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3/7/24

Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33 B, Chandigarh
Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 6

India in the 18th Century AD (Decline of the Mughal Empire)

Good Morning Students!

In Class VII we have studied about the Mughal Empire. In this chapter we will briefly study about the important kings after Aurangzeb, also called as the Later Mughals and the decline of the Mughal Empire.

Bahadur Shah I (Moazzam) came to throne after Aurangzeb. As he was not a capable ruler, he was also called as Shah-be-Khabar). Next came Jahandar Shah, who became ruler as a result of war of succession in which he defeated his brothers. Farrokh Siyar, Rafi-ud-Darajat, Rafi-ud-Daula were puppets in the hands of Sayyid brothers.

During the reign of Mohammad Shah, Nadir Shah invaded India. Some other lesser known rulers ruled over Delhi and finally the dynasty ended in 1857, facing defeat by the Britishers.

Let us look into the causes for the decline of an empire which ruled for many centuries.

1. Aurangzeb's prolonged Deccan campaign

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and his numerous wars with the Sikhs and the Marathas gave him less time to deal with administrative affairs. This resulted in the weakening of the Mughal authority.

2. The successors of Aurangzeb were also weak. They did not have the ability to rule like the Great Mughals. The affairs of administration were thus in the hands of the nobles. It were these governors only who later established independent kingdoms.
3. There was a constant struggle for power among the nobility. The problem was basically between Iranis and Turanis. They acted as king-makers, who deposed and raised other princes to the thrones. This made it difficult to run the administration smoothly.
4. The invasion of Nadir Shah, the ruler of Persia in 1739 shook the Mughal Empire. He took away wealth including the famous Kohinoor Diamond and the Peacock Throne. Another invader Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas. This indirectly affected the Mughal Empire, as Marathas were very powerful and aspired to get the Mughal throne.

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5. There were no clear rules of succession. As a result, there was war of succession, which led to financial drain on Mughal treasury and loss of men and equipment.
6. The failure on the part of the mansabdars to keep a required quota of troops and the outdated military techniques made the Mughals militarily weak. Thus they could not defend in wake of foreign invasions.
7. The coming of the Europeans to India, especially the British checked the power of Indians including the Mughals.
8. The jagirdari and mansabdari crisis added to the problems of the Mughal rulers and weakened the empire.

MCO's

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Aurangzeb | 6. AD 1739 |
| 2. Bahadur Shah I | 7. AD 1761 |
| 3. Jahandar Shah | 8. Nadir Shah |
| 4. Sayyid brothers | 9. Yangon (Rangoon) |
| 5. Bahadur Shah II | 10. Traders. |

State whether True or False

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1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. False

Fill in the blanks:-

1. Sayyid
2. Akbar II
3. taxes
4. Ahmad Shah Abdali, Marathas
5. Shah Jahan.

Home assignment

1. Short Answer type questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
2. Long Answer type questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.