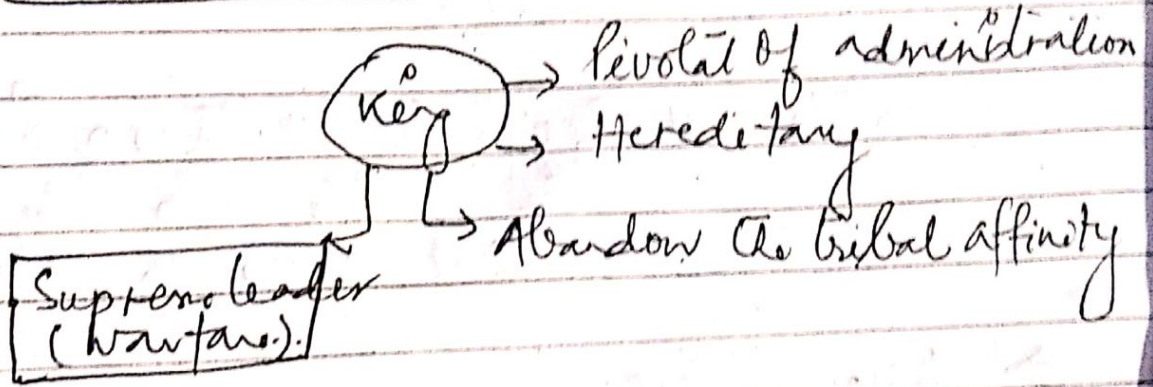


Political Changes during the Later Vedic Period (1000-600 B.C.)

Political Structure -



(a) Settled agriculture

& Agriculture witnessed surplus which precipitated the changes in political as well as social structure

⇒ Emergence of Territorial state or the 'Janapada' ruled by the Raja.

⇒ Beginning of theory of the 'Origin of Kingship'

(b) Probably, for the first time in Indian history, discussion on the 'Origin of Kingship'

• Some suggested that Kingship originated due to need of the leader in warfare.

• Divine Origin of Kingship.

→ Divine 'Attitude of divinity' was reinforced by the ASTAVEDHA or the HORSE SACRIFICE.

Contractual theory: As for this, Raja was chosen by the people who hoped for specific material gains in return.

→ Role of King

- (a) Protector of field and cattle wealth
- (b) Raja is described as VISHVATA or the Dealer of the Vash.
- (c) Growing importance of the Raja could be understood by recovery of archaeological weapons.
- (d) Decline of popular assemblies like Sabha and Saniti
- (e) Sad Sabhas gradually converted into King's Courts
- (f) Position of the Raja become HEREDITARY.

⇒ Emergence of Janapada's

- (a) Janapada implies the area where the JANA placed its foot.
- (b) Some of these new Janapada emerged due to amalgamation of separate Janas to the KURU PANCHALA Janapada of the Ganga Yamuna doab.

## ⇒ Beginning of the Administrative System

(a) Texts refer to 12 RATNINS or jewels who were linked with the RAJA in the course of sacrifice known as the RATASUYA Yajna.

(b) They provided and perform the functions assigned to them.

## ⇒ Methods to legitimise Raja's position

(a) It included such as the "Rajasuya the VAJAPEYA and ASHVAMEDHA".

(b) It was used to enhance the importance of both the Sulis and priest respectively.

(c) It was used for material well being and as well as to define SOCIAL RELATIONS.