

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS:-

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QUESTION:-

Explain / Enlist the causes of downfall of Mughal Empire in subcontinent.

Ans: DOWNFALL OF MUGHAL EMPIRE:-

→ INTRODUCTION:-

The downfall of the Mughal Empire formally began after the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739 and then the overtake of British Empire in 1858. The common points in the rise and decline of Mughal Empire were the duration and Islam. Just like the spread of Islam and establishment of Muslim rule in subcontinent, which was then succeeded by Persians ^{to form} Mughal Empire, was not a rapid process, the fall of Mughal Empire and demoralization of Islamic teachings in subcontinent was not a rapid process, too. It involved different internal and external causes that led to the decline of Mughal Empire and Muslim rule gradually.

→ CAUSES OF DECLINE OF MUGHAL EMPIRE-

The causes of decline of Mughal Empire could be divided into internal causes and external causes.

⇒ INTERNAL CAUSES:-

The main reasons behind the fall of a nation are their internal weaknesses and clashes that weakened the nation from its roots. Following are the internal causes

of the decline of Mughal Empire:

1. WARS OF SUCCESSION AND WEAK LEADERSHIP:-

The wars of succession between the emperors for the throne and the weak leadership of successors of Aurangzeb weakened the unity and strength of Empire. Example: Wars of succession between Aurangzeb (third son of Shah Jahan) and his brothers in 1657-1659 that led to the economic disaster of the Empire and between sons of Aurangzeb in 1707 after his death that led to the era of weak leadership.

2. INTERNAL CONSPIRACIES:-

The conspiracies among the members of the Empire is also a cause of decline. Example: The internal conspiracy of Mir Jaffar - the close associate of Siraj-ud-din, during Battle of Plassey 1757.

3. ECONOMIC FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT AND FALTERED ECONOMY:-

The lavish lifestyles of Mughal Emperors led to the mismanagement of finances and the decline in trade and development also contributed to the faltered economy of the Empire.

4. RELIGION INTOLERANCE:-

Subcontinent was composed of both Muslims and non-Muslims and there non-Muslims were in higher number. But the inability of the Mughal Emperors to protect the rights of non-Muslims led to the religion intolerance among them. Example: The reimposition of Jizya and breakdown of Temple by Aurangzeb.

5. MILITARY WEAKNESSES:-

The military of Mughal Empire faced weaknesses due to undisciplined approaches. According to George Washington: Discipline is the sole of an army. Example: The

Battle of Karnal between Nadir Shah and Mughal army in 1739 exposed the military weaknesses of Mughal Empire.

6. DECLINE OF NOBILITY AND DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER:-

The nobility of Mughal Empire got declined due to the immoral character of Emperors. Moreover, the decentralization of power and rise of provincial or regional states/armies also ^{effect} the strength of nobility.

Example: The rise of regional powers like Marathas, Sikh Confederacy and various Nawabs challenged the authority of Mughal Empire.

7. LACK OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC REFORMS:-

There was a lack of administrative reforms and the Emperors were aloof from the general public and the administrative system of ^{empire} state. Example: The Mansabdari administrative system of Akbar was outdated and needed to be reformed.

8. MORAL DECADENCE AND SWAY FROM RELIGION:-

The Mughal Emperors and other Muslims of the Empire were ignorant of the Islamic teachings that was their strength during the initial stages of spread of Islam. In a Hadith Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: Indeed, I was sent to complete the highest noble values. But unfortunately, the Emperors of that time were demoralized.

9. LAGGING IN EDUCATION:-

According to Erasmus: The main hope of nation lies in the proper education of its youth. The another reason of decline of Mughal Empire was the lack of education that weakened the Empire from its roots. Moreover, due to lack in education, they also lag behind the British in science and technology.

10. IMMENSITY OF EMPIRE:-

According to Plato and Aristotle, the Empire must be of moderate size, not too small to be attacked by anyone and not too large to be unable to administer. The Mughal Empire was very vast due to which the Emperors were unable to control the rising revolts of different communities.

⇒ EXTERNAL CAUSES:-

Once, the nation is weak internally, any external factor can cause the destruction of the ^{nation} Empire. Along with internal causes, there were some external causes that led to the downfall of Mughal Empire, which are as follows:

1. ABSENCE OF NAVAL EMPIRE POWER:-

In a growing period of sea battles, Mughal Empire was unable to be make prepare its navy, which make it easy for ^{naval} colonial powers to attack. Example: The naval powers of British, Dutch and Portugese attacked on sea sides of Empire and made their colonies.

2. EUROPEAN COLONIAL EXPANSION:-

The trend of colonialism was on top in Europe due to which several European countries i.e., British (colonised whole of India gradually), Dutch (made colonies in Surat, Patna and Cochin) and Portugese (colonies in Goa) were made their colonies in Empire weakening the authority of Mughal Empire.

3. INVASION AND EXTERNAL THREAT:-

Mughal Empire was facing the threat from neighbouring Empires (i.e., Persian Empire) and Afghan invaders. Example:- The invasion of Nadir Shah, Afghan invader, in 1739 led to the fall of Mughal capital, Delhi.

4. REGIONAL REVOLTS:-

The regional powers of Empire such as Marathas

and Sikhs revolted against Mughal Empire. Example:- The growing expansion of Marathas challenged the authority of Mughal Empire in Deccan.

5. DECLINE OF TRADITIONAL TRADE ROUTES:-

Due to the decline of traditional trade routes i.e., Silk Road and the shift from land to sea trade, the economy of Mughal Empire suffered.

→ CRITICAL ANALYSIS:-

The fall of Mughal Empire was largely due to the internal weaknesses of Empire which ~~made~~ provided a way to the external factors to take part in the already destruction of Empire. In the downfall of Mughal Empire was not only the decline of Empire but the downfall of Muslim rule as well. Interestingly, the internal factors that led to the destruction of Muslim rule in past are also present in Muslim rule today. Some of which includes: lack of education in certain Muslim countries, moral decadence and sway from religion, internal conspiracies, and flattered economies of certain Muslim countries etc. In order to prevent the fall of Muslim rule, we should abide to the rules and teachings of Islam that focuses on unity and strength.

→ CONCLUSION:-

From causes of the Mughal Empire, it is concluded that unity and follow up of rules are the main strengths of a nation. Nation should ^{have} unity to fight with external powers and should follow its rules to maintain the internal stability of state/nation.