

CHAPTER-VIII

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY POLITICAL FORMATIONS

2MARKS QUESTIONS:

1.What was Chauth?

Answer: 25% of the land revenue claimed by zamindars was known as Chauth.

2.How were peasant-pastoralists important for Shivaji?

Answer: Peasant-pastoralists provided the backbone of the Maratha army. Shivaji used these forces to challenge the Mughals in the peninsula.

3.What was sardeshmukhi?

Answer: 9-10% of the land revenue paid to the head revenue collector in the Deccan was known as sardeshmukhi.

4. What was the geographical and economic importance of Awadh?

Answer: Awadh was a prosperous region, controlling the rich alluvial Ganga plain and the main trade route between north India and Bengal.

5. What was the effect of Aurangzeb's long war in the Deccan?

Answer: The military and financial resources of his empire got depleted.

6. Name the three states that were carved out of the old Mughal provinces in the 18th century.

Answer: Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad.

7. Why was a system called rakhi introduced?

Answer: This system was introduced to give protection to cultivators on the payment of a tax of 20% of the produce.

8. How were the Sikhs organized in the eighteenth century?

Answer: In the eighteenth century, the Sikhs organized themselves into a number of bands called *jathas*, and later *misls*. Their combined forces were known as the grand army (*dal khalsa*).

9. What were the policies adopted by Asaf Jah to strengthen his position?

Answer: To strengthen his position Asaf Jah brought skilled soldiers and administrators from northern India. He also appointed mansabdars and granted jagirs.

10. What were the offices held by Sa'adat Khan?

Answer: The offices held by Sa'adat Khan included subadari, diwani and faujdari.

4MARKS QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the Nawab of Awadh and Bengal try to do away with the jagirdari system?

Answer: Nawabs of Awadh and Bengal tried to do away with the jagirdari system because:

1. They were suspicious of this system that they inherited.
2. Their methods of tax collection were different, they hired “revenue farmers to collect the taxes”.
3. They used practice of Ijaradari rather than jagirdari.
4. They wanted to expand and receive land as security against loans.
5. They knew the loopholes of the system and that how jagirdars become powerful if not checked in time.

2. What were the policies adopted by Asaf Jah to Strengthen his position?

Answer: After being the actual ruler of the Deccan, Asaf Jah began to adopt some policies in order to strengthen his position :

- He brought skilled soldiers and administrators from northern India who welcomed the new opportunities in the south.
- He appointed mansabdars and granted jagirs.

- He ruled independently without Mughal interference. The Mughal emperor merely confirmed the decisions already taken by Asaf Jah.

3.How did the later Mughal emperors lose their control over their nobles?

Answer: The efficiency of the imperial administration broke down under the later Mughal emperors. It became increasingly difficult for them to keep a check on their powerful Nobles appointed as governors often controlled the offices of revenue and military administration as well.

4. Do you think merchants and bankers today have the kind of influence they had in the eighteenth century?

Answer: During the 18th-century merchants were more influential than the bankers. They used to provide more loan opportunities at higher interest rates. But now, with the spread of education people prefer banks which provide loans and other financial assistance at cheaper rates. Bankers also provide subsidy on the interest rate. They have different scopes of loans for different purposes. So they are more influential today than the merchants.

5.Describe the impact of Nadir Shah's invasion upon Delhi.

Answer: Nadir Shah, the ruler of Iran, sacked and plundered the city of Delhi in 1739 and took away immense amounts of wealth. As a result, the Mughal treasury became vacant. Delhi turned into a deserted place. The wealthy now became beggars. There spread chaos everywhere. Those who once set the style in clothes now went naked and those owned property were now homeless. The New City, Le. Shahjahanabad turned into rubble. Delhi, once so rich, became poor after Nadir Shah looted it.

6.How did moneylenders and bankers achieve influential position in the state of Awadh?

Answer: The state of Awadh depended on local bankers and mahcyans for loans. It sold the right to collect tax to the highest bidders. These revenue farmers known as jaradars agreed to pay the state a fixed sum of money. Local bankers guaranteed the payment of this contracted amount to the state. In turn the revenue farmers were given considerable freedom in the assessment and collection of taxes. These developments made the positions of moneylenders and bankers influential. They began to influence the management of the state's revenue system.

7. Who were the Jats? How did they consolidate their power during the late 17th and 18th centuries?

Answer: The Jats were prosperous agriculturists. Like other states they also consolidated their power during the late 17th and 18th centuries. Under the leadership of Churaman they acquired control over territories situated to the west of the city of Delhi. By the 1680s they had begun dominating the region between the two imperial cities of Delhi and Agra. Towns like Panipat and Ballabgarh became major trading centres in the areas dominated by them. Under Suraj Mai the kingdom of Bharatpur emerged as a strong state.

8. How did Asaf Jah consolidate his power?

Answer:

- Asaf Jah brought skilled soldiers and administrators from northern India.
- They welcomed the new opportunities in the south.
- Asaf Jah appointed mansabdars and granted jagirs.
- Although he was still a servant of the Mughal emperor, he ruled quite independently without seeking any direction from Delhi or facing any interference.
- The Mughal emperor merely confirmed the decisions already taken by the Nizam.

7 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What were the causes of the fall of the Mughal Empire?

Answer: There were a number of factors that led to the decline of the Mughal Empire.

- Emperor Aurangzeb fought a long war in the Deccan. As a result, the military and financial resources of his empire got depleted.
- The successors of Aurangzeb were not at all efficient. The efficiency of the imperial administration broke down. It became increasingly difficult for later Mughal emperors to keep a check on their powerful Nobles appointed as governors often controlled the offices of revenue and military administration as well. This gave them extraordinary political, economic and military powers over vast regions of the Mughal Empire.
- Under the later Mughals, peasant and zamindar rebellions increased in many parts of northern and western India. These revolts were sometimes caused by the pressures of mounting taxes. The local chieftains were also becoming powerful by seizing the economic resources of the region.
- In the midst of economic and political crisis, the ruler of Iran, Nadir Shah, sacked and plundered the city of Delhi in 1739 and took away immense amounts of wealth. Again, Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded north India five times between 1748 and 1761. These invasions further weakened the Mughal Empire.

- The competitions amongst different groups of nobles also proved unfortunate for the Mughal Empire. The later Mughals were puppets in the hands of either Iranis or Turanis, the two major groups of nobles.

2. What were the causes responsible for various crises of the Mughal Empire towards the closing year of the 17th century?

Answer: Mughal Empire reached the height of its success and started facing a variety of crises towards the closing years of the seventeenth century.

These were caused by a number of factors:

- Emperor Aurangzeb had depleted the military and financial resources of his empire by fighting a long war in the Deccan.
- Under his successors, the efficiency of the imperial administration broke down.
- It was increasingly difficult for the later Mughal emperors to keep a check on their powerful mansabdars.
- Nobles appointed as governors (subadars) often controlled the offices of revenue and military administration (diwani and faujdari) as well.
- The governors consolidated their control over the provinces and revenue declined.

Peasant and zamindari rebellions in many parts of northern and western India added to their problems:

- These revolts were sometimes caused by the pressures of mounting taxes.
- At other times there were attempts by powerful chieftains to consolidate their own position.
- Mughal authority was challenged by rebellious groups in the past as well. But these groups were now able to seize the economic resources of the region to consolidate their positions.

The Mughal emperors after Aurangzeb were unable to arrest the gradual shifting of political and economic authority into the hands of provincial governors, local chieftains and other groups.

3. Describe the watan jagirs of the Rajputs.

Answer: The watan jagirs of the Rajputs:

- Many Rajput kings mostly of Amber and Jodhpur, had served under the Mughals with distinction.
- In exchange, they were permitted to enjoy considerable autonomy in their watan jagirs.
- In the eighteenth century, these rulers attempted to extend their control over adjacent regions.
- Ajit Singh, the ruler of Jodhpur, was also involved in the factional politics at the Mughal court.
- These Rajput families claimed the subadari of the rich provinces of Gujarat and Malwa.
- Raja Ajit Singh of Jodhpur held the governorship of Gujarat.
- Sawai Raja Jai Singh of Amber was governor of Malwa.

- These offices were renewed by Emperor Jahandar Shah in 1713.
- They also tried to extend their territories by seizing portions of imperial territories adjacent to their watans.
- Nagaur was conquered and annexed to the house of Jodhpur.
- Amber seized large portions of Bundi.
- Sawai Raja Jai Singh founded his new capital at Jaipur.
- He was given the subadari of Agra in 1722.
- Maratha campaigns into Rajasthan from the 1740s put severe pressure on these principalities and checked their further expansion.

4.How did Maratha become a force to reckon with?

Answer:

- Under the Peshwas, the Marathas developed a very successful military organisation.
- Their success lay in by-passing the fortified areas of the Mughals.
- They raided cities and engaged Mughal armies in areas where their supply line and reinforcements could be easily disturbed.
- Between 1720 and 1761, the Maratha empire expanded.
- It gradually chipped away at the authority of the Mughal Empire.
- Malwa and Gujarat were seized from the Mughals by]the 1720s.

- By the 1730s, the Maratha king was recognised as the overlord of the entire Deccan peninsula.
- He possessed the right to levy chauth and sardeshmukhi in the entire region.
- After raiding Delhi in 1737 the frontiers of Maratha domination expanded rapidly.
- into Rajasthan.
- into Punjab in the north.
- into Bengal and Orissa in the east.
- into Karnataka and the Tamil and Telugu countries in the south.
- These were not formally included in the Maratha empire. They were made to pay tribute as a way of accepting Maratha sovereignty.
- Expansion brought enormous resources but it came at a price.
- These military campaigns also made other rulers hostile towards the Marathas. This resulted in the reduced support to the Marathas during the third battle of Panipat in 1761.

5. Give an account of administrative system of the Marathas.

Answer:

- The Marathas developed an effective administrative system.
- Revenue demands were gradually introduced taking local conditions into account.

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- Agriculture was encouraged.
- Trade revived.
- This allowed Maratha chiefs (Sardars) like Sindhia of Gwalior, Gaekwad of Baroda and Bhonsle of Nagpur the resources to raise powerful armies.
- Maratha campaigns into Malwa in the 1720s did not challenge the growth and prosperity of the cities in the region.
- Ujjain expanded under Sindhia's patronage.
- Indore under Holkar's.
- By all accounts these cities were large and prosperous and functioned as important commercial and cultural centres.
- New trade routes emerged within the areas controlled by the Marathas.
- The silk produced in the Chanderi region now found a new outlet in Poona, the Maratha capital.
- Burhanpur which had earlier participated in the trade between Agra and Surat now expanded its . hinterland. It included
- Poona and Nagpur in the south.
- Lucknow and Allahabad in the east.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE EIGHTEENTH-
CENTURY POLITICAL FORMATIONS:**

1.The British East India Company established its power after

- (a) 1757
- (b) 1761
- (c) 1768
- (d) 1771

2.Aurangzeb had depleted the military and financial resources by fighting a long war in the

- (a) East India
- (b) North India
- (c) Deccan
- (d) none of these

3. Aurangzeb died in the year

- (a) 1700
- (b) 1710
- (c) 1725
- (d) 1707

4.Ahmad Shah Abdali was the ruler of

- (a) Afghan
- (b) Iran
- (c) Iraq
- (d) none of these

5. Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded North India times between 1748 and 1761.

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- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 5
- (d) 6

6. During which century the Mughal Empire declined?

- (a) 18th
- (b) 16th
- (c) 19th
- (d) 21th

7. Which of the following enjoyed the zat rank of 7000?

- (a) Asaf Jah
- (b) Murshil Quli Khan
- (c) Both of these
- (d) None of these

8. Who were the Telugu warrior chiefs'?

- (a) Nayakas
- (b) Jathas
- (c) Misl
- (d) All of these

9. Who was the powerful governor of Bengal?

- (a) Sa'adat Khan
- (b) Murshid Quli Khan
- (c) Asaf Jah
- (d) Alivardi Khan

10. Dalkhalsa was set up in 1699 by

- (a) Guru Nanak Singh
- (b) Guru Tegh Bahadur
- (c) Guru Gobind Singh
- (d) Guru Har Kishan

MCQ'S Answers:

<u>Q. No's</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Q1	A
Q2	C
Q3	D
Q4	A
Q5	C
Q6	A
Q7	C

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Q8	A
Q9	B
Q10	C

FILL IN THE BLANKS ON EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY POLITICAL FORMATIONS:

1.Umara and jagirdars constituted powerful sections of the Mughal _____

Answer: Nobility

2.Asaf Jah was given charge of the Deccan subadari in _____

Answer: 1724

3.The founder of the Awadh nawabi was _____

Answer: Sa'adat Khan

4. Aurangzeb fought a protracted war in the _____

Answer: Deccan

5. Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded North India_____ times between 1748 and 1761.

Answer: 5

6.Kunbis were the_____?

Answer: Maratha peasant warriors

7. Bahadur Shah was the son of ____?

Answer: Aurangzeb

8. Nadir Shah was the ruler of ____?

Answer: Iran

9. Surajmal was the leader of ____?

Answer: Jats

SUMMARY ON EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY POLITICAL FORMATIONS

During the 18th century, the states could be classified generally into three overlapping groups. These consist of Hyderabad, Bengal, and Awadh, which were the previously known Mughal provinces.

- The states enjoyed substantial independence.
- The states were controlled by the Sikhs, Jats, and Marathas.

By 1765, the British had captured major chunks of Indian territory in eastern India.

After Aurangzeb's death, the Mughal Empire started to decline because of weak and inefficient rulers.

States like Hyderabad, Awadh, Bengal and states under the control of Sikhs and Marathas declared independence. The declining power of the Mughals also gave rise to the regional powers like the Jats, Sikhs and Marathas.