

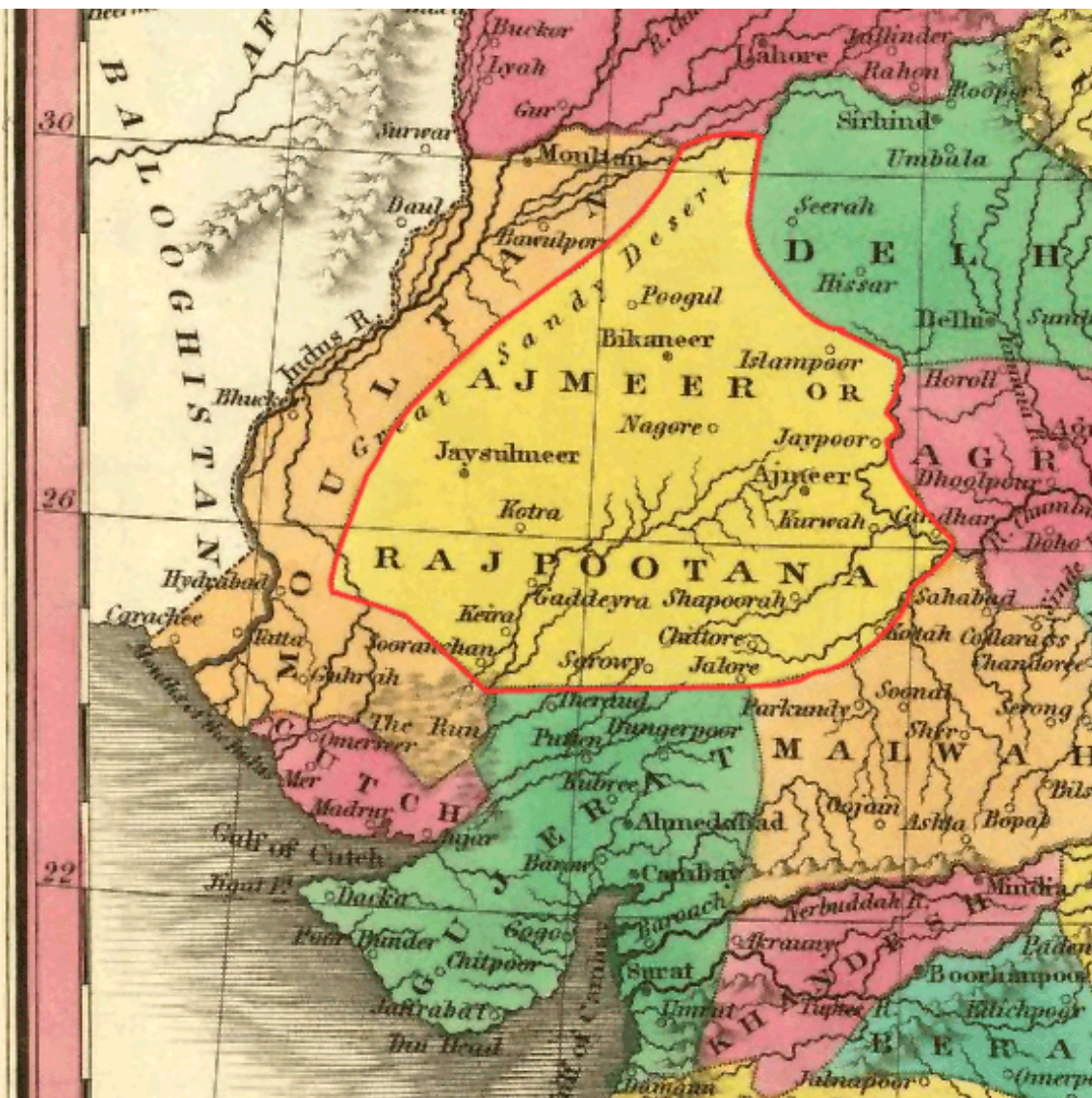
The Fort at Mandu 10th-16th Centuries



Synopsis (to be expanded)

Origins

- A natural strongpoint in Central India's Malwa region, consisting of a plateau ~ 15-kilometers in length. Elevation is approximately 700 meters, giving a far view of the surrounding region. The River Narbada flows at the south end of the plateau.
- Identified as a fort as early as 6th Century AD.
- Battlements extend to 37-km.



Malwa 1823 in relation to the rest of North West India.

<http://www.davidrumsey.com>

800-1300 AD The Parmara Dynasty

- Mandu first rose to prominence under the Paramara Dynasty in the 10th Century AD. The Parmaras, who were Rajputs, ruled till ~1300 AD.



A map of Malwa 1823. Ajmer is to the Northwest, Gujrat to the West.

<http://www.davidrumsey.com>

The Parmara Kings

1300-1400 AD The Delhi Sultanate

- Malwa fell to Alauddin Khilji of the Delhi Sultanate 1305 AD.
- Timur's invasions led to the collapse of the Delhi Sultanate

Dhar, which used to be the capital of Malwa before 1435 AD, is the bullseye in the map. Proceed southeast on National Highway 3 and you will see Mandu immediately to the NW of the symbol 3.

<http://dhar.nic.in/maps.htm>

1401-1531 AD The Sultans of Malwa

- Malwa became independent in 1401 when the governor of Malwa, Dilawar Khan, seized power.
- The capital of Malwa, previously at Dhar, was shifted by Dilawar's successor Hoshang Shah, to Mandu in 1435.
- Most of the very extensive Mandu Fort was built by the Sultans of the Malwa Dynasty 1401-1531.



Silver Rupee 15th Century, Chiyas Shah of Malwa

Photograph Birmingham Museum <http://www.bmagic.org.uk/objects/1999C13Sources>

The Sultans of Malwa

- Dilawar Khan 1401-1405
- Hoshang Shah 1405-1435
- Ghazni Khan 1435-1436
- Mahmud Khalji I 1436-1469
- Ghiyasuddin Khalji 1469-1501
- Nasir al-din Shah 1501-1510
- Mahmud Shah II 1511-1532

Note: Mahmud Khalji was prime minister of Malwa when he usurped the throne in 1436. Mahmud Shah II ruled Malwa as a vassal of the Sultans of Gujrat after they captured Malwa.

Area of Mandu Fort

Mandu Fort covered almost 20 square miles, as evidenced by land records examined by Major General Sir John Malcolm and given in his Memoir of Central India p.41-42, London 1824.

* It has been already mentioned that the walls of this noble city were in extent thirty-seven miles: I obtained part of the records of the zemindars of this city, and the following is, according to one of the oldest papers of this collection, an account taken by measurement of the contents of the whole of the ground within this circumference. The document is rendered more curious, from giving the exact dimensions occupied by buildings, as well as by baths, tanks, rivers, mountains, and cultivations, and thereby enabling us to judge with tolerable correctness of the degree of splendour it had obtained.

The following is the detail of square Begahs within the Fort of Mandoo.

	<i>Begahs.</i>
Nemazur,	2555
Baths,	400
Small Hills or Ridges,	2350
Gardens or Orchards,	363
Mosques,	705
Wells, large and small,	310
King's Palaces,	500
Caravansaries or Serais	305
The Laul Bag, a royal Garden or Pleasure Ground,	200
Twelve Bazar Roads,	147
Tagur Tallau (a great Tank or reservoir,)	910
Small Tanks,	263
Inhabited,	2258
Cultivated,	845
Enams grant to Zemindar,	125
	<hr/>
	Begahs 11,416
	<hr/>

But the Poran or suburbs of Jaumnea, Hunerce, and

Nandlah, were within the walls, and, as they occupied a space of 2258 Begahs, this added to the above, made the total contents within the limits of this capital 13,674 Begahs of ground, besides the walls, which occupied 2838 Begahs; to which add Soneghur, containing 500 Begahs, would make the whole contents within the defences of this city 17,012 Begahs. This, computing the Malwa Begah at its present measurement of a square of sixty yards to the begah, makes the contents of the ground encircled by the walls of Mandoo about 12,654 English acres.



Mandu Palace Complex

1. Dilawar Khan's Mosque
2. Champa Baoli
3. Hindla Mahal
4. Jahaz Mahal
5. Kapur Talao
6. Royal Palace

http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~islamarc/WebPage1/htm_eng/index/map_e.htm

1531-1561 AD Sher Shah Suri/Successor Rulers



- Sher Shah Suri captured the region in 1531.

Stamp <http://www.indianpost.com>

Baj Bhadur and Rupmati



Baj Bhadur's Palace at Mandu. The pavilion he built for his queen, Rupmati, is at the left. The drawing is by Captain Claudius Harris of the British East India Company in the first part of the 19th Century.

<http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/personalisation/object.cfm?uid=019XZZ000000427U00004000&largeimage=1#largeimage>



Bronze coin of Baz Bhadur

http://cgi.ebay.com/Scarce-bronze-falus-of-Baz-Bahadur-1555-1561-2-Malwa_W0QQitemZ8434406297QQcmdZViewItem#ebayphotohosting

1561-1734 AD The Mughuls

- Akbar captured Mandu in 1561 or 1562.
- He came to stay for a while: his general had not made a proper account of the spoils and Akbar marched quickly to Mandu.
- After Akbar left, the city became largely deserted for reasons we do not know as yet.

1734-1818 AD The Peshwas

The 9 Peshwas

- The rise of the Marathas and the concomitant fall of the Mughuls led to Mandu passing under the control of Peshwa Bajji Rao I ~1734.
- In 1832 AD the Peshwa divided Malwa between three chiefs, and Anand Rao Pawar became governor.
- In 1818 the Marathas were defeated in the 3rd Anglo-Maratha War and become lieges of the East India Company.

1818-1947 AD British Paramountcy



<http://www.britishtowns.net/britain/monarchy/monarchs/hanover/victoria.jpg>

- With the British Paramountcy in 1857 Victoria, Empress of India, became overlord of Anand Rao Pawar's successors.
- In 1948 the heirs joined the Union of India.

Sources

- <http://www.indiasite.com/madhyapradesh/mandu/rewakund.html>
- http://www.gyandoot.nic.in/dhar_district/history.html