

Chapter 4 - *The Mughal empire: state, economy and society*, (pp. 67 – 82)

16/09/2023 9:58 pm

- Book - Ayesha Jalal
- When we look at the history of ancient India, two things keep happening again and again.
- First, there are often new groups of people and new ideas coming into India, usually from the northwest part of the country.**
- Second, there is a **repeating pattern of times when one powerful group takes control of a lot of land** (imperial consolidation), and then later things start to spread out and become more decentralized, meaning **power is spread out among different regions or groups of people.**
- When one group of people took over another group's land, it wasn't like a sudden and complete change. Instead, after the takeover, **the two groups usually found ways to get along.**
- They **mixed their cultures, learned from each other, and found ways to live together.** It was more of a gradual blending than a sudden break.
- During the peak of powerful empires, things were really good. **People worked together in politics, the society was lively and active, there was plenty of money, and the culture was amazing. It was a time of unity, prosperity, and vibrant cultural expression.**
- When political power is spread out or decentralized, it doesn't always lead to problems in society and the economy. In other words, having different groups or regions with some control over their own affairs doesn't always make things worse; it can sometimes work well.
- The Mughal Empire was like a big kingdom that started in 1526. It got bigger and stronger until around 1707. After that, it started to weaken but still existed in a much smaller form until 1857.**
- In India, **big powerful groups of people (empires) were not all about one strict ruler who controlled everything from one place.**
- What did Westerners used to think about Mughal?**
- The Mughal empire, which existed in South Asia, has often been misunderstood by Western scholars.
- They used to think it was a **typical example of a very controlling and harsh government** in the East.
- They made this judgment by looking at the powerful governments of the 20th century in Europe and assumed that **ancient Asian states were also very powerful and oppressive, ruling over passive and weakened societies.**
- They believed that **these societies didn't have much energy or freedom for their own social groups to form.**
- People used to think that the Mughal Empire had a very strong and centralized government.
- Now, they are starting to see it as a more complicated and flexible kind of control over a diverse and changing economy and society.
- had different levels of power in different places.**
- A long time ago, a man named Zahiruddin Babur started a small kingdom in Farghana, Central Asia. He was initially more interested in conquering Samarkand.**
- After some failed attempts to expand north, Babur decided to rule an area near Kabul, which is in modern-day Afghanistan. From there, he led an attack into Punjab.**
- 1526 -> he won a major battle against Ibrahim Lodi, who was the last ruler of Delhi at the time, in a place called Panipat. BATTLE OF PANIPAT**
- He used **powerful cannons from Turkey in a battle. Some historians thought this meant the Mughal Empire should be called a "gunpowder empire."**
- The Mughals mainly relied on horseback soldiers (cavalry) to take over new lands.** They did use cannons, but they used them in a smart and unique way for specific situations, not as their main strategy.
- ★ **Babur was descended from two important families: one led by Taimur, who was known for building a big empire in Central Asia, and the other by Genghis Khan, a famous warrior from Mongolia.**
- People from his time called the empire he built the "Taimurid empire" because of his connection to Taimur. However, in the 1800s, people started using the term "Mughal" which comes from the word "Mongol" to describe this empire.**
- Babur didn't really like the hot and dusty areas in northern India where he set up his rule.
- ★ **Babur died in 1530**
- ★ In the late 1800s and then again in the late 1900s, people started saying that one of **Babur's generals, Mir Baqi, had destroyed a Hindu Ram temple to build a mosque called the Babri Masjid in a place called Ayodhya.** This caused a lot of controversy.
- The newly founded **Turkish dynasty's** control over north India remained very shaky and tenuous **under Babur's son Humayun.**
- ★ There was a **strong opposition from a group led by Sher Shah Suri** from the eastern part of India. This made **Humayun run away from his own country in 1540 and seek safety in Iran.**
- Sher Shah Suri ruled from 1540 to 1545 and managed to bring together a big part of northern India under his rule.
- After Sher Shah, the leader of the **Suri dynasty**, passed away, his dynasty became weaker.
- This gave a chance to **Humayun to come back to India in 1555**
- Shortly after returning to Delhi, **Humayun had a serious accident.** He fell **down the stairs in his library**, and this fall ended up being fatal, meaning it caused his death.
- Akbar** was a very important leader in a place called the Mughal Empire a long time ago.
- He had to fight against a group of soldiers from Afghanistan and a region called Rajasthan. **He won this big battle called the second battle of Panipat Afghan and Rajput.**
- In **1572**, he led a big campaign to **take over a place called Gujarat.**
- Next year, he **entered a city called Surat in Gujarat** and won. **They even changed the name of his capital city Fatehpur Sikri to celebrate this victory.**
- In **1574**, **Akbar's army started taking control of another place called Bengal.** Bengal used to be mostly independent and didn't listen to the leaders in Delhi. But by the 1580s, Akbar's army was able to make them follow his rule.
- The Mughals took control of really important places for farming and trade like Gujarat and Bengal.**
- They also conquered places like **Kabul, Kashmir, Odisha, and Baluchistan.**
- After Akbar, other **Mughal leaders like Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb** kept making the empire even bigger.
- Even though **Jahangir lost a city called Kandahar**, his successor **Shah Jahan tried to take control of places in Central Asia but didn't succeed.**
- They **defeated two powerful kingdoms, Bijapur and Golconda.**
- ★ **Aurangzeb faced a tough opponent in the Deccan named Shivaji, who led the Maratha people.** Shivaji didn't want to be controlled by the Mughal government. **The wars in the Deccan cost a lot of money**, which ended up making Aurangzeb's final victories not very satisfying or beneficial.
- ★ Three big empires in the past: **the Mughal empire in India, the Safavid empire in Iran, and the Ottoman empire in Turkey.** They were all powerful and ruled over large areas.
- The **leader of the Mughal empire, Akbar, knew this and made policies to include and work with non-Muslims.** Even though many important people in Akbar's government were from different places like Turkey, Afghanistan, and Persia
- ★ Akbar came up with a system called **mansabdari**. This system **involved giving important roles in the government and military to noble people**
- In this system, "mansab" means "rank." A "mansabdar" was someone who held a specific rank, which could range from being in charge of ten soldiers to even ten thousand.**
- these ranked individuals were expected to provide a certain number of cavalry (soldiers on horses) to the main imperial army whenever it was required. This helped Akbar in both defending and managing his empire.
- A **"mansabdar of ten" meant a person who was in charge of ten soldiers.** So, if you were a mansabdar of ten, you had ten soldiers working for you.
- But not all mansabdars actually had to lead soldiers into battle. **Some were in charge of administrative tasks instead.**
- They got their payment in two ways: one was through cash, and the other was through land grants called jagirs. These jagirs were areas of land that were given to them, and the income from these lands was meant to support them.**
- some important officials in the Mughal government couldn't be paid in money. So instead, they started keeping pieces of land that were passed down through their families (these were called jagirs).
- Provinces were ruled by governors (called subadars), who usually had high ranks in the government.**
- Under the governors, there were other people like jagirdars (who were a bit lower in rank than the governors) and zamindars, who were like local landlords. These landlords' main job was to collect taxes from the people living on their land.**
- Subadars - High Ranks - directly in contact with emperors - governors**
- Mansabdar - They report to Subadars - They handle horses and soldiers and some even did administrative tasks - Paid in CASH**
- Jagidars - They were given piece of land - income generated from it supports them**
- Zamindars - land taxes collector**
- What did Akbar do?**
- Akbar, an ancient Indian ruler, treated people equally regardless of their religion.
- He appointed leaders from various backgrounds.
- He also abolished a jizya tax on non-Muslims.
- He changed the calendar to better suit India's farming needs.
- In 1582, he said he followed a new set of beliefs that combined ideas from mystical parts of both Islam and Hinduism, and were also influenced by Zoroastrianism. He called this belief system **"Din-e-Ilahi" or the Divine Faith** - He didn't force anyone to follow Din-e-Ilahi
- Akbar set up a special place for worship called the **Ibadatkhana in his red sandstone capital at Fatehpur Sikri.** Here, people from different religions, like Muslims, Hindus, Zoroastrians, Jains, Jesuit Christians, and Jews, **gathered to have open and spirited discussions about religion and philosophy.**
- Akbar's favourite wife was a Hindu Rajput princess, Jodhabai (Hindu)**
- Some religious scholars believed that he gave more importance to his power as a ruler than to religious authority.
- ★ **Religious leader named Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi who strongly criticized the way the Mughal rulers were accommodating different religious beliefs. He was a leader of the Naqshbandi group. Jahangir, Akbar's son and the new ruler, put Sirhindi in prison because of his outspoken views.**
- The jizya tax was reinstated to collect money from Hindu and Jain businesses, not for religious reasons. The calendar was changed from solar to lunar, possibly due to Aurangzeb's strong beliefs.**
- Zeb-un-Nissa was the oldest daughter of Aurangzeb. She learned more about the spiritual side of Islam from her aunt Jahanara. Zeb-un-Nissa also wrote poetry in Persian, following
- The early ideas about Mughal rule focused on how **they gained a lot of money from farming.**
- They said the **Mughal government took about 40% of the extra crops produced.** This means they took a big share of what farmers grew beyond what they needed for themselves.
- But new research shows that the Mughals didn't use a highly organized government system to collect all this food from the villages.
- ★ Mughal government made **deals with powerful local leaders called zamindars**, not just in distant areas but also near the capital city.
- ★ They **shared the extra food and resources** collected from farms among different groups of people. The **emperor's family and nobles got the biggest share**, even though they weren't involved in collecting it.
- However, recent studies focused on specific areas have shown that in the 17th century, **farming and agriculture were doing really well.** This suggests that the government wasn't taking away too much from local resources.
- The Mughal Empire was like a big farming kingdom**, but it was also involved in faraway trade by land and sea.
- Around the 1600s, they started focusing more on making money through trade and might have become more like a business-minded empire.**
- They made a lot of money by selling clothes overseas and collecting taxes from their lands**
- Mughals didn't have a strong navy**, even though they controlled many ships used by pilgrims and traders.
- ★ **Before the Mughal empire was established, a group of people from Portugal, led by Vasco da Gama, arrived on the southwest coast of India in 1498.**
- ★ set up a big settlement in a place called **Goa by 1510.**
- However, the **Portuguese didn't succeed in completely controlling trade in the Indian Ocean like they wanted to.**
- English came to India after Portuguese
- the English became important traders in India after the Portuguese.
- ★ They asked the Mughal emperor for permission to **trade from Jahangir** and got it in 1619.
- they only had a **little bit of political and military power** in certain coastal areas.
- The Mughal rulers in India let local merchants run their businesses freely in important trading areas. But the government didn't rely on these merchants for money
- They benefited from bankers and traders who handled finances like lending and insurance, connected to the larger Indian Ocean trade network.
- ★ Traders from Europe **really liked buying things from Asia, like clothes from India, to sell back in Europe.** When they did this, **they paid with a lot of valuable metal, like silver.**
- It was like a big hub of wealth in the world of trade during that time!
- In some parts of India, **there were rules and laws made by the Mughal rulers.** These rules covered things like crimes, and some parts of regular life.
- If you **weren't a Muslim, you could still follow your own traditions and religious rules**
- The Mughal Empire **didn't generally improve women's rights.**
- Women in the royal palace (zenana) had significant influence over the king. This became more pronounced when Emperor Akbar married Hindu Rajput princesses.
- Jahangir was open to different beliefs and cultures.** He really liked celebrating Hindu festivals, which are important events in Hinduism.
- ★ **Abul Fazl's book about Akbar's rule called Akbarnama, and Abdul Hamid Lahori's Padshahnama.**
- A distinctive style of vocal music, dhrupad, was developed during Shah Jahan's reign.**
- In Akbar's capital city, Fatehpur Sikri, they created remarkable buildings by blending together two different architectural styles: one from the Islamic tradition and another from the Rajput tradition.
- ★ **The best builder among the Mughal emperors was Shah Jahan. He's well-known for creating the beautiful white monument in Agra**
- ★ **He also made Taj Mahal**
- ★ Shahjahanabad was the main part of the new capital city. The **most famous building there was the Red Fort, which became a very important symbol of power in India.**
- ★ In 1857, there was a big uprising against **British rule, and they put the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, on trial in the Red Fort.** They decided to send him away from his homeland for the rest of his life, and **he eventually passed away in a foreign land called Burma.**

Chapter 5 - *India between empires: decline or decentralization?*, (pp. 83 – 91)

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Book - Ayesha Jalal

- Syed Muhammad Latif, in his book about the history of Punjab written in 1891, talked about how things were really bad before the British took control.
- **He said there was a lot of dishonesty, bad behavior, and betrayal happening openly before British came.**
- **But once the British came, he believed there was peace and calm.** He was happy about how the British government helped change troublemakers and thieves into people who worked on farms and were helpful members of society.
- **About 18th century in India, people used to see it as a **chaotic** time between the powerful Mughal empire and when the British took control.**
- Aurangzeb was a big and very powerful ruler, when he passed away there was a big change in history of Mughal Empire.
- ★ • At the same time, there were many groups like the **Marathas, Sikhs, and Jats who were unhappy with the way things were being ruled.** They started revolting against Mughals.
- ★ • 18th century, there was a lot of disagreement and fighting happening within the empire. Some historians believed that these groups rebelled against him because they were upset by Aurangzeb's strict beliefs and rule, but that was not the case since there were **other Hindu groups as well who were unhappy with Aurangzeb like Pashtun, Bijapur and Golconda.**
- ★ • **The Bijapuri poet Ansari compared Aurangzeb's conquest to the advent of kufar (infidelity). ‘Black is the Mughal's heart towards all us Pathans’, complained the Pushto poet Khushal Khan Khattak about Aurangzeb's incursions in the tribal regions of the northwest frontier of India.**
- ★ • Irfan Habib, in his famous book about farming in Mughal India, said that **many of the revolts against the Mughal rulers were led by poor farmers who were suffering because of heavy taxes and greedy local officials.**

Difficulties faced by Mughals

- **There were Jagirdar problems in Mughal and big banking companies stopped supporting the struggling Mughal empire during its crisis, which made things even worse.**
- **Different regions wanted more control, weakening the central authority.**
- **There were also attacks from neighboring areas and disruptions in getting money from Europe.**
- **They faced opposition from Sikhs, Jats, Marathas, Bijapur, Pashtun and Golconda**
- 1730s - a large part of central India was taken over by a group called the Marathas from the Mughal Empire.
- ★ • **1739 - a leader named Nadir Shah from Iran attacked Delhi, the capital of the Mughal Empire, and took a lot of valuable things like famous Peacock Throne. This weakened the Mughals and helped Iran's economy.**
- **The Mughal emperor at the time, Muhammad Shah, was more interested in music than in ruling, and he didn't take the threat of Nadir Shah seriously. He commented Delhi door-ast**
- ★ • **1740s - the governors of Bengal, Awadh, and the Deccan regions basically became independent rulers**
- ★ • **1761 - there was a big battle called the third battle of Panipat. The Mughal emperor wasn't even directly involved, and a leader from Afghanistan Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated a Maratha army.**
- 1757 - the British East India Company defeated a ruler named Nawab Siraj-ud-daula and took control of Bengal.
- Marathas took over Mughal Empire
- 1784 - Sindhia was recognized as the protector of the Mughal emperor, but the British had to overcome strong resistance from the Marathas before they could take control of Delhi in 1803.
- **The Mughal emperor and nobility in India became weaker over time. This made easier for others to gain power**
- **Prominent rising groups included Hindu and Muslim revenue collectors**
- The Mughal emperor remained the highest authority, but their actual strength had declined.
- Despite their reduced power, the Mughal emperor maintained symbolic authority and were acknowledged as the ultimate source of sovereignty

Different kinds of states that emerged after the Mughal Empire declined.

- **Independent States:** Regions where local leaders (called subadars or provincial governors) took control and declared independence. **Examples include Bengal, Awadh, Hyderabad, and the Carnatic.** They were somewhat independent by the 1740s.
- **Warrior States:** The second type were states established by groups like the **Sikhs, Jats, and Marathas.** Their uniqueness wasn't mainly because of religion, but because of how they managed their military and money.
- **Local Kingdoms:** These were smaller kingdoms that gained more power in the 18th century. **Examples include Rajput states in the north and Telegu-speaking warrior clans in the south.**
- **Mysore under Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan:** This was a region that combined aspects of a warrior state and a smaller, well-defined kingdom. They were quite successful in gathering resources and keeping their state viable without relying heavily on wealthy bankers.
- India was mostly free from famines in the first seven decades of the 18th century, except for a **major one in Bengal in 1770.** Population, production, prices, and wages were gradually increasing during this time.
- Fragmented polities (divided regions) in India didn't stop trade of important goods like grain, cloth, and cattle.
- Corporate merchant groups worked across political boundaries to manage the transportation of goods and offer financial services like credit and insurance.
- Conflict between regions could be a problem, but it didn't necessarily harm skilled workers like artisans, especially weavers, who could negotiate for fair treatment.
- When European powers started trading with India, they became very successful, especially in exporting goods.
- Indian traders lost influence, and a city called Surat, which was once crucial for trade, declined in importance around 1720.
- In the late 1700s, there was a high demand for Indian products in Asia, but British merchants gained control and made most of the profits.
- **Surat, Masulipatnam, and Dacca were once important commercial cities.**
- **Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta became more significant during colonial times.**
- **Delhi and Agra, once powerful Mughal capitals, declined in influence.**
- **Regional capitals like Lucknow, Hyderabad, Maratha cities, and Seringapatam gained prominence.**
- **There was a change in who held power in urban centers - rulers or merchants.**
- **In some cases, wealthy merchants took on roles similar to those of the government.**
- **Devotional practices were popular among both Hindus and Muslims.**
- **Regional rulers supported and encouraged these practices.**
- **Advancements occurred within Islamic and Hindu traditions.**
- **For instance, a rationalistic branch of Shia Islam developed in Awadh.**
- **As the empire weakened, there were conflicts between different religious and sectarian groups.**
- **Figures like Shah Waliullah aimed to purify Islam, leading to conflicts like the Sikh-Punjab conflict.**

Chapter 6 - *The transition to colonialism: resistance & collaboration*, (pp. 92 – 101)

20/09/2023 8:05 pm

- Mid 18 century steadily dismantling the Mughal state replaced by British dominance.
- **Began with British conquest of Bengal in 1750 and 1760. Ended post conquest of Punjab annexation of Awadh in 1840 and 1850.**
- Strongest to British came from states of the Mysore, the Marathas, the Sikhs.
- strong collaboration by Indian social groups (merchant capitalists) helped undermine the regional states they had bankrolled in the past.
- British colonization in the time of decolonization was a result of the impetus behind European expansion, bases of collaboration of EIC with Indian intermediaries and factors that led to British success.
- The great rise in European production is one reason for British move from trade to politics
- **European demand for Indian textile made them profitable for which large amount of silver was imported from Europe to pay.** Control over revenues help British resolve this problem as mercantilist critique of the drain of silver from Europe to Asia grew increasingly strident
- Protectionist measures taken against Indian textile this and innovations in manufacturing based on techniques learnt from Asia helped European textile industry in result forming global empire of cotton.
- Political opportunities were provided by internal contradictions in the economy and politics of India. The withdrawal of support by commercial and financial magnates to successor states and the countries servant's involvement in India's internal trade helped British.
- Some regional Indian states sought to reduce their dependence on merchants and bankers to assert more control over their economies. They aimed to extract additional resources from merchants and create boundaries for European trade. These relatively powerful regional states pursued a policy of **military fiscalism, which involved increasing revenue extraction and military capabilities.**
- The EIC shared common interests with Indian merchant capitalists in the face of the growing power of these regional states and saw the benefit of collaborating to protect their economic interests.
- British, promised to support indigenous merchant capitalists against the threat posed by the regional states. This support was initially aimed at shoring up local economic allies.
- European powers gained dominance over external trade and shipping, allowing them to control long-distance cash flows control enabled them to shape the economic landscape in India.
- Europeans possessed advantage over Indians in military post-industrial revolution
- French took an early lead in intervening in the affairs of Indian states. This competition led to conflicts, with the British prevailing, subduing independent Indian states, and disposing of the French challenge. British established colonial rule.
- **François Duplex, the governor of the French East India Company, pioneered the practice of "nabobism" in India. This involved offering military support in succession disputes and territorial conflicts in exchange for economic benefits. Lack of effective support from the metropolis and the superiority of the English at sea ensured that the French were eventually checkmated.**
- **This intense competition between the French and English played out notably during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748) and the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) in southern India. For example, they supported rival nawabs in Arcot, but, the English-backed client, Mohammad Ali, emerged as the victor, although he was just a British pawn.**
- The decisive breakthrough for the English came in Bengal in 1757 when Nawab Siraj-ud-daula had succeeded his grandfather, Alivardi Khan, who had created a balance of interests between the English and French companies in Calcutta and Chandernagore, merchant bankers, the Jagat Seths and Omichand, and zamindars in the districts.
- Siraj-ud-daula called for an end to the building of English fortifications in Calcutta, demanded more money from the merchant bankers to finance his armed forces and levied higher taxes on the rural elite to retain his powers as a nawab.
- As English continued fortification Siraj led an army from Murshidabad(capital of Bengal) to Calcutta and defeated English forces in 1756. **The tragic incident known as the "black hole of Calcutta," where several English prisoners died from suffocation while held overnight in a prison cell, became a sensationalized legend.**
- Thomas Babington Macaulay in the 1840s and George Nathaniel Curzon writing and monuments contributed to the mythologization of this incident, even though recent research suggests that the story was exaggerated and that it might have been an accidental event rather than a deliberate act of cruelty.
- In response to their humiliation the English dispatched Colonel Robert Clive, to avenge the incident. **Clive conspired with merchant bankers Jagat Seth and Omichand, who, in turn, plotted with Siraj's discontented general, Mir Jaffar. At the Battle of Plassey, Mir Jaffar's army remained passive, allowing the English to defeat a small opposing force. Siraj-ud-daula was killed, and Mir Jaffar was installed as a puppet nawab.**
- Clive received a substantial payment of Rs 28 million (equivalent to £3 million sterling) as compensation for the company's services and personal gifts. **The beginning of the English East India Company's increasing control over Bengal's territories and revenue.**
- 1760s, Bengal's Nawab Mir Kassim attempted to restrict the EIC's operations to western Bengal while building his power base in Bihar. He aimed to establish a strong administration to extract revenues from zamindars and curb the influence of merchant bankers like the Jagat Seths. However, the Jagat Seths faced consequences as they were compelled to settle their debts to the English and relocate from their mansion in Murshidabad to virtual detention in Monghyr, Bihar.
- The English perceived Mir Kassim's consolidation of power as a potential threat to their holdings around Calcutta. In 1764, a significant confrontation occurred between the **nawabs of Bengal and Awadh, the Mughal emperor, and the English East India Company at the Battle of Buxar. The English emerged victorious.**
- In 1765, the **British secured the diwani rights from the Mughal emperor, from Bengal.** The streamlined revenue collection system, originally organized during the time of the Mughal subadar Murshid Quli Khan, had made Bengal an attractive proposition for the English. Diwani eliminated the need to import silver from Europe.
- At first the company sought to control a state such as Arcot through a mechanism known as a **subsidiary alliance**, by which, in return for a subsidy or a tribute, the English would 'protect' the nawab from outside threats. **This was unstable as the English EIC to extract revenues to finance the subsidies alienated the puppet nawabs from key groups in society.**
- Inadequate in warding off powerful states such as the Marathas threat to the northern Circars and Mysore's poaching on Arcot's territory led the company's take over in these regions.
- The resurgence of Mysore posed a significant challenge to EIC's presence in southeast and southwest coasts of India, in 1760s. Haidar Ali's army threatened Madras. To counter this threat, the English formed alliances with Hindu merchants and took control of the Malabar region.
- On the west coast, **collaboration with Hindu and Parsi financiers involved in cotton production and trade, combined with the need for protection against the Maratha threat, prompted the English to assume political control in Gujarat by 1803.**
- The periods of intervention were often simplistically related to the aggressive personalities of governors and governor-generals like Clive, Wellesley (1798–1805) and Dalhousie (1848–56).
- In Wellesley pressures on the subsidiary alliance system and military campaigns against powerful Indian states like Mysore and the Marathas intensified. **Dalhousie's tenure the end of subsidiary alliances.**
- C.A. Bayly's work highlighted that during the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars in Europe, the generation led by Wellesley was driven by a new sense of British nationalism. They believed in projecting British superiority overseas and justified conquest based on British racial superiority. **Robert Travers argued that this shift began earlier in the late 1780s and 1790s, with Cornwallis, who did not share the same regard for India's "ancient" Mughal institutions as Warren Hastings (the first governor-general in the 1770s).**
- There was lack of contradiction between the ideology of free trade and nationalistic imperialism in the Wellesley era as they recognized the importance of deploying state power to organize cheap labor and efficient production to ensure economic prosperity i.e open colonial market. **The Wellesley era the company state engaged in a squeeze play on its subsidiary allies and adopted a bellicose posture towards India's remaining independent states.**
- Best example of subsidiary state is Awadh where the nawab of Awadh paid excessive amounts of subsidiary to protect itself for which he had to ignore zamindars, peasants and his soldiers which led him into debt trap which became a condition for British annexation. Same happened in Arcot in the south.
- Bayly has explained, 'the financial demands of the alliance merely served to erode the basis of the state, and ultimately to provide the conditions for British annexation'
- Although English creditors of these nawabs had been quite prepared to keep their clients nominally independent Wellesley's government was determined to consolidate the corporate authority. The Nawab of Awadh was compelled to give up his western territories in 1800, despite the private English creditors' willingness to maintain his nominal independence and perpetual debt. Arcot faced the same
- Hyderabad escaped but their subsidiary alliance was made stringent. powerful British residents wielded enormous influence in alliance with the diwan's faction, consisting of Shia Muslims and north Indian Hindus, in the Nizam's court. In time a saying came to be coined that a whisper in the residency could cause a thunder in the palace.
- Mysore, under the leadership of Haidar Ali and his son Tipu Sultan, posed a formidable obstacle to British colonial expansion in India. They built a powerful state with effective revenue management and eliminated special privileges of intermediate social groups.
- **Tipu's surplus was drawn more from poligar warrior overlords and intermediate revenue farmers than from the working peasantry. He increased taxes on mercantile wealth but promoted trading facilities with Arabia and Iran.** Mysore made significant strides in military technology, deploying infantry and artillery effectively. Tipu sent diplomatic missions to the Marathas, the Nizam of Hyderabad, and the French. In the war of 1781 to 1784, Mysore fought the British East India Company to a military stalemate. A setback in 1791 led to the cession of some territories on the state's peripheries. 1799, the British, with their faster-expanding economic resources and control over productive coastal areas, decisively tipped the balance against Mysore. Tipu Sultan died bravely defending his capital, Seringapatam, in the face of British forces.
- Mysore was also closing the gap in military technology between Europeans and Indians. In addition to traditional light cavalry and white Deccan cattle, Mysore developed the capability to deploy infantry and artillery with telling effect.
- Tipu understood the gravity of the threat and sent missions to the Marathas, the Nizam of Hyderabad and the French.
- In the early 1780s he was friendly with the Maratha leader Mahadaji Sindhia.
- 1781 to 1784 Mysore fought the English East India Company's army and won.
- loss in 1791 resulted in the capturing of few territories.
- British won in 1799 when the faster-expanding economic resources resulted in military expansion, Tipu Sultan died fighting at his capital, Seringapatam.
- The Maratha did not rule over Mysore, but attempted some of the same methods of taxation and revenue management.
- Having arisen as a warrior state in western India however it displayed relative equality between genders.
- Women flaunted their independence by riding on horseback in military camps.
- Under the leadership of Mahadaji Sindhia in the 1780s it transformed into a far-flung empire which had begun to resemble the Mughals.
- Poona became the ceremonial capital, but divisions like the Mughals also plagued the Maratha politics and society.
- The Maratha set up ordnance factories in northern India, alarming the British.
- Wellesley's armies forced the Marathas to submit to the status of subsidiary allies through the treaty of Vasai (Bassein) in 1802.
- this triggered a fierce Anglo-Maratha war.
- In 1803 the English East India Company's capture of Delhi marked the high point in
- British expansion.
- In 1817 the British carried out military campaigns against Pindari horsemen of Afghan and Rajput origin in central India.
- Marathas became suspicious of ultimate British designs that ended in their final defeat in 1818.
- During the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars in Europe in 1796 the British acquired the territories in Ceylon from the Dutch.
- ruled from Madras, Ceylon became a separate Crown colony in 1802.
- The Kingdom of Kandy in the island's interior was not conquered by the British until 1815 proper suppression of a popular rebellion in 1818.
- The British got involved in an Anglo-Gurkha war in 1816. the kingdom of Nepal gave up about one-third of its territories by the treaty of Sugauli.
- Sikh kingdom of Punjab, established by Ranjit Singh in 1790 was not captured by the British.
- Punjab and also Sind were too distant from the British centres of power in the eighteenth century so not viewed as direct threats.
- Ranjit Singh built up a strong army and an economically powerful government deriving revenues from agriculture and commerce.
- The Talpur mirs of Sind also established state granaries, profited from taxes imposed on Indus valley trade of opium, which threatened the British opium monopoly in India.
- Commercial interests as well as British concerns with the northwestern frontier eventually brought them into conflict with Sind and Punjab from the late 1830s.
- Charles Napier, upon conquering Sind in 1842, proudly reported back in Latin: 'Peccavi' ('I have sinned').
- The Hotchends, rapidly lost out in the area of shipping and seaborne trade, even though they managed to survive as landlords and bureaucrats.
- Between the taking of Sind and the conquest of Punjab, the British launched a catastrophic expedition to Afghanistan.
- The company's army lost nearly 16,000 men in the siege of Kabul. retreated from the Afghan capital in January 1842.
- The British took advantage of splits in Punjabi society and polity following the death of Ranjit Singh in 1839.
- With the collaboration of some local Sikh magnates in eastern Punjab, the British, after two Anglo-Sikh wars, succeeded in capturing the Sikh state in 1849.
- One of the courtiers of the Lahore-based kingdom who aided the British was Gulab Singh, the Dogra ruler of Jammu.
- The British rewarded him through the Treaty of Amritsar of 1846, which handed over the valley of Kashmir 'for ever' to Maharaja Gulab Singh and the heirs male of his body' for a good sum of money.
- Gulab Singh acknowledged 'the supremacy of the British Government and also agreed to an annual token of tribute of 'one horse, twelve pairs of shawl goats of approved breed (six male and six female), and three pairs of Kashmir shawls'.
- The wars against Punjab, Sind and Afghanistan had, naturally, drained the treasury.
- Dalhousie tried to recover some of the costs of these expensive military adventures by annexing the more subsidiary states.
- Utilizing the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie took over Satara in 1848, Jhansi in 1853 and Nagpur in 1854, which brought in some £5 million in revenue.
- Finally, the greed led to the formal annexation of Awadh in 1856.
- resistance offered by many regional successor states, as well as the interlocking relations between the English East India Company and indigenous merchant capitalists.
- brings into focus the pressures exerted by British that undermined the eighteenth-century state
- Once the British achieved state power, Indian capital was quickly reduced to inferior status in most parts of India.
- position of dominance by riding the wave of a relatively vibrant eighteenth-century economy, the British resorted to a form of conquistador imperialism that did not contribute to the economic stagnation of the early nineteenth century.
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Chapter 7 - *The first century of British rule, 1757 to 1857*, (pp. 102 – 111)

30/09/2023 9:03 pm

Book - Ayesha Jalal

- English East India Company, originally a trading company, set up a complex system to govern its territories in India after 1757.
- Initially focused on trading, the company started relying on land revenues for its income.
- In the late 18th century, the **company state was mainly controlled by a powerful military rule.**
- ★ **The company's army was made up of European soldiers and a growing number of Indian soldiers called "sepoys."**
- ★ **These sepoys were recruited from the upper-caste farming communities in northern India and Bihar.**
- By 1814, the Bengal army had authority over northern India, and it was like a paid army that could become disloyal if not paid promptly.
- ★ **Besides the Bengal army, there were smaller forces like the Madras army, composed of different groups including Eurasians, Telugu warriors, and Muslims who couldn't find jobs in the Mysore army.**
- There was also a detachment known as the Bombay marine.**
- During the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, the company's armed forces grew significantly from 115,000 in 1790 to 155,000 in 1805.
- ★ **A group in London called the court of directors had formal control over the company's affairs in India.**
- ★ In 1773 and 1784, laws were passed in England to try to bring the company's administration under the control of the parliament through a board of control.
- Some members of the parliament, like Edmund Burke, criticized the company's practices as oppressive and corrupt. Even Warren Hastings was put on trial**
- After 1773, the governor-general and his council ruled with the help of about 400 official civil servants.
- ★ **While lower-level Indian agents were important for running the government, the top-ranking officials were mainly British in their outlook and values.**
- ★ **There was a clear hierarchy in the government structure, starting from the governor-general in Calcutta, down to the governors of Bombay and Madras, and then to the administrators in charge of collecting taxes and providing justice in different districts.**
- The bureaucracy was designed to favor higher-level British administrators.
- The company (likely referring to the British East India Company) made agreements with various Indian rulers outside of the areas they directly controlled.**
- These Indian rulers accepted British authority in exchange for some self-governing power in their own regions.**
- ★ **Over time, a system called British paramountcy was developed, which brought even supposedly independent Indian rulers under tighter British control.**
- ★ **These rulers were limited in their ability to make decisions about defense, foreign affairs, and forming relationships with other Indian rulers.**
- British representatives in these states, known as Indian princely states, gained significant influence over internal administration and financial matters.**
- The company state used its military and bureaucratic institutions to control and influence the Indian economy and society.
- They focused on making sure they could collect land revenue, which was their main source of income.
- ★ **What was Permanent Settlement and its outcome?**
- In 1793, they set up a system called the permanent settlement. This gave private individuals (called zamindars) the right to collect revenue from land. This arrangement was meant to be permanent.
- The zamindars were supposed to collect rent from the farmers (raiyyats) and send a portion of it as revenue to the state.
- The person who introduced this system, Cornwallis, hoped that the zamindars would act like responsible landlords in England. However, this didn't work out as planned.
- The problem was that the zamindars didn't actually own or control the land being farmed by the raiyyats. So, it was difficult for them to collect rent and send revenue to the state.
- The initial revenue demands were very high, and many zamindars couldn't meet them. As a result, their land were auctioned to others
- In certain areas of Madras (now Chennai) that were taken from Mysore, local leaders and small kings were pushed out by Tipu Sultan's policies.
- This made it easier for the British colonial government to make agreements about taxes with the local farmers (raiyyats), even if they didn't personally work on the land.
- About two-thirds of Madras followed a system where individual farmers paid taxes directly, while the remaining third had agreements with larger landowners or zamindars who collected taxes from multiple farms.**
- In the early years of British rule (1757-1810s), they took a lot of India's money and used it to buy Indian goods, especially textiles, to sell abroad.**
- During the 1810s, India's traditional craftsmen struggled to compete with cheaply made British textiles, which hurt India's ability to sell its products globally.
- ★ This period marked a significant economic shift between Britain and India, leading to what's known as the **"great divergence."**
- ★ **What was Charter Act?**
- In 1813, the Charter Act ended the East India Company's exclusive trade rights with India. This led to a significant increase in the sale of British cotton goods in India over the next two decades, although the growth wasn't as dramatic as in other markets - other countries can also come and trade in India
- ★ **They started making more profit from selling Chinese tea.**
- ★ **To make money, the company forced people to grow indigo, a type of plant used for dye. They also made a lot of money from a government-controlled monopoly on opium production in India.**
- ★ **Growing opium wasn't profitable for farmers, and they were trapped in debt. Landlords, supported by the government, used force to make them grow opium.**
- The company sold a lot of Indian opium illegally in China, which meant they didn't need to bring in as much silver to buy Chinese tea.**
- Parsi traders and others played a big role in moving opium from India to China through Southeast Asia.
- When slavery was officially ended in the British empire in 1833, many people from India were sent to work on plantations in different parts of the world as indentured laborers.
- From the mid-1850s, there was a higher demand for rice and jute, which were more profitable for farmers than growing indigo. This caused a lot of resentment among the farmers.
- In 1859-1860, there was a rebellion against the indigo system in Bengal. However, it continued to dominate Bihar until 1917 because of the power dynamics between different classes. (Blue mutiny - peasants rebelled against course condition of indigo)**
- Artisans in India were resilient and not entirely eliminated.
- Peasants had less freedom and suffered due to state's revenue and rent policies.
- Company's focus on private property and state control removed protections for peasants and weavers.
- In northern India, property owners put pressure on smallholding peasant families and artisans with the support of the state.
- The British used ceremonial traditions from before their colonization to hide their morally questionable political actions.
- Even though the British were racially arrogant, they treated the puppet Mughal emperor with respect and even put his image on coins.**
- They kept Persian as the official language until 1835, which helped maintain jobs for Muslim and Hindu officials, especially in northern India.**
- They consulted Mughal legal officers and followed their decisions if they were fair and just.**
- The British were careful not to upset the feelings of the people they ruled by changing Muslim and Hindu personal laws.**
- In the 1820s and 1830s, there was an exception when they abolished the practice of sati, where Hindu widows would self-immolate on their husband's funeral pyres. This seemed like interference in religious practices.**
- The British tried to gain cultural legitimacy by using symbols and meanings that were important in Indian society. They promoted a **neo-Brahmanical** ruling ideology in the south and emphasized doctrinal Islam over local Muslim practices.
- Leader of a Sufi shrine in Delhi insulted a British official named Charles Metcalfe, calling him an unbeliever who smelled like alcohol.
- In newly conquered areas like Punjab and Sind, the taxes were kept low, and money was invested in farming. In some places like Bombay, Gujarat, and parts of Madras, the tax rates were also lowered during revisions.
- Even in Bengal, there were discussions about making laws to give farmers more rights and lower their rent, although this law wasn't actually passed until 1859.
- Starting in 1854, Europeans started investing money in building railways in India. This led to prices and wages slowly going up.
- Despite making modern changes like introducing railways and telegraphs, the British governor-general Dalhousie also took money from states that were somewhat independent, which was unfair to them.**
- Indian soldiers were sent to fight for Britain in places like China and Southeast Asia in the 1840s and 1850s. This caused tension and unhappiness among the soldiers' families back in northern India.
- There had been various uprisings and rebellions by landowners, peasants, and tribes in different parts of India throughout the colonial period. These acts of resistance, along with a military mutiny in 1857, eventually led to the end of British rule in India.

Chapter 8 - Company Raj & Indian Society, 1757 to 1857, (pp. 113 – 127)

30/09/2023 10:03 pm

Book - Ayesha Jalal

- In the 19th century, India was heavily influenced by Western ideas and practices due to the presence of British companies ruling over the country.
- ★ **This period is often referred to as the "company raj."**
 - People from the 19th century had varying views on how Indian society dealt with these Western influences.
 - Modern scholars and historians also have differing opinions on this topic.
 - The flow of ideas wasn't just one-way from the advanced West to the supposedly less advanced East.
 - In the 18th century, progressive parts of the city embraced Indo-Persian ideas about 'javan mardī'.**
 - In the 19th century, there was an expectation that Westernization would reshape Indian society and thinking.
- ★ **Three powerful forces were believed to be influencing Indian society:**
 - The idea of free trade was thought to break India out of its closed-off and stagnant state.**
 - The philosophy of utilitarianism, through enacting good laws, was supposed to get rid of outdated or harmful Indian social practices.**
 - Evangelism was anticipated to strongly challenge established Indian religions (Hinduism and Islam), and convert and uplift colonial subjects to Christianity. - Christians missionaries**
 - Some historians believe that the British colonial rule in India didn't bring about the expected social changes, and that these changes might not have been attempted in the first place.
 - They argue that, instead of modernizing India, the British reinforced traditional social structures, like the peasant and Brahman communities.**
- ★
 - The British wanted to stabilize Indian society, so **they promoted caste hierarchy and rigidity**, particularly dominated by the Brahmins, which had been more flexible before colonial rule.
 - They also introduced English legal practices**, which made Muslim law more rigid and defined.
 - Some argue that the caste system as we know it today was largely shaped by colonial rule, while others believe the colonial state was more like a catalyst for changes that were already happening.
 - The late eighteenth century must, in important ways, be distinguished from the nineteenth.
 - In the early phase, there was military aggression and economic exploitation, but not forceful imposition of beliefs about racial superiority.
 - Early British scholars, like William Jones, respected Indian culture and civilization.
 - Scholars like Brahmins and ulema had more influence on colonial thinking than uncoded traditions.
 - In the 19th century, there were waves of change like free trade, utilitarianism, and evangelism. (Evangelism is the practice of actively spreading and promoting a particular religious belief, especially Christianity.)**
 - Evangelical Christianity wasn't very successful in converting large numbers of people, despite being seen as a significant threat.**
- ★
 - The 1813 Charter Act ended the company's monopoly in India and allowed Christian missionaries more access.**
 - Utilitarianism was based on confidence in science and reason. Changes in the legal system had a big social impact in colonial India.**
 - Before British rule, the focus was mainly on farming, not on using forests or pastures. There wasn't a clear boundary between these areas.
 - The British started seeing forests as separate from farmland and started cutting down a lot of trees. This not only changed the climate but also disrupted the lives of tribal people who depended on the forests.**
 - The British, with the help of Indian moneylenders and traders, took control over the tribal areas.**
 - They also impacted nomadic and pastoral groups in northern and central India, making them focus more on farming.**
- ★
 - The British were particularly afraid of groups like the 'Thugs' in central India. They thought these groups were dangerous robbers, but this idea is now being questioned by historians.**
- ★
 - In some hilly areas, the British set up large farms like coffee and tea plantations, like in the Nilgiris and Darjeeling/Assam.**
- ★
 - The end of slavery led to a strong demand for Indian laborers starting in the 1830s.**
- ★
 - Indian laborers faced higher death rates on sea journeys compared to free white laborers, but lower rates than African slaves. - indentured labours**
 - The British, with the help of Brahmins, worked on ranking different social groups in India.**
 - Colonial initiatives led to a more hierarchical definition of Indian social practices in the early 19th century.
 - However, popular devotional movements, like the Satya Narayanis of Gujarat, continued to thrive and even rejected certain Brahminical practices.**
 - Islamic reform movements sought to purify the faith in response to colonial influence, but didn't entirely replace traditional practices in the countryside.**
 - Colonial social engineering in India focused on supporting certain aspects of Indian tradition in rural areas.
 - Liberal ideas like liberty and civilization were promoted, but they were also used to control colonized people through resource extraction and forced labor.
 - Those in India who were interested in liberalism were influenced by both their own traditional beliefs and European and American ideas.
 - In Calcutta, the city was already buzzing with intellectual discussions about science and reason about a decade before Governor-General Bentinck arrived.
 - The Hindu College, established in 1817, was a result of Indian initiative and aimed to provide a liberal education in English.
- ★
 - At least three strands are identifiable in Calcutta society's engagement with Western education and culture.**
 - The Young Bengal group, based in Hindu College and led by a dynamic teacher, Henry Derozio, was most enthusiastic about the new ideas from the West. They showed their Western influence in clothing and eating habits. They criticized traditional Indian social customs as irrational.**
 - The Dharma Sabha orchestrated the conservative reaction against the Young Bengal group. They opposed colonial interference in Indian social customs, including petitioning against sati abolition. Their leader Radha Kanta Deb supported Western education and patronized Hindu College.**
 - The most creative strand, however, was led by Rammohun Roy, who attempted to adapt elements from all that he considered best in Indian and Western learning. He was proficient in Sanskrit, Bengali, Arabic, Persian, and English. He aimed for thorough societal reform and established the **Brahmo Samaj in 1828**, promoting **monotheism and rejecting caste distinctions**. He campaigned against sati, supporting its abolition in 1829, and argued against it based on scriptural interpretations. He supported restrictions on suicide for colonial control, despite his progressive views on women's rights. His contributions played a vital role in shaping 19th-century India's intellectual landscape.**
- In the 1820s and 1830s, there was a period known as the Bengal renaissance in India. This was a time of significant progress in literature, arts, and social and religious reform, even though it was limited by British colonial control.**
 - Similar social changes were also starting to happen in Bombay and Madras, though not as intensely as in Calcutta.
 - However, as time passed, the initial open-minded approach of the colonial rulers shifted towards a more controlling and authoritarian stance.
 - Indian urban elites and British colonial officials had different reasons for promoting Western education in English. For Indians, it was seen as a way to strengthen themselves and even had early nationalist undertones.
 - Macaulay, a member of Bentinck's council, made it clear in 1835 that he considered learning in Indian languages to be useless. He wanted to create a class of people who were culturally Indian but thought and acted in an English way.**
 - As a result of Macaulay's influence, English replaced Persian as the official language of the government and higher courts in 1835.**
 - In some regions like Punjab, English and Urdu were introduced as languages of government because British officials were tired of adapting to regional languages. Despite this, Punjabi continued to be important in informal social settings in the province.**
 - Hindu literate castes shifted from Persian to English for government service.
 - Some Muslims embraced English and translated texts into Urdu, but many resisted Western education.
 - Muslim reformist movements, led by Sufi orders, gained momentum in the 18th and 19th centuries.**
 - The Naqshbandiya Sufi order had influence, especially among Muslim artisans in northern India.**
 - The Faraizi movement called for a return to the Quran and shifted from a saint-follower to a teacher-student relationship.**
 - Peasants resisted colonial and zamindari demands, sometimes incorporating religious ideologies.
- ★
 - The tribal uprisings led by groups like the Bhils, Kols, and Santhals happened because they were upset about other people taking over their lands and forests. They felt like their homes and the places they depended on for their way of life were being invaded or stolen from them. So, they fought back to protect what was rightfully theirs.**
 - Urban artisans, like weavers and Muslim craftsmen, protested, sometimes targeting centers of wealth and prestige.
 - Urban groups rejected colonial legal systems, favoring traditional Mughal law officers.
 - Resistance was widespread, involving various social groups across regions.
 - Movements lacked supra-local organization and synchronization in time.
 - The 1857 mutiny marked a significant uprising, expanding in scale and signifying a turning point in India's colonial history.

Chapter 9 - 1857: Rebellion, Collaboration and the Transition to Crown Raj, (pp. 70 – 77)

07/10/2023 8:19 am

Book - Ayesha Jalal

- 1857 is a significant year in the history of South Asia.
- It saw a major rebellion against British rule, involving both the military and civilians.
- This rebellion almost brought an end to British control, exactly a hundred years after they first gained power in Bengal.
- **Different people have different views on what exactly happened in 1857:**
- 1. British officials often called it the "sepoy mutiny" because it started with Indian soldiers (sepoys) rebelling.**
- 2. Nationalists in the early 20th century proudly called it the "first war of Indian independence".**
- What made the revolt of 1857 different was that several strands of resistance came together, it spread over a large
- The British East India Company's army was made up of paid soldiers, and different parts of this army had shown signs of discontent in the first half of the 1800s. In the Bengal area, and it was more intense than previous incidents.
- **In the 1850s, the British made several mistakes that angered the soldiers. They passed a law in 1856, called the General Service Enlistment Act, which required recruits to agree to serve overseas, which the soldiers saw as being sent across the "dark waters" (kala pani).**
- Because of a military failure in Afghanistan, the British started recruiting soldiers from a wider range of castes and regions into the Bengal army. This change was not well-received by groups like the Rajputs and Bhumihaar Brahmans from Benares and Awadh, who had been the mainstay of the Bengal army.
- After the British took over Punjab and Sind, these soldiers lost their extra pay for serving overseas, and when Awadh was annexed in 1856, they lost even more prestige. At the same time, their families were burdened with high land-revenue demands.
- The sepoys were Indian soldiers working for the British East India Company.
- They were already unhappy about their social and economic situation.
- **The problem escalated when they were given new rifle cartridges that were rumored to be coated with cow and pig fat.**
- **This upset both Hindu and Muslim sepoys because it was against their religious beliefs.**
- **They thought this was a sneaky plan by the British to force them to convert to Christianity.**
- **When the sepoys refused to use the new rifles, they were punished and sent to jail.**
- **This mistreatment of their fellow soldiers in Meerut led to a mutiny on May 10-11, 1857.**
- **The mutineers went to Delhi and made the old Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, their symbolic leader.**
- **People around Delhi, including landowners, farmers, craftsmen, and rebellious police officers, supported the mutineers.**
- **The rebellion spread to the north and west of Delhi, affecting both military bases and the surrounding countryside.**
- However, the rebels made a big mistake by focusing too much on Delhi and not taking control of the liberated areas to establish their own government.
- This allowed the British to recapture Delhi by the end of September 1857.
- **In Awadh, which is an area in India, there was a rebellion against British rule.**
- **People in this region were very unhappy with how the British were governing them, especially because they had taken control of the area not long ago.**
- **A woman named Begum Hazrat Mahal became a leader of the rebellion. Her husband had left for Calcutta, so she stayed in Lucknow. She was wife of Wajid Ali Shah and his husband was kept in Fort William**
- **The rebels put Begum Hazrat Mahal's twelve-year-old son in charge of Awadh on July 5, 1857.**
- Many people, like landowners, farmers, and craftsmen, joined the rebellion, which made it strong in both the countryside and the cities.
- The British were really scared that they would lose control of Awadh, especially because it was the hundredth anniversary of a significant battle called Plassey.
- To regain control, British soldiers had to fight hard, going from one village to another and facing strong resistance led by local leaders. This took until the summer of 1858.
- **In the 1857 revolt in India, there were three main areas where people rebelled against British rule: northern India, central India, and parts of southern India.**
- **In central India, the Maratha rulers and peasants saw a chance to get rid of the British. The Rani of Jhansi, whose kingdom was taken over by the British in 1853, fought bravely and died in battle against the British.**
- **Another Maratha leader, Nana Sahib, led his troops to Kanpur and defeated the British soldiers stationed there.**
- **In southern India, some Afghan soldiers and city residents in Hyderabad revolted, but the local leaders didn't fully join the movement because they saw it as led by their historical rivals, the Marathas.**
- **In Punjab, there were uprisings in garrison towns and among certain Muslim groups in the western part of the province. However, the loyalty of Sikh leaders in the eastern part of Punjab, who had been favored by the British, helped keep the trouble under control.**
- **In Bengal, the British had a strong military presence, and this, along with reinforcements sent from China, discouraged potential rebels. The Bengali educated class didn't support the rebellion, viewing it as a movement led by feudal lords.**
- **The British were most seriously threatened in the northern and central regions of India, especially in June and July of 1857**
- The rebels shared a common goal of ending British dominance.
- The Indian rulers and aristocrats were particularly upset with the British for breaking established agreements whenever it suited them, which they saw as unfair and deceitful.
- **The queen mother of Awadh expressed this frustration, mentioning how the British would show respect on one hand, but act unfairly on the other. Wajid Ali Shah was kept in Fort William because his people were rebelling so his mother went to Queen Victoria**
- After the revolt, British officials exaggerated the role of religion, especially focusing on Muslims as the main rebels.
- In Lucknow, Muslim preachers predicted the end of British rule, and during the revolt, warriors from Pindaris and the Naqshbandi Sufi order fought bravely against the British.
- In certain areas like Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur, where Muslim elites were struggling, the revolt took on a distinctly millenarian character.
- In some towns of northern India, Muslim weavers were motivated by calls for holy war made by figures like Maulvi Ahmedullah Shah, Maulvi Liaquat Ali, and possibly Maulvi Fazl Huq Khairabadi.
- However, the involvement of religion led to complications. Some Sunni leaders were hesitant about a resurgence of Shia power in Awadh, while others were pragmatic and didn't call for jihad since success wasn't guaranteed.
- While some fighters in Delhi may have believed they were waging a jihad, Muslim intellectuals were debating whether it was appropriate to declare a holy war.
- According to the dominant Hanafi school of Sunni jurisprudence, even if India was considered an abode of war, jihad would only be obligatory if the British suppressed Muslim religious practices.
- Sayyid Ahmad Khan, who supported the British, opposed labeling the rebellion as a jihad.
- **The Azamgarh proclamation in August 1857 expressed this concern, stating that both Hindus and Muslims were suffering under English rule. Feroz Shah passed it**
- Hindu religious beliefs weren't a main factor in the revolt, but leaders like Rani Lakshmibai and Tantia Topi became legendary figures in later years.
- Another important aspect of the revolt was agrarian protest, where rural farmers played a crucial role.
- **The agrarian revolts involved various social classes and communities, including landowners, tenant farmers, and tribal groups.**
- **Leadership during the revolt emerged from both traditional elites and ordinary people from lower classes and castes.**
- **Examples include Nawab Walidad Khan, a landed magnate, Shah Mal, a Jat farmer, and Devi Singh, a village-level ruler, who all led rebellions in their respective areas.**
- **Gonoo, an ordinary tribesman, also led a rebellion in the Chhotanagpur region.**
- Villages were destroyed simply because they were close to rebel strongholds.
- Surviving rebels were either sent to a high-security prison or made to work in harsh conditions in other British colonies.
- The armed forces were restructured, with a shift away from relying on upper-caste recruits from northern India.
- A significant portion of the army was now recruited from Punjab, as a reward for their loyalty during the crisis.
- Communication networks, especially railways, were improved to defend strategically important parts of India.
- Queen Victoria made conciliatory gestures in her proclamation of 1858, promising to respect treaties with Indian princes and to provide a relatively benevolent government

Chapter 3 - *PRE-MODERN ACCOMMODATIONS OF DIFFERENCE*

23/10/2023

4:08 pm

- In the seventh century (around the year 610), a man named Muhammad, who was a merchant in Mecca, had a powerful vision that led to the creation of a new world religion in the Arabian peninsula.
- Muhammad's wife, Khadija, was the first person to believe in his message as a prophetic revelation. This gave her a very important role in the growing community of believers.
- **The contribution of women in building the Islamic community is significant, but it has only recently started to receive more attention from scholars.**
- However, it's important to note that Islam and Muslims have sometimes been unfairly portrayed as violent and intolerant.
- **In the year 644, Arab forces tried to expand their political influence into northwestern India, specifically the Makran coast. This attempt, led by the Caliph Umar, was not successful.**
- There was a second raid **during the rule of Ali (656–61), but it also failed to establish control over Makran.**
- The Arab forces were finally able to subdue Makran **under the rule of the first Umayyad caliph, Muawiya (661–80).**
- **In 712, Muhammad bin Qasim successfully conquered Sind, marking the easternmost expansion of early Islam in India.**
- Arab traders settled along the western coast of India from the 8th century onwards, **but their main interest was making money, not converting people to Islam.**
- Between the 7th and 11th centuries, northern India was politically decentralized, and both high Brahmanic and Shramanic traditions coexisted, with the latter being more widespread.
- This period in Indian history, far from being a "dark age," witnessed the strengthening of regional kingdoms that oversaw new economic ventures and cultural achievements.
- Al-Beruni, when making his comment, was not just representing a Muslim perspective, but also echoing the views of the Hindu elite on monotheism and polytheism.
- **India became a central hub in the Indian Ocean for trade and cultural exchange by the 11th century.**
- Islam's growth in North India was gradual, especially in regions where Hindu influence was weaker and Buddhist traditions were stronger.
- In the 8th century, Sind had a shared sovereignty system with multiple layers of authority.
- **The chachnama, is a text from the 13th century and the primary source of how the muslim conquest of Sindh took place** - it is a contrast from the text by Kautilya "Arthashastra" which advises people on how to avoid the dilution of absolute power and centralized power - the chachnama sheds light on how the muslim conquers interacted with the people of Sindh
- **From around the 8th to 9th centuries, trade with India became really important for the Islamic world.**
- India was exporting a lot, which brought in a steady flow of valuable metal and made India a central part of a big trading network with West Asia and China.
- **Mahmud of Ghazni led a series of raids (997–1030) into northwestern India. He was interested in getting the wealth stored in the palaces and temples of northern India.**
- **One time, Mahmud looted and damaged an idol in the famous Somnath temple in Gujarat.**
- These raids were driven by both practical economic and political reasons, as well as a religious zeal to destroy religious symbols.
- **Mahmud needed funds to pursue his ambitions in Central Asia, so he targeted rich religious places in India.**
- **About a century and a half later, in 1192, Muhammad Ghauri, a Turk, invaded India. He defeated a Rajput leader named Prithviraj Chauhan in a crucial battle in northern India, which led to the establishment of the first Muslim sultanate in Delhi, ruled by Qutubuddin Aibak.**
- This Delhi Sultanate lasted from 1206 to 1526, and it went through **four major dynasties: the Mamluks, Khaljis, Tughlaqs, and Lodis.**
- These rulers mainly controlled northern India, but some, like **Alauddin Khalji (1296–1316) and Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1325–51),** also ventured into the Deccan region in the south.
- The Turkish, Persian, and Afghan invasions of northern India starting in the 11th century brought elements of Turko-Persian culture into the emerging Indo-Islamic culture.
- Lahore was initially a major center of this Persianized Indo-Islamic culture before Delhi became the dominant political power and adopted characteristics similar to ancient Sassanid Persia.
- **The Delhi sultanate was also called the slave king dynasty as a lot of the rulers during this era were slaves of the kings**
- However, slavery started to decline in India in the 14th century, leading to a shift away from the Turkish slave aristocracy to a new aristocracy made up of Indian Muslims, Hindus, and high-status foreign immigrant Muslims.
- **While northern India adapted to the Turkish-Persian version of Islam, areas like the Malabar coast, coastal south India, and Sri Lanka retained a strong Arab influence.**
- **This resulted in two distinct versions of Indo-Islamic culture in the subcontinent: one connecting Turkey, Persia, northern India, and the Deccan, and the other linking the Arabian peninsula, coastal southern India, and extending to Southeast Asia.**
- **While the rulers upheld Islamic law (sharia), they didn't impose it on their mostly non-Muslim subjects, allowing them to follow their own customary and religious laws.**
- **The Delhi Sultanate earned its money mainly from the land, and the towns relied on the surplus from farming.**
- Some of the land revenue went directly to the government, but most went through **land-grant holders called iqadars**
- **Iqtas were a way to ensure stable salaries in a changing economic environment.**
- Alauddin Khalji made significant changes to iqtas to reshape loyalty bonds between the center and the provinces.
- The Vijayanagara kingdom also made money from the land but was closely connected to the wider Indian Ocean economy and culture.
- The Vijayanagara center was wealthy, but power was divided and shared among different segments of the state.
- **Jaunpur and Malwa also became independent sultanates after Taimur's attack on Delhi in 1398.**
- **Society was divided into three main groups: the nobility, artisans, and peasants.**
- **The nobility mostly came from Turkish, Afghan, Persian, and Arab immigrants.**
- **Many Muslim artisans and peasants were converts from lower-caste Hindus who found Islam's equality appealing.**
- **Raziya Sultana, a ruler from the Mamluk dynasty, broke the norm and became the first Muslim woman ruler in the subcontinent.**
- Despite being a capable ruler, she was assassinated by male rivals.
- There was a split among Muslims into Sunni and Shia groups because they disagreed about who should lead after Muhammad.
- In India, most Muslims were Sunni, but in some areas like Sind and southern Punjab, Shias were influential.
- **Sufis were a significant group of Muslims in India who followed a mystical branch of Islam. They were very influential, especially the Chishti and Suhrawardy orders.**
- **Women played an important role in Sufism, with notable figures like Rabia, a mystic from the eighth century.**
- **The Sufis used feminine imagery in their poetry, drawing on Hindu traditions, to describe the soul's love for God.**
- **The bhakti movement in Hinduism and the Sufi strand of Islam had similarities. Both sought union with God through love and respected spiritual leaders.**
- **The Sufi influence boosted the bhakti movement in India and influenced the formation of new religious faiths like Sikhism, led by figures like Kabir and Guru Nanak.**
- **Kabir tried to find common ground between Hindu and Muslim beliefs about God, while Guru Nanak rejected specific Hindu and Muslim ideas to form Sikhism.**
- **Nanak's teachings were compiled in the Adi Granth and carried on by nine Gurus after his passing.**
- Leaders of the Bhakti Movement preferred using local languages like Bengali, Assamese, etc., emphasizing the importance of regional dialects and scripts.
- Notable figures like Mirabai and Lal Ded composed their devotional messages in regional languages like Rajasthani and Kashmiri respectively.
- During the 14th-15th centuries, regional languages gained prominence, even though Persian remained the court language....