

## Chapter II

### Aurangzeb and His Deccan Policy - Decline of the The Mughal Empire (Continued)

The Mughal rulers who ruled after Aurangzeb were called as the Later Mughals. A number of independent kingdoms came up after the death of Aurangzeb. Following were the factors responsible for the decline of the Mughal Empire.

1. The intolerant policies adopted by Aurangzeb made the people of the empire discontented. During his reign Jaziya was reimposed. His long years in the Deccan affected the administration of the empire and reduced the resources of the Mughal treasury.
2. The successors of Aurangzeb were weak and could not control the powerful nobles and local chieftains.
3. There was competition among the nobles and they became so powerful that the later Mughals became puppets in the hands of the nobles.
4. The invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739 weakened the authority of the Mughals. He looted huge amount of wealth.
5. Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded in 1761 and a battle was fought between the Marathas and the Afghan ruler. This invasion indirectly affected the prestige of the Mughal dynasty.