

Society and Economy During This Period

Chapter 16: Turning Tides: 11th and 12th Centuries · Topic 2

Key Concept

Agriculture remained the backbone of the economy, with land grants often given to temples and officials, who managed farming and collected revenue from local farmers.

Temples became important economic and social institutions, not just for worship, but also for education, employment, and even banking-like functions in some regions.

Trade flourished both within India and internationally, with goods like spices, textiles, and gems being exchanged through overland and maritime trade routes.

Society during this period was often organised around caste and occupation, with varying levels of social mobility depending on the region and specific historical circumstances.

Quick Revision Notes

- Agriculture was the backbone of the medieval economy.
- Land grants were often given to temples and officials.
- Temples served economic, social and educational roles.
- Some temples had banking-like functions.
- Trade flourished within India and internationally.
- Spices, textiles and gems were commonly traded.
- Society was often organised around caste and occupation.
- Social mobility varied by region and circumstance.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the economic role of temples in medieval India.
- 2 Discuss what goods were traded during this period.
- 3 Explain how land grants worked.
- 4 Research the caste system's role in medieval society.
- 5 Discuss trade routes used in medieval India.
- 6 Compare medieval and modern economic systems briefly.