

## *Implications of the Distinctive Features of the Ghori Chain of Command*

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The Ghoris have been considered the successors of the Ghaznavi Empire. To a certain extent this is true but only partially. The Ghoris had certainly been subject to the Ghaznavis and had served under them from time to time but this service had been sporadic and occasional. Secure in the highland defiles which were inaccessible even to their neighbouring highlanders, the Ghoris imbibed some cultural and linguistic influences and some political ambitions but very few administrative systems.<sup>1</sup> Some authors even erroneously believed that the Ghoris did not even have the traditional office of the *wazir*. This of course is not true but the kind of *wazir* that the Ghoris employed was vastly different from that of the Ghaznavis.

Shahab-ud-din Ghori, 'the hero of three stupendous defeats'<sup>2</sup> and the state he founded have languished in the shadow of the Ghaznavi State due to the British historiographic tradition for too long. In fact the Ghoris employed a socio-political structure that was quite distinct from that of their predecessors. Mahmud of Ghazni is known to have been kind to his brothers and to have

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1. This was the time when the Qara Kitai and Ghuzz Turks were ascendant in Central Asia and the Khwarizm Shahs were also expanding their empire. The Ghoris came into conflict with each of them from time to time. See A. B. M. Habibullah, *Foundations of Muslim Rule in India*, (Allahabad: N.p., 1961), 22f.
2. Aziz Ahmed, *Political History and Institutions of the Early Turkish Empire of Delhi*, (Lahore: N.p., 1949), 11. The author has made a very apt statement because Ghori was the kind of person who would not give up in defeat.

