Class 9 Social Science Chapter 12: Resistance and Resilience (1000–1700 CE) - Notes, Important Questions and MCQs (2026-27)

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These Class 9 Social Science Chapter 12 notes (Part 2, Chapter 3) cover “Resistance and Resilience (1000–1700 CE)” from the new NCERT textbook Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Part 2, 2026-27): how Indian rulers and communities resisted invasions and expansion through war, alliances and diplomacy – Rajputs, Ahoms, Vijayanagara, Marathas, Sikhs and others – and how Bhakti traditions, temples, trade and economic institutions kept Indian civilisation resilient – with tables, Q&A, 10 MCQs and a free PDF.

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Chapter Overview

Between 1000 and 1700 CE, India saw invasions, the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughal empire and the arrival of European traders. Indian kingdoms and communities responded through resistance (warfare, guerrilla tactics, forts), alliances and negotiation, and resilience – the ability to endure hardship and keep culture, institutions and livelihoods alive.

Rajputs, Ahoms, the Vijayanagara empire, Marathas, Sikhs, Jats and leaders like Rani Abbakka asserted political power and identity. Bhakti saints carried devotion in local languages, temples were rebuilt and protected, and trade networks across the Indian Ocean, supported by instruments like the hunḍī, sustained economic life.

Important Topics and Concepts

Resistance, Alliances and Resilience

- Resistance: opposing domination through battles, sieges, guerrilla warfare and naval fights.
- Alliances: some rulers negotiated with powerful empires to protect their people and territory.
- Resilience: enduring difficulties, rebuilding and keeping traditions alive over long periods.
- Forts with walls, water sources, food stores and escape routes helped kingdoms survive long sieges; some served as fallback capitals.

Rajputs and the North

- Alauddin Khiljī's campaigns included the plunder of Somnath (1298) and sieges of Ranthambore (1301) and Chittor (1303).
- Mahārāṇā Pratāp of Mewar fought the Mughals at Haldighati (1576) and continued resistance by changing tactics.
- Later rulers like Jagat Singh fortified Chittor and built the Jagdish temple at Udaipur as a political and cultural statement.
- Some Rajput rulers formed alliances with the Mughals for security and influence.

Resistance in the East and South

- Ahoms (Assam): first clash with the Mughals in 1615; Lachit Borphukan defeated a Mughal fleet at the Battle of Saraighat (1671), securing the Brahmaputra frontier.
- Vijayanagara empire: resisted expansion of the Madurai Sultanate (Battle of Kannanur) and other Sultanates; a centre of art and temples.
- Rani Abbakka Chowta of Ullal (Karnataka) defeated Portuguese naval forces in the 16th century.
- Rudramā Devī, Kākatīya queen (1262–1289), ruled ably in the Deccan.

Marathas and Sikhs

- Chhatrapati Śhivājī built an independent Maratha state; he was crowned sovereign ruler in 1674 and promoted the idea of Swarājya (self-rule).
- Marathas used hill forts and guerrilla tactics against the Mughals (e.g. Battle of Pratapgarh, 1659).
- The Sikh Gurus built a strong community; the Akāl Takht represented temporal power (mīrī).
- In 1699 Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa with a distinct martial code to defend faith and community.

Bhakti and Temples: Cultural Resilience

- Bhakti saints composed hymns in local languages, making devotion accessible to all and portable – it did not depend on physical structures that could be destroyed.
- Women poets like Atukuri Molla (Telugu Rāmāyaṇa) contributed to this tradition.
- Temples were centres of worship, learning and economy; many were attacked but rebuilt or restored (e.g. Brihadeeswara at Thanjavur remained a symbol of continuity).

- Temple architecture continued to evolve.

Economy and Trade

- Land revenue was the main source of state income; expansion of farming and small-scale irrigation supported it.
- The hunḍī, a bill of exchange similar to a cheque, enabled long-distance payments through networks of money-changers.
- Indian Ocean trade linked ports like Surat, Masulipatnam and Puducherry with Asia, Africa and Europe; Indian cotton textiles were in great demand.
- European companies – English (1600) and Dutch VOC (1602) – entered this trade, bringing change but Indian merchants stayed important.

Timeline of Key Events

Approximate dates.

Year	Event
1262–1289	Reign of Kākatīya queen Rudramā Devī
1298	Somnath temple plundered by Alauddin Khiljī
1303	Siege of Chittor
1526	First Battle of Panipat
1576	Battle of Haldighati
1600 / 1602	English and Dutch East India Companies formed
1671	Battle of Saraighat
1674	Coronation of Chhatrapati Śhivājī
1699	Khalsa founded by Guru Gobind Singh

Who Resisted and How

Power	Leader / example	Form of resistance
Rajputs (Mewar)	Mahārāṇā Pratāp	Battle of Haldighati, guerrilla tactics
Ahoms (Assam)	Lachit Borphukan	Naval victory at Saraighat
Vijayanagara	Rulers of Vijayanagara	Wars against Sultanates
Ullal (Karnataka)	Rani Abbakka Chowta	Defeated Portuguese navy
Marathas	Chhatrapati Śhivājī	Swarājya, forts, guerrilla war
Sikhs	Guru Gobind Singh	Khalsa (1699)

Important Definitions and Terms

Term	Meaning
Resistance	Opposing domination through struggle
Resilience	Ability to endure and recover from difficulties

Term	Meaning
Alliance	Agreement between powers for mutual benefit
Swarājya	Self-rule; idea promoted by Śhivājī
Khalsa	Sikh order founded in 1699
Akāl Takht	Seat of Sikh temporal authority
Bhakti	Devotional tradition in local languages
Hunḍī	Bill of exchange used in trade
Guerrilla warfare	Surprise attacks by small mobile groups
Fort	Fortified complex for defence

Short Answer Questions

Q1. What is meant by resilience in history?

The ability of communities to endure difficulties, rebuild and keep their traditions and institutions alive.

Q2. Who won the Battle of Saraighat?

The Ahoms under Lachit Borphukan, defeating a Mughal fleet.

Q3. Why is Mahārāṇā Pratāp remembered?

For resisting the Mughals at Haldighati (1576) and continuing the struggle afterwards.

Q4. What was Swarājya?

The idea of an independent, self-governing state promoted by Chhatrapati Śhivājī.

Q5. When and by whom was the Khalsa founded?

In 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh.

Q6. Why was the Bhakti tradition resilient?

It used local languages and personal devotion that people could carry anywhere, not depending on buildings.

Q7. What was a hunḍī?

A bill of exchange, like a cheque, used for long-distance payments.

Q8. Who was Rani Abbakka Chowta?

The queen of Ullal who defeated Portuguese naval forces.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. How did Indian rulers use resistance and alliances to protect their kingdoms?

Open battles – Haldighati, Saraighat.

Guerrilla tactics and hill forts – Marathas, Mewar.

Naval resistance – Ahoms, Rani Abbakka.

Alliances and negotiation with the Mughals by some Rajputs.

Q2. Explain the role of the Bhakti tradition and temples in cultural resilience.

Bhakti saints wrote in local languages for ordinary people.

Devotion could be practised anywhere – a portable tradition.

Women poets like Atukuri Molla contributed.

Temples were rebuilt and restored after attacks.

Both kept culture alive across political changes.

Q3. Describe the economy and trade of India between 1000 and 1700 CE.

Land revenue was the main state income.

Irrigation and farming expanded.

Hunḍīs enabled secure long-distance payments.

Ports like Surat and Masulipatnam traded textiles across the Indian Ocean.

European companies arrived, but Indian merchants remained central.

MCQs with Answers

1. Battle of Haldighati was fought in(a) 1526 (b) 1576 (c) 1671 (d) 1699Answer: (b) 1576

2. Lachit Borphukan was an(a) Ahom general (b) Maratha admiral (c) Rajput king (d) Sikh GuruAnswer: (a) Ahom general

3. Battle of Saraighat was fought on the(a) Ganga (b) Brahmaputra (c) Godavari (d) NarmadaAnswer: (b) Brahmaputra

4. Chhatrapati Śhivājī was crowned in(a) 1659 (b) 1674 (c) 1707 (d) 1576Answer: (b) 1674

5. Khalsa was founded in(a) 1699 (b) 1600 (c) 1674 (d) 1526Answer: (a) 1699

6. Rani Abbakka fought against the(a) Mughals (b) Portuguese (c) British (d) DutchAnswer: (b) Portuguese

7. Hunḍī can be compared to a modern(a) coin (b) cheque (c) tax (d) loan onlyAnswer: (b) cheque

8. Somnath temple was plundered by Alauddin Khiljī in(a) 1298 (b) 1398 (c) 1192 (d) 1526Answer: (a) 1298

9. Rudramā Devī was a(a) Kākatīya queen (b) Mughal princess (c) Ahom queen (d) Maratha queenAnswer: (a) Kākatīya queen

10. Dutch East India Company was formed in(a) 1600 (b) 1602 (c) 1664 (d) 1700Answer: (b) 1602

Quick Revision Points

- Resistance, alliances, resilience.
- Rajputs: Haldighati 1576; Chittor; Jagat Singh.
- Ahoms: Saraighat 1671; Vijayanagara; Rani Abbakka; Rudramā Devī.
- Marathas: Swarājya, 1674; Sikhs: Khalsa 1699.

- Bhakti and temples: cultural resilience.
- Economy: land revenue, hunḍī, Indian Ocean trade.

Chapter Summary

Between 1000 and 1700 CE Indian rulers and communities faced invasions and expanding empires. They resisted through battles, guerrilla warfare, forts and naval power – Mahārāṇā Pratāp at Haldighati, the Ahoms at Saraighat, Vijayanagara against Sultanates, Rani Abbakka against the Portuguese, the Marathas under Śhivājī and the Sikh Khalsa – while some chose alliances.

Civilisation stayed resilient through Bhakti traditions in local languages, the rebuilding of temples and a strong economy based on land revenue, hunḍīs and Indian Ocean trade, even as European companies entered.

Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern

- Learn the “who resisted and how” table thoroughly.
- Memorise key dates for MCQs.
- Explain resilience with cultural and economic examples, not just wars.
- Mark Saraighat, Haldighati, Ullal on a map.
- Use the fort-design idea in creative answers.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this chapter in the 2026-27 CBSE syllabus?

Yes. It is part of the new NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook “Understanding Society: India and Beyond” (Part 2, Chapter 3), prescribed for the 2026-27 session.

Can I download these notes as a PDF?

Yes. Use the free PDF link at the top of this page – no signup needed.

What does resilience mean in this chapter?

The ability of Indian communities to endure invasions and hardship while keeping their culture, institutions and economy alive.

Who won the Battle of Saraighat?

The Ahoms led by Lachit Borphukan, who defeated a Mughal fleet.

Conclusion

Resistance and Resilience shows how India endured seven centuries of change. Learn the tables and timeline, practise the Q&A here and save the free PDF for revision.

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Author Bio: Written and reviewed by the Nextoper Editorial Team, a group of CBSE social science educators who build chapter notes directly from the NCERT textbook and past board paper patterns.