RAS
Rajasthan Administrative Services
Rajasthan Public Service Commission
Volume – 4
History of Modern India & World
# RAS

## History of Modern India & World

### Volume - 4

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Factors led to the Advent of European

- Weak rulers and fragmented regional powers:
  - Weak Mughal Powers after Aurangzeb in 1707
  - Rise of regional powers
- Vast wealth of India:
  - Europeans came to know about the immense wealth of India from the accounts of Marco Polo and some other sources.
- Heavy demand for Indian commodities: Heavy demand for Indian commodities like spices, calicoes, silk, precious stones, porcelain, etc.
- Control of Arabs and Technological Advancement:
  - Major land routes to India were under Arab control.
  - So no direct route to trade

Quest of the expansion of the market:
- Rapid Industrialization
- Market expansion to fulfill their capitalist desire.

Discovery of a Sea Route to India

- Need:
  - Decline of Roman Empire
  - domination of Arab in Egypt and Persia
  - High demand of Indian commodities and reduced contacts
  - Arab control over sea route (Suez Canal route)
  - Renaissance in Europe and advancement in the art of ship-building and navigation.

In the 15th century Europe saw great advancement in ship building and navigation.
- **Attempts:**

  **Prince Henry of Portugal**
  - Received Bull from Pop Nicholas to navigate via sea to India
  - But died before attempting

  **Christopher Columbus**
  - With the help of King of Spain attempted to find sea route to India
  - Reach America instead

  **Portuguese Arrived**
  - Vasco Da Gama landed on Calicut
  - Met King Zamorin of Calicut
  - Set up a trading company at Cannanore

  **Bartholomew Dias**
  - Portuguese Navigator
  - Rounded Cape of Good Hope in Africa and sailed up the eastern coast

  **Vasco Da Gama**
  - Portuguese sailor
  - With the help of Abdul Majid, a Gujarati pilot
  - Discovered alternate sea route to India

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**Foreign Powers**

**Portuguese**

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**Map**

- Atlantic Ocean
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa
- India
- Arabia
- Indian Ocean
- Exploration route
Important Personalities

| Vasco Da Gama       | • Arrived at Calicut in May 1498  
|                     | • Received permission to establish business by King Zamorin of Calicut  
|                     | • At Cannanore, he set up a trading factory. |
| Pedro Alvarez Cabral | • Established first European factory in India in 1500 at Calicut  
|                     | • Successfully retaliated Arab attack on Portuguese  
|                     | • Bombarded Calicut and made advantageous treaties with rulers of Cochin and Cannanore |
| Francisco De Almeida | • In 1505, Francisco De Almeida tried to consolidate the position of Portuguese in India.  
|                     | • He built fortresses at Anjadiva, Cochin, Cannanore and Kilwa.  
|                     | • Vision: to make the Portuguese the master of the Indian Ocean.  
|                     | • His policy was k/a the Blue Water Policy and cartaze system. |

Blue water policy
• Fortification of the Indian Ocean, not for the security but for the establishment of Portuguese business in the Indian ocean

Cartaz system
• naval trade license issued by Portuguese in the Indian ocean in 16th century.  
• Similar British System = navicert system in the 20th century.

| Alfonso de Albuquerque | • Real founder of the Portuguese power in India.  
|                        | • Introduced a permit system for other ships.  
|                        | • Acquired Goa in 1510 and Goa became “the first bit of Indian territory to be under the Europeans since the time of Alexander the Great”.  
|                        | • Encouraged Portuguese men to take local wives and stressed the abolition of sati |

Portuguese Establishments in India
• Occupied regions around the coast of Goa from Mumbai to Daman and Diu and then to Gujarat, they controlled four important ports and towns and villages.  
• Established military posts and settlements on the east coast at San Thome (in Chennai) and Nagapatnam (in Andhra).  
• Imperial farman circa 1579 made them settle near Satgaon in Bengal for trading activities.

Portuguese Administration in India
• Important Posts:  
  ○ Viceroy: head of the administration, serving for three years.  
  ○ Vedor da Fazenda: revenues and the cargoes and dispatch of fleets.  
  ○ Captain: incharge of fortresses, assisted by ‘factors’.  
• Policies:  
  ○ Monopolised the manufacture of salt,  
  ○ Built a custom house and started levying a duty on tobacco.  
  ○ Started slave trade, purchased Hindu and Muslim children and converted to Christianity.

Religious Policy of the Portuguese
• Zeal to promote Christinity.  
• Intolerant toward muslim and hindu religion.  
• Attempted to convert Akbar to Christianity:  
  ○ Jesuits made a good impression at the court of Akbar, due to his interest in theology.  
  ○ In September 1579, Jesuit fathers, Rodolfo Aquaviva and Antonio Monserrate were sent to Akbar’s court  
  ■ Again in 1590 and 1595 missions were sent
- Jahangir, on ascending throne, assuaged the Muslims and neglected Jesuit fathers.
  - 1606 he again renewed his favours to them.
- Church and collegium at Lahore was allowed to be retained by them.

Decline of the Portuguese
- Local advantages gained in India were reduced with immediate neighbours.
- Religious policies made Hindus resentful.
- Dishonest trade practices met a strong reaction and gained notoriety as sea pirates.
- Arrogance and violence brought them the animosity of the rulers of India.
- Discovery of Brazil diverted colonising activities of Portugal to the West.
- Dutch and the English also learnt the skills of ocean navigation.
- Different trading communities from Europe began a fierce rivalry among them.
  - Dutch and the English had greater resources to expand overseas, and they overcame the Portuguese resistance.
- Spice trade came under the control of the Dutch, and Goa was superseded by Brazil as the economic centre of the overseas empire of Portugal.

Significance of the Portuguese
- Military:
  - Military innovation in the use of body armour, matchlock men, and guns
  - Contributed to the Mughal use of field guns, and the ‘artillery of the stirrup’.
  - System of drilling groups of infantry, on the Spanish model.
- Naval Techniques:
  - Multi-decked ships were heavily constructed, designed to ride out Atlantic gales rather than run before the regular monsoons
  - This permitted them to carry heavier armament.
  - Use of castled prow and stern

- Creation of royal arsenals and dockyards and the maintenance of a regular system of pilots and mapping and pitting state forces against private merchant shipping.
- Cultural Work:
  - Art of silversmith and goldsmith flourished at Goa, and the place became a centre of elaborate filigree work, fretted foliage work and metal work embedding jewels.
  - Interior of churches built by Portuguese have woodwork, sculpture and painted ceilings; they are generally simple in their architectural plan.

Dutch
- In 1596, Cornelis de Houtman → first Dutchman to reach Sumatra and Bantam.
- In 1602, many trading companies amalgamated → EIC of the Netherlands.
- Company was empowered to carry out war, conclude treaties, to take possession of territory and erect fortresses.

Dutch Settlements in India
- First factory in Masulipatnam (in Andhra) in 1605.
- In 1609 opened a factory in Pulicat, north of Madras.
- Other principal factories at Surat (1616), Bimlipatam (1641), Karaikal (1645), Chinsurah (1653), Baranagar, Kasimbazar (near Murshidabad), Balasore, Patna, Nagapatam (1658), Cochin (1663).

Trade under Dutch in India
- Manufactured:
  - Indigo: the Yamuna valley and Central India,
  - Textiles and silk: Bengal, Gujarath and the Coromandel,
  - Saltpeter: Bihar
  - Opium and rice: the Ganga valley.
- Monopolized trade in black pepper and spices.

Decline of the Dutch
- Got drawn into the trade of the Malay Archipelago.
- In the third Anglo-Dutch War (1672-74) English ships captured in Bay of Bengal by Dutch forces → retaliation by the English → defeat of the Dutch, in battle of Hooghly (1759).
- Battle of Colachel (1741) b/w Dutch and the king of Travancore Marthanda Varma leading to complete rout of Dutch power in Malabar region.
- Anglo-Dutch Treaty (1814):
  - Signed Dutch and English
  - Facilitated restoration of Dutch Coromandel and Dutch Bengal to Dutch rule

- Anglo-Dutch Treaty (1824) returned these places to British
  - Made it binding on the Dutch to ensure all transfers of property and establishments till/on March 1, 1825 AD.

**European Trading Centres in India**

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**English**

- Factors contributed:
  - Charter of Queen Elizabeth I → Francis Drake's voyage the world in 1580
  - English victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588
- In 1599, a group of English merchants a.k.a. ‘Merchant Adventurers’ formed a company.
- On December 31, 1600, Queen Elizabeth I issued a charter with rights of exclusive trading to the company named the ‘Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies’.
- Initially, a monopoly of 15 years was granted, extended indefinitely in May 1609
- Shifting Dutch focus to the East Indies, the English turned to India for trade.
Expansion of the English Company
Expansion in West and South

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1609</td>
<td>Captain Hawkins arrived at Jahangir court to establish a factory at Surat but, didn’t succeed.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faced opposition from the Portuguese.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Left Agra in November 1611.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1611</td>
<td>Started trading at Masulipatnam and later established a factory in 1616.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1612</td>
<td>Captain Thomas Best defeated the Portuguese in the sea off Surat;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Received permission from Jahangir to establish a factory at Surat under Thomas Aldworth in 1613.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1615</td>
<td>Sir Thomas Roe, an accredited ambassador of James I, came to the court of Jahangir, staying there till February 1619.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1632</td>
<td>Received ‘Golden Farman’ issued by the Sultan of Golconda.</td>
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<td>1662</td>
<td>Bombay had been gifted to King Charles II by the King of Portugal as dowry when Charles married the Portuguese princess Catherine.</td>
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<td>1687</td>
<td>Seat of the Western Presidency shifted from Surat to Bombay.</td>
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Farrukhsiyar’s Farmans

- In 1715, John Surman secured farmans from Farrukhsiyar giving the Company privileges in Bengal, Gujarat and Hyderabad.
- Magna Carta of the Company and its important terms are:
  - In Bengal:
    - Imports and exports were exempted from additional customs duties in Bengal accepting the annual payment of 3,000 rupees as settled earlier.
    - Permitted to issue dastaks for the transportation of such goods.
    - Permitted to rent more lands around Calcutta.
  - In Hyderabad, privilege of freedom from duties in trade
    - Had to pay the prevailing rent only for Madras.
  - In Surat, for an annual payment of 10,000 rupees, exempted from levy of all duties.
  - Coins of Company minted at Bombay to have currency throughout the Mughal Empire.

Expansion in Bengal

- Shah Shuja, the subahdar of Bengal in 1651, allowed the English to trade in Bengal in return for an annual payment of Rs 3,000, in lieu of all duties.
- Factories in Bengal: Hooghly (1651), Kasimbazar, Patna and Rajmahal.
- William Hedges, the first governor of the Company in Bengal, appealed to Shayista Khan, the Mughal governor of Bengal in August 1682, for redressal of the grievance.
  - Resulted in hostilities b/w the English and the Mughals.
- The English captured the imperial forts at Thana (modern Garden Reach), raided Hijli in east Midnapur and the Mughal fortifications at Balasore.
- English bought the zamindari of the three villages of Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikata (Kalighat) from their owners on payment of Rs 1,200.

French
Foundation of French Centers in India

- Last Europeans to come to India with the purpose of trade.
- Louis XIV, the king’s famous minister Colbert laid the foundation of the Compagnie des Indes Orientales (French EIC) in 1664.
- Granted a 50-year monopoly on French trade in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- In 1667, Francois Caron headed an expedition to India, setting up a factory in Surat.
- Mercara, a Persian who accompanied Caron, founded another French factory in Masulipatnam in 1669 after obtaining a patent from the Sultan of Golconda.
- In 1673, French obtained permission from Shaista Khan, Mughal Subahdar of Bengal, to establish a township at Chandernagore near Calcutta.

Pondicherry- Center of French Power in India

- In 1673, Sher Khan Lodi, the governor of Valikandapuram (under the Bijapur Sultan), granted Francois Martin, the director of the Masulipatnam factory, a site for a settlement.
- In 1674, Pondicherry was founded and Francois Martin became French governor.
- Established its factories in coastal regions of India.
- Important trading Centers: Mahe, Karaikal, Balasore and Qasim Bazar

French EIC

- Badly affected with the outbreak of war b/w the Dutch and the French.

- Bolstered by their alliance with the English since the Revolution of 1688, the Dutch captured Pondicherry in 1693.
- the Treaty of Ryswick concluded in September 1697 restored Pondicherry to the French.
- In 1720, the French company was reorganized as the ‘Perpetual Company of the Indies’ which revived its strength.

British French Rivalry

- Anglo-French rivalry in India reflected the traditional rivalry of England and France beginning with the outbreak of the Austrian War of Succession and ending with the conclusion of the Seven Years War.
- In 1740, the political situation in south India was uncertain and confused. Nizam Asaf Jah of Hyderabad was old and fully engaged in battling the Marathas in the western.
- Decline of Hyderabad was the signal for the end of Muslim expansionism and the English adventurers got their plans ready.

The Danes (Denmark)

- In 1616 the Danish EIC was founded.
- In 1620, a factory at Tranquebar near Tanjore was established.
- Their principal settlement was at Serampore near Calcutta.
- Danish factories were sold to British government in 1845.
- Danes are better known for their missionary activities than for commerce.

Carnatic Wars

| First Carnatic War (1740-48) | Extension of the Anglo-French War in Europe which was caused by the Austrian War of Succession.
|                            | ○ English navy under Barnet seized French ships to provoke France.
|                            | ○ Admiral La Bourdonnais, French governor of Mauritius retaliated by seizing Madras in 1746 with the help of the fleet from Mauritius.
|                            | ended in 1748 with Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle
|                            | ○ Madras handed back to English, & French got territories in North America.
|                            | Remembered for the Battle of St. Thome (in Madras) fought b/w the French forces and the forces of Anwar-ud-din, the Nawab of Carnatic, to whom the English appealed for help.

| Second Carnatic War         | Dupleix, the French governor → sought to increase his power and French political influence in southern India. |
(1749-54)

- **Hyderabad**→ After the death of Nizam-ul-Mulk→ civil war b/w Nasir Jang, (son) and Muzaffar Jang (grandson)

  ![Diagram](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

  - Claimed the Throne of Hyderabad
  - Claimed the Throne of Carnatic

- **Carnatic**→ Anwar-ud-din Khan vs Chanda Sahib.

  ![Diagram](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

- French supported Muzaffar Jang and Chanda Sahib while English sided Nasir Jang and Anwar-ud-din.

  ![Diagram](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

- Failed to provide effective assistance to Muhammad Ali at Trichinopoly, Robert Clive put forward the proposal for a *diversionary attack on the governor of Madras, Saunders.*
- Robert Clive attacked and captured *Arcot.* Mysore, Tanjore and the Maratha Chief, Morari Rao, came to aid of Trichinopoly, & of Clive & Stringer Lawrence.
- French faced heavy financial losses due to Dupleix’s policy; recalled him in 1754.
- Godeheu succeeded Dupleix adopted a policy of negotiations with English and concluded a treaty with them.
- War ended with the *Treaty of Pondicherry* in 1754

**Third Carnatic War (1758-63)**

- In Europe, when *Austria wanted to recover Silesia* in 1756, the *Seven Years War (1756-63)* started.
- In 1758, the French army under *Count de Lally* captured the English forts of St. David and Vizianagaram in India in 1758.
- *Battle of Wandiwash*— decisive battle of Third Carnatic War → English (victorious) in 1760 at Wandiwash (or Vandavasi) in Tamil Nadu.

  ![Diagram](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

  - Count de Lally headed French forces which lost the Battle
  - Treaty of Peace of Paris (1763): french allowed to use their settlements for commercial purposes only and banned fortification
  - English became the supreme European power in the Indian subcontinent, since the Dutch had already been defeated in the *Battle of Bidara in 1759.*

**Causes of English Success against French**

- English company was a private enterprise and had less governmental control which created a sense of enthusiasm and self-confidence among the people.

- Whereas the French company was a State concert and was controlled and regulated by the French government and was hemmed in by government policies.
- The English navy was superior to the French navy.
- English held Calcutta, Bombay and Madras whereas French had only Pondicherry.
- French company was short of funds whereas the British had sound financial conditions which helped them significantly in the wars against their rivals.

### Reasons for English Success against Other European Power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure and Nature of the Trading Company</th>
<th>Industrial Revolution</th>
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<tr>
<td>English EIC controlled by a board of directors elected annually.</td>
<td>In England resulted with the innovation of new machines like the spinning Jenny, steam engine, and the power loom greatly improved production in the fields of textile, metallurgy, steam power and agriculture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>France and Portuguese companies: State owned and feudalistic.</td>
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<td>Monarch had &gt;60% share in the French company and its directors were nominated by the monarch from the shareholders.</td>
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<td>Shareholders took very little interest in promoting prosperity of the company.</td>
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<td>b/w 1725 &amp; 1765 company was managed as a department of State.</td>
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<th>Military Skill and Discipline</th>
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<td>The British had a disciplined &amp; well trained army.</td>
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<td>Technological developments equipped the military well.</td>
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<th>Stable Government</th>
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<td>Britain had a stable government with efficient monarchs.</td>
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<td>France witnessed violent revolution in 1789 and Napoleon’s defeat in 1815 weakened France’s government position.</td>
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<td>Dutch EIC, affected by bankruptcy in 1800 coupled with revolution in 1830.</td>
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<th>Lesser Zeal for Religion</th>
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<td>Britain was less zealous about religion and less interested in spreading Christianity.</td>
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<th>Use of Debt Market</th>
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<tr>
<td>World’s first central bank, Bank of England was established to sell government debt to the money markets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Britain was enabled to spend much more on its military than its rivals.</td>
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<th>Navy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Navy of Britain: largest and most advanced</td>
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<td>Victory against Spanish Armada and against French at Trafalgar had put Royal Navy at peak of European naval forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In India too, the British defeated the Portuguese and the French due to strong and fast movement of the naval ships.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aurangzeb’s reign (1658-1707) marked the beginning of the end of Mughal rule in India.

Reason:
- Aurangzeb’s misguided policies
- Weak successors and reduced stability of the state.
- Neglect of northwestern borders
- Nadir Shah, the Persian emperor, attacked India in 1738-39, conquered Lahore and defeated the Mughal army at Karnal on February 13, 1739.

Foreign invasions

Nadir Shah’s Invasion (1739)
- Emperor of Iran/Persia

Causes behind the invasion
- 1736, Muhammad Shah Rangeela broke all diplomatic ties with Persian court.
- Nadir envoy was detained by Rangeela, which probably infuriated him.
- Rangeela gave shelter to some Afghan nobles who had escaped from Nadir Shah when he had invaded Afghanistan.
- Nizam-ul-Mulk and Saadat Khan sent special messages to Nadir Shah inviting him to invade India.

Course of Nadir Shah’s Invasion
- He captured Jalalabad, Peshawar, and proceeded towards Lahore.
- Zakariya Khan, the governor of Lahore, surrendered without much of a fight.
- Nadir struck a gold coin and read khutba in his name.
- Nadir and Muhammad Shah fought at Karnal on c.1739 CE.

Outcome of the Invasion
- Muhammad Shah was defeated and agreed to pay an indemnity of Rs. 25 crore

Trans-Indus provinces including Sindh, western Punjab, and Kabul were ceded to Nadir.
- Nadir Shah’s took away the famous Kohinoor Diamond.

Ahmad Shah Abdali (or Ahmad Shah Durrani)
- Successor of Nadir Shah and invaded India several times b/w 1748 and 1767.
- In 1757, captured Delhi and placed an Afghan caretaker to watch over Mughal emperor.
- Abdali had recognised Alamgir II as the Mughal emperor and the Rohilla chief, Najib-ud-Daula, as Mir Bakhshi of the empire, ‘supreme agent’ of Abdali.
- In 1758, Najib-ud-Daula was expelled from Delhi by the Maratha chief, Raghunath Rao, who also captured Punjab.
- In 1759, Ahmad Shah Abdali returned to India to take revenge on the Marathas.
- In 1761, Abdali defeated the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat.
- The last of Abdali’s invasions came in 1767.

Third Battle of Panipat, 1761
- Fought b/w: Marathas under Sadashiv Rao Bhau vs Afghan forces under Ahmed Shah Abdali + two Indian Muslim allies (Rohilla Afghans of the Doab, and Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Awadh)
- Military: French cavalry support Maratha against heavy cavalry and mounted artillery (zamburak and jezail) of Afghans
- Financial Support to Afghans provided by Shuja-ud-Daula
- Afghans cut off the supplies of Marathas and weakened them
- Result: Marathas lost
## Later Mughal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Key Events</th>
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</table>
| **Bahadur Shah I** (1709–March 1712) | ● eldest son of Aurangzeb  
● Adopted a pacific policy with the Marathas, the Rajputs and the Jats.  
● Granted sardeshmukhi to maratha, but failed to grant them chauth.  
● Followed a policy of compromise towards the nobles, granting them appropriate territories and postings.  
● Never abolished the jizya |
| **Jahandar Shah** (March 1712 to Feb 1713) | ● Jahandar Shah abolished Jaziya.  
● Zulfikar Khan was appointed prime minister and introduced the izara system to improve the financial condition of the empire. |
| **Farrukhsiyar** (1713-1719) | ● With the help of Sayyid brothers—Abdulla Khan and Hussain Ali (k/a ‘King Makers’), Farrukhsiyar became the emperor.  
● Followed a policy of religious tolerance by abolishing Jizya and pilgrimage tax.  
● Banda Bahadur, the Sikh leader, was executed.  
● Friction b/w Farrukh Siyar and Sayyid brothers → Sayyid brothers + Maratha = killed Farrukh Siyar. |
| **Rafi-ud-Daula** (February 28 to June 4 1719) | ● Placed by Saiyyad brothers in place of Farrukh Siyar.  
● Died of consumption (tuberculosis) within four months.  
● During his reign Nikusiyar (grandson of Aurangzeb) revolted and set himself as Emperor at Agra with the help of Mitrasen. |
| **Muhammad Shah (1719-48)** | ● He ruled for the shortest period among the Mughals.  
● Sayyid brothers placed Rafi-ud-Daula (Shah Jahan II) on the throne.  
● He was an opium addict.  
● Shortest reign; died very quickly suffered from tuberculosis. |
| **Ahmad Shah** (1748-1754) | ● incompetent ruler left state affairs to Udham Bai (‘Queen Mother’)  
● Invaded Delhi and Punjab along with Multan was ceded to him.  
● His Wazir, Imad-ul-Mulk, imprisoned him at Salimgarh. |
| **Alamgir II** (1754-1758) | ● Grandson of Jahandar Shah.  
● Battle of Plassey (c.1757 CE) was fought during his tenure.  
● Murdered by his Wazir Imad-ul-Mulk. |
| **Shahjehan III** (1758-1759) | ● Aka Muhi-ul-millat  
● Placed on the throne in December 1759 with the help of Imad-ul-Mulk.  
● He was later deposed by Maratha chiefs. |
| Ali Gauhar / Shah Alam II (1759-1806) | • In Persian his kingdom was called “Sultanat-e-Shah Alam, Az Dilli ta Palam”, meaning, “The kingdom of Shah Alam is from Delhi to Palam”.
• His reign saw two decisive battles—the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) and the Battle of Buxar (1764).
• He fought the Battle of Buxar (1764) along with the combined armies of Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal, and Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Awadh, against the British EIC.
• Forced to sign the Treaty of Allahabad (August 1765 CE).
  〇 He was taken under the EIC’s protection & resided at Allahabad. |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Akbar II (1806-37) | • Introduction of the Hindu–Muslim unity festival Phool Walon Ki Sair.
• Gave the title of Raja to Rammohan Rai.
• In 1835, coins bearing the names of Mughal emperors were stopped |
| Bahadur Shah II (1837-1857) | • Last Mughal Emperor and nominal head of India.
• Urdu poet pen name ‘Zafar’
• Participated in revolt of 1857 & deported to Rangoon & died in 1862.
• In legal terms, the Mughal Empire came to an end on November 1, 1858 with the declaration of Queen Victoria. |

Causes of Decline of Mughal Empire

Intolerant policies of Aurangzeb
• The religious and Deccan policies of Aurangzeb contributed to the empire’s decline.

• His hard-headed attitude towards the Marathas, Rajputs, and the Jats turned away the loyal warriors, and he went on making more enemies without having strong alliances.
• His religious policy alienated the Hindus

Weak Successors
• None of Aurangzeb’s successors could give any stability to the empire.
• Absolutely inefficient and puppets in the hands of powerful nobles.
• Wars of succession plagued Delhi from 1707 to 1719 CE too weakened the empire.

Nobility Crises
• Mutual rivalry, jealousy and contest for power among the various groups reduced prestige of emperor, but also contributed to the decline of the empire.
• Nobels weakened the military by amassing income from the jagirs for themselves and cutting down the number of troops.

Ineffective Mughal Army, Neglect of Naval Power, and invasions
• Mughal army became inefficient and demotivated after losing many important battles.
• Neglect of naval power by the Mughals also cost them dearly.
• External invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali took a heavy toll on imperial treasury and laid open inefficiencies of the military and political administration.

Depleting Economic Resources
• Increased number of amirs and their ranks or mansabs left little land to be distributed
• Aurangzeb tried to solve the problem of acute shortage of jagirs or bejagiri by showing enhanced income from the jagirs on record. But amirs tried to recover the recorded income from their jagirs by pressurising the peasantry.
• So both the amirs and the peasantry were antagonised which resulted into wars, the reduction in khalisa land, all of which burdened the state.
• Expenditure of the state exceeded its income.
• The once flourishing trade did not enrich the empire’s coffers even as the inroads by European traders grew along coastal India.
• These economic and administrative problems only multiplied following the death of Aurangzeb.
### Weak Administration Machinery

- Government of the Mughals was a **personal despotism** and so its success depended on the character of the reigning ruler.
- The later Mughals were **worthless and neglected** the administration.
- The **degeneration of the rulers led** to the degeneration of the nobility, with factious quarrels and intrigues costing the empire heavily.
- The empire had **become too vast and unwieldy to be efficiently governed under weak rulers**, especially under the existing conditions of transport and communication.

### Shifting Allegiance of Zamindars

- Two classes shared the power during the medieval period, **the zamindars and the nobles**.
  - **Zamindars**, hereditary owners of land, k/a **rais, rajas, thakurs, khuts or deshmukhs**.
    - helped in collection of revenue and in local administration
  - Mughals had tried to curb the power of zamindars and maintain direct contact with peasants, **but could not succeed**.
    - zamindars helped the nobility to carve out **independent kingdoms** for themselves.

### Rise of Regional Aspirations

- Aurangzeb’s reign it witnessed powerful regional groups like the Jats, Sikhs and Marathas defying the authority in their bid to create kingdoms of their own.
- **Continuous struggle** against the empire for political ascendancy weakened the empire considerably.
States that arose in India during the phase of Mughal decline and the following century (b/w c.1700 and 1850 CE) varied greatly in terms of their essential character, state resources, and their life span.

Each of the contenders in the regions, in proportion to their strength, looked for and seized opportunities to establish their dominance over the others in the neighbourhood.

Thus the regional states of this period can be divided into three categories:

**Successor States**

- Mughal provinces that turned into states after breaking away from the empire.
- Though they did not challenge the sovereignty of the Mughal ruler, the establishment of virtually independent and hereditary authority by their governors.
- Some of the prominent states in this category were Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad.

The founder of the Awadh state was Saadat Khan, whereas the founder of Bengal was Murshid Quli Khan and the founder of Hyderabad state was Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bengal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Founder: Murshid Kuli Khan.</td>
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<td>In 1727, he was succeeded by his son Shujaud-din.</td>
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<td>In 1740, Shujaud-din’s successor Sarfaraz Khan, killed by Alivardi Khan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alivardi Khan assumed power and made himself independent of the Mughal emperor by giving yearly tribute.</td>
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<tr>
<td>From c.1756 to 1757 CE, the successor of Alivardi Khan, Siraj-ud-daulah fought against the English EIC over the trading rights.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- Siraj-ud-daulah's defeat at the Battle of Plassey in c.1757 CE paved the way for the subjugation of Bengal as well as India by the British.

## Awadh
- Founder: Saadat Khan (k/a Burhan-ul-Mulk).
- Maintained a well-paid, armed and well-trained army.
- His successors, Safdar Jung and Asaf ud Daulah gave a long-term administrative stability to the Awadh province.
- Faizabad and Lucknow emerged as centres of cultural excellence in the spheres of arts, literature, and crafts.
- Regional architecture reflected in Imambara and other buildings.
- Evolution of dance form Kathak was outcome of the cultural synthesis.

## Hyderabad
- Founder: Kilich Khan (k/a Nizam-ul-Mulk).
- Disgusted with the Mughal emperor who had appointed Mubariz Khan as a full-fledged viceroy of the Deccan, decided to fight Mubariz Khan.
- Defeated and killed Mubariz Khan in the Battle of Shakar-Kheda (1724).
- In 1725, he became the viceroy and conferred the title of Asaf-Jah and assumed the control of Deccan.

## Warrior States
- Established by rebels against Mughal Empire, Ex: Maratha, the Sikh and the Jat states.

### Marathas
- Maratha Soldiers expert in guerilla tactics.
- Held important positions in the administrative and military systems of Deccan Sultanates of Bijapur and Ahmadnagar.
- Bhakti movement in Maharashtra under the influence of spiritual leaders like Tukaram, Ramdas, Vaman Pandit, and Eknath fostered social unity.
- Political unity was conferred by Shahji Bhonsle and his son Shivaji.
- Began their northward expansion and uprooted the Mughal authority from Malwa and Gujarat and established their rule.
- Lost the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) against Ahmed Shah Abdali.
- quickly recovered from defeat and offered a great challenge to English EIC.

### The Sikhs
- Guru Gobind Singh transformed the Sikhs into a militant sect
- organised into 12 misls or confederacies
- Strong kingdom of Punjab established by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
- Culmination of Sikh rebellions against Mughal rule.
- Applied principles of statecraft intelligently and used great trading city to his economic advantage.
- Brought under control area extending from Sutlej to the Jhelum, conquered Lahore in 1799 and Amritsar in 1802.
- By Treaty of Amritsar with British, acknowledged British control over cis-Sutlej territories.
- English forced him to sign Tripartite Treaty in 1838 with Shah Shuja and agreed to provide passage to the British troops through Punjab.
- Ranjit Singh died in 1839, His successors could not keep the state intact and the British took control over it.
### The Jats
- Agriculturist and pastoral caste inhabiting the Delhi-Mathura region.
- Began to revolt against the Mughal state from the time of Jahangir.
- Revolted against the oppressive policies of Aurangzeb.
- Under Suraj Mal Jat power reached its zenith.
- His state included territories from Ganga in the east to Chambal in the south and included the Subahs of Agra, Mathura, Meerut and Aligarh.
- Jat state suffered a decline after the death of Suraj Mal in 1763.

### Independent States
- Enjoyed a lot of independence during the Mughal rule as watan jagirs such as the Rajput, Mysore and Travancore states.

### The Rajputs
- Great support to the Mughal, in controlling the peripheral areas.
- Mughal relations suffered, due to Aurangzeb's interference in the succession dispute of Marwar.
- Tried to re-establish their independence in the 18th century. Forced Bahadur Shah I to march against Ajit Singh (1708), who had formed an

### Mysore
- Ruled by the Wodeyars.
- Various powers, interested in this territory, turned the area into a constant battlefield.
- In the end the Mysore state was brought under the rule of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan who ruled the state but not without trouble.

### Travancore (Kerala)
- Founder: Martanda Varma (Travancore as capital)
- He extended the boundaries of his state from Kanyakumari to Cochin. Organised army along the Western model.
- Extended patronage to the Syrian Christians, a large trading community within his domains.
- He declared many goods as royal monopoly items, requiring a license for trade, such as pepper.
- After Martanda Varma, Rama Varma (c.1758–98 CE) succeeded