

History of Kautilya and His Working

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ABSTRACT

In India we all heard the name of Kautilya. His advises is still running in social media. He was an advisor and prime minister to the first Mauryan Emperor Chandragupta (c. 340-293 B.C.E.), Kautilya or Chanakya (about 350–283 B.C.E.) was instrumental in his ascent to power. One time he went in durbar of lord king Dhana Nanda he did not gave respect to Kautilya and insulted him so he got angry on the king and he swore to drive out the Greek invaders while he was a professor at Taxila University, according to mythology. Young Chandragupta was given guidance by him as he overcame the Nanda and defeated the Greek satrapies in northern India. Chandragupta then built an effective government that allowed the Maurya Empire to spread over the majority of the Indian subcontinent (aside from the region south of modern-day Karnataka) as well as significant portions of modern-day Afghanistan. The Arthashastra, an encyclopedic text on political economy and government, was written by Kautilya and Vishnugupta, who are typically credited as Chanakya's contemporaries. Chanakya has been referred to as "the Indian Machiavelli" and "the pioneer economist of the world" by some academics.

INTRODUCTION

Although he goes by the name Chanakya, Kautilya is the name given to him when he is recognized as the author of the Arthashastra. With the exception of one verse, the Arthashastra credits its creator as Kautilya rather than Vishnugupta. In the third century B.C.E., Vishnu Sarma's Panchatantra was one of the earliest Sanskrit literary works to clearly link Chanakya with Vishnugupta. The idea that Kautilya, Chanakya, and Vishnugupta are the same person is not widely accepted among historians. According to K.C. Ojha, Vishnugupta redrew Kautilya's original work, and the traditional mistaken identification of Vishnugupta with Kautilya resulted from confusing the editor with the author. Thomas Burrow hypothesizes that Chanakya and Kautilya might have been two distinct individuals. With possible dates ranging from the fourth century B.C.E. to the third century C.E., the Arthashastra's genesis is still uncertain. The majority of academics concur that the bulk of the current text is post-Mauryan, despite the fact that the book's core was originally composed during the early Mauryan Period (321-296 B.C.E.).

Birth and Child Age

In modern-day Pakistan, at Taxila or Takshashila, Chanakya received his education. The new states (in modern-day Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) maintained contact with Takshashila by way of the northern high road of commerce along the foot of the Himalayas, and at its eastern end (uttarapatha) was the kingdom of Magadha with its capital city, Pataliputra, now known as Patna. The lives of Chanakya were intertwined with those of Taxila and Pataliputra.

Chanakya had significant Vedic instruction throughout his formative years, and it is reported that he memorized all of them at a young age. Along with religion, he was also taught mathematics, geography, and science. He enrolled in the university in Takshashila at the age of sixteen and started teaching politics there. Law, medicine, and warfare were among the fields of study available in India at the time. The two most well-known disciples of Chanakya were Bhadrabhatt and Purushdutt.

Ruler of Nanda and Kautilya

Chanakya taught at Taxila University when Alexander's army invaded. Ambhi (also known as Taxiles), the king of Taxila and Gandhara, signed a contract with Alexander and refrained from engaging in combat with him. Chanakya tried to mobilize other monarchs to stand against Alexander because he perceived the foreign invasion as a threat to Indian culture. The Jaina work Parisishta parvan and the Mudrarakshasa of Visakhadutta both mentions Chandragupta's union with the Punjabi monarch Porus, also known as Parvataka, of the Himalayas. The only local ruler who was able to oppose Alexander in the Battle of the Hydaspes River was Porus (Parvateshwar), who lost. Chanakya then travelled farther east to Pataliputra, now known as Patna, in the Indian state of Bihar's Magadha region in order to ask Dhana Nanda for assistance. Dhana Nanda was the ruler of the enormous Nanda Empire, which stretched from Bihar and Bengal in the east to eastern Punjab in the west. Although Chanakya and Dhana Nanda originally got along well, the monarch eventually became enraged by

Chanakya's forthright remarks and had him fired from his position of authority. In every version of the Chanakya mythology, the king expels him from the Nanda court, and he swears vengeance.

There are several stories about how Chanakya met Chandragupta for the first time. According to one narrative, Chanakya bought Chandragupta from Bihar while a route back to Taxila. According to another view, Chanakya and Chandragupta simply happened to cross paths in Magadha. He was pleased by the prince's character and intelligence, recognized his potential as a military and political leader, and started preparing the young man right away to carry out his commitment to drive the Greeks out. According to an account by the Roman historian Jungians Justin us, Chandragupta went to Pataliputra with Chanakya and was likewise humiliated by Dhana Nanda.

Although he came from a lowly background, he was pushing for the crown via the tremendous force of his mind. He was sentenced to death by the monarch of Nanda after insulting him with his impudence, but his quick feet allowed him to escape. He assembled outlaws and invited the Indians to a new system of government.

Mauryan Empire & Role of Kautliya in Establishment

Together, Chanakya and Chandragupta planned the conquest of the Nanda Empire. Chandragupta's empire when he founded it c. 320 B.C.E., by the time he was about 20 years old. The Chandragupta katha relates that Chandragupta and Chanakya were initially rebuffed by the Nanda forces. In the ensuing war, Chandragupta was eventually able to defeat Bhadrasala, commander of Dhana Nanda's armies, and Dhana Nanda in a series of battles, ending with the siege of the capital city Kusumapura and the conquest of the Nanda Empire around 321 B.C.E., founding the powerful Maurya Empire in Northern India.

Chandragupta established a massive empire that stretched from Bengal and Assam in the east to the Indus Valley in the west by the time he was twenty years old. He later expanded this empire. By the time Chandragupta was twenty years old, he had conquered the Nanda Empire and defeated the Macedonian satrapies in India. As his prime minister and principal advisor, Chanakya remained by his side and afterwards performed the same duties for his son Bindusara.

Legends of Mauryanempire

- Mauryan Empire silver punch-marked coin with an elephant and wheel as emblems. a.d. 3rd century B.C.
- Regarding Chanakya and his relationship with Chandragupta, there are several legends. The following characteristics are shared by various versions of the Chanakya mythology, according to Thomas R. Trautmann.
- Chanakya was born with a full set of teeth, which is unsuitable for a Brahmin like Chanakya and a sign that he would become king. As a result, Chhakya's teeth were broken, and it was predicted that he would resign through someone else.
- Chnakya was expelled from the Nanda King's court, which led him to swear vengeance.
- Chnakya looked for someone deserving of being his representative before coming upon a young Chandragupta Maurya, who was a natural leader even as a child.
- Chnakya encountered a mother chastising her child for burning himself by consuming food from the centre of a bun or bowl of porridge rather than the cooler edge after his initial attempt to overthrow Nanda failed. After realizing his initial tactical blunder, Chhakya decided to assault the edges of Nanda territory rather than the centre.
- Chnakya deceived Parvata, the mountain king who was his buddy.
- In order to purge the realm of rebels, Chanakya hired a zealous weaver.

Works of Kautilya

The Mauryan Empire was able to rule nearly the entire subcontinent (apart from the region south of modern-day Karnataka) as well as significant portions of modern-day Afghanistan thanks to Chanakya's advice to Chandragupta during the conquest of the Nanda and the defeat of the Greeks.

He is best renowned, however, for his encyclopedic book on political economy and government known as "the science of punishment," Arthashastra, which he refers to as "the science of punishment." Its fifteen divisions, which include topics including monetary policy, trade, welfare, forestry, weights and measures, agriculture, law, political science, and military strategy, each focus on a different area of governance.

Kautilya's theory has as its main goals the wealth of the king and the nation as well as the conquest of competitor neighboring states. The attributes of the monarch, followed by those of his ministers, his provinces, his city, his money, his army, and his allies, were listed by Kautilya as the first seven variables that determined a government's capacity to carry out these goals. Kautilya provided historical details about the political realities of the time while articulating current ideas of political and economic theory in his description of an ideal government.

Kautilya is frequently criticized for tolerating cruelty and betrayal, yet he is also renowned for his comprehension of human nature and political sagacity. He openly fostered the creation of a complex spy network that penetrated all spheres of life, gave spies and agents thorough training, and supported covert political killing.

Jain Version about Kautliya

Chanakya was born to a Jain Brahmin couple named Cain and Caevan in the village of Caaka in the Golla area, according to Jain traditions. According to a narrative that was created by the Jainas afterwards, Chanakya began putting little amounts of poison in Chandragupta Maurya's food so that he would get used to it. This was done to prevent the emperor from being poisoned by opponents while he served as the emperor's prime minister. Nine months pregnant and sharing the emperor's food one day led to the death of the queen Durdha.

Chanakya decided that the infant shouldn't perish, so he sliced through the queen's belly and removed the child. Chanakya gave the child the name Bindusara because a drip of poison—referred to as a "bindu" in Sanskrit—had reached his head. Later on, Bindusara rose to greatness and was the father of Asoka, the Mauryan Emperor.

When Bindusara reached adulthood, Chandragupta abdicated the crown to his son, travelled to modern-day Karnataka with the Jain saint Bhadrabahu, and made his home at Sravana Belagola. According to Jain tradition, he spent a number of years as an ascetic before voluntarily starving to death. The Prime Minister of Bindusara remained Chanakya. Additionally, Subandhu, a minister in Bindusara, disliked Chanakya. Subandhu once revealed to Bindusara that Chanakya was the one who killed his mother. When the women who had breastfed him as a newborn corroborated the tale, Bindusara grew furious with Chanakya.

According to legend, Chanakya decided to take his own life after learning that the emperor was upset with him. He gave away all of his possessions to the needy, widows, and orphans, then prepared to die by completely abstaining from food and liquids while sitting on a pile of excrement. When Bindusara learned the details of his birth from the nurses, he hurried to Chanakya to ask for his pardon. But Chanakya remained steadfast. Subandhu requested some time to ask Chanakya for pardon, so Bindusara went back and unloaded his rage on him.

Chanakya was still despised by Subandhu, who intended to prevent him from visiting the city again. He planned a ceremony in honour of the deceased, but secretly placed a burning charcoal ember inside the pile of manure. Chanakya was fatally burned after the dung mound quickly caught fire thanks to the wind.

In order to support Ashoka's ascent to the throne, Rakshasa Katyayan, the great-grandson of Prabuddha Katyayan, who gained Nirvana at the same time as Gautama Buddha, cremated Chanakya. Radhagupta was Rakshasa Katyayan's successor as prime minister of the Maurya Empire. There were three non-orthodox religions practiced in India at the time: Jainism, Buddhism, and Ajivaka (a Jain ascetic school). Chanakya, an Ajivaka practitioner, overthrew the Jainas and their clique of ministers. His uncle, a Jain, and a number of Jainas supported him in his political manoeuvres. When Chandragupta Maurya abdicated his throne and handed it over to his son Bindusara, an Ajivaka, he turned to Jainism. Even Ashoka, who converted to Buddhism prior to ascending to the throne, engaged in Ajivaka. After the Kalinga War (261 B.C.E.), Ajivikism, which had been the official religion of the empire for fourteen years, eventually faded and fused with traditional Hinduism.

Other Versions about Kautliya

According to a Pali tradition, Cakka was a Brahmin from Taxila. This assertion is corroborated by Vishakhadatta's *Mudra Rakshasa*, a play written in Sanskrit in the ninth century and a well-known source of Chanakya legend. Chanakya is said to have been one of the South Indian Brahmins known as the Sholiyar or Chozhiyar in Tamil Nadu. Even though it may seem unlikely given the great distance between modern day Tamilnadu in the south and Magadha in Bihar, Hemachandra's allegation that Chanakya was a Dramila can be found in *Parishista parvan*. (Some academics think that the term "Dramila" is the source of the word "Dravida").

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