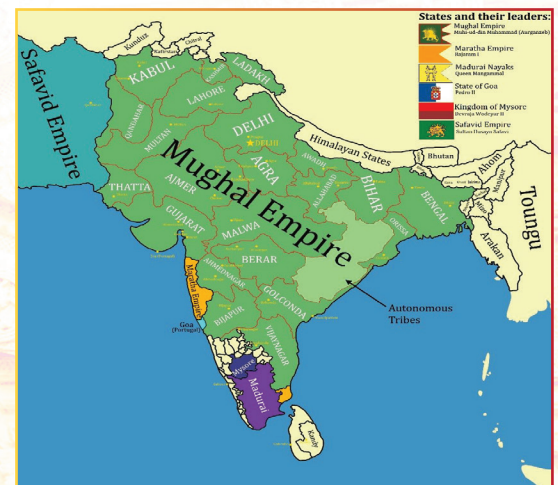




The Mughal Empire

(1526-1857)

The Mughals ruled India from **1526 to 1857**, bringing political stability, military innovation, and architectural grandeur. Founded by **Babur**, the empire thrived under **Akbar**, **Jahangir**, **Shah Jahan**, and **Aurangzeb**, shaping Indian history through a blend of **Persian, Central Asian, and Indian cultures**.



BABUR (1526-1530)

FOUNDER OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

- ◆ A direct descendant of **Timur (father's lineage)** and **Genghis Khan (mother's lineage)**.
- ◆ **Early Struggles:** Lost **Fergana** (Uzbekistan) but captured **Kabul (1504)** as a base for Indian conquests.
- ◆ **Indian Conquests:** Defeated **Ibrahim Lodi** at the **First Battle of Panipat (1526)**, marking the Mughal Empire's foundation.



◆ **Major Contributions:**

- Extensively used **gunpowder and artillery**, transforming Indian warfare.
- Built **Char-Bagh gardens** and mosques in **Panipat & Sambhal**.
- Authored **Tuzuk-i-Baburi (Baburnama)**, a detailed memoir.

FACTORS BEHIND BABUR'S CONQUEST OF INDIA

◆ **Political Instability:** The weakened **Delhi Sultanate** under **Ibrahim Lodi** faced internal conflicts.

◆ **Local Alliances:** **Daulat Khan Lodi** and **Rana Sanga** invited Babur to challenge Lodi's rule.

◆ **Economic Motives:** India's **wealth and fertile lands** offered better prospects than Kabul.

◆ **Geopolitical Threats:** **Shaibani Khan's Uzbek** expansion forced Babur to seek new territories.



KEY BATTLES AND EXPANSION

First Battle of Panipat (1526): Beginning of Mughal Rule

◆ **Opponents:** Babur vs. **Ibrahim Lodi** (Sultan of Delhi).

◆ **Outcome:** Babur **defeated Ibrahim Lodi**, Delhi and Agra became Mughal territories.

◆ **Tactics & Strategy:**

- Widely used **gunpowder** and **field artillery** in Indian warfare.
- Used **Tulughma strategy** (flanking maneuver with cavalry and cannons).
- Ottoman gunners **Ustad Ali and Mustafa** played a key role.



Battle of Khanwa (1527)

◆ **Opponents:** Babur vs. **Rana Sanga of Mewar** (leading a Rajput-Afghan alliance)

◆ **Causes:** **Rana Sanga** initially sought an alliance but later opposed Babur after his victories in **Delhi and Agra**. Aimed to restrict Mughal control to Punjab.

◆ **Outcome:** Babur **defeated the Rajput confederacy** using superior **artillery and cavalry tactics**. Declared himself **Ghazi (Islamic warrior)**.

◆ **Significance:** Eliminated Rajput resistance to Mughal expansion and secured Mughal dominance over the **Delhi-Agra region**.



Battle of Chanderi (1528)

- ◆ **Opponents:** Babur vs. **Medini Rai** (Rajput ruler of Malwa)
- ◆ **Causes:** **Medini Rai**, a key ally of Rana Sanga, continued resistance against Babur.
- ◆ **Outcome:** Babur **captured Chanderi Fort**.
- ◆ **Significance:** Strengthened Mughal control in **Rajputana**.



Battle of Ghagra (1529): Securing the Eastern Frontier

- ◆ **Opponents:** Babur vs. **Mahmud Lodi** (Ibrahim Lodi's brother) & Afghan chieftains
- ◆ **Causes:** **Mahmud Lodi**, supported by Afghan nobles and **Nusrat Shah of Bengal**, attempted to revive Afghan rule in Delhi.
- ◆ **Outcome:** Babur **defeated the Afghan alliance** at the **Ghagra River**. Afghan chieftains surrendered, leading to a truce.



MAJOR EMPERORS OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

Humayun (1530-1540, 1555-1556)

- ◆ **Challenges and Defeats:** Faced threats from Afghan and Rajput rulers, notably **Sher Shah Suri**.
 - Lost **Battle of Chausa (1539)** and **Battle of Kannauj (1540)**, leading to exile.
- ◆ **Exile in Persia (1540-1555):** Took refuge at **Shah Tahmasp's** court, adopting Persian influences.
- ◆ **Reclamation of the Throne (1555):** With **Persian military aid**, recaptured **Delhi and Agra** from **Sikandar Shah Suri (Battle of Sirhind)**.
- ◆ **Died in 1556** after falling from **Sher Mandal's library** stairs.
- ◆ **Legacy:** Commissioned **Dinpanah** (Delhi) as a new capital.
 - **Humayun's Tomb** in Delhi, built by his **wife Haji Begum**.



Akbar (1556-1605)

- ◆ Ascended the throne at 13 after Humayun's death.
- ◆ **Bairam Khan, his regent**, secured Mughal rule by defeating **Hemu** at the **Second Battle of Panipat (1556)**.
- ◆ **Military Expansion:** Conquered **Malwa (1561)**, **Gujarat (1573)**, **Bengal (1576)**, **Kashmir (1586)**, **Sindh (1591)**, and **Deccan (1600)**.



◆ **Key battles:**

- **Battle of Haldighati (1576)** against Maharana Pratap.
- **Sieges of Chittorgarh (1568) & Ranthambore (1569)** to dominate Rajputana.

◆ **Religious Policies:**

- Abolished **jizya** (1564) and pilgrim tax.
- Introduced **Sulh-i-Kul** (universal peace) for religious harmony.
- Established **Ibadat Khana** (1575) in Fatehpur Sikri for interfaith debates.
- Founded **Din-i-Ilahi** (1582), blending elements of various religions.

◆ **Administrative Reforms:**

- Introduced **Mansabdari System** for military and civil ranks.
- Implemented **Zabt System** (revenue collection), developed by **Raja Todar Mal**.
- Structured administration: **Subahs (provinces), Sarkars (districts), Parganas (tehsils), and Villages.**

◆ **Cultural Achievements:**

- Built **Fatehpur Sikri (1571-1585)**, including **Buland Darwaza, Diwan-i-Khas, and Panch Mahal.**
- Patronized arts and literature; supported **Tansen** in Hindustani classical music.
- **Death (1605):** Died in Agra, succeeded by Jahangir.



Jahangir (1605-1627)

◆ **Political & Military Expansion:**

- Strengthened Akbar's policies, expanded Mughal influence in **Mewar (Treaty with Amar Singh, 1615), Ahmednagar,** and lost **Kandahar to Safavids (1622).**
- Suppressed **Prince Khurram's rebellion and Mahabat Khan's coup (1626).**

◆ **Art & Architecture:**

- Advanced **Mughal miniature painting** and portraiture.
- Built **Shalimar Gardens (Kashmir) and Akbar's Tomb (Sikandra, Agra).**

◆ **Influence of Nur Jahan:**

- Actively governed, **issued coins in her name** and influenced court politics.

◆ **Foreign Relations:**

- Granted **British East India Company** trading rights (1617).
- **Captain William Hawkins (1608)** failed to secure a treaty.
- **Sir Thomas Roe (1615-1619)** successfully obtained permission for a factory **in Surat.**

◆ **Cultural Contributions:**

- Authored **Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri**, documenting his reign.



Shah Jahan (1628-1658)

◆ Golden Age of Mughal Architecture:

- Built **Taj Mahal (1632-1653)**, **Red Fort (Delhi)**, **Jama Masjid (Delhi)**, **Moti Masjid (Agra)**, and **Shahjahanabad** (new capital city).

◆ Military Campaigns and Administration:

- Expanded Mughal rule in **Bijapur, Golconda, and the northwest frontier.**
- Lost **Kandahar (1649) permanently to the Safavids** despite three failed attempts to reclaim it.
- Strengthened trade, granting further **trading privileges to the British East India Company.**

◆ War of Succession (1657-1658):

- Fought between **Dara Shikoh, Shuja, Aurangzeb, and Murad** after Shah Jahan fell ill.

- **Dara Shikoh:** A liberal thinker, he promoted Sufism and translated the **Upanishads** into Persian as **Sirr-i-Akbar** (The Great **Secret**). He also authored **Majma-ul-Bahrain** (The **Confluence of Two Seas**), comparing **Islamic Sufism and Hindu Vedanta.**



- **Aurangzeb defeated Dara** at the **Battle of Samugarh (1658)** and executed him in **1659.**
- **Shah Jahan** was imprisoned in **Agra Fort (1658)** by Aurangzeb until his death in **1666.**

Aurangzeb (1658-1707)

◆ Military Expansion: Extended Mughal rule to its largest extent.

◆ Deccan Campaigns: Conquered **Bijapur (1686)** and **Golconda (1687).**

◆ Faced **Maratha resistance** under **Chhatrapati Shivaji and Sambhaji.**

◆ Religious and Administrative Policies:

- Re-imposed **jizya tax (1679)**, banned court music and paintings.
- Ordered temple demolitions, including **Kashi Vishwanath and Keshav Rai.**
- **Reversed Akbar's liberal policies.**

◆ Revolts and Resistance:

- **Rajput War (1679-1681):** Conflict over succession in **Mewar & Marwar.**

➤ **Maratha Resistance (1660-1707):**

- **Shivaji's** guerrilla tactics led to Hindavi **Swarajya (1674).**
- **Sambhaji** was captured and executed (1689).
- Resistance continued under **Rajaram and Tarabai.**



- ◆ **Sikh Rebellion:** Executed **Guru Tegh Bahadur (1675)**, faced uprisings under **Guru Gobind Singh and Banda Singh Bahadur**.
- ◆ **Jat, Satnami, and Pashtun revolts** weakened the empire.
- ◆ **Foreign Relations:**
 - Clashed with the **British East India Company (1686)** under **Sir John Child**.
 - Imposed trade restrictions but later signed a **1690 treaty**, allowing the British to establish **Fort William (Calcutta)**.
- ◆ **Death (1707):** Died in Ahmednagar, triggering a succession crisis and Mughal decline.



LATER MUGHALS (1707-1857): DECLINE OF MUGHAL AUTHORITY



- ◆ **Weak Successors:** Post-Aurangzeb rulers—**Bahadur Shah I (1707-1712)**, **Jahandar Shah (1712-1713)**, **Farrukhsiyar (1713-1719)**—lacked strong leadership.
- ◆ **Rise of Regional Powers:**
 - Governors of **Bengal, Awadh, and Hyderabad** became independent.
 - **Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, and Rajputs** challenged Mughal authority.



Sayyid Brothers ("Kingmakers")

- ◆ **Sayyid Abdullah Khan & Sayyid Husain Ali Khan** controlled the Mughal court.
- ◆ Deposed **Farrukhsiyar (1719)**, installing puppet rulers.
- ◆ Overthrown by **Muhammad Shah (1720)**, ending their dominance.



FOREIGN INVASIONS AND THEIR IMPACT



- ◆ **Nadir Shah's Invasion (1739):** During **Muhammad Shah's reign (1719-1748)**.
 - Defeated Mughals at **Karnal**, plundered **Delhi**, looting the **Peacock Throne** and **Kohinoor diamond**.
- ◆ **Ahmad Shah Abdali's Invasions (1748-1767):** Invaded India multiple times, weakening the empire.



KEY REASONS FOR DECLINE

- ◆ **Internal Conflicts:** Power struggles and succession wars.
- ◆ **Weak Nobility:** Declining competence and administrative corruption.
- ◆ **Rise of Regional Powers: Marathas, Sikhs, Nawabs of Bengal, Awadh, Hyderabad.**
- ◆ **Economic Crisis:** Declining agriculture, excessive spending, and weak trade.
- ◆ **Military Weakness:** Outdated tactics, lack of modernization.
- ◆ **British Involvement:** Increasing influence of the **East India Company**.




END OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (1857)

- ◆ **1857 Revolt (First War of Independence):** Last Mughal emperor **Bahadur Shah II** was deposed by the British.
- ◆ The Mughal Empire officially ended in **1857**, making way for **British rule in India**.



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