

Introduction

- 1) largest empire due to efficient administration which sustained the empire
- 2) Basic principles of adm. were made by Chandragupta
- 3) Ashoka modified regarding public duties of state officials

Sources

- coins
- inscriptions
- edicts of Ashoka
- Arthashastra of Kautilya
- Indica by Megasthenes

Mauryan Polity

- 1) it was a constitutional monarchy
- 2) decentralized
- 3) checks and balances on monarch to restrict absolutism
- 4) Council of ministers and popular assemblies with the king as head
- 5) King was the supreme head of the state and administration
- 6) performed legislative, executive, judicial functions
- 7) main task of the king- Protection of subjects and their welfare
- 8) 24 hours of the king were divided into 8 parts, each assigned a different duty
- 9) princes were carefully trained and employed in offices according to capabilities

Council of Ministers (Mantri Parishad)

- 1) advise and assist the king
- 2) political check on the power of the king
- 3) their powers were limited; directly appointed by the king
- 4) 3 qualities: a) birth, b) integrity c) intelligence
- 5) 2 categories of ministers: a) Mantri and b) Amatyas
- 6) Mantri: inner circle of the council; Amatyas: outer circle
- 7) Mantris formed policies and Amatyas implemented.
- 8) Popular assemblies: Paura Janapada
- 9) bureaucracy: highly efficient, organized and centralized

Bureaucracy

- 1) 2 important high officials: a) collector general b) treasurer
- 2) Collector general (Samaharta): supervised revenue collection and increased revenue, regulated expenditure
- 3) Treasurer (Sannidhata): custodian of entire revenue in cash and kind
- 4) there were various depts.; each was put under a superintendent (adhyaksha); 32 depts were placed under samaharta
- 5) Depts: Agriculture, Mines, Chariots, Spies

Income and Expenditure

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|---|--|
| 1) chief source of revenue: excise duty on manufactured goods, tolls, fees, import duties, fines, compulsory contribution | 1) expenditure on army |
| 2) land revenue- collected as 1/6th of produce; in times of emergency 1/3 of the produce | 2) public works : construction of roads, wells, irrigation |
| | 3) Royal household, places of religious importance |



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