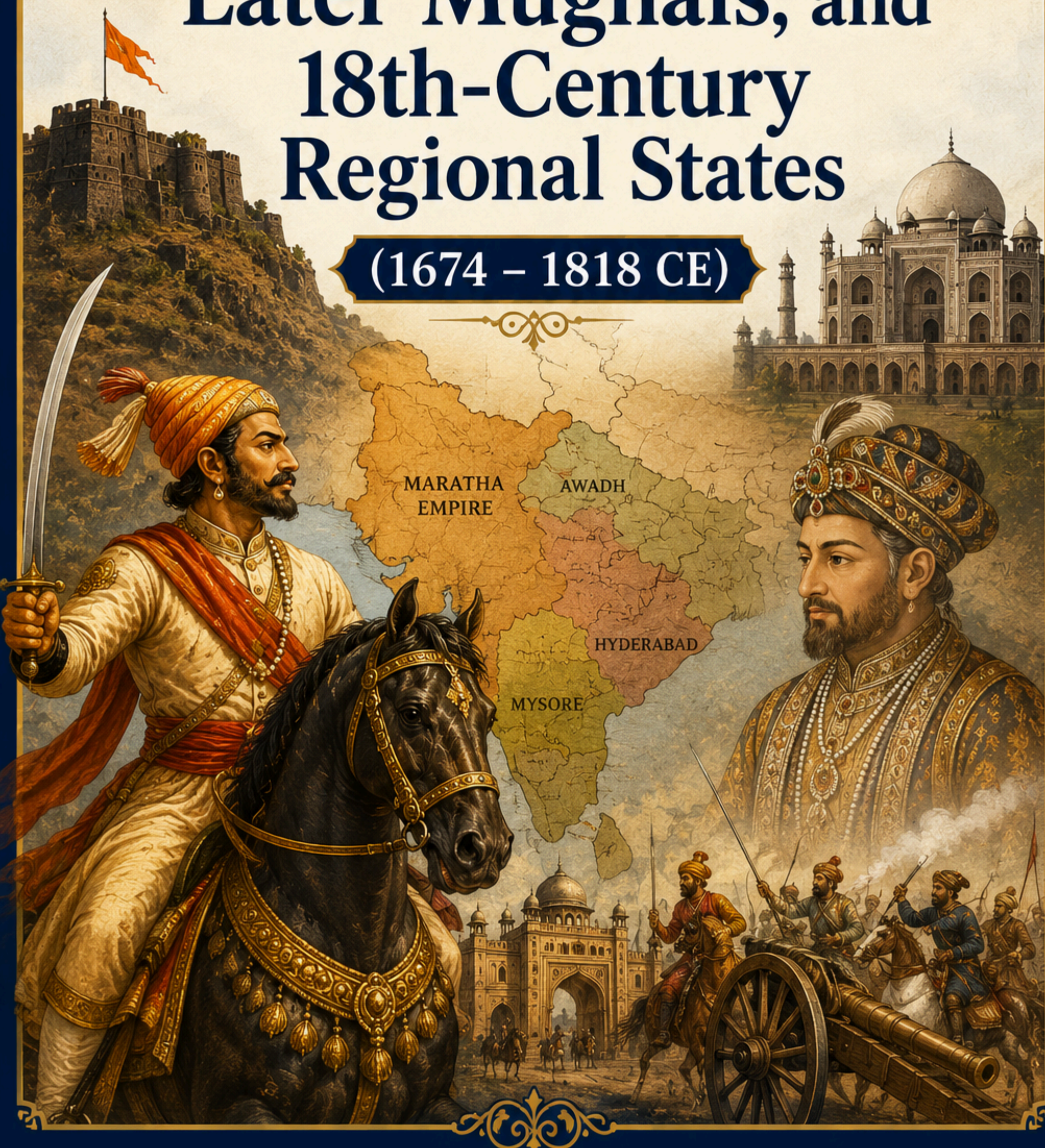


The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States

(1674 – 1818 CE)



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



1. Historical Background

- This period (1674–1818 CE) marks a time of political transition in India.
- The power of the Mughal Empire weakened after Aurangzeb's death (1707 CE).
- The decline of central authority led to the rise of new powers and the emergence of regional states.



3. Later Mughals

- After Aurangzeb, weak emperors ruled the Mughal Empire.
- Real power came into the hands of nobles, courtiers, and regional governors.
- The empire became a name only, with no effective control over provinces.



2. Rise of the Maratha Empire

- Founded by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the 17th century.
- Expanded by Sambhaji, Rajaram, Tarabai, and especially under Peshwa Bajirao I.
- By the mid-18th century, the Marathas became the dominant power in India.



Introduction



4. 18th-Century Regional States

- Several regional states emerged and became powerful.
- Important states include: Hyderabad (Nizam), Awadh, Bengal, Mysore, Punjab (Sikhs), Rajasthan, and others.
- These states had their own administration, armies, and revenue systems.



5. Key Features of the Period

- **Political Fragmentation:** Decline of a strong central power.
- **Rise of New Powers:** Marathas and regional states filled the vacuum.
- **Economic Changes:** Agriculture expanded, trade continued, but instability increased.
- **Social Impact:** New elite groups emerged; society remained largely traditional.
- **Foreign Influence:** The British East India Company gradually gained political power.



6. Timeline

- 1674 CE – Shivaji's coronation
- 1707 CE – Death of Aurangzeb
- 1720–1761 CE – Rise of the Peshwas
- Mid-18th century – Maratha expansion across India
- 1757 CE – Battle of Plassey (Beginning of British influence)
- 1818 CE – Defeat of the Marathas; end of their political power



7. Significance

- ★ Laid the foundation for modern India's political structure.
- ★ Marathas played a unifying role in large parts of India.
- ★ Regional states contributed to administrative and cultural development.
- ★ The period set the stage for the rise of British paramountcy in India.

In Short

This period was a bridge between the decline of the Mughal Empire and the rise of the British. It witnessed the rise of the Marathas and regional states, political disunity, but also important social, economic, and cultural changes.



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



1. The Rise of the Maratha Empire: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Background

- Born on **19 February 1630** at **Shivneri Fort**.
- Son of **Shahaji Bhosale** and **Jijabai**.
- Shahaji was a Maratha general in the service of the Deccan Sultanates.
- Jijabai played a crucial role in instilling patriotism, values, and a sense of **swaraj (self-rule)** in him.

Early Life & Inspiration

- Inspired by the ideals of the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhakti saints.
- Deeply influenced by the rugged terrain of Maharashtra which shaped his guerrilla warfare skills.
- His goal was to establish **Hindavi Swarajya** – self-rule for the people.

Establishment of Swarajya

- In 1645, at the age of 15, Shivaji captured **Torna Fort** – his first major victory.
- He captured many forts like **Rajgad, Purandar, Kondana, and Chakan**.
- Laid the foundation of an independent Maratha state.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (1630–1680)



Military Strategies

- Master of **Guerrilla Warfare** – hit and run tactics.
- Used knowledge of forts and mountain terrain to his advantage.
- Maintained a strong and loyal army with discipline.
- Built a powerful **navy** to protect the Konkan coast.

Administration

- Organized a well-structured administration.
- Ashtapradhan Mandal** – a council of eight ministers.
- Efficient revenue system based on land measurement.
- Focus on the welfare of the people and religious tolerance.

His Vision

“Swarajya is my birthright and I shall have it.”
— Shivaji Maharaj

Major Achievements

- Defeated Adil Shahi, Nizam Shahi, and Mughals in many battles.
- Famous victories: **Pratapgad (1659), Pavan Khind, Surat Raid (1664)**.
- Established Hindavi Swarajya and became a symbol of resistance.

Key Events in Shivaji Maharaj's Life



Legacy

- Shivaji Maharaj laid the foundation of the Maratha Empire.
- He is remembered as a great warrior, visionary leader, and ideal ruler.
- His leadership inspired future generations and expanded Maratha power across India.



Challenges Faced

- Faced powerful enemies – Mughals, Adil Shahis, and Nizam Shahis.
- Constant wars and limited resources.
- Betrays and conspiracies from enemies.
- Difficult terrain and climatic conditions.



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



1. The Rise of the Maratha Empire: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

A. MILITARY TRIUMPHS AND CORONATION



MILITARY TRIUMPHS



Defeat of Afzal Khan (1659)

Shivaji Maharaj killed Afzal Khan using strategy and courage at Pratapgad.



Victory at Pavan Khind (1660)

Baji Prabhu Deshpande sacrificed his life to help Shivaji escape to Vishalgad.



Surat Raids (1664 & 1670)

Shivaji conducted raids on Surat, a wealthy Mughal port, to gather resources.



Siege of Panhala (1660)

Shivaji faced the combined forces of Siddi Johar and escaped bravely.



Naval Strength

Built a strong navy to protect the Konkan coast and challenge European and Siddis.



Shivaji Maharaj
(1630–1680)

* “I have captured forts,
not for me, but for Swarajya.”

– Shivaji Maharaj



STRATEGIC GENIUS

- Used Guerrilla Warfare (Ganimi Kava) effectively.
- Knew the terrain well – hills, forests, and forts.
- Attacked suddenly and disappeared.
- Won many battles against numerically superior enemies.
- Earned the respect of both people and enemies.



CORONATION (6 JUNE 1674)



- Shivaji Maharaj was coronated at **Raigad Fort** on 6 June 1674.
- The coronation was performed by **Gaga Bhatta**, a learned Brahmin scholar from Varanasi.
- He was given the title **Chhatrapati** and declared as the sovereign ruler of **Hindavi Swarajya**.
- A new era of independent Maratha rule began.



SIGNIFICANCE OF CORONATION

- ✓ Legitimized Shivaji's rule as a Hindu king.
- ✓ United Maratha sardars and people under one leadership.
- ✓ Boosted the morale and identity of the Maratha Empire.
- ✓ Inspired future generations to continue the legacy of Swarajya.

KEY FORTS BUILT / CAPTURED BY SHIVAJI MAHARAJ



Raigad

Capital fort and coronation place.



Pratapgad

Built to counter Afzal Khan's threat.



Sinhagad

Captured from Mughals.



Rajgad

First capital of Maratha Empire.



Panhala

Strategic fort in the south.



Torna

First fort captured by young Shivaji.



“The sword of Shivaji was not drawn for personal glory, but for the protection of Dharma and the people.”



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)

1. The Rise of the Maratha Empire: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

B. ADMINISTRATION: THE ASHTA PRADHAN COUNCIL



Well-Organized Administration

- Shivaji Maharaj established a strong and efficient administration.
- He formed a council of eight ministers called **Ashta Pradhan** to assist in governance.
- This system ensured division of work, accountability, and smooth functioning of the empire.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
(1630–1680)



Features of the System

- Centralized but consultative.
- Ministers were appointed by the king and were responsible to him.
- Salaries were paid in cash, not in jagirs, to prevent the rise of independent power centers.
- Regular supervision and detailed record-keeping.

THE ASHTA PRADHAN – THE COUNCIL OF EIGHT MINISTERS

No.	Title (Marathi)	Sanskrit Term	In-Charge Of	Key Responsibilities
1.	 Peshwa	<i>Pradhan</i>	Prime Minister	- Head of the council and chief executive. - Coordinated between the king and ministers.
2.	 Amatya	<i>Amatya</i>	Finance	- Managed state finances and accounts. - Collected revenue and maintained records.
3.	 Sachiv	<i>Sachiva</i>	Home Affairs & Administration	- Handled correspondence (letters, orders). - Maintained state documents and archives.
4.	 Mantri	<i>Mantrin</i>	State Intelligence	- In-charge of spies and intelligence network. - Reported on internal and external affairs.
5.	 Senapati	<i>Senapati</i>	Military Affairs	- Commander-in-chief of the army. - Planned military campaigns and battles.
6.	 Nyayadhish	<i>Nyayadhish</i>	Judiciary	- Head of the judicial system. - Gave final judgments in civil and criminal cases.
7.	 Panditrao	<i>Panditrao</i>	Religious Affairs & Charity	- Looked after religious matters and donations. - Granted charity and maintained dharmic works.
8.	 Sumant / Dabir	<i>Sumanta</i>	Foreign Affairs	- Managed relations with other kingdoms and foreign powers. - Handled treaties and diplomacy.



Highlights

- Ensured efficient governance in a vast and diverse empire.
- Prevented misuse of power through division of responsibilities.
- Helped in quick decision-making and effective implementation.



Significance

- Laid the foundation of a strong administrative system.
- Inspired future Maratha rulers and other kingdoms.
- A model of disciplined and people-friendly governance.

“A kingdom is not run by the king alone,
but by wise ministers and just administration.”



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)

1. The Rise of the Maratha Empire: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

C. REVENUE AND MILITARY STRATEGIES



REVENUE SYSTEM

Shivaji Maharaj introduced a just and efficient revenue system.

1	Land Measurement	• Land was measured accurately to fix revenue.
2	Classification of Land	• Land was classified based on fertility and productivity.
3	Assessment of Revenue	• Revenue was fixed at around 2/5th of the produce.
4	Collection in Cash or Kind	• Revenue was collected either in cash or kind.
5	Peasants' Welfare	• Protection of peasants from exploitation by officials.
6	Remission in Times of Crisis	• Revenue concessions were given during droughts, floods, or crop failure.

✓ This system increased state revenue and ensured the prosperity of peasants.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (1630–1680)

“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.”
– Shivaji Maharaj



MILITARY STRATEGIES

Shivaji Maharaj was a brilliant military strategist and tactician.

- 1 **Guerrilla Warfare**
 - Used hit-and-run tactics, surprise attacks, and swift movements.
- 2 **Knowledge of Terrain**
 - Excellent knowledge of hills, forests, and coastal regions gave him an advantage.
- 3 **Fort Strategy**
 - Built and captured many forts (over 300) to strengthen his empire.
- 4 **Light and Mobile Cavalry**
 - Maintained a fast-moving cavalry for quick strikes and retreats.
- 5 **Strong Navy**
 - Built a strong navy to protect the Konkan coast and trade routes.
- 6 **Intelligence Network**
 - Developed a strong spy network to get accurate information about enemies.

✓ These strategies made Shivaji's army disciplined, flexible, and victorious.



KEY FEATURES OF SHIVAJI'S APPROACH

- People-Centric Rule – Focus on the welfare of his subjects.
- Justice and Discipline – Strict action against corruption and injustice.
- Religious Tolerance – Respected all religions and protected places of worship.
- Encouraged Trade and Industry – Promoted trade, agriculture, and local industries.
- Merit-Based Appointments – Gave importance to merit over caste or religion.



IMPACT AND STRENGTHS

- ✓ Created a strong and independent Maratha state.
- ✓ Laid the foundation for future Maratha expansion in India.
- ✓ His strategies were adopted by his successors and inspired many leaders.
- ✓ Built a system that combined military strength with good governance.



→ Shivaji Maharaj's revenue system ensured prosperity, and his military strategies ensured protection and expansion. Together, they built the might of the Maratha Empire.

The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



2. The Peshwa Hegemony and Maratha Confederacy



RISE OF THE PESHWA POWER

- After Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the real power gradually shifted to the Peshwas, the prime ministers.
- Balaji Vishwanath (Peshwa from 1713) laid the foundation of Peshwa power.
- Baji Rao I (1720–1740) expanded Maratha influence across India.
- The Peshwas ruled from Pune, while the Chhatrapati at Satara remained a nominal figurehead.



Peshwa Baji Rao I
(1720–1740)



EXPANSION UNDER THE PESHWAS

- Marathas expanded rapidly under the leadership of Peshwas.
- Conquered Malwa, Bundelkhand, Gujarat, and parts of the Deccan.
- Extracted Chauth (25%) and Sardeshmukhi (10%) from the Mughal Empire.
- By mid-18th century, Marathas became the most powerful force in India.



PESHWA TIMELINE

- 1713–1720 Balaji Vishwanath**
Strengthened Maratha position; secured rights of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi from Mughals.
- 1720–1740 Baji Rao I**
Extended Maratha power to Malwa, Bundelkhand, Gujarat and beyond.
- 1740–1761 Balaji Baji Rao (Nana Saheb)**
Period of maximum expansion; led Marathas to North India.
- 1761–1772 Madhav Rao I**
Restored order after the disaster of Panipat; strong administrator.
- 1772–1818 Later Peshwas**
Power declined due to internal rivalries and British expansion.



“We shall not be content until we sweep the foreign power from Hindustan.”

– Baji Rao I



THE MARATHA CONFEDERACY

- After the decline of central authority, the Maratha Empire became a confederacy of powerful chiefs.
- Each chief had his own territory, army, and administration but accepted Peshwa's supremacy.

Important Maratha Houses:

The Scindias (Shindes)	Gwalior
The Holkars	Indore
The Gaekwads	Baroda
The Bhonsles	Nagpur
The Puars (Pawars)	Dhar
The Patwardhans	Southern Maharashtra

- Though united in spirit, they often pursued their own interests.



ADMINISTRATION & REVENUE SYSTEM

- Peshwas followed a decentralized administration.
- Revenue was mainly derived from:



Chauth
(25% of revenue from conquered territories)



Sardeshmukhi
(10% as an additional tax)



Land Revenue
from cultivated lands

- Efficient revenue collection supported large armies and administration.
- Local officials like Kamavisdars and Deshmukhs helped in governance.



KEY BATTLES & EVENTS

- 1728 Conquest of Malwa
- 1737 Maratha entry into Delhi
- 1751–1752 Conquest of Gujarat
- 1757 Conquest of Bengal (short-lived Maratha influence)
- 1761 Third Battle of Panipat – Marathas defeated by Ahmad Shah Abdali
- 1771 Marathas recaptured Delhi



The Marathas went from defending their homeland to ruling large parts of India.



FACTORS OF DECLINE

- Weakening of central authority.
- Rivalries among Maratha chiefs.
- Excessive military expenses.
- Loss at the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) shook Maratha power.
- Rise of British power and their policy of “Divide and Rule”.
- By 1818, the British defeated the Peshwas and ended Maratha rule.



SIGNIFICANCE



Marathas filled the power vacuum after the decline of Mughals.



Protected Indian interests and dharma.



Administered vast territories with efficiency.



Their legacy of unity and resistance inspired future generations.



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



2. The Peshwa Hegemony and Maratha Confederacy

A. ERA OF THE GREAT PESHWAS



THE GREAT PESHWAS

The 18th century witnessed the rise of visionary Peshwas who expanded Maratha power across India.

- 1 Balaji Vishwanath (1713–1720)**
Strengthened Maratha position and laid the foundation of Peshwa power.
- 2 Baji Rao I (1720–1740)**
A brilliant military leader who expanded Maratha power to the north and west.
- 3 Balaji Baji Rao (Nana Saheb) (1740–1761)**
Period of maximum expansion and influence across India.
- 4 Madhav Rao I (1761–1772)**
Restored Maratha strength after the Third Battle of Panipat.



**The Great Peshwas
Builders of Maratha
Supremacy**

“We fight for Swarajya,
but we rule for the welfare
of the people.”
– Baji Rao I



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Expansion of Territory**
Marathas expanded from the Deccan to Malwa, Bundelkhand, Gujarat, Orissa, and parts of North India.
- **Decline of Mughal Power**
Marathas became the real power behind a nominal Mughal emperor.
- **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi**
Right to collect Chauth (25%) and Sardeshmukhi (10%) was accepted from many provinces.
- **Spread of Maratha Influence**
Maratha influence extended up to the Indus in the west and up to Tamil Nadu in the south.
- **Rise of Maratha Confederacy**
Powerful Maratha houses emerged and ruled semi-independently.



ADMINISTRATION UNDER PESHWAS

- Decentralized administration with real power in the hands of Peshwas.
- Province called ‘Prant’, headed by Subedars.
- Revenue collected through Chauth, Sardeshmukhi, and land revenue.
- Talukas and villages managed local affairs.
- Karkun and Deshmukhs helped in administration.



MILITARY STRENGTHS

- Highly mobile cavalry was the main strength.
- Expert in guerilla warfare and rapid attacks.
- Light artillery and better intelligence network.
- Able commanders like Baji Rao I, Holkar, Scindia, Bhonsle, and Gaikwad.
- Fought and won many battles against Mughals, Nizam, and other rivals.



MAJOR CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS

- **1719** Marathas granted right to collect Chauth & Sardeshmukhi by the Mughals.
- **1728** Conquest of Malwa by Baji Rao I.
- **1737** Maratha entry into Delhi.
- **1738** Victory at Bhopal – forced Mughals to accept Maratha demands.
- **1740** Marathas reached the Indus under Baji Rao I.
- **1751–1752** Conquest of Gujarat.
- **1757** Conquest of Bengal (short-lived influence).
- **1761** Third Battle of Panipat – a major setback.
- **1761–1772** Recovery and consolidation under Madhav Rao I.



MARATHA CONFEDERACY – THE FIVE GREAT HOUSES

After the decline of central authority, Maratha power was shared among powerful houses.



Scindias
(Gwalior)

Dominated in North India.



Holkars
(Indore)

Strong in Malwa.



Bhonsles
(Nagpur)

Controlled Central India and Orissa.



Gaikwads
(Baroda)

Ruled in Gujarat.



Peshwas
(Pune)

Held the Deccan core region.

These houses were loyal to the Peshwa but acted independently in their territories.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ERA

- ✓ Established Marathas as the paramount power in India.
- ✓ Checked the decline of Maratha power after Panipat.
- ✓ Built a vast empire with a strong revenue base.
- ✓ Laid the foundation for modern administration and military organization.
- ✓ Their legacy inspired the spirit of unity, courage, and self-rule.



“The Peshwas turned Swarajya into Samrajya (Empire).

Their vision, valor, and administration built the might of the Maratha power.”



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



2. The Peshwa Hegemony and Maratha Confederacy

B. THIRD BATTLE OF PANIPAT (JANUARY 14, 1761 CE)



BACKGROUND

- The decline of Mughal power created a power vacuum in North India.
- Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durrani Empire) invaded India repeatedly.
- Marathas under Sadashiv Rao Bhau and Vishwasrao (heir to the Peshwa) marched north to assert Maratha supremacy and protect their allies.
- Abdali aimed to stop Maratha expansion and restore his influence in India.



Sadashiv Rao Bhau
(Maratha Commander)

Ahmad Shah Abdali
(Durrani Ruler)



THE ARMIES

Maratha Army

- Led by Sadashiv Rao Bhau.
- Included Maratha cavalry, infantry, artillery and allies.
- Strength: ~45,000 – 60,000 (approx.)

Durrani Army

- Led by Ahmad Shah Abdali.
- Included Afghan cavalry, infantry, artillery and Rohilla allies.
- Strength: ~60,000 – 70,000 (approx.)



CAUSES OF THE BATTLE

- ✓ Maratha ambition to control North India and assert dominance.
- ✓ Durrani attempt to protect Afghan interests and stop Maratha expansion.
- ✓ Conflict of interests between Marathas and Rohillas.
- ✓ Struggle for control over Delhi and the rich Gangetic region.



COURSE OF THE BATTLE

- ✓ The battle was fought near Panipat (Haryana) on January 14, 1761.
- ✓ It was a long and fierce battle.
- ✓ Marathas fought bravely but suffered due to lack of supplies and support.
- ✓ Abdali's superior strategy, cavalry and artillery turned the tide.
- ✓ Marathas faced a crushing defeat.



KEY COMMANDERS

Maratha Side

- Sadashiv Rao Bhau – Commander-in-Chief
- Vishwasrao – Peshwa's son (heir apparent)
- Ibrahim Khan Gardi – Artillery Chief
- Jankoji Shinde, Malhar Rao Holkar – Leaders

Durrani Side

- Ahmad Shah Abdali – Supreme Commander
- Najib-ud-Daula (Rohilla Chief)
- Shuja-ud-Daula (Awadh) – Ally



CASUALTIES

- The battle resulted in a huge loss of life.
- Maratha losses are estimated to be around 40,000 – 50,000 including Sadashiv Rao Bhau and Vishwasrao.
- It was one of the bloodiest battles in Indian history.



EFFECTS / CONSEQUENCES

- Maratha power declined significantly in North India.
- Maratha expansion was checked for several years.
- Regional powers like Awadh, Bengal, Hyderabad and Mysore gained importance.
- British East India Company benefited indirectly from Maratha weakness.
- It marked the end of Maratha dominance in North India.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BATTLE



It was a turning point in 18th-century Indian history.



Weakened the Marathas but did not destroy them completely.



Opened the way for the rise of new regional kingdoms and the British.



Marathas later regained strength under Mahaadji Shinda.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 1757–1758
Abdali invades India.
- 1759–1760
Marathas march north to counter Abdali.
- Late 1760
Marathas reach Panipat, face supply shortage.
- Jan 14, 1761
Third Battle of Panipat – Maratha defeat.
- 1761 onwards
Maratha power declines in North India.

“The field of Panipat was a graveyard of Maratha glory, but not the end of their spirit.”



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



2. The Peshwa Hegemony and Maratha Confederacy

C. PROMINENT MARATHA CONFEDERACY CLANS

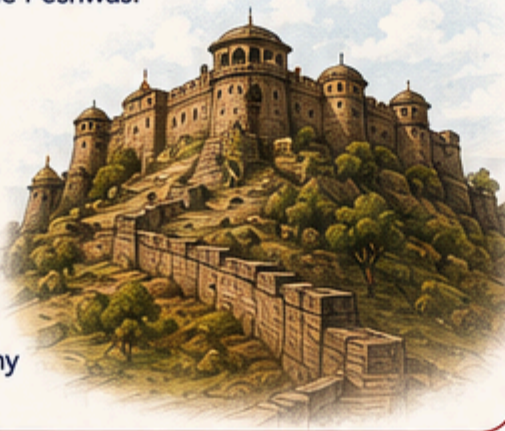


After the death of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj (1749), real power shifted to the Peshwas. The Maratha Empire became a Confederacy of powerful clans, each ruling their own territories but acknowledging the nominal authority of the Peshwa.

1. SCINDIAS (SHINDES) – GWALIOR



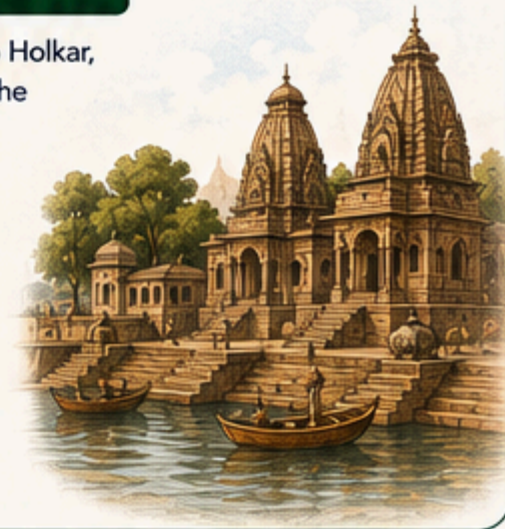
- Founded by Ranoji Shinde, a commander under the Peshwas.
- Ranoji's grandson, Mahadji Scindia (r. 1761–1794) was the most powerful.
- Controlled Malwa, Gwalior, and parts of North India.
- Played a key role in reviving Maratha power after Panipat.
- Known for a well-organized army trained in European methods.



2. HOLKARS – INDORE



- Founded by Malhar Rao Holkar, a cavalry leader under the Peshwas.
- His daughter-in-law, Ahilyabai Holkar (r. 1767–1795) was a wise and just ruler.
- Controlled Malwa region with Indore as the capital.
- Known for good administration, infrastructure, and temples across India.



3. BHONSLES – NAGPUR



- Descended from Raghuji Bhonsle I, a general under Shahu Maharaj.
- Raghuji II (r. 1788–1816) was the most prominent ruler.
- Controlled Berar, Gondwana, and parts of Orissa.
- Collected Chauth from Bengal and other eastern provinces.
- Maintained a strong army and independent administration.



4. GAEKWADS – BARODA



- Founded by Pilaji Gaekwad, a close associate of Baji Rao I.
- Damaji Gaekwad expanded their power in Gujarat.
- Controlled Gujarat, Kathiawar, and parts of Rajasthan.
- Efficient revenue administration and trade development.
- Maintained cordial relations with the Peshwas.



5. PESHWA (BHAU) – PUNE



- The Peshwas were hereditary prime ministers of the Maratha Empire.
- Baji Rao I laid the foundation of Peshwa power.
- Balaji Baji Rao (Nanasaheb) strengthened the Maratha Empire.
- After Panipat (1761), Madhav Rao I restored stability.
- Pune was the political and administrative center.



6. PAWARS – DHAR (DEWAS)



- Founded by Udaji Pawar, a commander under Peshwas.
- Controlled Dhar and Dewas in Malwa region.
- Known for bravery and loyalty to the Maratha cause.
- Played a supporting role in Maratha expansion.



ROLE OF MARATHA CONFEDERACY CLANS

- Extended Maratha power from the Deccan to the north, west, and east of India.
- Each clan was semi-independent but paid tribute (chauth) to the Peshwa.
- These clans together formed the strength and backbone of the Maratha Empire.
- Rivalries among clans sometimes weakened the unity of the Marathas.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Maratha power was not centralized but confederated.
- Major clans played crucial roles in expansion and administration.
- Their combined strength made the Marathas the most powerful force in India in the 18th century.
- However, lack of unity among clans and succession disputes weakened their position.

“United we rise, divided we fall.” – The strength and glory of the Marathas lay in their unity; their decline began when unity turned into rivalry.



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



3. The Later Mughals and Foreign Invasions (1707 – 1857 CE)

OVERVIEW

- After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the Mughal Empire entered a phase of political decline.
- Weak emperors, noble rivalries, economic problems, and foreign invasions weakened the empire.
- The period saw the rise of regional powers like Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Rohillas, Awadh, and Bengal.
- Foreign powers, especially the British, gradually became the real rulers of India.



Bahadur Shah I
(1707–1712)
The Last Powerful Mughal Emperor

FEATURES OF THE PERIOD

- Central authority became nominal.
- Provincial governors acted independently.
- Revenue system collapsed.
- Army discipline declined.
- Europeans (British, French, Dutch, Danes, Portuguese) expanded their influence.
- The foundation of British Paramountcy was laid.

MAJOR FOREIGN INVASIONS

- **1739** **Nadir Shah (Persia)**
Sacked Delhi, took immense wealth including Peacock Throne.
- **1748–1767** **Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durrani)**
Invaded India multiple times, plundered North India.
- **1798–1799** **Napoleon Bonaparte (France)**
Reached Egypt with the dream of reaching India; failed.
- **1838–1842** **First Anglo-Afghan War**
British failed to control Afghanistan.
- **1848–1849** **Second Anglo-Sikh War**
Annexation of Punjab by the British.
- **1857** **Revolt of 1857**
The turning point; Mughal rule ended.

IMPACT ON THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

- ➔ Loss of wealth and resources.
- ➔ Disruption of trade and economy.
- ➔ Provincial autonomy increased.
- ➔ Rise of regional kingdoms.
- ➔ British East India Company gained political and economic control.



CAUSES OF DECLINE

- Weak and incompetent emperors after Aurangzeb.
- Struggle for succession among princes and nobles.
- Loss of control over provinces.
- Heavy military expenditure and financial crisis.
- Rise of powerful regional states.
- Foreign invasions and interference in internal affairs.
- Economic exploitation by European companies.

IMPORTANT EVENTS (1707–1857)

Year	Event
1707	Death of Aurangzeb
1712	Accession of Jahandar Shah
1719	Farrukhsiyar becomes emperor
1739	Invasion of Nadir Shah
1748–1767	Invasions of Ahmad Shah Abdali
1764	Battle of Buxar – British victory
1772	Warren Hastings – First Governor of Bengal
1798	Arrival of British under Lord Wellesley
1848–1849	Annexation of Punjab
1857	Revolt of 1857 – End of Mughal Rule

IMPORTANT MUGHAL EMPERORS (AFTER AURANGZEB)

- Bahadur Shah I (1707–1712)**
A just ruler, tried to revive the empire.
- Jahandar Shah (1712–1713)**
Indulgent and weak.
- Farrukhsiyar (1713–1719)**
English got important concessions during his reign.
- Muhammad Shah (1719–1748)**
Known for luxury and peace, but empire weakened.
- Shah Alam II (1760–1806)**
Powerless emperor; real power with others.
- Bahadur Shah II (1837–1857)**
Last Mughal emperor; symbol of unity in 1857 revolt.

RISE OF REGIONAL POWERS

- Marathas**
Controlled large parts of India.
- Sikhs**
Ranjit Singh built a strong kingdom in Punjab.
- Jats**
Suraj Mal established Bharatpur state.
- Rohillas**
Founded Rohilkhand in present-day Uttar Pradesh.
- Awadh**
Saadat Khan made Awadh an independent state.
- Bengal**
Bengal became wealthy and independent under Nawabs.

SIGNIFICANCE

- ✓ The decline of Mughals opened the door for British dominance.
- ✓ Regional states developed their own culture, administration, and army.
- ✓ Foreign invasions exposed the weakness of the Mughal system.
- ✓ The period laid the foundation for modern India's political changes.

“After Aurangzeb, the sun of the Mughal Empire was in eclipse.”



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



3. The Later Mughals and Foreign Invasions (1707 – 1857 CE)

A. KEY LATER MUGHAL MONARCHS



After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the Mughal Empire entered a phase of decline. The later Mughal emperors were mostly weak and became puppets in the hands of nobles, regional powers and the British East India Company.

1. Bahadur Shah I (1707–1712)



- Succeeded Aurangzeb.
- Tried to revive the empire and maintain peace.
- Faced rebellions in Rajputana, Jat and Sikh regions.
- His authority was limited.

2. Jahandar Shah (1712–1713)



- Indulgent and weak ruler.
- Spent time in luxury and pleasures.
- His rule increased the influence of nobles, especially Zulfiqar Khan.
- Deposed after a short rule.

3. Farrukhsiyar (1713–1719)



- Came to power with the help of Sayyid Brothers.
- Granted many concessions to the British (Farman of 1717).
- Later fell out with the Sayyid Brothers and was deposed and killed.

4. Muhammad Shah (1719–1748)



- Longest ruler of the later Mughals.
- Known for luxury, music, art and architecture.
- Real power was in the hands of nobles.
- Empire weakened further during his reign.

5. Ahmad Shah (1748–1754)



- Weak and inexperienced ruler.
- Affairs controlled by his wazir, Safdar Jang.
- Nadir Shah invaded India in 1739 during his reign and looted Delhi.

6. Alamgir II (1754–1759)



- Had no real power.
- Wazir Ghazi-ud-Din (Imad-ul-Mulk) ruled in his name.
- Marathas gained strength in North India.

7. Shah Alam II (1759–1806)



- Competent but powerless emperor.
- Marathas, Rohillas and British all used him for their own gain.
- Took refuge with the British in 1803 after defeat.



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LATER MUGHALS

- Weak and inefficient rulers.
- Real power shifted to nobles, ministers and regional governors.
- Frequent succession struggles.
- Empire fragmented into small provinces.
- Economic resources declined.
- Rise of regional powers like Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Rohillas, Awadh and Bengal.
- British East India Company gained political control gradually.



IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THEIR REIGN

- 1717: Farrukhsiyar granted trading privileges to the British through a Farman.
- 1739: Nadir Shah invaded India, defeated the Mughals and looted Delhi.
- 1740s: Marathas expanded their influence in North India.
- 1761: Third Battle of Panipat weakened the Marathas but Mughals did not recover.
- 1803: British defeated Marathas and took Delhi; Shah Alam II became a British protectorate.



REASONS FOR WEAKNESS

- No strong leadership and vision.
- Corrupt and selfish nobles.
- Jagirdari system in crisis.
- Heavy military expenditure but undisciplined army.
- Loss of control over provinces.
- Continuous invasions and internal conflicts.
- Rise of powerful regional states.
- British interference in politics and economy.



LEGACY OF LATER MUGHALS

- The prestige of the Mughal Empire declined.
- Cultural and architectural activities continued but under nobles and regional courts.
- Created a vacuum of power which led to the rise of regional states.
- Ultimately led to British supremacy in India.

TIMELINE OF LATER MUGHAL MONARCHS

Bahadur Shah I	Jahandar Shah	Farrukhsiyar	Muhammad Shah	Ahmad Shah	Alamgir II	Shah Alam II
1707–1712	1712–1713	1713–1719	1719–1748	1748–1754	1754–1759	1759–1806



“The throne remained, but the power vanished. The later Mughals ruled in name, not in reality.”



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



3. The Later Mughals and Foreign Invasions (1707 – 1857 CE)

B. DEVASTATING INVASIONS FROM THE NORTHWEST

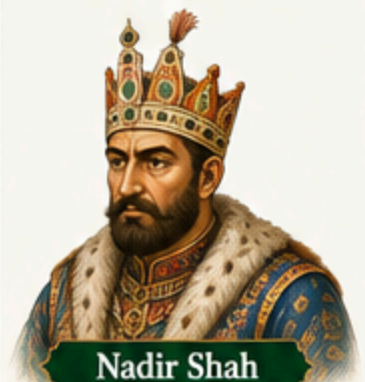


After 1707, the northwestern frontier remained vulnerable. Repeated invasions by foreign rulers weakened the Mughal Empire politically, economically and militarily, and paved the way for foreign domination.

MAJOR INVASIONS FROM THE NORTHWEST

1 NADIR SHAH'S INVASION (1739)

- Nadir Shah of Persia invaded India.
- Defeated Mughal army in the Battle of Karnal (1739).
- Entered Delhi and plundered the city.
- Took immense wealth including Peacock Throne, Koh-i-Noor diamond and Darya-i-Noor.
- Returned to Persia after massacre and loot.

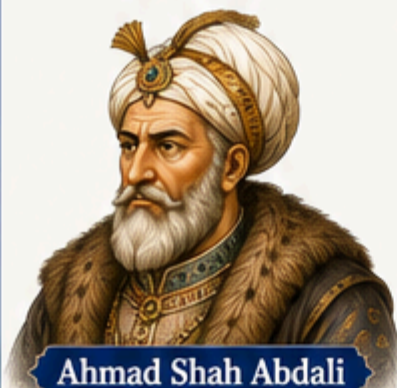


Nadir Shah



2 AHMAD SHAH ABDALI'S INVASIONS (1748–1767)

- Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durrani Ruler) invaded India multiple times—about 9 times.
- Main aim was plunder and expand his power.
- Fought several battles against Mughals and Marathas.
- The Third Battle of Panipat (1761) was the most devastating.
- Returned to Afghanistan after each invasion.



Ahmad Shah Abdali



3 MARATHA RESPONSE (Mid-18th Century)

- Marathas emerged as the strongest power in North India after repeated invasions.
- Tried to defend the northwestern frontier and maintain stability.
- Suffered a major setback in Third Battle of Panipat (1761).
- Later regained strength and continued expanding their influence.



4 RISE OF THE SIKHS (18th Century)

- Decline of Mughals led to power vacuum in Punjab.
- Sikhs, under leaders like Banda Singh Bahadur, carved out their influence.
- Laid the foundation of a strong Sikh state in Punjab.



Banda Singh Bahadur



5 BRITISH OPPORTUNITY (Mid-18th Century Onwards)

- Repeated invasions and political instability weakened the Mughal Empire.
- British East India Company took advantage of the situation.
- Gained control over Bengal (1757) and expanded its power.
- Eventually became the dominant power in India by the mid-19th century.



British East India Company

TIMELINE OF MAJOR NORTHWESTERN INVASIONS



1739

Nadir Shah's Invasion

Defeated Mughals at Karnal and plundered Delhi.

1748–1752

First Afghan Invasions

Ahmad Shah Abdali invades India multiple times.

1757–1758

Maratha Dominance

Marathas expand in North India; Mughals weaken further.

1761

Third Battle of Panipat

Marathas suffer a crushing defeat against Abdali.

1767

Last Invasion of Abdali

Abdali's last invasion of India; returns to Afghanistan.

18th Century Onwards

Rise of New Powers

Sikhs rise in Punjab; British expand their rule.



IMPACT OF NORTHWESTERN INVASIONS

- Mughal Empire lost wealth, prestige and authority.
- Economy suffered due to plunder and destruction.
- Frequent wars created instability and lawlessness.
- Provincial powers became stronger and independent.
- People suffered heavy losses and hardship.



WHY NORTHWEST WAS INVITED?

- Weak and disunited Mughal rule.
- Ambitious foreign rulers sought wealth and territory.
- Riches of India attracted invaders.
- Frontier provinces were poorly defended.
- No strong central army or leadership.



LONG-TERM RESULT

- The decline of Mughals became irreversible.
- Rise of Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Rohillas, Awadh and other regional powers.
- British East India Company emerged as the ultimate beneficiary.
- Ultimately led to British rule in India in the 19th century.

"The gates of India were opened not only by the ambition of invaders, but also by the weakness and disunity within."



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



4. Rise of Autonomous Regional States in the 18th Century

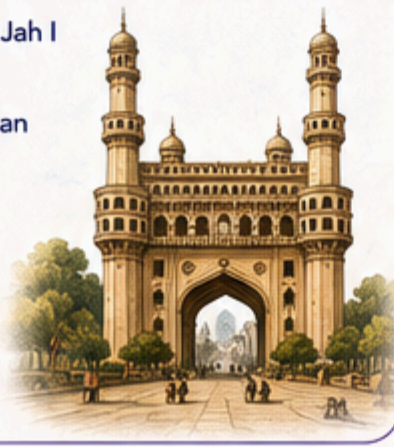


The decline of Mughal authority, Maratha expansion, foreign invasions and weak central control led to the rise of several autonomous regional states across India in the 18th century.



1. HYDERABAD (ASAF JAH I DYNASTY)

- Founded by Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I in 1724.
- He became the Subedar of Deccan and declared independence.
- Hyderabad became the capital.
- The Nizams were powerful and maintained a large army.
- Ruled over a vast territory in the Deccan.



2. BENGAL

- Murshid Quli Khan became the Subedar of Bengal in 1717.
- He laid the foundation of independent Bengal.
- Alivardi Khan (1740–1756) was a capable ruler who repelled repeated Maratha invasions.
- Siraj-ud-Daulah was the last independent Nawab.



3. AWADH (OUDH)

- Founded by Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk in 1722.
- Made Awadh the center of his power.
- Awadh grew rich due to fertile lands and efficient revenue system.
- The Nawabs were loyal to the Mughals in name but independent in practice.



4. MYSORE

- Founded by Wodeyars; real power came into the hands of ministers like Devaraja and later Haider Ali.
- Haider Ali (1761–1782) established a strong kingdom.
- Tipu Sultan (1782–1799) expanded the kingdom and resisted the British bravely.



5. PUNJAB (SIKH EMPIRE)

- Sikhs under Banda Singh Bahadur laid the foundation of Sikh rule.
- In the late 18th century, Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1801–1839) united the misls.
- He established a powerful Sikh Empire with Lahore as the capital.
- Known for secular rule, efficient administration and strong army.



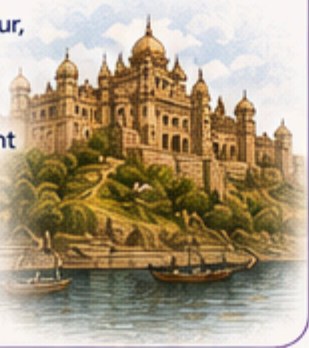
6. MARATHA REGIONAL STATES

- Though the Maratha Empire declined after Panipat (1761), regional houses became powerful.
- Holkars (Indore), Scindias (Gwalior), Gaekwads (Baroda), Bhonsles (Nagpur) and Pawars (Dhar) ruled independently.
- They controlled large territories and played a major role in Indian politics.



7. RAJPUT STATES

- Rajput states like Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer and Kota remained important.
- They became more independent and focused on strengthening their kingdoms.
- Some allied with Marathas or the British for protection.



KEY FEATURES

- ✓ These states emerged due to weak Mughal authority.
- ✓ They had their own armies, revenue systems and courts.
- ✓ Many states promoted art, culture, architecture and trade.
- ✓ Frequent wars and rivalries continued among them.
- ✓ Eventually, most states came under British control in the 19th century.



8. OTHER IMPORTANT STATES

- Rohillas (Rohilkhand): Founded by Hafiz Rahmat Khan; later subdued by Awadh.
- Jats (Bharatpur): Suraj Mal established a strong Jat state.
- Travancore & Cochin: Became powerful in South India through trade and administration.



IMPACT OF REGIONAL STATES

- ✓ Political fragmentation of India.
- ✓ Encouraged regional culture and identity.
- ✓ Created instability and constant wars.
- ✓ Opened the way for British expansion.



The 18th century was a time of transition from the decline of a great empire to the rise of many regional powers.



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS



Quick facts and key points to revise the important events, personalities, battles, policies, and developments in this period.



Maratha Empire

- Established by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1674 with the ideal of Swarajya.



Peshwa Hegemony

- Real power shifted to the Peshwas from the early 18th century.



Maratha Confederacy

- A confederacy of semi-autonomous clans functioning under the leadership of the Peshwa.



Third Battle of Panipat

- Fought on 14 January 1761 between Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali.



Later Mughals

- After Aurangzeb (d. 1707), Mughal authority declined rapidly.



Key Later Mughal Emperors

- Bahadur Shah I, Jahandar Shah, Farrukhsiyar, Muhammad Shah, Shah Alam II.



Invasions from the Northwest

- Repeated invasions by Nadir Shah (1739) and Ahmad Shah Abdali (1757 onwards) weakened the empire.



Nadir Shah's Invasion (1739)

- Plundered Delhi and took the Peacock Throne and Koh-i-Noor diamond.



Ahmad Shah Abdali

- Invaded India multiple times and fought the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat.



Decline of Central Authority

- Weak emperors, corrupt administration, and economic decline led to fragmentation of power.



Rise of Regional States

- Emergence of independent states in various parts of India in the 18th century.



Hyderabad (Asaf Jahi Dynasty)

- Founded in 1724 by Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I.



Mysore

- Rose to power under Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in South India.



Bengal

- Became independent under Murshid Quli Khan in 1717.



Sikh Misls

- Various Sikh Misls emerged in Punjab and laid the foundation for future strength.



British East India Company

- Gained political and economic control through wars, treaties and alliances.



18th Century – A Transition Period

- From the decline of old empires to the rise of new powers.



Exam Tip

- Remember key dates, battles, dynasties and founders – they are important for competitive exams!

ONE LINE MEMORY TRICKS



Shivaji
(Foundation)

+



Peshwas
(Take Charge)

+



Confederacy
(Grows)

+



Panipat 1761
(Setback)

+



Later Mughals
(Decline)

+



Regional States
(Rise)

+



British Power
(Advances)

=



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Era Begins



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The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



MCQs



Page 1

Test your understanding of this chapter through these important MCQs.

Q1

Who established the Maratha Empire in 1674?

- A** Balaji Vishwanath
- B** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- C** Nana Saheb Peshwa
- D** Bajirao I

✓ **Answer:** B. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Explanation:

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was coronated as the Sovereign in 1674 at Raigad, laying the foundation of the Maratha Empire based on the ideal of Swarajya (self-rule).

Q2

Who was the first Peshwa of the Maratha Empire?

- A** Balaji Bajirao (Nana Saheb)
- B** Madhavrao I
- C** Balaji Vishwanath
- D** Baji Rao I

✓ **Answer:** C. Balaji Vishwanath

Explanation:

Balaji Vishwanath became the Peshwa in 1713 and laid the administrative and financial foundations that strengthened the Peshwa's position and the Maratha state.

Q3

The Third Battle of Panipat was fought between the Marathas and which of the following?

- A** Nadir Shah
- B** Ahmad Shah Abdali
- C** Aurangzeb
- D** Tipu Sultan

✓ **Answer:** B. Ahmad Shah Abdali

Explanation:

The Third Battle of Panipat was fought on 14 January 1761 between the Marathas led by Sadashivrao Bhau and Ahmad Shah Abdali. The Marathas were defeated.

Q4

Which of the following was NOT a prominent clan in the Maratha Confederacy?

- A** Holkars
- B** Scindias
- C** Gaekwads
- D** Bhonsles
- E** Chalukyas

✓ **Answer:** E. Chalukyas

Explanation:

Holkars (Indore), Scindias (Gwalior), Gaekwads (Baroda) and Bhonsles (Nagpur) were major Maratha clans. Chalukyas were not a part of the Maratha Confederacy.

Q5

Under which Mughal emperor did the rapid decline of the Mughal Empire begin?

- A** Shah Alam II
- B** Bahadur Shah I
- C** Aurangzeb
- D** Farrukhsiyar

✓ **Answer:** C. Aurangzeb

Explanation:

Although Aurangzeb expanded the empire, his long and costly wars and strict policies led to administrative, economic and political decline which began after his death in 1707.



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



MCQs



Page 2

Test your understanding of this chapter through these important MCQs.

Q6

Which invasion in 1739 seriously weakened the Mughals and led to the sack of Delhi?

- A** Nadir Shah's invasion
- B** Ahmad Shah Abdali's invasion
- C** Timur's invasion
- D** Babur's invasion

✓ **Answer:** A. Nadir Shah's invasion

Explanation:

Nadir Shah invaded India in 1739, defeated the Mughals at the Battle of Karnal, plundered Delhi and took away immense wealth including the Peacock Throne and Koh-i-Noor diamond.

Q7

Who founded the Hyderabad State (Asaf Jahi Dynasty)?

- A** Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I
- B** Mir Qamar-ud-Din
- C** Dost Muhammad Khan
- D** Salar Jung

✓ **Answer:** A. Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I

Explanation:

Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I founded the Asaf Jahi Dynasty and established Hyderabad as an independent state in 1724 after the weakening of the Mughal Empire.

Q8

Which external invader fought against the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat?

- A** Nadir Shah
- B** Ahmad Shah Abdali
- C** Shuja-ud-Daula
- D** Jat leader Suraj Mal

✓ **Answer:** B. Ahmad Shah Abdali

Explanation:

Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durrani) fought against the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat on 14 January 1761 and defeated them.

Q9

Which of the following states was founded by Haider Ali in the 18th century?

- A** Mysore
- B** Awadh
- C** Punjab (Sikh Empire)
- D** Travancore

✓ **Answer:** A. Mysore

Explanation:

Haider Ali rose to power in Mysore in the mid-18th century and founded a strong kingdom, later expanded by his son Tipu Sultan.

Q10

Which factor was the main reason for the rise of autonomous regional states in the 18th century?

- A** Strong central administration
- B** Decline of Mughal authority
- C** Unity among Indian rulers
- D** Absence of foreign invasions

✓ **Answer:** B. Decline of Mughal authority

Explanation:

The decline of Mughal power created a political vacuum, allowing able governors, military leaders and local chiefs to establish independent states across India.



EXAM TIP: Focus on key dates, battles, dynasties, important leaders and the causes and effects of major events.



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



MCQs



Page 3

Test your understanding of this chapter through these important MCQs.

11 Who was the Subedar of Bengal and laid the foundation of independent Bengal in 1717?

- A** Alivardi Khan
- B** Siraj-ud-Daulah
- C** Murshid Quli Khan
- D** Shuja-ud-Daula

✓ **Answer:** C. Murshid Quli Khan

Explanation:

Murshid Quli Khan was the Subedar of Bengal and established almost independent rule in 1717. He reorganized the administration and made Bengal economically prosperous.

12 Which of the following Maratha leaders played a key role in expanding Maratha power in North India before the Third Battle of Panipat?

- A** Mahadji Scindia
- B** Sadashivrao Bhau
- C** Malhar Rao Holkar
- D** Nana Phadnavis

✓ **Answer:** B. Sadashivrao Bhau

Explanation:

Sadashivrao Bhau, the Peshwa's cousin, led the Maratha army to the north and was a key commander in the campaigns that culminated in the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761.

13 After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, which Mughal emperor was placed on the throne by the Sayyid Brothers in 1719?

- A** Farrukhsiyar
- B** Jahandar Shah
- C** Rafi-ud-Darjat
- D** Muhammad Shah

✓ **Answer:** A. Farrukhsiyar

Explanation:

The Sayyid Brothers, who were powerful nobles, placed Farrukhsiyar on the Mughal throne in 1719 and controlled the administration during his reign.

14 Which Sikh leader laid the foundation of a strong Sikh state in Punjab in the 18th century?

- A** Banda Singh Bahadur
- B** Guru Gobind Singh
- C** Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- D** Jassa Singh Ahluwalia

✓ **Answer:** A. Banda Singh Bahadur

Explanation:

Banda Singh Bahadur, a disciple of Guru Gobind Singh, led a successful struggle against the Mughals and established Sikh rule in parts of Punjab in the early 18th century.

15 Which event is considered the beginning of British political power in India?

- A** Battle of Plassey (1757)
- B** Battle of Buxar (1764)
- C** Treaty of Allahabad (1765)
- D** Charter Act of 1833

✓ **Answer:** A. Battle of Plassey (1757)

Explanation:

The Battle of Plassey in 1757 was the turning point that established British political control in Bengal and marked the beginning of British expansion in India.



EXAM TIP:

Remember key years, important leaders, battles, and the founding of major regional states.



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



MCQs



Page 4

Test your understanding of this chapter through these important MCQs.

16 Which of the following was a major administrative reform introduced by the Peshwas?

- A** Jagirdari System
- B** Ashta Pradhan System
- C** Revenue farming (Ijara) system
- D** Mansabdari System

✓ **Answer:** C. Revenue farming (Ijara) system

Explanation:

The Peshwas expanded the practice of revenue farming (Ijara system) to ensure efficient collection of revenue and to strengthen the Maratha administration.

17 Which Maratha ruler was known as the “Napoleon of India”?

- A** Mahadji Scindia
- B** Nana Phadnavis
- C** Baji Rao II
- D** Tukoji Holkar

✓ **Answer:** A. Mahadji Scindia

Explanation:

Mahadji Scindia was a brilliant military and diplomatic leader and is often called the “Napoleon of India” for his achievements in reviving Maratha power in North India.

18 Which treaty ended the Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–1805)?

- A** Treaty of Salbai
- B** Treaty of Bassein
- C** Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon
- D** Treaty of Amritsar

✓ **Answer:** A. Treaty of Salbai

Explanation:

The Treaty of Salbai (1802) ended the Second Anglo-Maratha War between the British and the Marathas. It restored peace and recognized the status quo.

19 Which regional state of 18th-century India was founded by Dost Muhammad Khan?

- A** Awadh
- B** Hyderabad
- C** Mysore
- D** Bengal

✓ **Answer:** B. Hyderabad

Explanation:

Dost Muhammad Khan, appointed as Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I by the Mughals, founded the Hyderabad state in 1724 and established the Asaf Jahi dynasty.

20 Which factor most contributed to the decline of the Maratha Empire in the early 19th century?

- A** Unity among Maratha chiefs
- B** Strong economy and trade
- C** Internal rivalries among Maratha leaders
- D** Support from European powers

✓ **Answer:** C. Internal rivalries among Maratha leaders

Explanation:

Constant internal rivalries, lack of central authority, and disunity among Maratha chiefs weakened the empire and made it vulnerable to the British.



EXAM TIP: Understand the timeline, key personalities, battles, treaties and causes—these are frequently asked in exams!



The Maratha Empire, Later Mughals, and 18th-Century Regional States (1674 – 1818 CE)



MCQs



Page 5

Test your understanding of this chapter through these important MCQs.

21

Which of the following Mughal emperors was the last to hold real authority before the British gained control?

- A Bahadur Shah I
- B Akbar II
- C Shah Alam II
- D Farrukhsiyar



Answer: C. Shah Alam II

Explanation:

Shah Alam II (1759–1806) was the last Mughal emperor who had some real authority. After his reign, the Mughal emperor became a mere figurehead under the control of the British.

22

Which foreign invader occupied Delhi in 1757 and looted it extensively?

- A Nadir Shah
- B Ahmad Shah Abdali
- C Timur
- D Babur



Answer: B. Ahmad Shah Abdali

Explanation:

Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded India multiple times. In 1757, he captured Delhi, plundered the city and took immense wealth, which further weakened the Mughal Empire.

23

Which Maratha leader negotiated the Treaty of Salbai in 1802?

- A Mahadji Scindia
- B Nana Phadnavis
- C Baji Rao II
- D Tukoji Holkar



Answer: B. Nana Phadnavis

Explanation:

Nana Phadnavis, a skilled statesman, negotiated the Treaty of Salbai (1802) with the British East India Company, which ended the Second Anglo-Maratha War.

24

Which of the following states was established by the Nawabs in Awadh in the 18th century?

- A Awadh
- B Rohilkhand
- C Jaipur
- D Travancore



Answer: A. Awadh

Explanation:

Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk, a Mughal governor, established an independent state in Awadh in 1722, with its capital at Faizabad. It later became a powerful regional state.

25

Who introduced the 'Permanent Settlement' in Bengal in 1793?

- A Warren Hastings
- B Lord Cornwallis
- C Lord Wellesley
- D Lord Dalhousie



Answer: B. Lord Cornwallis

Explanation:

Lord Cornwallis, the Governor-General of India, introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal in 1793 to fix land revenue permanently and create a class of loyal landlords (Zamindars).



EXAM TIP: Practice these types of questions regularly to improve accuracy and speed in exams!





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