

Chapter 3. Eighteen Century Political Formation

Very Short Q&A:

Q1: Who imposed Chauth?

Ans: Marathas

Q2: Who founded Awadh?

Ans: Sa'adat Khan

Q3: The two noble groups to which the later Mughal emperors were puppets were Iranis and Turanis. True/ False

Ans: True

Q4: Sikhs organized themselves into a number of bands called_____.

Ans: Jathas

Q5: The independent state of Jats was established by_____.

Ans: Churaman

Q6: Name the group that was considered as the back bone of Maratha army.

Ans: Kunbis

Q7: After 1708 A.D. the Sikh revolt was led by_____.

Ans: Banda Bahadur

Q8: When did Marathas successfully raided Delhi?

Ans: 1737 AD

Q9: When the Third battle of Panipat did took place?

Ans: 1761

Q10: What was the position of Jagat Seth during the rule of Alivardi Khan?

Ans: Banker

Q11: The system of rakhi was introduced in Bihar. True/ False

Ans: False

Q12: What was the purpose of introducing system of rakhi?

Ans: By introducing the system of rakhi, the Sikhs collected 20% of the produce from the peasant as tax, on the promise of providing protection to them.

Q13: Kunbis were_____

Ans: Maratha's peasant warriors.

Q14: Why does the entire body of Sikhs used to meet in Amritsar at the time of Baisakhi and Diwali?

Ans: To take collective decisions known as "Resolutions of the Guru" or gurumatas.

Q15: Name two important trading center in the area dominating by Jats.

Ans: Panipat and Ballabharh.

Q16: Who was a Naib?

Ans: Deputy to the governor of the province.

Q17: Name a Naib of the Bengal province.

Ans: Murshid Quli Khan

Q18: How Saadat khan did reduced Mughal control over his state?

Ans: By reducing the number of Mughal jagirdars in Awadh

Q19: Where is Bharatpur fort situated?

Ans: Dig

Q20: Khalsa was established in_____ AD

Ans: 1699 AD

Q21: Why were ijaradars appointed by Nawab in Awadh?

Ans: Ijaradars to minimize the influence of Mughal jagirdars. These ijaradars had the responsibility to collect revenue from the peasants and paid a fixed amount to the state.

Q22: Burhan ul Mulk Sa'adat Khan founded the state of_____.

Ans: Awadh

Q23: Nadir Shah was a ruler of _____.

Ans: Iran

Q24: Who established the independent Sikh state of Punjab?

Ans: Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Q25: Who seized the rich province of the Punjab and the Sarkar of Sirhind from the Mughals in mid of the 17th century?

Ans: Ahmed Shah Abdali

Q26: Where was the capital of Maratha kingdom under the rule of Peshwa?

Ans: Poona

Q27: Churaman was a Maratha leader. True/ False.

Ans: False

Q28: Who built new forts at Deeg?

Ans: Suraj Mal

Q29: Name the son of Nadir Shah

Ans: Jawahir Shah

Q30: Name The Persian ruler, who raided India for the first time.

Ans: Nadir Shah

Q31: Who were the "Subedars"?

Ans: The "subedars" were basically the mansabdars, who enjoyed great power in their respective provinces and performed both the civil and the military duties. They were directly appointed by the emperors.

Q32: State the collective name given to the whole army of the "misl".

Ans: dal Khalsa

Q33: The Capital of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was located at _____.

Ans: Lahore

Q34: Name the Maratha chiefs who made Baroda their seat of power.

Ans: Gaekwad

Q35: The capital of Sawai Raja Jai Singh was_____.

Ans: Amber

Q36: Name the governor of Malwa who founded his new capital at Jaipur.

Ans: Sawai Raja Jai Singh.

Short Q&A:

Q1: Who was Maharaja Ranjit Singh?

Ans: Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the first Maharaja of the Sikh Empire and was also known as Sher-e-Punjab. In the late eighteenth century, the Sikh territories were extended from the Indus to the Jamuna but they were divided under different rulers. Maharaja Ranjit Singh reunited all groups and established his capital at Lahore in 1799.

Q2: Who were the backbone of the Maratha army?

Ans: Kunbis were groups of highly mobile, peasant pastoralists. They were the backbone of the Maratha army.

Q3: Name the three prominent states that emerged after the decline of the Mughal empire.

Ans: The three prominent states were Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad. All these states were founded by members of the high Mughal nobility who were governors in the Mughal empire - Sa'adat Khan (Awadh), Murshid Quli Khan (Bengal) and Asaf Jah (Hyderabad).

Q4: Explain the reasons for the decline of Mughal Empire?

Ans: The Mughal Empire owes its decline and ultimate downfall to combination of factors:

- The successive rulers after Aurangzeb were weak, unworthy and lacked the character, motivation and commitment to rule the empire strongly.
- Absence of a definite law of succession was another important factor.
- Deterioration and demoralization of the army was one of the potent reason.
- The financial position of the Mughals had become deplorable.
- The raids by Nadir Shah, and repeated invasions of Ahmad Shah Abdali, resulted in further weakening of the empire.
- The already weakened empire faced further encroachment by the British and the French. The British and French, who had initially come as traders, took full advantage of the weakening empire and soon became masters of the whole of India.

Q5: Write short notes on the three groups in the states of eighteenth century?

Ans: The states of the eighteenth century can be divided into three overlapping groups:

- States that were old Mughal provinces like Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad. Although extremely powerful and quite independent, the rulers of these states did not break their formal ties with the Mughal emperor
- States that had enjoyed considerable independence under the Mughals as watan jagirs. These included several Rajput principalities
- The last group included states under the control of Marathas, Sikhs and others like the Jats

Q6: Name the states with which the state of Hyderabad was in struggle?

Ans: The state of Hyderabad was constantly in struggle against the Marathas in the west and with independent Telugu warrior chief known as Nayakas of the Deccan plateau.

Q7: State few common features of the states in the eighteenth century.

Ans: Though many of the larger states were established by erstwhile Mughal nobles, they were highly suspicious of some of the administrative systems that they had inherited, in particular the jagirdari system. Secondly, they reduced the number of jagirdars appointed by the Mughals. Rather than relying upon them, all the states contracted with revenue-farmers for the collection of revenue. The third common feature in all these regional states was their emerging relationship with rich bankers and merchants.

Q8: When did Khalsa declare its sovereign rule and mint its own coin?

Ans: Khalsa declared its sovereign rule and minted its own coin in 1765. The legend on the obverse bore the same inscription 'Deg o Tegh o Fateh' issued by Banda Bahadur on his coins.

Q9: Who ruled the Maratha kingdom after the death of Shivaji?

Ans: After the death of Shivaji, the Maratha kingdom was ruled by a family of Chitpavan Brahmanas. They served Shivaji's successors as Peshwa or principle minister and later became the hereditary rulers of the Maratha Empire of central India from 1749 to 1818. During their rein, the Maratha Empire reached its zenith ruling most of the Indian Subcontinent.

Q10: What were jathas?

Ans: Jatha in the Sikh tradition signifies a group of volunteers coming forth to carry out a specific task, be it an armed combat or a peaceful agitation. After the capture and execution of Banda Singh Bahadur, the Sikhs organised themselves into a number of bands called jathas, to fight against the oppressors. Each jatha was grouped around a jathedar or a leader. These jathas were finally reorganized on the Baisakhi of 1748 into 11 misls. The entire fighting force of the Sikhs was named Dal Khalsa.

Q11: What was the gurmata?

Ans: It is the counsel or resolution adopted by the combined forces of the Sikhs known as dal Khalsa, at an assembly at Amritsar to take collective decisions known as "resolutions of the Guru" in the presence of Guru Granth Sahib. A gurmata may only be passed on a subject that affects the fundamental principles of Sikh religion and is binding upon all Sikhs.

Q12: What was the rakhi system?

Ans: The word rakhi literally means 'protection'. In practice, it was a tribute received by the combined forces of the Sikhs dal Khalsa for the protection provided or guaranteed by them against external aggression to the cultivators paying it. The cultivators had to pay a tax of 20 percent of the produce to the Sikhs of dal Khalsa for their protection.

Q13: Who supported Marathas to face the Mughals?

Ans: The Maratha kingdom was another powerful regional kingdom to arise out of a sustained opposition to Mughal rule. They faced the threat of the Mughals. To overcome them, they took the help of powerful warrior families known as desh mukhs. The Kunbis or peasant pastoralists rallied round Shivaji in large number to raise their status in social hierarchy and formed the backbone of the Maratha army. Shivaji used this army to challenge the Mughals in the peninsula.

Q14: List the developments of Maratha kingdom under the Peshwa?

Ans: Under the Peshwas, the Maratha kingdom developed as a very successful military organisation. They built strong forts to face the Mughals. Between 1720 and 1761, the Maratha Empire expanded. It gradually occupied the parts of the Mughal Empire. Malwa and Gujarat were seized from the Mughals by 1720s. By the 1730s, the Maratha kingdom was enjoying complete domination in the entire Deccan.

Q15: What were the steps taken by Murshid Quli Khan to reduce Mughal influence in Bengal?

Ans: The steps taken by Murshid Quli Khan to reduce the Mughal influence in Bengal were as follows -

- Transferred all Mughal jagirdars to Orissa
- Ordered a major reassessment of the revenues of Bengal

Q16: Who was Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan? How did he try to decrease the Mughal influence in the Awadh region?

Ans: Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan was appointed as the subadar of Awadh in 1722. Later on he carved out an independent state of Awadh from the Mughal empire. Burhan-ul-Mulk tried to decrease Mughal influence in the Awadh region by:

- Reducing the number of jagirdars appointed by the Mughals.
- Reducing the size of jagirs and appointed his own loyal servants to vacant positions.
- Preventing cheating the accounts of jagirdars were checked.
- Special officers were appointed by the Nawab to reassess the revenues of all the districts.

Q17: What was the impact of Nadir Shah's invasion on Delhi?

Ans: Nadir shah's invasion had a deep impact on Delhi

- Nadir Shah took away immense amount of wealth. The city of Delhi was ruined.
- Those who had been the masters were now in terrible condition.
- The invasion by Nadir Shah had demonstrated how weak the Mughal government was.
- This invasion was followed by a series of plundering raids by the Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali.

Q18: How did Guru Gobind Singh inspire the Khalsa?

Ans: Guru Gobind Singh had inspired the Khalsa with the faith that their destiny was to rule (raj karega khalsa).

Q19: Why did the peasants and zamindars revolted in many parts of northern and western India?]

Ans: Because of following reason:

- Pressures of mounting taxes.
- Attempts by powerful chieftains to consolidate their own positions.

Q20: Write a short note on administration of Marathas.

Ans: Marathas developed an effective administration system, which they had inherited from Shivaji. Maratha chiefs were known as Sardars. The land revenue was main source of income. Land revenue though was fixed on survey and assessment but it was feudal in nature. Territories were divided on the basis of revenue. Territories not under their direct control paid Chauth (1/4 revenue). In return they got the protection from attacks by Marathas. The territories who paid Sardeshmukhi (1/10 of land revenue) got protection by other forces.

Q21: List one factor that led to crisis in the Mughal Empire in the closing years of seventeenth century.

Ans: Emperor Aurangzeb had depleted the military and financial resources of his empire by fighting a long war in the Deccan. It led to crisis in the Mughal Empire in the closing years of 17th century.

Long Q&A:

Q1: When did Sikhs emerge as a stronger community?

Ans: Sikhs became political community during seventeenth century. The Khalsa sought to defend the Sikh community from oppression by Mughal rulers. Sikh fought with Mughal officials. Under Guru Govind Singh, they fought several battles against Mughal rulers. After the death of Guru Govind Singh, Banda Bahadur established the Sikh rule and administration over territory between Sutlej & Jamuna.

Q2: What were the different overlapping group of states that emerged in the 18th Century after the decline of the Mughal Empire?

Ans: Through the eighteenth century, the Mughal Empire gradually fragmented into a number of independent, regional states. Broadly speaking the states of the eighteenth century can be divided into three overlapping groups:

- States that were old Mughal provinces like Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad. Although extremely powerful and quite independent, the rulers of these states did not break their formal ties with the Mughal emperor.
- States that had enjoyed considerable independence under the Mughals as watan jagirs. These included several Rajput principalities.
- The last group included states under the control of Marathas, Sikhs and others like the Jats. These were of differing sizes and had seized their independence from the Mughals after a long-drawn armed struggle.