

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 Venetians, 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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