

Chapter 1 : HISTORY OF THE MOGHUL EMPIRE

The Mughal Empire also ushered in a period of proto-industrialization, and around the 17th century, Mughal India became the world's largest economic and manufacturing power, producing a quarter of global industrial output up until the 18th century.

Enjoy the Famous Daily Babur in Kabul: Babur even captures Samarkand itself on three separate occasions, each for only a few months. The first time he achieves this he is only fourteen. What distinguishes Babur from other brawling princes is that he is a keen observer of life and keeps a diary. In it he vividly describes his triumphs and sorrows, whether riding out with friends at night to attack a walled village or mooning around for unrequited love of a beautiful boy. Here, at the age of twenty-one, he is able to establish a settled court and to enjoy the delights of gardening, art and architecture in the Timurid tradition of his family. But these same pressures mean that his only chance of expanding is eastwards - into India. But his first serious expedition is launched in October Babur thinks of himself as a Turk, but he is descended from Genghis Khan as well as from Timur. The Persians refer to his dynasty as mughal, meaning Mongol. And it is as the Moghul emperors of India that they become known to history. When Babur leads an army through the mountain passes, from his stronghold at Kabul, he at first meets little opposition in the plains of north India. The decisive battle against Ibrahim, the Lodi sultan, comes on the plain of Panipat in April Babur is heavily outnumbered with perhaps 25,000 troops in the field against 30,000 men and elephants, but his tactics win the day. Babur digs into a prepared position, copied he says from the Turks - from whom the use of guns has spread to the Persians and now to Babur. As yet the Indians of Delhi have no artillery or muskets. Babur has only a few, but he uses them to great advantage. He collects carts to form a barricade a device pioneered by the Hussites of Bohemia a century earlier. It takes Babur some days to tempt the Indians into doing this. Victory at Panipat brings Babur the cities of Delhi and Agra, with much booty in treasure and jewels. But he faces a stronger challenge from the confederation of Rajputs who had themselves been on the verge of attacking Ibrahim Lodi. The armies meet at Khanua in March and again, using similar tactics, Babur wins. For the next three years Babur roams around with his army, extending his territory to cover most of north India - and all the while recording in his diary his fascination with this exotic world which he has conquered. But in he is driven west into Afghanistan by a forceful Muslim rebel, Sher Shah. Twelve years later, renewed civil war within India gives Humayun a chance to slip back almost unopposed. One victory, at Sirhind in 1555, is enough to recover him his throne. But six months later Humayun is killed in an accidental fall down a stone staircase. His year-old son Akbar, inheriting in 1556, would seem to have little chance of holding on to India. Yet it is he who establishes the mighty Moghul empire. But from the year-old emperor is very much his own man. An early act demonstrates that he intends to rule the two religious communities of India, Muslim and Hindu, in a new way - by consensus and cooperation, rather than alienation of the Hindu majority. In he marries a Rajput princess, daughter of the Raja of Amber now Jaipur. She becomes one of his senior wives and the mother of his heir, Jahangir. This policy is very far from conventional Muslim hostility to worshippers of idols. And Akbar carries it further, down to a level affecting every Hindu. In he abolishes a tax levied on pilgrims to Hindu shrines. At the same time Akbar steadily extends the boundaries of the territory which he has inherited. A great deal of hunting does occur a favourite version uses trained cheetahs to pursue deer while the underlying political purpose - of warfare, treaties, marriages - is carried on. Warfare brings its own booty. Signing a treaty with Akbar, or presenting a wife to his harem his collection eventually numbers about 1000 - see Harems, involves a contribution to the exchequer. As his realm increases, so does his revenue. And Akbar proves himself an inspired administrator. And steps are taken to ensure that the tax on peasants varies with local circumstances, instead of a fixed proportion of their produce being automatically levied. Its outer limits are Kandahar in the west, Kashmir in the north, Bengal in the east and in the south a line across the subcontinent at the level of Aurangabad. Yet this ruler who achieves so much is illiterate. An idle schoolboy, Akbar finds in later life no need for reading. He prefers to listen to the arguments before taking his decisions perhaps a factor in his skill as a leader. Akbar is original, quirky, wilful. His complex character is vividly suggested in the strange palace which he builds, and

almost immediately abandons, at Fatehpur Sikri. A third boy is born in It resembles a small town, made up of courtyards and exotic free-standing buildings. They are built in a linear Hindu style, instead of the gentler curves of Islam. Beams and lintels and even floorboards are cut from red sandstone and are elaborately carved, much as if the material were oak rather than stone. The palace and mosque occupy the hill top, while a sprawling town develops below. The site is only used for some fourteen years, partly because Akbar has overlooked problems of water supply. Yet this is where his many and varied interests are given practical expression. Here Akbar employs translators to turn Hindu classics into Persian, scribes to produce a library of exquisite manuscripts, artists to illustrate them the illiterate emperor loves to be read to and takes a keen interest in painting. Here there is a department of history under Abul Fazl; an order is sent out that anyone with personal knowledge of Babur and Humayun is to be interviewed so that valuable information is not lost. The building most characteristic of Akbar in Fatehpur Sikri is his famous diwan-i-khas, or hall of private audience. It consists of a single very high room, furnished only with a central pillar. The top of the pillar, on which Akbar sits, is joined by four narrow bridges to a balcony running round the wall. On the balcony are those having an audience with the emperor. If required, someone can cross one of the bridges - in a respectfully crouched position - to join Akbar in the centre. Meanwhile, on the floor below, courtiers not involved in the discussion can listen unseen. In the diwan-i-khas Akbar deals mainly with affairs of state. The ferocity with which they all attack each other prompts him to devise a generalized religion of his own in which a certain aura of divinity rubs off on himself. The Christians involved in these debates are three Jesuits who arrive from Goa in As the first Europeans at the Moghul court, they are a portent for the future. But the empire is now stable enough for him to preside over it for twenty-two years without much danger of upheaval. Instead he is able to indulge his curiosity about the natural world which he records in a diary as vivid as that of his great-grandfather Babur and his love of painting. Under his keen eye the imperial studio brings the Moghul miniature to a peak of perfection, maintained also during the reign of his son Shah Jahan. Humayun and the young Akbar take lessons in drawing. Professional Indian artists learn too from these Persian masters. From this blend of traditions there emerges the very distinctive Moghul school of painting. Full-bodied and realistic compared to the more fanciful and decorative Persian school, it develops in the workshops which Akbar establishes in the s at Fatehpur Sikri. Akbar puts his artists to work illustrating the manuscripts written out by scribes for his library. New work is brought to the emperor at the end of each week. He makes his criticisms, and distributes rewards to those who meet with his approval. Detailed scenes are what Akbar likes, showing court celebrations, gardens being laid out, cheetahs released for the hunt, forts being stormed and endless battles. The resulting images are a treasure trove of historical detail. But as paintings they are slightly busy. He is more likely to want an accurate depiction of a bird which has caught his interest, or a political portrait showing himself with a rival potentate. In either case the image requires clarity and conviction as well as finely detailed realism. The artists rise superbly to this challenge. Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb: In Shah Jahan signals an abrupt return to a stricter interpretation of Islam when he orders that all recently built Hindu temples shall be destroyed. A Muslim tradition states that unbelievers may keep the shrines which they have when Islam arrives, but not add to their number. Direct provocation of this kind is untypical of Shah Jahan, but it becomes standard policy during the reign of his son Aurangzeb. His determination to impose strict Islamic rule on India undoes much of what was achieved by Akbar. An attack on Rajput territories in makes enemies of the Hindu princes; the reimposition of the jizya in the same year ensures resentment among Hindu merchants and peasants. At the same time Aurangzeb is obsessed with extending Moghul rule into the difficult terrain of southern India. He leaves the empire larger but weaker than he finds it. In his eighties he is still engaged in permanent and futile warfare to hold what he has seized. In the decades after the death of Aurangzeb , in , the Moghul empire fragments into numerous semi-independent territories - seized by local officials or landowners whose descendants become the rajas and nawabs of more recent times. Moghul emperors continue to rule in name for another century and more, but their prestige is hollow. Yet it is in the 17th century that news of the wealth, splendour, architectural brilliance and dynastic violence of the Moghul dynasty first impresses the rest of the world. Europeans become a significant presence in India for the first time during the 17th century. There is a long tradition of large Muslim domes in central Asia, going as far

back as a tomb in Bukhara in the 10th century. But the Moghuls develop a style which is very much their own - allowing the dome to rise from the building in a swelling curve which somehow implies lightness, especially when the material of the dome is white marble.

Chapter 2 : 10 Fascinating Facts About the Mughal Empire - Flokka

The greatest of the Mughal emperors and an extremely capable ruler, Akbar reestablished and consolidated the Mughal Empire. Through incessant warfare, he was able to annex all of northern and part of central India, but he adopted conciliatory policies toward his Hindu subjects and sought to enlist them in his armies and government service.

Babur was driven from Samarkand and initially established his rule in Kabul in ; he later became the first Mughal ruler – His determination was to expand eastward into Punjab, where he had made a number of forays including an attack on the Gakhar stronghold of Pharwala. Then an invitation from an opportunistic Afghan chief in Punjab brought him to the very heart of the Delhi Sultanate , ruled by Ibrahim Lodi Babur defeated the Lodi sultan decisively at Panipat in modern-day Haryana, about 90 kilometers north of Delhi. Employing gun carts, movable artillery, and superior cavalry tactics, Babur achieved a resounding victory. A year later, he decisively defeated a Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sangha. In Babur routed the joint forces of Afghans and the sultan of Bengal but died in before he could consolidate his military gains. He left behind as legacies his memoirs Baburnama , several beautiful gardens in Kabul and Lahore, and descendants who would fulfill his dream of establishing an empire in the Indian Subcontinent. Reign of Humayun When Babur died, his son Humayun –⁵⁶ inherited a difficult task. He was pressed from all sides by a reassertion of Afghan claims to the Delhi throne, by disputes over his own succession, and by the Afghan-Rajput march into Delhi in . He fled to Persia, where he spent nearly ten years as an embarrassed guest at the Safavid court of Tahmasp I. In Humayun gained a foothold in Kabul with Safavid assistance and reasserted his Indian claim, a task made easier by the weakening of Afghan power in the area after the death of Sher Shah Suri in May , and took control of Delhi in . As soon as Akbar came of age, he began to free himself from the influences of overbearing ministers, court factions, and harem intrigues, and demonstrated his own capacity for judgment and leadership. A workaholic who seldom slept more than three hours a night, he personally oversaw the implementation of his administrative policies, which were to form the backbone of the Mughal Empire for more than two hundred years. He continued to conquer, annex, and consolidate a far-flung territory bounded by Kabul in the northwest, Kashmir in the north, Bengal in the east, and beyond the Narmada River in central India – an area comparable in size to the Mauryan territory some 1, years earlier. Akbar built a walled capital called Fatehpur Sikri Fatehpur means town of victory near Agra, starting in . It incorporated the tomb of the Sufi saint, whom he revered, Shaikh Salim Chisti , who had predicted the birth of his son. The city, however, proved short-lived, with the capital being moved to Lahore in . The reason may have been that the water supply in Fatehpur Sikri was insufficient or of poor quality, or, as some historians believe, that Akbar had to attend to the northwest areas of his empire and therefore moved his capital northwest. In Akbar shifted his capital back to Agra, from where he reigned until his death. Akbar adopted two distinct but effective approaches in administering a large territory and incorporating various ethnic groups into the service of his realm. In he obtained local revenue statistics for the previous decade in order to understand details of productivity and price fluctuation of different crops. Aided by Raja Todar Mal, a Rajput king, Akbar issued a revenue schedule that the peasantry could tolerate while providing maximum profit for the state. Revenue demands, fixed according to local conventions of cultivation and quality of soil, ranged from one-third to one-half of the crop and were paid in cash. Akbar relied heavily on land-holding zamindars. They used their considerable local knowledge and influence to collect revenue and to transfer it to the treasury, keeping a portion in return for services rendered. Within his administrative system, the warrior aristocracy mansabdars held ranks mansabs expressed in numbers of troops, and indicating pay, armed contingents, and obligations. The warrior aristocracy was generally paid from revenues of nonhereditary and transferable jagirs revenue villages. An astute ruler who genuinely appreciated the challenges of administering so vast an empire, Akbar introduced a policy of reconciliation and assimilation of Hindus including Maryam al-Zamani, the Hindu Rajput mother of his son and heir, Jahangir , who represented the majority of the population. He recruited and rewarded Hindu chiefs with the highest ranks in government; encouraged intermarriages between Mughal and Rajput aristocracy; allowed new temples to be built; personally participated in celebrating Hindu festivals such as

Deepavali, or Diwali, the festival of lights; and abolished the jizya poll tax imposed on non-Muslims. The exceptions were Gondwana in central India, which paid tribute to the Mughals, Assam in the northeast, and large parts of the Deccan. Akbar sought knowledge and truth wherever it could be found and through a wide range of activities. He regularly sponsored debates and dialogs among religious and intellectual figures with differing views, building a special chamber for these discussions at Fatehpur Sikri and he welcomed Jesuit missionaries from Goa to his court. Akbar directed the creation of the Hamzanama, an artistic masterpiece that included 1, large paintings. Reigns of Jahangir and Shah Jahan The Taj Mahal is the most famous monument built during Mughal rule Mughal rule under Jahangir and Shah Jahan was noted for political stability, brisk economic activity, beautiful paintings, and monumental buildings. The number of unproductive, timeserving officers mushroomed, as did corruption while the excessive Persian representation upset the delicate balance of impartiality at the court. Jahangir liked Hindu festivals, but promoted mass conversion to Islam ; he persecuted the followers of Jainism and even executed Guru Arjun Dev, the fifth saint-teacher of the Sikhs. He did so, however, not for religious reasons. The release of 52 Hindu princes from captivity in is the basis for the significance of the time of Diwali to Sikhs. In that same year, the Persians took over Kandahar in southern Afghanistan , an event that struck a serious blow to Mughal prestige. Even though they aptly demonstrated Mughal military strength, these campaigns drained the imperial treasury. As the state became a huge military machine and the nobles and their contingents multiplied almost fourfold, so did the demands for more revenue from the peasantry. Political unification and maintenance of law and order over wide areas encouraged the emergence of large centers of commerce and crafts such as Lahore, Delhi, Agra, and Ahmadabad linked by roads and waterways to distant places and ports. The Mughals were very conscious of their dignity as emperors, and dressed and acted the part. It symbolizes both Mughal artistic achievement and excessive financial expenditures when resources were shrinking. The economic position of peasants and artisans did not improve because the administration failed to produce any lasting change in the existing social structure. There was no incentive for the revenue officials, whose concerns primarily were personal or familial gain, to generate resources independent of dominant Hindu zamindars and village leaders, whose self-interest and local dominance prevented them from handing over the full amount of revenue to the imperial treasury. In their ever-greater dependence on land revenue, the Mughals unwittingly nurtured forces that eventually led to the break-up of their empire. Establishing an elaborate court, with bodyguards, a harem and wearing expensive clothes, more and more tax revenue was needed merely to finance this lavish lifestyle. Meanwhile, the gun-power technology that had given them military superiority, which remained unchallenged within India, could be challenged from the outside by armies with more advanced technology. It was the greed and complacency of the emperors that resulted in their decline, and eventual demise. During his fifty-year reign, the empire reached its greatest physical size but also showed the unmistakable signs of decline. The bureaucracy had grown corrupt, and the huge army demonstrated outdated weaponry and tactics. Aurangzeb restored Mughal military dominance and expanded power southward, at least for a while. A zealous Muslim, Aurangzeb reversed the earlier policies that had helped to maintain good relations with non-Hindus, imposing Islamic law and dealing harshly with Hindus. He destroyed many Temples. Aurangzeb had the khutbah Friday sermon proclaimed in his own name, not in that of the Ottoman caliph. Aurangzeb defeated the British between and , but their victory over the French at the Battle of Plassey in soon led to their controlling Bengal. From their original base in Serat, the British built forts and trading stations in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay later the three Presidencies. In , Furrukhsiyar would grant them a firman royal dictate exempting them from customs duties. The treaty of gave them the right to collect taxes on behalf of the emperor the Diwani of Bengal. This virtually gave them control of the land, since taxation was linked to land ownership. Well before the dissolution of the Mughal Empire in , the British system of District Collectors was firmly established. The District Collector remained the senior regional official throughout British rule. Aurangzeb was involved in a series of protracted wars: Peasant uprisings and revolts by local leaders became all too common, as did the conniving of the nobles to preserve their own status at the expense of a steadily weakening empire. The increasing association of his government with Islam further drove a wedge between the ruler and his Hindu subjects. The Mughal Empire experienced dramatic reverses as regional nawabs governors broke away and

founded independent kingdoms. The Mughals had to make peace with Maratha armies, and Persian and Afghan armies invaded Delhi, carrying away many treasures, including the Peacock Throne in , subsequently used by the shahs of Persia Iran. Jahandar Shah, born , ruler from , died February 11, , in Delhi. Furrukhsiyar, born , ruler from , died in Delhi. Rafi Ul-Darjat, ruler , died in Delhi. Nikusiyar, ruler , died in Delhi. Mohammed Ibrahim, ruler , died in Delhi. Mohammed Shah, born , ruler from and , died April 26, in Delhi. Ahmad Shah Bahadur, born , ruler from , died January in Delhi. Alamgir II, born , ruler from , died Shah Jahan III, ruler ? Shah Alam II, born , ruler from , died Akbar Shah II, born , ruler from , died End of the Mughals By the mid-nineteenth century, the British were controlling vast tracts of the Mughal Empire and other principalities through a series of treaties and alliances. Technically, they still ruled as agents of the Mughal Empire, but were in practice exercising complete power. In they denied Nana Sahib leader of the Marathas his titles and pension, while elsewhere they refused to recognize adopted sons as legal heirs , and assumed power themselves. Between and they took over six states, causing considerable unrest. In March , the British awarded the Rani an annual pension and ordered her to leave the Jhansi fort. Refusing to leave, she organized a volunteer army to oppose the regular Sepoy army of the British East India Company , which had British officers but mainly Indian troops. In a series of revolts broke out in the Sepoy army, fueled by rumors that the British intended to flood India with Christian missionaries and that pork and beef fat was being used to grease the new Enfield rifle cartridge. On May 10 the sepoys revolted at Meerut. Agra was also taken, and the British residents retreated into the Red Fort. Lucknow also fell and the Rani of Jhansi emerged from the Indian side as one of the heroes, fighting the British dressed as a man. She was killed on June 18, Although Hindus as well as Muslims rebelled against the British and there was in fact considerable Hindu-Muslim solidarity at this time, they always blamed what went down in British history as the Indian Mutiny on Muslims, never really trusting them again. They argued that Muslims could not be loyal to the British because their allegiance was to a worldwide Muslim ummah. During the revolt, some Muslims called it a jihad , implying that they would not submit to non-Muslim rule but had a divine duty to struggle against infidel authority. The term " mutiny " is hardly appropriate, since the Mughal emperor was still sovereign and could not "mutiny" against his own lawful rule. They argued that Indians were unable to govern themselves properly, and continued their annexation policy removing "corrupt" Indian princes on a regular basis. India became the jewel in the British Empire. Technically, the title "Emperor" as used by British monarchs referred only to India, but popularly the term "empire" applied to all the British overseas territories and protectorates. By the early twentieth century, the whole of the subcontinent, including Sri Lanka , was under British administration, although many princely states remained theoretically independent.

Chapter 3 : Mughal Empire – Travel guide at Wikivoyage

Learn about the Mughal Empire that ruled most of India and Pakistan in the 16th and 17th centuries. The Mughal (or Mogul) Empire ruled most of India and Pakistan in the 16th and 17th centuries. It.

The Mughal Empire at its Height At the height of the Mughal Empire the Mughals brought art and trading which became a large part of the culture. In addition to that there were separate classes breaking up the Mughal people and they also had different emperors. That and much more is part of what makes up the Mughal Empire at its height. During the was when the Empire was most powerful. That territory the Mughal ruled was over 1. In this territory between and million people lived. The Empire was for the most part a Hindu culture that was ruled by Muslims. One of the emperors named Akbar made it so that the different religions could practice their own beliefs. Having there be many religions that could work together made it quite powerful. Persian, Chagtai Turkic and later Hinduism. Persian Language is mainly a Muslim language that is spoken a lot in Iran. Chagtai Turkic is a language that was spoken mostly in central Asia but also was spoken by Mughal Emperors. Last of all Hinduism is still spoken today by about million that being their native language. It is spoken in mostly India and Pakistan. Also trade became important and powerful as well. Some of the exports were textiles, spices and indigo. Things that came into India were silks, gold, ivory, precious stones, perfumes, horses and slaves. The land routes mostly went to Afghanistan but the land routes were not very safe or reliable. The sea or river routes were better for the trading. Europe also started to trade with India but the things that they sent over was very expensive. Agriculture also was still a part of the economy. Also the economy was very strong because of new road systems. These and other industries were key parts in the Mughal Empire economy at its height. Mughal Empire at its Height- Industries Including trading and agriculture there were many industries and things the Mughal people made in the Empire. The textile industry was extremely successful and because of that cotton and silk were needed which were important cash crops. The making of shawls and carpets was very important as well and also shipbuilding was a key figure in the economy in India Indian Textile.

Chapter 4 : Mughal Empire - New World Encyclopedia

The Mughal Empire (also known as Mogul, Timurid, or Hindustan empire) is considered one of the classic periods of India's long and amazing history. In , Zahir-ud-Din Muhammad Babur, a man with Mongol heritage from central Asia, established a foothold in the Indian sub-continent which was to last.

Decline of the Mughal Empire in India Article shared by: Read this article to learn about the decline of Mughal Empire in India! The history of India, as well as of the world, has been divided into three periods: The death of Aurangzeb is believed to have marked the beginning of the modern period. This history is seen to conclude with the achievement of independence in Even if we can refer to different historical periods, in which changes occurred and distinguishing characteristics emerged, we cannot fix precise dates for any specific period. Each period was born out of the previous one. But gradually each one developed its own distinctive characteristics. It is associated with the development of science, reason, liberty, equality and democracy. The establishment and spread of British rule, and the accompanying transformation in the political, economic, social and cultural worlds, are all part of this colonial rule. Decline of the Mughals: When Aurangzeb died, the empire of the Mughals was the largest in India. Yet, within about fifty years of his death, the Mughal Empire disintegrated. It ended in the victory of the eldest brother, Prince Muazzam. The sixty five-year-old prince ascended the throne under the name of Bahadur Shah. Bahadur Shah A. Bahadur Shah followed a policy of compromise and conciliation and tried to conciliate the Rajputs, the Marathas, the Bundelas, the Jats and the Sikhs. During his reign the Marathas and the Sikhs became more powerful. He had also to face revolt from the Sikhs. Bahadur Shah died in Wars of Succession, which had been a regular feature among the Mughals, had become more acute after the death of Bahadur Shah. This was specially so because the nobles had become very powerful. Different factions of nobles supported rival claimants to the throne in order to occupy high posts. Jahandar Shah A. Jahandar Shah who succeeded Bahadur Shah was weak and incompetent. He was controlled by nobles and could manage to rule only for one year. He was controlled by the Sayyid brothers who were the real authority behind Mughal power. When he tried to free himself from their control, he was killed by them. Mohammad Shah A. Taking advantage of the weak rule of Mohammad Shah and the constant rivalry among the various factions of the nobility, some powerful and ambitious nobles established virtually independent states. The Mughal Empire practically broke up. When his reign began, Mughal prestige among the people was still an important political force. A strong ruler could have saved the dynasty. But Mohammad Shah was not equal to the task. He neglected the affairs of the state and never gave full support to able wazirs. The condition of India with its incompetent rulers, weak administration and poor military strength attracted foreign invaders. Nadir Shah, the ruler of Persia, attacked Punjab in Mohammad Shah was easily defeated and imprisoned. Nadir Shah marched towards Delhi. Nadir Shah was a ferocious invader. He massacred thousands of people in Delhi. Delhi looked deserted for days. Mohammad Shah, however, was reinstated on the throne. By plundering a big city like Delhi, he got enormous wealth. He died in They thus got a foothold in Bengal. He conquered Punjab and marched towards Delhi. Hence a war between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali was inevitable. In the Third Battle of Panipat the Marathas were completely defeated. They lost thousands of soldiers along with their very good generals. They were forced to retreat to the Deccan. This allowed the Company to collect revenue from these areas. It also showed that Mughal authority was recognised by the Indian rulers. Mughal rule formally came to an end when Bahadur Shah was deposed and deported to Rangoon by the East India Company Causes of the decline of the Mughal Empire: The Mughals did not follow any law of succession like the law of primogeniture. Consequently, each time a ruler died, a war of succession between the brothers for the throne started. This weakened the Mughal Empire, especially after Aurangzeb. The nobles, by siding with one contender or the other, increased their own power. Aurangzeb failed to realise that the vast Mughal Empire depended on the willing support of the people. He lost the support of the Rajputs who had contributed greatly to the strength of the Empire. Weak Successors of Aurangzeb: The successors of Aurangzeb were weak and became victims of the intrigues and conspiracies of the faction-ridden nobles. They were inefficient generals and incapable of suppressing revolts. The absence

of a strong ruler, an efficient bureaucracy and a capable army had made the Mughal Empire weak. Foreign invasions sapped the remaining strength of the Mughals and hastened the process of disintegration. These invasions shook the very stability of the empire. Size of the Empire and Challenge from Regional Powers: The Mughal Empire had become too large to be controlled by any ruler from one centre. The Great Mughals were efficient and exercised control over ministers and army, but the later Mughals were poor administrators. As a result, the distant provinces became independent. The rise of independent states led to the disintegration of the Mughal Empire. The Later Mughal Rulers

A. Rise of independent states in the 18th century: With the decline of the Mughal Empire a number of provinces seceded from the empire and several independent states came into existence. He established a virtually independent state but returned to Delhi during the reign of Emperor Mohammad Shah. In , he was reappointed Viceroy of the Deccan with the title of Asaf Jah. He founded the Asaf Jah dynasty. His successors were known as the Nizams of Hyderabad. Asaf Jah ruled the Deccan with a firm hand, crushed the rebellious and powerful zamindars and established a strong administration. He put his nominee, Anwar-ud-din, on the throne of Arcot. After his death in , Hyderabad became an easy prey to powerful neighbours. European trading companies started interfering in the domestic politics of Hyderabad for their own selfish gains. The Carnatic was one of the provinces of the Mughals in the Deccan and was under the authority of the Nizam of Hyderabad. However, in practice, the Carnatic was virtually independent under its nawab. Bengal in the 18th century comprised Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Farrukhsiyar appointed him Subedar governor of Bengal in . Taking advantage of the growing weakness of the central authority, Murshid Quli Khan became practically independent. Murshid Quli Khan and his successors Shuja-ud-Daula and Alivardi Khan gave Bengal a long period of peace and stable administration. All these three rulers gave encouragement to trade but maintained strict control over the foreign trading companies. Alivardi Khan did not permit English and French trading companies to fortify their possessions in Bengal. However, the Nawabs of Bengal failed to build up a strong army and navy. They also failed to prevent corruption among the officials. Nor did they firmly destroy the tendency of the East India Company to use force. Their ignorance of the situation in Europe proved costly. Bengal was the first province to be conquered by the East India Company. The subah of Awadh comprised Benaras and some districts near Allahabad. But he soon became independent. He established a strong administration, crushed the power of the big zamindars and brought about law and order in the country.

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After that it declined drastically, though remnants survived until They also had a tremendous influence on many other aspects of culture. Perhaps most importantly, the Mughals were largely responsible for the spread of Islam in the region. They were Muslims that reigned over an at the time largely Hindu population. Their reign was not free of religious tension but, compared especially to the contemporaneous Christian Spanish Empire, it was also remarkably tolerant of other religions. To this day the presence of Islam in the countries that were once part of that empire is mostly due to the reign of the Mughal Empire. Origins and rise[edit] See also: Timur, known in the West as Tamerlane , was a later ancestor and another great Central Asian conqueror. Mughal is the usual term in western accounts of the period and is common in modern Indian or Pakistani writing, but the rulers called themselves the Timurid Dynasty. The family and their subordinates had both Mongol and Turkic ancestors, but culturally they were Persian; their homeland was on the northern edge of the old Persian Empire. The son led an army from there through Bactria , over the Salang Pass to Afghanistan , then through the Khyber Pass into the subcontinent. He went on to conquer much of what are now Pakistan and northern India and to establish his capital at Agra. His successors expanded it greatly, as shown by other lines on the map. The peak[edit] The golden age of the Mughals extended through years and the reign of four emperors, from Akbar taking the throne in to the death of Aurangzeb in In this period the empire expanded and the arts and sciences flourished; in particular, many great buildings were constructed. Anup Talao Peerless Pool at Fatehpur Sikri, with the girls school and Panch Mahal in the background Akbar ruled and expanded the empire to include most of northern India, all of what is now Pakistan, and parts of Afghanistan, as shown by the medium-orange line on the map. He built a new capital, Fatehpur Sikri , near Agra and ruled from there for a few years, then moved the capital to Lahore in what is now Pakistan, and later back to Agra. He lost Kandahar to the Persians but expanded the Mughal Empire within the subcontinent. Shah Jahan ruled and Mughal art and architecture reached their peak during his reign. Aurangzeb ruled and expanded the empire to its greatest extent, shown by the heavy red line on the map. From then on it was nearly all downhill. Persian invaders sacked Delhi , the Mughal capital, in The Hindu Maratha Empire defeated the Mughals in several battles, and by the Marathas controlled much of the subcontinent. After the battle of Plassey in , the British took Bengal and for the next hundred years they expanded their territory and influence greatly at the expense of both Mughals and Marathas. By the mids there was still a Mughal Emperor, but not much of an empire. The definitive end of the dynasty came just after the establishment of the British Raj in The last Mughal Emperor had supported the rebels in the Indian mutiny of , so the British convicted him of treason, seized his lands, and exiled him to Burma. Even after that, though, various Mughal-related Muslim rulers such as the Nizam of Hyderabad remained quite important. The existing Agra Fort was also built by the Mughals, on the site of a preexisting fort. The upper, royal part of the city of Fatehpur-Sikri, not far from Agra and covered in the Agra guide, was built at the command of Akbar Khan. The Red Fort in Delhi was constructed on the command of Shah Jahan and served as the residence of several Mughal emperors. The Jama Masjid was also built at the behest of Shah Jahan. Aurangzeb also commissioned the Bibi Ka Maqbara, a monumental tomb for his wife, Dilras Banu Begum, in the city of Aurangabad , which is named after him. The Pinjore Gardens, near Chandigarh , are also impressive. They date from the reign of Aurangzeb. Sites[edit] This travel topic about Mughal Empire is an outline and needs more content. It has a template , but there is not enough information present. Please plunge forward and help it grow!

The first Mughal emperor was Babur (the original of the elephant Babar in the stories!), who was one of Timur's great-great-great-grandsons. Like Timur, Babur was a Muslim. When Babur died in , his son Humayun took over. But the Indian people rebelled against him, and Humayun had to hide out.

By the time of his death in he ruled over most of north, central, and western India. Akbar worked hard to win over the hearts and minds of the Hindu leaders. While this may well have been for political reasons - he married a Hindu princess and is said to have married several thousand wives for political and diplomatic purposes - it was also a part of his philosophy. He established a form of delegated government in which the provincial governors were personally responsible to him for the quality of government in their territory. Akbar also ended a tax jizya that had been imposed on non-Muslims. This discriminatory tax had been much resented, and ending it was a popular move. An innovation was the amount of autonomy he allowed to the provinces. For example, non-Muslims were not forced to obey Islamic law as was the case in many Islamic lands , and Hindus were allowed to regulate themselves through their own law and institutions. Akbar and Godism Akbar took the policy of religious toleration even further by breaking with conventional Islam. It never spread beyond his court and died when he did. Fatehpur Sikri was the new capital built by Akbar, as a part of his attempt to absorb other religions into Islam. Fatehpur Sikri is a synthesis of Hindu and Islamic architecture. Jahangir also began building the magnificent monuments and gardens by which the Mughals are chiefly remembered today, importing hundreds of Persian architects to build palaces and create magnificent gardens. Urdu uses an Arabic script, but Persian vocabulary and Hindi grammatical structure. The Taj Mahal marks the apex of the Mughal Empire; it symbolises stability, power and confidence. The building is a mausoleum built by Jahan for his wife Mumtaz and it has come to symbolise the love between two people. Jahan brought together fresh ideas in the creation of the Taj. Many of the skilled craftsmen involved in the construction were drawn from the empire. Many also came from other parts of the Islamic world - calligraphers from Shiraz, finial makers from Samrkand, and stone and flower cutters from Bukhara. As if to confirm it, Jahan had these lines inscribed there: The money Jahan spent on buildings and on various military projects emptied his treasury and he was forced to raise taxes, which aggravated the people of the empire.

Chapter 7 : Mughal Empire - India

The Mughal Empire at its zenith commanded resources unprecedented in Indian history and covered almost the entire subcontinent. From to , during the heyday of its fabulous wealth and glory, the Mughal Empire was a fairly efficient and centralized organization, with a vast complex of.

The Mughal Empire , â€” The significance of Mughal rule The Mughal Empire at its zenith commanded resources unprecedented in Indian history and covered almost the entire subcontinent. From to , during the heyday of its fabulous wealth and glory, the Mughal Empire was a fairly efficient and centralized organization, with a vast complex of personnel, money, and information dedicated to the service of the emperor and his nobility. Development of the Mughal Empire. The 16th and 17th centuries brought the establishment and expansion of European and non-European trading organizations in the subcontinent, principally for the procurement of Indian goods in demand abroad. Indian regions drew close to each other by means of an enhanced overland and coastal trading network, significantly augmenting the internal surplus of precious metals. With expanded connections to the wider world came also new ideologies and technologies to challenge and enrich the imperial edifice. The empire itself, however, was a purely Indian historical experience. Mughal culture blended Perso- Islamic and regional Indian elements into a distinctive but variegated whole. Although by the early 18th century the regions had begun to reassert their independent positions, Mughal manners and ideals outlasted imperial central authority. The imperial centre, in fact, came to be controlled by the regions. The trajectory of the Mughal Empire over roughly its first two centuries â€” thus provides a fascinating illustration of premodern state building in the Indian subcontinent. His idea of conquering India was inspired, to begin with, by the story of the exploits of Timur, who had invaded the subcontinent in Soon he was literally a fugitive, in the midst of both an internecine fight among the Timurids and a struggle between them and the rising Uzbeks over the erstwhile Timurid empire in the region. He made several excursions in the tribal habitats there. Between and â€”when he invaded Bhera, Sialkot, and Lahoreâ€”he showed his definite intention to conquer Hindustan, where the political scene favoured his adventure. By April he was in control of Delhi and Agra and held the keys to conquer Hindustan. When Afghan risings turned him to the east, he had to fight, among others, the joint forces of the Afghans and the sultan of Bengal in at Ghagra, near Varanasi. He died near Lahore in December Still, discernible in his efforts are the beginnings of the Mughal imperial organization and political culture. He introduced some Central Asian administrative institutions and, significantly, tried to woo the prominent local chiefs. He also established new mints in Lahore and Jaunpur and tried to ensure a safe and secure route from Agra to Kabul. Thereafter he conquered Malwa and Gujarat , but he could not hold them. He lost touch with Delhi and Agra, and, because his brother Hindal began to openly behave like an independent ruler at Agra, he was obliged to leave Gaur , the capital of Bengal. He did not feel strong enough to defend Agra, and he retreated to Bilgram near Kannauj , where he fought his last battle with Sher Khan, who had now assumed the title of shah. The armed clans of his nobility owed their first allegiance to their respective chiefs. These chiefs, together with almost all the male members of the royal family, had a claim to sovereignty. There was thus always a lurking fear of the emergence of another centre of power, at least under one or the other of his brothers. He carried out a new and equitable revenue settlement, greatly improved the administration of the districts and the parganas groups of villages , reformed the currency, encouraged trade and commerce, improved communication, and administered impartial justice. Islam Shah, preeminently a soldier, was less successful as a ruler than his father. Palace intrigues and insurrections marred his reign. He had been preparing since the death of Islam Shah to recover his throne. In December he crossed the Indus River and marched to Lahore, which he captured without opposition the following February. He thus regained the throne of Delhi after an interval of 12 years, but he did not live long enough to recover the whole of the lost empire; he died as the result of an accident in Shermandal in Delhi January His death was concealed for about a fortnight to enable the peaceful accession of his son Akbar, who was away at the time in the Punjab.

Chapter 8 : Mughals - Europa Universalis 4 Wiki

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What are the causes for the decline of the Mughal Empire? The Mughal Empire, which had reached its zenith during the rule of Shah Jahan and his son, began to decline after the rule of Aurangzeb. In fact, the decline began during the last days of Aurangzeb. There were many causes for the downfall of this great dynasty. Let us view the causes that hastened the fall of the Mughal Empire after Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb was largely responsible for the downfall of the empire. His predecessors did a lot to win over the loyalties of their subjects, particularly the Rajputs and the Hindus. But Aurangzeb was a fanatic and could not tolerate the non-Muslims. He imposed *jazia* and forbade the celebration of Hindu festivals. He thus lost the friendship and loyalty of the Rajputs. His execution of the Sikh guru and his enmity with the Marathas forced them to raise arms against him. His excessive obsession with the Deccan also destroyed the Mughal army, the treasury and also adversely affected his health. Being a fanatic Sunni Muslim, he could not tolerate even the Shias. They too turned against him. He laid too much stress on simplicity and was against singing, dancing and drinking which were common habits of the Muslim nobles. They did not like a king who was so much against their ways. The successors of Aurangzeb were both weak and incompetent. The later Mughals spent more time in their harems and in pleasure and soon lost control of the states. No Definite Law of Succession: The Mughals did not follow any definite law of succession. After the death of every emperor, there ensued a bloody war of succession amongst his sons. Each one, used nobles and members of the royal family to get the throne thereby dividing the nobles who fought for their self-interest only. Nobles resorted to conspiracies and made the Mughal power weak and vulnerable. The economic stability of the empire was ruined because of the constant wars. Some of the wars did not add even an inch to the Mughal Empire. Besides this, the Mughal rulers spent lavishly on buildings and monuments. Finally, the foreign invasions completely shattered the economy. Moral Degradation of the Soldiers: An excess of wealth and luxury made the Mughal army lazy, corrupt and inefficient. The soldiers and the generals became pleasure loving and easygoing. Often they proved to be disloyal. Now they could not even go to the battlefield without their train of attendants and women. Sometimes they only fought for money and easily succumbed to bribes. Rise of New Powers: New powers such as the Sikhs, Jats and Marathas came onto the scene. Gradually they broke off from the Mughal domination and established their own independent states. Coming of the Europeans: The Europeans, especially the British, played an important role in putting an end to the Mughal Empire. They first obtained a freeman to trade with India, but gradually began interfering in Indian politics and gradually set up a British empire in India that lasted for years. Not only were the Indians defeated but their weakness was exposed and India became as easy prey to other foreign powers too. Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru, had organized the Sikhs into a military force. After his death, his disciple Banda Bahadur carried on his his struggle against the Mughals. However, Banda was finally captured and put to death in during the reign of Farukh Siyar. But the invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali gave the Sikhs a fresh opportunity to once again challenge the authority of the Mughals. They organized themselves into small groups known as *misls*. These *misls* were twelve in number and each one had a leader. By the end of the eighteenth century, Ranjii Singh, however, brought them together and founded a Sikh kingdom. He brought the entire area to the west of the Sutlej under his control. Under Ranjit Singh, the Sikhs power reached the zenith of its glory, but his death was followed by an internal struggle for power. The Rajputs The Rajputs were strong military-like warriors but they had a major drawback in that they never organized themselves into a single power. They were constantly at war with each other. Even after the fall of Aurangzeb, they failed to rise to the occasion and grab power. The royal patronage that they received during the days of Akbar was now lost. The most important ruler of this period was Sawai Raja Jai Singh of Jaipur who built the Pink city and also the astronomical observatories. But during the eighteenth century, the Rajputs became very weak due to the rise of the Sikhs, Jats and the Marathas.

The Mughal Empire in India was established by Babur. Babur, a descendant of two of history's most famous figures - Timur and Genghis Khan, was the first Mughal ruler to acquire territory in India, his grandson, Akbar is considered to be the one to truly establish Mughal rule.

What are the causes of the Decline and Fall of the Mughal Empire? The Mughal Empire of India was no exception. It declined for various reasons. The following were the main causes of its decline. The Vastness of the Empire: The Mughal Empire is growing in size from the time of Akbar. With the conquest of the South by Aurangzeb, it covered almost all India from Kashmir to river Kaveri and from Kabul to Chittagong it became too vast to be governed from one center at the command of one man. The Empire therefore began to sink under its own weight. There were no systems of democratic decentralization in those days. The provincial Government looked to the emperor for orders. The burden of administration grew with the growth of the Empire. Its success depend only the ability of the Emperor. The stability of the Emperor depended on the support of the people. India was primarily a land of the Hindus. Without their loyalty and court-operation, stability was impossible. Akbar realized this need from the beginning of his rule. He won over the Hindus by his liberal policies. He employed them in higher services. Some of them were given highest positions. His successors followed that wise policy. As long as the people were loyal, the empire was strong. But Aurangzeb reversed his system. His religious regulations became painful to Hindus. As a result, the majority population withdrew their court-operation. Their revolt broke out. The Jats, Bundelas, and Satnamis heralded an era of unrest. Similarly, his Rajput policy proved disastrous. The strongest supporters of the empire became its worst enemies Rajput war threw the Empire into turmoil, pointing to serious consequences. The Maratha War in the Deccan continued till the death of Aurangzeb. His absence from the north for long 26 years was his biggest blunder. The Empire lost men and money endlessly. It also lost its power and prestige. Administration declined in Northern India. In the long run, the Deccan the saw the death of the Emperor as well as the decline of the Empire. The Mughal Dynasty suffered from a grave internal problem. Sons revolted against fathers to capture the throne. Brothers fought the wars of succession. Jahangir, as prince Salim, revolted against his father Akbar. Shah Jahan revolted against Jahangir. Aurangzeb revolted against Shah Jahn. The fratricidal wars among the brothers were of a more serious nature. Shah Jahn killed his brother. Aurangzeb came to the throne by killing his brothers. After him, the wars of succession came in quick interval. The disease became more serious. For a Mughal Prince, there were only two alternatives, namely, either the throne or the coffin. As they fought rapid wars, the Empire lost its vitality quickly. No Emperor among the later Mughals could rule in peace. The Emperors after Aurangzeb are called the latter Mughals. These later Mughal Emperor are weak and worthless. They could not save the Empire from rapid decline. Aurangzeb was succeeded by his son Bahadur Shah. He came to the throne after the bloody battle with other brothers. He was too old to rule effectively, and died within five years. The next emperor Jahandar Shah came to the throne by killing his three brothers. He was a worthless man. He ruled at the advice of a dancing girl named Lal Kumari. The contemporary historian Khafi Khan wrote: It was a fine time for minstrels and singers and all the tribes of dancers and actors. Another useless man, Farrukhsiyar became a puppet in hands of two Sayyid Brothers who became the Kingmakers. Within a short time, Farrukhsiyar was blinded and killed pitilessly by the kingmakers. More unworthy men were made Emperors. The story of such tragedies continued. The Mughal Empire broke down because of such successors. Weakness of the Nobility: The Mughal nobles of earlier times formed a brave class of royal supporters. They were good fighters and advisers. But degeneration gradually set in. They became lazy and luxurious. Wealth and power changed their character for the worst. Some of them became too selfish. Some dream of independence. Most of them spent time in plots, conspiracies, and court intrigues. The emperors were too weak to control them. Instead, they became puppets in hands of powerful and ambitious nobles. Worst of all, the nobility got divided into fictions. Grouped as Turanis, Iranis, and Hindustanis, and they quarreled among themselves. A degenerated nobility was largely responsible for the decline of the Empire. Weakness of the Army: When rulers and the nobles became unworthy of their position,

the Mughal army too became weak and inefficient. Days were gone when the soldiers of Babar could suffer extreme hardship only the Indian soil. The armies of the later Mughals had no vigor, courage or capability for bigger military role. Their generals became lazy and pleasure loving. Though big in size, the Mughals army could not show its strength in the Rajput or the Maratha war even under Aurangzeb. The military weakness became a potential cause of the decline of the Mughals Empire. Independence of Provincial Rulers: Under the later Mughals, the bigger subhas, or provinces virtually became independent. Provinces like Oudh and Bengal passed under powerful rulers to paid nominal respect to Delhi. But, in reality, they ruled their provinces like independent kingdoms. The emperors helplessly saw the reduction of their territory to a very small area around Delhi.