

Chapter 3 – The Delhi Sultanate

3. I. Comparision between the Khiljis and Tughlaqs

Khalji Dynasty	Tughlaq Dynasty
Alauddin Khilji increases his large standing army to protect from invasion (defensive measure) because Delhi was attacked twice, in 1299/1300 AD and 1302-03 AD.	Muhammad bin Tughlaq increased his large standing army to attack on Transoxiana (regions covering Uzbekistan, western Tajikistan, western Kyrgyzstan, northwestern Turkmenistan and southern Kazakhstan).
He constructed a new garrison town named Siri for his soldiers.	Muhammad bin Tughlaq evacuates four oldest cities of Delhi (Dehli-i Kuhna) and made soldiers garrison. The residents of the old city were relocated to the new capital of Daulatabad in the south.
The Khiljis ruled for shortest period but expanded the empire far and wide upto the south.	The Tughlaqs ruled for longest period but their rule was confined to Delhi and some close by areas.
Soldiers were fed from the tax collected from the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna. Tax was fixed at 50 per cent of the produce.	The tax collected from the area between Ganga and Yamuna was used to feed the army. But to meet the need of the large number of soldiers the Sultan levied additional taxes, including those areas which were suffering from famine.
Alauddin Khilji paid his soldiers salaries in cash rather than kind. The soldiers were to buy their supplies from the local market. To stop the fear of price rise, he controlled the prices of goods. Prices were carefully monitor by officers, and if merchants did not sell at the prescribed rates were punished.	Muhammad bin Tughlaq paid salary in cash to the soldiers but never controlled the prices. He introduced the token system without royal verification somewhat like present-day paper currency, but made out of cheap metals, not gold and silver.
Alauddin Khilji administrative measures like Military Reforms, Revenue Reforms and Economic Reforms (Market Regulations) were quite successful. He successfully withstood the threat of Mongol invasions. The khiljis gave stable administration and their rule was a success.	Muhammad bin Tughlaq administrative measures like shifting of capital; plans to invade Transoxiana and disbanded his large army; rising of taxes and famine in the Ganga-Yamuna belt led to widespread rebellion; and token system were failure measures. The Tughlaq were not able to maintain peace and prosperity and their rule was a failure.