

THE HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KOUTILYA AND MOURYA EMPIRE.

PROF.PRAHALLADA.G. M.A., M.PHIL.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
IDSG GOVERNMENT FIRST GRADE COLLEGE
CHIKAMAGALUR-577102

ABSTRACT

Chanakya dedicated his life to forming the Maurya Empire and guiding its pioneer Chandragupta Maurya and his son, Bindusara. He was the royal advisor, economist and philosopher during their reign. Born in 371 BC, Chanakya has been traditionally identified as Kautilya or Vishnugupta. Vishnugupta was actually a redactor of Kautilya's original work, which suggests that Kautilya and Vishnugupta are different people. Chandragupta was an eminent ruler of the Maurya Empire. He successfully conquered most of the Indian subcontinent and is believed to be the first king who unified India. He was well revered and accepted by other kings. The Teacher And The Student Chanakya and Chandragupta shared a relationship based on reverence and trust. Chanakya was not just a teacher to Chandragupta; he was also his prime minister, friend, well-wisher and advisor. Chanakya was the person and power behind Chandragupta's early rise to power. It was Chandragupta Maurya who founded the great Maurya Empire but he couldn't have done it without Chanakya's guidance. Chanakya met Chandragupta by chance but the moment they met,

Keywords-Chanukya, Chandragupta, mourya, Amathya, empire, Arthashastra, Pataliputra.

INTRODUCTION

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- Born in 371 BC, Chanakya has been traditionally identified as Kautilya or Vishnugupta. Vishnugupta was actually a redactor of Kautilya's original work, which suggests that Kautilya and Vishnugupta are different people. Kautilya and Chanakya may not have been the same people. However, Chanakya's 'Arthashastra' carries his traditional name, Kautilya everywhere except for one verse, which refers to him as Chanakya.
- Chanakya dedicated his life to forming the Maurya Empire and guiding its pioneer, Chandragupta Maurya and his son, Bindusara. He was the royal advisor, economist and philosopher during their reign.
- Chanakya's ambitions took flight when he was insulted by the emperor of the Nanda dynasty, who ruled the Magadha kingdom in India. At that time, Magadha was the most prominent empire in India while other parts were separate states. Taking the insult to his heart, Chanakya became an ally of Chandragupta Maurya—who had been exiled from the Nanda family.
- Chanakya helped Chandragupta form a small army, and entered Pataliputra, the capital of the Magadha kingdom and ignited a civil war there, using his intelligence network.
- Chandragupta eventually won over the throne in 322 BC, ending the Nanda dynasty and beginning the rule of his Maurya dynasty. This dynasty would be in power until 185 BC.
- Arthashatra, a Sanskrit book that means "The Science of Material Gain" is the philosopher's guide to running an empire. Although the book was considered to be lost for many centuries, a copy of it, written on palm leaves, was rediscovered in 1904 AD.

➤ In this book, the scholar writes in detail about diplomacy and war. His take is extremely practical and unemotional. Considering the challenges faced by the rulers of those times, he has included recommendations on law, prisons, taxation, fortification, coinage, manufacturing, trade, administration and spies.

➤ The life of Chanakya has been described in four different versions—The Buddhist version, the Jain version, the Kashmiri version and Vishakhadatta's Sanskrit Mudrarakshasa version. All four versions describe how he was insulted by the Nanda emperor and how Chanakya vowed to destroy him thereafter.

➤ In his book, "Year of the Guru," Sugata Srinivasaraju describes how an unknown priest donated ancient palm-leaf manuscripts to the Oriental Research Institute in Mysore. Upon examination, these manuscripts turned out to be Chanakya's Arthashastra.

➤ Apart from this, the scholar has even studied the various Indian shastras and compiled its multiple lessons into 'Chanakya Niti' or 'Chanakya Niti Shastra.'

➤ Chanakya died in 283 BC in Pataliputra. Throughout his life, he had been in service of the Maurya emperors and passed away during the reign of Bindusara, Chandragupta's son. Some believe that he starved himself to death while others think that court conspiracies led to his demise.

The Maurya Empire was founded by Chandragupta Maurya, with help from Chanakya, a Brahmin teacher at Takshashila. According to several legends, Chanakya traveled to Magadha, a kingdom that was large and militarily powerful and feared by its neighbors, but was insulted by its king Dhana Nanda, of the Nanda Dynasty. Chanakya swore revenge and vowed to destroy the Nanda Empire. Meanwhile, the conquering armies of Alexander the Great refused to cross the Beas River and advance further eastward, deterred by the prospect of battling Magadha. Alexander returned to Babylon and re-deployed most of his troops west of the Indus river. Soon after Alexander died in Babylon in 323 BCE, his empire fragmented, and local kings declared their independence, leaving several smaller disunited satraps.

The Greek generals Eudemus, and Peithon, ruled until around 317 BCE, when Chandragupta Maurya (with the help of Chanakya, who was now his advisor) utterly defeated the Macedonians and consolidated the region under the control of his new seat of power in Magadha.

Chandragupta Maurya's rise to power is shrouded in mystery and controversy.

➤ On one hand, a number of ancient Indian accounts, such as the drama Mudrarakshasa (Poem of Rakshasa – Rakshasa was the prime minister of Magadha) by Visakhadatta, describe his royal ancestry and even link him with the Nanda family. A kshatriya clan known as the Maurya's are referred to in the earliest Buddhist texts, Mahaparinibbana Sutta. However, any conclusions are hard to make without further historical evidence. Chandragupta first emerges in Greek accounts as "Sandrokottos". As a young man he is said to have met Alexander.[14] He is also said to have met the Nanda king, angered him, and made a narrow escape. Chanakya's original intentions were to train a guerilla army under Chandragupta's command. The Mudrarakshasa of Visakhadatta as well as the Jaina work Parisishtaparvan talk of Chandragupta's alliance with the Himalayan king Parvatka, sometimes identified with Porus (Sir John Marshall "Taxila", p18, and al.)

We might have heard about Chandragupta Maurya, the mighty ruler who established the Maurya empire. He was such a great emperor that, every other king under him accepted him to as the almighty king. He is considered as the first genuine emperor, different from all those who believed in conquering land through bloodshed and war and never cared whether the kings under them were happy or not. However, all this was not possible without a strong-willed man; a really intelligent person who guided the king. Yes, it was Chanakya, the great teacher who helped Chandragupta establish his kingdom, unifying almost all of India. Chanakya not only mentored the king, but also looked into the administration of his kingdom as a Prime Minister to The Maurya Empire.

Chanakya was a professor in the Taxila University, when he got news about probable foreign invasion. Europe's great warrior Salukes was readying his armies to attack the weakened republics of India. With the thought of saving his beloved country in mind, he left Taxila University for Patliputra.

At that time Magadh was being ruled by Dhanananda. He was cruel sort of person and was a villain in the public eye. As Chanakya was a great scholar from Taxila, he was included in the committee for charity and later on became the president of the Trust. Chanakya was a very straight forward person and avoided praising the king. He always spoke bluntly and tersely. The king did not like the way Chanakya behaved with him so he removed Chanakya from the post of president without any reasons and later on insulted him in front of all. An enraged Chanakya vowed not to tie his hair in the customary Brahminical top-knot until he had avenged his insult. He took the oath to destroy the king.

The Chanakya-Chandragupta Duo Chanakya was a famous Indian teacher, who taught in Takshashila University, an ancient Indian university which is now in the Rawalpindi district of Pakistan. Later, he became royal advisor to the Maurya empire and helped the mighty ruler Chandragupta Maurya, rise to power; he

also helped the king establish his Maurya empire by defeating the Nanda empire. Chanakya was the most revered advisor to both Chandragupta and his son Bindusara. Chanakya is identified as Vishnugupta or Kautilya and composed the ancient Indian political thesis, Arthashastra. He is revered as a pioneer in Indian political science and economics. The birth of Chanakya is still a matter of debate. Some historians believe that he was born in Pataliputra (new world Patna) or a small town called Kusumpur near it while, others believe that he was born at Takshashila.

Some also believe that he was born and brought up in South India. Chanakya was popular for his shrewdness. It is believed that he added poison in small doses to the Chandragupta's food to make him immune to poison and thus avoid any chances of harm by his enemies. However, the king was not aware of this and he shared his food with his pregnant wife, who had reached her term and was days away from delivery. The queen was not immune to the poison and collapsed immediately. Chanakya, in order to save the baby, did an impromptu and successful caesarean. even the death of Chanakya is disputed. One version of the story is that Subandhu, the minister of Bindusara, told his king that Chanakya is responsible for his mother's death.

The king then confirmed it with the nurse and was extremely horrified. Chanakya learned that the king was angry with him and decided to put an end to his life. The king, however, learnt the entire story and concluded that he was not directly responsible for that incident and made asked Subandhu to meet Chanakya and ask him to give up the plan to kill himself. Subandhu, who hated Chanakya, instead of saving him, burnt him alive.

Chandragupta Chandragupta was an eminent ruler of the Maurya Empire. He successfully conquered most of the Indian subcontinent and is believed to be the first king who unified India. He was well revered and accepted by other kings. He is not a self-proclaimed emperor and thus, he is considered as India's first genuine emperor. Chandragupta, with the help of his guru and advisor Chanakya, defeated the Nanda empire and established the Maurya empire. Ancient text, Mudrarakshasa states that Chandragupta was the son of Nanda king, **Sarvarthasiddi**, and a Shudra (a low cast) woman, **Mura**. The accounts of the early life of Chandragupta are gathered from Sanskrit classic literature and Greek and Latin sources. It is believed that Chandragupta gave up his thorn at the age of 42 and became a Spartan. He became a disciple of Jain saint **Acharya Bhadrabahu** and migrated to the south. He then reached **Sravana Belgola** (in present-day Karnataka) fasted until death, in a cave (called Badhrabahu cave) there.

The Teacher And The Student Chanakya and Chandragupta shared a relationship based on reverence and trust. Chanakya was not just a teacher to Chandragupta; he was also his prime minister, friend, well-wisher and advisor. Chanakya was the person and power behind Chandragupta's early rise to power. It was Chandragupta Maurya who founded the great Maurya Empire but he couldn't have done it without Chanakya's guidance. Chanakya met Chandragupta by chance but the moment they met, Chanakya identified the great military and executive abilities in Chandragupta and was impressed by the young boy's personality and intelligence, and immediately took him under his mentorship. There is no doubt that Chandragupta had amazing executive abilities but, it was the shrewdness of Chanakya that enabled the king to use his skills to its maximum. It is safe to say that without Chanakya,

Mouryan Dynasty

- The Mauryan Empire was the first largest empires that ever established on Indian soil till 324 B.C.
- The epigraphical sources, literary sources, foreign accounts, and other materials obtained from the archaeological excavations describe the greatness of the Mauryan rulers and vast extensions of their empire.
- The Mauryan Empire was spread from the valley of the Oxus (present Amu River) to the delta of Kaveri.
- **Chandragupta Maurya** was the first ruler who unified entire India under one political unit.
- The detailed information about the administrative system of the Mauryan Empire is mentioned in Arthashastra. It is a book written by **Kautilya**. He was also known as **Chanakya**.
- Kautilya was the Prime Minister of Chandragupta Maurya. He was considered as the real architect of the Mauryan Empire.
- Megasthenese came in the court of Chandragupta Maurya as an ambassador of the Seleucus (the king of Greek).
- Megasthenese has given detailed accounts of India and Indian people in his book '**Indica**.' Though the original book is lost; however, historians extracted Megasthenese's description through the quotations in the works of the later Greek writers.
- The inscriptions of the great Ashoka are the most important and authentic source for the history of Mauryan period.

Chandragupta Maurya

- Chandragupta Maurya had ruled during the period of 324-300 B.C.
- The Buddhist literature, the 'Mahavamsa' and 'Dipavamsa' give a detail account of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Chandragupta Maurya has been described as a descendant of the Kshatriya clan of the Moriyas branch of Sakyas. They lived in Pippalivana, in eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- The 'Mudrarakshasa' is a play written by Vishakhadatta, referred Chandragupta as 'Vrishala' and 'Kulahina,' which means a person of humble origin.
- **According to Buddhist Traditions**
- Chandragupta's father was killed in a battle and he was brought up by his maternal uncle.
- Chanakya observed the signs of royalty in the child Chandragupta and took him as his pupil. He took him at Taxila for his education and training. Taxila, at that time, was a great center of learning.
- The Greek sources described that while he was in Taxila, Chandragupta had seen Alexander in a course of the Punjab campaign. However, the reliable details of Chandragupta's conquests and empire building process are not available.
- **According to Greek and Jain Sources**
- Chandragupta took advantage of the disturbances caused by the invasion of Alexander and his sudden death in 323 B.C. in Babylon.
- With the help of Kautilya, Chandragupta raised a large army and launched campaigns. He first overthrew the Greek kshatrapas ruling in the region of north-western India.
- Greek writer Justin, writes, "India after the death of Alexander, had shaken, as it were, the yoke of servitude from its neck and put his Governors to death, and the architect of this liberation was **Sandrocottas.**"
- The Sandrocottas mentioned in the Greek literature has been identified with Chandragupta Maurya.
- After liberating north-western India from the Greek rule, Chandragupta turned his attention towards the conquest of Magadha (where Nanda was the Emperor). However, the details of this conquest are not known.
- According to Parisistha-parvam (the Jain text), Chandragupta with the help of Chanakya, defeated the Nanda king and captured his empire and became the great ruler of Magadha empire.
- Ashoka and his father Bindusara (son of Chandragupta Maurya) did not make any conquest in south India. Therefore, it was Chandragupta Maurya who made it.
- Society and Culture during the Mauryas were well classified and organized; work of every class was decided accordingly.
- **Classes of Society**
- Megasthenese mentioned that during this period, the society was comprising seven castes, namely –
- Philosophers,
- Farmers,
- Soldiers,
- Herdsmen,
- Artisans,
- Magistrates, and
- Councilors
- Megasthenese, however, failed to comprehend the Indian society properly and confused among the terms jati, Varna, and the occupation.
- Chaturvarna system continued to govern the society.
- The urban way of life developed and the craftsmen enjoyed a high place in the society.
- Teaching continued to be the main job of the Brahmans.
- Buddhist monasteries were developed as important educational institutions. Taxila, Ujjayini, and Varanasi were famous educational centers.
- Technical education was generally provided through guilds, where pupils learnt the crafts from the early age.
- The joint family system was the norm in the domestic life.
- A married woman had her own property in the form of bride-gift (stree-dhana).
- The widows had given respect in the society. All stree-dhana (bride-gift and jewelry) belongs to her. Offences against women were severely dealt with.
- Kautilya also laid down penalties against officials, in charge of workshops and prisons who misbehaved with women.
- Megasthenese mentioned that slavery did not exist in India.
- Economy

- Largely, the population was agriculturists and lived in villages. The state helped people to bring new areas under cultivation by cleaning the forest. But certain types of forests were protected by law.
- A number of crops like rice, coarse grains (kodrava), sesame, pepper, and saffron, pulses, wheat, linseed, mustard, vegetable and fruits of various kinds and sugarcane were grown.
- The state also owned agricultural farms, cattle farms, dairy farms, etc.
- Water reservoirs and dams were built by the state for irrigation. Steps were taken to distribute and measure this water for irrigation.
- The Mauryan enforced the rules and regulations in respect of agriculture, industry, commerce, animal husbandry, etc.
- Special measures were deduced for the promotion of the economy gave great impetus to economic development during this period.
- Megasthenese mentioned about the extraordinary skill of craftsmen.
- Junagarh inscription of Rudradaman mentions that Pushyagupta (Chandragupta's governors) was responsible for building a dam on Sudarshana Lake near Girnar in Kathiawad.
- Skandagupta's inscription of the later period mentioned that the dam (on Sudarshana Lake) was repaired during his reign, almost 800 years after its construction.
- They had foreign trade with the western countries. The main items of trade were indigo, various medicinal substances, cotton, and silk. The foreign trade was carried on by the land as well as by the sea.
- Special arrangements were made for facilitation of the trade like security of trade-routes, provisions of warehouses, go-downs, and other means of transport.
- The trade was regulated by the state and the trader had to get a license to trade.
- The state also had the machinery to control and regulate the weights and measures.
- The land tax was one-fourth to one-sixth of the produce. The tax was also levied on all the manufactured goods.
- The toll tax was levied on all items, which were brought for sale in the market.
- Strabo mentions that craftsmen, herdsman, traders, and farmers, all paid taxes. Those who could not pay the tax in cash or kind were to contribute their dues in the form of labor.
- Revenue was that main subject of Arthashastra. It describes revenue at great length.
- Sources of revenue were increased from the income of mines, forests, pasture lands, trade, forts, etc.
- The income from the king's own land or estate was known as 'sita.'
- Brahmans, children, and handicapped people were exempted from paying the taxes.
- Tax evasion was considered a very serious crime and offenders were severely punished.
- The artisans and craftsmen were given special protection by the state and offences against them were severely punished.
- The main industries during this period were textile, mining and metallurgy, ship-building, jewelry making, metal working, pot making, etc.
- The industries were organized in various guilds. Jethaka was the chief of a guild.
- The guilds were powerful institutions. It gave craftsmen great support and protection.
- The guilds settled the disputes of their members. A few guilds issued their own coins.
- The Sanchi Stupa inscription mentions that one of the carved gateways was donated by the guilds of ivory workers.
- Similarly, the Nasik cave inscription mentions that two weaver's guilds gave permanent endowments for the maintenance of a temple.
- The guilds also made donations to educational institutions and learned Brahmans.
- Art and Architecture
- Art and architecture had developed substantially during the Mauryan period.
- The main examples of the Mauryan art and architecture are –
- Remains of the royal palace and the city of Pataliputra;
- Ashokan pillars and capitals;
- Rock cut Chaitya caves in the Barabar and Nagarjuni hills;
- Individual Mauryan sculptures and terracotta figurines; etc.
- Megasthenese had described in detail about the famous city of Pataliputra (modern Patna). He describes it as it was stretched along the river Ganga in the form of a parallelogram. It was enclosed by a wooden wall and had 64 gates.
- Excavations have brought to light remains of palaces and the wooden palisade.
- The Mauryan wooden palace survived for about 700 years.

- Fa-Hien also saw it at the end of the 4th century A.D.
- The palace and also the wooden palisade had been destroyed by the fire. The burnt wooden structure and ashes have been found from Kumrahar.
- Seven rock-cut caves in the Barabar and Nagarjuni hills were built during this period.
- The inscription says that after having received his training in writing, mathematics, law, and finance, Kharavela ascended the throne of Kalinga in his 24th year.
- Kharavela spent the first year in rebuilding the capital of Kalinga.
- Kharavela invaded the kingdom of Magadha in the 8th and 12th years of his reign.
- The inscription mentions the achievements of Kharavela only up to the 13th year of his reign.

CONCLUSION

The relationship between Chandragupta and Chanakya bloomed through the years developing into a strong force for their enemies. Most of the historical events took place right under the eyes of Chanakya and Chandragupta. The troops of Alexander and the umpteen number of invaders who ravaged the subcontinent for decades around India. It is said that Chandragupta met Alexander. The bold and arrogant talk by Chandragupta enraged Alexander as a result of which Chandragupta was arrested. Chanakya's training to Chandragupta was over by now and he thought it to be the right occasion to let Chandragupta taste the practical aspect of warfare. Chanakya closely observed the movement and strategies employed by Alexander. He also became aware of the weaknesses of the Indian rulers.

Under guidance of Chanakya, Chandragupta succeeded in conquering almost all of the Indian subcontinent by the end of his reign, except Tamil Nadu and modern-day Odisha (Kalinga). His empire extended from Bengal in the east to Afghanistan and Balochistan in the west, to the Himalayas and Kashmir in the north, and to the Deccan Plateau in the south. It was the largest empire yet seen in Indian history.

Chanakya was the person and power behind Chandragupta's early rise to power. It was Chandragupta Maurya who founded the great Maurya empire but he couldn't have done it without Chanakya's guidance.

In history these two will be always remembered as the greatest Teacher and Student Duo, who succeeded because of the faith and the respect they have for each other.

Chanakya was died in 283 BC. There are many versions of stories regarding the death of Chanakya. Some says that after his retirement he went to jungle and died there. Some says that he was died because of the conspiracy of Subandhu, a minister of the Bindusara's court.

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