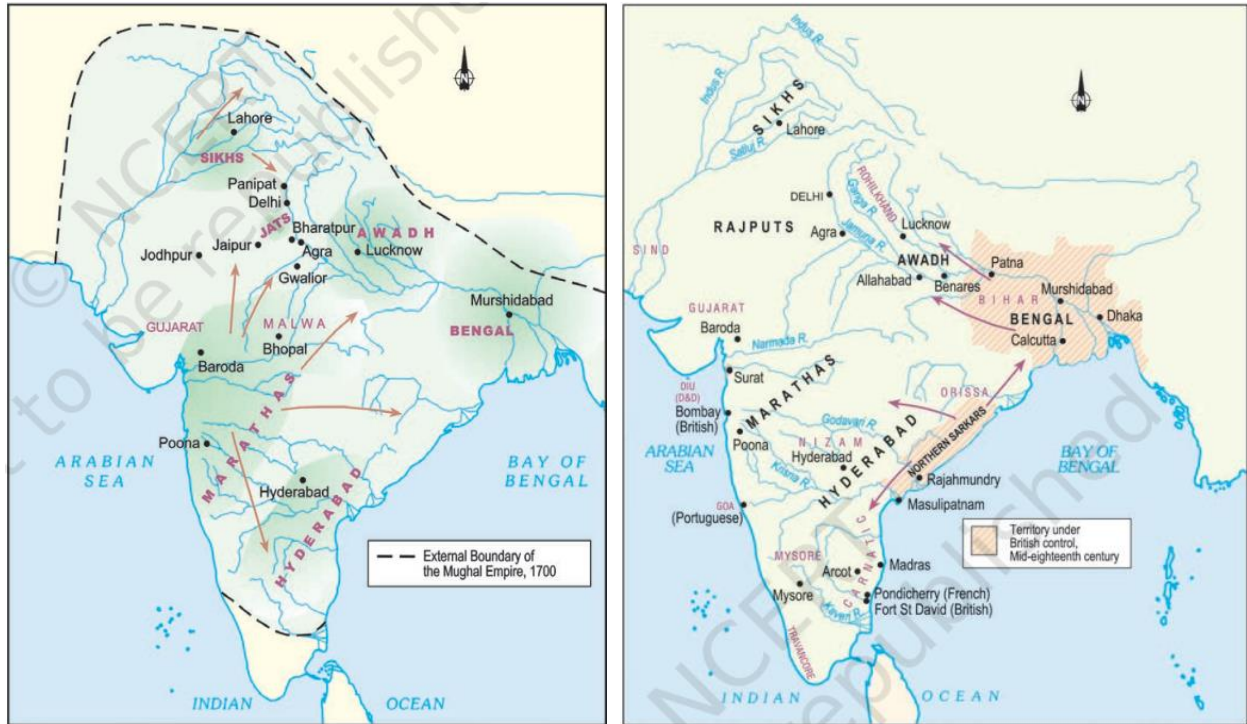


## Chapter – 8: 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Political Formations

- Maps 1 and 2 – imp. change – 1<sup>st</sup> half of 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Boundaries of Mughal empire – changed – lots of independent kingdoms – developed
- By 1765 – new power – British – occupied major parts of eastern India
- 18<sup>th</sup> century – political conditions – changed dramatically and quickly
- This chapter – development of new political groups – 1<sup>st</sup> half of 18<sup>th</sup> century – 1707 (Aurangzeb died) to 1761 (3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Panipat)



### The Crisis of the Empire and the Later Mughals

- Mughal empire – reached the height of success – started facing problems – ending of 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Cause of problems – various reasons – Emperor Aurangzeb – fought a long war in the Deccan – lost all the army and finances
- His successors – efficiency of administration – broke down
- Later Mughal emperors – difficult to control – powerful *mansabdars*
- Nobles – governors (*subadars*) – controlled revenue (*diwani*) and military (*faujdari*) as well
- This – gained them control – political, economic, military power – Mughal empire
- Governors – increased their control – revenue of capital – decreased
- Farmers and zamindari rebellions – northern and western India – added to problems
- These revolts – pressure of increasing taxes
- Mughal authorities – challenged by rebellious groups in past – BUT – these groups – not able to capture financial resources
- Mughal emperors after Aurangzeb – unable to control – local chieftains and their powers
- In between economic and political problems – ruler of Iran, Nadir Shah – attacked Delhi – 1739 – taken all the wealth
- After this invasion – Afghan ruler, Ahmed Shah Abdali – attacked north India 5 times – 1748-1761
- Attack from all sides – lots of pressure – empire – further weakened – competition between nobles

- Nobles – divided in 2 groups – Iranis and Turanis
- Long period – later Mughal Emperors – puppets of these 2 powerful groups
- Worst humiliation –
  - 2 Mughal emperors were assassinated – Farrukh Siyar (1713-1719) and Alamgir II (1754-1759)
  - 2 others were controlled by nobles – Ahmad Shah (1748-1754) and Shah Alam II (1759-1816)
- Decline in authority – Mughal empire – governors, *subadars*, zamindars – took control of different parts – Awadh, Bengal, Hyderabad

## The Rajputs

- Many Rajput kings – specially – Amber and Jodhpur – served under Mughal – in exchange – lots of control in their *watan jagirs*
- 18<sup>th</sup> century – these rulers – tried controlling nearby areas
- Ajit Singh – ruler of Jodhpur – involved in politics – Mughal court
- Powerful Rajput families – claimed *subadari* – rich states – Gujarat and Malwa
- Raja Ajit Singh, Jodhpur – governor of Gujarat
- Sawai Raja Singh, Amber – governor of Malwa
- These offices – changed by Emperor Jahandar Shah – 1713
- These rulers – tried to control – empire's territory – near their *watans*
- Nagpur – conquered Jodhpur – Amber – conquered Bundi
- Sawai Raja Jai Singh – new capital – Jaipur – granted *subadari* of Agra – 1722
- Maratha attacks into Rajasthan – after 1740s – lots of pressure on rulers – stopped their expansion

## Seizing Independence

### The Sikhs

- 17<sup>th</sup> century – Sikh community – turned into political organization – helped in state-building in Punjab
- Lots of battles – fought by Guru Gobind Singh – against Rajput and Mughal rulers – before and after formation of Khalsa – 1699
- 1708 Guru Gobind Singh's death – Khalsa – fought against Mughal – Banda Bahadur's leadership
- Khalsa – established rule – printed coins with name of – Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh – rule set up between – Sutlej and Jamuna
- Banda Bahadur – captured in 1715 – executed in 1716
- 18<sup>th</sup> century – lots of leaders – Sikhs organized in groups – *jathas*
- Combined forces – known as grand army (*dal Khalsa*) – everyone – met at Amritsar – Baisakhi and Diwali – took collective decisions – 'resolution of Gurus' (*gurmata*s)
- New system introduced – *rakhi* – protection to cultivators – payment of 20 % tax
- Guru Gobind Singh – inspired *Khalsa* – believed – their destiny was to rule (*raj karega Khalsa*)
- This organization – resisted Mughal emperors – resisted Ahmad Shah Abdali – captured Punjab and Sarkar of Sirhind from Mughals
- *Khalsa* – declared independent rule – making their own coins – 1765
- Coin – same inscription as orders issued by Khalsa – Banda Bahadur's rule

- Late 18<sup>th</sup> century – Sikh territory – extended from Indus to Jamuna – BUT – divided under different rulers
- Maharaja Ranjit Singh – reunited all – established his capital at Lahore – 1799

### The Marathas

- Maratha kingdom – another powerful regional kingdom – stood against Mughal empire
- Shivaji (1627-1680) – created a stable kingdom – support of powerful warrior families (*deshmukhs*)
- Groups of peasant-pastoralists (people who search cattle food) – backbone of Maratha army
- Shivaji challenged Mughals – with support of these people
- After his death – power in Maratha state – held by family of Chitpavan Brahmanas – served Shivaji's successors as Peshwas (imp. Minister)
- Capital of Maratha kingdom – Poona
- Peshwa rule – powerful Military – raided cities – fought Mughal armies in areas – reinforcement is difficult to reach there
- 1720-1761 – Maratha empire expanded – took away territories from Mughal empire
- Malwa and Gujarat – seized (snatched) from Mughals by Marathas – 1720s
- 1730s – Maratha king – seen as emperor of Deccan part – right to collect taxes –
  - **chauth** (25 % of land revenue) – collected by zamindars
  - **sardeshmukhi** (10 % of land revenue) – collected by revenue collector
- After raiding Delhi – 1737 – boundaries of Maratha expanded rapidly –
  - Rajasthan, Punjab – north
  - Bengal, Orissa – east
  - Karnataka, Tamil, Telugu countries – south
- These kingdoms – not included in Maratha empire in the starting – BUT – forced to pay tribute (taxes and gifts) – accept Maratha rule
- Expansion – increased wealth – BUT – decreased support from others
- 1761 – 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Panipat – nobody supported Marathas
- Along with Military campaigns – Marathas developed – effective administration
- Once Maratha empire – ensured – revenue demands – introduced
- Agriculture encouraged – trade restarted
- This provided financial resources – Maratha chiefs (*sardars*) – Sindhia of Gwalior, Gaekwad of Baroda, Bhonsle of Nagpur – raised powerful armies
- Maratha campaigns – 1720s – Malwa – did not stop the growth of cities
- Ujjain expanded under Sindhia – Indore expanded under Holkars – these cities – very imp. centres – commercial and cultural
- New trade routes developed – areas under Marathas
- Silk – produced in Chanderi – sold actively at Poona – Maratha capital
- Burhanpur – helped in trade between Agra and Surat – expanded – Poona and Nagpur (south) – Lucknow and Allahabad (east)

### The Jats

- Late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century – Jats started controlling power
- Their leader – Churaman – controlled cities – west of Delhi
- 1680s – started controlling – areas between Delhi and Agra
- For some time – care takers of Agra

- Jats – wealthy farmers – Panipat, Ballabhgarh – imp. trading centres
- Under Suraj Mal – Bharatpur – developed strongly
- Nadir Shah – captured Delhi – 1739 – lots of people took shelter in Bharatpur
- His son – Jawahir Shah – 30,000 troops – hired 20,000 Maratha – 15,000 Sikh – fight Mughals
- Bharatpur fort – built in traditional style – Dig – Jats built detailed garden palace – combining styles from Amber and Agra
- Buildings – modelled on royal architecture – associated with Shah Jahan