

ROLE OF THE BAHMANIS IN PROMOTING PERSIAN INFLUENCE IN DECCAN

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ABSTRACT

The Deccan's political and cultural landscape was significantly shaped by the Bahmani Sultanate, especially through the encouragement of Persian influence. The Bahmanis, one of the first Indo-Islamic dynasties in South India, promoted Persianate customs in court culture, literature, architecture, and administration. The recruitment of Persian nobility, the establishment of Persian as the official language, the promotion of Persian literature, and the architectural innovations influenced by Iranian styles are just a few of the ways that Persian influence spread throughout the Deccan, as this study explores. The study looks at how the Bahmani kings left a legacy that was carried on by the Deccan Sultanates, including the Adil Shahis, Nizam Shahis, and Qutb Shahis, in addition to establishing a significant Persian cultural presence. The study also emphasizes how local Deccani traditions, Persian, and Indian traditions interacted to create a distinctive Indo-Persian cultural synthesis. This study highlights the Bahmanis' crucial role in facilitating Persian influence in medieval India through an analysis of historical texts, inscriptions, and architectural remnants.

Keywords: Deccan, Indo-Persian Culture, Persian Literature, Persianate Administration, Islamic Architecture, Persian Nobility, Deccan Sultanates, Bahmani Sultanate, Persian Influence, and Cultural Synthesis



1. INTRODUCTION

One of the most significant Indo-Islamic dynasties in medieval South India was the Bahmani Sultanate (1347–1527 CE). The Deccan, which includes present-day Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, was ruled by the Bahmanis after they broke away from the Delhi Sultanate. The promotion of Persian culture, which had a significant impact on the region's administration, literature, art, and architecture, was a defining characteristic of their rule. The Bahmani kings were closely connected to Central Asia and Persia both politically and culturally. The Deccan's identity was shaped by Persianate customs brought by the numerous early sultans and their court officials who were of Persian or Turkic ancestry. Persian became the official language of administration and diplomacy when the Bahmanis actively invited Persian scholars, poets, administrators, and artisans to their court. By closely conforming to Persian cultural norms, the Bahmani rulers aimed to set themselves apart from the Delhi Sultanate and their Hindu forebears. This impact could be seen in:

Court Culture: The Bahmani royal court became deeply ingrained with Persian titles, manners, and customs. **Administration:** Later Deccan Sultanates were influenced by the adoption of the Persian language and bureaucratic structures. **Literature:** Dakhni Urdu, a synthesis of Persian, Arabic, and regional languages, emerged as a result of the flourishing Persian poets and scholars who were supported by the Bahmani. **Architecture:** The Deccan's monumental structures were influenced by Persian architectural styles, which included domes, minarets, and elaborate tilework. This

study examines the Bahmani era (1347–1527 CE) and its lasting effects on subsequent Deccan polities. In addition to secondary historical analyses, primary sources like Persian chronicles, inscriptions, and architectural remnants will be studied.

The Deccan was Persianized, a practice that persisted for centuries. In addition to enriching Indo-Persian customs, their policies helped create a unique Deccani identity by fusing Persian and native elements. Gaining knowledge of the Bahmani's contribution to this cultural shift is important for understanding medieval Indian history as well as the Persianate world at large.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

AIMS

This study's main objective is to evaluate the Bahmani Sultanate's (1347–1527 CE) contribution to the spread of Persian influence in the Deccan and its long-term effects on the political, cultural, and architectural landscape of the area. Through Bahmani patronage, the study aims to investigate how Persian customs, language, and artistic expressions were woven into the fabric of Deccani society.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Examine Persia's Administrative and Political Influence** Examine the ways in which Persian bureaucratic models were incorporated into Bahmani governance. Examine how Persian became the official language of government and diplomacy. Examine how Persian titles, courtesies, and political systems influenced the Deccan.
2. **Examine the Literary and Linguistic Contributions of Persian** Examine how the Bahmani rulers supported Persian poets, academics, and historians. Analyze the development of Dakhni Urdu, a language that combines Arabic, Persian, and regional dialects. Examine how Persian literature influenced Deccan poetry, religious texts, and historical chronicles.
3. **Examine the Persian Influence on Deccani Art and Architecture** Examine Persian architectural features found in Bahmani buildings, including tilework, arches, minarets, and domes. Examine how Persian architects and craftspeople influenced the design of the Bahmani monuments. Examine the differences between the architectural styles of the Bahmani and modern Central Asian and Persian dynasties.
4. **Examine the Deccan's Persian Nobility and Scholars' Role** Examine how Persian administrators, religious scholars, and nobles migrated to the Bahmani court. Analyze the power relationships between the Afaqi nobles (Persian immigrants) and the Deccani nobles (local elites). Examine the ways in which Sufi philosophy, education, and thought were impacted by Persian intellectual traditions in the area.
5. **Assess the Cultural Fusion of Local and Persian Traditions** Examine the ways that local Deccani, Dravidian, and Hindu customs merged with Persian culture. Examine the synthesis's long-term cultural effects on Deccan music, festivals, and art. Determine the Persian influences that persisted into the Mughal era in the later Deccan Sultanates (Adil Shahis, Nizam Shahis, and Qutb Shahis). With an emphasis on their contribution to the development of an Indo-Persian cultural identity in the Deccan, this study aims to present a thorough examination of Persian influence under the Bahmanis. The study will advance knowledge of medieval Deccan history and the spread of Persian culture in South Asia by analyzing historical writings, inscriptions, and architectural evidence.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Deccan's diffusion of Persian culture, language, governance, literature, and architecture was greatly aided by the Bahmani Sultanate (1347–1527 CE). Numerous academics and historians have examined the political, cultural, and artistic changes brought about by the Persianization of the Deccan during Bahmani rule. Important works that address the scope, character, and effects of Persian influence under the Bahmanis are examined in this review of the literature.

1. PERSIAN INFLUENCE ON COURT CULTURE AND ADMINISTRATION

One of the most thorough historical accounts of the Bahmanis is Firishta's *Tarikh-i Firishta* (17th century). It describes the Bahmani rulers' administrative practices, governance, and Persian court customs. Minhaj-us-Siraj and *Tarikh-i-*

Muhammadi's *Tabqat-i-Nasiri* offer insightful descriptions of Persianized political systems in medieval India, especially in the Deccan Sultanates. A thorough analysis of Persian influence in the Bahmani court, including the function of Persian nobles, academics, and bureaucrats, can be found in H.K. Sherwani's 1985 book *The Bahmanis of the Deccan*.

2. PERSIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN THE DECCAN

According to Mohan Lal's 1992 *Encyclopedia of Indian Literature*, the Bahmanis supported Persian scholars, poets, and historians, which helped Persian literature and historiography flourish in the Deccan. In his 1965 book *Muslim Revivalist Movements in Northern India*, S.A.A. Rizvi examines the impact of Persian Sufi literature on the Deccan's religious and cultural environment. The works of Ali Nadeem Rezavi shed light on the evolution of Dakhni Urdu, a distinctive linguistic fusion of Arabic, Persian, and regional Dravidian languages that arose as a result of Bahmani influence.

3. PERSIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURAL INFLUENCE IN THE DECCAN

Persian calligraphy, ornamental motifs, and architectural designs are directly demonstrated by Bahmani inscriptions and architectural records from Gulbarga, Bidar, and Daulatabad. Persian architectural features like arches, domes, minarets, and elaborate tilework found in Bahmani buildings are extensively documented in George Michell's 1995 book *Architecture and Art of Southern India*. Persian epigraphs on monuments from the Bahmani era are analyzed in Z.A. Desai's *Persian Inscriptions on Indian Monuments* (1991), demonstrating the close linguistic and artistic ties to Persian traditions. Mosques, madrasas, and tombs constructed during the Bahmani era were influenced by Persian architectural styles, according to James Fergusson's *History of Indian and Eastern Architecture* (1876).

4. PERSIAN NOBILITY AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION

The political landscape of the Bahmani court was shaped by Persian nobles and their rivalry with local Deccani elites, as noted in M. A. Nayeem's 2001 book *The Splendour of Hyderabad: The Last Phase of an Oriental Culture*. The migration of Persian academics, theologians, and craftspeople, which aided in the sociocultural transformation of the Deccan, is covered in Burton Stein's 1998 book *A History of India. The Economy of the Mughal Empire* (2015) by Shireen Moosvi discusses the legacy of Persianized governance in an indirect manner by demonstrating how Bahmani administrative systems impacted Mughal and later Deccan Sultanate rule.

5. THE BAHMANIS' LEGACY AND PERSIAN INFLUENCE IN LATER DECCAN SULTANATES

The continuation of Persian customs in the Bahmani successor states, such as the Adil Shahis of Bijapur, Qutb Shahis of Golconda, and Nizam Shahis of Ahmednagar, is documented in J.D.B. Gribble's *A History of the Deccan* (1896). The study by Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi goes into further detail about how Deccan Sultanate rule preserved Persian court culture, administrative customs, and artistic styles. Drawing from earlier Bahmani foundations, Phillip B. Wagoner's 2014 book *Power, Memory, Architecture: Contested Sites on India's Deccan Plateau* explores the evolution of Persian artistic and architectural styles in Bijapur and Golconda.

The idea that the Bahmanis played a significant role in Persianizing the Deccan and establishing a durable Indo-Persian cultural synthesis is strongly supported by the literature currently in publication. Deccan society was still heavily influenced by Persian literature, administration, architecture, and court culture, which had an impact on Mughal policies in the area as well as the Deccan Sultanates that followed.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study examines the Bahmani Sultanate's contribution to the spread of Persian influence in the Deccan using an interdisciplinary and historical approach. It provides a thorough understanding of Persianization under the Bahmanis by combining primary sources, secondary literature, architectural analysis, and epigraphic evidence.

1. RESEARCH APPROACH

In order to investigate the Persian influence on the Deccan under the Bahmanis, this study employs a qualitative historical methodology that combines descriptive and analytical techniques. The study will: Explain the introduction and

institutionalization of Persian influence. Examine how it has affected architecture, literature, culture, and administration. Contrast modern Persianate polities with Bahmani Persianization.

2. SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

Primary Sources (Epigraphy & Current Texts) This research is based on historical chronicles, inscriptions, and administrative documents from the Bahmani period in both Arabic and Persian. An important Persian chronicle that sheds light on Bahmani governance, Persianate customs, and sociocultural shifts is *Tarikh-i Firishta*. Information about Persian aristocrats and administrators in the Bahmani court is provided by *Tarikh-i Muhammadi*. References to Persian bureaucratic models that influenced Bahmani rule can be found in *Tabqat-i-Nasiri*.

3. ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTIC SOURCES

Photographic analysis and field trips to Bahmani buildings with Persian architectural influences. comparisons between Central Asian and Persian architectural styles and Bahmani architecture. Secondary sources that examine Persian influence in the Deccan are critically analyzed in this study: H.K. Sherwani's *The Bahmanis of the Deccan* is a landmark book about the Persianized Bahmani court. Richard Eaton's book *A Social History of the Deccan, 1300–1761*, explores elite power struggles and Persianization. Z.A. Desai's book *Persian Inscriptions on Indian Monuments* explores Persian inscriptions and their cultural significance. George Michell's *Architecture and Art of Southern India* details the Persian artistic features found in Bahmani structures.

4. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

focuses on the direct effects of the Bahmani era (1347–1527 CE) on Persianization in the Deccan. To comprehend the persistence of Persian influence, it incorporates successor states such as the Adil Shahis, Qutb Shahis, and Nizam Shahis. Primary Persian texts are available; however, some of the original sources have been lost or are fragmented. Reliance on secondary interpretations necessitates a thorough analysis of the perspectives of various historians. Architectural restrictions: The state of preservation of buildings from the Bahmani era places restrictions on field research.

5. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

a thorough comprehension of how Persian culture, literature, and administration influenced Bahmani society. recognizing Persianate features in Deccan urban design and architecture. acknowledgement of the Bahmani influence on Dakhni Urdu's development. insights into how the Deccan's sociopolitical structures were impacted by Persian nobility. An analysis of Bahmani Persianization's long-term impacts on South Indian history. In order to thoroughly examine the Bahmanis' contribution to the Persianization of the Deccan, this study combines historical, linguistic, literary, and architectural analyses. The study intends to fill in knowledge gaps regarding Persian influence in medieval South India by utilizing primary sources, epigraphic evidence, and scholarly interpretations.

5. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The introduction and institutionalization of Persian culture, language, governance, and artistic traditions in the Deccan was greatly aided by the Bahmani Sultanate (1347–1527 CE). Despite this enormous impact, thorough research that considers the scope, character, and effects of Persianization in the area as a whole is still lacking. The following important issues are the focus of this study:

1. THE NATURE AND MECHANISMS OF PERSIAN INFLUENCE

In what ways did the Bahmani kings promote Persianization in literature, architecture, and government? Which were the main ways that Persian influences made their way into the Deccan? Examples include trade, Sufi networks, literary patronage, and the migration of Persian elites.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COURTLY PERSIANIZATION

What influence did Persian scholars, bureaucrats, and aristocrats (Afaqis) have on Bahmani governance? What effects did Persian's adoption as the court and administrative language have on Deccan governance?

3. PERSIAN INFLUENCE ON DECCAN LITERATURE AND LINGUISTIC EVOLUTION

What literary contributions did the Bahmani patronage of Persian prose, poetry, and historiography make to medieval India? How did Persian influence linguistic identities in the Deccan and what part did it play in the development of Dakhni Urdu?

4. PERSIAN ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY

How did Bahmani architecture differ from native styles, and how much did it mirror Persian artistic traditions? How did the Deccan's mosques, madrasas, palaces, and tombs reflect Persian aesthetics?

5. SOCIO-POLITICAL IMPACT OF PERSIAN NOBILITY

What sociopolitical effects did the rivalry between the Deccani (local) and Afaqi (Persian) nobility have on Bahmani politics? Did the Deccan's caste, identity, and social structures undergo long-term changes as a result of Persian influence?

6. FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR RESEARCH

Although this study offers a basic understanding of Persian influence under the Bahmanis, more research is necessary in a few areas to gain a deeper understanding of the past. Here are some possible avenues for further investigation:

1. COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF PERSIAN INFLUENCE IN OTHER INDIAN SULTANATES

In what ways did the Bahmanis' Persianization differ from that of the Bengal Sultanate, Gujarat Sultanate, and Delhi Sultanate? In contrast to other Indo-Islamic dynasties, did the Bahmanis act as a link between Persian and native Deccan customs? comparing and contrasting Persianized Indian polities' court cultures, artistic traditions, and administrative systems.

2. INFLUENCE ON LATER DECCAN SULTANATES AND THE MUGHAL DECCAN

Under the Adil Shahis (Bijapur), Qutb Shahis (Golconda), and Nizam Shahis (Ahmadnagar), how did Persian administrative and cultural traditions endure? The impact of Persian culture on the Mughal conquest and Deccan governance. Persianate linguistic and literary traditions have persisted in post-Bahmani successor states.

3. SOCIO-POLITICAL IMPACTS OF PERSIAN NOBILITY AND AFAQIS

An in-depth analysis of how Bahmani politics are shaped by the rivalry between the Deccani (local Muslims) and Afaqi (Persian-origin). What contributions did Persian immigrants make to trade, academia, and administration, and how did they fit into Deccan society? a more thorough examination of the Deccan's Persian Sufi networks and their function in syncretic religious traditions.

4. LINGUISTIC AND LITERARY EVOLUTION IN THE DECCAN

Persian's influence on the growth of Kannada, Marathi, and Dakhni Urdu literary traditions. The contribution of Bahmani court poets and intellectuals to South Indian Persian literature. Persian literary patronage in the Deccan and North India is compared.

5. PERSIAN INFLUENCE ON ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND URBAN PLANNING

A comparison of Persianized architecture from the Bahmani era with buildings in the Delhi Sultanate, Central Asia, and Persia. Persian calligraphy, decorative arts, and miniature painting had an impact in the Deccan. Urban development and Persianate influences on city planning in the Bahmani capitals of Gulbarga and Bidar. Under the Bahmanis, the Deccan was Persianized in a complex process that had a lasting impact on South Indian history, culture, and politics. In order to further investigate Persian influence in art, administration, literature, trade, and religion, future research can build on this study by utilizing comparative, interdisciplinary, and digital approaches.

7. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study looks at the scope, character, and effects of Persian influence in the Deccan during the Bahmani Sultanate (1347–1527 CE). The study examines a variety of Persianization-related topics, such as sociocultural practices, architecture, art, religion, literature, language, political administration, and art. The following are the main areas of inquiry:

1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE

Persian-speaking officials and academics' influence on Bahmani governance and bureaucracy. Persian titles, diplomatic traditions, and administrative procedures were introduced.

2. PERSIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERARY PATRONAGE

Deccan society's reaction to Persian's adoption as the court language. Persian literature, poetry, and history have benefited from the contributions of Bahmani kings and nobles.

3. ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTIC INFLUENCE

examination of tombs, palaces, and mosques with Persian influences in Bahmani capitals like Gulbarga and Bidar. Deccan culture was influenced by Persian calligraphy, miniature painting, and decorative arts.

4. RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SYNCRETISM

Persian influence on Deccan Sufi customs, especially through individuals such as Gesu Daraz. the effects of Persian culture on Bahmani court rituals, festivals, and Islamic customs.

5. ECONOMIC AND TRADE CONNECTIONS

Persian scholars, craftspeople, and traders' contributions to Bahmani trade networks. Safavid Persia and the Bahmanis engaged in economic exchanges involving textiles, books, and luxury goods.

8. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Notwithstanding its extensive reach, this study is limited in some ways by limitations in sources, historiography, and interdisciplinary analysis:

1. LIMITED PRIMARY SOURCES

Direct textual analysis is limited by the lack of official records and Persian manuscripts from the Bahmani era. Potential biases are introduced when later historical chronicles, such as *Tarikh-i-Firishta* and *Burhan-i-Maasir*, are relied upon.

2. REGIONAL FOCUS ON BAHMANI CENTERS

The Bahmani capitals of Gulbarga, Bidar, and Daulatabad are the main subject of the study. Due to a lack of data, Persian influence in the Deccan's rural areas and smaller towns is still poorly understood.

3. CHALLENGES IN IDENTIFYING INDIGENOUS VS. PERSIAN ELEMENTS

It is challenging to distinguish between purely Persian contributions because of the numerous Persian influences that have mingled with native South Indian customs. Comparing Persianized polities outside of the Deccan (Delhi Sultanate, Mughal Empire) is necessary.

4. ARCHITECTURAL AND EPIGRAPHIC CONSTRAINTS

Direct architectural analysis is limited by the damage or alteration of many monuments from the Bahmani era. Correct interpretation of epigraphic inscriptions in Arabic and Persian necessitates specific linguistic knowledge.

9. HYPOTHESIS

The following theories about the Bahmani Sultanate's contribution to the introduction and institutionalization of Persian influence in the Deccan form the basis of this study:

1. PERSIAN INFLUENCE AS A DELIBERATE STATE POLICY

To justify their rule and set themselves apart from native Deccan powers, the Bahmani rulers aggressively promoted Persian culture, language, and customs. The court adopted Persian administrative and courtly customs, and the early Bahmani rulers, especially Ala-ud-Din Bahman Shah, were of Persianate cultural orientation. analysis of official documents, court procedures, and Persian titles that demonstrate state-sponsored Persianization.

2. PERSIANIZATION OF ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

Long-standing Persian administrative practices in the Deccan resulted from the Bahmanis' bureaucratic structure, which was modeled after Persian models. A Persian bureaucratic structure is indicated by the high ranking Afaqis (Persian immigrants). Analyzing administrative records, comparing Persian systems in Delhi and Safavid Persia, and using Persian language in royal decrees (farmans).

3. PATRONAGE OF PERSIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The Deccan's Persian literary and historical traditions flourished after the Bahmanis made Persian the official language. The Bahmani rulers supported Persian poets, academics, and historians, and Persian was the official language of the court. examination of Persian inscriptions, poetry written in Bahmani courts, and Persian chronicles (such as Firishta's Tarikh-i-Firishta).

4. PERSIAN INFLUENCE ON DECCAN ARCHITECTURE AND ART

A blend of Persian and native Deccan styles resulted from the incorporation of Persian aesthetics into Bahmani architectural and artistic styles. Persian domes, arches, and ornamental calligraphy can be found in Bahmani buildings like the tombs in Bidar and the Jama Masjid in Gulbarga. Comparative analysis of Persian artistic motifs, architectural drawings, and epigraphic inscriptions found in buildings from the Bahmani era.

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11. DISCUSSION

The introduction and institutionalization of Persian influence in the Deccan was greatly aided by the Bahmani Sultanate (1347–1527 CE). This conversation examines how the Bahmani state incorporated Persian customs, language, government, art, and culture, and how this influenced the sociopolitical and cultural climate of the area.

1. PERSIAN AS THE COURT LANGUAGE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEDIUM

The Bahmanis' use of Persian as the official court language was among the most important manifestations of Persian influence. This choice was made as a political tactic as well as a linguistic one in order to set the Bahmanis apart from native Deccan powers and bring them into line with the wider Persianate world. Historical chronicles, correspondence, and royal decrees were all written in Persian. Similar to Safavid Persia and the Delhi Sultanate, the administration was based on Persian bureaucratic customs. Persian cultural domination was reinforced by the appointment of numerous high-ranking officials, known as Afaqis (Persian immigrants), to important government posts.

2. THE ROLE OF PERSIAN NOBLES AND SCHOLARS

Persian scholars, poets, historians, and administrators came together in the Bahmani court. Numerous Persian academics immigrated to the Deccan, enhancing the area's cultural diversity. Persian historians and poets, including those connected to the Bahmani court, wrote works that extolled the sultanate's authority. The *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, a significant source of Deccan history, was assembled by Firishta, a later historian, illustrating how Persian historiography became essential to recording local events. Dakhni Sufism emerged as a result of Persianized Sufi traditions brought by Sufi scholars from Persia, including Hazrat Gesu Daraz, blending with local religious customs.

3. PERSIAN INFLUENCE ON ARCHITECTURE AND ART

The building of mosques, madrasas, and tombs demonstrates how Persian aesthetics greatly influenced the Bahmani architectural style. Large domes, pointed arches, and elaborate stucco patterns are examples of Persian architectural features found in the Jama Masjid of Gulbarga. Persian calligraphy, geometric designs, and glazed tile work can be found on the tombs of Bahmani rulers in Bidar and Gulbarga. Later Deccan Sultanate gardens were impacted by the introduction of Persian garden designs (Charbagh style).

4. SUFISM AND PERSIAN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Bahmani Sultanate's religious and spiritual life was heavily influenced by Persian culture. Deccan Islam was significantly shaped by the arrival of Persian Sufi saints. Local devotional practices were influenced by the popularization of Persian mystical traditions by the Chishti and Suhrawardi Sufi orders. Sufi saints' tombs and dargahs, embellished with Persian inscriptions and tile work, developed into hubs of religious activity. Indo-Persian Sufism is a distinctive fusion of Persian philosophical ideas and indigenous traditions.

The Deccan was Persianized in part by the Bahmani Sultanate, but this process was not one-way; rather, it resulted in a blending of Persian and native customs rather than a complete replacement of culture. The Bahmani rulers' strategic promotion of Persian customs strengthened their ties with the larger Persianate world, but their political realities required negotiation with local Deccani groups. Persian remained dominant in administration, literature, and art, but local influences created a unique Indo-Persian Deccan identity. The Deccan's unique cultural identity was shaped over time by the emergence of Dakhni culture, which was a synthesis of Persian, Arabic, and indigenous South Indian elements.

12. CONCLUSION

The Deccan was Persianized in large part by the Bahmani Sultanate (1347–1527 CE), which had a long-lasting effect on the language, government, culture, architecture, and religious customs of the area. This study demonstrates how the Bahmanis actively propagated Persian traditions in medieval India in order to establish their dominance and create a unique identity. However, the Deccan developed into a hybrid Indo-Persian cultural sphere, where Persian and indigenous elements blended to create a distinctive legacy, as opposed to a complete adoption of Persian traditions.

1. PERSIANIZATION AS A STATE POLICY

Because of their ties to the Persianate world, the Bahmani rulers deliberately embraced Persian language, administration, and court customs. Native scripts were superseded by Persian as the official court language, and the administration was modeled after Persian bureaucratic practices. The local populace continued to speak their native

tongues and practices, so this Persianization was largely limited to the elite. As a result, Dakhni (early Urdu) eventually emerged as a linguistic and cultural synthesis.

2. INFLUENCE ON LITERATURE AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

Persian scholars, poets, and historians gathered at the Bahmani court to write legal documents, poetry, and chronicles in Persian. Persian historiography emerged as the primary method for documenting Deccan history, as evidenced by works such as *Tarikh-i-Firishta*. The region's literary traditions were enhanced by this intellectual patronage, which also made it easier for Sufi, Persian, and ethical ideas to proliferate.

3. PERSIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN THE DECCAN

As evidenced by the Persian-styled gardens and madrasas, the tombs of Bahmani sultans in Bidar, and the Jama Masjid of Gulbarga, the Bahmanis brought Persian aesthetics to architecture. Deccan Islamic architecture came to be characterized by Persian calligraphy, tile work, and domed structures. The artistic identity of the area was shaped by these styles, which persisted under succeeding sultanates.

4. PERSIAN SUFI INFLUENCE AND RELIGIOUS SYNTHESIS

The Deccan's religious life was significantly shaped by the migration of Persian Sufi saints like Hazrat Gesu Daraz. Dakhni Sufism, which combined Persian spirituality with native devotional practices, emerged as a result of the blending of Persian Sufi traditions with local beliefs. The Deccan's spiritual landscape was further infused with Persian religious traditions through the patronage of Sufi shrines by the Bahmani rulers.

5. LONG-TERM IMPACT ON DECCAN CULTURE

Persian influence continued to be a defining characteristic of Deccan culture even after the Bahmani Sultanate declined, as evidenced by the persistence of its Persianized customs under successor states such as the Adil Shahis, Qutb Shahis, and Nizam Shahis. A unique Indo-Persian Deccan identity developed as a result of the incorporation of Persian elements into regional customs, and this identity persisted throughout the Mughal and subsequent colonial eras.

In addition to copying Persian culture, the Bahmanis' promotion of Persian influence was a calculated political ploy to solidify their authority and establish their legitimacy in a multicultural area. Persian culture did not, however, supplant native customs; rather, the Deccan developed into a vibrant hub of cross-cultural exchange where Persian and regional components combined to create a unique identity. This legacy shows how the Bahmanis had a lasting influence on the Persianate world of medieval India, as it continues to influence the language, art, and religious traditions of the area.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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