

by side³²⁴ Modern Malwa is the region around Ujjayinī and Bhilsa. The influence of the Mālavas in the Mandasor region is proved by the fact that they could impose their tribal era upon the Mandasor princes.³²⁵ An inscription describes the subjugation of Sapta-Mālava by Daṇḍanāyaka Anantapāla, a feudatory of Vikramāditya VI.³²⁶

The Harṣacarita of Bāṇa refers to the 'wicked Mālava king' generally identified with Devagupta, who killed Grahavarman Maukhari, but was himself defeated by Rājyavardhana. B.C. Law places the kingdom of Devagupta between Prayāga and Bhilsa which is identical with Pūrva-Mālava.³²⁷

Thus the Mālavas originally belonged to Jhang District in Punjab (now in Pakistan), from where they spread all over Punjab and by the time of Samudragupta had migrated to Rajasthan. The Mālavas had emerged in 250 B.C. as an independent tribal state. But they came under the subservience of the Śakas in the 1st century B.C., to the western kṣatras from the 2nd to the 4th centuries A.D. and to Samudragupta in the 4th century A.D., but this typical native state exerted itself again.³²⁸ In the period after about A.D. 550 they seem to have migrated further to the east and covered the region from Bhilsa (Eastern Malwa) to Prayāga.³²⁹ During the rule of the Pālas of Bengal they seem to have migrated still further east; for the copper plates of the Pāla kings (excepting Dharmapāla), refer to the Mālavas as mercenary troops in their army.³³⁰

The name of the tribe survives in the modern province of Malwa (a transformation of the word Mālava), and in the brāhmaṇa castes called 'Mālavīs' or 'Mālavikas'. They are the brāhmaṇas of Mālava proper and the adjoining country, but are found also in Gujārat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.³³¹

13. *Mleccha* (No. 14, L. 4) :

According to Sircar³³² Fleet conjectures the reading to be Mleccha. The last few letters in line 4 after 'ni' are not legible. So how Fleet could take this reading without putting any doubt is really surprising. Mlecchas were amongst the enemies defeated by Skandagupta in this inscription (No. 14). The war with the Mlecchas probably refers to his fight with the Hūṇas which is specifically referred to in the Bhitari Pillar Inscription. Whether the Mlecchas are the same as Hūṇas or were a