

RISE OF FEUDALISM IN INDIA

one of the most important changes that took place after the decline of the Gupta Empire was the growth of the feudal states. The government officials of the Gupta Empire, local chiefs, defeated rajas and their supporters— who were paid by assigning to them revenue-yielding villages—reasserted their independence once the Gupta kingdom disintegrated. They were able to carve out a sphere of authority with the help of armed support, and later began to not only gradually collecting land revenue, but also assuming increased amounts of administrative powers, such as the right of awarding punishments and exacting fines on their own, which were considered royal privileges during the Gupta period. They constantly contended against each other and tried to enhance their spheres of authority and privileges.

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