

# Causes of Decline of Mughal Empire

ان اللہ لا یغیر ما یقوم حتیٰ لیغیر ما بالفسک

"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 Jagirdar 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 Bakht (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



(ii) Failure of Aurangzeb's Recon Policy

(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 **Persons** 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 <sup>was</sup> **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 become 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 these 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 ~~Afghans~~ and the power of Marathas was broken by <sup>the</sup> 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.

good attempt!!!



Q 1

# 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

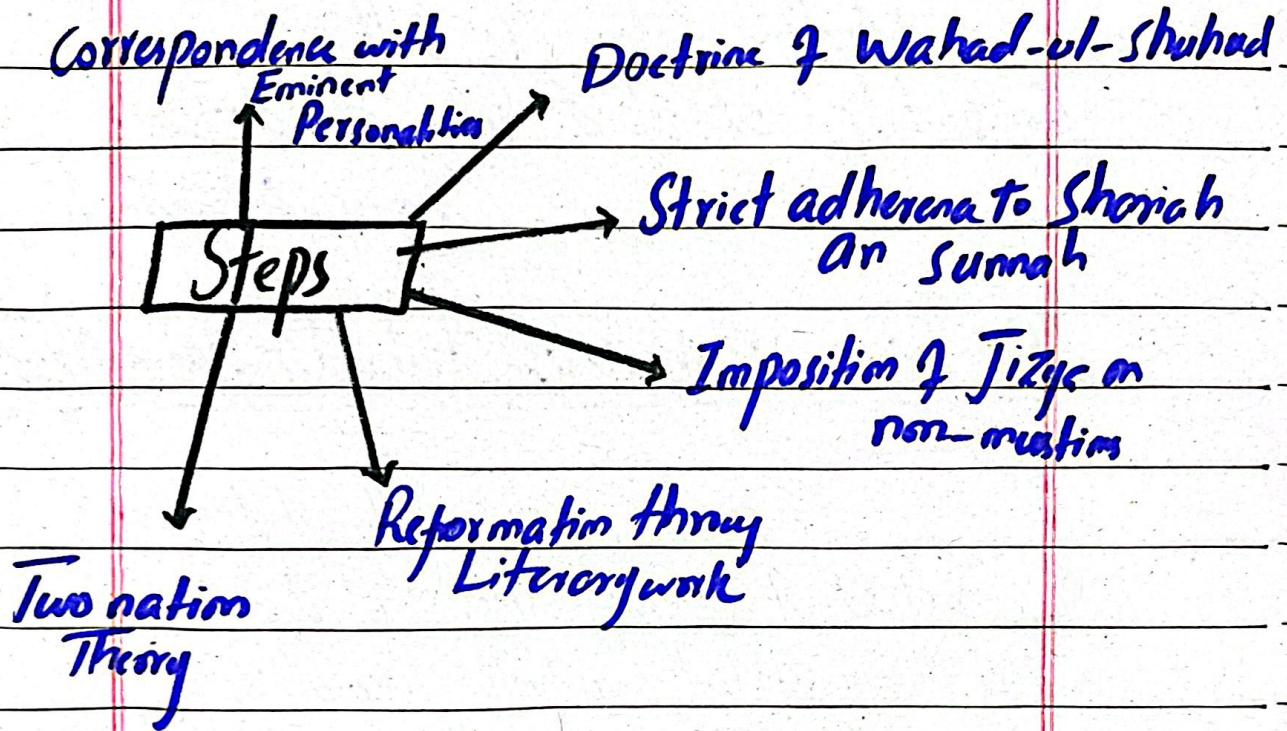
Introduced by Ibn-ul-Arabi with strong belief that God and His Creature are one thing. This was truly a misleading and unislamic.

- 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



١٠:٢٤

MTWTFSS

#### 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  
prophethood 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 Prophethood)
- 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<sup>r</sup> 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