

HISTORIOGRAPHY ON THE DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE



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TOPIC

DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

- *INTRODUCTION*
- *LATER MUGHALS*
- *REASONS OF DECLINE*
- *IMPACT OF DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE*

INTRODUCTION

- *The Mughal Empire was established in 1526 with Babur's accession to the throne.*
- *In its early period it was one of the strongest kingdoms in the Indian subcontinent.*
- *Aurangzeb is considered as the last strongest ruler although the decline of the Mughal Empire started during his reign itself.*

- *In the 18th century, the Indian subcontinent had gone through various turmoil which eventually led to the complete decline of the Mughal Empire.*
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LATER MUGHALS

- *After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, race between his heirs to claim the throne began.*
- *The emperors who succeeded the throne after Aurangzeb were called 'Later Mughals'.*
- *It was the period when the Mughal Empire drastically reduced in its size and influence.*

LATER MUGHALS

- *Bahadur Shah I (1707-1712)*
- *Jahandar Shah (1712-1713)*
- *Farrukhsiyar (1713-1719)*
- *Rafi-ud-Darajat (feb 1719 -june 1719)*
- *Muhammad Shah (1719 -1748)*
- *Ahmad Shah(1748 -1754)*
- *Allamgir II (1754-1759)*
- *Shah Alam II (1759 -1806)*
- *Akbar Shah II (1806 -1837)*
- *Bahadur Shah Zafar(1837-1857)*

REASONS OF DECLINE

- *After the death of Aurangzeb the throne was mostly taken over by incompetent and degenerated rulers.*
- *It led to culmination of many reasons which fastened and even made the decline of the mighty Mughal Empire inevitable.*
- *Apart from that there are many reasons which resulted in the decline of Mughals.*

INFLUENCE OF NOBLES

- *These groups constantly fought with each other and protected their interests, which the administrative machinery of the empire.*
- *As the regime was mostly under the weak rulers who captured the throne with the help of nobility.*
- *Gradually, these nobles assumed a significant amount of power and their interest determined the politics and administrative activities.*
- *The nobility was also divided into various groups such as Turani, Irani, Afghani, etc.*

INTOLERANCE POLICY

- *It is believed that the decline of Mughal Empire started during the reign of Aurangzeb himself.*
- *It was his religious intolerant policies which antagonized many rulers such as Marathas, Rajputs and sikhs.*
- *Also his policy of Jazia and pilgrimage tax alienated the Hindu sections.*

INVASIONS

- *The invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali made conditions of the empire severe.*
- *The attacks of Marathas also had an impact on the stability of the Empire.*

INEFFECTIVE ARMY

- *The reason for any empire to flourish lies in the effective functioning of its army.*
- *But the unstable political and economics situations impacted the functioning of the Mughal army.*
- *The later Mughals were not attentive towards the development of military techniques which resulted in constant defeats.*
- *The constant defeat demoralized them, and lack of effective administration made the situation worse.*

ECONOMIC BANKRUPTCY

- *Since the reign of Shah Jahan, the Mughal empire faced the economic hardships.*
- *Aurangzeb's war in the Deccan also increased the burden on the resources of the Empire.*
- *These economic conditions deteriorated during the period of later Mughals.*
- *The war of succession ,invasions and corruption broke the backbone of the financial system of the empire.*

COLONIZATION

- *The disintegration of Mughal Empire made the colonization of India smooth for the British.*
- *Although in later years the Mughal Empire was just a symbolic kingdom, but it had the binding power which was seen during the Revolt of 1857.*
- *But with its decline the last hope to unite all the regional kingdom to provide a united front against the British also ended.*

IMPACT OF THE DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

- *The decline of the mighty Mughal Empire resulted in the rise of many regional states.*
- *These regional states were mainly divided into 3 categories:*
 - 1. Successor States*
 - 2. Independent Kingdoms*
 - 3. The New States*
- *Many of these states were established by the nobility of the Mughal Empire itself.*



THANKS