

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To trace the political history of 16th and 17th century.
2. Understand the impact of imperial administration at the local and regional levels.
3. Appreciate how the various historical sources of history are used to reconstruct history.



MUGHAL MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

- Babur , the first mughal emperor (1526-1530) , succeeded to the throne of Ferghana in 1494 when he was only 12 years old.
- He was forced to leave his ancestral throne due to the invasion of another Mongol group , Uzbegs .
 - He seized Kabul in 1504.
- In 1526 he defeated the sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi at panipat and captured Delhi and Agra.

MUGHAL EMPIRE 1530-1707

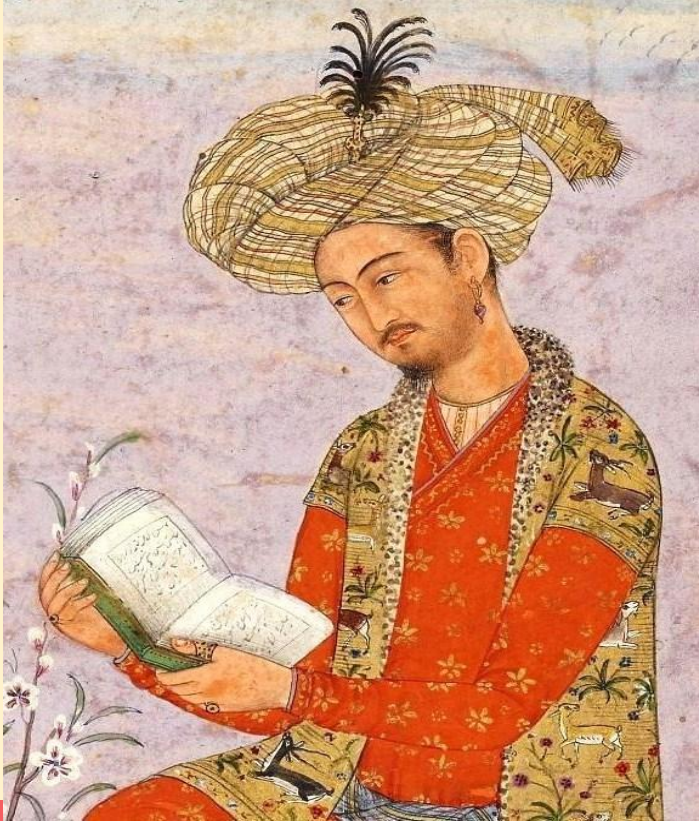


MUGHAL ARMY ON CAMPAIGN



- Cannons were an important addition in 16th century warfare.
- Babur used them effectively in the first battle of Panipat.
- Gunpowder technology was brought to India in the 14th century .
- Fire arms were used for the first time in regions such as Gujarat, Malwa and Deccan .

MUGHAL EMPERORS



- BABUR (1526-30)
- 1526-defeated Ibrahim Lodi and his Afghan supporters at panipat.
- 1527- defeated Rana Sanga, Rajput rulers and allies at Khanua.
- 1528- defeated the Rajputs at Chanderi.
- Established control over Agra and Delhi before his death.

HUMAYUN (1530-40: 1555-1556)



- After Babur's death, his son ,Humayun took over the mughal throne.
- Humayun means 'fortunate'.
- But his rule was full of problems.
- Mughal rule was in its early stages and he had the tough task of consolidating it.
- Besides, Humayun faced stiff competition from his brothers.
- Humayun divided his inheritance according to the will of his father. His brothers were each given a province.

- However, they were not happy with their inheritance and rebelled against him.
- It ultimately weakened his power against his rivals and led to his 15 year exile from India.
- Among Humayun's main rivals were Bahadur Shah , the ruler of Gujarat, and Sher Shah Suri , the Afghan ruler of Bihar.
- Sher Khan defeated Humayun at Chausa(1539) and Kanauj(1540), forcing him to flee to Iran.
- In Iran Humayun received help from the Safavid Shah and recaptured Delhi in 1555 but died the next year.

AKBAR (1556-1605)



- Akbar was 13 years old when he became the emperor.
- In the early years of his rule he was guided by his father's friend Bairam Khan.
- Humayun had appointed Bairam Khan as Akbar's guardian and regent to rule a territory on behalf of a minor or very young monarch till he comes of age.



MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

- Soon after coming to power, Akbar had to fight a fierce battle with Hemu, the Hindu general of Afghan king Adil Shah Suri.
- The forces of Akbar and Hemu met in Panipat in AD 1556. The battle that followed is known as the second battle of Panipat. Akbar successfully managed to defeat Hemu, who was captured and put to death.
- The battle gave Akbar control of Delhi and Agra.
- A few years later, Akbar ended the regency of Bairam Khan and launched campaigns to extend his control.

1. He led successful attacks against neighbouring kingdoms of Malwa and Gondwana.
2. He also crushed the revolt of his half brother Mirza Hakim and Uzbegs.
3. He then seized Rajput kingdoms such as Chittor and Ranthambor to make Rajputs rulers submit to his authority.
4. He managed to establish his rule in Gujarat, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa as well.
5. During the later years of his rule , he focussed on expanding his empire to include Qandahar, Kashmir and Kabul.
6. He also managed to annex the Deccan provinces of Berar, Khandesh and parts of Ahmadnagar.
7. Thus Akbar established an empire that stretched from Afghanistan in the west to Bengal in the east and Kashmir in the north to Deccan in the south.

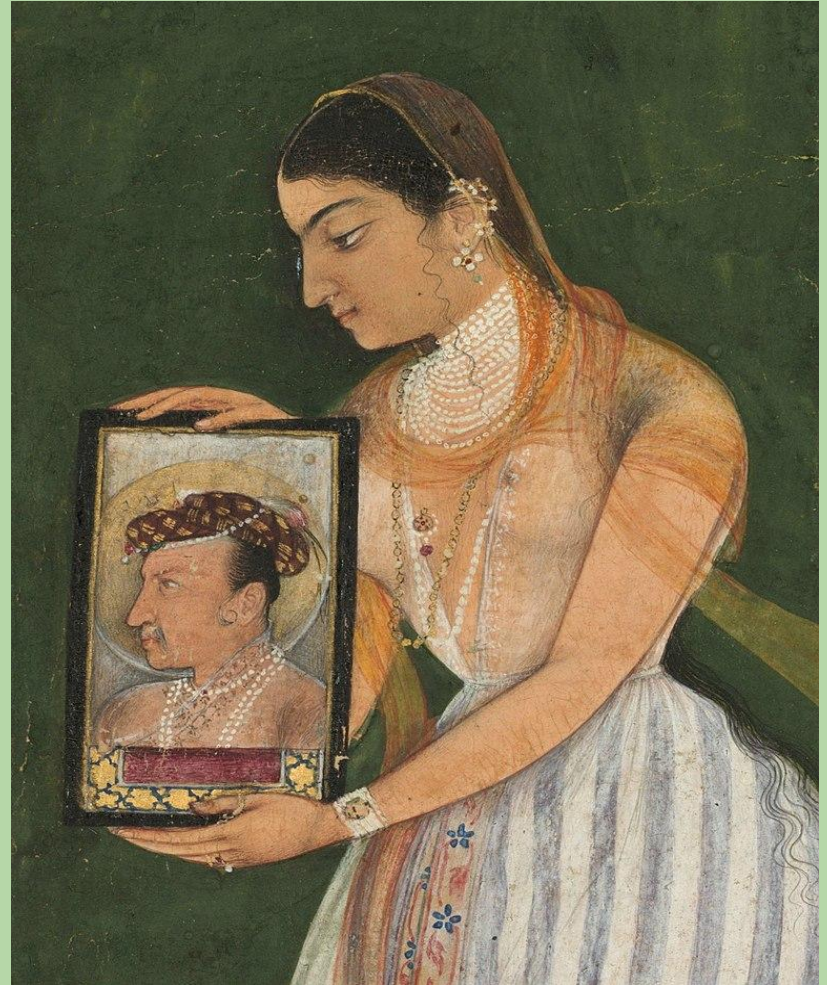


Jahangir : 1605-1627

- Jahangir, son of Akbar , came to throne after Akbar's death in 1605 .
- He was known for his impartial justice to his people , irrespective of their religious faith.
- He continued his father's policy and earned respect from all spheres of the society.
- Mughal rule under jahangir was noted for political stability , brisk economic activity , beautiful paintings and monumental buildings.
- Jahangir married Mehurnnisa in 1611 and bestowed her with the title 'Nur Jahan'

NUR JAHAN

A strong, charismatic, and well educated woman who enjoyed the absolute confidence of her husband, Nur Jahan was the most powerful and influential woman at court during a period when the Mughal Empire was at the peak of its power and glory.



SHAH JAHAN (1627-1658)

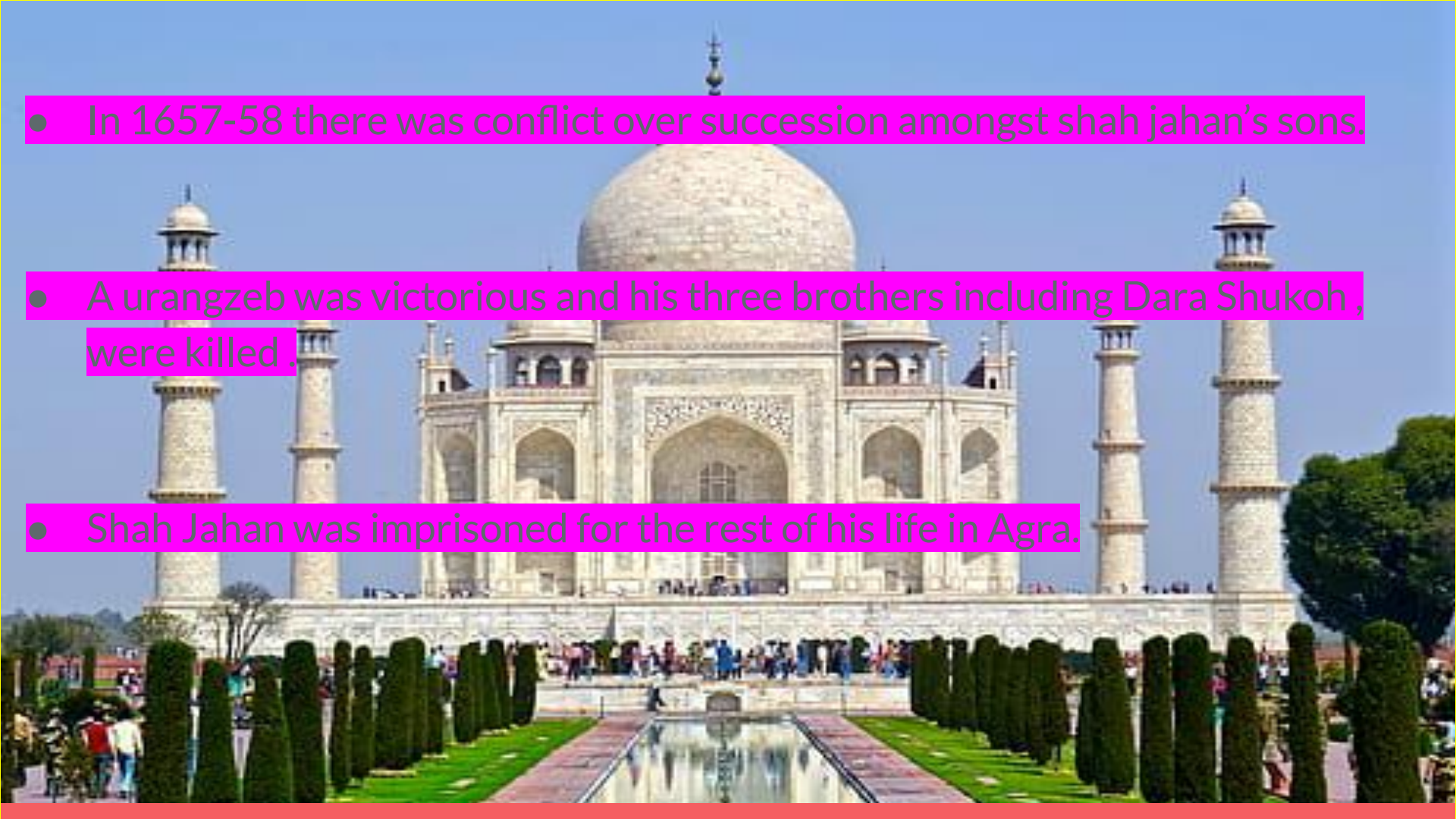


- After his father's death, Shah Jahan or Prince Khurram ascended the throne in 1628.
- He was best known for his Deccan and foreign policies.
- The Afghan noble Khan Jahan Lodi rebelled and was defeated.
- In the north west, the campaign to seize Balkh from Uzbeks was unsuccessful and Qandahar was lost to the Safavids.
- In 1632 Ahmadnagar was finally annexed.

- In 1657-58 there was conflict over succession amongst Shah Jahan's sons.

- Aurangzeb was victorious and his three brothers including Dara Shukoh, were killed.

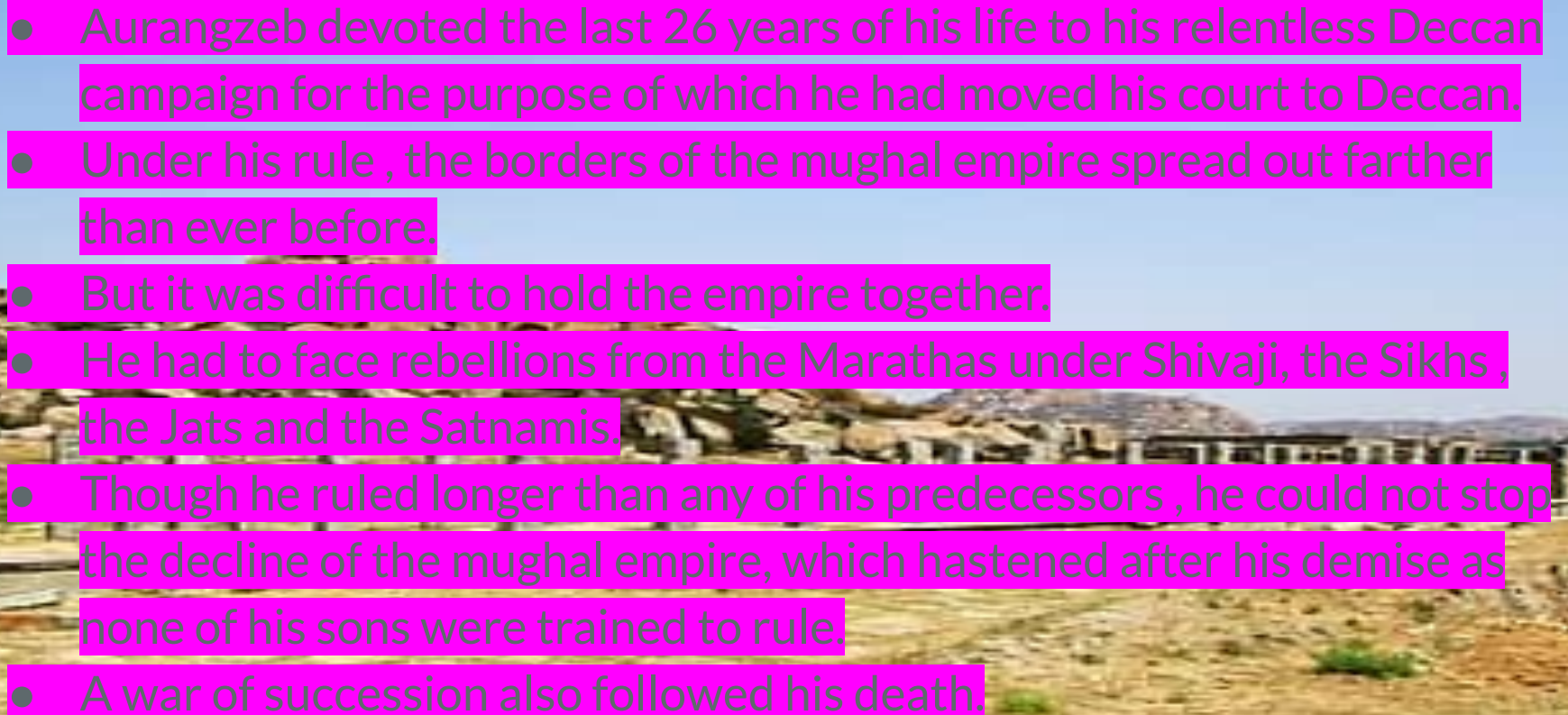
- Shah Jahan was imprisoned for the rest of his life in Agra.



AURANGZEB : (1658-1707)



- Aurangzeb had three rival brothers , so his accession to the throne was not smooth.
- He killed his brothers , imprisoned his father , shahjahan and crowned himself at Delhi assuming the title of Alamgir.
- He ruled for fifty years till his death in February 1707 , in Ahmednagar.
- During his reign , Aurangzeb tried to fulfil his great ambition of bringing the entire subcontinent under one rule.
- It was under his rule in 1687 Bijapur and Golconda surrendered to Mughal empire.

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- Aurangzeb devoted the last 26 years of his life to his relentless Deccan campaign for the purpose of which he had moved his court to Deccan.
 - Under his rule , the borders of the mughal empire spread out farther than ever before.
 - But it was difficult to hold the empire together.
 - He had to face rebellions from the Marathas under Shivaji, the Sikhs , the Jats and the Satnamis.
 - Though he ruled longer than any of his predecessors , he could not stop the decline of the mughal empire, which hastened after his demise as none of his sons were trained to rule.
 - A war of succession also followed his death.



- His chief architectural achievement is the Badshahi Mosque at Lahore, the largest mosque in the world at that time.
- Aurangzeb, though a staunch muslim gave many grants for the restoration of Hindu temples during his reign.
- He also appointed Hindus to important positions in his government.