

Kingdoms, Kings and an Early Republic

Q1. What helped Magadha to become a powerful kingdom in North India?

Ans. Magadha became a powerful kingdom in North India because:-

i. Many rivers such as the Ganga and Son flowed through Magadha.

This was important for (a) transport, (b) water supplies (c) making the land fertile.

ii. Parts of Magadha were forested. Elephants, which lived in the forest, could be captured and trained for the army. Forests also provided wood for building houses, carts and chariots.

iii. Besides, there were iron ore mines in the region that could be tapped to make strong tools and weapons.

iv. Magadha had two very powerful rulers, Bimbisara and Ajatasattu, who used all possible means to conquer other janapadas. Mahapadma Nanda was another important ruler. He extended his control up to the north-west part of the subcontinent.