




Modern Indian History Class 03

THE CLASS STARTED WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS CLASS
(08:05 AM)

REASONS FOR THE DECLINE OF MUGHAL (08:10 AM) or proof

- 1) Factionism:
- Jahandar Shah 1712-13 came to power after killing the father of Farrukhsiyar 1719 [1713-1719], Farrukhsiyar removed an executive Jahandar Shah with the help of the Sayyad brothers of the Hindustani group but Farrukhsiyar did not want to be a puppet of sayyad brothers, therefore, allied with other groups.
- Sayyad brothers allied with Marathas defeated Farrukhsiyar and placed **Md Shah 1719 [1719-1748] / Rangila** in power as a puppet emperor. (2448)
- **Nizam-ul-Mulk** (1724 Governor of Hyderabad-1740 left Delhi-1748 died) of Turrani group allied with Irani group to defeat Sayyad brothers.
- From 1722-24 Nizam served as Vazir.
- 2) Military Decline:
- From 1705, Marathas began defeating the Mughals and reversed most territorial gains. i.e. PM attacking and looting
- 1737- **Peshwa Bajirao plundered** Delhi, and kept **Md Shah 1719 [1719-1748] / Rangila** prisoner temporarily.
- Maratha defeated a large Mughal army commanded by Nizam 1724-48 and signed a **Treaty of Bhopal** in January 1739.
- 1738-40, Invasion by Persian **Nadir Shah**, His empire extended from Iran to Afghanistan where the Mughals were also present, and wanted to plunder India's wealth.

- **Why Nadir Shah-I invaded:**

- a) Mughals were militarily weak.
- b) Recent military defeat in 1738 by Marathas.  means province
- c) Sadat Khan²²⁴⁰ (Nawab of Awadh **Subha**) changed sides when Nizam²⁴⁴⁸ was made **Mir Bakshi** (War Paymaster/Commander/Imperial Treasurer) instead of him.
(*Notice lack of impersonal loyalty and factionalism)
- d) Better Military leadership of Nadir Shah.
- **Impacts/Results of the victory of Nadir Shah:**
- **Battle of Karnal 1739** was decisive and then Nadir Shah became Emperor for 60 days and **Md Shah 1948 [1719-1748] / Rangila** imprisoned.
- Sadat Khan²²⁴⁰ committed suicide after being insulted by Nadir Shah post-victory.
- Huge loss of prestige for the Mughals as **Md Shah 1948 [1719-1748] / Rangila** was insulted and he did not stand up for his dignity, therefore lost political prestige among mansabdars; 2 Lakh civilians of Delhi massacred leading to loss of social and political prestige among masses, i.e. Mughals can't protect us anymore.+ Loss of military prestige as big defeat and consecutive defeat after Marathas.
- This increased the chances of future attacks by domestic and foreign powers, Example: The first Afghan invasion began in 1748.
- Huge economic loss and now the Mughals could not maintain a strong army.
- Nadir Shah took away wealth worth roughly 100 crores, Example- took away the **Peacock throne** that had **Kohinoor**.
- Mansabdars were also drained of their wealth as they had to contribute. (*Now even more military corruption and exploitation of peasants)
- **3)** In 1752 Mughal came under Maratha protection due to fear of Afghan invasions and then **Alamgir II 5459 (1754-1759)** was the Maratha puppet.

(Earlier Sadat Khan was under mughal emperor and when he was not given with his desired mansab he shook hand with Nadir shah but Nadir Shah also disrespected him after he won and because of this Sadat Khan committed suicide.)

(khayali pulav)

Q. By mid 18th century Mughal Empire was figment of imagination. Elaborate.

Hint:- Decline of Mughals with focus on political, military, territorial decline + by mid 18th century how India was summation of regional powers with Marathas as top power among them and emperor's authority was limited to small area around Delhi and Agra.

Q. By mid 18th century India was Spectre of Fragmented Polity. Elaborate.

Hint:- Rise of regional powers with minor focus on Decline of Mughals.

RISE OF REGIONAL POWERS (09:11 AM)

- **A) SUCCESSOR STATES :**
- (Autonomous but within the Mughal Empire) ¹⁷²⁷
- Established in Bengal by **Murshid Kuli Khan**, in Awadh by **Sadat Khan**, ²²⁴⁰ and in Hyderabad by **Nizam**. ²⁴⁴⁸
- These powerful nobles (Aristocrates/Mansabdars) set up successor states.
- **They ruled autonomously but never formally declared independence due to:**
- a) **Legitimacy** of the Mughal Empire- to have Symbolic authority for themselves.
(*Imagine the PM of Pakistan vs. United States Ambassador in a gathering)
- b) Their ambitions in daily politics and desire for greater influence outside principalities by holding important mansabs at centers like Vazir, Mir Bakshi, etc.
- c) Greater possibility of getting military assistance from the rest of the Mughal Empire @war and better trade.

means dabdaba

They appointed their favourites at important mansabs so that there would not be any rebellion against them.

- **These nobles after becoming governors consolidated powers by:**
- a) Ending systems of checks and balances. Example- They ensure that their loyalists are appointed to important mansabs like Diwan (Collector of Revenue), ^{i.e. Deputy CM} Deputy Subhedar/ Naib Nazim, War Commander, etc.
- b) They established strong revenue administration to increase financial powers. Example- Murshid Kuli Khan was known for efficient revenue admin. ¹⁷²⁷ mansabdars
- c) At times converted Tankha Jagirs into Watan Jagirs to get the support of **military nobles**. Example- In Hyderabad done at large scale.
- d) They gathered the support of economically powerful people and intermediary zamindars, revenue farmers, merchants, and money lenders by not harassing them, not applying high taxes, by giving security of property and law and order stability, and by making them mansabdars.
- (A new feature as traditionally only based on lineage and not men of money) Example- In Bengal by 1727, 15 Intermediary zamindars collected 50% land revenue of Bengal Subha. + **Jagat Seth** was given control of the royal mint and was a banker to nawab, In Hyderabad core features of the mansabdari system ended as many men of money became mansabdar and many tankhajagirs became vatanjagirs.
- e) They distributed mansab and jagirs without permission of the Emperor and Acted independently in foreign and domestic policy.
- f) Reduced financial reporting of the revenue collected to Delhi and Stopped sending revenue regularly to Delhi. (*Example Land revenue from Khalisa land)
- g) Finally they established dynastic rule and the Mughal Emperor lost power to choose the future governor of successor states. (Legally he appointed but not in practice)
- Therefore only symbolic authority example, Coins still had the emperor's name, and his name was still taken in Friday prayers.
- There was the concentration of power in nawabs of the successor states but **power was not totally centralized** and was shared among different actors therefore diffused polity existed.

(i.e. not Dictator)

that means nawab appointed powerful people at important mansabs and now they also had influence on state that means power was not centralised to nawab only.



- **B) REBEL STATES:**
- **1) MARATHAS:**
- The Maratha kingdom was founded by **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** in the 17th century.
- In 1674, Coronation of Shivaji Maharaj as "**Chhatrapati**"
- Shahu ¹⁷¹⁹⁻¹⁷⁴⁹1949 accepted Mughal as emperor, accepted a mansab, and accepted to pay tribute and maintain an army.
- **Phases in Maratha Polity:**
- a) After 1680, **Turmoil** after the death of Shivaji Maharaj (7480) and continuous warfare by Mughals.
 Turmoil refers to a state of great confusion, disorder, or disturbance. It often describes a situation where there is intense agitation, chaos, or upheaval, either in a physical, emotional, political, or social context.
- b) 1707-19: then civil war Tara bai and Shahu 1949
- c) 1719-61: Period of growth, Example- Maratha empire expanded from **Swarajya** to also include **Samrajya**.
 Maharashtra
- d) 1761+ period of decline with a temporary revival in the 1770s.

THE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: RISE OF REGIONAL POWERS (To be Continued...)