

Medieval India: Its Multicultural Making

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Lecture Outline

I. Introduction:

- Evolving Faces of Medieval India: Brief Timeline
- Major Influences on its Multicultural Making:
 - Hinduism & the Bhakti Movement
 - Flourishing of Buddhism
 - Arrival of Islam

II. HINDUISM in Medieval India

- Basic Contexts & Concepts: Rebirth; Karma; Caste System; Brahman & atman; Maya (Cosmic Illusion)
- Rise of Personal God(s): Vishnu
- Emergence and Flourishing of Bhakti Movements

III. BUDDHISM in Medieval India

- Basic Concepts: Four Noble Truths; Nirvana; The Triple Refuge.
- The Symbiosis between the Sangha and the Laity
- Travel of Buddhism to Sri Lanka, Japan & Other East Asian countries

IV. ISLAM in Medieval India

- Multiple Arrivals
- Sufi Movement in India
- Rise of the Mughal Empire & Akbar

V. Emergence of a Uniquely Indian Perspective: Mystic Teachings of Kabir

VI. Conclusion:

- Relation to Contemporary India
- A few points of Comparison between Medieval India & the Medieval West