

Source: [KBHistoryMasterIndex](#)

## 1 | Mughals in the 1600s

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- Akbar's rule of the Mughals
  - Tried to align his subject's interests to the Mughal's interest
  - Goal was to maintain adequate compensation and preventing officials from unjust enrichment by overtaxing the peasants who could then not work on government projects
    - Directed administration to award land revenue salary instead of assigning land
    - Value of government official based on cost w.r.t. operating military men
      - a local commander = 500 men
      - a provincial government = 5000 men
  - First model of separation of powers between government and military
  - Prevented financial corruption
    - Made constant transfers and deferrals
    - Prevented passing on of wealth to offspring
  - His minister, Todar Mal, made tax collection proportional to value generation
    - So bad crop year could pay less tax
    - Prevented overluxuriation and benefitted peasants
  - Favored appointment of native born over foreign — due to pledges of loyalty to Mughal state: promoting religious indignity
- CLAIM: Melded together Mughal and indigenous elites
  - Encouraged intermarriage
  - Reforms aimed at selling Mughal to other people
  - All official appointments are treated as gifts from the emperor
  - Gave grants to Muslim and Hindu cultural institutions
  - Supported the arts and sciences
- Akbar made empire popular by pimping it up
  - Improved living quarters
  - Regulation of school
  - System of laws
  - Challenged the patriarchy and improved the role of woman
  - Discouraged child marriages and encouraged remarrying of widows
- Intended all of his social reform to support his object of *sulh-i-kul* => universal harmony. (Not a fan of *raison d'état*, I see)
- The Portuguese
  - Acted as middlemen between Venitians, Arabs, and Turks
    - Traded spices and cotton
    - Served as foundation of Western medicines
    - De Gama's Explorations
      - Invaded port of good hope in Africa
      - Disguised as Muslim traders

- When about to be kicked out, fought and burned the city
- Zamorin also got scammed by de Gama too
  - Convinced that he was a pirate
  - Did not drive off, and permitted to trade
  - Kidnapped some local fishermen for crew along the way
- Eventually, setup a larger network of trade
- Mughals saw the Portuguese, and wanted to curtail them
  - Resorted to a model of compromise => "Gave free passage to ships in exchange for pilgrims on their way to Mecca
  - Portuguese, Dutch, and English collectively tried to "interfere in international shipping
    - Seizure of a ship by practicing Hindu
  - Mughals eventually partnered with English and Dutch to try to curtail the Portuguese and create competition
  - English and Dutch both adopted the Portuguese model
  - Mughals tried to create strategic partnership with European cultures
    - Ordered Christian symbolism to be painted
    - Europeans impressed with Mughal style that Mogul became associated with power
- Aurangzeb's rule
  - Orthodox Muslim
    - Took religious values over tradition
    - Dismantled Mughal's multiculturalism
      - Banned music and dance
      - Enforced Islamic codes of public conduct via censors
      - Halt constructions of new Hindu temples
      - Attack established structures
      - Reimposed the jizya payment in lieu of state service that is demanded from non-Muslims
      - Enforced system of jizya payments that had to be done while chanting about inferiority
      - Opposed appointing Hindus to highest ranks
  - Hindus and other non-Muslim cultural icons lamented this
  - Shah Jahan's army campaigns increased tax revenue to meet higher expectations
    - Hindu agricultural exploration fell hardest
    - Shivaji contradicted the Mughal court
      - Which means, he got quickly struck down
      - Escaped the court, and went to the Marathas
      - 1674-1680 started invading Mughals in guerrilla campaigns
      - Which, is a self-deprecating loop — causing Aurangzeb to invest even MORE money on fighting
        - Created the Marathas empire
  - Muhammed Akbar opposed his father's rules
    - Fled to Arabia
    - Tortured and killed son of Shivaji
- Also started a struggle with the British East India Company
  - Started complaining of higher taxes
  - Interpreted their license to say that they would only need to pay taxes at major international ports
  - In defense, the company declared war against the Mughals
  - The Mughals retaliated by destroying corporate stations

- Eventually forced negotiations to sink Muslim ships bound for Mecca
  - Eventually forced back into trade negotiations after a larger fine
  - This incident humiliated both the Mughals and the company — displeasing European directors
  - Fights of independence broke out among the Marathas and the Hindu-predominant north between 1674-1680
  - In the end, Aurangzeb ended his life noting “I don’t know who I am, nor what I have been doing”
  - Marathas won great parts of Mughal territory
    - Empire’s rulers force to pay tribute to Marathas
    - Others paid a largely symbolic to the Mughals
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- India is very hard to rule in a very centralized way
  - Deccan plateau to the south
  - Hard to conquer
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