

Causes of Downfall of Muslim rule in Sub-Continent

Introduction :-

The period of great Mughals which began in 1526 AD with Babar's accession to throne, ended with the death of Aurangzeb Alamgir's death in 1707 AD. Aurangzeb's death marked the ^{end} death of an era in Indian history. When Aurangzeb died, the empire of the Mughals was the largest in India. Yet, within about fifty years of his death, the Mughal empire disintegrated. The causes of the disintegration of Mughal empire is generally regarded as the weakness of the successors of Alamgir-I but really the loss of feeling of solidarity among the Muslims was one of the principal causes of Muslims decadence. Various historians have arrived at the following main causes of downfall of Muslims in Sub-Continent.

Causes :-

Causes of Downfall of Muslims

Internal Factors

- Weak Successors
of Aurangzeb
- Vastness of empire
- Absence of a definite
Law of Succession
- Lagging in education
- Moral decadence of
ruling class
- Economic strain on
the empire
- Demoralized and undisciplined Army
- Lack of naval power
- Internal Conspiracies

External Factors

- Foreign Invasions
- Rise of British

Weak Successors of Aurangzeb:

The Successors of Aurangzeb were incapable, worthless and unsuited to the job of kingship. The fact is that after the death of Aurangzeb no ruler of real vigor and resourcefulness came to the throne that made recovery of the lost position almost impossible. They were weak and became victims of the intrigues and conspiracies of the faction-ridden nobles.

Absence of a definite Law of Succession:-

Directly related to the troubles of that period, was the absence of a well-defined Law of Succession to ensure the continuity of government. The result was that each son of a deceased king felt that he had an equal claim to the Crown, and succession to the throne was invariably accompanied by bloody warfare. This weakened the Mughal empire, especially after Aurangzeb. As Muslims started losing their unity because of this and

ultimately that led to their disintegration as Allah Almighty Says in Quran:-

“And hold firmly to rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.”

Vastness of the Empire :-

The Mughal Empire had become too large and was very vast especially during the reign of Aurangzeb. It was very difficult to be controlled by any ruler from one centre. The great Mughals were efficient and exercised control over ministers and army, but the later Mughals were poor administrators. As a result, the distant provinces became independent. The rise of independent states led to the disintegration of the Mughal empire.

Lagging in Education :-

One feature of Muslim rulers in India was that they did not focus on education and the education system was completely dependent on the religious institutions which were run by the

trusts. The Britisher confiscated these trusts as a result, the Muslims lagged behind in the field of education and as John Dewey said;

"The aim of education is growth."

As well as, the scarcity of books resulted in comparative ignorance, low standards of education and limitation of the subjects of study.

Moral decadence of Ruling Class:-

Another factor which contributed to the fall of the Mughal empire was the moral decay of the ruling classes. The moral decline of the nobility showed in lack of discipline, laziness, evasion of duties and also made them rapacious and heartless in dealing with people. The wealth and prolonging of the Mughal rule made the Mughal princes fond of luxurious life. At the royal court, the jesters and musicians were preferred over the brave and warrior soldiers.

Economic Strain on the Empire:-

Another factor that contributed to the downfall was economic strain on the empire. The cost of maintaining a large army, extravagant life style of the rulers and nobility and the lack of proper financial management led to economic instability. As a result, the empire faced severe financial crises with the state treasury being depleted and the empire becoming increasingly reliant on loans and grants from regional governors.

Demoralized and Un-disciplined army:-

The muslim rulers could not perceive the call of time. They did not give importance to develop modern weapons and latest techniques of warfare. In addition to this, mughal army was weak and defective by origin and composition. As the authority of later mughal emperor relaxed, the officers of the empire began to convert the assignment which

they held for maintaining troops, into their hereditary possessions. Later Mughals were unable to enforce proper discipline in the army and there was no touch between the emperor and the individual soldiers. As George Washington said:

“Discipline is the soul of an army.”

Hence the army which had carried the Mughal banners to the extreme corners of the country became useless for defences and offence.

Lack of naval Power:-

The muslim rulers gave no importance to navy and they had no navy to defend their coastal territories. In the Arabian sea and the Indian Ocean the circumstances had reached the stage that pilgrims had to seek the permission from the Portuguese before proceeding for pilgrimage.

Internal Conspiracies:-

The incompetent successors of Aurangzeb made the royal court an

an area of conspiracies. The nobles and ministers were made about key posts and monopoly on state affairs. This struggle badly affected the whole administration. Furthermore, the emergence of regional powers and rise of powerful kingdoms also contributed to the Mughal Empire's downfall. As the empire weakened, regional governors and local rulers asserted their autonomy and gradually gained independence, further fragmenting the empire.

External Factors

Foreign Invasions :-

Foreign invasions sapped the remaining strength of the Mughals and hastened the process of disintegration. The invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abali resulted in further drainage of wealth. These invasions shook the very stability of the empire.

Rise of British :-

Advent of East India Company into Indian soil became the last straw into

the rule of Muslims. They came as traders and took the full advantage of the internal anarchy. They conspired with Mir Jaffar and became the masters of Bengal. In Mysore, they won over Mir Sadia to betray Tipu Sultan. They used their advanced military power as well as intriguing tricks to weaken the Muslim government. After the failure of the independence war (1857), they put an end to Muslim rule and brought the whole content under their possession.

Critical Analysis:-

The above all factors for the downfall of Muslim rule in sub-continent are categorized into two types. One were ^{as} internal while other were external. Hence, Internal factors are more and external are only a few. It shows that the main cause for disintegration of Muslim rule was lying at their inside problems and shortfalls. At the present era, the Muslim countries are also facing backlashing because

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they are not united to one another and their approaches do not lie towards the countries where muslims are in a very bad condition and are facing many problems and troubles from their tyrant possessors.

Conclusion:-

After golden era of Mughals, the muslim rule started crumbling during the later period and muslims who ruled on India for almost 800 years became completely feeble during that period. After the death of Aurangzeb Alamgir, there were certain factors including both internal and external that led to the complete downfall of muslims in the sub-continent and finally in 1857, the sub-continent went under possession of the British rule.