

Modern Indian History Class 02

MANSABDARI SYSTEM (09:06 AM)

- A military bureaucracy system was set up by Akbar.
- Officials had dual functions- military function & civil administrative
- Mansab = post
- Mansabdar = Holder of Mansab
- Jagir = land whose LR goes to the holder of jagir i.e. Jagirdar.
- Khalisa land = royal land & LR from Khalisa lands = income of emperor
- **2 types of Jagirs**
- a) Tankha Jagirs - The Emperor could transfer them from one Mansabdar to another
- b) Vatan jagirs - Non-transferable & hereditary Jagirs as given permanently by the Emperor.
- **Refer to the handout for more details.**

LAND REVENUE [LR] MODEL UNDER MUGHALS (09:30 AM)

- **a) Zamindar collected LR & had police duties.**
- a. In return for their service they kept some % of LR as a commission (*usually 10%).
- b. Zamindars had vatan rights of LR collection.
- c. Zamindar was not the owner of lands from which he collected LR & in practice it was Ryot who was the owner as he had occupancy rights over land.
- d. He also collected **abwabs** i.e. tribute from ryots. Abwabs were additional demands by the State on Zamindars who passed it on to ryots.
- b) Personal lands/estates of zamindar were called milkiyat & from milkiyat he paid LR like others.
- c) Ryots paid LR as mentioned in Patta (document). This prevented over-extraction by zamindars.
- d) Intermediary Zamindar (IZ) collected LR from Primary Zamindars (PZ) & passed it on to Jagirdars or the State after keeping commission.

- **e) Ryots were of two kinds**
- **Khudkashts** –Cultivated land for a long time and thus had customary/traditional occupancy rights i.e. could not be removed. Therefore, these were small landowner cultivators.
- **Pahikashts**- Cultivated different lands in different seasons, therefore also called Vagrant (*Banjara) peasants. They were landless & rightless.
- Peasants or Ryots may be of two kinds- Peasants and Farmer.
- The primary purpose of a peasant is food security for his family.
- The primary purpose of a farmer is profit or Business.
- **Ijaradari System**
- 1. A system to enhance LR collection.
- 2. Ijaradars-
 - Not part of the traditional rural economy that included zamindars & ryots.
 - Were men of money e.g. merchants, moneylenders.
- 3. Right to collect Revenue (LR + other taxes eg. tax on trade, shopkeepers) was auctioned off to the highest bidder i.e. Ijaradars or revenue farmers (*temporary revenue collector).
- 4. Auction was done by the State in Khalisa land & by Jagirdar in Jagir.
- 5. Ijaradar paid revenue in advance fully or partially in auction & later recovered it from the area along with profits. If he failed to submit the agreed amount then the Right to Collect revenue was re-auctioned.
- **Refer to the handout for more details.**

REASONS FOR THE DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (10:03 AM)

1. Role of Aurangzeb (1658-1707):

- The empire reached the territorial peak but decline also began. during his reign.
- Constant warfare for 40 years drained resources, It also hurt agrarian production and overland trade due to law and order instability.
- Wars increased the economic burden on Mansabdars, as they were responsible for maintaining the army.
- Aurangzeb (1658-1707) wanted to capture the whole Deccan and annexed Bijapur in 1685, and Golconda in 1687, the two autonomous Muslim Kingdoms but failed to defeat the Marathas decisively who began winning from 1705 and by 1750s Marathas reversed most gains.
- Finally, wars proved futile and the Marathas caused the military and territorial decline of the Mughals. (open maps and stopped being lazy)

2. Aurangzeb's religiously divisive policies alienated the masses-

- a) Application of Jizyah on non-muslims.
- b) Policy of not repairing temples and reducing lands allocated to temples.
- c) Demolished some important Hindu temples.
- d) Executed important leaders. Example- 1675- Ninth Guru- Tez Bahadur and 1689- Sambhaji, elder son of Shivaji, executed after 3 weeks of torture. Both had refused to convert and were political rivals of Aurangzeb (1658-1707)

3. INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE (10:50 AM) → i.e. loyalty to his post and his motherland

- Impersonal loyalty could not develop in the Mansabdari system and what existed was personal loyalty to the King and the Give & Take relationship between the King and Mansabdar.
- If the king couldn't give desired Mansab and Jagir, Mansabdars became disloyal.
- "Later Mughals" i.e. weak Emperors after Aurangzeb (1658-1707), failed to control Mansabdars and couldn't maintain a Balance of Power in Mughal Court leading to crippling court politics and Factionalism.
- This led to poor governance and neglect of Military reforms.

that means they were busy in wasteful things instead of focusing on good governance, economics, strengthening of military.

Group Politics

Like today's PM's Cabinet

(Today impersonal loyalty in military, civil services, judiciary but personal loyalty in party politics)

4 • **MILITARY WEAKNESS:**

- Mughal Empire was a Military state and when the Military weakened, the state weakened [* Military state= State set up with Military victory, maintained with Military power and exists till Military defeat]
- Lack of technological and organizational reforms as time and energy are consumed by Factionalism. [* Example- Fire Firing, Grapeshot, Bayonets, etc]
- Weak war commanders after Aurangzeb 1658-1707. [* Factionalism decides who becomes commander and not the merit].
- Military corruption as Mansabdars stopped maintaining the army as per Sawar due to high war expenditure during the wars of Aurangzeb 1658-1707 and the Jaigiradri crisis of the 18th century.


5 • **FACTIONALISM (11:38 AM)**

- After Aurangzeb, Factionalism increased.
- Masabdars competed for influence over the existing emperor or wanted their favourite to be their next emperor- to extract desired mansabs and jagirs.

Groups	Details
Iranis	Shias with Persian Background (Humayun3040 took help of Persians)
Turanis	Turkish Uzbek background, same as Mughals, Sunnis
Hindustani	Converted Indian Muslims
Hindus	Like Rajputs
Deccani	Nobles from Golconda and Bijapur.

- Contenders to the throne also wanted the support of militarily strong Mansabdars which contributed to factionalism.
- Later Mughals were weak rulers with weak personalities and were uninterested in administration.
- Hence, couldn't control factionalism. → 1948 (1719-1748)
- **Example-** Md Shah was called Rangila as he spent the most time in leisure.
- Capable Mansabdars acted selfishly and instead of strengthening the emperor, focussed on establishing their own principalities. (*Successor states).

6. JAGIRDARI CRISIS (18th CENT) (12:00 PM)

- Nobles of Bijapur, and Golconda, were made Mansabdars after annexation but Aurangzeb, 1658-1707 declared most lands of these kingdoms as Khalisa land to fund his war against Marathas. Therefore Mansabdars increased but Jagir land did not.  this is a noun used for Mughals after AZ5807.
- "Later Mughals" appointed more Mansabdars to win the support of Mansabdar Groups, either to stay in power or to come to power.
- Further, only 5% of Mansabdars controlled 61% of Land Revenue from Jagirs causing insecurity among smaller Mansabdars.
- **Impact of the Jagirdari Crisis:**
 - a) Many Mansabdars stayed Jagirless for years. [* It means they are Naqdi Mansabdars]
 - b) Insecurity among Mansabdars due to frequent transfer of Tankha Jagirs by the Emperor.
 - c) Therefore now, they over-extracted land revenue from jagirs. Also, there was greater use of the Ijaradari system
 - d) Due to the insecurity of tenure of holding Jagir, they had no incentive to invest in the productivity of land, therefore the income of peasants further decreased.
 - e) Therefore many peasant revolts in the 18th century against the Mughals were led by Zamindars. Example- Jat kingdom, under Churaman Jat a Zamindar, was a result of a peasant revolt in 1695. onwards.
 - f) Factionalism increased due to greater competition for Jagirs.
 - g) The Jagirdari crisis led to military corruption causing Military weakness.

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS- PROOF OF THE DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE