

* Islamiat → why Muslim umah is undergoing downfall give reasons:

DATE

MUSLIMS RULE IN SUB-CONTINENT &

FACTORS BEHIND THEIR FALL/DECLINE

- 2004 Analyze the factors responsible for degradation of muslim society in 18th century?
- 2002 Briefly describe the evolution of Muslim society in the subcontinent?
- 2001 Briefly describe the evolution of Muslim society in the subcontinent from 1206 onwards & analyze its downfall after the 17th century?
- 2000 Give an account of evolution of Muslim society in sub-continent from 1206 to 1526 A.D.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF SUBCONTINENT.

• Indus Valley Civilization (3300-1300 BCE).

Also known as the Harappan Civilization, it was one of the earliest urban civilizations in the world.

- Its major cities included Harappa & Mohenjo-daro, located in present-day Pakistan & western India.

• Maurya Empire (322-185 BCE).

Founded by Chandragupta Maurya, it was the

first major empire to unify most of the Indian Subcontinent under one rule. The Maurya Empire reached its peak under Emperor Ashoka & encompassed a vast territory.

MUSLIM RULE IN THE SUBCONTINENT.

The advent of Muslim rule in subcontinent is often viewed as a historically transformative phase marked by ideological, political & cultural shifts.

- It was not mere a territorial conquest but is an extension of an Islamic ideology aiming to spread Islam and establish governance based on Islamic principles.

• Muhammad Bin Qasim (711-712 AD)

- Muhammad Bin Qasim was the first ruler who entered in Sindh and defeated Raja Dahir.
- He introduced Islam and laid ideological foundation for future Muslim conquests.

• Ghaznavid Dynasty (1001-1027) 10th

- The founder of Ghaznavid Dynasty was Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni.
- He attacked the subcontinent 17 times.

- He plundered the wealthy temples like Somnath.

• Ghauri Dynasty (1173-1206 AD)

- The founder was Sultan Muhammad of Ghor.
- 2 Major Battles were fought

1) 1st Battle of Taxain (1191)
defeated by Prithviraj Chauhan

2) 2nd Battle of Taxain (1192)

Victory over Prithviraj Chauhan. & laid foundation of Muslim rule in Northern India.

- He is referred as the first Muslim ruler of subcontinent because of following conditions.

(i) Attacking any foreign territory.

(ii) Annexing of that area with their empire.

(iii) Consolidation of power over that territory. i.e. deploying of their army etc.

(iv) Administration of the said area.

All the four conditions were fulfilled by Sultan Ghauri in subcontinent.

THE DELHI SULTANATE (1206-1526).

As Sultan Muhammad of Ghor did not have any heir, he used to appoint his slaves as governors.

i) Slave Dynasty (1206-1290)

Muhammad of Ghor appointed his slave general **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** as the governor of Delhi, who after his assassination in 1206 laid the foundation of Delhi Sultanate.

ii) Khilji Dynasty (1290-1320)

- The founder of Khilji Dynasty was **Jalal-ud-Din Feroz Khilji**.

iii) Tughlaq Dynasty (1320-1414)

- Founder — **Ghias-ud-Din Tughlaq Shah**.

iv) Sayyid Dynasty (1414-1451)

- Founder — **Khizai Khan**

v) Lodhi Dynasty (1451-1526)

- Founder — **Behlul Khan Lodhi**

THE MUGHAL EMPIRE. (1526-1857)

i) Zahir-ud-din Muhammad Babur.

He fought First Battle of Panipat against Ibrahim Lodhi in 1526 and established Mughal Empire in India.

Golden Era of Mughal Empire (1526-1707)

① Babur

- (1526 - 1530)

② Humayun

- Full name — Nasir ud Din Baig Muhammad Khan.
- Tenure — (1530-40)
(1555-1556).
- Sher shah Suri attacked Humayun's army in 1540 and established Suri Dynasty. Humayun gathered his army again and defeated Sher shah Suri and 1555 and reestablished the Mughal Empire.

③ Akbar

- Full name — Jalal ud-din Muhammad Akbar.
- Tenure — 1556 - 1605.
- He introduced his own religion "Deen-i-Elahi" which was amalgamation of all the existing religions of that time in subcontinent.

④ Jahangir

- Full name — Nur ud din Baig Muhammad Khan Salim.
- Tenure — 1605 - 1627.

⑤ Shah Jahan

- Full name — Shahab ud din M. Khurram
- Tenure — 1627 - ~~1658~~ 1658

⑥ Aurangzaib Alamgir.

- Full name — Mohiudin Muza ffau
- Tenure — 1658 - 1707

Important Monuments.

• Shah Jahan

- i) Taj Mahal
- ii) Lal Qila
- iii) Shalimar Bagh
- iv) Masjid Wazir Khan

• Akbar

- i) Lahore Fort

• Aurangzeb

- i) Badshahi Mosque

• Jahangir

- i) Hazrat Nizam

⑤ - Shah Jahan

- Full name — Shahab ud din M. Khurram
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CAUSES OF DOWNFALL OF MUSLIM RULE

The decline of Muslim rule in Indian subcontinent was a gradual process due to various external and internal factors.

1) Internal Factors causing to decline of Muslim Rule.

The internal factors such as political disunity, moral decay etc, made Muslim rule vulnerable to both domestic rebellion and foreign conquest.

(i) WARS OF SUCCESSION.

In the absence of any fixed law of succession, many bloody battles among the heirs were fought. Each prince fought for the throne which weakened the central authority and wasted resources.

For Instance

- After Shah Jahan, his sons, especially Dara Shikoh and Aurangzeb, engaged in a brutal civil war.

- In the same way after death of Aurangzeb, his two sons Azam Shah and Bahadur Shah I fought for throne.

(2) INTERNAL CONSPIRACIES.

The Mughal court became a hotbed of jealousy, factionalism and conspiracies.

- Nobles prioritized personal gains over state interest, often betraying rulers for their own benefit.

For Example

Mir Jaffar, who was a close associate of Nawab of Bengal — Siraj ud Daula. He conspired against him with the assistance of East India Company. During the Battle of Plassey 1757, he shown the ~~entry~~ secret entry passages into the fort of Nawab of Bengal to Robert Clive, thus East India Company succeeded in winning the battle of Plassey. They made Mir Jaffar the puppet ruler of Bengal.

③ LAGGING BEHIND IN EDUCATION.

While Europe entered the Age of Enlightenment, the Muslim world remained stuck in traditional and religious education only. They were reluctant to learn modern sciences, technology and innovation. The lack of educational progress led to the fall in the military and economic fields. Muslims forgot the first message delivered to them in the very first revelation of Quranic verse i.e.

In Surah-al-Alaq;

"Read in the name of your
Lord who created"

The importance of education for the successful empires cannot be negated as

Edmund Burke stated;

"Education is a man's cheapest defence"

Meanwhile, Taj Mahal was under construction in Agra by Shah Jahan, European were establishing the Oxford university, So we can realize that no special attention was paid towards the construction of educational institutions.

④ MORAL DECADENCE.

Later Mughal rulers indulged in luxury, pleasure and extravagance. They became disconnected from the masses and morally corrupt. They forgot the teachings of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H), who himself was the embodiment of high morals. According to an Hadith

"Indeed I was sent to complete the highest noble morals."

⑤ DEMORALIZED AND UNDISCIPLINED ARMY.

The Mughal military became outdated and illorganized. Their was little innovation in military techniques compared to the British East India Company's disciplined troops. They forgot the Hadith;

"The strength of a believer lies in Prayer, patience and preparation."

Neglecting preparation and discipline leads to defeat.

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

⑥ IMMENSITY OF THE EMPIRE.

The vast Mughal Empire became too large to govern effectively with medieval communication and administration. The provinces like Bengal, Hyderabad etc. started revolt to become independent because of the weak center. The regional power became stronger and the central authority was becoming weaker day by day. The lack of central control paved the way for British penetration through alliances and treaties. ~~Plato~~

For Example

Plato and Aristotle, while presenting their idea of an ideal state recommended a state of moderate size, which is easy to control. But Mughal Empire was too vast to govern.

⑦ NEGLECT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

Caliph Umer (RA) said:

"If a dog dies hungry on the bank of the Euphrates, I fear I will be answerable to Allah."

The later Mughal rulers neglected the public welfare such as education, infrastructure and justice system etc. Benjamin Disraeli said:
"Power has only one duty - to secure the social welfare of people."

The Mughal rulers imposed heavy taxes on the public and lost the support.

⑧ SWAY FROM RELIGION.

Muslim ruler and masses swayed from the religion. They interpreted the religion for their own benefits rather than for spiritual and ethical governance. The moral corruption and oppression discredited the Muslim elite in the eyes of the masses. As the message in the Quran was neglected

"And be steadfast to the rope of Allah."

⑨ INTERNAL FAULTERED ECONOMY.

The later Mughal rulers neglected trade and agriculture and became corrupt and irresponsible that led to the collapsing of economy and the state was unable to maintain its power. ❌

[For Instance]

Shah Jahan's construction projects (like Taj Mahal) were artistically glorious but financially draining, with little economic return.

② External Factors leading to decline of Mughal Empire.

The European Colonial powers - British, Dutch etc exploited trade routes and seized territorial control and irreversibly collapsed the Mughal Empire.

① ABSENCE OF NAVAL POWER.

Mughal being land-based empire neglected naval development. They were unable to defend their coasts against European Naval Powers. Maritime supremacy was a key tool of colonization that the Mughals simply lacked.

According to K.M. Panikkar:

"The Mughal failure to build a navy was the single greatest strategic blunder in their empire's history."

② RISE OF BRITISH.

British East India Company was established in 1600 for trade purpose. Initially, it was dependant upon the royal trade permits (Mughal Farman) but gradually it expanded its influence and exploiting internal disunity. In 1757, the defeat of Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah in Battle of Plassey, marked the beginning of British political dominance, gradually they spread their influence and gained full power/authority after the defeat of Muslims in Battle War of Independence in 1857.

③ EUROPEAN COLONIZATION. (Portuguese, Dutch, French etc).

Portuguese established colonies in Goa, Daman, Diu in India, they were naval superpower and had aggressive missionary policies to

influence coastal regions.

Dutch used to trade in spices, silk and textiles and they undermined Mughal commercial authority.

French were the competitors of British in south India. Their involvement in the Indian politics further destabilize the Mughal empire.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS.

The downfall of Mughal Empire and the current turmoil in the Muslim world bears striking similarities. There is a cycle of repeated mistakes such as political instability, weak leadership, economic mismanagement, foreign exploitation and intellectual stagnation. Just as the Mughals collapsed due to internal and external factors, the current Muslim world is suffering from unity due to sectarianism, autocracy and economic dependence on global powers. We have neglected the Islamic teachings of seeking knowledge and justice. Today the Muslims are ignorant, corrupt and repressed. We are not updating us in educational fields and technological advancements. As per the Hadith warning that Muslims would be numerous yet powerless like foam on the

sea, aptly testifies, present conditions.
It is the need of hour to reframe from
Sectarian differences, promoting unity, invest in
science and technology. There is need to
establish transparent, just and accountable
governance system. We should use religion as
a source of ethics and progress and not
for division.

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