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WHY DID THE GUPTA EMPIRE FALL ?

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There are many reasons for the fall of Gupta rule in India.

One of the most prominent answer is due to a series of invasions carried out by the Hephthalites and later the alchon huns.

Guptas at their maximum extent ■

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During the reign of Skandagupta (who is considered the last great king of Gupta dynasty).

He is most famously remembered for his defense of the empire during the Hephthalite invasion of India.

Gupta light Skirmishers ■

2/10

You have to know that the Hephthalites were no easy EMPIRE. They had defeated the Persian empire of the Sassanian dynasty multiple times and at one point even took their king at ransom.

Hephthalite empire ■

3/10

So you can see how strong the Hephthalites really were. Skandagupta's defence is a remarkable feat of achievement but it drained the empire's coffers.

After the Skandagupta mostly later Gupta kings took control but many were considered drastically weak.

4/10

And then again as the empire was reeling in, the alchon huns came to destroy it.

Once the again the king marched their armies and Bhanugupta defeated the Hunnic King Toramana.

5/10

Even then the huns didn't stop. Their next king Mihirkula was even more ferocious as he had no qualms in killing innocent people and raiding cities which nearly destroyed the stretched supply line of the kingdoms.

6/10

Once again though the king Narsimhagupta and his ally Yashovarman of Malwa repelled the huns for good this time.

But at a very steep price.

7/10

Their economy was completely finished and they had to cut out large swathes of land to the other king who carved out their own kingdoms.

Later Gupta. Their empire will reduce even more.

The Gupta rule then only stretched to the Bihar Jharkhand and eastern U.P region.

8/10

Their main source of revenue via trade from the Romans were cut off and the empire was on the brink of destruction.

But they still had their core cities with agricultural land. It might take a decade or two for them to reclaim their regions.

9/10

For a while it looked as if they might reform. That the Light of Gupta's will shine once again.

But during their most crucial years a great flood devastates their entire region and that would be the end of them

10/10

SOURCE- Bakker, Hans (2017), Monuments of Hope, Gloom and Glory in the Age of the Hunnic Wars: 50 years that changed India