Rajaraja I Encyclopedia Article

Rajaraja I

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Rajaraja I

r. 985-1014

Tamil ruler of the Chola Empire in southern India who conquered Ceylon (modern Sri Lanka) and the Maldive Islands. Rajaraja enlarged and unified his realm, defeating a number of other kingdoms along the way. He was also the first significant ruler of India to employ naval forces, which he used in his conquests of the islands.