

The Mughal Empire was a nearly  
modern empire based in South Asia between the 16th  
and 19th centuries. For some two hundred  
years, the empire stretched from the outer  
fringes of the Indus River basin in the west,  
northern Afghanistan in the northwest,  
and Kashmir in the north, to  
the highlands of  
present-day Assam and Bangladesh in the east, and  
the uplands of the Deccan  
plateau in South India.<sup>12</sup> The Mughal Empire is  
conventionally said to have been founded in 1526  
by Babur, a chieftain from what is  
today Uzbekistan, who employed aid from the  
neighboring Safavid and Ottoman  
Empires,<sup>13</sup> to def