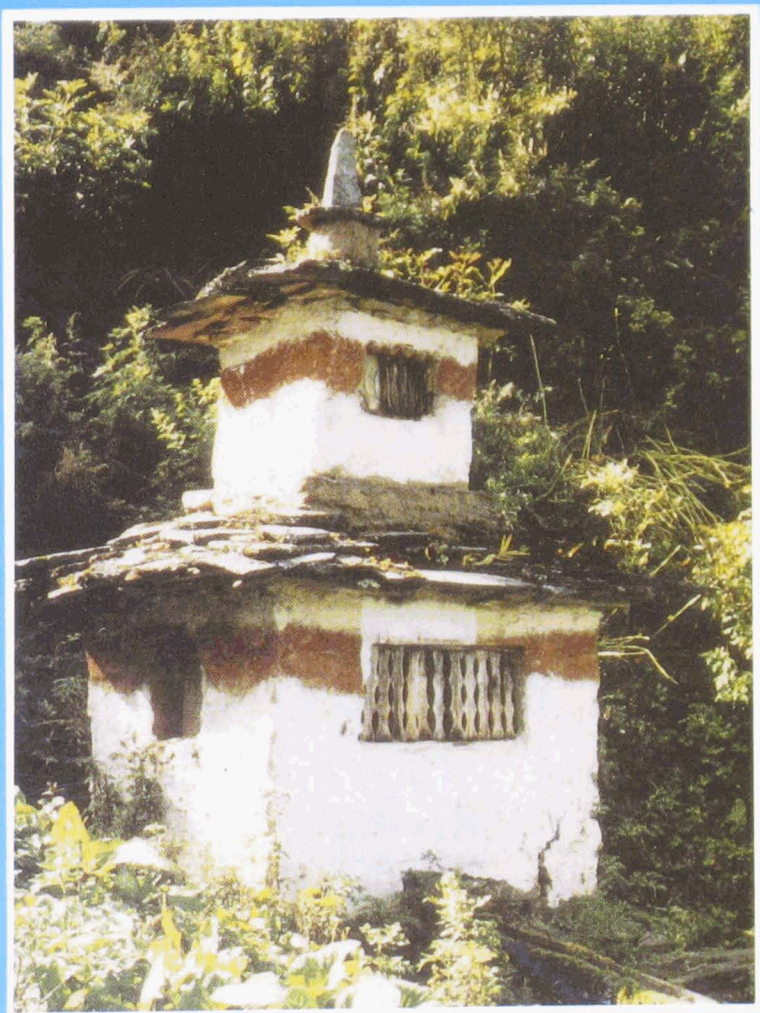


# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN



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# **A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN**

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**Thimphu : Bhutan**

**Prominent Publishers**  
**New Delhi**

**1996**

**First edition 1996**  
**A Brief History of Bhutan**  
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**ISBN: 81-86239-04-9**

**Published by Mrs. Sangay Xam, Post Box No. 417, Thimphu, Bhutan (Telephone No. 975-2-22562)**  
**in collaboration with Prominent Publishers, 18 Vigyan Lok, Vikas Marg Extension, Delhi-110 092 and**  
**printed at Cambridge Press, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110 006, India.**

**Price UK Pound 4.99**

## P R E F A C E

A Brief History of Bhutan is a gist of my thesis on which the Magadh University, Bodhgaya, India conferred the Doctorate of Philosophy on me on 25 April 1990. I have decided to bring it out as an addition to modern Bhutanese literature because only a limited amount of material has been written on Bhutan, so far, in English. This book provides a succinct overall view of Bhutanese history. I hope, it will be informative and useful to the students as well as to the general reader, wishing to know the history of the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan.

Appendices are a list of the anterior births of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel and his reincarnations, his son's reincarnations, Lam-Thripa's reincarnations, 69 Je Khenpo(s), 54 Druk Desi(s), governors, the hereditary monarchs, present structure of the Royal Government of Bhutan and Who's Who. The book concludes with a list of Bhuto-English terminology, a comprehensive chronology from 747 AD to the present day and a list of original references.

I owe special thanks to Mr. Wangdi, Mr. Kinzang Namgyel, Ms. Chimi Dolkar and my son Chenda Wangchuck for their help in various capacities. My special thanks should also go to my wife Sangay Xam and Mr. S. Mohan, proprietor of Prominent Publishers, New Delhi for publishing this book.

Thimphu  
January 1996

Dr. C. T. Dorji



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## I

The Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan (Druk-yul) is the last monarchy country which lies between two giants - China and India. It remained a sealed book for many centuries known as the world's last Shangri-La and was opened to the outside world only three and half decades. Since this country has been isolated from the rest of the world for many centuries and has remained a sovereign independent country, she has preserved a unique cultural traditions, religion and history.

As a matter of fact, the history of Bhutan is based on Buddhism because the Northern Buddhism still survives as the State religion which exercises a greater influence upon the life and culture of the people. Over the centuries the political institutions, monastic centres, Bhutanese laws and daily life in the country derived inspiration principally from the ancient tradition embedded in the tenets of the Buddhist doctrinal lore and the ethnical concepts of the trinity of the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha - popularly known, in this country, as Sangay Chhyo-dang Gedun-sum. The country experienced a theocratic form of government upto 1651 AD and an oligarchic form of government upto 1907 which was followed by a monarchy unlike other great countries in the world. Bhutan is a fountain of peace in the present strife-stricken world.

## II

The primitive history of Bhutan is enveloped in fable, yet there are a few countries in the present world that have such a long and continuous history and civilization. At a time when the now great nations of the West were sunk in barbarism, or had not yet come into existence, Bhutan was the seat of an ancient sovereign country and religion, the nursery of art, and the centre of the Buddhist world. Building dzong (castle-monastery), lhakhang (monastery) and chhoten (stupa) was regarded as the wisest and most beneficent acts of good rulers. Many dzongs, monasteries and chhoten built all over the country attest the bounteous care of the rulers and the lavish expenditure of money and labour on such constructions lives in the grateful recollections of the people of Bhutan today.

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The first historical event recorded in this country was the construction of two Buddhist monasteries namely Bumthang Jampa Lhakhang and Paro Kyichhu Lhakhang by the great Buddhist King Songtsen Gampo of Tibet in 653 AD through his spiritual power as he made a pledge to build 108 monasteries in one day known as Thadul-Yangdul Lhakhang throughout Jambudviba (the sub-continent) to propagate Buddhism. These two monasteries are still great places of Buddhist pilgrimage in Bhutan and are well-preserved and maintained.

### III

The Buddhism was first introduced in Bhutan by Guru Padmasambhava (Lotus-Born). He was invited to this country in 747 AD by Chakhar Gyalpo, the King of Bumthang for his medical treatment. Guru Padmasambhava is also known as Ugyen Guru Rinpoche in Bhutan. He was a great Indian saint and teacher of mysticism at the Nalanda University in India and was well-versed in Tantricism, an amalgam of Buddhism with primitive beliefs and nature worship. He was famous for having supernatural power to tame demons and evil-spirits all over India and Nepal at that time. Thus he was invited to Bhutan to cure Chakhar Gyalpo whose heart had been stolen by Shelging Karpo, the chief deity of Bumthang. Guru Padmasambhava accepted the princess of Bumthang named Lhachig Bumden Tshomo better known as Monmo Tashi Khyeden who possessed twenty-one marks of a dakini as his tantric consort (Zungma) for the meditation. He meditated seven days in the cave of Dorji Tsegpa (vajra-cave) and tamed Shelging Karpo. The King recovered and a great celebration ensued.

Guru Padmasambhava travelled all over Bhutan and established many places of pilgrimage where he showed the imprint of his body and foot on the rocks which can still be seen in this country. The following places are very famous :

- Damar Dorji-Tse
- Bayul Ajari
- Bayul Khenpajong
- Tang Mebar Tsho (burning lake)
- Gon Tshephug in Gasa



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- Paro Drag Karpo
- Paro Chhumphug
- Paro Taktshang (tiger's den)
- Doga Khamdrak Chilkar

Guru Padmasambhava is a great historical and religious figure in this country. He gave a distinct and authoritative image of the Dharma to Bhutan. Most Bhutanese people still follow his teachings which was later on known as Nyingma tradition of Northern Buddhism. The statue of Guru Rinpoche is also found in all the monasteries and most of the private houses in Bhutan. He is worshipped in eight-fold manifestations known as Guru Tshen-gay viz :

- a) Guru Padma Jungnay - the Lotus-Born endowing happiness to the three worlds
- b) Guru Padma Sambhava - the Saviour
- c) Guru Padma Gyalpo - the Lord of the scriptures (Tripitakas)
- d) Guru Dorji Drolo - the Diamond comforter of all
- e) Guru Nyima Od-zer - the Sun of enlightenment
- f) Guru Shakya Singye - the Second Sakya, the Lion
- g) Guru Singye Dra-Dok - the Lion-voiced propagator of religion
- h) Guru Loden Chhogse - the Giver of knowledge

According to Padma Thang-yig ( biography of Guru Padmasambhava) recorded by Khändu Yeshey Tshogyel of Tibet in the 8th century, there were three main reasons of his birth in this part of the world. They were :

- a) to substitute Lord Buddha after his parinirvana to further enlighten the world,
- b) to fulfil the wish of King Indra Bodhi who lost his faith in the works, their causes and their results (lay-jum-day) and

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- c) to preach doctrine of Buddha in Tibet since Lord Buddha did not visit Tibet

The birth of Guru Padmasambhava was predicted by Lord Buddha before his parinirvana. It was stated as follows :

KYE-HO NGA-NI MYANGS-NGAN HDAS-HOG-NAS  
LO-NI BCHU-GNIS LON-PAHI TSHE

O-RGYAN YUL-GYI NUB-BYANG MTSHAMS  
DRI-MED KO-SHAHI MTSHO-LING-DU

PAD-MA GE-SAR SDONG-PO LAS  
NGA-BAS LHAG-PAHI SKYES-BU-NI

PAD-MA HBYUNG-GNAS ZHES-BYA-BA  
GSANG-SNGAGS STON-PAHI BDAG-PO-HBYUNG

which means - after twelve years of Lord Buddha's parinirvana, a person, greater than Lord Buddha, named Padma Jungnay would be born from a Lotus in the lake Dimey Kosha which was situated in the north-west of Ugyen-yul, the country of Odiyana, believed to be modern Swat Valley in Pakistan. He would reign over the religious centres and preach sacred doctrine of Lord Buddha.

Guru Padmasambhava is also known as second Buddha (Sangay Nyipa). It is believed that he got an immortal life and is still living in Ngayabling, the fabulous continent to the north of Jambudvipa (the sub-continent) preaching and guarding the cannibal demons (Sinpo). His devotees cannot see him but they can certainly visualize his presence among them during the worship of Yarngo and Marngo which take place on 10th and 25th day of the month according to Bhutanese almanac. It is written in Kathang Dudpa (brief auto-biography of Guru Padmasambhava) :

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SNYIGS-MEHI SEMS-CHAN THAMS-CHAD NGA-YIS SKYOB  
DUS-GSUM RGYUM-CHHAD MED-PAR NGA-YIS GZIGS  
NGAN-SONG GSUM-DU SKYES-KYANG BSLU-RU HONG

which means that Guru Padmasambhava can protect all sinful creatures, see to their welfare throughout and ransom their lives even if they are born in the hell.

Bonism (devil-cult) too was introduced in Bhutan by Lhase Tsangma in the 9th century when he was exiled from Tibet. Its Lhabyo worship is still performed in some parts of this country merely as a part of traditional festival. Shagi Lhabyo performed annually in Wangdiphodrang district is very popular.

However, Nyingma tradition was revived in this country by Kunkhen Longchhe Ramjam (1308-63) who established many monasteries including Bumthang Tharpaling monastery. This was followed by the visit of a series of Tertonpas (treasure finders) e.g. Tertonpa Dorji Lingpa, Tertonpa Dimey Lingpa, Tertonpa Wugpa Lingpa and Tertonpa Padma Lingpa.

### IV

Then the advent of five groups of Lams better known as Lam Kha Nga started from Tibet. They were Lam Lhagpa, Lam Barawa, Lam Kathogpa, Nenyngpa and Lam Chazampa or Dupthob Thangtong Gyalpo.

- a) Lam Lhagpa :  
Gyalwa Lhanangpa (1164-1224) introduced Lhagpa Kagyu or Digung Kagyu tradition in Bhutan. He built Chelkha Dzong in Paro and Jemitokha Dzong in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- b) Lam Barawa :  
Lam Barawa Gyaltsen Pelzang (1310-91) introduced Shangpa Kagyu tradition in Bhutan. He built Hayphug Gonpa and Do-Chhoten Gonpa in Paro, Gon Nangsel Gonpa and Gon Gobur Gonpa in Gasa, Bhutan.

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- c) Lam Kathogpa :  
Lam Kathog Yeshey Bumpa (1245-1311) introduced Kathogpa tradition in Bhutan. He built Ugyen Tsemo at Paro Taktshang in Bhutan.
- d) Lam Nenyngpa :  
Lam Nenyngpa Chhimi Rubgye came to Bhutan in 1361 and introduced Geylugpa tradition. He built monasteries at Geptey Langmana and Chang Pelri in Paro, Samazinkha Lhakhang and Kabji Jasay Dzong in Thimphu, Jang Marpo Lhakhang in Punakha and Bajo Jimi Dzong in Wangdiphodrang, Bhutan.
- e) Lam Chazampa :  
Lam Chazampa or Dupthob Thangtong Gyalpo (1385-1464) preached Tshedup (life sustaining rituals) in Bhutan. He built Duntse Chhoten (chained stupa) and Tachhogang Lhakhang in Paro. He also constructed many iron bridges all over Bhutan.

The five groups of Lams had converted the people of Bhutan to the Buddhist faith and many monasteries were built all over the country. Although they exercised dual power of spiritual and temporal rules but could not consolidate the country under one ruling power. However, they were seriously opposed and defeated by Lam Phajo Drugom Zhigpo who entered Bhutan after them.

### V

Phajo Drugom Zhigpo (1162-1251) came to Bhutan from Tibet in 1220 AD according to the prediction of Drogon Tsangpa Gyaray, Yeshey Dorji (1161-1211) which was conveyed to him by Sangay Yonray (1177-1237) to introduce and preach Drukpa Kagyu tradition. He married a 21-year old girl named Sonam Paldon from Wang Chhumdo in Thimphu. They settled down in Cheri Dodena in Thimphu where she delivered one daughter and four sons. His four sons were Dungsay Gaton, Dungsay Nyima, Dungsay Wangchuck and Dungsay Dampa.

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Phajo Drugom Zhigpo travelled all over Bhutan and not only preached Drukpa Kagyu tradition but also tamed the demons. Eventually, he established his supreme power at Dzong-zhi (four dzongs), Dra-zhi (four cliffs) and Phu-zhi (four caves) in the country of Lho-Mon Kha-Zhi (Bhutan). They were :

- A. Dzong-zhi (four dzongs) :
  - a) Tango Chhoying Dzong
  - b) Lingzhi Jagyo Dzong
  - c) Yangtse Thuwo Dzong
  - d) Taktshang Singye Dzong
  
- B. Dra-zhi (four cliffs) :
  - a) Gom Dra
  - b) Dorji Dra
  - c) Dechhen Dra
  - d) Tshephug Dra
  
- C. Phu-zhi (four caves) :
  - a) Tsedong Dowa-phu
  - b) Gawa-phu
  - c) Langthang-phu
  - d) Singye-phu

Phajo Drugom Zhigpo's four sons exercised dual power of spiritual and temporal rules as Lam-dang-Pon (chief and abbot) in this country after him:

- a) Dungsay Gaton ruled over the district of Wangdiphodrang. He built Wachen Dzong and settled down at Sha Khothangkha. His descendants were known as Wachen Zhelngo.
  
- b) Dungsay Nyima ruled over the district of Thimphu and settled at Chang Gangkha. His descendants were known as Chang Gangkha Chhoje.

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- c) Dungsay Wangchuck ruled over the district of Punakha and Gasa and settled down at Gon. His descendants were known as Gontyo Sangmo.

### VI

The following Kagyu Lams visited Bhutan and built many monasteries in different parts of the country. They also preached Buddhism to the people of Bhutan :

- a) Gyalwang Lorepa (1187-1250), a disciple of Drogon Tsangpa Gyaray
- b) Jamyang Kunga Singye of Druk Ralung (1314-47)
- c) Gyalwang Je visited Bhutan in 1460 AD
- d) Dubchhen Kunga Legpa or Drukpa Kunlay (1455-529)
- e) Ngawang Chhogyel (1465-1540)
- f) Pal Ngagi Wangchuck (1517-54)
- g) Dungsay Mipham Chhogyel (1543-1606)
- h) Dungsay Mipham Tenpi Nyima (1569-1619)

This paved the way for Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel from their clan to finally bring Bhutan under one ruling power and control.

### VII

Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel (1594-1651), son of Dungsay Mipham Tenpi Nyima of Druk Ralung in Tibet entered Bhutan in 1616 AD according to the prediction of Guru Padmasambhava and Drogon Tsangpa Gyaray. He was reminded of this prediction in his dream by Pal Yeshey Gonpo (Maha Kala), the protecting chief deity of Bhutan. Gon Wogtsho Lam, ruler of Gasa, Bhutan also extended his cordial invitation to Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel to come to Bhutan. At the same time, Tsang Deb Phuntsho Namgyel did not keep him in peace due to power clash. Thus Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel came to Bhutan at the age of 23 and unified the country under one ruling power and control.

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Bhutan was invaded by the Tsang and Tibetan armies six times but the Bhutanese Pazab (militia) resisted with their wonted heroism under the dynamic leadership of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel. He introduced laws into the lawless country known as Lho-Thrim-mi-lu-Thrim and Za-Lung-mi-lu-Lung. His laws were of two-fold based upon the Dharma or Righteousness. The spiritual laws were said to resemble a silken knot known as "chhos-khrims dar-gyi mdud-phud" i.e. easy and light at first but gradually becoming tighter and tighter. The temporal laws were said to resemble a golden yoke known as "ryal-khrims gser-gyi gnyah-shing" i.e. growing heavier and heavier by degrees. He also introduced his famous seal of Nga Chudug (16 Ngas) in which he promulgated the important deeds. This seal became famous all over the world. In short, it is called Palden Drukpa Chholay Namgyel (the glorious Drukpa of victorious in all directions) which is the Royal Crest of His Majesty's Government of Bhutan as that of the lion's four heads crest of King Ashoka which is the national emblem of the Indian Government today.

In 1627, two notable Jesuit Fathers visited Bhutan. They were Stephen Cacella and John Cabrel who were the first Europeans to come to Bhutan. Gyalpo Singye Namgyel, the King of Ladakh sought Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel's friendship and Tyo Gangri (Mt. Kailash) was offered to him. Gangri Lam was appointed from the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan to rule the district of Tyo Gangri with dual power. Raja Drabya Sahi and Raja Purander Sahi of Nepal also became Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel's good friends who offered two stupas - Chhoten Jaro Khasho (Boudhanath) and Phapa Shingkul (Swayambhonath) to him. Ja Lam was appointed from the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan to look after the management of two stupas in Kathmandu, Nepal. Raja Prem Narayan of Cooch Behar in India also sought the friendship of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel who offered two districts of his kingdom i.e. Gairkatta and Jalpaiguri to him.

Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel was a great builder and he built many dzongs (castle-monasteries) and introduced monastic body in Bhutan. Cheri Dorji-dhen was built in 1620 AD and started a monastic body with 30 monks for the first time in the country. Simtokha Dzong was the first dzong built by him in Bhutan in 1629 AD. It is well preserved and maintained to this day and the

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famous Rigzhung Institute is housed in this dzong from 1961. Punakha Dzong was built in 1637 on the river-shed of river Pho-chhu and Mo-chhu. The monastic body was shifted from Cheri to Punakha and it was up-graded to the Central Monastic Body with 600 monks. Punakha was then declared as the capital of Bhutan. Even today, it is the winter resort of the Central Monastic Body. Wangdiphodrang Dzong was built in 1638. The dzong played a vital role in controlling the country owing to its strategic location.

In 1641, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel took over Do-ngon Dzong from the descendants of Lam Lhagpa. Since the dzong was found too small to accommodate both monks and civil officials under the dual systems of government, another dzong was built to house the monks. The previous dzong was known as upper dzong for the civil officials and the newly constructed dzong was known as lower dzong for the monks. However, 13th Druk Desi Chhogyel Sherub Wangchuck (1744-63) enlarged the lower dzong to accommodate both civil officials and monks which was then known as Tashichhodzong. The previous dzong was then known as Dechhen Phodrang. At present, a monastic school is housed in this dzong. Paro Dzong and Drugyel Dzong were built in 1646 and 1649 respectively. The latter one was to commemorate the Bhutanese victories over the Tibetans. Tashichhodzong was further enlarged by the third King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (1952-72) in 1966 and consecrated by His Holiness Gyalwa Karmapa. Now it is the main secretariat of Royal Government of Bhutan.

Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel sent Chhogyel Minjur Tenpa to Tongsa to unify eastern Bhutan and built Tongsa Dzong in 1644. He also sent Donyer Druk Namgyel to Dagana to subdue the lawless people and built Daga Dzong in 1655. Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel was ordained in 1632 at Cheri by his tutor Yongzin Lhawang Lodyo after having a son (Gyalsay Jampel Dorji) from his Bhutanese consort Thri-Cham Golkar Dolma. He ruled Bhutan for 35 years from 1616 to 1651. During this period, he was continuously engaged in warfare and consolidating his temporal and spiritual rules. He brought Bhutan under one ruling power and control.



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Finally in 1651, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel at the age of 58 decided to renounce the world completely. He introduced the diarchical form of government known as "chhos-srid gnyis-ldan" under which he appointed Umzey Tenzin Drugyel as the first Druk Desi to head the temporal rule and Pekar Jungney as the first Je Khenpo to head the spiritual rule in this country. He also instituted Lhengay Zhungtshog (cabinet). Thus Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel started his sacred retreat in Punakha Dzong and eventually his Kudung (Body) was kept in Machhen Lhakhang in Punakha Dzong which can still be seen. It is Bhutanese tradition that His Majesty the King obtains a ceremonial scarf and blessing from this sacred chapel at the time of his coronation. His Holiness the Je Khenpo also does the same at the time of his consecration.

### VIII

The diarchical form of government (chhos-srid gnyis-ldan) was introduced in 1651 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel. His supreme authority was divided into two sections of spiritual and temporal rules for the better ecclesiastical and temporal administration of the country after him. So Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel appointed Pekar Jungney as the first Je Khenpo to head the spiritual rule and Umzey Tenzin Drugyel as the first Druk Desi to head the temporal rule. A cabinet (Lhengay Zhungtshog) was also constituted with four senior members to take decision on the important matters relating to the country's smooth administration including the appointment and removal of Druk Desi. Whereas the post of the Je Khenpo was to be filled up by seniority but one must possess profound knowledge of Buddhism, especially Drukpa Kagyu tradition.

The duties of Druk Desi as laid down by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in 1651 were to attend to the general administration of the country, to deal with foreign power and to manage income, revenue and other sources of the country. He must also look after the welfare of the monks and general public. The duties of the Je Khenpo as laid down by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in 1651 were to enforce the strict observance of priestly vows among the monks, direct their studies and preside over the ceremonies. He should also control the Rubdey (monastic body) and other monasteries all over the country. Over and above, he

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has to preach and propagate Buddhism in the country. He should also perform necessary worship ceremonies in Punakha Dzong during winter and Tashichhodzong during summer for the welfare of the people and peace and prosperity of the country.

### IX

However, over the long period of 255 years from 1651 to 1906, there were 54 Druk Desi(s) and the cabinet could not function effectively which resulted in a chaotic political situation in the country. Each Druk Desi started his own policy and programmes but could not implement and achieve the goal in his short tenure.

This resulted not only in a chaotic political situation in Bhutan during the Desi era but also the rise of civil wars, battles and murders in the country. The only significant contributions of some of the Druk Desi(s) were the restoration of the dzongs after several fires, earthquakes and floods in Bhutan. Bhutan also received the following British missions during the Desi era :

- George Bogle in 1774
- Captain Samuel Turner in 1783
- Captain Pemberton in 1838
- Ashley Eden in 1864

The country could not prosper during the Desi era. However, Bhutanese joined hands and defended the sovereignty of the country at the time of foreign invasions from the north and the south. When the British attacked Bhutan in 1864-65 the Bhutanese fought back under dynamic leadership of Tongsa Penlop Ugyen Wangchuck and consequently the British could not conquer Bhutan. Then the general public, the council of ministers, the Central Monastic Body and other eminent political figures in the country unanimously elected Tongsa Penlop Ugyen Wangchuck as the first hereditary King of Bhutan (Druk Gyalpo) on 17th December, 1907.

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### X

It can be seen that the spiritual rule continued from 1651 to the present day without any break and much change in this country. Bhutan had 69 Je Khenpo(s) including the present Je Khenpo, His Holiness Geshey Gedun Rinchen who was investitured during April 1990. The position of His Holiness the Je Khenpo is still equal to His Majesty the King of Bhutan and they also wear the same yellow robes. Mahayan Buddhism exercises greater influence on the administration of the country. It should be remembered that in ancient Bhutan, as in Sri Lanka and Burma, to this day the national instructors were Buddhist monks. The rank structures of the civil servants are also still based on the monastic tradition in Bhutan.

### XI

As a matter of fact, the monarchical history of Bhutan dates from the 17th December, 1907 with the emergence of the Wangchuck Dynasty headed by Druk Gyalpo Ugyen Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan. This dynasty came into being in accordance with the prophecy of Guru Padmasambhava. It was stated in Kathang Dudpa that my spiritual incarnation from Bumthang will ascend the throne.

BUMTHANG PHYOGS-NAS KHRIS-YI ZUR-CHHA GNON  
RGYAL-SRID CHHOS-KHRIMS SKYONG-BAHI NGA-SPRUL  
BYON

The second King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Wangchuck remained very busy maintaining peace in the country. However, he introduced modern education in the country. Under the far sighted guidance of the third King, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, planned developmental activities were undertaken and the first Five Year Plan started in 1961. The first priority was given for the construction of National Highways and establishment of schools for modern education.

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Bhutan joined world organizations such as the Colombo Plan in 1962 and the United Nations in 1971 to strengthen and maintain international relations. His late Majesty also introduced political and social reforms which included the establishment of the National Assembly, the Royal Advisory Council, the Cabinet, the Planning Commission, independence of judiciary. Age-old serfdom was abolished and the slaves were given land and equal rights as citizen of the country.

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck was the youngest king of the present world at the time of his coronation in June 1974 and Bhutan is being fast developed under his dynamic leadership. All four monarchs have taken keen interest in the development of the country both physically and spiritually. Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck is a great builder like Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel. Many dzongs and monasteries were constructed in the districts of Gaylegphug, Samtse, Samdrupjongkhar, Tsirang and Zhemgang during his reign.

## XII

The history of Bhutan is a subject about which many of us have very little knowledge. We know a great deal of the history of other countries. Our children can tell us all about other countries but of the elements of the Bhutanese geography and history they are in blissful ignorance. Many even of our educated men and women have but a dim idea of our rich social and cultural heritage and history. Therefore, it is important for us to inculcate high nationalistic aspirations such as Tha-Dham-Tshi (complete pledge), Lay-Jum-Day (the works, their causes and their results) and Palden Drukpi Driglam Namzha (Bhutanese code of conduct) in the younger generation of today who will be the leaders of our nation tomorrow.

This humble work is an attempt to inspire young Bhutanese scholars to undertake research works in the rich and valuable social and cultural heritage, religion and history of our country while trying to keep a balance between modernization and a traditional culture.

Thimphu

January 1996

Dr. C.T. Dorji

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- P Present Structure of the Royal Government of Bhutan
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----- X -----

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### Appendix - A

#### **The anteriour births of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel**

1. Jigten Wangchuck
2. Rigden Pekar
3. Tibetan King Sogtsen Gampo
4. Khenchhen Zhiwa-Tsho
5. Pal Naropa
6. Dayod Zhon-nu
7. Yeshey Dorji
8. Gyalwa Je
9. Jamyang Chhyoda
10. Kuenkhen Padma Karpo

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### Appendix - B

#### **Body reincarnation of Zhabdrun Ngawang Namgyel (Kui Tulku)**

The first reincarnation of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel representing his body known as Kui Tulku was born in Sikkim but no recognition was given. Hence no further body reincarnations were born.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### Appendix - C

#### **Verbal reincarnation of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel (Sungtul or Chholay)**

All together there were six reincarnations of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel representing his speech known as Sungtul (Chholay). Their names and years were as follows:

- |    |                          |             |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Chholay Namgyel          | 1708 - 1736 |
| 2. | Chholay Shacha Tenzin    | 1736 - 1780 |
| 3. | Chholay Yeshey Gyaltshen | 1781 - 1830 |
| 4. | Chholay Jigme Dorji      | 1831 - 1850 |
| 5. | Chholay Yeshey Ngodub    | 1850 - 1917 |
| 6. | Chholay Jigme Tenzin     |             |

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### Appendix - D

#### **Mental reincarnation of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel (Thutul)**

All together there were six reincarnations of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel representing his mind known as Thutul. Their names and years were as follows:

- |    |                                   |             |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Zhabdrung Thutul Jigme Daba (I)   | 1724 - 1761 |
| 2. | Zhabdrung Thutul Chhoki Gyaltshen | 1762 - 1788 |
| 3. | Zhabdrung Thutul Jigme Daba       | 1791 - 1830 |
| 4. | Zhabdrung Thutul Jigme Norbu      | 1831 - 1861 |
| 5. | Zhabdrung Thutul Jigme Chhogyel   | 1862 - 1904 |
| 6. | Zhabdrung Thutul Jigme Dorji      | 1905 - 1931 |

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### Appendix - E

#### **Reincarnation of Gyalsay Jampel Dorji, son of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel (Gyalsay Tulku)**

All together there were five reincarnations of Gyalsay Jampel Dorji, son of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel known as Gyalsay Tulku. Their names and years were as follows:

- |    |   |             |
|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Gyalsay Tulk, Kunga Gyaltshen<br>alias Ganapati | 1689 - 1713 |
| 2. | Gyalsay Tulku, Jigme Norbu                      | 1717 - 1735 |
| 3. | Gyalsay Tulku, Drukda Namgyel                   | 1737 - 1762 |
| 4. | Gyalsay Tulku, Jigme Namgyel                    | 1763 - 1795 |
| 5. | Gyalsay Tulku, Ngawang Jampel                   | 1795 - 1831 |

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### Appendix - F

#### **Reincarnation of Lam-Thripa (Chhotul)**

Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel appointed Gyalsay Tenzin Rubgye (1638-1696) as Gyaltshab (Regent) with the title of Lam-Thripa which literally means the holder of the throne. All together there were six reincarnations of Lam-Thripa known as Chhotul. Their names and years were as follows:

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | First Chhotul was born in Tibet but the child did not survive.        |           |
| 2. | Second Chhotul was born in Dagana, Bhutan but died at the age of six. |           |
| 3. | Chhotul Mipham Wangpo alias<br>Ngawang Tenzin Drugyel                 | 1709-1738 |
| 4. | Chhotul Jigme Singye  | 1742-1789 |
| 5. | Chhotul Tshulthrim Daba   | 1790-1830 |
| 6. | Chhotul Thinley Jamtsho   | 1835-1889 |

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### Appendix - G

#### His Holiness Je Khenpo(s)

There were 69 Je Khenpos including the present Je Khnepo. Their names and tenures were as follows:

1.	His Holiness, Je Pekar Jungney	1651 - 1673
2.	His Holiness, Je Sonam Yozer	1673 - 1689
3.	His Holiness, Je Pekar Lhundub	1689 - 1697
4.	His Holiness, Je Damchho Pekar	1697 - 1707
5.	His Holiness, Je Zodpa Thinley	1707 - 1724
6.	His Holiness, Je Ngawang Lhundub	1724 - 1730
7.	His Holiness, Je Ngawang Thinley	1730 - 1738
8.	His Holiness, Je Tenzin Norbu	1738 - 1744
9.	His Holiness, Je Shacha Rinchhen	1744 - 1755
10.	His Holiness, Je Tenzin Chhogyel	1755 - 1762
11.	His Holiness, Je Ngawang Thinley	1762 - 1769
12.	His Holiness, Je Kunga Jamtsho	1769 - 1771
13.	His Holiness, Je Yonten Thaye	1771 - 1775
14.	His Holiness, Je Tenzin Namgyel	1775 - 1781
15.	His Holiness, Je Kunga Gyaltschen	1781 - 1784
16.	His Holiness, Je Sherab Singye	1784 - 1791
17.	His Holiness, Je Jamtul Yeshey Dorji	1791 - 1797
18.	His Holiness, Je Jamyang Gyaltschen	1797 - 1803
19.	His Holiness, Je Ngawang Chhogyel	1803 - 1807
20.	His Holiness, Je Chholay Yeshey Gyaltschen	1807 - 1811
21.	His Holiness, Je Jampel Daba	1811 - 1816
22.	His Holiness, Je Jigme Gyaltschen	1816 - 1826
23.	His Holiness, Je Jampel Daba (His second tenure)	1826 - 1231
24.	His Holiness, Je Chhoje Sacha Gyaltschen	1831 - 1836
25.	His Holiness, Je Sherub Gyaltschen	1836 - 1839
26.	His Holiness, Je Yonten Jamtsho	1839 - 1840
27.	His Holiness, Je Pema Zangpo	1840 - 1847

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

28.	His Holiness, Je Rinchhen Zangpo	1847 - 1848
29.	His Holiness, Je Pema Zangpo (His second tenure)	1848 - 1850
30.	His Holiness, Je Jampel Jamtsho	1850 - 1851
31.	His Holiness, Je Yonten Gyaltshen	1851 - 1858
32.	His Holiness, Je Tshulhtrim Gyaltshen	1858 - 1860
33.	His Holiness, Je Kunga Peljor	1860 - 1861
34.	His Holiness, Je Shedub Yozer	1861 - 1865
35.	His Holiness, Je Shacha Gyaltshen	1865 - 1869
36.	His Holiness, Je Yonten Pelzang	1869 - 1873
37.	His Holiness, Je Kunga Singye	1873 - 1875
38.	His Holiness, Je Shacha Gyaltshen (His second tenure)	1875
39.	His Holiness, Je Lodyo Gyaltshen	1875 - 1878
40.	His Holiness, Je Pekar Yozer	1878 - 1881
41.	His Holiness, Je Ngawang Donden	1881 - 1886
42.	His Holiness, Je Chhoje Thinley Gyaltshen	1886 - 1888
43.	His Holiness, Je Tenzin Lhundub	1888 - 1889
44.	His Holiness, Je Chhoje Thinley Gyaltshen (His second tenure)	1889 - 1891
45.	His Holiness, Je Thinley Jamtsho	1891 - 1894
46.	His Holiness, Je Damchho Gyaltshen	1894 - 1899
47.	His Holiness, Je Sherub Lhundub	1899 - 1901
48.	His Holiness, Je Jamyang Rinchhen	1901 - 1903
49.	His Holiness, Je Rigzin Nyingpo	1903 - 1907
50.	His Holiness, Je Jampel Shenyen	1907 - 1909
51.	His Holiness, Je Jampi Tobzang	1909 - 1912
52.	His Holiness, Je Palden Singye	1912 - 1915
53.	His Holiness, Je Chholay Yeshey Ngodub	1915 - 1917
54.	His Holiness, Je Yeshey Dawa	1917 - 1918
55.	His Holiness, Je Palden Singye	1918 - 1919
56.	His Holiness, Je Mipham Wangpo	1919 - 1922
57.	His Holiness, Je Ngawang Gyaltshen	1922 - 1927
58.	His Holiness, Je Seshi Namgyel	1927 - 1931

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

59.	His Holiness, Je Chhoki Wangchuck	1931 - 1940
60.	His Holiness, Je Chhoje Ngawang Thinley	1940 - 1946
61.	His Holiness, Je Samten Jamtsho	1946 - 1955
62.	His Holiness, Je Yonten Tsondul	1955 - 1956
63.	His Holiness, Je Thinley Lhundub	1956 - 1961
64.	His Holiness, Je Samten Pelzang	1961 - 1965
65.	His Holiness, Je Yeshey Singye	1965 - 1968
66.	His Holiness, Je Yonten Tharchhin	1968 - 1971
67.	His Holiness, Je Ngawang Thinley Lhundub	1971 - 1986
68.	His Holiness, Je Ngawang Tenzin Dondub	1986 - 1990
69.	His Holiness, Je Geshey Gedun Rinchhen	1990 onwards

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### Appendix - H

#### **His Highness, Druk Desi(s)**

There were 54 Druk Desis from 1651 to 1906. Their names and tenures were as follows:

1.	His Highness, Desi Umzey Tenzin Drugyel	1651-1655
2.	His Highness, Desi Tenzin Drukda	1656-1667
3.	His Highness, Desi Chhogyel Minjur Tenpa	1667-1680
4.	His Highness, Desi Gyalsay Tenzin Rubgye	1680-1694
5.	His Highness, Desi Gedun Chhophel	1694-1701
6.	His Highness, Desi Ngawang Tshering	1702-1705
7.	His Highness, Desi Umzey Penjor	1705-1707
8.	His Highness, Desi Druk Rubgye	1707-1719
9.	His Highness, Geshey Desi Ngawang Jamtsho	1720-1729
10.	His Highness, Desi Gongsa Mipham Wangpo	1730-1735
11.	His Highness, Desi Zimpon Penjor	1736-1740
12.	His Highness, Desi Ngawang Gyaltshen	1740-1744
13.	His Highness, Desi Chhogyel Sherub Wangchuck	1744-1763
14.	His Highness, Desi Druk Phuntsho	1764-1765
15.	His Highness, Desi Wangzob Druk Tenzin	1765-1768
16.	His Highness, Desi Zhidhar	1768-1773
17.	His Highness, Desi Kunga Rinchen	1773-1776
18.	His Highness, Desi Jigme Singye	1776-1789
19.	His Highness, Desi Druk Tenzin	1789-1792
20.	His Highness, Desi Umzey Chapchhab	1792
21.	His Highness, Desi Chhogyel Sonam Gyaltshen	1792-1799
22.	His Highness, Desi Druk Namgyel	1799-1803
23.	His Highness, Desi Chhogyel Sonam Gyaltshen (His second tenure)	1803-1805
24.	His Highness, Desi Sangay Tenzin	1805-1806
25.	His Highness, Desi Umzey Parob	1806-1808
26.	His Highness, Desi Byop Chhyoda	1808-1809
27.	His Highness, Desi Tulku Tshulthrim Daba	1809-1810

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

28.	His Highness, Desi Zhabdrung Thutul Jigme Daba	1810-1811
29.	His Highness, Desi Chholay Yeshey Gyaltshen	1811-1815
30.	His Highness, Desi TshaphubDorji Namgye	1815
31.	His Highness, Desi Sonam Drugyel	1815-1819
32.	His Highness, Desi Gongzim Tenzin Drukda	1819-1823
33.	His Highness, Desi Chhoki Gyaltshen	1823-1831
34.	His Highness, Desi Dorji Namgyel	1831-1833
35.	His Highness, Desi Adab Thinley	1833-1835
36.	His Highness, Desi Chhoki Gyaltshen (His second tenure)	1835-1838
37.	His Highness, Desi Dorji Norbu	1838-1850
38.	His Highness, Desi Wangchuck Gyalpo	1850-1851
39.	His Highness, Desi Zhabdrung Thutul Jigme Norbu	1851-1852
40.	His Highness, Desi Damchho Lhundub	1852-1854
41.	His Highness, Desi Jamtul Jamyang Tenzin	1854-1856
42.	His Highness, Desi Kunga Palden	1856-1860
43.	His Highness, Desi Phuntsho Namgyel	1860-1863
44.	His Highness, Desi Tshewang Sithub	1863-1864
45.	His Highness, Desi Kagyud Wangchuck	1864
46.	His Highness, Desi Tshewang Sithub (His second tenure)	1865-1867
47.	His Highness, Desi Tsondul Pekar	1867-1870
48.	His Highness, Desi Jigme Namgyel	1870-1873
49.	His Highness, Desi Kitshab Dorji Namgyel	1873-1879
50.	His Highness, Desi Chhogyel Zangpo	1879-1882
51.	His Highness, Desi Lam Tshewang	1882-1884
52.	His Highness, Desi Gawa Zangpo	1884-1886
53.	His Highness, Desi Pam Sangay Dorji	1886-1903
54.	His Highness, Desi Chholay Yeshey Ngodub	1903-1906

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

## Appendix - I Togsa Penlop (Tongsab)

1. Tongsab Chhogyel Minjur Tenpa
2. Tongsab Sherub Lhundub (Namlungpa)
3. Tongsab Zhidhar
4. Tongsab Dorji Namgyel
5. Tongsab Sonam Drugyel
6. Tongsab Jangchhub Gyeltshen
7. Tongsab Konchhog Tenzin
8. Tongsab Ugyen Phuntsho
9. Tongsab Wangchhen Dorji (Tshoki Dorji)
10. Tongsab Jigme Namgyel (Father of 1st. King of Bhutan)
11. Tongsab Dungkar Chhoje Gyeltshen
12. Tongsab Pema Tenzin
13. Gongsal Ugyen Wangchuck (First King of Bhutan)
14. Gyalsay Jigme Wangchuck (Second King of Bhutan)
15. Gyalsay Jigme Singye Wangchuck (Fourth King of Bhutan)

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

## Appendix - J

### **Paro Penlop (Parob)**

1. Parob Tenzin Drukda
2. Parob Ngawang Chhyoda
3. Parob Ngawang Peljor
4. Parob Druk Dondub
5. Parob Samten Pekar
6. Parob Ngawang Gyeltshen
7. Parob Phuntsho
8. Parob Pema Wangda
9. Parob Tenzin Lhundub
10. Parob Sherub Wangchuck
11. Parob Tharpa
12. Parob Dalub Rinchhen
13. Parob Tyochung
14. Parob Ling Phuntsho
15. Parob Tagzi Dolma
16. Parob Tshulthrim Namgyel (Penlop Haap)
17. Parob Yonten Rinchhen
18. Parob Nyima Dorji
19. Parob Thinley Zangpo
20. Parob Tshewang Norbu
21. Gongsa Ugyen Wangchuck (First King of Bhutan)
22. Parob Thinley Tobgye
23. Parob Dawa Peljor (Cousin brother of 1st. King of Bhutan)
24. Parob Tshering Peljor (Uncle of 2nd. King of Bhutan)
25. Gyalsay Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (Third King of Bhutan)
26. Gyalsay Namgyel Wangchuck (Brother of 3rd. King of Bhutan)

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

## Appendix - K

### **Daga Penlop (Dagab)**

1. Dagab Tenpa Thinley
2. Dagab Tshulthrim Jungney
3. Dagab Rigzin Lhundub
4. Dagab Rabten
5. Dagab Tenzin Wangpo
6. Dagab Tshering Dondub
7. Dagab Dorji Norbu
8. Dagab Tashi Gangpa
9. Dagab Tshewang Phuntsho
10. Dagab Samten Dorji
11. Dagab Jamo Serpo
12. Dagab Do-yon Chelwa
13. Dagab Sithub
14. Dagab Tshewang Dorji

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## Appendix - L

### **Puna Dzongpon (Punab)**

1. Punab Pekar Rubgye
2. Punab Tenzin Drukda
3. Punab Druk Pelzang
4. Punab Tenpa Wangchuck
5. Punab Dalub Tobgye
6. Punab Dang Tashi
7. Punab Damchho Rinchen
8. Punab Ngodub
9. Punab Phuntsho Dorji
10. Punab Thonglay
11. Punab Wangchuck
12. Punab Wangsha

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### Appendix - M

#### **Thimphu Dzongpon (Thimphub)**

1. Thimphub Awu Tshering
2. Thimphub Norbu
3. Thimphub Ngwang Gyeltshen
4. Thimphub Tashi Dorji
5. Thimphub Druk Rubgye
6. Thimphub Sonam Drugyel
7. Thimphub Dondub
8. Thimphub Druk Phuntsho
9. Thimphub Druk Tenzin
10. Thimphub Chhoki Gyeltshen
11. Thimphub Uma Dewa (Sherub Tharchhin)
12. Thimphub Kasha
13. Thimphub Karma Drugyel
14. Thimphub Khasab Tobgye
15. Thimphub Kawang Mangkhel
16. Thimphub Lama Thewang
17. Thimphub Alu Dorji
18. Thimphub Kunzang Thinley
19. Thimphub Pema
20. Thimphub Kunzang Thinley  
(His second tenure)

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

## Appendix - N

### **Wangdiphodrang Dzongpon (Wangzob)**

1. Wangzob Chhoje Namkha Rinchen
2. Wangzob Gedun Chhophel
3. Wangzob Ngwang Tshering
4. Wangzob Druk Tenzin
5. Wangzob Sangye Tenzin
6. Wangzob Lepi Sherub
7. Wangzob Sonam Lhundub
8. Wangzob Sangay
9. Wangzob Kunga Gyeltshen
10. Wangzob Phuntsho Namgyel
11. Wangzob Dalub Tobgye
12. Wangzob Sigay
13. Wangzob Tenzin Namgyel
14. Wangzob Kawang Sangay
15. Wangzob Angdu
16. Wangzob Jigme Namgyel (Father of 1st. King of Bhutan)
17. Wangzob Thinley Tobgye
18. Wangzob Ashang Jampa
19. Wangzob Kodu
20. Wangzob Domchu

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### Appendix - O

#### **His Majesty the hereditary Kings of Bhutan**

- |    |                                    |   |             |
|----|------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. | His Majesty Ugyen Wangchuck        | - | 1907-26     |
| 2. | His Majesty Jigme Wangchuck        | - | 1926-52     |
| 3. | His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck  | - | 1952-72     |
| 4. | His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck | - | 1974onwards |

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

## Appendix - P

### **Present Structure of Royal Government of Bhutan**

- I. **His Majesty the King**  
Royal Secretariat
- II. **Legislature**
  - a) National Assembly
  - b) Royal Advisory Council
- III. **Judiciary**
  - a) High Court
  - b) District Court
  - c) Sub-Divisional Court
- IV. **Ministries**
  - a) Ministry of Home Affairs
  - b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - c) Ministry of Planning
  - d) Ministry of Finance
  - e) Ministry of Health & Education
  - f) Ministry of Trade & Industry
  - g) Ministry of Communications
  - h) Ministry of Agriculture
- V. **Embassies and Missions**
  - a) Royal Bhutanese Embassy, New Delhi, India
  - b) Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
  - c) Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Kuwait
  - d) Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations, New York
  - e) Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
- VI. **Autonomous Bodies**
  - a) Royal Civil Service Commission
  - b) Royal Audit Authority
  - c) National Environment Commission
  - d) Dzongkha Development Commission

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

- e) Special Commission for Cultural Affairs,
- f) Council for Ecclesiastical Affairs,
- g) Royal Monetary Authority
- h) Royal Institute of Management

### VII. **Dzongkhag Administration**

- a) Chhukha Dzongkhag
- b) Dagana Dzongkhag
- c) Gasa Dzongkhag
- d) Haa Dzongkhag
- e) Jakar/Bumthang Dzongkhag
- f) Lhuntse Dzongkhag
- g) Mongar Dzongkhag
- h) Paro Dzongkhag
- i) Pemagatshel Dzongkhag
- j) Punakha Dzongkhag
- k) Sarpang Dzongkhag
- l) Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag
- m) Samtse Dzongkhag
- n) Tashigang Dzongkhag
- o) Tashiyangtse Dzongkhag
- p) Thimphu Dzongkhag
- q) Tongsa Dzongkhag
- r) Tsirang Dzongkhag
- s) Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhag
- t) Zhemgang Dzongkhag

### VIII. **Defence**

- a) Royal Bhutan Army
- b) Royal Body Guard
- c) Royal Bhutan Police

### IX. **Corporations**

- a) Druk Air Corporation
- b) Kuensel and Bhutan Broadcasting Service

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

## Appendix - Q

### Ministers & Senior Civil Service Officers

#### I. Royal Secretariat

Dasho Pema Wangchen	-	Secretary
Dasho Dorji Gyaltsen	-	Zimpon

#### II. Legislature

2. National Assembly		
Dasho Pasang Dorji	-	Speaker
Dasho Tashi Phuntshog	-	Secretary
3. Royal Advisory Council		
H.E. Dasho Karma Letho	-	Kalyon
Mr. Kinley Tshering	-	Dy. Secretary

#### III. Judiciary

4. High Court		
H.E. Dasho Sonam Tobgye	-	Chief Justice

#### IV. Ministries

5. Ministry of Home Affairs		
H.E. Lyonpo Dago Tshering	-	Minister
Dasho Pema Wangchuk	-	Secretary of Survey
Dasho Tshering Wangda	-	Director
6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
H.E. Lyonpo Dawa Tsering	-	Minister
7. Ministry of Planning		
H.E. Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji	-	Minister
8. Ministry of Finance		
H.E. Lyonpo Dorji Tshering	-	Minister
Dasho Yeshey Zimba	-	Secretary
9. Ministry of Health & Education		
HRH Prince Namgyel Wangchuck	-	Rep. of His Majesty

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

- |     |   |   |                     |
|-----|---|---|---------------------|
|     | H.E. Dasho Tshewang J. Rixin  | - | Dy. Minister        |
|     | Dasho Sangay Ngedup   | - | Secretary           |
| 10. | Ministry of Trade & Industry  |   |                     |
|     | H.E. Lyonpo Om Pradhan  | - | Minister            |
| 11. | Ministry of Communications  |   |                     |
|     | HRH Ashi D.W. Wangchuck   | - | Rep. of His Majesty |
|     | H.E. Dasho Leki Dorji   | - | Dy. Minister        |
|     | Dasho Dorji Tenzin  | - | Secretary of PWD    |
| 12. | Ministry of Agriculture   |   |                     |
|     | HRH Ashi S.C. Wangchuck   | - | Rep. of His Majesty |
|     | H.E. Dasho Khandu Wangchuk  | - | Dy. Minister        |
|     | Dasho Kinzang Dorji   | - | Secretary           |
| V.  | <b>Embassies and Missions</b>   |   |                     |
| 13. | Royal Bhutanese Embassy, New Delhi, India   |   |                     |
|     | H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchen   | - | Ambassador          |
| 14. | Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh  |   |                     |
|     | H.E. Lyonpo Tashi Tobgyel   | - | Ambassador          |
| 15. | Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Kuwait   |   |                     |
|     | H.E. Dasho Tobgay S. Dorji  | - | Ambassador          |
| 16. | Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations, New York            |   |                     |
|     | H.E. Dasho Ugyen Tshering   | - | Kutshab             |
| 17. | Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland |   |                     |
|     | H.E. Dasho Jigmi Y. Thinley   | - | Kutshab             |

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### VI. **Autonomous Bodies**

- |     |  |             |  |
|-----|--|-------------|--|
| 18. | Royal Civil Service Commission<br>Dasho Thinley Gyamtsho                   | -           | Secretary                                    |
| 19. | Royal Audit Authority<br>Dasho Kipchu Dorji<br>Mrs. Y.T. Wangchuk          | -<br>-<br>- | Auditor General<br>Deputy Auditor<br>General |
| 20. | National Environment Commission<br>H.E. Dasho Paljor J. Dorji              | -           | Dy. Minister                                 |
| 21. | Dzongkha Development Commission<br>Sangay Dorji                            | -           | Secretary                                    |
| 22. | Special Commission for Cultural Affairs<br>Sangay Wangchug<br>Dasho Sithey | -<br>-      | Secretary<br>Director of Dance               |
| 23. | Council for Ecclesiastical Affairs<br>Sangay Tenzin                        | -           | Dy. Secretary                                |
| 24. | Royal Monetary Authority<br>Sonam Wangchuk                                 | -           | Managing Director                            |
| 25. | Royal Institute of Management<br>Kunzang Wangdi<br>Dr. C. T. Dorji         | -<br>-      | Director<br>Registrar                        |

### VII. **Dzongkhag Administration**

- |     |         |   |                                |
|-----|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| 26. | Chhukha | - | Dasho Pen jor Dorji, Dzongda   |
| 27. | Dagana  | - | Dasho Yeshey Tshering, Dzongda |
| 28. | Gasa    | - | Dasho Lham Dorji, Dzongda      |
| 29. | Sarpang | - | Dasho Sonam Tenzin, Dzongda    |
| 30. | Haa     | - | Dasho Sherab Dorji, Dzongda    |
| 31. | Jakar   | - | Dasho Pema L. Dorji, Dzongda   |



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

32. Lhuntse - Dasho Sherab Gyaltshen, Dzongda
33. Mongar - Dasho Lhagpa Dorji, Dzongda
34. Paro - Dasho Dophu Tshering, Dzongda
35. Pemagatshel - Dasho Penden Wangchuk, Dzongda
36. Punakha - Dasho Dodo Tshering, Dzongda
37. Samdrupjongkhar- Dasho Dorji Wangdi, Dzongda
38. Samtse - Dasho Jigme Tshetrim, Dzongda
39. Tashigang - Dasho Rinzin Gyaltshen, Dzongda
40. Tashiyantse - Dasho Kunzang Namgyel, Dzongda
41. Thimphu - Dasho Dorji Namgyel, Dzongda
42. Tongsa - Dasho Tobgye Tshering, Dzongda
43. Tsirang - Dasho Dawa Tshering, Dzongda
44. Wangdiphodrang- Dasho Karma Dorji, Dzongda
45. Zhemgang - Dasho Sherab Tenzin, Dzongda

### VIII. Defence

46. Royal Bhutan Army  
Gunglyon Lam Dorji - Chief Operation Officer
47. Royal Body Guard  
Maksi Dhendup Tshering - Commandant
48. Royal Bhutan Police  
Maksi Wogma  
Wangdi Tshering - Actg. Chief of Police

### IX. Corporations

49. Druk Air Corporation  
Sonam Tshering - Managing Director
50. Kuensel and Bhutan Broadcasting Service  
Tshering Wangdi - Jt. Managing Director

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### **Bhuto-English Terminology**

An attempt has been made to select most appropriate Bhutanese vocabularies and phrases which are un-translatable and carry their own exclusive meaning, thought and feeling which other languages cannot exactly communicate and included in this book under "Bhuto-English Terminology". As a matter of fact, the original words and phrases exude a flavour which is so much a part of the Bhutanese way of life and culture. It is hoped that at the turning point of the twenty-first century some of these Bhutanese vocabularies and phrases may find their rightful place in some of the leading English dictionaries.

Ache Lhamo	-	lady Goddess
Ashi/Saymo	-	princess
Bangchu	-	basket
Beyul	-	hidden world
Bonchhyo	-	devil cult
Byochham	-	ritual dance
Chaka	-	betel nut and leaf container
Chhagyo Lhentshog	-	Planning Commission
Chhangkab	-	attendant
Chhi-Zhob	-	non-gazetted officer
Chhodha	-	archery tournament
Chhoje	-	noble lineage
Chhoten	-	stupa
Chhosho	-	altar/chapel
Chhyo	-	religion
Chhyo-Thrim	-	spiritual law
Chhyosi Nyidhen	-	dual system of government
Chilla or Penlop	-	governor
Chiwang	-	violin
Chyodom	-	tradi-tional desk
Dagbi Mami	-	Royal Bhutan Army
Damnyey	-	guitar
Dapon	-	archery-in-charge
Darpon	-	officer-in-charge of discipline

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

Gyalpoi Zimpon	-	His Majesty's secretary
Desho/Druksho	-	parchment paper
Desi	-	Regent or Raja
Do-nga	-	sutra and tantra
Dodam	-	monitor
Doma-Paney	-	betel nut and leaf
Gyalpoi Donyer	-	Chief Secretary
Dopchu	-	bracelets
Dratshang Lhentshog	-	Council for Ecclesiastical Affairs
Dresi	-	saffron rice
Driglam Namzha	-	code of conduct
Druk Desi	-	Deb Raja
Druk-yul	-	Bhutan
Drukpa Kagyu	-	one of the Kagyu Schools
Dzongkhag Thrimkhang	-	District Court
Dungpa	-	Sub-divisional Officer
Dutsi	-	holy water
Dzong	-	castle or fort
Dzongbyo	-	in-charge of monastery
Dzongda	-	commissioner
Dzongkha	-	national language of Bhutan
Gawu	-	fine
Geshey	-	doctorate/doctor/learned
Gewa-kachhyo	-	rituals
Gho	-	Bhutanese gent's dress
Gyal-Thrim	-	temporal law
Gyalmo	-	queen
Gyalpo	-	king
Gyalsay	-	prince
Gyaltshab	-	regent
Gyalyum	-	queen mother
Gyu-zhab	-	respects to seniors and elders
Gyudpa	-	descendant
Jaam	-	effigy

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

Jabla	-	diwan
Je Khenpo	-	Sangha Raja
Jong	-	valley
Kamney	-	white sash for men
Kagyü	-	one of the four schools of Northern Buddhism
Kanjur	-	105 volumes of Buddha's teachings
Kayshe	-	wrestling
Kerey	-	belt
Key-tsi	-	horoscope
Kha	-	entrance, mouth
Khandum	-	fairy
Khenpo	-	chief abbot
Kilkhör	-	painting
Kira	-	Bhutanese woman's dress
Koma	-	broaches
Ku	-	statue
Kudu	-	prefect
Kusung Mami	-	Royal Body Guard
Kutshab	-	representative/ambassador
Kyo-nyer	-	care taker of monastery
Lam	-	abbot, head of monastery
Lam Lugsol	-	tradition
Lam dang Pon	-	abbot and chief
Lay-Jum-Dey	-	work, causes and results
Lekhung	-	department
Lha-day	-	gods and demons
Lhengay/Lyonpo	-	minister
Lhengay Zhungtshog	-	cabinet
Lhenkhang	-	ministry
Lim	-	flute
Lodyo Tshogdu	-	Royal Advisory Council
Longkhor Chunyi	-	Twelve year cycles
Lopon	-	master

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

Lu-nga-yi-sum	-	body, speech and mind
Lungten	-	prophecy
Lyonchhen	-	prime minister
Maap	-	bridegroom
Machi Bumden	-	single mother
Magpon	-	army commander
Mani Dungjur	-	one billion sutras
Misser	-	public
Mita-lamchu	-	rituals
Mon	-	monpa race
Naam	-	bride
Nangpi Yonten	-	Buddhist philosophy
Neten	-	abbot, head of Rubdey
Ngen (Thu)	-	magic spell
Ngen	-	marriage
Ngen-tham	-	marriage certificate
Norpon	-	cattle in-charge
Nyerchhen	-	revenue officer
Nyikem	-	gazetted officer
Nyingma	-	one of the four schools of Buddhism
Pal Yeshey Gonpo	-	Maha Kala
Pala	-	bamboo to carry wine
Palden Lhamo	-	Maha Kali
Paro Penlop	-	governor of Paro
Pasakha	-	Buxa Duar
Pata	-	sword
Pazab	-	militia/army
Phodrang	-	palace
Pholha	-	guardian spirit
Pungdo	-	shot put
Rachu	-	sash for women
Rangjon	-	self-created
Rigney	-	grammar/ lexicography
Rinpochhe	-	precious one or reincarnate lam

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

Rubdey	-	monastic body
Sakyapa	-	one of the four schools of Northern Buddhism
Semso (Thuso)	-	condolence
Shamtho	-	monk's bottom wear
Si	-	administration
Sidpi Khorlo	-	cycle of existence (Bhawachakra)
Solpon	-	butler-in-charge
Solzin Lhentshog	-	Special Commission for Cultural Affairs
Sosom	-	javeline
Suja	-	Bhutanese tea
Sungtul (Chholay)	-	speech incarnation of Zhabdrung Rinpochhe
Tenjur	-	225 volumes of commentorial canon
Thabpon	-	kitchen in-charge
Thabtshang	-	kitchen
Thangka/Kuthang	-	scroll paintings
Thingka	-	broach (old fashion)
Thong-dol	-	large scroll paintings
Thongju	-	long jump
Thri-dha	-	congratulatory presents
Thrimkhang Gongma	-	High Court
Thrimpon	-	magistrate/judge
Thrimsung Gagpa	-	Royal Bhutan Police
Thruku	-	monk's bag
Thutul	-	mind reincarnation of Zhabdrung Rinpochhe
Timi	-	lime container
Tongsa Penlop	-	governor of Tongsa
Tsawi Lam	-	root guru
Tsenden	-	sandal wood
Tshamchey	-	meditation
Tshamkhang	-	hermitage
Tshedup	-	life sustaining rituals

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

Tshepami	-	god of life
Tshethar	-	amnesty
Tsho-Lham	-	traditional Bhutanese shoes for men
Tshogdu	-	National Assembly of Bhutan
Tshongpon	-	trade officer
Tsipi Lopon	-	master of astrology
Tsipon	-	finance officer
Tulku	-	reincarnation
Tyoko	-	lady's jacket
Tyothu	-	monk's coat
Tyotsi	-	monk's top wear
U-Tsey	-	the tower
Umzey	-	chant master
Yangsi	-	reincarnation
Yigu	-	letter, script
Yongzin	-	tutor
Zhabje	-	foot print
Zhi-yob	-	civil servant
Zhung Dratshang	-	Central Monastic Body
Zhung	-	central or government
Zhung Kalyon	-	minister
Zhung Donyer	-	chief of protocol
Zhung	-	higher Buddhist philosophy
Zungma	-	tantric consort

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

### **Chronology**

- 747 - Guru Rinpoche came to Bhutan
- 750 - Beginning of Padmasambhava Period
- 775 - Construction of Samye Monastery in Tibet
- 1012 - Birth of Marpa
- 1038 - Death of Naropa
- 1040 - Birth of Milarepa
- 1079 - Birth of Gampoba
- 1099 - Death of Marpa
- 1110 - Birth of Dusum Khenpa
- 1123 - Death of Milarepa
- 1128 - Birth of Naphupa
- 1143 - Birth of Jigten Gonpo
- 1152 - Death of Gampoba
- 1161 - Birth of Drogon Tsangpa Gyaray
- 1164 - Birth of Gyalwa Lhanangpa
- 1182 - Birth of Lam Phajo
- 1187 - Birth of Lorepa
- 1193 - Death of Dusum Khenpa
- 1198 - Death of Naphupa
- 1213 - Birth of Yang Gonpa
- 1217 - Death of Jigten Gonpo
- 1220 - Lam Phajo came to Bhutan
- 1224 - Death of Gyalwa Lhanangpa
- 1229 - Death of Drogon Tsangpa Gyaray
- 1237 - Death of Sangay Yonray
- 1245 - Birth of Lam Kathog Yeshey Bumpa
- 1250 - Beginning of Phajo-Drugom Period
- 1250 - Death of Lorepa
- 1251 - Death of Lam Phajo
- 1258 - Death of Yang Gonpa
- 1277 - Birth of Sangay Yonray



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

- 1310 - Birth of Lam Barawa  
Gyaltshen Pelzang
- 1311 - Death of Lam Kathog Yeshey Bumpa
- 1314 - Birth of Kunga Singye
- 1329 - Birth of Tertonpa Ugyen Lingpa
- 1345 - Birth of Lodyo Singye
- 1346 - Birth of Tertonpa Dorji Lingpa
- 1347 - Death of Kunga Singye
- 1358 - Birth of Je Tsongkhapa
- 1367 - Death of Tertonpa Ugyen Lingpa
- 1385 - Birth of Lam Chazampa
- 1390 - Death of Lodyo Singye
- 1391 - Death of Lam Barawa Gyaltshen Pelzang
- 1403 - Birth of Tertonpa Rinchhen Lingpa
- 1405 - Death of Tertonpa Dorji Lingpa
- 1417 - Death of Je Tsongkhapa
- 1433 - Lam Chazampa came to Bhutan
- 1450 - Birth of Tertonpa Padma Lingpa
- 1464 - Death of Lam Chazampa
- 1465 - Birth of Ngawang Chhogyel
- 1478 - Death of Tertonpa Rinchhen Lingpa
- 1517 - Birth of Pal Ngagi Wangchuck
- 1521 - Death of Tertonpa Padma Lingpa
- 1524 - **Birth of Tertonpa Zhigpo Lingpa**
- 1527 - Birth of Kunkhen Padma Karpo
- 1540 - Death of Ngawang Chhogyel
- 1554 - Death of Pal Ngagi Wangchuck
- 1567 - Birth of Mipham Tenpi Nyima
- 1583 - Death of Tertonpa Zhigpo Lingpa
- 1591 - Birth of Desi Umzey Tenzin Drugyel
- 1592 - Death of Kunkhen Padma Karpo
- 1594 - Birth of Zhabdrung Rinpoche
- 1604 - Birth of Je Pekar Jungney

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

- 1616 - Zhabdrung Rinpoche came to Bhutan
- 1619 - Death of Mipham Tenpi Nyima
- 1619 - Introduction of Nga Chudug
- 1620 - Construction of Cheri Dorji-dhen
- 1620 - thirty monks ordained at Cheri
- 1629 - Simtokha Dzong
- 1637 - Punakha Dzong
- 1638 - Wangdiphodrang Dzong
- 1641 - Tashichhodzong
- 1644 - Tongsa Dzong
- 1646 - Birth of Tertonpa Terda Lingpa
- 1646 - Paro Dzong
- 1650 - Beginning of Zhabdrung Period
- 1651 - Je Pekar Jungney consecrated  
as the first Je Khenpo
- 1651 - Desi Umzey Tenzin Drugyel enthroned as the first Druk Desi
- 1651 - Sacred retreat of Zhabdrung Rinpoche
- 1655 - Death of Desi Umzey Tenzin Drugyel
- 1656 - Desi Tenzin Drukda enthroned  
as second Druk Desi
- 1667 - Desi Tenzin Drukda retired
- 1669 - Birth of Je Ngawang Lhundub
- 1673 - Death of Je Pekar Jungney
- 1680 - Gyalsay Tenzin Rubgye enthroned as fourth Druk Desi
- 1694 - Gyalsay Tenzin Rubgye retired
- 1700 - Birth of Je Tenzin Chhogyel
- 1702 - Desi Ngawang Tshering enthroned  
as sixth Druk Desi
- 1705 - Desi Ngawang Tshering retired
- 1709 - Birth of Je Shacha Rinchen
- 1714 - Death of Tertonpa Terda Lingpa
- 1720 - Geshey Ngawang Jamtsho enthroned as ninth Druk Desi
- 1723 - Birth of Je Yonten Thaye

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

- 1724 - Je Ngawang Lhundub consecrated  
as sixth Je Khenpo
- 1728 - Birth of Je Kunga Gyaltsen
- 1729 - Geshey Ngawang Jamtsho retired
- 1730 - Death of Je Ngawang Lhundub
- 1742 - Birth of Je Jamyang Gyaltsen
- 1744 - Je Shacha Rinchhen consecrated  
as ninth Je Khenpo
- 1755 - Je Shacha Rinchhen retired
- 1755 - Je Tenzin Chhogyel consecrated  
as tenth Je Khenpo
- 1759 - Death of Je Shacha Rinchhen
- 1762 - Je Tenzin Chhogyel retired
- 1767 - Death of Je Tenzin Chhogyel
- 1771 - Je Yonten Thaye consecrated  
as thirteenth Je Khenpo
- 1774 - George Bogle visits Bhutan
- 1775 - Je Yonten Thaye retired
- 1781 - Je Kunga Gyaltsen consecrated  
as fifteenth Je Khenpo
- 1784 - Je Kunga Gyaltsen retired
- 1784 - Death of Je Yonten Thaye
- 1786 - Death of Je Kunga Gyaltsen
- 1791 - Birth of Zhabdrung Thutul,  
Jigme Daba
- 1797 - Je Jamyang Gyaltsen consecrated  
as eighteenth Je Khenpo
- 1800 - Samuel Turner visits Bhutan
- 1803 - Death of Je Jamyang Gyaltsen
- 1810 - Enthronement of Zhabdrung Thutul, Jigme Daba
- 1811 - Desi Zhabdrung Thutul,  
Jigme Daba retired
- 1815 - Kishan Kant Bose visits Bhutan

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

- 1830 - Death of Zhabdrung Thutul, Jigme Daba as twenty-eighth Druk Desi
- 1831 - Birth of Desi Zhabdrung Thutul, Jigme Norbu
- 1838 - Captain Pemberton visits Bhutan
- 1861 - Death of Desi Zhabdrung Thutul, Jigme Norbu
- 1864 - Ashley Eden visits Bhutan
- 1927 - thirty Bhutanese boys sent to Kalimpong, India for study
- 1952 - Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck enthroned as third King
- 1959 - Bhutan's northern border sealed
- 1960 - Modernisation of Bhutan
- 1960 - Beginning of Modern Period of Literature
- 1961 - First Five Year Plan
- 1965 - Je Jamyang Yeshey Singye consecrated as sixty-fifth Je Khenpo
- 1968 - Je Jamyang Yeshey Singye retired
- 1971 - Je Thinley Lhundub consecrated as sixty-seventh Je Khenpo
- 1971 - Bhutan joined the United Nations.
- 1971 - Literary forms given to Dzongkha
- 1971 - Zhungkha renamed as Dzongkha
- 1971 - Establishment of DLDD
- 1972 - Death of Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck
- 1986 - Je Thinley Lhundub retired
- 1986 - Je Ngawang Tenzin Dondub consecrated as sixty-eighth Je Khenpo
- 1986 - Establishment of DDC
- 1990 - Je Ngawang Tenzin Dondub retired
- 1990 - Je Geshey Gedhun Rinchhen consecrated as sixty-ninth Je Khenpo
- 1991 - Seventh Five Year Plan
- 1993 - Bhutan participated in the 26th International Conference on sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics at Osaka, Japan

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BHUTAN

- 1993 - Bhutan participated in the 7th Annual Conference of Asian Association of Open Universities at Hong Kong
- 1994 - Bhutan participated in the 37th International Conference of World Education Fellowship at Saitama, Japan

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## **The Author**

Dr. Chen-Kyo Tshering Dorji, civil servant, academician and historian, was born on 11 June 1949 at Uma, Bhutan. He received his early education in Bhutan as a novice. Then he went to India and studied in SUMI, Kalimpong; St. Augustine's School, Kalimpong; St. Paul's School, Darjeeling; St. Xavier's College, Calcutta and eventually he obtained a Doctorate of Philosophy at the Magadh University, Bodhgaya, India. Dr. Dorji also studied in London School of Economics & Political Science, London. He participated in many international conferences and authored *An Introduction to Bhutanese Literature, A Political and Religious History of Bhutan (1651-1906)* and *History of Bhutan based on Buddhism*.

Presently, Dr. Dorji is the Joint Director and Registrar in the Royal Institute of Management, Thimphu, Bhutan.

Cover photo is of the holy spring water founded in 8th century by Guru Padma Sambhava at Druk Khamdrak Chilkar