

# Medieval Bengal & Mughal Period

# Medieval Bengal

Time Period : 1204 - 1757



# The Medieval Bengal

- ❑ The Middle age of Bengal coincided with Muslim rule. Out of about 550 years of Muslim rule, Bengal was only ruled by Delhi-based All-India empires for almost 200 years. For approximately 350 years, Bengal remained virtually independent.
- ❑ The Middle age of Bangladesh commenced after the Muslims had taken ruling power. In 1204 AD the Turkish general **Ikhtiar Uddin Mohammad Bakhtiar khilji** established Muslim rule in Bengal defeating the Sena king Laxman Sena. Bakhtiyar Khilji's conquest of Nadia resulted in the inception of Muslim reign in Bengal and within some days Muslim reign spread all over the then Bangladesh. Another opinion, **Islam** was introduced to Bengal in the twelfth century by Arab Muslim merchants and Sufi missionaries, and subsequent Muslim conquests helped spread Islam throughout the region.
- ❑ In Medieval age, the Turkish Muslim generals began to spread Muslim rule all over Bangladesh. Even before this, Muslim rule started in India. Delhi was their capital. The generals sent by the emperors of Delhi started to rule some parts of Bangladesh. They were made governors in the areas conquered by them.
- ❑ Bangladesh was far away from Delhi. Communication was not good at all. Full of wealth and riches of this country, the governors would declare independence instead of being governors under the **Sultan of Delhi**. As soon as this news reached Delhi, troops were sent to subdue the mutiny. In this way, through victory and defeat, the whole of Bangladesh became independent at a point. This independence lasted from 1338 AD till 1538 AD.

# The Medieval Bengal

- ❑ Turkish General **Ikhtiar Uddin Mohammad Bakhtiar khalzi** died in 1206. From 1206 – 1338 A.D. the Muslim rule was spread in Bengal. By this time, three provinces of the Muslim **Sultans** of Delhi were established in three sections of Bengal. These were Lakhnouti, Satgaon, Sonargaon.
- ❑ In 1338, the ruler of Sonargaon Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah rebelled against the Muslim Sultans of Delhi and declared independence. Thus, the established the system of having an Independence Sultan in Bengal which lasted for 200 years. Thus, the independent Sultani dynasty begins. It is supposed that the real sovereignty was established in Bengal by sultan Shamsuddin Ilias Shah through the capture of a major portion of whole Bengal. Ilias Shah conferred on himself the titles *Shah-E Bangala* and *Shah-E-Bangalian*. In this way, he formally introduced the word *Bangala*. The other noteworthy ruler of the Sultani dynasty was Alauddin Husen Shah. His contribution endless to the establishment of religious harmony and the flourishing of arts and literature.
- ❑ In 1538 this independent sultanate came to end. Though the Sultans were non-Bangalee rulers, they exercised good governance and nobody returned to his own country. Before that Mughals occupied the throne of Delhi in 1526.



# The Medieval Bengal

- ❑ The **First Battle of Panipat**, on 21 April 1526, was fought between the invading forces of **Babur** and the Lodi dynasty. It took place in North India and marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire and the end of the Delhi Sultanate. Meanwhile, the Sultani Era came to an end in 1538. Before that Mughals occupied the throne of Delhi in 1526.
- ❑ Then India was conquered by another Muslim power. They were known as **Mughals**. Thus, the Mughal dynasty began in India keeping Delhi at the center. From the beginning, the Mughals tried to keep the then Bangladesh in their possession. But they were not successful.
- ❑ Mughals occupied the throne of Delhi in 1526. Mughal Emperor **Humayun** occupied Gaura in Northern Bengal, Lakhnauti in 1538 AD. But he could not establish Mughal rule in Bengal then. Because the Afghan ruler of Bihar, Sher Khan Sur, drove Humayun away first from Bengal and afterwards from India. In this phase, the throne of Bengal went to hands of non-Bangalee Afghans.
- ❑ The Muslim rulers of Afghan origin defended the freedom of Bangladesh for some time. At that time there was Afghan feudal lordship in Bihar region. The renowned Afghan leader, Sher Khan Suri saved Bangladesh from the attack of the Mughals. Thus, independent Afghan rule began in Bangladesh.

# The Medieval Bengal

- ❑ The Mughals organized themselves in India again and defeated the Afgans in the battle of Rajmahahals and occupied the throne of Delhi.
- ❑ In 1576 during the reign of Emperor **Akbar** the great, many parts of western Bengal and Northern Bengal came under the reign of the Mughals. But they could not occupy the Eastern part of Bengal, today's Bangladesh very easily.
- ❑ The great feudal lords of Bangladesh were called Barobhuyans. The twelve Zaminders of East Bengal, popularly known as **Baro Bhuyans**, resisted attacks in a body. Man Singh, the commander of Mughal emperor Akbar, tried to defeat Isha Khan, leader of the Baro Bhuiyans, but he could not. As a result, In the subsequent time, Emperor Akbar also could not conquer this country – our Bangladesh. These Barobhuyans unitedly saved the independence of Bangladesh from the Mughals.
- ❑ Eventually in **1610** AD, during the reign of emperor **Jahangir**, Bangladesh came under Mughal rule. Losing freedom, Bangladesh became a province under the Mughals.
- ❑ In this country, indirect Muslim rule continued till **1757** AD. The **Muslim** rule in Bangladesh from **Sultani** to **Mughal Era** is known as Middle age or the **Medieval Bengal**.

# Mughal Empire

Topic 2





The First Battle of Panipat, on 21 April 1526, was fought between the invading forces of **Babur** and the Lodi dynasty. It took place in North India and marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire and the end of the Delhi Sultanate. This was one of the earliest battles involving gunpowder firearms and field artillery in the Indian subcontinent which were introduced by Mughals in this battle.





# Mughal Empire

- ❑ The Mughal Empire was an early modern empire in South Asia. The Mughal Empire was founded by **Zahiruddin Mohammad Babur**. The **Mughal emperors** (or **Moghul**) built and ruled the Mughal Empire on the **Indian subcontinent**, mainly corresponding to the modern countries of **India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh**.
- ❑ The Mughal Empire was created and sustained by military warfare, but did not suppress the cultures and peoples it came to rule, but rather equalized and placated them through new administrative practices, and diverse ruling elites, leading to more efficient, centralized, and standardized rule. The **Mughal, Mogul or Moghul Empire** was an early modern empire in South Asia. For some two centuries, the empire stretched from the outer fringes of the Indus 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. The relative peace maintained by the empire during much of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was a factor in India's economic expansion. The base of the empire's collective wealth was agricultural taxes, instituted by the third Mughal emperor, **Akhbar**.
- ❑ These taxes, which amounted to over half the output of a peasant cultivator, were paid in the well-regulated silver currency, and caused peasants and artisans to enter larger markets.
- ❑ Mughal India was a world leader in manufacturing, producing about 25% of the world's industrial output up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Burgeoning European presence in the Indian Ocean, and its increasing demand for Indian raw and finished products, created still greater wealth in the Mughal courts.

# The Mughal Empire

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- The Mughal Empire, self-designated as Gurkani, was an early-modern empire that controlled much of South Asia between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.



Mughal Empire	
1526-1540 1555-1857	
The empire at its greatest extent, in c. 1700	
Status	Empire
Capital	Agra (1526-1540; 1555-1571; 1598-1648) Fatehpur Sikri (1571-1585) Lahore (May 1586 - 1598) Shahjahanabad, Delhi (1648-1857)

# Babur : The founder of the Mughal Empire



- ❑ The Mughal Empire was founded by **Zahiruddin Mohammad Babur**, a central Asian ruler who was descended from the Turco-Mongol conqueror Timur (the founder of the Timurid Empire) on his father's side, and from Genghis Khan on his mother's side.
- ❑ Ousted from his ancestral domains in central Asia, Babur turned to India to satisfy his ambitions. He established himself in Kabul and then pushed steadily southward into India from Afghanistan through the Khyber Pass. Babur's forces occupied much of northern India after his victory at Panipat in 1526. The preoccupation with wars and military campaigns, however, did not allow the new emperor to consolidate the gains he had made in India.



# Nasiruddin Mohammad Humayun



Birth : 1508      Death : 1556 (Accidental Death)  
Reign : 1530-1540 and 1555- 1556  
Interrupted Mughal Rule by Sher-shah-Suri

- ❑ The instability of the empire became evident under **Babur's son, Humayun**, who was forced into exile in Persia by rebels. The Sur Empire, founded by Sher Shah Suri, briefly interrupted Mughal rule.
- ❑ Mughals occupied the throne of Delhi in 1526. Mughal Emperor **Humayun** occupied Gaura in Northern Bengal, Lakhnauti in 1538 AD. But he could not establish Mughal rule in Bengal then. Because the Afghan ruler of Bihar, Sher Khan Sur, drove Humayun away first from Bengal and afterwards from India. In this phase, the throne of Bengal went to hands of non-Bangalee Afghans.
- ❑ Humayun's exile in Persia established diplomatic ties between the Safavid Mughal courts and led to increasing Persian cultural influence in the Mughal Empire.
- ❑ The Mughals organized themselves in India again and defeated the Afghans in the battle of Rajmahal and occupied the throne of Delhi.
- ❑ Humayun's triumphant return from Persia in 1555 restored Mughal rule, but he died in an accident the next year.

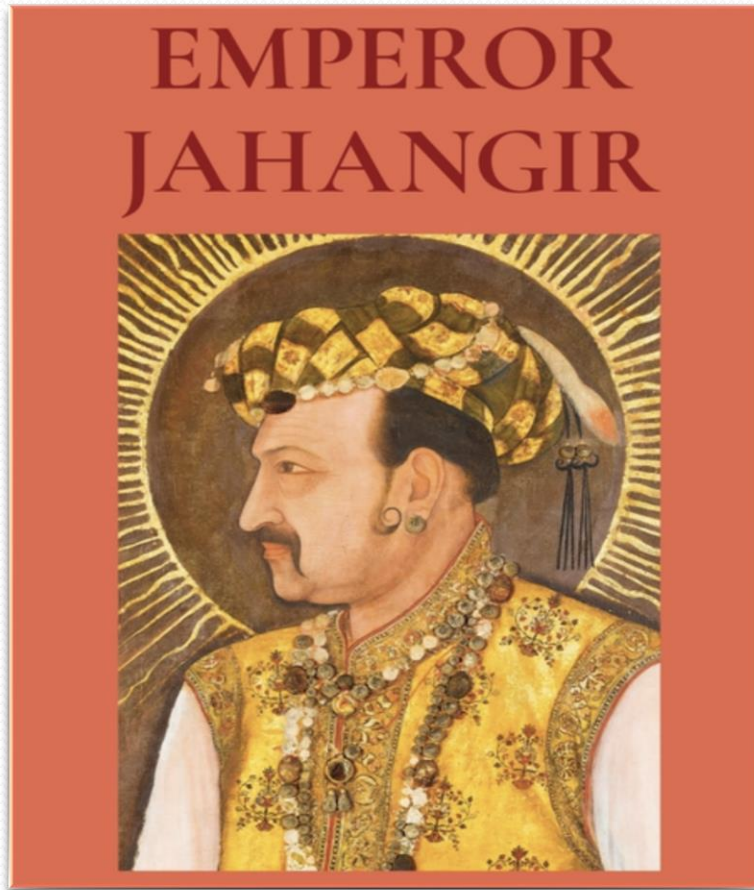
# Jalaluddin Mohammad Akbar



- ❑ Akbar , Jalal-ud-din Mohammad was born in the Rajput Umarkot Fort, to Humayun and his wife Hamida Banu Begum, a Persian princess.
- ❑ Akbar succeeded to the throne under a regent, Bairam Khan, who helped consolidate the Mughal Empire in India.
- ❑ Through **warfare and diplomacy**, Akbar was able to extend the empire in all directions and controlled almost the entire Indian subcontinent north of the Godavari River.
- ❑ He created a new ruling elite loyal to him, implemented a **modern administration**, and encouraged **cultural developments**.
- ❑ He increased trade with European trading companies. India developed a **strong and stable economy**, leading to commercial expansion and economic development.
- ❑ Akbar allowed **freedom of religion** at his court, and attempted to resolve socio-political and cultural differences in his empire by establishing a new religion, **Din-i-Ilahi**, with strong characteristics of a ruler cult.



# Nooruddin Mohammad Seleem(Jahangir)



- ❑ Akbar left his son internally stable state, which was in the midst of its golden age, but before long signs of political weakness would emerge.
- ❑ Jahangir was born to Akbar and his wife Zudha, Mariam-uz-Zamani, an Indian Rajput princess.
- ❑ Jahangir was addicted to opium, neglected the affairs of the state, and came under the influence of rival court cliques.



# Shahabuddin Mohammad Khurram (Shah Jahan Azam)



- ❑ **Shah Jahan** was born to Jahangir and his wife Jagat Gosaini, a Rajput princess.
- ❑ During the reign of Shah Jahan, the splendour of the Mughal court reached its peak, as exemplified by the Taj Mahal. The cost of maintaining the court, however, began to exceed the revenue coming in.
- ❑ Shah Jahan's eldest son, the liberal **Dara Shikoh**, became regent in 1658, as a result of his father's illness. Dara championed a syncretistic Hindu-Muslim culture. With the support of the Islamic orthodoxy, however, a younger son of Shah Jahan, **Aurangzeb**, seized the throne.
- ❑ Aurangzeb defeated Dara in 1659 and had him executed. Although Shah Jahan fully recovered from his illness, Aurangzeb declared him incompetent to rule and had him imprisoned.

# Mohiuddin Mohammad Aurangzeb



- ❑ During Aurangzeb reign, the empire gained political strength once more and became the world's most powerful economy.
- ❑ Aurangzeb fully established sharia by compiling the Fatwa, Alamgiri.
- ❑ He expanded the empire to include almost the whole of South Asia, but at his death in 1707, many parts of the empire were in open revolt.
- ❑ Aurangzeb is considered India's most controversial king.





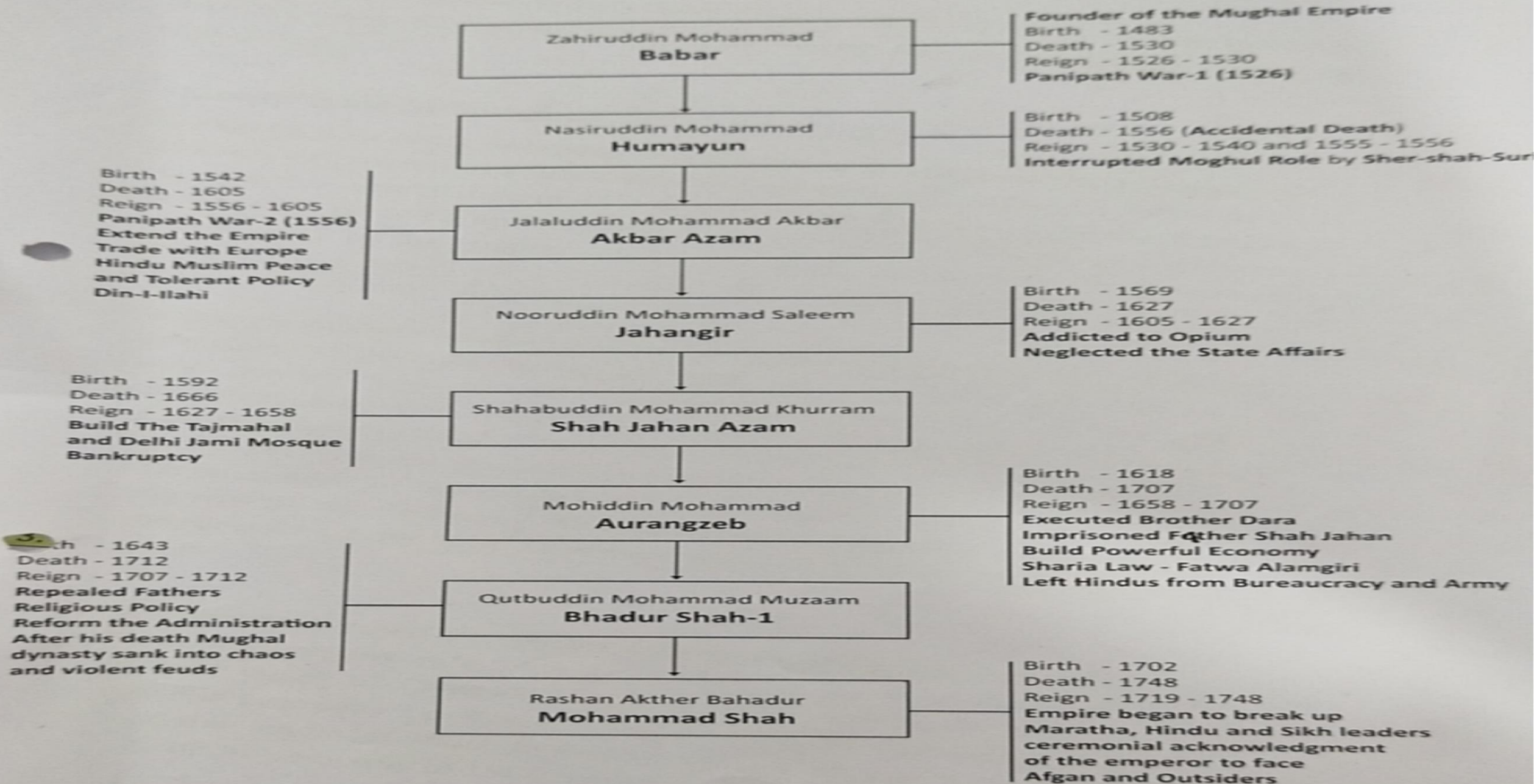
The first six Mughal emperors of the Mughal dynasty – Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb -- changed the face of India with their political and intellectual prowess.



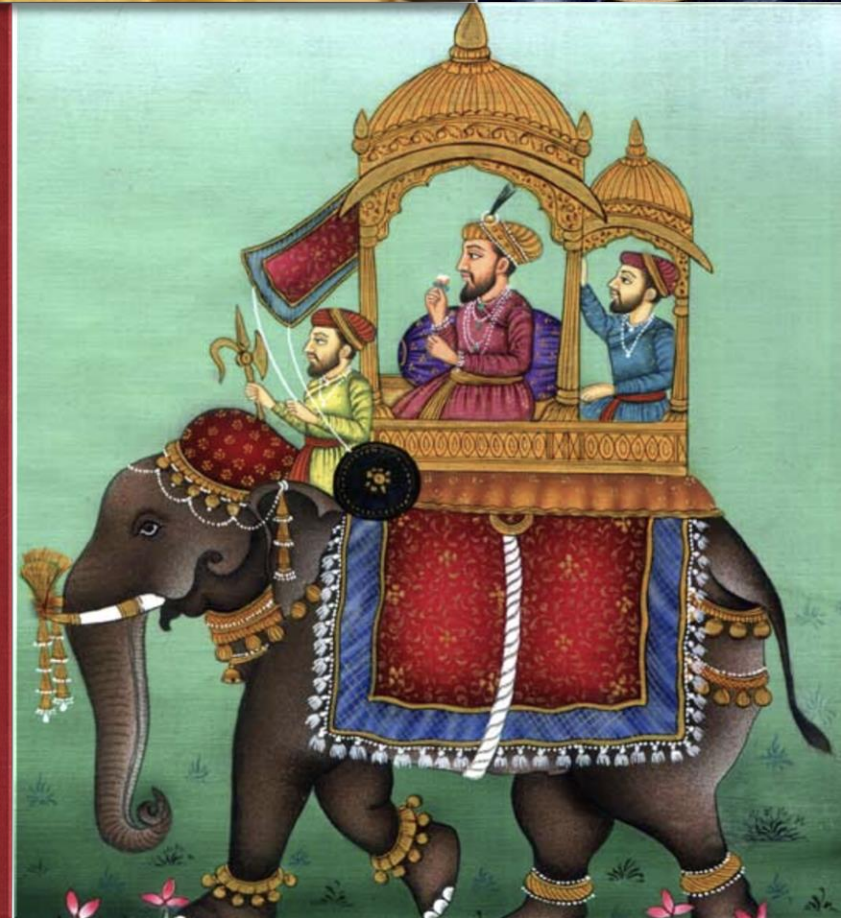
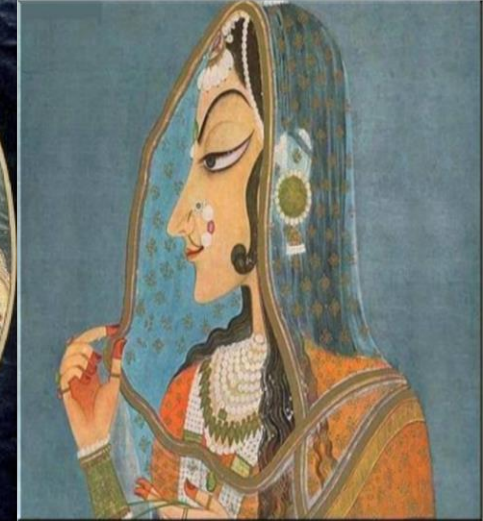
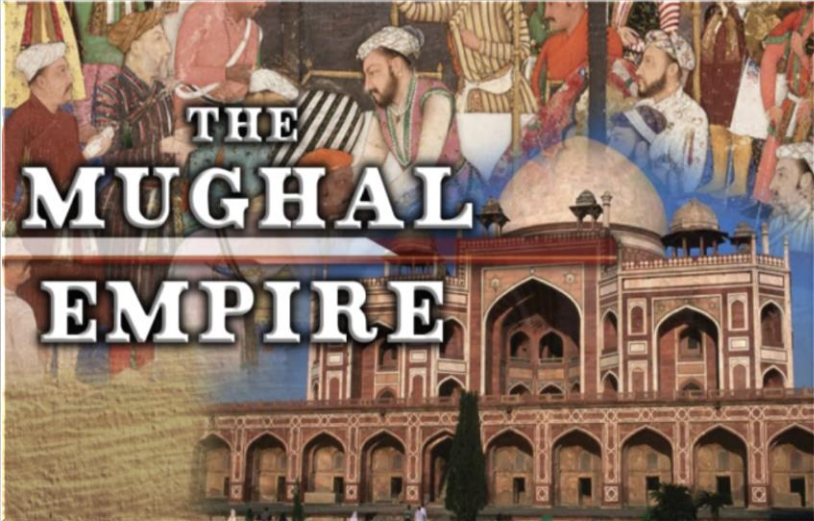
# Bahadur Shah-1 & Mohammed Shah

- Aurangzeb's son Bahadur Shah 1 (Qutbuddin Mohammed Muzaam), repealed the religious policies of his father and attempted to reform the administration. However, after his death in 1712, the Mughal dynasty sank into chaos and violent feuds. In 1719 alone, four emperors successively ascended the throne.
- During the reign of Muhammad Shah, the empire began to break up, the vast tracts of central India passed from Mughal to Maratha hands.
- The Mughal emperor continued to be the highest manifestation of sovereignty. Not only the Muslim gentry, but the Maratha, Hindu and Sikh leaders took part in ceremonial acknowledgments of the emperor as the sovereign of India.

## Mughal Dynesty

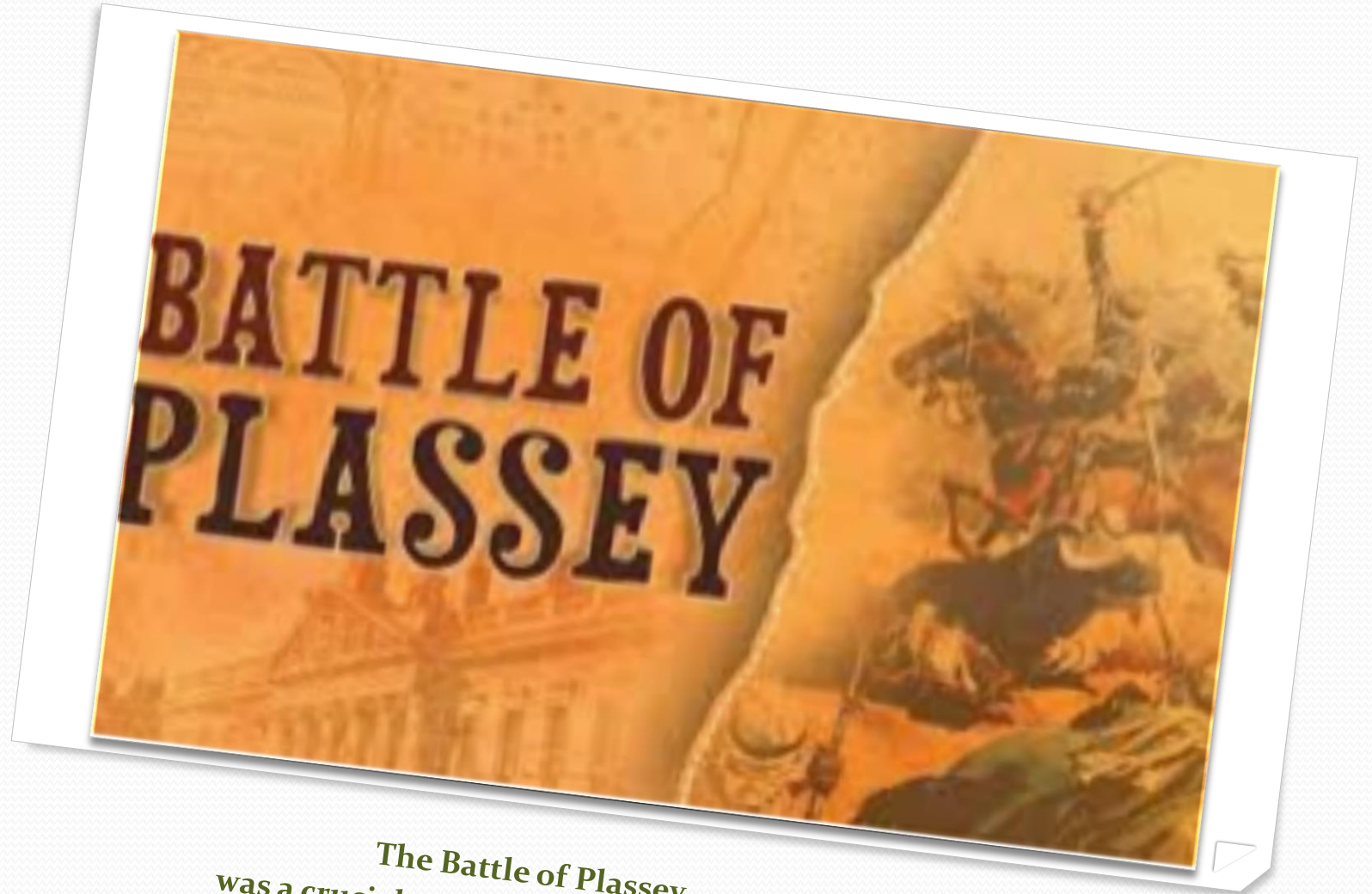








The Mughal rule continued till the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1757, with the fall of Nawab Siraj-ud-daulah in the battle of Plassey, the rule of the Mughal dynasty finally came to an end. In this period, the power of ruling Bengal was captured by the English force. Thus, the Colonial powers started to rule over this territory.



*The Battle of Plassey  
was a crucial event in the history of India.*

# The Battle of Plassey

- ❑ The **Battle of Plassey** was a decisive victory of the British **East India Company** over the **Nawab of Bengal** and his French allies on 23 June 1757, under the leadership of **Robert Clive**, which was possible due to the defection of **Mir Jafar**, who was **Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah's** commander in chief. The battle helped the Company seize control of **Bengal**.
- ❑ The Battle of Plassey was a crucial event in the history of India. The ultimate result is the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1757, the defeat and tragic death of Nawab of Bangla-Bihar-Orissa at the Battle of Plassey and the defeat of Bengal at the hands of English. After win, although the English made Mir Jafor the Nawab, but the main ruling power rested with them. Cunning English General, Robert Clive, became all in all.
- ❑ In 1764, the battle of Boxer, with the fall of Mir Kashim, a decedent of Mir Jafor, as a result...the administrative power of Bengal formally rested with the English.
- ❑ Thus, the Colonial powers started to rule over this territory.



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Dear Students,  
That's all for today's  
class lecture.  
Thank You.

