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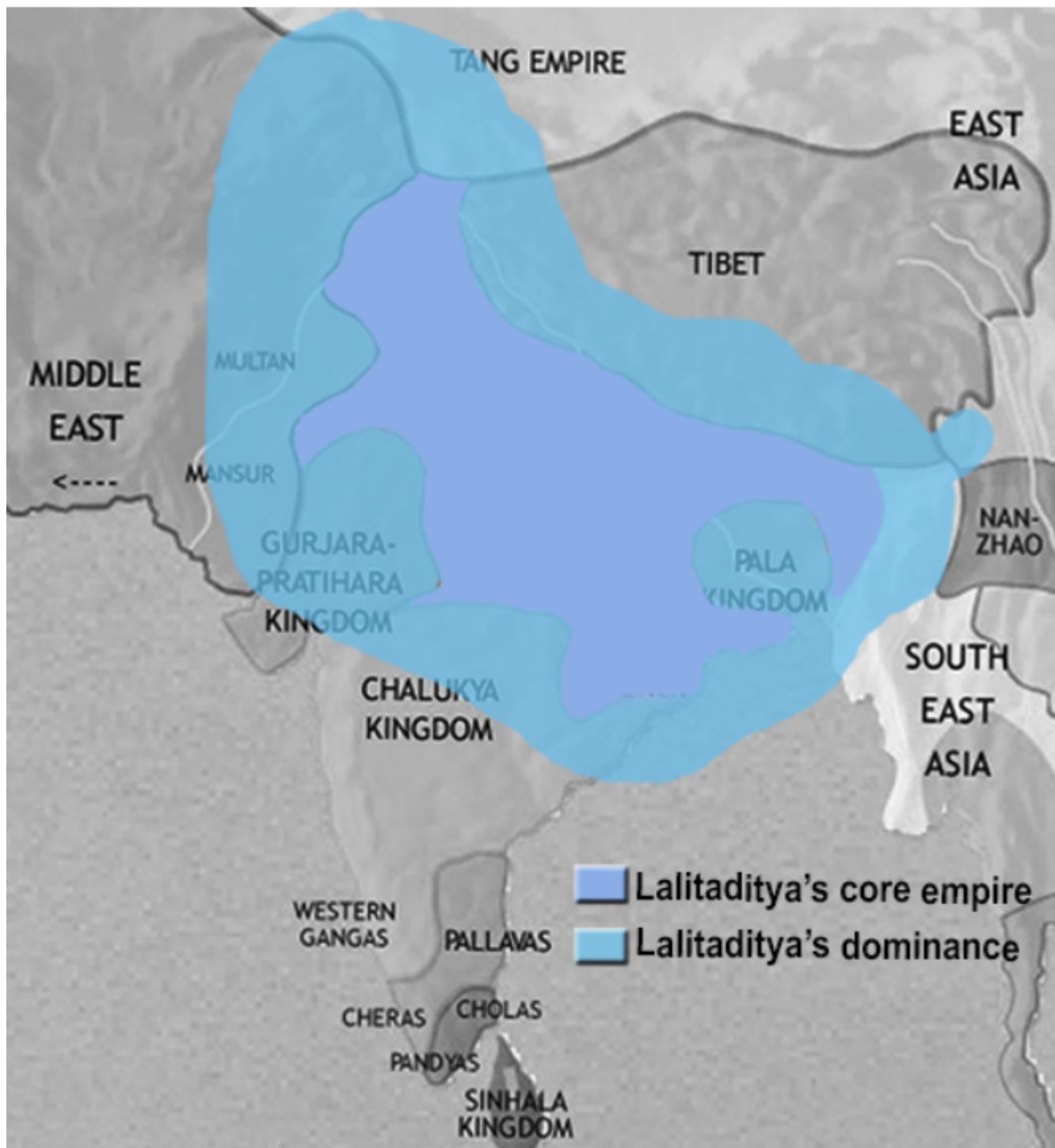
A KASHMIRI HINDU KING WHO BLASTED THE MYTH THAT INDIANS WERE NEVER ABLE TO CAPTURE ANY FOREIGN LANDS

Most of you have not heard of him !

Indian History is distorted to the level that we don't know the ruler who had a empire bigger than Mughals though for a short period of time



Lalitaditya was the most powerful ruler of the Karkota dynasty of Kashmir. He ruled for 37 years from 724 to 761 CE. Due to his conquests, scholars have called him Alexander of Kashmir.



Lalitaditya's Indian Conquests

According to renowned historian, R. C. Majumdar's 'Ancient India', Lalitaditya first faced Yashovarman, who was the successor of the famous ruler of the Pushyabhuti dynasty, Harshavardana.

He attacked Yashovarman's kingdom, Antardedi, whose capital was Kanyakubja (Modern day Kanauj in UP) located between the Yamuna river and the Kalika river, and compelled him to sign a peace treaty after a long and intense war famously known as

"The Treaty of Yashovarman and Lalitaditya ". After consolidating power in Kanyakubja, Lalitaditya proceeded to the East reaching Kalinga (modern day Odisha) and Gauda (Bengal). After that he set out towards the Vindhya where he met the Karnata queen, Ratta or Bhavangana of the

Rashtrakut dynasty. She had constructed obstacle free roads over the Vindhya mountains and was as powerful as Goddess Vindyabasini (Maa Durga). But a powerful ruler like her, too, bowed to Lalitaditya. From then on, Lalitaditya marched on triumphant from the seven Konkans to

Dwarka to Avanti, all the way into Punjab and Afghanistan, establishing his rule over all of the Indian territory. According to some folk tales, Bappa Rawal, the famous warrior from Mewar was not only a close friend of Lalitaditya but also participated in some of his famous

victories against the foreign invaders and may have died during Lalitaditya's Central Asia campaign.

It is believed that the queen regent of Deccan had approached Lalitaditya for help when her brother-in-law was trying to usurp the throne. Lalitaditya helped her in restoring her kingdom and sat her son Dantidurga on the throne.

Dantidurga is said to have gone on to establish one of the biggest empires of South India known as Rashtrakutas



VICTORY OVER ARABS

Junad was appointed as governor of Sindh in AD 730. After tranquillizing Sindh rebellion, he turned his attention towards other parts of India. His intention was to conquer the whole of India.

But his army had to face the combined strength of Lalitaditya as well as Yashovarman, the king of Kannauj. Yashovarman's empire consisted of present day UP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, parts of Bengal and Jharkhand. Lalitaditya ruled present day Kashmir, Haryana, and North Punjab

at that time. The armies met somewhere in Punjab or central India. Muslim armies were soundly defeated by the Hindu alliance. He is said to have ordered the Turushkas to shave off half of their heads as a symbol of their submission.

FOREIGN LANDS CONQUERED BY HIM ■

However Lalitaditya was keen on teaching Arabs a lesson.

By 730 AD Lalitaditya establish his foothold in the north around 730 AD, by conquering:

- Dardistan or Darad-Desha (northern Pakistan, and Kashmir in India and parts of north-eastern Afghanistan)
- Turkestanand
- Transoxiana (a portion of Central Asia corresponding approximately with modern-day Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, southern Kyrgyzstan and south-west Kazakhstan.)

The colourful 17th century Kashmiri adventurer and historian **Haider Malik** Chadurah describes the conquests of Lalitaditya as such, *“Finally, when he was satisfied with (the conquest) of India, he headed towards Turkestan via Kabul. Mumin, the ruler of Bukhara, fought against him four times, but when he had no strength or resistance left, he solicited for safety (of his life) and met the raja and agreed to pay tribute and taxes to him. Thus, all the rulers of Mawara-al-Nahr (Transoxiana) and Turkestan submitted to him.*

The battles Lalitaditya fought have been described by the renowned Kashmiri historian Kalhana in his classic history of Kashmir, the `Rajatarangini' (River of Kings) in which he says “The king, who carried his prowess, abandoned his (war-like) fury (only) when the (opposing)

kings discretely folded their palms at his victorious onset. At the sound of his drums (beaten) in attack, the dwellings of his enemies were diverted by the (frightened) inhabitants and thus resembled women dropping in fright the burden of their wombs.”

He is also credited with the commissioning of several shrines in Kashmir including the Martand Sun temple



Kashmiri Hindus used to celebrate Chaitra Shuklapach Dutiya as Shaurya Divas (Day of fame) to remember the valour of Great King Lalitaditya Muktipeda for centuries. This day is celebrated his grand victory against Turks and Tibetians, who lost their territories to the

undefeated King Lalitaditya. But due to advent of majority in Kashmir around 700 years ago, the tradition of celebration of a great King slowly lost. Now it is time to remember and propagate the glory of the great King.

Kalhana in his book said that “The country of Kashmir may be conquered by the force of spiritual merit, but not by the force of soldiers!”

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