

The Mughal Empire was an early modern empire based in South Asia between the 16th and 19th centuries.<sup>11</sup> 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