

Q:

Explain Causes and Downfall
of Mughal Empire.

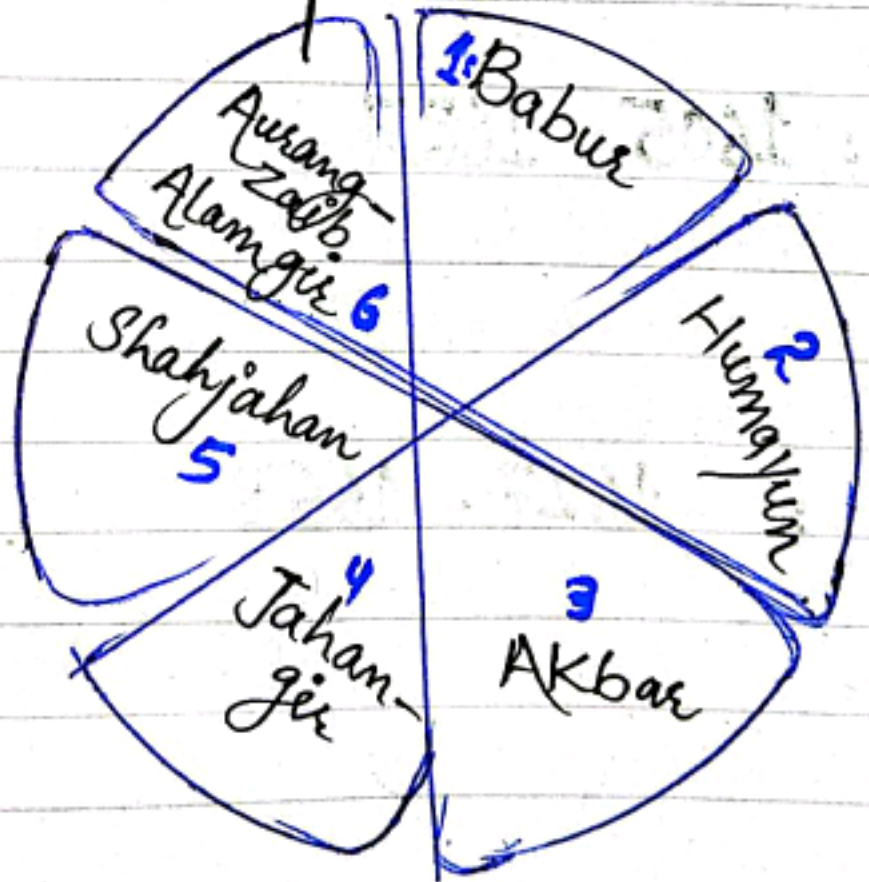
The Mughal Empire:

- Babur beating Lodhi in the 1st battle of Panipat.
- 2 phases of Mughal era.

Golden era
1526 - 1707

1707 - 1857
Era of down fall.

Golden era of Mughal Empire:



Causes and Downfall of muslim rule:

1. Internal Factors

War of Succession

Internal Conspiracies

Lagging of Education

Moral Decadence

Demoralized and undisciplined Army

Immensity of the Empire

Nothing for Public welfare

Sway from religion

Fattered economy

Internal Factors

Internal factors significantly contributed to the downfall of the Mughal Empire. The war of succession among royal family members, Internal conspiracies, lagging in education, moral decadence, demoralized and undisciplined army, immensity of the empire, Nothing for public welfare, sway from religion, and Faltered economy. These internal weaknesses made the empire increasingly vulnerable to external threats and invasions, accelerating its decline.

1. War of Succession:

Frequent Power Struggles: The Mughal tradition did not follow primogeniture, where the eldest son inherits the throne. Instead, every male member of the royal family could contest for the throne, leading to bloody succession wars. For example, after the death of Shah Jahan, a brutal war of succession ensued between his sons Dara Shikoh and Aurangzeb, culminating in Aurangzeb's victory.

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."

AL-QURAN

Aurangzeb's Reign: Aurangzeb's long rule (1658-1707) was marked by his ruthless elimination of rivals, including his own brothers and nephews. This set a ~~pred~~ precedent for future conflicts among Mughal princes, further weakening the dynasty.

2. Internal Conspiracies:

Example: The Conspiracy of Mir Jafar:

Mir Jafar was a high-ranking military commander and the commander-in-chief of the Nawab Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah. Despite his position, Mir Jafar was dissatisfied with his status and harbored ambitions of becoming the Nawab himself.

Alliance with the British:

Mir Jafar secretly conspired with the British East India Company. He promised to support the British in their fight against Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah in exchange for being installed as the Nawab of Bengal.

Battle of Plassey:

During the Battle of Plassey, Mir Jafar betrayed Siraj-ud-Daulah by withholding his troops and failing to engage in the battle. This crucial act of treachery led to the Nawab's defeat.

Aftermath:

Following the victory, the British installed Mir Jafar as the puppet Nawab of Bengal. However, he was heavily dependent on the British, marking the beginning of significant British political control in India.

3. Lagging in education:

Lagging in education was another critical internal factor that contributed to the decline of the Mughal Empire. The educational system remained focused on traditional Islamic studies and classical languages, neglecting advancements in science, technology and modern administrative techniques. John Dewey was an American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer said: ~~that~~

"The aim of education is growth."

Another philosopher Edmund Burke said that:

"Education is a ^{man's} cheapest defence."

4. Demoralized and undisciplined Army

The Mughal ~~Army's~~ army's decline in payment and training critically undermined its effectiveness and contributed to the empire's downfall. ~~Sold~~ Soldiers often went unpaid due to the empire's dwindling financial resources, leading to low morale and desertions. Additionally, the lack of regular training meant that the army became ^{increasingly} unskilled and unable to match the evolving military tactics and technologies of their adversaries, particularly the European colonial forces.

"Discipline is the soul of an army."
George Washington

5. Moral decadence:

Moral decadence played a significant role in the decline of the Mughal Empire. As the empire expanded and wealth accumulated, many members of the royal family and nobility indulged in excessive luxury, corruption and hedonism. This moral decay led to a neglect of state affairs, weakening the administrative and military structures of the empire. Prophet (P, B, U, H) said:

~~Indeed~~, I was sent to ~~complete~~
"I have been sent to perfect good character."

6. Immensity of the empire:

The immense size of the Mughal Empire meant that it was difficult to depend and govern effectively, especially as the central authority weakened. Communication and coordination across distant provinces were slow and unreliable, making it challenging to respond swiftly to threats. The administrative inefficiencies and corruption further exacerbated the situation, leading to a fragmented and weakened state. Local militants exploited these weaknesses, eroding the empire from within, while foreign invaders took advantage of the empire's vast but poorly defended borders. The sheer immensity of the Mughal Empire posed significant governance challenges that contributed to its decline.

"The Larger the state, the more liberty is lost."

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

7. Nothing for public Welfare:

The Mughal Empire's neglect of public welfare played a crucial role in its decline. The administration's failure to address the basic needs of its subjects led to widespread discontent and instability.

Heavy Taxation and Economic Exploitation

Excessive and oppressive taxation placed a heavy burden on peasants and local farmers.

Without adequate reinvestment in agricultural infrastructure, productivity declined leading to frequent famines and economic hardship.

The Mughal Empire's failure to prioritize public welfare eroded its economic base, undermined social stability, and weakened central authority. Twice served as Prime minister of the United Kingdom Benjamin Disraeli said: "Power has only one duty - to secure the social welfare of the people."

8. Sway from religion:

The Mughal Empire's decline was significantly influenced by a shift from religious tolerance to orthodoxy, particularly under Emperor Aurangzeb. Unlike his predecessors, such as Akbar who promoted inclusivity and religious harmony through policies like *sulh-e-kul* (universal tolerance), Aurangzeb reintroduced the *jizya* tax on non-Muslims and destroyed Hindu temples, fostering religious intolerance. The resulting internal conflicts weakened the empire's cohesion and

diverted resources from governance and defense, contributing significantly to the empire's downfall. "There is no compulsion in religion."

لا إكراه في الدين

AL-Quran

9. Flattered economy:

The Mughal Empire faced a flattered economy characterized by stagnation and decline, which significantly contributed to its downfall. Neglect of agricultural infrastructure, inefficient taxation policies and disruptions in trade networks led to a decrease in agricultural productivity and diminished revenue. Economic hardships intensified, the empire became increasingly vulnerable to internal rebellions and external invasions. The flattered economy weakened the empire's ability to govern effectively, maintain social stability, and defend its territories, ultimately hastening its decline.

⇒ Financial constraints. ⇒ written in notes given by Sir.
● Wars of succession, rebellions and luxurious living style pushed the empire to financial bankruptcy.

Rise of independent dynasties

Threat of mughattas and sikhs

Absence of naval power

Rise of Independent Dynasties:

- ⇒ Aurangzeb extended empire from Afghanistan to Assam, from Kashmir to Mysore.
- ⇒ Difficult for one ruler to administer.
- ⇒ Later Deccan, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa declared independence.
- ⇒ It proved loss of revenue and exposed the weakness of empire.

Rise of Marhathas and Sikhs:

- ⇒ **Marhathas:** The Marhathas, under leaders like Shivaji, capitalized on the weakening Mughal authority to carve out a significant empire in western and central India. Their guerrilla warfare tactics and regional support made them formidable adversaries.
 - ⇒ **Sikhs:** In the Punjab region, the Sikh community initially under the leadership of Guru Gobind Singh and Maharaja Ranjit Singh, resisted Mughal authority and established their own kingdom.
- Marhathas and Sikhs staged rebellion and challenged the Mughals.

Absence of Naval Power:

- ⇒ Mughals had no Navy, had small ships, no match for well equipped ships of foreign traders.
- ⇒ French and British both exploited.

2.

External Factors



- Rise of British
- Colonization by Dutch, Portuguese, British etc.
- Attacks by Nadir Shah and Ahmed Shah Abdali.

Rise of British:

- British landed as traders.
- Trade activities converted into Political activities.
- War of Plassey 1757 and defeat of Nawab Siraj ud Daula laid foundation of British rule in India.
- After failed war of independence, the British formally became rulers of India.

Invasion of Nadir Shah:

- In 1738 Persian King Nadir Shah invaded Delhi, defeated Muhammad Shah.
- Slaughtered local people and looted wealth.

Attack by Ahmad Shah Abdali:

- 1748-61 five attacks staged by Ahmed Shah Abdali.

Colonization by Dutch, Portuguese, British etc.:

The colonization of India by European powers such as the Dutch, Portuguese, and British significantly impacted the region and contributed to the decline of the Mughal Empire. The Portuguese were the first to establish a stronghold, capturing Goa in 1510 and controlling key ports like Cochin which disrupted traditional trade routes. The Dutch East India Company followed, establishing trading posts and monopolizing the spice trade, further straining the Mughal economy.

Critical Analysis:

The downfall of the Mughal Empire offers several critical lessons that are relevant to the contemporary world. The Mughal Empire faced economic decline due to inefficient taxation, corruption, and failure to invest in infrastructure and public welfare. Modern economies require sound fiscal policies and investments in infrastructure. For example: Greece's economic crisis highlighted the consequences of poor fiscal management. Mughal Empire Neglect of military infrastructure and the welfare of soldiers led to a weakened defense. Modern nations must ensure that their military forces are well-trained and adequately funded. The conflict in Ukraine underscores the importance of maintaining a strong and capable defense force.

Conclusion

The downfall of the Mughal Empire was a complex process driven by internal weaknesses and external pressures. Political instability, characterized by succession disputes and ineffective leadership, weakened the central authority and led to fragmentation. Internal conspiracies, lagging in education, un-disciplined army, moral decadence, immensity of the empire, nothing for public welfare, sway from religion, and flattered economy these factors collectively contributed to the decline of the Mughal Empire.