

Shivaji I (Shivaji Shahaji Bhonsale, Marathi pronunciation: [ʃiˈvaːdʒiː ˈbʱos(ə)le]; c. 19 February 1630 – 3 April 1680)^[5] was an Indian ruler and a member of the [Bhonsle dynasty](#).^[6] Shivaji carved out his own independent kingdom from the [Sultanate of Bijapur](#) that formed the genesis of the [Maratha Confederacy](#). In 1674, he was formally crowned the *Chhatrapati* of his realm at [Raigad Fort](#).^[7]

Over the course of his life, Shivaji engaged in both alliances and hostilities with the [Mughal Empire](#), the [Sultanate of Golconda](#), the Sultanate of Bijapur and the [European colonial powers](#). Following the [Battle of Purandar](#), Shivaji entered into vassalage with the Mughal empire, assuming the role of a Mughal chief and undertaking military expeditions on behalf of the empire for a brief duration.^[8] Shivaji's military forces expanded the Maratha sphere of influence, capturing and building forts, and forming a [Maratha navy](#).

Shivaji established a competent and progressive civil administration with well-structured administrative institutions. He revived ancient Hindu political traditions, court conventions and promoted the use of the [Marathi](#) and [Sanskrit](#) languages, replacing [Persian](#) at court and in administration.^{[7][9]} Praised for his chivalrous treatment of women,^[10] Shivaji employed people of all castes and religions, including Muslims^[11] and Europeans, in his administration and armed forces.^[12]

Shivaji's legacy was to vary by observer and time, but nearly two centuries after his death he began to take on increased importance with the emergence of the [Indian independence movement](#), as many Indian nationalists elevated him as a proto-nationalist, founder of the [Swaraj movement](#), and hero of the [Hindus](#)