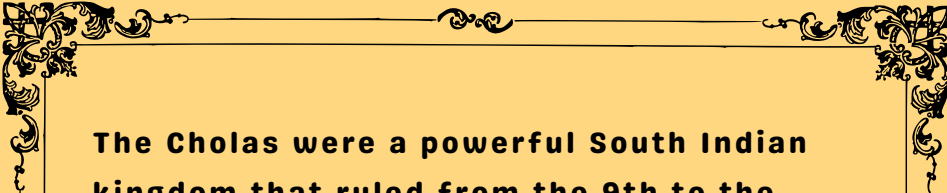




The Cholas

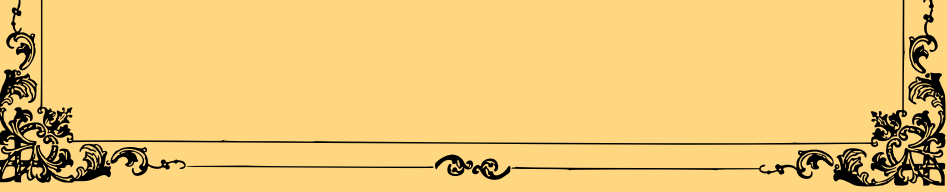


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The Cholas were a powerful South Indian kingdom that ruled from the 9th to the 13th century CE. Known for their military and naval achievements, patronage of art and literature, the Cholas have left a lasting impact on the cultural and political landscape of South Eastern India.

BEGINNINGS



The Chola dynasty first emerged in the Tamil region of South India around the 9th century CE. Their rule spanned several centuries and is divided into three main phases: the Early Cholas, the Medieval Cholas, and the Later Cholas.



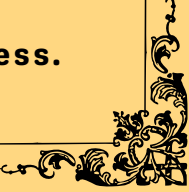


EARLY CHOLAS (9TH TO 12TH CENTURY)

During the early phase, the Cholas established themselves as a predominantly regional power under leaders like Vijayalaya Chola. The dynasty saw expansion and consolidation, and it laid the foundation for the subsequent grandeur of the Chola Empire.

MEDIEVAL CHOLAS (12TH CENTURY)

Under rulers like Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola, the Chola Empire reached its zenith. They expanded their influence beyond the Indian subcontinent, dominating trade routes and establishing diplomatic ties with distant lands. The construction of the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur stands as a testament to their architectural and engineering prowess.







CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Cholas were great patrons of art, literature, and music. They encouraged the development of the Tamil language, and their contributions to literature, especially through poets and artisans are noteworthy. The Chola bronze sculptures and intricate temple carvings also reflect their artistic achievements.

DECLINE AND LEGACY - THE LATER CHOLAS



The Later Cholas faced internal strife and external invasions, leading to the decline of the dynasty by the 13th century. Despite their fall, the Cholas' legacy has endured through their cultural contributions, maritime achievements, and administrative innovations, influencing subsequent South Indian dynasties.





End



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