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Return of Humayun

Humayun in Sind

In the **Battle of Kannauj in 1540**, Sher Shah Suri put the Mughal Empire to a temporary end.

Exiled Humayun reached Sind via the deserts of Thar; where he lived for 3 years. Here, he fell in love with **Hamida**, a 15 year old girl, who was daughter of a sheikh of his brother. In 1542, on October 15, Hamida gave birth to Akbar (Jalal), who would become the most adorable emperor of India, only after Asoka.

From Lahore, he sent a message to Sher Shah that he has left Hindustan for him, leave Lahore alone and keep Sirhind (Punjab) as border between the two (Humayun and Sher Shah). But the formidable Afghan Lion roared that he left him Kabul and he should go there.

Hindal, one of Humayun's brothers was in Lahore. Kabul was under his brother Kamran Mirza.

Intrigue by Kamran

Kamran as we discussed in previous module, was against his elder brother right since the times of their father. Kamran tried to make a proposal to Sher Shah to be in his side against Humayun if he gives him Punjab. Sher Shah did not pay attention to this "worthless" proposal.

Thus, Humayun's own brother turned openly against him. Humayun was advised to take action and send his brother Kamran to another world, but this magnanimous elder brother refused to do so, for, his father's last words were to not to harm his brothers, even if they deserve so. Hindal was now loyal to him, but Kamran and Akasari planned to attack him. There was no help from the Amir of Sind.

Rao Maldeo Returns Humayun

There was a request & invitation sent to Humayun by **Rao Maldeo of Jodhpur** to make an ally against Sher Shah, but when Mal Deo got a better idea about the weakness of Humayun, he better must stay away from the "sapless" Mughal. Further, Sher Shah was now offering him better terms.

When Humayun was around fifty miles from Jodhpur, he was given a message that Rao Maldeo does not like to meet him. Humayun had to revert his troops, his horses, camels, and his wife Hamida who was in 4 or 5th month of pregnancy in the Deserts of Rajasthan to go back to pavilion in May 1542, the hottest season of the year.

The horse of Hamida died in the desert and Humayun rode Hamida on a Camel, eating berries, without water and without hopes. This was the ebb of the tide -lowest point of Humayun's career.

Exile in Persia

After birth of Jalal or Jalaluddin Akbar in October 1542, the 34 year exiled emperor of Delhi was left with no options that to take refuse to his half brothers Kamran and Aksari. Before that he had sent Hindal to reach Kamran. Kamran had placed Hindal in house arrest, because he did not read *Khutba* in his brother's name. When Humayun was approaching, Kamran sent Akasari to approach him mid way and eliminate him. This led him to flee to Persia as a not-so-welcome guest of influential Shah of Iran (Persia) Tahmasp -I.

Added by Shah of Persia, he was able to win Kandahar from his brother Akasari. In 1547, he took Kabul from unpopular Kamran in a bloodless takeover. From here, the rise of Humayun began.

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End of Kamran

Kamran fled to Delhi to plot another intrigue with **Islam Shah Suri**, son and successor of Sher Shah. Islam Shah, a true afghan, arrested this shrewd Mughal and asked his trusted advisor Hemu to take him to Kabul and hand over to Humayun. After that Kamran was blinded, and later died in Mecca – blinded and deserted.

Humayun was now sitting over almost same territories as his father was 15 years back before conquest of Delhi.

Death of Sher Shah Suri

The reign of Sher Shah was just 5 years from 1540-45 though, one of the most impressive reigns.

In May 1545, when he was campaigning against the Chandel Rajputs in Bundelkhand (Kalinjer), a gunpowder explosion fatally wounded him and thus this Afghan Tiger lost his life in Bundelkhand, laying wounded in his tent and worrying about the future of his wise schemes.

Islam Shah Suri

Sher Shah was succeeded by **Jalal Khan**, his son who ascended the throne with title **Islam Shah Suri**.

✍ At Sasaram, Islam Shah Suri built a 122 ft Tomb for his late father.

✍ We get the information about the period of Sher Shah in **Tarikh-i-Sher Shahi**, which was written by **Abbas Khan Sarwani**, one of the historians of Akbar.

The succession was not so easy and followed by a struggle in two brothers Islam Shah and Adil Khan. Adil Khan was defeated and exiled. Since Adil Khan was supported by some of the Nobles, the nobles became victims of wrath of Islam Shah.

Islam Shah was a true Muslim as his title suggested.

✍ Islam shah is best known for "Codifying the Laws" for the first time. Thus, in justice and judiciary, he was one step ahead of his father Sher Shah.

His reign was of 9 years till 1554, when he died of some disease. His successor was his son Firoz Shah, a 12 year child, got soon assassinated by Muhammad Adil Shah.

Muhammad Adil Shah

Adil Shah was a debauched brute who left the real power in his trusted Hindu Vazir **Hemu**. There was a struggle among all the Suri cousins such as Sikandar Shah and Ibrahim Shah. Now the Suri Empire was divided into four Suris, none of them was important.

Return of Humayun and Death

In 1555, Humayun descended from Kabul with some 15000 horses and routed Sikandar Suri in Punjab. He proceeded further and took easy possession of Delhi and Agra. His son Akbar was sent to pursue the fugitive Afghans. Humayun was now back in power. He had enjoyed the Throne of Delhi merely for 6 months that one day he slipped down the polished stairs of his palace and died at the age of 49. *Humayun tumbled throughout his life and so easily tumbled out of it.*

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Akbar, the Great 1556-1605

The reign of Akbar for almost half a century is known as the Golden Period of the Mughal Empire. Akbar was the true founder of the Mughal Empire, but it took him more than two decades to bring Hindustan under his subjection.

When Humayun died of the fatal accident, he was mere 13. The territories under him were Punjab and Delhi only. The Afghans still rocked in Bihar, Bengal and Ganga Valley. Rajputs were independent in Rajasthan. India was being ruled by countless chiefs in separate principalities. Kabul remained a separate kingdom under his brother Hakim. Only a small part of Deccan was taken in his entire life.

When his father died, he was in midst of a war with Sikandar Shah at Sirhind. At Kalanaur in Punjab, the 13 year old boy was enthroned by **Bairam Khan** in January 1556 and was proclaimed *Shahanshah*. Bairam Khan became his protector and co-regent till he comes of his age.

Bairam Khan

Bairam Khan, the old Turkman officer was from Badakhshan and his father as well as grandfather was in service of Babur. He was one of the powerful statesmen in the court of Mughals, who truly realized the divided and leaderless state of India and assisted in establishment of Mughal Empire. He was a centerpiece of the Akbar's conquests till second Battle of Panipat.

- ✍ Bairam Khan was a Persian poet and wrote verses in Chagatai, Persian and Turkish.
- ✍ He was father of the celebrated Abdul Rahim Khan-i-khana, the popular **Rahim**, a poet of Bhakti Era, one of the 9 jewels of Akbar and translator of ***Baburnama*** from Chagatai to Persian.

The last of Suris

The 12 year old son of Islam Shah Suri had been killed by Muhammad Adil Shah. Adil Shah as mentioned above was a debauched beast, who captured the throne of Delhi. But there was a revolt in Agra by one more Sur with the name Ibrahim. This Ibrahim defeated Adil Shah and became Emperor Ibrahim Shah Suri. But all of these suris were controlling separate territories, the broken slices of empire of Sher Shah as follows:

1. Delhi and Agra were now under Ibrahim Shah Suri
2. Agra to Bihar was under the defeated Adil Shah Suri.
3. Another comrade Ahmad Khan Suri, who styled himself as Sikandar Shah Suri took Punjab (Sirhind)
4. One more fellow Muhammad Khan Suri was now sovereign king of Bengal.

Hemu

But this division of empire did not end the rivalry among these Afghan rookies. Men of Sikandar Shah were able to swipe Ibrahim Shah out of Delhi and took possession of Delhi & Agra. The able prime minister of Adil Shah named **Hemu** appeared in the scene, defeated the Lodis, advanced to Bengal and killed Muhammad Khan Suri.

When Humayun died, this able Hindu general who, in his early life was a small time shopkeeper in Rewari in Haryana was in Bengal. He returned and defeated **Tardi Beg**, the general of Mughals in Agra and then advanced to crush the Mughal forces in Delhi. He defeated the Mughals at Delhi and styled himself with the historic title of "**Raja Hemachandra Vikramaditya**".

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The news reached Akbar, who had been newly proclaimed the “*Shahanshah*” at Sirhind, was struggling with Sikandar Shah. Sikandar Shah had been driven to the mountains and now Akbar was to fight this new Hindu threat “Hemu”. Akbar had the veteran general Bairam Khan at his side, who advised him to march Delhi and face Hemu.

Second Battle of Panipat 1556

On fifth of November 1556, the armies of Akbar and Hemu met at Panipat, where 30 years back Babur had overthrown the Afghan Power, and where 200 years later the British swept away the Marathas.

Hemu was initially successful against the Mughals, but the archers of the Mughals were standing firm, harassing the enemy with the shower of arrows. One lucky (or unlucky) arrow pierced the eye of the Hindu leader and he became unconscious. There was no one next in the line to take up the command and the masterless crowd dispersed in all directions.

Hemu, one more hope of the Hindu Kingdom, was driven unconscious straight in the presence of Akbar and Bairam Khan invited the young boy to flesh his sword on this dying infidel. Akbar cried “How can I strike a man who is as good as dead?” Bairam had no such misgivings and dispatched the wounded King to the other world by his own sword. The beheaded Hemu was the last Hindu to sit on the throne of Delhi.

Akbar, after meeting this challenge was now king of the northwest corner of India plus Delhi. He was now the undisputed master of 1500 war elephants of Delhi. He re-engaged Sikandar Shah soon and made him to surrender. Sikandar was not killed and was exiled to Bengal. In next few years Gwalior and Jaunpur were captured.

End of Bairam Khan

Akbar took the reign in his own hands in 1560. He got chafed under the masterful management of the general Bairam Khan, whose severity had been seen in some loathsome executions.

The politics of palace changed Akbar's mind against this old tutor, who had not yet realized that his young student was no more a child. Akbar's wet nurse named **Maham Anaga**, who was also known as his foster mother wished to use her power to undermine the esteem of Bairam and was successful in that.

Akbar publicly announced that he has taken the reign in his hand, deposed Bairam Khan and sent orders for him to go for Haj - the temporary banishment. Bairam left for Gujarat to take a boat for the pilgrimage in Arabia but was instigated by some of the foolish Muslim counselors to revolt against Akbar. He followed their advice and got defeated by the Mughal army and was brought to Akbar, who pardoned him. Now, once more he left for Mecca but before he could reach Gujarat, he was assassinated by the Afghans in revenge.

Maham Anaga & Petticoat Government

The "petticoat government" under Maham Anaga did triumph for a moment. She acted almost as prime minister for a while as her devotion to her foster son Akbar made her invaluable to him. But, her hopes were wrapped up in her own son **Adham Khan**, who was pushed forward by her to the high command.

Adham Khan was filled with more pride than loyalty. He was sent to invade Malwa in 1561 along with Pir Muhammad Khan, another general. Baz Bahadur, the sultan of Malwa was defeated in the battle of Sarangpur and Adham Khan tried to get his lover Rani Roopmati, who after taking some time to invite him inside her chamber, poisoned herself to death. Only a part of the booty was sent to Akbar and rest he kept

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with himself. Miffed Akbar marched to Sarangpur and seized the spoils. His cup was full when, out of envy, he killed *Shams-ud-Din Muhammad Ataga Khan*, Akbar's one of the favorite generals and then stood on the gate of Akbar's harem looking inside as if he was standing in a wildlife sanctuary. ☺

He was thrown twice from the roof of the Palace, and dispatched to the heaven. The news of his death was given by Akbar to his mother, thus broken her heart. She survived but only for 40 days. Akbar got rid of both the mother and son.

Jodha

Salima Sultan, widow of his trusted general and tutor became the queen of Akbar after he was sent for the pilgrimage and died midway. Prior to her, Akbar had a childless Ruqaiyya Begum as her first wife. The third chief wife of Akbar - **Hira Kunwari**, recorded in Muslim books as *Mariyam Zamani Begum* and popular now as "Jodha", was daughter of **Raja Bharmal of Amber** with whom he married in 1562.

Harem of Akbar

Akbar's union with the Rajput princes marked a new policy. Her father Bharmal was decorated with the (*Mansabdar*) highest rank of the official aristocracy, the general of 5000 horsemen.

The bride was allowed to freely exercise the rites of her own faith Hinduism, marking the religious toleration of Akbar. Later he took other women Hindus, Persians, Muslim, Armenian in his harem, till the number rose to 5000, looks like he wanted to make a parliament of religions☺.

Abolition of Jazia

The immediate result with alliance with the Rajput princes was that in 1562 Jazia, the tax which the *victorious followers of prophet charged upon the infidels* was abolished. Next in line was abolition of the tax on Hindu Pilgrims, on the base that there should be *no obstacles in the way of Man's service to the God*.

✍ The detested Jazia and the pilgrim tax thus abolished during the time of Akbar were reemployed only during the times of **Aurangzeb**, uprooting the judicious system imposed by his great grandfather.

But Akbar did not hesitate in interfering in the Hindu practices that offended the sense of humanity - such as Child marriage, animal sacrifice, permission to widows to remarry etc. He was against the burning of widows, though, abolishing sati wholly was beyond his power.

Rajput Policy – Udai Singh & winning Chittor

Udai Singh was the youngest and posthumous son of Rana Sanga. He had sheltered Baz Bahadur, the king of Malwa when was driven by the imperial army. When other Rajas came and tendered their fealty to the Mughal Emperor, Udai Singh was aloof and was securing his fortress of Chittor.

Background: Rana Sanga died in 1528. He was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Rana Ratan Singh, who was assassinated in 1531. Ratan Singh was succeeded by his brother Rana Vikramaditya Singh. During Vikramaditya Singh's reign, Sultan of Gujarat Bahadur Shah attacked Chittor in 1534.

In 1537, Banbir killed Vikramaditya and usurped the throne. He tried to kill Udai Singh also, but Udai's nurse *Panna Dhai* sacrificed her own son to save him from his uncle Banbir and took him to Kumbhalgarh.

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Udai Singh lived in secret in Kumbhalgarh for two years, disguised as a nephew of the governor Asha Shah. He defeated Banvir at Mavli. In 1540, he was crowned in Kumbhalgarh by the nobles of Mewar. His eldest son Rana Pratap was born in the same year 1540. Shakti Singh, Jagmal and Viramdeo were his other sons.

In 1542, Udai Singh gave refused to Baz Bahadur, the king of Malwa who was defeated by the Mughal army of Akbar.

✍ Rani Rupmati was a Hindu Rajput singer of Malwa and lover of Sultan Baz Bahadur.

Rupamati was captured by the Mughals and she poisoned herself, bringing a fatal end to an eternal love story.

The refuge to Baz Bahadur was a costly affair for Udai Singh. Akbar attacked Mewar in 1567. Udai Singh, left Chittor and went to Gogunda. Chittor was left in hands of his loyal chieftains **Jaimal & Patta**, who died in the Mughal campaign. Rajput ladies performed third Jauhar at this time.

✍ Udaipur was founded in 1559.

Akbar Captured Chittor in 1568. Udai Singh died in Gogunda in 1572. He nominated his son Jagmal, but the nobles placed Rana Pratap on throne.

The fall of Chittor was followed by two other famous forts of Ranthambore and Kalinjer, which secured allegiance of Akbar. *The feel good factor was cemented by Akbar by marrying other princess, the daughter of Raja of Bikaner – Kalyanmal, who along with his son Ram Singh entered into the service of Akbar.*

Rajput Policy – Rana Pratap

Rana Pratap never accepted Akbar as ruler of India, and fought Akbar all his life. Akbar first tried diplomacy to win over Maharana Pratap but nothing worked. *Pratap maintained that he had no intention to fight with Akbar but he could not bow down to Akbar and accept him as the ruler.*

✍ Pratap stopped the *marriage etiquette of Rajputs who had been giving their daughters to Mughals.*

✍ Chittor was under Mughal and Pratap was a *king without capital.*

Almost all of Pratap's fellow Rajput chiefs had entered into the allegiance with Mughals. Pratap's brothers, Shakti Singh and Sagar Singh, were also serving Akbar. Many Rajput chiefs, such as Raja Man Singh of Amber were serving as army commanders in Akbar's armies and members of his council. Akbar sent a total of six diplomatic missions to Pratap, seeking to negotiate the same sort of peaceful alliance that he had concluded with the other Rajput chiefs. Pratap roundly rebuffed every such attempt displaying his self-respect and honor.

Battle of Haldi Ghati 1576

This culminated in Battle of Haldi Ghati on June 21, 1576. It was a decisive victory for Akbar's chieftain Man Singh.

✍ Battle of Haldighati was called Battle of Thermopylae of Rajasthan by Col. Todd.

✍ Abul Fazal called this war as "Battle of Khamnaur"

✍ Badayuni called this war as "Battle of Gogunda"

After this battle Rana Pratap continued Guerilla warfare against Akbar. His Son Amar Singh fought 17 wars with the Mughals but he conditionally accepted them as rulers in 1615. This was the terminating end of Freedom of Mewar.

Other Conquests

From 1572 to 1573, Akbar could win Gujarat. Khan-i-Azam Mirza was appointed as Subedar of Gujarat. In 1574-75 he won Bengal. In 1581, he marched towards Afghanistan to suppress a revolt. By 1595, he had taken Kashmir, Sind, Orissa and Kandahar. In the Deccan, only Khandesh, Berar and parts of Ahamednagar were annexed.

✍ Buland Darwaja at Fatehpur Sikri was erected by him to commemorate the victory over Gujarat.

The battles of Akbar were just like other battles, but there was a great difference. *Akbar had a sovereign quality of mercy to those who submitted and his care that the passage of the troops should not ruin the troops. The assimilation of Hindu chiefs was one of the most striking features of his reign. When its climax, the empire of Akbar reached from Bay of Bengal to Kandahar rubbing soldiers with Persia and Kashmir to Narmada, touching the formidable Deccan Kingdoms.* The empire was almost equal in area with that of Alauddin, but expansion its foundations were utterly stronger than that of the Khalji tyrant. It was not subdued with sword but was done with the utter help of the wiling Hindu chiefs. Another major difference was that this expansion of Akbar's empire went hand-in-hand with the nifty administration. The central government did not interfere so long as revenue did not suffer.

Akbar allowed no oppression by his officers. Large number of Hindus employed under Akbar.

Raja Todar Mal

Raja Todar Mal, a Khatri Rajput had served his youth under the administration of Sher Shah Suri and had gained priceless experience in management of Land and revenues. He assisted Akbar's chancellor of exchequer Muzafar Khan first and then took part in suppression of Ali Kuli in 1566.

✍ Raja Todar Mal was the First Hindu which was sent to lead the Mughal Army. This was particularly because of Akbar's suspicion that a Muslim may act in collusion with the rebel enemy.

✍ After that Raja Todar Mal was employed settling the revenue system of Gujarat and then again given the military command to win Bengal.

He became the finance officer (*Mushrif-i-Diwan*) of Akbar in 1575 and **Diwan-i-kul** (Chief Finance Minister) in 1582 and introduced the reforms also known as **Todar Mal's rentroll**, the book of land records in Mughal Empire. He died in 1587.

Land measurements

The reforms introduced by Raja Todar Mal touched the life of the people in the Mughal empire. Akbar had abolished Jazia, Pilgrim tax and other 50 minor duties. The objective of revenue system had to levy a fair rent on the land which should on one hand support the administration and other hand not unduly burden the cultivators.

The basis of the land revenue system was that peasant was the owner of the soil and state is entitled to the surplus produce. First a fixed system of menstruation was adopted and then land was surveyed and classified under the following 4 categories:

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1. **Polaj:** The land is cultivated every year
2. **Parauti:** The fallow land that was cultivated every one or 2 years
3. **Chachar:** The fallow land that was cultivated every 3-4 years
4. **Banjar:** The land that has not been cultivated for last 5 years.

The land was assessed and the revenue was to be paid as per the cultivation. This represented a complete departure from the earlier Muslims who charged *more with the "infidels"*.

Dahasala System

Todar Mal introduced the Dahasala or Zabati system. In this system, probably the land cultivation and price of the produce was calculated for 10 years and one tenth of this part was the part of state for one year. This was called **Ain-i-Dahsala**, the new system that could give per Bigha Revenue to the different regions.

✍ The Dahasala system was introduced Akbar in 1580-82

The correct details about the Dahasala system is not known but most scholars believe that following procedure was followed in Dahasala system:

1. Average produce of 10 years was derived first.
2. Average prices prevailing over the last 10 years was calculated
3. $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of this average produce was fixed in Rupees per Bigha and that was the share of the state. Rest $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ was left to the cultivators.

It's worth note that Pargana was the largest unit of fiscal administration in Akbar's time. There was an improvement also in Dahasala when the local prices of each Pargana started being taken into account. So -

✍ The peasants had to pay their taxes as per the locally produced crops and locally prevailed prices.

This system was applied in almost all territories of Akbar.

✍ The same system was extended in Deccan by **Murshid Quili Khan**. ←

In 1580, Akbar divided the entire kingdom **into 12 Parganas**. The administration in each Suba or Pargana was almost duplicated. Each Suba had a *Subedar* (Governor), a *Diwan*, a *Bakshi*, a *Sadar*, a *Qazi* and also a *waqia navis*. The job of the *waqia navis* was to document the events. The peace and security was the job of *Kotwal*.

Karori / Crori System

All the Parganas and fiscal unions of the nation were to be measured and every piece of land which produced revenue worth 1 crore was to be placed under the officer known as *Crori*. Thus the measurement of the lands in towns, hills deserts, jungles, rivers, reservoirs was started. The measurement began from Fatahpur and first Crori was named Adampur.

*The result was not good as expected. Much of the land was waste and the rapacity of the **croris** was good enough to make the peasants sell their wives and children. The rules were made but were not monitored. Many people lost lives due to torture of the revenue officers.*

Mansabdari System

Mansabdari System was a system introduced by Akbar for military administration and territorial commands (grant and revenue) to sustain parts of army. His experiences led him to conclude that rather than relying in

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the Irani and Turkish nobles, he should also include the Indian Muslims (Sheikhzadas), Afghans and Rajputs in the Mughal army.

The Mughal officers whether Hindus or Muslims were granted territorial commands in return for the military service. They had to bring in some fixed number of **men-at-arms, horses and elephants** to the field and were rated as per the numbers which was known as Zats. So they were called Mansabdars of 10, 20, 100, and 1000 and so on.

☞ Mansingh was the first Mansabdar of 7000 zats and Bhagwan Das with 5000 zats enjoyed the privileged position in the Mansabdari system of Akbar.

But again this system was not perfect. *The greed of the Mansabdars ate all the grant or revenue and no money was left for the soldiers. There was a general corruption that the Mansabdars dressed their kith and kins, servants, dhobis and Malis as soldiers and registered them and send them back to do what they were doing earlier. The weavers and carpenters were hired to obtain a Mansab and become a Crori, and later not a trace of the horse brought by them would be found.*

Office of Diwan

The office of the Diwan was the office of today's minister. It got strengthened in Akbar's reign. The Chief Diwan was called *Diwan-i-kul* and was responsible for revenue and finance. He oversaw the imperial treasury and accounts. The Diwan had to submit a daily report to the emperor.

Mir Bakshi

The office of Mir Bakshi was in existence since Sultanate Era. He was to give appointments and salary letters to the **Mansabs**. The branding of the horses named *Dagh* was under his supervision. He was assisted by other subordinate Bakshis.

Other Offices

Mir Saman was the in charge of Royal workshops (Karkhanas). *Sadr-us Sudur* was to protect the laws of the Shariat. *Qazi-ul-quvvat* was the chief judiciary. The governor of a province (Suba) was a subedar who was directly appointed by the emperor. The usual tenure of Subedar was 3 years.

Introduction of Persian in official works

There was one more feature of Raja Todarmal's system that virtually unified the country. It was enactment that *all the government accounts should be kept in Persian*, rather than Hindi. The study of Persian became necessary and it helped Hindus to learn the Persian language and the Muslims to go hand-in-hand with the "talented" Hindus.

Faizi

We have read that Akbar could not see the validity in the custom that the Hindus should pay more taxes than the Muslims. He also had an insatiable quest in the matters of religion and faith. He was deeply moved by the mystical doctrines of the Persian Sufis which was revealed to him by Faizi and his younger brother Abul Fazal.

Faizi was a Persian poet who he joined Akbar's suite during the seize of Chittor in 1568. In 1588 was given the status of *Malik-ush-Shu'ara* (Court Poet) of Akbar. He was one of the Navratnas of Akbar. Born in Agra to

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a scholar in philosophy and Islamic theology, he was educated mostly by his father. Akbar was impressed by the scholarly aptitude of Faizi and appointed him the tutor of princes *Salim, Murad and Daniyal*.

Badayuni, the contemporary historian says that he composed over 100 poetic works in Persian. The collection of poems by Faizi was entitled **Tabasir al-Subah**, which includes Ghazals, Qasidas (Eulogies), Rubai's and poems. In 1580 he started working on five projects *Nal o Daman*, the *Markaz ul-Advar*, the *Sulaiman o Bilqis*, the *Haft Kishvar* and the *Akbarnama*, out of which only 2 first works were completed.

✍ Faizi also translated "Lilavati", the celebrated Sanskrit work in Maths by Bhaskaracharya, into Persian.

The celebrated work **Akbarnama** was penned by his brother Abul Fazal. ←

Abul Fazal

The real name of *Abu'l-Fazl*, *Abu'l Fadl* and *Abu'l-Fadl 'Allami* was Abu'l-Fazl ibn Mubarak. This gentle and enthusiastic younger brother of Faizi later became a Vazir of Akbar. Abul Fazal was a man of wide culture and pure spiritual ideals. He was also one of the Navratnas in the court of Akbar.

✍ Abul Fazal was the author of Akbarnama, the official history of Akbar's reign in 3 volumes. This book gives the history of Akbar's forefathers from Timur to Humayun and Akbar's reign till 1602.

✍ Third volume of above work is known as **Ain-i-Akbari**, which is the administrative report of Akbar's reign.

☞ Another important work of Abul Fazal was **Ruqa'at**, which is a collection of letters to the princes of Akbar and other contemporaries. It was later compiled by his nephew Nuruddin Muhammad.

☞ Yet another work **Inshā-i-Abu'l Fazl** is the compilation of the letters written by Akbar to various contemporary rulers and nobles. He was also compiled by one relative of Abul Fazal.

Here, please note that one more **Akbarnama** was written in those times by **Shaikh Illahdad Faizi Sirhindi**. This was a derivative work based upon **Tabaqat-i-Akbari**.

✍ **Tabaqat-i-Akbari** was written by **Nizamuddin Ahmad, Mir Bakshi** of Akbar.

Ibadat Khana

It was Abul Fazal who devoted himself to Akbar and encouraged him for debates on doctrinal and philosophical enquiries. Akbar displayed a curiosity in these discussions.

✍ The debate took place in the Ibadat Khana or Hall of Worship.

✍ The Ibadat Khana is now recognized to be the *Diwan-i-Khas*, which was founded in 1574 at the City of Fatehpur Sikri.

✍ It was opened for Sunni Muslims initially and was opened to all religions viz. Sufis, Shias, Christians, Zoroastrians, Hindus and Jains.

Birth of Salim

Akbar was a devout visitor to the holy places and tombs of Muslim saints. One of his prime objects was to secure an heir to the throne. Up to the 14th year of reign, none of his children could survive and he was told to visit a holy man dwelling at Sikri village near Agra.

This holy man **Salim Chisti**, who was one of the descendents of **Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti** of Ajmer promised & blessed Akbar a son.

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Akbar placed his wife **Hura Kunwari** or Jodha under the care of this saint. The Sikri, due to frequent visits of the emperor became a cradle of development activities and numerous palaces were erected.

Salim Chisti set up a new noble Mosque in Sikri and the emperor's people built their palaces near this place. The Sikri village became the town of Fatehpur Sikri.

It was blessing of this holy saint Salim Chisti, that Akbar's first son was safely ushered in this world. Akbar named this child as **Salim**, with due respect to the holy man. This offspring of the Great Mughal and a Rajput Princess later became Emperor Jahangir. The result of this auspicious event in Fatehpur Sikri was that Akbar showered all the taste and art of the age upon the adornment of this blessed town.

Fatehpur Sikri

- ✍ Fatehpur Sikri was the first planned city of the Mughals.
- ✍ It is also the place demonstrating the first heritage of the Mughal architecture, an amalgamation of the Persian, Hindu and Islamic architecture.
- ✍ It was virtually the capital of Akbar from 1571 to 1585. However, later it was abandoned mostly because of the problem of drinking water supply.

Fatehpur Sikri is a world heritage site declared in 1986. The important monuments in Fatehpur Sikri are:

1. **Buland Darwaja** : Built in 1576-77 in commemoration of Akbar's Gujarat Victory.
2. Jama Masjid
3. **Tomb of Salim Chisti**: This is a singular monument encased in white marble encrusted with mother of pearl (Nacre) mosaic. the Jalis in the circumambulation with intricate geometric designs is its special feature.
4. Diwan-i-aam: The hall of public audience
5. Diwan-i-Khas: The hall of private audience.
6. Naubat Khana: the Drum House
7. Panch Mahal: The court for ladies.
8. Birbal's house: the home to the favourite Vazir of Akbar.
9. Anup Talao: A pool

Today, this beautiful city, though a great tourist destination, is a deserted. It was abandoned and ever since has remained the desolate and abandoned city.

☞ A few years back, some Jain & Hindu idols were found which were dated 1010 AD near *the Birbal ka Tila* site which have rise to a hot debate that this beautiful city was actually a great Hindu site, that was vandalized by the great Mughal.

Whatever may be the truth, but palaces, tombs, mosques, baths, lake and everything at Fatehpur Sikri is a great Indian Heritage through which we recognize the grandeur and pomp of Akbar, greatest of Indian emperors.

Debates at Ibadat Khana

It was in this beautiful city of Fatehpur Sikri that Akbar's dream of a universal religion grew into a definite shape. In the **Ibadat Khana**, initially there were disgusting arguments, some of which included a question over character of Hazarat Muhammad. These discussions, rather than clearing Akbar's doubts only increased the insatiable religious quest of the emperor.

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- ✍ These heated arguments, Akbar found that were only to defend the creeds of their own doctrines.
- ✍ In the emperor's eyes, there was a truth in all the faiths but none of the creed had the master key of the Supreme Being.
- ✍ In 1579, **Mahzar Nama** was declared by which the emperor declared that if there were confictions in the views of the debaters, he was entitled to choose any of the interpretations.
- ✍ In 1581 the discussions at the Ibadat Khana were discontinued.

Mahzar Nama

With the *Mahzar Nama*, Akbar pounced upon the dominance of the intolerant orthodox and allowed free development of a genuine religious spirit.

✍ **Mazhar Nama**, which was actually an idea of the father of Abul Fazal and Faizi, set that the authority of the King was higher than that of a **Mujtahid** (doctor of the faith) and if there is a variance, the emperor's decision should be binding on the Muslims of India.

✍ With this edict, Akbar's judgment was set above every legal and religious authority, so it was the promulgation of the doctrine of Imperial infallibility. ←

Din-i-Ilahi

The quest of Akbar culminated in the **Tauhid-i-ialhi** (the divine monotheism) or Din-i-Ilahi, the word **Din** was applied decades later.

✍ In 1582, this religious doctrine which combined mysticism, philosophy and nature worship was propounded by Akbar which recognized no prophets.

Akbar declared himself the spiritual guide of his subjects. His religion Tauhid-i-illahi favored peace and tolerance.

Tauhid-i-illahi prohibits lust, sensuality, slander and pride, considering them sins. Piety, prudence, abstinence and kindness are the core virtues of this religion. The soul is encouraged to purify itself through yearning of God. It respects celibacy and forbade slaughter of animals.

Elements of Din-i-Ilahi

Din-i-Ilahi was an eclectic doctrine that contained elements from very diverse fields. It overthrew almost every ceremonial rule whether Islam or Muslim, but took the good ideas from the Brahmins as well as from the missionaries and adopted "Sun" as a symbol of the worship of the creator. He started a new Illahi era. The new religion proposed:

1. Forbade cow eating
2. Indifference among all Indians
3. Instituted worship of Sun as creator
4. Incorporated the sacred fire adored by the Parsis
5. Encouraged the Havana (*hom sacrifice*) of the Hindus.

The new cult was immediately professed by a small band of the courtiers of Akbar including Faizi, Abul Fazal, Birbal and a few others. But the rest remained indifferent if not hostile.

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This hotchpotch of philosophy, mysticism and nature worship of Akbar's divine faith practically died with him, but left footprints which partially contributed in creation of a nation, that was never a united nation before.

Introduction to Navratnas

1. Abul Fazal:

Abul Fazl was the chronicler of *Akbarnama* in three volumes over seven years, the third volume is known as the *Ain-i-Akbari*.

2. Faizi

Faizi was Abul Fazl's brother, the poet laureate of Akbar. The name of father of Abul Fazal and Faizi was Mubarak Nagori, a scholar in the philosophy and literature of Greece as well as in Islamic theology.

3. Miyan Tansen

Miyan Tansen was born as **Tanna Mishra**, in 1520. He was a disciple of Swami Haridas and later became disciple of *Hazrat Muhammad Ghaus* (Gwalior). He was a court musician with the prince of Mewar and later was recruited by Akbar as his court musician.

4. Raja Birbal

Raja Birbal, a poor Hindu Brahmin **Maheshdas** was appointed to the court of Akbar for his intelligence, and became the court jester. The name Raja Birbal was given by the Emperor. Birbal's duties in Akbar's court were mostly military and administrative.

☞ He was also a poet and his collections under the pen name "Brahma" are preserved in Bharatpur Museum.

☞ Raja Birbal died in battle, in an attempt to subdue unrest amongst Afghani tribes in Northwest India.

5. Raja Todar Mal

Raja Todar Mal, a Hindu Khatri was Akbar's finance minister, who from 1560 onwards overhauled the revenue system in the kingdom.

6. Raja Man Singh

Raja Man Singh, the prince of Amber was a trusted general in Akbar's army and was the grandson of Akbar's father-in-law Bharmal. Raja Man Singh was the foremost (7000 Mansabdari) and ablest among Akbar's military commanders and assisted Akbar in many fronts including holding off advancing Hakim (Akbar's half-brother) in Lahore. He was also the Mughal viceroy of Afghanistan, led campaigns in Bihar, Orissa, Deccan and was also the viceroy of Bengal.

7. Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana

Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana, son of Akbar's trusted general and tutor. Best known for his Hindi couplets

8. Fakir Aziao-Din

Fakir Aziao-Din was a sufi mystic, and an advisor.

9. Mullah Do Piazza

Mullah Do Piazza, an intelligence advisor to Akbar.

The Last Days & Death

The victory over Gujarat and Bengal brought almost all the Hindustan barring decaan, under Akbar's reign. But the Kabul and Afghan was under his disloyal brother Hakim, who had repeatedly revolted. The Badakshan was lost by Akbar in 1585.

✍ Birbal, one of the Navratnas was lost in a battle in 1585 in a disastrous attempt to subdue the Afghans.

When Hakim died, there was a peace in Kabul. Kashmir was annexed to Akbar's empire in 1587 and Kandahar was annexed in 1594.

In 1595, Akbar lost his poet friend Faizi. Two younger princes debauched themselves and were close to their disgraced death. The eldest son Salim, the child of many prayers, was some better but had shown his flagrant rebelliousness more than once.

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The viceroy of Deccan was his prince Murad. Murad was unable to subdue the rebellion in Berar and he was recalled. Then Abul Fazal was given the command of the army in 1599 to re-win the Deccan. He himself went to Deccan to win the formidable Deccan sultanates.

Akbar was able to win Ahamednagar earlier defended by Chand Bibi. Chand Bibi or Chand Sultana was the ruler of Bijapur (1580-90) and Ahamednagar (1596-99). She was wife of Ali Adil Shah-1 of the Bijapur sultanate.

The fort of Aligarh was won in 1600. This was the climax of the career of Akbar.

When he was in Deccan, his son Salim revolted at Agra and declared himself the emperor. Akbar hastened to Agra to restore peace, the peace was restored but Salim was not subdued.

It is believed that Akbar wanted his eldest grandson, **Khusru Mirza**, the son of Salim to make his heir apparent. But he finally entrusted the sword in the hands of Salim, the only surviving son.

☞ It was in 1602, that Salim, out of enviousness to the influence of Abul Fazal, got him assassinated while he was returning from Deccan.

This was the last sorrow, which never allowed Akbar to recover from the shock. The worthless family hastened his end and the shameless intrigues for his successions started within the family in front of himself.

In the most adverse circumstances, Akbar was led to sick unto death. On October 29, 1605, this noblest King of India died. He was succeeded by Salim, as **Nur-ud-din Salim Jahangir**.

Jahangir 1605-1627

Salim, who had more than once openly rebelled against his father, sat the throne 8 days after death of Akbar in 1605 as **Nuruddin Jahangir**, the conqueror of the world.

Salim, the child of many prayers, born under the superstitious spell of a mystic saint was a pampered baby, who grew as an indolent, self indulgent and indifferent personality. He gave his father the terminating shock by killing Abul Fazal in 1602. He was of a violent temperament and like his other two despicable brothers Murad and Daniyal, he was a notorious and drunkard.

☞ The coin in which he has been engraved with a wine cup in his hand is a testimony to his habit as a habitual drunkard.

However, when he ascended the throne, he was a man of 37 years and had become "mature". He continued to be sober in the day time and introduced famous regulations such as forbidding sale of wine and even tobacco. He was able to control his calumnious habit under the influence of his beautiful, talented and judicious 20th wife **Nur Jahan**, the light of the world.

Restoration of Mohammeden Faith

☞ This son of a philosopher King and a Rajput princess professed himself as a Muslim and restored the Mohammeden faith and Hijra Chronology (on coins) his father had abandoned.

But, like his father, he was tolerant towards Hindus and equally tolerant towards the Christians. He continued to marry the princesses of the Rajput aristocrats.

-: About this document:-

The Justice Bell

☞ He was active in redressing the grievance of the people and had a chain and bell attached to the gate of his palace in Agra, so that all who wished to appeal to him could ring him up. However, it is not clear, who was eligible to ring the emperor up.

Rebellion of Khusru

Khusrau Mirza was Jahangir's eldest son and was a favorite of his grandfather Akbar. He was offspring of Jahangir and his Kachhawa princess. In 1606, this energetic, popular and sober young man Khusru left Agra for Sikandara with 350 men at horse and instead of paying tributes to his grandfather; he went to Mathura where one Hussain Beg joined him with some 3000 horses. From there the combined force proceeded towards Lahore, at Panipat Abdur Rahim joined him, who was Subedar of Lahore.

On midway, at **Taran Taran** he sought blessings of the **5th Sikh Guru Arjun Dev** and laid the siege of Lahore. But the impeccable prince got defeated by the Mughal army and was captured, imprisoned at Agra and blinded later by one of his half brothers Khurram (Shah Jahan), who later dispatched him, to the "other world". The hostility towards Sikhs never disappeared for rest of the Mughal Empire.

12 Decrees

Jahangir is known for his pompous display of the Justice. He enacted 12 regulations that show his liberalism and judiciousness. He is known for prohibition of some extortion type of cesses such as *Tamga* and controlling the merchants by an enactment which forbade them not to open bales without permission from the government.

Queens

Out of the 800 concubines of Jahangir in his Harem we know much better about three ladies.

1. One was *Manbhawati Bai*, daughter of Bhagwan Das of Amber. She gave birth to the rebellious prince **Khusrau Mirza**. The mother had poisoned herself to death amid the turmoil in the family.
2. Another was Princess Manmati (*Taj Bibi, Bilqis Makani*) who was daughter of a raja of Jodhpur (Marwar) . She gave birth to Khurram, the prince who later succeeded Jahangir as Shah Jahan.
3. The third wife was *Nur Jahan* or *Mehr-un-Nisa*, whose number in Jahangir's wives was 20th. She was a widow of an Afghan named **Sher Afghan Quli Khan**, who was killed in amiss by the Mughals.

Jahangir married Nur Jahan in 1611. She is known as the actual ruler when her husband was suffering from the curses of his own habit of drinking too much and using opium. Coins were also struck in her name. After Jahangir died in 1628, she was confined in her palace for rest of her life.

Struggle with Rajputs

Only Maharana Pratap never accepted Akbar's suzerainty. After Rana died in 1597, his son Amar Singh initially kept struggling with the Mughals but finally gave in. He was treated generously and was restored all the kingdoms. This ended the challenges of Mewar forever.

Succession Plots

Jahangir had 4 sons

-: About this document:-

1. Khusru, the guy who rebelled immediately after his father's accession and was blinded and killed by Khurram.
2. Pervez, who was drunkard, to the level of his father and died prematurely.
3. Khurram whom we are talking about, later became emperor Shah Jahan.
4. Shaharyar

Jahangir's eldest son Khusru had openly rebelled in the early days of reign. He was eliminated by his half brother Khurram. Khurram was best general of his time and had overcome the Rajputs and Udaiur and some formidable foes in Deccan. He led successfully the Mewar Campaign (1615), the Deccan Campaign (1617 and 1621), Kangra Campaign (1618).

Nur Jahan, when got married with Jahangir got an opportunity to push forward her brothers and nephews in the Mughal Court. Of them, the most benefitted was her brother **Asaf Khan**. Asaf Khan, the cunning brother of Nur Jahan became against his sister and supported the prince Khurram because; Khurram married his daughter **Arjumand Banu Begum**, the *lady of the Taj*.

Pervez was favorite of his father, but Khurram took the field against his father. He tried to get independent sovereignty in Bengal and Bihar in 1623-24, but submitted. This submission was brought by one of the generals of Mughals Mahabat Khan.

Mahabat Khan and Abduction of Jahangir

Mahabat Khan was a leader of the Rajputs. When there were machinations against his growing power by Nur-Jahan, he came close to Khurram and got against Nur Jahan. When Jahangir was heading towards Kabul, at Jhelum River, he was attacked by the Rajput Forces led by Mahabat Khan.

✍ Jahangir was abducted and there was a battle between the Rajputs forces and Nurjahan. Mahabat Khan was defeated and Jahangir was freed but he became morally sick and died in 1627.

Later Mahabat Khan was appointed as Governor of Ajmer by the emperor Shah Jahan.

Death and Succession

When Jahangir died, Khurram was away in Deccan. So Nurjahan supported and try to make Shaharyar the King. But Asaf, miffed by his sister's action, sent a speedy message to Khurram and set up Khurram's son *Dawar Baksh* as *ad hoc regent*. He attacked Shaharyar and took him as prisoner. Khurram while hastening from Deccan had already sent orders to eliminate Shaharyar. The orders were immediately carried out. Thus Khurram ascended the Mughal Throne with the name Shah Jahan (the King of the world).

When Vasco Da Gama started from Lisbon in 1497, rounded the Cape of Good Hope and landed at Calicut in 1498, the trade with India and the Far East was bound to be passed into the hands of the Portuguese. The old routes had been in the hands of the Arabs since long. From the Cape of Good Hope to China, the entire coastline was guarded with a chain of the Portuguese fortresses and no ship could sail without a passport from the Portuguese.

Arrival of Europeans

Why Europeans were in search of new routes?

Due to the availability of the pepper and various kinds of spices, the ports of Malabar coasts were the heavens for the merchants from all over the world in the ancient as well as medieval times.

-: About this document:-

☞ In this region **Cochin and Calicut had occupied the most important position** in the international Trade.

Calicut was usually flocked by the Muslim and Arab merchants from Aden, Turkey, Persia, Ethiopia, Egypt etc. *Even Chinese maintained a factory in Calicut which was called Chinakotta.* Among the Indians the **Gujarati merchants** were prominent.

Similarly, the trading centers of the South East Asia were flooded with the merchants from all over the world. The **ancient trade routes** were in the hands of the **Arab Muslim** merchants and the used to ship their goods by the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea and so overland to Syria and Egyptian Ports.

The Portuguese Empire in India

☞ Since the trade routes in Seas was free and no one had tried to impose any restriction on the movement of the ships and merchants- except the pirates of the sea, the Portuguese were the first to dominate the sea routes and monopolize them.

However, their aspiration to dominate the east could not stand the test of the times, and forces of history toppled them from almost all parts of India except Goa, Daman & Diu.

Arrival of Vasco da Gama

The fleet of Vasco Da Gama had arrived in India on 20 May 1498 at **Kappad** near Calicut. He was received by the local King of Calicut-styled Zamorin with traditional Indian hospitality. This welcome had Zamorin's own reasons that the Europeans must have brought some gifts for him. The gifts such as hats, cloths, honey, oil etc. were not up to the expectation of the Zamorin. The result was - Vasco had to return without any concrete result. Further, the Zamorin was instigated by the Arabs that he was not a Royal ambassador but only a small time pirate. Thus the first mission of Vasco Da Gamma was an utter failure to the extent that it could not produce any tangible results for the Portuguese.

☞ But it was a **great leap of the Portuguese**, as a **new route** was found which was safe from the rival Arabs.

Pedro Álvares Cabral

☞ Two years later in September 1500, **Pedro Álvares Cabral** sailed to India, who had done a wonder by discovering Brazil on the way.

☞ Pedro established the first Portuguese factory at Calicut.

He was able to make some advantageous treaties with the rulers of Cochin and Cannanore , but at Calicut, his venture precipitated matters with the Arabs. Matters worsened when Cabral notoriously captured several vessels at the port and massacred the crew; the locals and Arabs retaliated by burning down the factory and butchering several Portuguese.

✍ This is known as **Battle of Calicut** in which Cabral was defeated by the Arabs and locals.

Cabral started on the return voyage on 16 January 1501. He arrived in Portugal with only 4 of 13 ships on 23 June 1501, defeated and humiliated.

Return of Vasco

In 1502 Vasco returned India but this time the rulers of Kannur, Cochin and Quilon were sympathetic to him for various reasons. So Vasco Da Gamma decided to lodge among them. Vasco placed a demand that all the Muslims should be expelled from the area, but this demand was turned down.

This started some serious naval fights in the region. Vasco Da Gama was known for his severe cruelty upon the competing traders and inhabitants. He, in India behaved worse than today's Somalia pirates by intercepting a ship of Muslim pilgrims at Madayi, which was on its journey to the Arabia and looted the 400 pilgrims and burnt them to death. This Portuguese pioneer died of Malaria in 1524 in Cochin, when he was in India for a short term under the pompous title of Viceroy.

Francisco de Almeida

In 1503 Francisco de Almeida was appointed the First Governor and Viceroy of the Portuguese India. He was able to erect some fortresses at Cochin, Cannanore, Kilwa and Anjadiva.

The fierce competition for dominance in trade culminated in a battle of the Portuguese with the confederacy of the Egypt, Turkey and Gujarat and in this battle with the Muslims his son's life was at the Harbour of Chaul in India in 1508. He was able to defeat the trio a year later, but before could do any more wonders here, died in 1510

Afonso de Albuquerque

☞ Afonso de Albuquerque was the **second governor of the Portuguese India** and is known as founder of Portuguese colonial empire in India.

We all know that first part of India that was colonized by the Europeans was Goa. It was eventually the last part of India to be liberated from the Europeans.

Afonso de Albuquerque attacked Goa in 1510. The ruler of Goa was the **Sultan of Bijapur Ismail Adil Shah**. Adil Shah was initially able to repeal him but three months later, Afonso de Albuquerque returned and there was a fierce battle in the streets of Goa, claiming the lives of the thousands of Muslim defenders.

☞ Thus Afonso de Albuquerque was able to take possession of Goa in December 1510. The battle was known as **Battle of Goa (1510)**

✍ Afonso de Albuquerque is known to have started the **first Portuguese Mint in the east**. He was able to issue the Gold, Silver and bronze coins which were based upon the local designs but were engraved with the badge of the Portuguese kings.

✍ After Goa, more mints were established at Malacca (Today a city of Malaysia).

Afonso de Albuquerque made Goa is base and from here he conquered Malacca in 1511 and Hormuz in 1515.

☞ Albuquerque was the first Portuguese who was able to suppress the Arab merchandise in Malaysia by winning Malacca in 1511.

After becoming undisputed King of Goa, he concluded a peace treaty with Zamorin and received embassies from other Indians.

☞ At that time, there was superstition of the Portuguese naval officers not to take their wives to the ships. The Portuguese, when established themselves in Goa, started marrying the local ladies and thus from the times of Albuquerque, mixed marriages started in Goa, combining the culture of the east with west.

☞ Albuquerque is also known to have abolished the practice of Sati in Goa.

This wonderful second Governor of Portuguese India was able to conquest Ormuz in 1515, but when he returned after this conquest, he was informed that he has been superseded by Soares de Albergaria, his number 1 enemy at Portugal. He was not able to absorb this shock and died soon afterwards.

Soares de Albergaria

Soares de Albergaria was the third Governor of Portuguese India, who superseded Governor Afonso de Albuquerque in 1515. He continued the Portuguese war against the Arabs and Africans in India and was able to capture Ceylon.

Nuno da Cunha & Treaty of Bassein

The next important Portuguese governor was Nuno da Cunha. Nuno da Cunha was able to bring Mombasa and Mozambique under the Portuguese circle.

During his time, the ruler of Gujarat was Bahadur Shah.

In 1529, Nuno was able to sack Daman and Diu (Damao), which were territories of Bahadur Shah. Later in 1534, he was able to compel Bahadur Shah to sign the **treaty of Bassein**. On the basis of treaty of Bassein, Bahadur shah gave Bassein (modern Vasai and Nallasopara in Mumbai Suburbs) to the Portuguese. But a year later, the Mughals captured Gujarat and Bahadur Shah, in order to purchase the support of the Portuguese, gave them Mumbai and surrounding areas. Thus by 1534, modern Mumbai, Vasai, Virar, Daman & Diu, Surat and entire Goa had gone in the hands of the Portuguese. The defeated Bahadur Shah was killed by his Portuguese friends on a ship and his body was thrown in the Arabian Sea. In 1538, there was another fierce battle with the men of Ottoman Empire and this is known as **Seige of Diu**. Portugal was victorious in this battle.

End of the Portuguese

The Portuguese arrived in India first, but the aspirations to control such as large country was something not their cup of tea. They important areas under the Portuguese in India were Goa, Mumbai, Vasai, Virar, Surat, Hugli, Daman and Diu etc.

- ☞ In 1612, they lost Surat to British, thanks to the efforts of William Hawkins and sir Thomas Roe.
- ☞ In 1631, Hugli was lost Mughals.
- ☞ Bombay was given by the Portuguese to Prince Charles II of England in Dowry in 1661.
- ☞ Bassein was captured by the Marathas in 1739.

Finally, Portuguese were confined in the **Goa, Daman and Diu only**. They retained it till 1961, when the armies of Independent India forced them out.

The age of the heroes for the Portuguese India had passed away with the end of Afonso De Albuquerque who had the same spirit as Dupleix or Lord Clive. But his policy was not continued and the Portuguese empire on Indian soil was abandoned in favor of the other Europeans. The Spanish gave them a death blow in 1580 and the corruption of the nobles led the Portuguese bury themselves in Old Goa. In 1597, the Dutch appeared in the Indies.

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East India Companies

The first East India Company was the British East India Company that was founded in 1600. The term East India Company refers to the following entities.

1. British East India Company, founded in 1600
2. Dutch East India Company, founded in 1602
3. Danish East India Company, founded in 1616
4. Portuguese East India Company, founded in 1628
5. French East India Company, founded in 1664
6. Swedish East India Company, founded in 1731

Why all of them were companies?

The voyages at that time involved higher investments, huge risks of piracy and shipwreck and there was a large fluctuation in not only in the supply (of spices) but also demand (due to competition). So, in Europe, even a single voyage was preceded by formation of a company, which was liquidated when the voyage was over and the shareholders shared the profits or losses as the case was. For the first time, it was British East India Company that was formed by bundling all the forces into monopoly enterprises. The Netherlands government took a step ahead of their British Counterparts and gave all the powers to the company which were required to rule a colony just like a sovereign country.

Dutch East India Company



☞ Dutch East India Company (*Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie* or VOC in Dutch) is considered to be the First Multinational Corporation of the World.

☞ It was also the first company to issue stock.

☞ It was the first company which was given power to engage itself in colonial activities including waging a war and execute the convicts, mint the coins and establish the colonies

This company did wonders in India and Indonesia for 2 centuries but later the pompous acronym of VOC became *Vergaan Onder Corruptie* meaning "marred by the Corruption".

The Dutch East India Company was created in 1602 as "**United East India Company**" and its first **permanent trading post was in Indonesia**.

☞ In India, they established the first factory in Masulipattanam in 1605, followed by Pulicat in 1610, Surat in 1616, Bimilipatam in 1641 and Chinsura in 1653.

☞ In Bengal they established a factory in Pipli, but it was abandoned by the,

The main objective of the Dutch remained aggressive in eliminating the Portuguese and British merchandise powers from India and South East Asia, and they were successful in abandoning the Portuguese as most dominant power in the European Trade.

☞ When the established a factory in Pulicat, in 1610, it became their main center of activities. It was later known as **Fort Geldria**.

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While the Portuguese suffered because of the bad successors of Albuquerque and their severity and intolerance, the Dutch failed due to the rising English and French powers and their corruption. The Government of Netherlands also interfered a lot which ultimately caused the Dutch to get extinct from India.

- ✍ From 1638-1658, the Dutch were able to expel the Portuguese from the Ceylon.
- ✍ In 1641, they occupied Malacca.
- ✍ In 1652, they were able to capture the Cape of Good Hope.

The climax of the Dutch East India Company was in 1669, when it was the richest private company of the world with 150 merchant ships, 40 warships and 50 thousand employees and an army of 10 thousand soldiers.

✍ In India, the most important event was the **Battle of Colachel** in 1741, which was fought between the Dutch East India Company and State of Travancore army. This was a major defeat of a European power in India and marked beginning of the end of the Dutch Influence.

Following the corruption and bankruptcy, the Dutch East India Company was formally dissolved in 1800.

The Dutch influence from India had finished long ago but they were **dominant in Indonesia**. The government of the Netherlands established the Dutch East Indies as a nationalized colony later which was more or less the within the boundaries of the modern Indonesia.

Arrival of British: East India Company



In 1498, the Portuguese Vasco Da Gama arrived to the Coast of Malabar via the sea route. A century later, in 1599, **the first British John Mildenhall came to India** via land route and styled himself as the ambassador of the East India Company. But he was actually sent by the company to sell its goods in the eastern Mediterranean. He deceived his hirers and fled to Persia; and from there he came to India where he was later arrested with the help of the Ajmer Governors, handed over to company people but later released. He again came to India later and reached the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar and had discussions with him.

But since, John Mildenhall was not sponsored by the east India Company, his achievement is considered low profile. It was **William Hawkins** who later came in the court of Jahangir and declared all his dealings null and void.

- ✍ John Mildenhall is the first Englishman whose burial is recorded in India at Agra.
- ✍ John Mildenhall was able to interview with the Mughal emperor Akbar.

Formation of East India Company

The oldest among all the similarly formed European East India Companies, the **East India Company** was granted an English Royal Charter, under the name "*Governor and Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East Indies*" by Queen Elizabeth-I on 31 December 1600. It was a joint stock company and was also known as **John Company**. The name "*Company Bahadur*" in India echoed its authority.

When the company was founded the cradle of commercial activities had already been removed from Mediterranean to Atlantic by Vasco Da Gama *et al.* 1603, Elizabeth I died and **James I** succeeded this last Tudor monarch of England and Ireland. During his time, William Hawkins was sent to the Court of Great Mughal Jahangir.

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- ✍ William Hawkins was the first Englishman ever received by the Emperor of India as the official representative of the King of England.
- ✍ William Hawkins obtained first distinct acknowledgement of the rights of British Commerce in India.

William Hawkins

In 1607, William Hawkins commanded the ship "*Hector*" for East India Company on a voyage to **Surat** and Aden loaded with letters & presents from King of England James I. He arrived in Surat in August 1608, but the road ahead was not a cakewalk.

As soon as *Hector* sailed in, it was captured by the Portuguese. William Hawkins was told that all the ports belong to the "King of Portugal" and none ought to come here without his license. But, he was later let leave and receive a pass for his journey to Agra. He was helped by the Viceroy of the Burhanpur midway and after much labor, toil and many dangers; he was able to reach Agra on April 16, 1609.

Akbar who was contemporary of queen Elizabeth-I was little known in England, but when Hawkins arrived, there was a different personality sitting on the throne who was not at all known in England.

But Captain Hawkins was received by this new emperor Jahangir with all Indian hospitality and warmth. His letter was read in the court with the help of a Portuguese Jesuit. Then he was taken to the private audience chamber and they had a conversation for some 3 hours.

- ✍ Hawkins was well versed in Turkish and Jahangir and some of his ministers also knew Turkish, the native tongue of Babur. So the discussions took place in Turkish.

Hawkins was able to acquire a footing in the court of Jahangir and in due course of time he got so intimacy with the "talented drunkard" emperor that no Europeans had ever afterwards.

Jahangir called him "**English Khan**". This English Khan was able to persuade the emperor to grant a commission for an English factory at Surat but *under the Pressure of the Portuguese Viceroy, the grant was withdrawn*. Hawkins lived in the court of Mughal emperor till 1611, tried to reverse the orders, but the Portuguese influence over the King was impregnable. He returned in disgust on November 2, 1611. He died a couple of years later.

Captain Middleton and the First English Factory at Surat (1611)

William Hawkins after leaving the court of Mughals at joined Captain Middleton at Bantam. In one of his homeward journey he died, but in 1611 Captain Henry Middleton landed at Swally near Surat and tried to get some recognition to the British Business.

At that time, English were in humiliating situation in India, subject to all kinds of indignities and insults. They had no valid rights to do any business in India and were obliged to pay bribes for any facility they could get here. They were giped, robbed, arrested and beaten in the streets. There Portuguese influence was not allowing them to do something over here. When Henry Middleton entered India, there was an opposition from the Portuguese, but the British defeated the Portuguese in the Battle of Bombay in 1611.

But he was able to get a permission from the local Mughal governors to open a factory in India, so in 1611 the first English Factory was established in Surat.

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Sir Thomas Roe

In January 1615, Sir Thomas Roe presented his credentials to the emperor Jahangir as the Ambassador of the King of England. The objective of Thomas Roe was to finish what was left unfinished by Captain Hawkins.

Sir Thomas Roe was an experienced, firm, courageous, combined with management skills and clever person, who lived as a resident of Agra till 1619 and during this time, due to his manly qualities, dogged persistence and natural dignity was able to swipe out the Portuguese Influence from the Mughals despite of some opposition from Prince Khurram and Nur Jahan. He moved about the jovial ruler, sharing his pleasures, marveling at the wealth of Indians.

This great ambassador of King James tried in vain to obtain a general "treaty" enshrining the articles from the King, but it was not appropriate time as the great Mughals were too ignorant for any such comparisons between Hindustan and any of the country of rest of the world. There could not be any terms of equality, but what he could go for the "*Firmans*" or Royal orders to the local authorities sanctioning the English Trade at Surat at reasonable terms.

✍ The English factory at Surat was set on a **permanent basis with the Firman**, officially recognized by the Emperor as well as the Prince-Governor Khurram.

Now, the factory was set forth with a higher degree of reputation. Some subordinate factories were started. This was the beginning of the British stronghold in India.

✍ We know about the Mughal Empire as seen by Sir Thomas Roe, from his work- titled as "**Journal of the mission to the Mogul Empire**". It is a valuable contribution to the history of India in the early 17th century.

Shah Jahan 1627-1658

When Jahangir died, Khurram was away in Deccan. So Nurjahan supported and try to make Shaharyar the King. But Asaf, miffed by his sister's action, sent a speedy message to Khurram and set up Khurram's son *Dawar Baksh* as *ad hoc regent*. He attacked Shaharyar and took him as prisoner. Khurram while hastening from Deccan had already sent orders to eliminate Shaharyar. The orders were immediately carried out. Thus Khurram ascended the Mughal Throne with the name Shah Jahan (the King of the world).

Shahjahan, the Son of a great Mughal and a Rajput Princess, who was daughter of Rana of Marwar (Jodhpur) had more Indian Blood in his veins that his forefathers. This haughty, introvert man was wrapped in political connives and was indifferent to the race of his mother. He became the most "celebrated" among the Mughal emperors but not popular among the Hindus. He was a perfect orthodox Muslim who was more intolerant than his father.

✍ Even as a prince, he was a successful commander and it was largely due to his campaigns that Mughal Empire was spread in 3 Lakh square kilometers when he was deposed of throne by his son Aurangzeb.

When he became King, he had great counselors such as his father-in-law Asaf Khan, Mahabat Khan and Ali Mardan.

✍ A French traveler (Jeweler) **Tavernier** visited during his reign and has described him as a King who has firm administration of Justice and Universal sense of security. He estimated the cost of the Peacock Throne of Shah Jahan around 6.5 million sterling.

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Mumtaj Mahal

With *Arjumand Bano Beghum*, Khurram married at the age of 15 years and gave her the title Mumtaj Mahal. Mumtaj Mahal, the “lady of the palace” was a mother of his 14 children and died on the death of their 14th child. The exquisite monument Taj Mahal is a witness to her husband's devotion. In Mumtaj we find a perfect wife, who had no political aspirations, opposite to Nur Jahan, the afghan widow Jahangir had married.

Initial Revolts

The peaceful days of Akbar's reign were over long ago. During Jahangir's time, there were not many rebellions. But during Shah Jahan's reign, there were two big revolts immediately after he sat on the throne.

- ✍ The first revolt was in Bundelkhand in 1636 under Jujhar Singh. The revolt was suppressed and Jujhar Singh was eliminated.
- ✍ Another was under the Lodi remnant **Khan Jahan Lodi**. This revolt had also been suppressed.

Relations with Portuguese

The Portuguese had established a factory at Hugli in Bengal. We have already read that the Portuguese had a very constrictive religious policy. It was learnt that the Portuguese often lifted the orphaned children and converted them to Christianity. This was something objectionable under the rule of a Mughal, who was a devout Muslim. During the reign of Jahangir the Portuguese lifted two slave girls that belong to Mumtaj Mahal and they were not released even after it was known to the Portuguese.

- ✍ In 1631, **Qasim Khan** was appointed as Governor of Bengal and was given authority to teach a lesson to the Portuguese.

The Portuguese were attacked, massacred and Hugli was in siege for 3 months. The Portuguese surrendered only after a huge loss of ten thousand lives. Four thousand were made prisoners, who were given an option to either convert to Islam or face lifelong imprisonment. Thus Shah Jahan gave the Portuguese a death blow in Bengal.

Taj Mahal and other monuments at Agra

It was in 1631 that the lady of Taj, Mumtaj Mahal died during birth of their 14th Child *Gauhara Beghum*. After 1 year of her death, construction of Taj Mahal began. It was completed in 1648 and surrounding buildings were finished in next 5 years.

The Taj Mahal was finished in nearly 18 years from the death of the queen who was meanwhile interred in the Tomb. When it was being built, Tavernier saw it and wrote that twenty thousand workmen were continuously employed. Shah Jahan was a prolific builder and a refined aesthetic. Long before Taj Mahal was completed, the other palaces in the Agra Fort were ready.

- ✍ In 1648 Shah Jahan completed the Jama Masjid in Agra which was dedicated to his daughter Jahanara, the daughter of his father who took the place of her mother and brought her father out of mourning.
- ✍ The Moti Masjid or Pearl Mosque, which has features quite similar to that of the Saint Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, was completed in 1653. However the supreme masterpiece of art dedicated to eternal love was Taj Mahal.

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Who was the architect of the Taj is a question that is still not answered satisfactorily. Several names are associated with this work such as Abd ul-Karim Ma'mur Khan, Makramat Khan, and Ustad Ahmad Lahauri.

✍ Out of them **Ustad Ahmad Lahauri**, a Persian is thought to be the principal architect, evident by some document left by his son.

✍ But it has been debated in the scholarly circles that the chief architect of Taj Mahal was an Italian **Geronimo Veroneo**. Geronimo Veroneo did visit Agra in the year 1640, but there are no evidences to prove that he was the chief architect of Taj Mahal.

Shahjahanabad and Red Fort

Agra, which first became the capital of Sikandar Shah Lodi was enlarged by Akbar but was enriched by Shah Jahan. But, one more splendor of Shah Jahan was the Shahjahanabad, the celebrated *Purani Delhi*. It began in 1638-39 and was completed in 1648. This 1500 acre city was like a quarter circle with Red Fort (*originally named Quila-i-Mubarak*) in the middle of it, which remained the Capital of the Mughal emperors till the empire was swept out by the British. It was used by the British as a military camp till 1947. Once Shahjahan moved to Shahjahanabad, the grandeur and splendor of Agra was eclipsed.

The Red Fort was the most magnificent royal residence of the world. But when it was occupied by Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last of the Mughals, the Mughal empire was confined to this fort only.

In 1656, the Jama Masjid at Delhi was completed which is even today the largest mosque of India. This was the most magnificent among the mosques built by Shah Jahan in Delhi, Agra, Ajmer and Lahore. Its floor plan was based upon the Mosque at Fatehpur Sikri, but the size was bigger. It was raised on a rocky basement and had 3 domes and two lofty tower 130 feet high.

After Mumtaj

Prince Khurram in his youth and early adulthood was a brave soldier, a brilliant general and a prudent administrator. Under his father he played the role of a resolute administrator and governor. When he grew old, he became more and more pleasure lover, so much that he suffered. His lovable wife Mumtaj had died in 1631, giving birth to their 14th child and this affectionate king became soaked up in his devotion to his eldest daughter, the princess Jahanara. He was still the same benevolent King but his character had gone.

The burden of the state had to be devolved. He devolved the power among his 4 sons, each of whom was given a governorship. But these 4 brothers were jealous of each other and Shah Jahan thought to secure piece by dividing the empire in 4 pieces, a fatal policy.

Dara Shikoh was given Multan and Kabul, Shah Shuja got Bengal, Aurangzeb got Deccan and Murad Got Gujarat.

Deccan Policy

During his early age, Prince Khurram was able to muster his strength in Deccan. It was Deccan that Aurangzeb, fourth son of prince Khurram and Mumtaj Mahal rose like a serpent and devoured the throne of Delhi.

We have seen that the later wars of Jahangir were fought by prince Khurram, similarly, the later wars of Shah Jahan were fought by Aurangzeb.

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Akbar had been able to annex only a part of the Deccan including Khandesh and Berar. But he had not conquered any of the 4 Kingdoms which were derived out of the Bahamni Kingdom. These 4 Kingdoms were:

1. Nizam Shahs of Ahamednagar
2. Adil Shah of Bijapur
3. Kutub Shah of Golkonda
4. Barid Shah of Bidar.

However, the fourth Barid Shah dynasty had got extinct. The Nizam Shahs of Ahamednagar were right on the Deccan frontiers of the Mughals, repeatedly attacked but it was saved by an able general **Malik Ambar**.

Malik Ambar

✍ Malik Ambar was an Ethiopian and had been brought to India as a slave.

This able slave rose to prominence between 1607 to 1626, when he was regent of the Nijamshahis of the Ahamednagar. He increased the strength of Murtuza Nizam Shah and established a new city at the site of an old village Khadki in Maharashtra, which is known as Aurangabad today. The name was changed to Aurangabad later by Aurangzeb.

✍ The Guerilla warfare for which the Marathas are best known was pioneered by Malik Ambar.

✍ He was also the mobilizing force behind the Marathas, the farmers turned into great warriors by Malik Ambar.

Malik Ambar, the formidable *Habshi* repeatedly routed the imperial armies and recovered Ahamednagar. The forces of Prince Khurram had drove them back to Khandesh but this tactful general created a Maratha cavalry which later culminated in the Great Maratha Kingdom under the nose of Aurangzeb.

But Prince Khurram had shown him his mettle. He arrived in 1616 in Deccan and detached Bijapur from the support of Ambar. He defeated Malik Ambar and made him a tributary vassal. After this, the Deccan province was entrusted to Parviz, brother of Khurram, who drank himself to death. The command of Deccan was given to General **Khan Jahan**. But Khan Jahan revolted soon after death of Jahangir in 1629 and was killed in Bundelkhand a year later. In 1635, King Shah Jahan advanced in person and annexed Bijapur and Nijamshahis dominions. In 1655 Aurangzeb was given the viceroyalty of Deccan.

Prince Aurangzeb

Mohyuddin Muhammad Aurangzeb was born in 1618 and had already been the Governor of Deccan after 1636, when his father had led the campaigns in person and annexed Bijapur and Nijamshahis Dominions.

This was when he was a young man of 17-18 years. The boy was preoccupied with the thoughts of a vaticinator, who wanted a purpose of life. In 1643, when he was 25 years he announced his intentions to retire from this material world, quit from the viceroyalty of Deccan and took his abode in the jungles of Western Ghats, adopting a life of a Fakir. But this experiment soon faded away and he returned to work.

In 1644, his sister Jahanara got burnt in an accident. The other brothers quickly reached but this "Zinda Faqir" reached 20 days later. He was dismissed the Viceroyalty of the Deccan. In 1647 he was sent to take command of the provinces of Balkh and Badashkhan beyond the Hindukush which was recently acquired by the Uzbegs. He fought there unsuccessfully and was compelled to draw his forces with heavy losses. In 1649 and 1652, he was asked to recover Kandhar but got failed, but these failures gave Aurangzeb the idea of

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fighting in the mountains with the best soldiers of the world and shaped his personality as a good & witty administrator.

In 1655, he was again sent to Deccan. He attacked Golconda and Bijapur in next 2 years, but at the very eve of the victory, his father got ill and was recalled to Agra.

Prince Dara Shikoh

The way Babur loved Humayun, Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of Shah Jahan was loved by his father. He was the heir apparent, favored by his father Shah Jahan and sister Jahanara as a successor to the throne of Delhi.

This prince was an intellectual, wise and a paragon of harmonious coexistence of various religions. He loved Muslims, Hindus, Sufis and Sikhs all alike but was then taken as an eccentric by the followers of prophet including his Fakir brother Aurangzeb.

✍ This prince was invited to lay the foundation of the Golden Temple of Amritsar and he befriended with 7th Guru of Sikhs Guru Har Rai.

✍ Dara Shikoh dedicated himself to create a bridge of Hindu Muslim Unity and was so learned that translated 50 Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian for the Muslim Scholars. This work is called **Sirr-i-Akbar**, the great mystery.

✍ The latest Upanishad is *Muktikā* Upanishad and it is said to have been recorded by Dara Shikoh. It predates to 1656 and provides list of 108 Upanishads of the Canon.

Prince Shah Shuja

This young man who was given the charge of Bengal and Orissa was second son of Shah Jahan. He ruled these provinces from 1639 to 1660, barring two breaks when he was sent to North West frontiers.

✍ The monumental Bara Khatra in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which is now neglected building, was his palace residence.

Prince Murad Baksh

Murad Baksh was the youngest son of Shah Jahan and was last to be executed by Aurangzeb.

The War of Succession

Aurangzeb was summoned to North in 1657. The emperor Shah Jahan was believed to be dying. Since there was no rule of succession, each of the 4 princes prepared for the fight to the throne. Each of the princes were ruling like independent sovereign Kings, having command of the large revenues which they used to muster their own large armies.

First in the field was Shah Shuja. He proclaimed himself as emperor at Bengal, engraved his coins and marched towards Agra. At the same time, Murad Baksh, struck his own coins at Gujarat and ordered that Khutba should be read in his name. Aurangzeb was in Deccan with some unknown designs.

Dara, who was governor of Multan and Kabul was in Delhi and he lost no time to send the imperial armies to repulse Shuja & Murad.

Shuja's army was beaten by the imperial army commanded by Raja Jaisingh of Amber at Banaras. He was repulsed and thrown back to Bengal.

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Meanwhile Aurangzeb had made his mind and joined the forces of Murad. These combined forces attacked the Royal army under the command of **Maharaja Jaswant Singh** on the banks of river Narmada. This crucial battle is called the **Battle of Dhramatpur**

Battle of Dhramatpur 1658

The Battle of Dhramatpur was fought on 15 April 1658 on the banks of river Narmada, some 20 kilometers from Ujjain. When the war started, one Mughal general Qasim Khan who was sent to help Jaswant Singh defected and ran away. The Rajput army of some eight thousand men fought till it was reduced to 600 wounded soldiers.

✍ Durga Das Rathode, the celebrated Rajput struggler of Marwar was wounded in this battle and was carried away.

The defeated Rajput remnants followed their chief to the deserts of Marwar.

Battle of Samugarh 1658

After this defeat, Dara sent a magnificent army which counted 1 lakh horses against the Aurangzeb. But the news of Jaswant Singh's defeat had already demoralized the royal army. The two armies met at **Samugarh**, some 13 kilometers from Agra

The army of Dara was victorious in the beginning but in the mid of the fight Dara dismounted his elephant causing confusion. The combined army of Aurangzeb and Murad won and Dara had fled with a few hundred horses.

After this battle, Aurangzeb reached Agra. His attention was now to his most dangerous rival, his old father Shah Jahan. He sent his son Muhammad inside the fort of Agra. Muhammad overcame the guards and turned the palace into a jail. Shah Jahan was locked up now safely. He survived but only 7 years, and never came out of this prison. He was given all the facilities his old age required but not freedom. The father and son never met again. Jahanara nursed her father till he died in 1666, at the age of seventy 76. His body was laid in a tomb near the grave of his beloved late queen.

Elimination of Brothers by Aurangzeb

After Muhammad had safely locked Shah Jahan in the fort, Aurangzeb entered Agra and seized Dara's house and the treasure. He now launched a campaign to pursue Dara.

Murad Baksh who was now enjoying the mock sovereignty was found drunk one day and Aurangzeb put *this violator of Islam into Chains*. He was secretly sent to a prison and was executed 3 years later.

After the defeat in the **Battle of Samugarh**, Dara fled to Agra and from there to Delhi and from Delhi to Lahore. From Lahore he went to Multan and crossing the Runns of Gujarat he reached Kathiawar where the governor Shah Nawaz Hussain helped him to raise new forces.

He occupied Surat and then went to Ajmer on midway unsuccessfully persuading Jaswant Singh to help him in the cause. He met with Aurangzeb's army at **Deorain near Ajmer** again in 1659 but Dara again got defeated. The luckless prince again fled to Multan and sought asylum to one Malik Jiwan who betrayed him, arrested him and handed over to Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb executed him in the same year on the charges of heresy.

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Dara was executed. Shah Jahan was locked up. Murad was also waiting inside the prison for the doomsday. Next was Shah Shuja. Aurangzeb sent an imperial army under Mir Jiwan to pursue him. He was defeated by the imperial army. He along with his family fled to Arakan (Now in Myanmar). The ruler of Arakan gave him asylum and allowed him a house to stay there, but there was a fight over his daughter who had infatuated the King of Arakan. The quarrel started and Shah Shuja along with the family was tortured to death.

Aurangzeb 1658-1707

Aurangzeb Alamgir sat on the **peacock throne** with an even longer title of Al-Sultan al-Azam wal Khaqan al-Mukarram Hazrat Abul Muzaffar Muhy-ud-Din Muhammad Aurangzeb Bahadur Alamgir I, Badshah Ghazi, Shahanshah-e-Sultanat-ul-Hindiya Wal Mughaliya. He took his title "Alamgir", the Persian word engraved on the sword which was given to him by his father. He was a Puritan emperor. He did nothing which was not allowed in Islam.

For Islam, he destroyed the temples and broke the idols. For Islam he waged unending wars in Deccan. He abjured the pleasures of the senses in lived like a Fakir, once he aspired to become. He never tasted wine and his drink was water. He slept on the ground with only tiger skin over him. Following the dicta of the prophet that every Muslim should adopt a trade, he used his free time in making skull caps. He learnt Quran by heart and copied it twice in his fine calligraphy and sent it to Mecca.

This Bigot Mohammedan created a lot of troubles for himself and lost both energy and resources in dealing with the rebellions of Jats, Satnamis, Bundelas, Sikhs and finally the formidable Marathas. He stopped engraving Kalma on coins. Forbade the Parsis to celebrate their festival Navaroz. Released an order to ban the music everywhere and arrest those who listen to the music. Ended the Mughal pomp of *Jharokha Darshan*, use of almanacs, the Mughal custom of weighing the emperor in gems -distributing the wealth to the poor, on coronation anniversaries. He reintroduced Jazia.

In summary he did all that was never done by his great grandfather, grandfather and father. This was enough to shake the foundation of the Mughal Empire which was based upon religious tolerance. Aurangzeb was the last important Mughal ruler and after him the Mughal empire rapidly decayed and was finally put to an end by the British.

This King reigned for half a century and died in 1707 leaving behind a war of succession. He now lays in peace at Khuldabad, near Aurangabad.

The initial years of Aurangzeb's reign did not see any rebellion of political importance. But when he started nursing his religious zeal, there were signs of the coming storm as early as 1669.

Destruction of Temples

Aurangzeb had claimed the throne as the Champion of the Orthodox Islam against the heretical practices of his brother Dara. When he was told that in Banaras, the Brahmins have got habitual of teaching their "wicked science" to the Muslims, an order from his majesty was given to demolish all the temples.

The orders were carried out and the temple of Vishnu at Banaras and a splendid shrine at Mathura were broken to make room for a mosque. The idols were brought to Agra and buried under the steps of the Mosque.

Rebellion of Jats

In 1669-70, the Jats of Mathura region rose under the leadership of a local Zamindar **Gokala**.

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Gokala was captured and executed, but the rebellion was not subdued completely. The Jats continued to stir and after Aurangzeb died, they established an sovereign Jat Kingdom in Bharatpur.

Rebellion of Satnamis

In 1672, the 4000 Hindus in today's Haryana region who called themselves Satnamis got rebellious in the area around Delhi. They were led by one **Birbhan**, who took over the administration of the area around modern Narnaul in Haryana. The Satnamis were crushed when Aurangzeb intervened personally. The Satnamis fought with courage but their end was not doubtful.

Reimposition of Jazia

The next step Aurangzeb took was the re-imposition of the hated Jazia. The people, to pray the majesty of not being able to pay Jazia got collected around the palace. However, by this time, Aurangzeb had **abandoned the custom of appearing in person in the Jharokha**, thus **lost the close touch from the subjects**. His eyes and ears could not see and listen the uproar against his fanatical policies. When he was going to the mosque, the crowd of the Hindus blocked his way, the elephants were forced their path over their bodies. The sparks of the discontent had turned into flame in due course of time.

His Rajput policy was also filled with the religious fanaticism, when he asked Raja Jaswant Singh to send his sons to Delhi so that they can be taught under his "supervision", leading their conversion. All the Rajputs except raja of Amber were in a state of rebellion.

The Rise of Marathas in Deccan

The Deccan was never betrothed by nature to Hindustan. The **triple line of natural boundaries** made by Vindhya and Satpura Mountains and Narmada River was enough to keep the sovereign of Delhi in their own countries. But the fertile lands, fabulous wealth in diamonds and Gold induced every ruler of the northern India to this land. But conquering Deccan was a risk to lose the northern country. For Aurangzeb, the affairs of Deccan were not new thing as he had been viceroy of the province twice. Aurangzeb after becoming emperor overlooked the state of affairs in Deccan and meanwhile a new power had arisen, which sprang from a very insignificant beginning to an impregnable dominance in the future.

The modest beginning

The Marathas had never made any mark in the history of India before the reign of Shah Jahan. They were the **peaceful peasants** like any other Hindu castes and never gave trouble to the rulers of Delhi. The King of **Bijapur** was responsible for educating this hardworking race. The Marathas were a large proportion of his subjects and their language Marathi, which was an offshoot of Sanskrit became the language of the revenue department of the Kingdom of Bijapur. The Marathas started getting recruited into the light infantry, then cavalry in which they showed their extraordinary aptitude. They rose to prominence in Bijapur and Golconda.

✍ The Muslim ruler of Bijapur **Ibrahim Adil Shah** appointed these Marathas in key position and changed the language of the court from Persian to Marathi.

One of these officers was **Shah Ji Bhosle** who rebelled **against Shah Jahan in 1634**. **Shahaji Raje Bhosle**, the extremely ambitious and capable **general of the Sultan** of Bijapur was the early exponent of the Guerilla warfare. He brought the house of Bhosle in prominence which later became the most dominant power in Deccan under his son Shivaji.

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Chhatrapati Shivaji : Born 1630 – Died 1680.

Shivaji was just 12 years younger than his number one rival Aurangzeb. His father had laid the foundation of the Maratha Empire but he is considered the **real founder of the Maratha Kingdom whose capital was Raigarh**. His elder brother Sambhaji was killed in a military expedition in Karnataka.

- ✍ Shivaji **was born in Shivneri** to a great Maratha lady Jijabai, who was an ardent devotee of Shiva.
- ✍ Shivaji is known for pioneering the **Shiva Sutra** or **Ganimi Kava** which refers to Guerilla warfare techniques.

Shivaji was brought up in Poona, where he was noted for his courage and clever perspectives. He mixed with the wild highlanders of the neighboring Ghats and learnt every turn and path of the Konkan. When he found that the hills & forests are miserably fortified by the Bijapur soldiers he resolved upon seizing them.

His father Shahaji was in service of Deccan Sultanates and kept changing his sides between the Nizam Shahi of Ahamad Nagar, Adil Shah of Bijapur. **His Jagir was Pune** where he was able to sustain a small army.

Shivaji **began by surprising the castle of Torna**, 20 miles from Pune in 1645 at the age of 16 years. From there he started taking fortress by fortress at the cost of the Bijapur Kingdom. He took Kondana & Raigarh in 1647. Sindugarh and Purandar were also taken soon. This was enough to make Ibrahim Adil Shah resolve to teach him a lesson.

His father Shahaji was imprisoned. But clever Shivaji approached Emperor Shah Jahan and his intervention was enough to make the Bijapur sultan release Shahaji. **Shivaji was now a Mughal Sardar**.

Battle of Pratapgarh 1656

For next 5 years Shivaji kept quiet, gathering the forces. In **1656 he started his campaign again and captured Kalyan, Bhiwandi etc.** This time Adil Shah sent his general **Afzal Khan** to bring Shivaji dead or alive. But this general of Bijapur was clawed to death by **Shivaji with his Baghnakhas**, the conceived weapon. After that the Bijapur forces were routed and this was the first significant victory of Marathas over Bijapur.

Till 1662, there were minor unsuccessful attempts to kill Shivaji by the sultan of Bijapur, when finally a peace treaty was arranged.

Extraordinary Career and End

The territories of Bijapur were attacked by Shivaji at will, but his ambitions led him to turn his attention to the Mughal territory to the North. He pushed his raids to the doors of Aurangabad. The growing power of Maratha was to be crushed anyhow. The Mughal viceroy of the Deccan was **Shayata Khan**, one relative of the Mughal emperor, who was ordered to carry out this task.

Shayasta Khan attacked Poona and captured the fort, where Shivaji played in his early childhood. Shivaji plundered the fort, Killed Shayasta Khan and then raided Surat, even the factory of the British was attacked.

The Raja of Amber Jaisingh was the new commander of the Mughals. **Jaisingh, of Amber**, who was loyal to the Mughal Throne was able to compel Shivaji for a peace treaty which enshrined that Maratha would give 23 forts to Mughals and Shivaji would appear in the court of Aurangzeb, on an assurance that he would be treated properly.

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But there, in the court of the King of India, he was asked to stand among the class III courtiers. The self esteem of Shivaji made him retreat from there, the Mughals imprisoned him but he was able to escape in disguise.

He resumed his old sway in the mountains in 1666. The emperor became too late in reconciliation. In 1671 Surat was again raided and the Maratha swarms spread and plundered the southerly part till Tanjore. They levied "**Chauth**" wherever they could. In 1674, he defeated the Mughal general **Daler Khan** and held his coronation with all the pomp at Raigarh and attained the title of "**Chhatrapati**". Just when he was getting ready for a great leap forward, a sudden illness put an end to his extraordinary career in 1680 at the age of 53. The Maratha Empire could not get stability during his career.

Chauth and Sardeshmukhi:

Literally, **Chauth** is now known as extortion. Shivaji had raided from Surat to Madras and had divided the entire area into two parts. The area within his own "Swarajya" or Mulk-i-Qadim was the area that belonged to the Marathas. The outside area whenever plundered was to be levied the two taxes **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi**. **Chauth was One fourth** of the tax that was given by the people to the Mughal or the Deccan Kingdoms.

- ✍ Thus Chauth was levied at the cost of either the Mughal revenue or the Deccan kingdoms revenue.
- ✍ Chauth was levied on a promise that Marathas will not raid the area which pays them Chauth.
- ✍ **Sardeshmukhi was an additional tax which was 1/10th of the revenue** levied by the Mughals.

Marathi was his official language and he made **Ashta Pradhan his main axis of administration**.

Ashta Pradan

The **eight prominent officials of Marathas** were known as Ashta Pradhan. They were as follows:

- ✍ Peshva (Prime Minister)
- ✍ Amatya or Mazumdar (Finance Minister)
- ✍ Waqia-Navis (like a home minister)
- ✍ Samant or Dabir (dealing with the outsiders)
- ✍ Sachiv (The official correspondence)
- ✍ Pandit Rao (The official religious officer)
- ✍ Sar-i-nabat (army affairs)
- ✍ Nyayadhish (judiciary)

There were eight subordinate officials to support the above and they were known as Diwan, Mazumdar, Fadnavis, Daftardar, Karkhani, Chitnis, Jamdar and Potnis.

The **Jagir system was abolished** by Shivaji and he preferred **giving the cash salary**. Until now The revenue collection was the job of the **Kulkarnis and Patils**, and the officer was **hereditary**. Shivaji changed this system and the revenue collection was not now a hereditary job.

After Shivaji

Shivaji, the great captain had died but the spirit lived in his "Swarajya". Aurangzeb had seen the perils of the Guerilla warfare and had realized that it was not time to trust the generals. He took the command in his

hands and in 1681, arrived at Burhanpur. He sent prince Muazzam, who after running over Konkan moved to Bijapur. Aurangzeb pushed forward to Ahamednagar. Both of them were annexed to Mughal Empire.

As soon as the Mughals turned their back, Sambhaji swiftly led his cavalry, crossed Khandesh and burnt Burhanpur and set the whole country ablaze. Before Mughals could retreat, they safely returned back to their heavens. The Mughal emperor now turned his attention only on to crushing the Marathas.

The revenue of the Marathas was cut as Bijapur and Ahamednagar was now firmly annexed to the Mughal Kingdom. In 1689, Sambhaji was captured and executed. His infant son **Sahuji** was taken captive.

Rajaram, brother of Sambhaji sought refuge at Jingee in the Konkan and in 1700 his son Shivaji III under the regency of his mother Tarabai took the Maratha Command. But the Mughals released Sahuji and now the Marathas were in two rival camps. There was a civil war between Sahuji and Tarabai, in which Sahuji got victorious, with the help of **Balaji Vishwanath**. Balaji Vishwanath was made **Peshwa in 1713** and thus he founded the line of the Peshwas. Tarabai set up a rival camp at Kolhapur.

Balaji Vishwanath: The First Peshva

✍ Balaji Vishwanath, a Brahmin was the first in the line of the hereditary Peshwas or Prime Ministers.

In 18th century the Peshwas became the holders of the Maratha Power. Balaji was instrumental in the release of Shahuji's family from Mughals and took his side in the civil war with Tarabai.

He became the first Peshwa in 1713. Aurangzeb had already died in 1707 and the power in Delhi was Farrukhsiyar, who was placed on the throne by Sayyid Brothers. Later Farrukhsiyar was replaced with Rafi ul Darjat in 1719.

✍ This time, Balaji Vishwanath supplied a 15000 army to Mughals and in return got the right to extract autonomy to Marathas and right to levy **Chauth from 6 Deccan Provinces**.

In 1720 Balaji Vishwanath died. Sahuji appointed his son **Baji Rao I** as Peshwa at the age of 20 years.

Baji Rao I

Baji Rao-I is the most popular among the **9 Peshwas of Marathas** and the Maratha power was on its zenith during his time.

✍ It was Baji Rao I who instead of Deccan focused the Maratha attention to North. He can be said the first Indian, who could sniff the weakness of the Mughals and decaying Mughal empire. He was aware of the weakness of the Mughal puppets at Delhi.

✍ The famous saying "**Attock to Cuttack**", refers to the Maratha Kingdom as visualized by **Baji Rao-I**, who wanted to plant the Saffron Flag on the walls of Attock.

✍ Baji Rao-I fought 41 battles and lost none.

This able prime Minister of Marathas was able to create a confederacy of the Marathas who had dispersed after the death of Shivaji.

✍ This confederacy included the Kingdoms of Scindias under Ranoji Shinde of Gwalior, Holkars under Malharrao of Indore, Gaekwads under Pilaji of Baroda, and Pawars under Udaiji of Dhar.

✍ He was able to get 1/3rd of the Bundelkhand after death of Maharaja Chhatrasal.

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✍ From Bundelkhand he had a half Muslim lover Mastani who was never accepted in the Maratha society.

✍ Bajji Rao I transferred the seat of administration of the Marathas from Satara to Pune.

Baji Rao-I died in 1740 of some disease and was followed by his son Balaji Baji Rao.

Balaji Baji Rao

Balaji Bajirao is better known with the name of **Nanasaheb Peshwa**. During his time, Pune became the cradle of Maratha Power. When Sahuji died in 1749, he had no sons and thus made the Peshwas as rulers of the Maratha Power. So **Marathas became the real rulers of the Marathas since the times of Balaji Baji Rao.**

✍ The Mughals signed **Ahamadiya Treaty** with the Marathas when Balaji Bajirao was Peshwa. As per this treaty, Mughals were restricted to Delhi and the northern India was controlled by Marathas from Pune.

Rise of Afghans

In June 1747 Ahamad Shah Durrani or **Ahamad Shah Abdali** rose to power and established the Durrani Empire in Afghanistan. He crossed Indus river in 1748 and annexed Lahore. In 1749, the Mughal Empire lost Sindh and Punjab. In 1757 there was another attack and he sacked Delhi, Agra, Mathura, Vrindavan etc. The Mughals accepted this formidable Afghans' suzerainty. He installed **Alamgir II** on the throne of Delhi. The East India Company also accepted his suzerainty.

But the Marathas did not accept them. Balaji Bajirao sent Raghunath Rao to counter the Afghans. Raghunath Rao was able to throw out **Timur Shah** (son of Ahamad Shah Abdali and Governor of Lahore, Multan and Kashmir) and brought the Lahore, Multan and Kashmir under the Marathas.

The rise of this new Hindu Kingdom was not acceptable to the Mughals and Afghans. The afghan hero raised a Holy war against the Infidels and warriors from Pashtun & other tribes answered his call. This culminated in the **Third Battle of Panipat** which **paved the way for British Rule in India.**

Third Battle of Panipat 1761

Third Battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. This was the largest war of the 18th century. The Marathas were led by Sadashivrao Bhau. The battle followed a two months seige and skirmishes. The Marathas were badly defeated in the war suffering a life of around 60-70 thousand warriors. They lost their ablest commanders. Balaji Baji Rao could not absorb this shock and died soon afterwards.

The Later Insignificant Mughals

Bahadur Shah I (1707-1712)

Aurangzeb was succeeded by his son Muazzam, who ascended the throne as Bahadur Shah I in 1707. His reign was just 5 years till 1712, and during this time he tried to get rid of the strict edicts of his father. He was not able to eliminate Jazia but supported music, now people could hear the songs again. He tried to establish **peace with the Sikhs and Marathas**. He died in 1712, when he was overseeing the repair works at Shalimar Gardens at Lahore. He was followed by his son Jahandar Shah.

-: About this document:-

Jahandar Shah 1712-1713

After his father Bahadur Shah I died, he ascended the throne after eliminating his brother Azim-us-Shan. He had married to a dancing girl who became the queen consort. His nephew Farrukhsiyar attacked him and defeated him. He was arrested and Jailed by Farrukhsiyar, who later executed him.

Farrukhsiyar 1713-1719

Farrukhsiyar was a despicable poltroon who suffered similar fate 6 years later in 1719. He sat the throne with the help of two Vazirs of the Mughals Syed Hassan Ali Khan Barha and Syed Hussain Ali Khan Barha known as Sayyid Brothers.

✍ In 1717, the British East India Company purchased duty free trade rights in all of Bengal for peanuts worth Rupees 3000 per year from this so called emperor.

He lollled the throne as a puppet in the hands of the Sayyid Brothers, and when there was an enmity with these two King makers, they deposed him, imprisoned him, starved him, blinded him and finally finished him. The Sayyid brothers placed his cousin **Rafi ud-Darajat** on the throne in 1719.

Rafi ud-Darajat 1719

Rafi ud-Darajat, the 11th Mughal emperor was proclaimed by the Sayyid Brothers in 1719, who could survive only for 4 months and died of some mysterious disease. He was succeeded by Muhammad Shah Rangile or Rangila.

Muhammad Shah Rangile 1719-1748

Mohammad Shah Rangila was able to keep the throne for around 29 years partially because the first thing he did was to eliminate the Sayyid Brothers. During his time Nadir Shah attacked and looted Delhi and took the Peacock Throne with himself. The invasion of Nadir Shah fastened the disintegration of the Mughal Empire. During his time, the states of Hyderabad, Bengal, Awadh were established as independent Kingdoms.

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