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Third stage: This period witnessed a new combination and alliance. Suffering defeat from the Pratiharas, DHARMAPALA and Chakrayudha made alliance with the Rashtrakuta ruler GOVINDA IV. This alliance altered the balance of power.

It is presumed that they also induced him to ~~all~~ invade KANAUJ. Rashtrakuta ruler due to their own internal squabbles could not devote their time in the North Indian affairs. Now, through this he got the opportunity to regain the and raise the prestige of Rashtrakutas.

Pratihara ruler after securing the throne of Kanauj ~~had~~ to were considered and expedition to expand the empire was on their list. They could have challenged the rule of Rashtrakutas as well.

So, all these reasons propelled to strike an alliance with the Palas. He took the army to invade Kanauj. He defeated MAGABHATT. It also eroded the prestige of the Pratiharas. But, again Rashtrakutas were compelled to return back due to the inner instability. It created an opportunity and it was exploited by the PALAS to occupy KANAUJ.

Fourth stage: This stage was golden period for the Pratiharas. MEHAR BHATA Pratihara ruler emerged as the most powerful ruler. Devapala and Meharbhoga both were ambitious and they were out to expand their empire. So, it was inevitable to meet face off at some time or to meet at battlefield.

First round was won by Pala ruler Devapala. He managed to retain Kanauj. During his rule Pala remained invincible and checked their arch rival Pratiharas.

After the death of Devapala, the successors of Devapala were weak and could not able to retain Kanauj. The relation with the Rashtrakuta ruler turned sour. Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna II invaded the capital of Palas and weakened the power of Palas.

Mihirbhoga, the Greatest Pratihar ruler defeated both the Palas and Rashtrakutas establishing the dominance of Pratiharas over northern India. He made Kanauj as his capital. He also took interest for economic development.

Final stage: Kanauj remained under the influence of Pratiharas till Turks conquered it. Though, Rashtrakuta rulerendra III attacked and looted it mercilessly. ~~But~~ Mahipala, Pratihara ruler escaped but returned back once Rashtrakuta ruler moved to the south.

Though, this bipartite struggle did not augur well for any dynasty. But it weakened them. Subsequent rise of Rapputs was a historical event.