

Chapter – 4: The Mughals – 16th to 17th Century

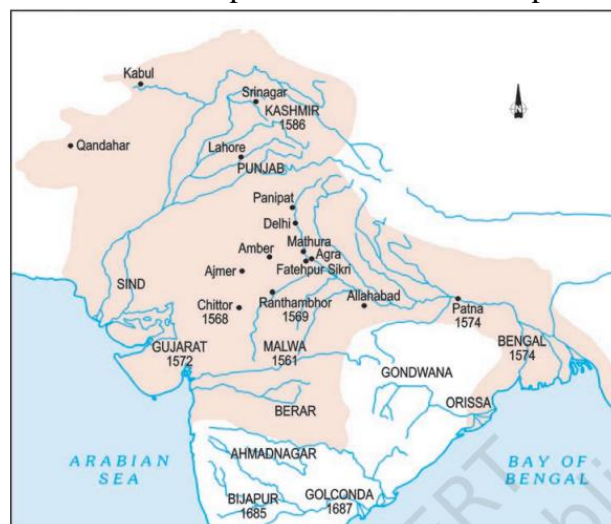
- Middle ages – ruling a large territory – diversity of people – very difficult
- Mughals – created empires – lasted for so long
- Later half of 16th century – kingdom expanded from Agra to Delhi
- 17th century – controlled nearly all the subcontinent
- Left behind – administration and governance – exists till now
- Prime Minister – gives speech on Independence Day from Red Fort, Delhi – former residence of Mughal rulers

Who were the Mughals?

- Mughals – descendants (*vanshaj*) of 2 of the biggest ruling dynasty
- Mother's side – descendants of Genghis Khan (died 1227) – Mongol ruler – ruled over China and Central Asia
- Father's side – descendants of Timur (died 1404) – ruler of Iran, Iraq, Turkey
- Mughals – did not like to be called Mongols – Genghis Khan – associated with massacre of many people – also linked to Uzbeks – Mongol competitor
- Mughals – proud of Timur – conquered Delhi – 1398
- Each ruler – got a picture painted of himself with Timur

Mughal Military Campaigns

- Babur – 1st Mughal emperor (1526 – 1530) – got the throne of Ferghana – 1494 – 12 years old
- Forced to leave the throne – Mongol group – Uzbeks – attacked the throne
- Years of wandering – captured Kabul – 1504
- 1526 – defeated Sultan of Delhi at Panipat – Ibrahim Lodi – captured Delhi and Agra



Mughal Traditions of Succession

- Mughals – did not believe in rule of primogeniture – eldest son – inherited from father
- They followed Mughal and Timurid custom – coparcenary – property divided into all the sons

Mughal Relations with Other Rulers

- Mughal – fought with rulers – who denied their authority
- Mughals – became powerful – some rulers joined them
- Rajputs – many of them – married their daughters into Mughal families – received high positions
- Sisodiya Rajputs – refused to accept the authority
- After defeat – treated honourably by Mughals – given their lands (*watan*) back as assignments (*watan jagir*)
- This careful balance – defeating but not humiliating – Mughals – extend control over many kings

Mansabdars and Jagirdars

- Empire – extended – Mughals – recruited many people
- Starting – small circle of Turkish nobles (Turanis)
- Expanded to – Iranians, Indian Muslims, Afghans, Rajputs, Marathas,
- People joined – Mughal service – *mansabdars*
- Mansabdar – person who holds a *mansab* (position or rank)
- Grading system – used by Mughals to fix –
 - Rank
 - Salary
 - Military responsibilities
- Rank, salary – fixed using a numerical value – *zat*
- Higher *zat* – higher position – higher salary
- Military responsibilities – maintain a fixed number of *sawar* (cavalrymen or horsemen)
- Mansabdar – brings *sawars* for review – gets them registered – received money to pay them
- Salary received as revenue assignment – *jagirs* – like *iqtas*
- BUT – mansabdars – did not live inside their jagirs
- Mansabdars – worked in some other countries – their servants collected the revenue
- Akbar's rule – jagirs – assessed carefully – revenue equal to the salary of mansabdars
- Aurangzeb's rule – actual revenue collected – very less than the salary
- Number of mansabdars – increased – long wait to receive jagirs – created shortage of jagirs
- Many jagirdars – tried to collect as much revenue as possible
- Aurangzeb – unable to control all these – peasants – suffered the most

Zabt and Zamindars

- Mughals – main source of income – tax collected from peasants
- Many places – peasants paid taxes through village headman or local chieftain
- Mughals used – zamindars – common term for everyone
- Akbar's revenue minister – Todar Mal – careful survey – crop yields, prices, areas cultivated – 10-year period – 1570-1580
- Based on this data – tax fixed for each crop
- Each province – divided into revenue circles – own schedule of revenue rates
- This system – *zabt* – used in areas – Mughal administrators – surveyed the area – kept careful records – not possible in Gujarat, Bengal

- Some areas – zamindars – extra power – exploitation by Mughals – lead to rebellion
- Sometimes – zamindars and peasants – same caste – rebelled together
- These revolts – changed the stability – end 17th century

The Mughal Empire in the 17th Century and After

- Mughal empire – efficient administration and military – great economic prosperity
- International travelers – described India as land of wealth – also astonished by the poverty in the country
- Documents – 20th year of Shah Jahan's rule –
 - Highest ranking mansabdars – 445 out of 8000
 - 5.6 % of mansabdars – received 61.5 % of the revenue as salary
- Mughal rulers and mansabdars – spent income on salary and goods
- This expenditure – benefited the artisans and peasants – who supplied these goods
- High tax – disadvantage for peasants and artisans – produced the goods
- Poor peasants – did not earn enough – wealthy peasants, merchants, bankers – profited the most
- Mughals – became very powerful in the late 17th century
- Authority of Mughals – decreased – their servants gained power
- Created new dynasties – Hyderabad, Awadh, etc
- They continued to recognize – emperor in Delhi – their master