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Tender Heart High School, 8/7/24
Sector 33B, Chandigarh
Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 7
Rise of Independent / Regional Kingdoms.

Good Morning Students!

In the previous chapter we have studied about the causes for the decline of the Mughal Empire. A number of independent kingdoms came up mainly Hyderabad, Awadh, Bengal, Rajputs, Sikhs, Mysore and Marathas. Let us briefly study about each of these.

Bengal - Murshid Quli Khan was made the governor of Bengal in 1717. With the passage of time, he made himself independent as set up his capital at Murshidabad. After him came Shuja-uddin, Ali Vardi Khan and finally Siraj-ud-Daulah. Due to improved administration and number of welfare measures taken by the rulers, Bengal became a prosperous region.

Awadh - Saadat Khan was appointed as the governor of Awadh by Muhammad Shah. He held the combined office of the subadar, faujdar and diwan. The people were happy under the rule of the Nawabs.

Hyderabad:- Chin Qilich Khan carved out an independent kingdom under the title of Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah. He appointed manabdaras and

8/7/24

Class VIIIChapter 7History and CivicsMili Bhatnagar

granted them jagirs without seeking permission from Muhammad Shah. The successors of Nizam-ul-Mulk were known as Nizams.

Rohilkhand :- Ali Muhammad Khan established control over this region. The Rohillas were concentrated in the Moradabad - Bareilly region.

Bharatpur :- The Jats founded the independent Kingdom of Bharatpur. Churaman, Badan Singh and Suraj Mal were powerful Jat chiefs.

The Rajputs :- Most of the Rajput kings, since the reign of Akbar, had been allies of the Mughals. However, many of them revolted during the reign of Aurangzeb. By the early eighteenth century, most of the Rajput states had become independent.

The most well known Rajput ruler of the period was Sawai Raja Jai Singh of Amber, who encouraged the teaching and learning of science. He founded the city of Jaipur and made it his capital. He was also interested in astronomy and built many observatories in Delhi, Jaipur, Mathura, Ujjain and Benaras.

Punjab under the Sikhs :- Under the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, the Sikhs became a powerful military force. After his death the Guru Granth Sahib would be considered as the eternal Guru. The leadership passed in to hands of Banda Bahadur. He continued to fight against the Mughals. In the second half of the eighteenth century

8/7/24

3

History and Civics

Class VIII

Chapter 7
Mili Bhatnagar

The Sikhs were organized into political groups called misls. There were twelve misls in all. Each misl had its own leader who controlled a specific area and fought against the other misls. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the leader of Sukerchakia misl, united all the misls and established a kingdom in Punjab. We will study more about it in the next chapter.

Mysore :- Hyder Ali made Mysore Kingdom powerful. Though he started his career as a foot soldier and gradually rose through the ranks, he became the ruler of Mysore in 1761. He controlled the rebellious zamindars and improved the condition of the farmers. With the help of the French, he established a modern arsenal at Dindigul. In 1769, Hyder Ali defeated the British forces in the First Anglo-Mysore War.

Tipu Sultan who succeeded Hyder Ali, continued his fight against the British. He was deeply influenced by the ideas of the French Revolution. He introduced modern weapons in the army. He planted a 'Tree of Liberty' at Srirangapatnam. He died defending his capital Srirangapatnam against the British in 1799.

Finally let us study about the Marathas. Till the early seventeenth century, they were minor chieftains serving the kingdoms of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golconda. When these kingdoms became weak, the Marathas declared themselves independent.

8/7/24

Class VIIIChapter 7History and CivicsMili Bhatnagar

In eighteenth century, power passed into the hands of the Peshwas. It was under them that the Marathas became the dominant regional power.

In 1713 Shivaji's grandson Shahu appointed Balaji Vishwanath as his Peshwa. In course of time, the Peshwas became powerful. Under Balaji Vishwanath Marathas got back the territories which were earlier under Shivaji. The next ruler Bajirao I conquered Malwa, southern Gujarat and parts of Bundelkhand. He defeated Nizam of Hyderabad, captured Salsette and Bassein from the Portuguese.

Balaji Bajirao shifted capital from Satara to Poona. Under him Maratha armies reached as far as Punjab and Rajasthan. In South the kingdoms of Hyderabad and Mysore were forced to cede their territories.

In the Third Battle of Panipat Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas. A number of factors led to the failure of the Marathas.

1. The Maratha chiefs lacked unity.
2. The Marathas alienated other rulers by taking their territories.
3. The Marathas made very less efforts to improve the administration.
4. They neglected trade and industry.
5. The Marathas did not adopt modern techniques of warfare.