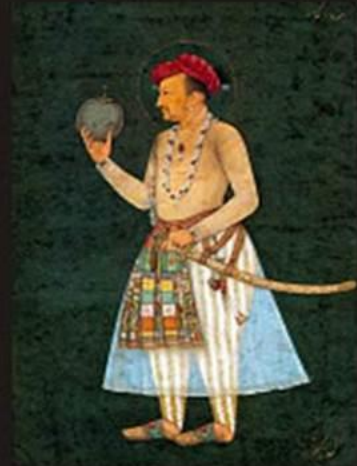
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Babri Mosque

After analysing the inscriptions on the Babri mosque and studying the archaeological features, she says that Babur was impressed with the dignity and sanctity of the ancient Hindu shrine it (the Mosque) displaced, and that as an obedient follower of Mohammed, Babar regarded the substitution of the temple by a mosque as dutiful and worthy. - Annexure 23: Annette Beveridge: Babur Nama in English, Vol II., 1922, Appendix on "The inscriptions on Babur's Mosque in Ajodhya (Oudh)", p.xxvii-xxix)

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**Nuruddin  
Mohammed  
Jahangir**  
1605 to 1627

“It was reported that many of the infidel and superstitious sect of the Seoras (Jains) of Gujarat had made several very great and splendid temples... Emperor Jahangir ordered them to be banished from the country, and their temples to be demolished. Their idol was thrown down on the uppermost step of the mosque, that it might be trodden upon by those who came to say their daily prayers there.” - Intikhab-i-Jahangir-Shahi

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**Shahabuddin Mohammed Shah Jahan**  
1627 to 1658

"It had been brought to the notice of His Majesty that during the late reign many idol temples had been begun, but remained unfinished at Benares, the great stronghold of infidelity. The infidels were now desirous of completing them. His Majesty, the defender of the faith, gave orders that at Benares, and throughout all his dominions in every place, all temples that had been begun should be cast down. It was now reported from the province of Allahabad that seventy-six temples had been destroyed in the district of Benares." - Badshah-Nama

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**Moinuddin  
Mohammed  
Aurangzeb**

1658 to 1707

Aurangzeb was a very cruel ruler, some might even say monstrous. The destruction of Somnath temple; the trampling of Hindus protesting jaziya tax by his elephants; his royal order prohibiting Hindus to ride horses and palanquins; or the beheading of Sikh Guru Teg Bahadur and his own brother Dara Shikoh are only some of his intolerant religious deeds.

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سالی ۱۰۷۶ هجری  
 امر می شود که در این پاره در ایالت که در صورت  
 قبته و مقام عمومی بنام برهمنان و بطلان  
 نشان در امور و امور و امور و امور و امور  
 ظاهر اشتغال دارند و در این زمان و زمان  
 از حوز و مسلمانان سائین همه این  
 جهت تقصیر حفری تمام نزد آگاهان نگاه  
 می آید اسلام اسلام تمام جانها را نگر  
 هر جا است حاد و متوکل در امور و سایر  
 بیجان دستور و اجرام سازند و  
 تا کبریا که خود در امور و نورس و  
 رسم شریع ملاحظه کوز آیتان برانرازند  
 مازنگیری ۸۱

General Order  
 for the Destruction  
 of Temples  
 9th April, 1669

"The Lord Cherisher of the Faith learnt that in the provinces of Thatta, Multan and especially at Benaras, the Brahmin misbelievers used to teach their false books in their established schools, and their admirers and students, both Hindu and Muslim, used to come from great distances to these misguided men in order to acquire their vile learning. His Majesty, eager to establish Islam, issued orders to the governors of all the provinces to demolish the schools and temples of the infidels, and, with the utmost urgency, put down the teaching and the public practice of the religion of these unbelievers".

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Martyrdom of the 9th Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur & his three followers on the orders of Aurangzeb - 11th November, 1675. The martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru, in 1675 is a major event in the Sikh history and yet in New Delhi we have Aurangzeb Road, a constant reminder of the horrors Aurangzeb.

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### **Inquisition of Goa**

The Goa Inquisition was established in 1560 as recommended earlier by St. Francis Xavier, and finally abolished in 1812. Although its headquarters were at Goa, its jurisdiction extended to entire Portuguese possessions to the East of the Cape of Good Hope, and it had its Commissaries in other major centres. It was started originally to punish Christian converts from Judaism, but next it turned its attention to native converts to Christianity from other faiths almost all of whom had been converted by threat of force or material rewards. It is estimated that some 16,202 persons were brought to trial by the Inquisition.

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### **Anti-Hindu Laws in Goa**

**"Over that period of 252 years, any man, woman, or child living in Goa could be arrested and tortured for simply whispering a prayer or keeping a small idol at home." - Richard Zimler, Historian**

The temples and shrines of the Hindus were destroyed and they were forbidden to erect or maintain new ones even outside the Portuguese territories; practice of Hindu rites and ceremonies such as the marriage ceremony, the ceremony of wearing the sacred thread, ceremony performed at the birth of a child, was banned; priests and teachers of the Hindus were banished; Hindus whose presence was considered as undesirable from the point of view of propagation of Christianity were sent into exile; those who remained were deprived of their means of subsistence and ancestral rights in village communities; they were also subjected to various humiliations, indignities and disabilities; "orphan" children of the Hindus were snatched away from their families for being baptised; and men and women were compelled to listen to the preaching of Christian doctrine.

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## Torture



The Inquisition played a prominent role in bringing pressure on authorities to pass legislations and in enforcing the measures with sternness and severity.

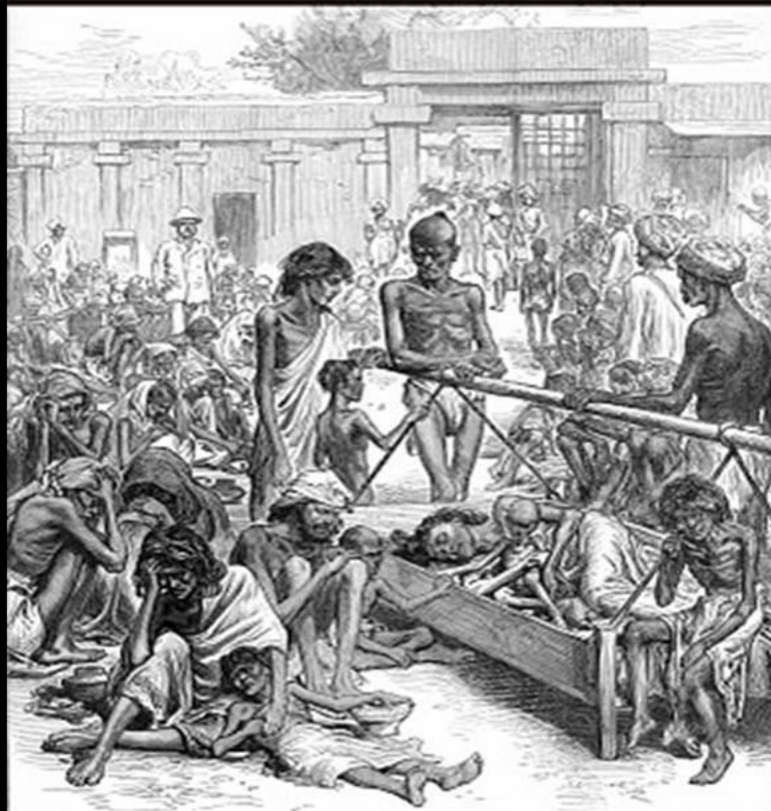
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"As to the torture itself, it combined all that the ferocity of savages and the ingenuity of civilized man had till then invented. Besides the ordinary rack, thumb-screws, and leg-crushers or Spanish boots, there were spiked wheels over which the victims were drawn with weights on their feet; boiling oil was poured on their legs, burning sulphur dropped on their bodies, and lighted candles held beneath their armpits.. so effective were these tortures that nine out of ten innocent persons preferred to die as confessed sorcerers rather than undergo a repetition of them." - E.T. Whittington

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**British-made Famines**

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From 1760 till 1943 India was hit by terrible famines on a regular basis. More than 85 million Indians died in these famines which were in reality genocides done by the British Raj. Contrast this to the fact that there have been no famine related deaths since independence!

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## Plunder of India by the British



Most of India's precious jewels, artifacts and statues, including the Kohinoor, are today in British Museums.

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### **Acknowledgment**

A Forgotten Empire by Robert Sewell  
Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information  
and Statistics (BANBEIS)  
Bharat Gyan  
Encyclopaedia Britannica  
Guardian of the Dawn by Richard Zimler  
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US Government

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