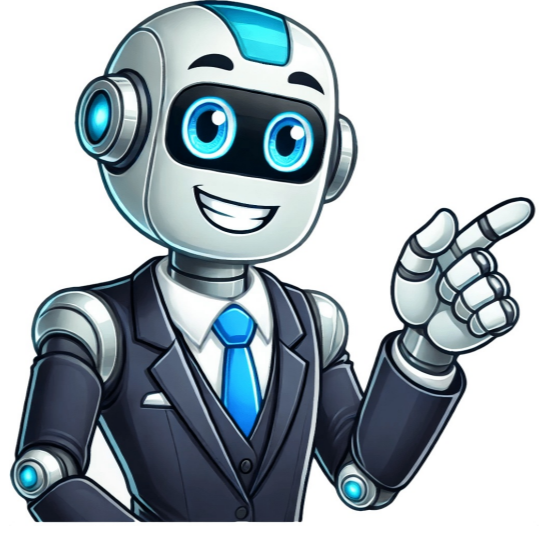


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## History of rajput bhatti caste in urdu

In this inaugural post of 2021, we embark on a journey through the Bhatti Rajputs settled in the erstwhile Reasi/Rajouri districts and the Poonch Jagir of the Jammu and Kashmir State. To gain insight into this region's complexities, readers are advised to peruse my previous post on the Rathore of Poonch. The Bhattis of this area share common cultural affinities with various Chibhalis communities they coexist with. Most Bhatti Rajput families claim descent from an ancestor who migrated either from Bhatiana or the Sandal Bar, eventually settling in the foothills of the Pir Panjal range. Interestingly, almost all these families also trace their lineage back to Rajah Salvahaan, a mythical ruler of Punjab. As Chandravanshi Rajputs, they predominantly adhere to Islam within the Jammu-Poonch and Mirpur regions. The Bhatti Rajput tribe, one of the largest in Punjab, has a complex and disputed history. Their oral traditions claim a lineage back to the Yadava dynasty and Lord Krishna. However, their origins and nature have been the subject of various theories. According to Ishwar Prasad Misra, a Vedic scholar, the Bhattis were likely a powerful and influential group who absorbed other tribes and acquired military prowess. Others suggest they were an indigenous people who came into contact with invaders and eventually converted to Hinduism. Fida Hussain Raza, author of "The Moonlit Heritage", argues that the Bhattis are unable to prove their noble origins and may have been influenced by external factors such as the arrival of Chandragupta Maurya. He suggests that they may have adopted Yoga and other spiritual practices as a way to maintain their power. In contrast, some Hindu nationalists dismiss these claims and believe that most men in the Bhatti community are descended from foreign invaders. The tribe's history is also linked to that of the Rajputs of Rajasthan, who share similar ideologies and tribal affiliations with those of Central Asia. The text then provides a table showing the distribution of Muslim and Hindu populations in various districts of Punjab during the 1931 census, highlighting the Bhatti presence in certain areas. The Rajputs are a group of Indian warriors who share common characteristics such as their gods, ancestors, and names. Their history dates back to the 7th century when powerful clans like the Pratihara, Chahaman, and Parmar rose to power in Rajasthan and expanded beyond. The name "Rajput" is derived from the Chattis Rajkula, a muster roll of 36 royal clans, where the Pratiharas are considered the first among them for building an empire and defeating Arab invaders. However, not all Rajputs were born into the same era, as some clans had greater power and influence in ancient times. The Bhati Rajputs, for example, were a powerful clan that ruled over Jaisalmer state in northwestern Rajasthan during medieval times. Their oral traditions may not be as important as those of other groups, but they are significant for understanding the history of northern India. The Bhati Rajputs' lineage merges seamlessly with the Proto-Rajput period and the Vedic era, which connects them to their parent clan, the Yadu. By tracing back the history of the Rawals of Jaisalmer, a well-documented dynasty, the most important Bhati Rajput ruler appears to be Vijayaraja, who married into another Solanki Rajput family and had military achievements against Turk invaders. The text also mentions that some clans may have existed before the Pratiharas and that the concept of "Rajput" identity spread across India after their rise to power. Additionally, it highlights the diversity of Rajput clans and their varying levels of influence and power throughout history. In ancient times, the Bhati Rajputs were known for their bravery and military prowess. Their leader, Vijayaraja, led a victorious campaign against the Turk invader Mohammad Ghorī, and it is likely that they also contributed to pushing him out of the region or raided his posts in Multan and Punjab. The Bhati Rajputs have a rich history dating back to the 9th century, when Rawal Devaraja founded Derawar, captured Pugal, and defeated Muslim invaders from Multan. He is also credited with establishing Lodurva as the capital of his kingdom. The Bhati family has a long tradition of heroism and military victories. Rawal Dusaj, who lived in the 11th century, carried out a trans-Indus raid, capturing horses and treasures from a Pathan chief. His father, Rawal Bachharaj, is presumed to have died fighting Mahmud Ghaznavi. The Bhati Rajputs were also known for their alliances with other kingdoms. Early in his reign, Devaraja came into conflict with Siluka Pratihara of Mandore, but their war ended in an alliance cemented by marriage. Throughout history, the Bhati Rajputs have played a significant role in shaping the destiny of Rajasthan and Punjab. Their bravery and military prowess have been remembered through generations, and they continue to be celebrated as heroes of the region. To attain this status, three key conditions had to be met: defending against invaders while maintaining independence, upholding dharmic traditions, and protecting Brahmins, cows, and temples. The Bhatīs of Rajasthan, including those in Jaisalmer and smaller thikanas like Pugal, Bikampur, and Varasalapura, fulfilled all these criteria and were included in the Chattis Rajkula. In the 13th century, Jaisalmer withstood a nearly decade-long siege by the Delhi Sultanate, with the Bhati Rajputs refusing to surrender even when resources were depleted, ultimately performing jauhar and sakha, leaving only blood and ashes for the invaders. Following the Hindu reconquista of Rajasthan, the Bhatīs reclaimed Jaisalmer but soon faced a new threat from the Rathores, fellow Rajputs who had become dominant in Western Rajasthan after expelling the Muslims. The Bhati strongholds, including Pugal, Bikampur, and Varasalapura, were absorbed into the Rathore kingdoms. In contrast, Bhatīs in Punjab, Multan, and Haryana had lost their strongholds and warriors, adopting an agrarian lifestyle, and thus failed to meet the conditions for Rajput status. The Bhatīs had various neighbors and rivals, including the Pratiharas and Rathores, as well as others like the Parmars of Pugal, Sodhas of Sindh, Tomars of Pokhran, and Sankhās of Jungla, some of whom achieved proper Rajput status, while others, such as the Chanas or Varahas/Barahas, faded into obscurity. Notably, Rawal Karan Singh of Jaisalmer protected a Varaha chieftain by defeating the Muslim governor of Nagaur in battle around 1286 CE.

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