

HISTORY CHAPTER-4

CLASS-7

MUGHAL EMPIRE

Learning Objectives

In this Chapter you will learn about :

- Who were the Mughals?
- Mughal Military Campaigns
- Mughal emperors
- Mughal Traditions of Succession
- Mughal Relations with Other Rulers
- Mansabdars and Jagirdars
- Zabt and Zamindars
- A Closer Look: Akbar's Policies
- The Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century and After

Who were the Mughals?

- The Mughals were descendants of two great lineages of rulers.
- From their mother's side they were descendants of Genghis Khan (died 1227), ruler of the Mongol tribes, China and Central Asia.
- From their father's side they were the successors of Timur (died 1404), the ruler of Iran, Iraq and modern-day Turkey.
- On the other hand, the Mughals were proud of their Timurid ancestry, not least of all because their great ancestor had captured Delhi in 1398.



Mughal Military Campaigns

- Babur, the first Mughal emperor (1526-1530), succeeded to the throne of Ferghana in 1494 when he was only 12 years old.
- He was forced to leave his ancestral throne due to the invasion of another Mongol group, the Uzbeks.
- After years of wandering he seized Kabul in 1504.
- In 1526 he defeated the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi, at Panipat and captured Delhi and Agra.

Mughal emperors

- **BABUR 1526-1530**
- **HUMAYUN 1530-1540, 1555-1556**
- **AKBAR 1556-1605**
- **Jahangir 1605-1627**
- **Shah Jahan 1627-1658**
- **Aurangzeb 1658-1707**

Mughal emperors

BABUR 1526-1530

- 1526 – defeated Ibrahim Lodi and his Afghan supporters at Panipat.
- 1527 – defeated Rana Sanga, Rajput rulers and allies at Khanua.
- 1528 – defeated the Rajputs at Chanderi;
- Established control over Agra and Delhi before his death.

Mughal emperors

HUMAYUN 1530-1540, 1555-1556

- Humayun divided his inheritance according to the will of his father. His brothers were each given a province.
- The ambitions of his brother Mirza Kamran weakened Humayun's cause against Afghan competitors. Sher Khan defeated Humayun at Chausa (1539) and Kanauj (1540), forcing him to flee to Iran.
- In Iran Humayun received help from the Safavid Shah.
- He recaptured Delhi in 1555 but died the next year after an accident in this building.

Mughal emperors

AKBAR 1556-1605

- Akbar was 13 years old when he became emperor. His reign can be divided into three periods.
 - (1) 1556-1570 – Akbar became independent of the regent Bairam Khan
 - (2) 1570-1585 – military campaigns in Gujarat were followed by campaigns in the east in Bihar, Bengal and Orissa.
 - (3) 1585-1605 – expansion of Akbar's empire.

Mughal emperors

Jahangir 1605-1627

- Military campaigns started by Akbar continued.
- The Sisodiya ruler of Mewar, Amar Singh, accepted Mughal service.
- Less successful campaigns against the Sikhs, the Ahoms and Ahmadnagar followed.
- Prince Khurram, the future Emperor Shah Jahan, rebelled in the last years of his reign.
- The efforts of Nur Jahan, Jahangir's wife, to marginalise him were unsuccessful.

Mughal emperors

Shah Jahan 1627-1658

- Mughal campaigns continued in the Deccan under Shah Jahan.
- In 1657-1658, there was conflict over succession amongst Shah Jahan's sons.
- Aurangzeb was victorious and his three brothers, including Dara Shukoh, were killed.
- Shah Jahan was imprisoned for the rest of his life in Agra.

Mughal emperors

Aurangzeb 1658-1707

- (1) In the north-east, the Ahoms were defeated in 1663,
- (2) After Akbar's rebellion Aurangzeb sent armies against the Deccan Sultanates. Bijapur was annexed in 1685 and Golconda in 1687.

Mughal Traditions of Succession

- The Mughals did not believe in the rule of primogeniture, where the eldest son inherited his father's estate.
- Instead they followed the Mughal and Timurid custom of coparcenary inheritance, or a division of the inheritance amongst all the sons.

Mughal Relations with Other Rulers

- You will notice that the Mughal rulers campaigned constantly against rulers who refused to accept their authority.
- The Rajputs are a good example of this. Many of them married their daughters into Mughal families and received high positions. But many resisted as well.
- The careful balance between defeating but not humiliating their opponents enabled the Mughals to extend their influence over many kings and chieftains. But it was difficult to keep this balance all the time.

Mansabdars and Jagirdars

- As the empire expanded to encompass different regions the Mughals recruited diverse bodies of people. From a small nucleus of Turkish nobles(Turanis) they expanded to include Iranians, Indian Muslims, Afghans, Rajputs, Marathas and other groups. Those who joined Mughal service were enrolled as *mansabdars*.
- The term *mansabdar* refers to an individual who holds a *mansab*, meaning a position or rank. It was a grading system used by the Mughals to fix
- (1) rank,(2) salary and (3) military responsibilities.
- Rank and salary were determined by a numerical value called *zat*. The higher the *zat*, the more prestigious was the noble's position in court and the larger his salary.

Mansabdars and Jagirdars(cont...)

- The *mansabdar's military responsibilities* required him to maintain a specified number of *sawar or* cavalrymen.
- The *mansabdar brought his cavalrymen* for review, got them registered, their horses branded and then received money to pay them as salary.
- *Mansabdars received their salaries as revenue assignments called jagirs which were somewhat like iqtas. But unlike muqtis, most mansabdars did not* actually reside in or administer their *jagirs*.
- *They only* had rights to the revenue of their assignments which was collected for them by their servants while *themansabdars themselves* served in some other part of the country

Zabt and Zamindars

- Akbar's revenue minister, Todar Mal, carried out a careful survey of crop yields, prices and areas cultivated for a 10-year period, 1570-1580.
- On the basis of this data, tax was fixed on each crop in cash. Each province was divided into revenue circles with its own schedule of revenue rates for individual crops.
- This revenue system was known as *zabt*.

Akbar Nama and Ain-i Akbari

- Akbar ordered one of his close friends and courtiers, Abul Fazl, to write a history of his reign.
- Abul Fazl wrote a three-volume history of Akbar's reign, titled Akbar Nama.
- The first volume dealt with Akbar's ancestors and the second volume recorded the events of Akbar's reign. The third volume is the Ain-iAkbari.
- It deals with Akbar's administration, household, army, the revenues and the geography of his empire.
- It also provides rich details about the traditions and culture of the people living in India.
- The most interesting aspect about the Ain-i Akbari is its rich statistical details about things as diverse as crops, yields, prices, wages and revenues.

A Closer Look: Akbar's Policies

- Abul Fazl explained that the empire was divided into provinces called *subas*, governed by a *subadar* who carried out both political and military functions.
- Each province also had a financial officer or *diwan*. For the maintenance of peace and order in his province, the *subadar* was supported by other officers.
- such as the military paymaster (*bakhshi*), the minister in charge of religious and charitable patronage (*sadr*), military commanders (*faujdars*) and the town police commander (*kotwal*).

Nur Jahan's influence in Jahangir's court

- Mehrunnisa married the Emperor Jahangir in 1611 and received the title Nur Jahan. She remained extremely loyal and supportive to the monarch.
- As a mark of honour, Jahangir struck silver coins.

Akbar's religious Policy

- While Akbar was at Fatehpur Sikri during the 1570s he started discussions on religion with the *ulama*, Brahmanas, Jesuit priests who were Roman Catholics, and Zoroastrians. These discussions took place in the *ibadat khana*.
- led Akbar to the idea of *sulh-i kul* or “universal peace”.
- This idea of tolerance did not discriminate between people of different religions in his realm.
- Instead it focused on a system of ethics – honesty, justice, peace

The Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century and After

- The enormous wealth and resources commanded by the Mughal elite made them an extremely powerful group of people in the late seventeenth century.
- As the authority of the Mughal emperor slowly declined, his
- servants emerged as powerful centres of power in the regions.
- They constituted new dynasties and held command of provinces like Hyderabad and Awadh. Although they continued to recognise the Mughal emperor in Delhi as their master, by the eighteenth century the provinces of the empire had consolidated their independent political identities.

Summary

- Mughal Emperor
- Akbar's policies
- Akbar Nama and Ain-i Akbari
- Zabt and Zamindars
- Mansabdars and Jagirdars

Thank you