

Causes of Decline of Mughal Empire

ان الله لا يغير ما بقوم حتى يغيروا بالفساد

"Indeed Allah does not change
His favour upon any nation
untill they change their own condition"

Al-Raad : 13

Introduction

Before its decline, the
Mughal Empire was one of the largest
and powerful empires in the world.

It covers almost the entire of the

subcontinent. It was spread from

East to West (From Assam and Bengal

to Baluchistan) and from **North to**

South (From Khyber pass to the southern
tip of Indian Peninsula). There were

various factors that were involved
in decline of mighty Empire.

Internal

Factors

External

→ War of Succession among Aurangzaib's Sons

→ Financial Constraints

- Failure of Aurangzaib's Deccan policy
- Rise of Jagirdari Crisis
- luxury Life style of Mughal Princes

→ Weak Central government

- Biased judiciary
- Rise of Marathas and Sikhs
- Rise of independent dynasties

→ Moral decadence of Muslim Society

→ In-efficient Army and absence of Naval force

→ Backwardness in Education

→ Undue Liberal policies of Akbar

→ Attack by Nadir Shah

→ Attack by Ahmad Shah Abdali

→ Rise of British

1) War of Succession among the sons of Aurongzeb

One of the most important cause of decline of Mughal

Empire was the Personal Conflicts among the sons of Aurangzeb. **Moazzam** (Governor of Kabul), **Azam** (Governor of Gujarat), and M. Kam Baksh (Governor of Bijapur). At the death of Aurangzeb **1707**, he had advised to all three to divide empire among themselves but war rose among all of them to get power. **Azam and Muhammad** was defeated and killed by **Moazzam** who took the title **Bahadur Shah-I** also known as **Shah Alam I**. Over period after the death of **Moazzam** his four sons started conflicts. All of them were incompetent and were unable to administer the Great Mughal Empire.

2. Financial Constraints:

(i) Crisis of Jagirdar

Satish chandra

explains that the no. of growing

Jagirdar and their increasing power led to the decline of Mughal Empire and income of the state reduced because all of them were interested increase their revenues from Jagirs.

(ii) Failure of Aurangzeb's Decon Policy

Aurangzeb was keen to expand his Empire to **South**. For this purpose he commanded multiple campaigns to South that cost the state to run out of its treasury so it became impossible to meet the expenses of the army and state.

(iii) Luxury Life style of Emperors

The wealth and prolonging rule made the Mughal Princes fond of luxurious life. They preferred **musicians** and **jesters** to the brave soldiers. **Bahadur Shah** was so much

interested in music that on being threatened by **Nadir Shah** intention of invasion, reportedly he said '**Delhi Door Ast**'

3) Weak Central Government

(i) Divided Judiciary and various groups

During the waning days of Mughal Empire, the Court was divided into **Ethnic** and **Sectarian** lines and each group was wary of other. **Afghans** were against **Parsees** and **Hindus** were against **Muslims**. So instead of being focused on administration system and growing imminent danger they were interested to have personal power.

(ii) Rise of Marathas and Sikhs

Due to weakened Central government, **Agrarian-based** revolt of Marathas and Sikhs

Started challenging to Mughal Empire
The weakness of the empire was
crystallized that **Afghan King** had
to send an expedition to subdue
the **Morhatas**.

(iii) Rise of Independent dynasties

During the rule of
Aurangzeb the Mughal Empire was spread
to the extent of its vastness
from **Afghanistan** to **Assam** and
from **Kashmir** to **Mysore**. It
was during the late emperor when
Assam, Bengal and Orrisa
declared their independence. It was
a big blow to the economy of
the empire. Thus the sultanate declined.

4- Demoralized and Incompetent Army and absence of Navy

One of the most
portent cause of the decline of
the great Mughal Empire was

its incompetent and deteriorated army. The army men belonged to different groups such as **Turks**, **Afghans** and **Jatts** so they could not unite and never supported each other. Each of them wanted to suppress other. Moreover the command of troops was under **Mansabdars** who always asked the troops to show their loyalties towards them rather towards the Empire. This was the reason of weakened Centre.

5- More over there ^{was} **no navy** of the Mughal empire they only contained few **least equipped ships** that had no comparison with **well-equipped ships of foreign traders**. So the **British** took the advantage and established their base in the empire.

5- Moral decadence of Muslim Society

The successors of the

I. H. Qureshi says

They were morally deteriorated. They were weak and lacked the **Character, Motivation** and **Commitment** to rule the empire. They had become ease loving and cowardly. They totally disregarded their state duties and they became unable to save the empire from decline.

During the Muslim rule education system was totally dependant on religious institutions which were run by the trusts

The **British** confiscated those trusts that led to decline in education system. They never

Cooperated with the Conquerors nor
they wanted to learn **English**
language which was the way
towards **modern science**.

The Hindus under the British
became successful and Took high
posts and Muslim lagged behind

7- **Akbar's undue liberal policies**

Akbar made a
no. of conquests and made an effective
administration system. He was liberal
enough that he married a Hindu
woman **Jodha** and favoured the Hindus
They were posted on high posts
so they began to exercise their
powers in affair of state Akbar
also introduced a new din **Deen-i-Ilahi**
that was against the teachings of Islam

External Factors

(1) **Attack by Nadir Shah**

In 1739, the Persian king Nadir shah attacked **Delhi** and defeated the Mughal king **Muhammad Shah**. He slaughtered thousands of people and looted the wealth of Mughals including the famous **Peacock throne** and **Kohinoor diamond**. This attack laid bare the weakness of Mughal Empire.

2- Attack by Ahmad Shah Abdali

Between **1748** and **1761** the Afghan King Ahmad shah Abdali launched **five** attacks into the subcontinent. In his last attack he defeated **Marathas** in **third battle of Panipat**. This again brought into light the weakness of the Mughal Empire.

3- Rise of British

British had come into the subcontinent as traders

Soon their trade activities metamorphosed into **political activities**. Owing to the decline of Mughal Empire British started to capture the territories in subcontinent. The foundation of British rule was laid after the defeat of **Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula** at the battle of **Plassey** in **1757**. After the failed war of Independence in **1857** the British became ~~ruler~~ ruler of sub-continent.

"The paramount power of Great Mughals was broken by the Mughal viceroys. The power of viceroys was broken by the ^{Marathas} ~~Afghans~~ and the power of Marathas was broken by ^{the} Afghans; and while all were struggling against all; British rushed in and subdued them all."

Karl Marx,
New York Daily Tribune
August 8, 1853

Conclusion:

To conclude, the Great Mughal Empire which had given birth to a great civilization and culture collapsed due to its incompetent rulers. They lacked the unity, and they were least interested in the matters of state. Weak central government, lack of motivation and education and lack of spirit of jihad led the empire to its fall.

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Role of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi in Revival of Islamic Ideology

Introduction:

"Allah shall raise for this Ummah at the head of every century a man who shall raise (revive) for it its religion"

Sunan-Abu-Daoud

Mujaddid Alif Sani (Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi) reformer of second decade born in 1564 in Sirhind. He was taught Quran, Hadith and philosophy. In 1589 he came to the Capital City Akbar Abad. where he found the Muslim Ummah disintegrated spiritually, politically, ethically and religiously

2- Condition of Muslim Society before his reforms

i) Ill effects of Din-i-Ilahi: Akbar introduced a new din with mission to Unit Muslim and Hindus in 1581. Credo for this din were i.e. Emphasized monotheism tinged by Pantheism, Practically idolized the emperor by declaring him God's viceregent on earth, introduction of adoration of Sun, fire and artificial light

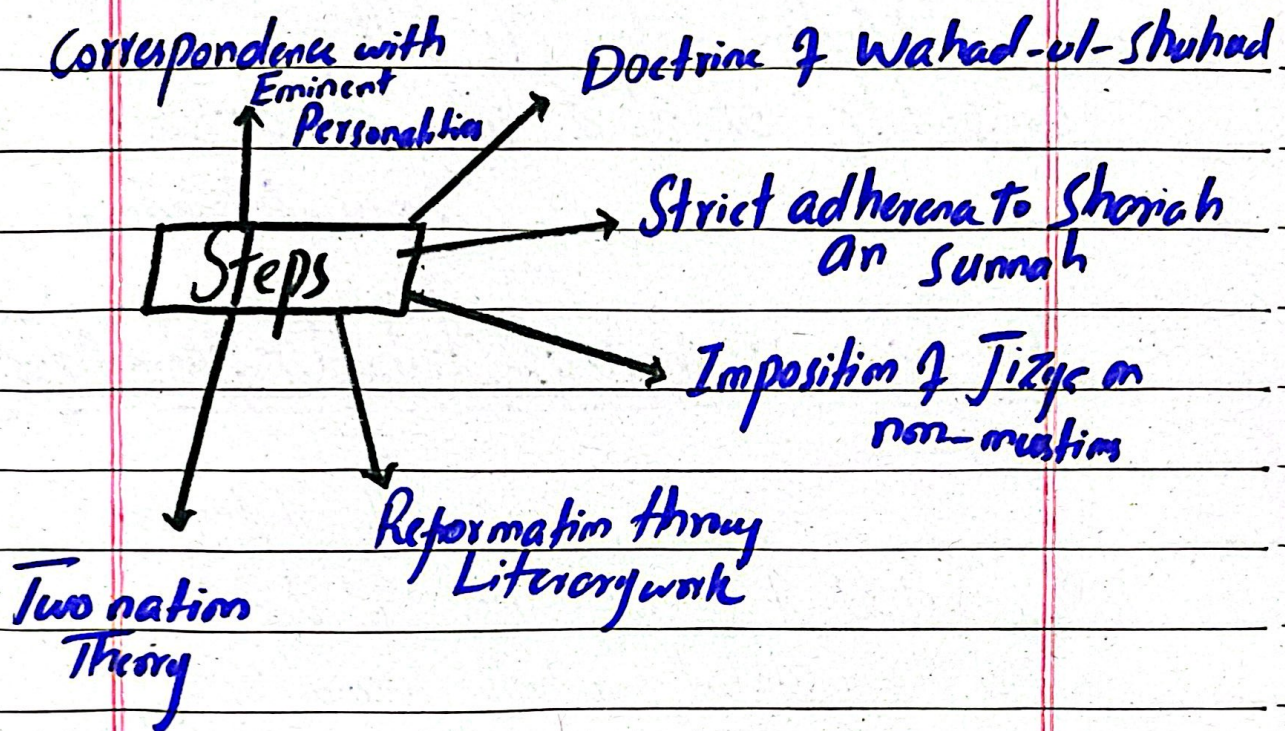
(ii) Doctrine of Wahad-Al-Wujood

Introduced by Ibn-ul-Arabi with strong belief that God and His Creature are one thing. This was truly a misleading and unislamic.

- iii) → uplifted Jizya on non Muslims
 → Cow slaughter was banned
 → High offices were occupied by Hindus
 → Inter-marriages were allowed
 → Muslim society was stagnant

There develops a Belief in Karomat that were introduced by unorthodox Sufis

Steps taken by Mujaddid Alif Sani



1) Correspondence with Eminent Personalities

Mujaddid Alif Sani started writing letters to the rulers and eminent Personalities of other countries describing the religious doctrine and compelling the muslims to shun unislamic practices and return to true teachings of Islam. He highlighted the difference betw Hindus and Muslims. He

wrote 525 letters which are called
Maktubat-Imam Rabbani

"Sirhindi forbade and saved
the Muslims rulers to fall or
completely absorbed into Hinduism"
Syed Moududi

2- Doctrine Wahad-us-Shuhud or Hama Azaat

To counter the doctrine
of wahad-us-wujud he introduced
wahad-us-shuhud which means God
is different from what he has
created. He also impelled the
Muslims not to follow this kind
of unorthodox beliefs. Ishtiaq Hussain
Qureshi said about his philosophy

"The cornerstone of his philosophy
was the rejection of Ontological
monoism. It is on rejection of monoism
that Sheikh Ahmad claims for
being the mujaddid of his age is based."

3- Strict adherence to Shoriah

He pressed upon the following of Shoriah and Itteba-e-Sunnah. He made the people realized that mystic beliefs and un-Islamic values should be abandoned. He preached that mysticism without shoriah was misleading. That's why he refused to perform act of prostration before emperor because he believed that prostration or Sajda was due only to Allah Almighty. For this he was imprisoned for 2 years at Gawalior fort. He realized the people by doing following:

- Explained the Concept of Tauheed
- Asked the Muslims to give up heretical ideas
- Asked the Muslims to adopt Lifestyle according to sharia
- Explained the importance of rituals (Namaz, Zakat and Fast)
- The Muslims to maintain separate identity

4- Imposition of Jizya on non-Muslims

He impressed upon the
rulers to impose jizya on non-Muslims

He said

"Jizya is designed to humiliate
the infidels since the dignity
of infidels is the humiliation of
believers"

5- Reforms through Literary work.

He explained the
Muslims about Tauheed and
Prophet hood and the responsibilities of
Last messenger of Allah. He told
them that Islam is real deen
His Literary work as follows

- Asbat-un-Nabuwa (Affirmation of Prophet hood)
- Risal-e- Nabuwat (Messenger and his responsibilities)
- Tauheed-i-Shuhudi (Belief in Tauheed)

Mujaddid Alif Sani and Two nation Theory

He explained and advocated the difference b/w Hindus and Muslims and considered them two separate nations. He highlighted the divergent creeds of Hindus and Muslims. He laid the foundation of "Two nation Theory". The effort of Mujaddid Alif Sani to purify the religious and political life of Muslims cannot be over-emphasized. He projected the true teaching of Islam and saved the Muslim from Hindu-dogmatism and from secular beliefs of unorthodox mystics. Allama Muhammad Iqbal said about him that he was the spiritual guardian of Muslims in India and declared that it was Allah Almighty who alerted the Mujaddid to the dangers faced by the Muslims in the subcontinent.

Hafeez Malik in his book
 "Muslim Nationalism in India
 and Pakistan" says

"Mujaddid Alif Sani" influence
 on posterity has been great
 indeed. His was truly a
 call back to Muhammad PBUH
 with far reaching consequences
 on religious and political terms.
 It opposed the secularization of
 Muslim^r rule in India"

Conclusion

To conclude His work on Muslim
 society awakened the Muslim
 and they realized the true
 meaning of Islam. Muslims shun
 the un-Islamic practices and started
 following Shariah and Sunnah.
 Muslims realized the difference between
 Islam and Hinduism. He was
 a 'Mujaddid' in true sense