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**TOPIC: BRITISH RULE VS MUGHAL RULE IN INDIA**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

**Mughal Empire:**

Around 1528, a great empire crossed the Indian subcontinent from far west Baluchistan to Bengal in the east and from the top of Kashmir in the north to the Kaveri Basin in the south. Muslim rule stretched across the centuries while being ruled by the Khilji, Tughlaq, Lodhi, and Mughal dynasties.

The Mughal Empire was politically very strong and ruled the country for the longest duration. It provided a system of government that shared many ideas with the Sultanate as well as brought its vast ideas. The Mughal Empire came with new developments in India. Much of today’s architecture was built by the great Muslim empires like the Taj Mahal which is a world heritage monument. The extraordinary and spectacularly detailed monuments all came from within the Mughal Empire. Indian economy flourished during Mughal rule. The Muslim rule followed Islam and was culturally intolerant towards any other religion.

**British Empire:**

In 1858, after the British invaded India, Queen Victoria was made to be the Empress of India. The British Indian Empire consisted of two divisions: British India and the Native States or the Princely States. In the Princely States, the British did not directly rule over the states, but a separate ruler would make sure that the places were still under their eyes. There were 565 Princely States when the Indian subcontinent became independent from Britain in August 1947.

The British Empire brought many industrial developments into India. Although criticized, the most popular East India Company was one of the biggest silk and cotton industries at that time. Railway services and new roads were developed under British rule. The economy faced a decline under their rule. The British Empire was never accepted by the native Indians. The British Empire left India in 1947.

1. **MOTIVATION:**

**Mughal Empire:**

The Mughals ruled India as their own country. They tried to bring about changes for better governance, and the welfare of people, even if to a smaller extent but they had a sense of belongingness.

**British Empire:**

The British were in India with the sheer motive of making profits at the expense of India.

First, in the form of East India Company and then in the form of Home Charges, British

Investments, unfavorable Exchange rates, and inverted duty structures. They never came

here to become a part of India, and always looked at themselves as a superior race. Indian

wealth was shamelessly transported to the island country.

1. **IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY:**

**Mughal Empire:**

From the 16th century to the 18th century, the Mughal kingdom was the richest and most powerful kingdom in the world. This is hardly stunning considering that the Sher Shah of Iran and therefore the Mughals targeted developing roads, watercourse transport, sea routes, and ports and removing several landlocked tolls and taxes. Indian handicrafts were developed. There was a huge export change in factory-made merchandise like textiles, spices, indigo, woolen and silk artifacts, salt, etc. The Mughals welcome foreign merchants and provided protection and security for their transactions. what is more, the growth of native handicrafts and trade resulted in a reservoir of exportable merchandise? Indian exports consisted of the main factory-made articles, with textiles in nice demand in Europe et al. Indigo, spices, opium, sugar, woolen, and silk artifact of varied types were additionally exported.

Apart from silk and cotton textiles, other industries were shawl and carpet weaving, woolen good, and articles made of wood. A very economical system of administration came upon by Akbar helped the atmosphere of trade and commerce. It was this which led the East India Company to look for trade concessions from the Mughal empire and eventually control then destroy it. The emergence of the famous drain of wealth from India started with the East India Company, not the Mughals.

**British Empire:**

The British Company were keen on having a lot of raw materials from India also as causing their finished things back to India. There was currently a reversal direction of the textile trade between the United Kingdom and India. There was an excessive import of machine-created garments from English factories to Indian markets. This import of huge quantities of products factory-made by mechanical looms in England display a threat to the handicraft industries because the British merchandise was oversubscribed at a far cheaper worth. British people succeeded in exporting their products at an inexpensive worth as foreign products were barrier-free in India while not paying any duty. On the opposite hand, Indian handicrafts were taxed heavily once they were sent out of the country. Besides, below the excessive pressure of its industrialists, the British government usually obligatory duty on Indian textiles.

As a result, India went from being a clothing exporter to a raw cotton exporter and a British clothing importer in a matter of years. The British's major goal was to convert India into a consumer of British products. As a result, the textile, metalworking, glass, and paper industries were quickly rendered obsolete. They robbed Indian princes, merchants, zamindars, and even simple people of their money. The British carried out several land revenues experiments which caused hardship to farmers. The British invested heavily in infrastructures such as railways, telegraphy, roads, and ports. British investors built a modern railway system in the late 19th century and it became the fourth largest in the world and was famous for its quality of construction and service.

1. **IMPACT ON ARCHITECTURE:**

**Mughal Empire:**

Mughal architecture is a construction style that thrived in northern and central India from the mid-16th to late-17th centuries under the patronage of Mughal monarchs. In northern India, the Mughal period saw a remarkable rebirth of Islamic architecture. Persian, Indian, and diverse regional styles were combined under the patronage of the Mughal emperors to produce works of exceptional beauty and finesse.

Under Emperor Akbar's reign, Agra and the new capital city of Fatehpur Sikri, which was constructed in 1569, experienced a boom in construction. The Great Mosque (Jami Masjid), constructions of the massive fort of Agra (1565–74), and the mausoleum of Akbar at Sikandar, near Agra. The majority of these early Mughal structures rely on post-and-lintel construction rather than arches. Red sandstone or white marble is used to construct them.

During the reign of Shah Jahan (1628–58), Mughal architecture reached its pinnacle, with the beautiful Taj Mahal as its crowning achievement. The usage of a double dome, a recessed archway inside a rectangular fronton, and parklike environs are all hallmarks of Shah Jahan's reign. The palace fortress at Delhi, begun in 1638, was Shah Jahan's second major project after the Taj Mahal. The red-sandstone-pillared Diwan-i-Am and the so-called Diwan-i-Khas, which housed the famed Peacock Throne, are two of the city's most noteworthy structures.

**British Empire:**

The churches bear one of the early architectural effects of the British colonial administration. The Gothic and neo-classical styles were popular at the time, and many of the buildings in the Presidency of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay became symbols of the luxurious architectural style. The Gothic style of colonial architecture may be seen in places like St. John's Church, Fort William, Kolkata's Calcutta Cathedral, and Kanpur's Mutiny Memorial Church.

Since the mid-nineteenth century, there has been a construction boom that has resulted in the creation of several monuments, railway stations, rest houses, government buildings, and other structures. Many important structures were created during the late nineteenth century, including the Rajabai Clock Tower, Victoria Terminus, Bombay High Court, and the majestic Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. Indo-Saracenic architecture, on the other hand, made its mark on colonial architectural history in the late nineteenth century. In many aspects, Indo-Saracenic architecture was a revival style that combined British features as well as Mughal and Hindu temple construction.

British architects who worked throughout the empire shared a set of views that were significantly different from those of their peers at home. Their ideas came together to develop the colonial style, which was more or less afflicted with the desire to make Britain's imperial role as ruler obvious. Because the British thought process was built on the idea that "to know was, in some degree, already to govern," imperial architecture was referred to as "architecture both of knowledge and of power."

1. **IMPACT ON SOCIETY AND CULTURE:**

**Mughal Empire:**

Mughal rulers like Babur, Humayun, Akbar, and Jahangir were known to spread cultural development in our country. Most works in these fields were done during the Mughal rule. Mughal rulers were keen on culture; therefore, all were in the support of spreading education. The Mughal traditions highly influenced the palaces and forts of the many regional and native kingdoms.

The Mughal rulers want to patronize education and plenty of educational institutions were established in India though they had been merely confined to the royal court the kids of the center class were also ready to acquire knowledge. the academic institutes were also ready to educate the women of royal families and therefore the bourgeoisie.

As Hindus were in a heavy majority that traditions like satti and jouhar were hip. The culture of kid marriage, dowry, and prohibition of second marriage was so strong that even the Muslims living in India were influenced by these trends. Jala-ud-din Akbar did make a shot to bring social reforms within the society by synthesizing kickshaws of all existing religions of that point but the masses were reluctant to follow this reform better referred to as din-i-illahi.

Within the reign of Akbar, many works were being exhausted in the Persian language like Ain-i-Akbari, etc. the Persian literature after Akbar continued under Jahangir. Hindi poetry also flourished during the Mughal rule during the reign of Jahangir and Shah Jehan. However, it had been discouraged extremely within the rule of Aurangzeb. Music being an important feature of the faith of Hindus was given plenty of patronage by the Mughal rulers.

**British Empire:**

Indian society underwent many changes after the British came to India. within the 19th century, certain social practices like female infanticide, child marriage, sati, polygamy, and a rigid class structure became more prevalent. These practices were against human dignity and values. Women were discriminated against in any respect stages of life and were the disadvantaged section of society. They didn't have access to any development opportunities to boost their status.

When the nation came to India, they brought new ideas like liberty, equality, freedom, and human rights from the Renaissance, the Reformation Movement, and therefore the various revolutions that materialized in Europe. These ideas appealed to some sections of our society and led to many reform movements in numerous parts of the country.

Many legal measures were introduced to enhance the status of ladies. for instance, the practice of sati was banned in 1829 by Lord Bentinck, the then-governor. Widow Remarriage was permitted by a law passed in 1856. A law passed in 1872, sanctioned inter-caste and inter-communal marriages. Sharda Act was passed in 1929 to prevent child marriage. The act only if it had been illegal to marry a woman below 14 and a boy below 18 years. All the movements severely criticized the class structure and particularly the practice of untouchability.

1. **IMPACT ON LITERATURE:**

**Mughal Empire:**

Mughals made a great impact during the time of their rule. Notable rulers like Babar, Akbar, and Humayun were lovers of learning and contributed as much during the time of their rule. The Mughal period was like the golden age of literature. Forced by the unquenchable need to learn, Akbar became responsible for much of the growth of literature during his reign. Abu'l-Fazl ibn Mubarak, also known as Abul Fazl made astounding works like The Akbarnama, Ruq`uat, and Inshā-i-Abu'l Fazl, are works regarded by other scholars that are with extraordinary composition. Akbar made a point to make Persian literature from Sanskrit to make a common ground with the Muslims and Hindus.

Under the Mughal Empire, classical Persian was adopted as a court language. This allowed for more literary diversity because while Persian was used as a literary language, people would also write in their languages. The Mughal empire left literature in the native languages that they had been written in. Educated Indians who served the Mughal Empire's courts as poets, scholars, and secretaries were deeply influenced by Persian literature.

It created an environment where Indians could create new languages, such as Urdu and Hindi, and new forms of writing, such as the ghazal. Persian became the language of India for a few centuries. This allowed for an influx of Persian ideas, customs, and literary works to take root in India. The Mughals were open to all cultures and accepted Indian literature as well as artists from all over Asia and Europe.

**British Empire:**

British authors like Sir Henry Cunningham and Philip Robinson wrote about India in their country in the form of stories and novels in the 1870s and Rudyard Kipling’s Plain tales from the hills in 1888 during the time of the British Raj. Though Kipling has made scornful comments against the British Raj, many British like George Orwell and even writers in the time of 1970s acknowledge his works till now. The British introduced English literature, which was modeled after European styles that did not reflect the diverse people in India.

The British empire influenced literature with its vernacular and languages. British literature has a more objective, straightforward style compared to that of the Mughals. British writers preferred step-by-step development of the plot, while Mughal writers liked to use allegorical rather than representational imagery. The British Empire had a major impact on the literature of the Indian subcontinent.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, novelists from newly colonized India wrote in English about colonialism with themes including freedom, loss of identity, and loneliness. They also wrote about society and literary heritage. For example, Rabindranath Tagore's work explored Bengali culture and its connection to Hinduism. The British Raj contributed to Indian English literature mainly through their post offices and railways. The British colonial rule in India was not as kind to Indian literature. British did not encourage literary production in native languages, but instead encouraged the learning of English.

1. **IMPACT ON EDUCATION AND SCIENCE:**

**Mughal Empire:**

The Mughals don't have great contributions to education and science but it was due to their ignorance of the times. The lack of mass education applied equally to both the ruling class and the commoners.

**British Empire:**

The Britishers educated Indians only for their purpose: so that they serve subordinate posts for them. Also, they thought a more westernized Indian would have a taste for British goods making them potential customers. Mass primary education was ignored by them as their intent was never to develop India.

1. **IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT**

**Mughal Empire:**

The Mughals too made certain infrastructures for enhancing its coffers with increased revenue (trade or agricultural output) but whatever was earned remained in India. Moreover, not all developmental work was for profits, trade, and agriculture were promoted for the welfare of the people. Agricultural loans were given to poor farmers.

**British Empire:**

Whatever developmental work was done by the British was for increasing its earnings from

India. A railway, for example, was laid to transport raw materials from the hinterland to ports

to be exported to Britain. The fares were fixed in such a way that it facilitated this intent. Even the investment was done by British companies in Railway infrastructure and was assured with prefixed returns with British India paying for the amount not recovered through operations

1. **IMPACT ON LANGUAGE:**

**Mughal Empire:**

The Mughal Empire was the Indian Muslim dynasty of emperors who ruled much of India in the 16th and 17th centuries. It is an empire that has had a huge impact on India's culture and

language. When they moved to India, they brought their native Persian language with them.

The people living in India who spoke Hindi were then forced to learn a new language, known as Urdu. This, combined with Persian scripts and words, created what is now known as Hindustani.

**British Empire:**

The British started teaching English to their Indian subjects and used it as the language of

administration. As a result, Hindi, which had been the native language, gradually lost ground

to English. During British Period, schools were set up to teach English to Indian children so that they could be educated in British culture and language.

1. **IMPACT ON TODAY’S LIFE:**

**Mughal Empire:**

The numerous gorgeous buildings built in the Mughal style— Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Agra Fort, Humayan's Tomb, and several other lovely works. In the arts, food, gardening, and even the Urdu language, this mix of influences may be recognized.

**British Empire:**

Some of the cultural and legal changes brought about by British rule continue to have an impact

on our lives today. The railroads, the club scene, and imperial structures such as the Rashtrapati

Bhavan and the Parliament harken back to British dominance in India. Many of the foods we eat today, like bread, tea, and cake, are a direct result of our interactions with Europeans under the British reign.

1. **IMPACT ON COINAGE:**

**Mughal Empire:**

The Mughals' coinage may be divided into different phases,

* The **wandering or regional phase** lasted from 1526 to 1556 and featured emperors Babur and Humayun.
* The **classical period** lasted from 1556 to 1707 and featured leaders such as Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb.

The Mohur, weighing around 170 to 175 grains, was the Mughals' standard gold currency. In his 'Ain-i-Akbari,' Abul Fazl stated that a Mohur was worth nine rupees. There are also half and quarter mohurs. The most famous of all Mughal currencies was the silver rupee, which was an adaptation of Sher Shah's coins. Sher Shah's dam became the basis for the Mughal copper currency, which weighed 320 to 330 grains.

**British Empire:**

Uniform coinage was introduced in India by the British in 1835, with coins in the name of the East India Company, bearing the image of William IIII. In 1840, these were replaced by coins with an image of Queen Victoria, but the design otherwise remained the same. The next set of coins was minted in 1862 and had significant changes - East India Company was replaced by 'India'. The image of Queen Victoria was also changed, shown in a regal robe with a crown. In 1877, Victoria was declared the Empress of India - and her title on Indian coins changed as a result. This last design continued till 1938, with only the image of the ruler changing. Over this entire period, the weight of the Indian rupee and its purity remained constant at 11.66 grams and 91.7% respectively.

1. **IMPACT ON ADMINISTRATION**

**Mughal Empire:**

**Central Administration:**

1. **Emperor** – The emperor was superior in the Mughal administration and holds the supreme authority of the entire Mughal empire. The order of the emperor was the last and final order in the Mughal administration.
2. **Wakil and Wazir** – Wazir was also known as diwan, and had both civil and military power. Later, in the Mughal empire in the era of king Akbar, he took the financial power of the wakil and handed this power to the diwan kul, who was the finance minister of the administration.
3. **Diwani Kul** – Diwani kul was the finance minister in the Mughal administration, who looked out for all the financial transactions and payments.
4. **Mir Bakshi**– Mir Bakshi keeps an important role at the central level in the Mughal empire. He looks out for the payment, appointments, and other work related to the soldiers.
5. **Mir saman** – Mir saman or khan saman was the head of the purchase department.
6. **Sadr-us Sudar** – Ecclesiastical department and charity department were under the sadr-us sudur or sadr.

**Province Administration:**

**1 Diwan**– Diwan was head of all the operations, especially the revenue department in a suba, and was responsible to report at the central level. Letter to make the diwan independent with the responsibility of Subhadra, Sipah Salar Nazim position is formed.

**2 Bakhshi**– Bakhshi keeps an important role at the suba level in the Mughal empire. He looks out for the payment, appointments, and other work related to the soldiers at suba.

**3 Darogha**– Darogha- i dak was responsible for the communication system of the imperial postal system in the suba. It was the system of sending and receiving messages at the dak chowkis.

**4 Fozdar and kotwal –**Fozdar was the administrative head of the district and kotwal were appointed to do the executive and ministerial duties.

**Local Administration:**

1. **Sarkar level**– In the sarkar level, the faujdar and malguzar were the two most important posts. Faujdar was the administrative head and was responsible to safeguard the life and property of people and the malguzar was the revenue collector.
2. **Pargana level**– Parganas work at the bottom hand of the sarkar. In the paragana, shiqqadar is an executive officer of the amalguzar.
3. **Village level**– This is the lowest administrative unit of the Mughal administration. Muqqaddam was the head man of the village at the village level administration. Patwari was responsible to keep the record of revenue in the village.

**British Empire:**

Strength of the British Administrative System

* The British administration in India was based on three pillars -
* The Civil Service,
* The Army, and
* The Police.

**Civil Service**

* The Civil Service was brought into existence by Lord Cornwallis.
* The East India Company had from the beginning carried on its trade in the East through servants who were paid low wages but who were permitted to trade privately.
* Later, when the Company became a territorial power, the same servants assumed administrative functions. They now became extremely corrupt by oppressing local weavers and artisans, merchants, and zamindars, extorting bribes and 'gifts' from rajas and nawabs, and indulging in illegal private trade. They amassed untold wealth with which they retired to England.
* Clive and Warren Hastings made attempts to put an end to their corruption but were only partially successful.
* Cornwallis, who came to India as Governor-General in 1786, was determined to purify the administration, but he realized that the Company's servants would not give honest and efficient service so long as they were not given adequate salaries

**Army**

* The army of the British regime in India fulfilled three important functions.
* It was the instrument through which the Indian powers were conquered;
* It defended the British Empire in India from foreign rivals; and
* It safeguarded British supremacy from the ever-present threat of internal revolt.
* The bulk of the Company's army consisted of Indian soldiers, recruited chiefly from the area at present included in U.P. and Bihar.
* For instance, in 1857, the strength of the army in India was 311,400 of whom 265,903 were Indians. Its officers were, however, exclusively British, in the days of Cornwallis.
* In 1856, only three Indians in the army received a salary of Rs. 300 per month, and the highest Indian officer was a subedar.
* A large number of Indian troops had to be employed as the British troops were too expensive. Moreover, the population of Britain was perhaps too small to provide the large number of soldiers needed for the conquest of India.
* As a counterweight, the army was officered entirely by British officials and a certain number of British troops were maintained to keep the Indian soldiers under control.

**Police:**

* Cornwallis had created the police system, which was one of the most popular strengths of British rule.
* Cornwallis relieved the zamindars of their police functions and established a regular police force to maintain law and order. Interestingly, this put India ahead of Britain where a system of police had not developed yet.
* Cornwallis established a system of circles or thanas headed by a daroga, who was an Indian. Later, the post of the District Superintendent of Police was mated to head the police organization in a district.
* Once again, Indians were excluded from all superior posts. In the villages, the duties of the police continued to be performed by village watchmen who were maintained by the villagers.
* The police gradually succeeded in reducing major crimes such as dacoity.
* One of its major achievements was the suppression of thugs who robbed and killed travelers on the highways, particularly in Central India.
* The police also prevented the organization of a large-scale conspiracy against foreign control, and when a national movement arose, the police were used to suppress it.

1. **IMPACT ON LEGAL SYSTEM:**

**Mughal Empire:**

The Mughal Empire followed the Sunni Hanafi system of jurisprudence. In its early years, the empire relied on Hanafi legal references inherited from its predecessor, the Delhi Sultanate. These included the al-Hidaya (the best guidance) and the Fatawa al-Tatarkhaniyya (religious decisions of the Emire Tatarkhan). During the Mughal Empire's peak, the Al-Fatawa al-'Alamgiriyya was commissioned by Emperor Aurangzeb. This compendium of Hanafi law sought to serve as a central reference for the Mughal state that dealt with the specifics of the South Asian context. The Mughal Empire also drew on Persianate notions of kingship.

**British Empire:**

In the 1860s–1880s the Raj set up compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages, as well as adoptions, property deeds, and wills. The goal was to create a stable, usable public record and verifiable identities. However, there was opposition from both Muslim and Hindu elements who complained that the new procedures for census-taking and registration threatened to uncover female privacy. Purdah rules prohibited women from saying their husbands' names or having their photographs taken. An all-India census was conducted between 1868 and 1871, often using the total number of females in a household rather than individual names. Select groups which the Raj reformers wanted to monitor statistically included those reputed to practice female infanticide, prostitutes, lepers, and eunuchs.

1. **IMPACT ON MILITARY:**

**Mughal Empire:**

* The Central Asian military tradition was followed during the Mughal reign. A new style of combat was adopted due to the arrival of gunpowder and with that, a new kind of tactic was also employed with the formation of bombs.
* It was the artillery (big guns/weapons) that was used extensively to break through the enemy forces and defeat them. Even during the first battle of Panipat, the artillery played an important role.
* Babur's artillery was of two kinds, the heavy and the light. The heavy artillery was called the Kazan. It was able to fire balls of about 20-25 pounds in weight while the lighter canon was called Zurbaran which was mobile and could be moved in different places and was able to fire 3 to 4-pound weight. The last kind of Babur's artillery consisted of a heavy siege gun that fired projectiles of about 100 pounds or more.

The positions of the infantry, cavalry, and big guns/weapons on the battlefield and how they had to be employed and maintained.

* Elephants were the beasts of burden or means of display, and their role in the battle was reduced significantly. Akbar made much use of elephants by bringing them into the field in great numbers.
* Once thrown into confusion, it was impossible to restore a Mughal army's discipline. During the march, they moved without order.
* There was a person called Mir Tuzak, whose responsibility was to identify the route, decide on the marches and proceed ahead. Also, the layout site for army camps. The heavy artillery went first, followed by the units and the baggage and equipment. Equipment can be classified into short arms (swords, shields, spears, daggers) and weapons for distant attacks. The army came at the last.

Bow and arrow served as the primary weapon of the cavalry, and the Mughal horsemen were famed for their archery. A short sword, a straight sword, a Narrow sword, a walking stick, etc are also some other weapons used in battle. Along with the sword naturally comes the shield. All kinds of daggers. spears are also used.

**British Empire:**

After 1857, the Presidency armies were abolished in favor of a reconstituted British Indian Army under the control of the British Crown and the Viceroy. Many units were disbanded or reorganized, and new units of Sikhs, Gurkhas, and irregular horsemen were introduced. The majority of the Madras Native Infantry and Cavalry had their class compositions changed to North Indian tribes, considered more "martial" than the darker, shorter "thambis" who made up the majority of the Madras Presidency Army. Indian sepoys were banned from serving as officers or in the artillery corps. Recruiting focused more on Sikhs and Gurkhas, whom the British viewed as loyal. New caste-based and religion-based regiments were formed.

The British Indian Army consisted of members of all the major religious groups in India: Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, and Muslims. The number of Sikhs in the army grew steadily with time as British commanders came to believe they were more loyal and martial, an impression reinforced by their conduct during the Sepoy Mutiny. The Sikhs, for their part, aligned with the British to prevent a resurgence of Mughal rule; Sikhs had been persecuted under the Mughal Empire. The Indian Air Force was established in 1932.

1. **IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:**

**Mughal Empire:**

Indian agricultural production increased under the Mughal Empire. A variety of crops were grown, including food crops such as wheat, rice, and barley, and non-food cash crops such as cotton, indigo, and opium. By the mid-17th century, Indian cultivators began to extensively grow two new crops from the Americas, maize, and tobacco.

The Mughal administration emphasized agrarian reform, which began under the non-Mughal emperor Sher Shah Suri, the work of which Akbar adopted and furthered with more reforms. The Mughal government funded the building of irrigation systems across the empire, which produced much higher crop yields and increased the net revenue base, leading to increased agricultural production. The revenue system was biased in favor of higher-value cash crops such as cotton, indigo, sugar cane, tree crops, and opium, providing state incentives to grow cash crops, in addition to rising market demand. Under the zabt system, the Mughals also conducted extensive cadastral surveying to assess the area of land under plow cultivation.

**British Empire:**

The British Raj invested heavily in infrastructure, including canals and irrigation systems in addition to railways, telegraphy, roads, and ports. The Ganges Canal reached 560 kilometers (350 miles) from Haridwar to Cawnpore (now Kanpur) and supplied thousands of kilometers of distribution canals. By 1900 the Raj had the largest irrigation system in the world. One success story was Assam, a jungle in 1840 that by 1900 had 1,600,000 hectares (4,000,000 acres) under cultivation, especially in tea plantations. In all, the amount of irrigated land multiplied by a factor of eight. Historian David Gilmour says:

By the 1870s the peasantry in the districts irrigated by the Ganges Canal was visibly better fed, housed, and dressed than before; by the end of the century the new network of canals in Punjab at producing an even more prosperous peasantry there.

1. **DECLINE:**

**Mughal Empire:**

1. **Weak Successors**– The successors of Aurangzeb were weak and were not able to hold the administration effectively. Most of them were puppets in the hands of powerful nobles. The war of succession that plagued Delhi from c.1707 – 1719 CE gradually weakened the empire.
2. **Role of nobility** – After the death of Aurangzeb, the nobility assumed a lot of powers, and the course of politics and state activities were guided by their interests. The Mughal court consisted of four groups of nobles – the Turanis, the Iranis, the Afghans, and the Indian-born Muslims. These groups constantly fought with each other for more power, jagirs, and high offices which eventually led to the weakening of the empire.
3. **Lack of strong finances and foreign invasions**– Due to the emergence of many autonomous states, the revenue resources got depleted and the continuous wars further emptied the treasury. Also, the foreign invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali took a heavy toll on the imperial treasury.
4. **Ineffective Mughal army and neglect of naval power** – The Mughal army gradually became inefficient and de-motivated after losing several battles. The neglect of naval power by the Mughals also cost them dearly.
5. **The advent of the British** – The emergence of British and other European colonial powers and their arrival to India was the last nail in the coffin of any hope of survival of the Mughal empire. The western colonial powers were militarily and financially superior and politically informed of the Indian conditions.

**British Empire:**

At the beginning of the 20th century, a unified Germany and the United States had begun to challenge Britain’s economic might. The resulting military and economic tensions between Germany were one of the causes of World War I, during which Britain relied heavily upon its colonies to alleviate the enormous strain on its military and financial resources.

Although it won the first World War, it was a shadow of its former military might. This became evident during the outbreak of World War II when a resurgent Japanese Empire effortlessly blitzed across its holdings in South-East Asia. Despite winning the war, the blow to its prestige was too severe and it hastened the decline of the empire.

India was the first of its colonies in Asia to gain independence in 1947. This was a part of the decolonization venture in which Britain granted independence to most territories of the Empire. The Suez Crisis of 1956 confirmed Britain’s decline as a global power, and the transfer of Hong Kong to China in 1997 marked for many the end of the British Empire. Fourteen overseas territories remain under British sovereignty. After independence, many former British colonies joined the Commonwealth of Nations, a free association of independent states.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Mughals established one of the world's largest empires and left an indelible mark on Indian history and culture. The dynasty was famous for its efficient administration over much of India for more than two centuries, as well as the abilities of its emperors and administrative system. The Mughal rulers were known for their encouragement of art and education. Mughal architecture, in particular, gained a reputation for its beauty and harmony.

The British East India Company, which was established in 1600, was first exclusively engaged in trading with the Mughal Empire. However, as the empire collapsed, the British gained increasing power over Mughal emperors. The East India Company thereafter took political control of much of the Indian subcontinent. Although Mughal emperors maintained their thrones, they had little real power. During the Indian Mutiny of 1857-59, the British exiled the last Mughal emperor.