

State in Colonial India

3.1. 2020

- Non pol-sci perspective on the 'State'.
 - not starting from theory.
 - go over evidence first.

End Sem	40%	
4 Ass	40%	
Project	20%	→ given Jan End
		→ Submit April Start by 7 th

7.1.20

Concept of state

⇒ Mughal State

taking turk-mongol and islamic theories.

- clear concept of a "ruler"
 - like persia, china, etc.

- concept of no hierarchy among believers
 - universe of all
 - theoretically: no hierarchical structure

- descending from turk-mongol traditions
 - took over sultanate india, recognized limits by Sharia law.
 - Accepted Khalifa's legal claims.

- concept of limited state, as limits on a sovereign to "just another equal"

- constant turmoil/debate between 2 philosophies.
contemporary eg: PM's Constitution.

⇒ FEATURES:

- Centralised, Absolutist
 - non hereditary nobility
- Bureaucratic (Mansabdar)
 - hierarchy setup
- concept of sovereignty
 - can do away with Sharia
 - the king can decide

Built from Akbar's time.

- unlike pre-modern states
- sort of like China.

⇒ Mansabdars

- civil + military duty.
- Zat + Sawar define rank troops
 - revenues assigned
 - bearer of duty.

- Parallels to
 - Cabinet and Ministers
 - Administrative Services.
 - military officers.

- some level of Zat + samar led to nobility.



Concept of

One Empire, One Standard

- Revenue, taxation
- currencies, measures
- info and comms
- calendar

more or less depending on fertility

measured through standard measures.

- Standardised year across north India

→ change of financial year across British Empire

Made the Mughal State self-perpetuating.

IMMENSE "soft power"



Hindu Ideas of Kingship

Central Concepts being

- Matsya Nyaya
 - no fish eating ideal
 - but world of all: small fish eating big fish.
 - Shanti Parva
 - primary purpose of state: protect property
 - Ensure Dharma, Nie stuff had basically.
- when not maintained, king imposes
- danda — punishment



Rajput Kingship

- innovation on traditional hindu state
- symbiotic relationship between vassals and rulers.
- classic feudalism
- loyal to the person immediately above you.

- theory of Rajput vs Maratha, as opposed to religious conflict
- a fight over zat



Maratha State

- not from a caste-d class.
- rises suddenly, with Ajina potas in 1715
- state power unstable → none of the luxury offered by the Mughals.
- left behind concept of military outposts (cantonnments).
- they got pretty far.

bundle of these independent, powerful states got legitimacy through the name of the Mughals, exploiting the soft power provided by it.

The Ganges Valley



State in early 18th century India

(very prosperous times)

- smaller, more organised states.
- Growing trade.
- new technologies

— very powerful alternatives to western banking systems, thorough tightly knit caste networks
: Angaji Khatri : Gujwadi Vasthyas : Rajasthani Marwaris.

- o Demographic Constraints.

