

# Causes of Decline of Mughal Empire

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ مَا يَقُومُ حَتَّىٰ لِيَعْمَلُوا مَا يَشَاءُون

"Indeed Allah does not change His favour upon any nation until 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
		Attack by Nadir Shah
	War of Succession among Aurangzeb's Sons	
	Financial Constraints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Failure of Aurangzeb's Deccan Policy</li> <li>- Rise of Jagirdari Crisis</li> <li>- luxury Life style of Mughal Princes</li> </ul>	Attack by Ahmad Shah Abdali
	Weak Central government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biased judiciary</li> <li>- Rise of Marathas and Sikhs</li> <li>- Rise of independent dynasties</li> </ul>	Rise of British
	Moral decadence of Muslim Society	
	In-efficient Army and absence of Naval force	
	Backwardness in Education	
	Undue Liberal Policies of Akbar	

## 1) War of Succession among the sons of Aurangzeb

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 Bakhsh (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 in increasing their revenues from Jagirs.

### (ii) Failure of Aurangzeb's Deccan 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) Luxurious 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 **Section** 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 Marathas.

### (iii) Rise of Independent dynasties

During the rule of Aurangzeb the Mughal Empire was spread.  
 1. 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 sultanehs declined.

### 4- Demoralized and Incompetent Army and absence of Navy

One of the most  
 potent 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 **Tatars** 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

Aurangzeb were morally depraved.

**I. H Qureshi says**

"The foremost cause of the loss of political power was a crisis in the Mughal character itself."

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.

## **6- Backwardness in Education**

During the Muslim rule education system was totally dependent 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 increase their powers in affair of state. Akbar also introduced a new din Deen-i-Islahi that was against the teachings of Islam.

## External Factors

### (1) Attack by Nadir Shah

In 1739 the Persian King Nader 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 sub-continent. 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 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 the Afghans; and while all were struggling against all, British rushed in and subdue them all."

Karl Marx,  
New York Daily Tribune  
August 8 1853

M T W T F S

## 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 dedication 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-Daud

Mujaddid Alif Soni (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 Akbarabad 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. Creeds for this din were i.e. Emphasized monotheism tinged by Pantheism, Practically idolized the emperor by declaring him God's viceroy on earth, introduction of adoration of Sun, fire and artificial light

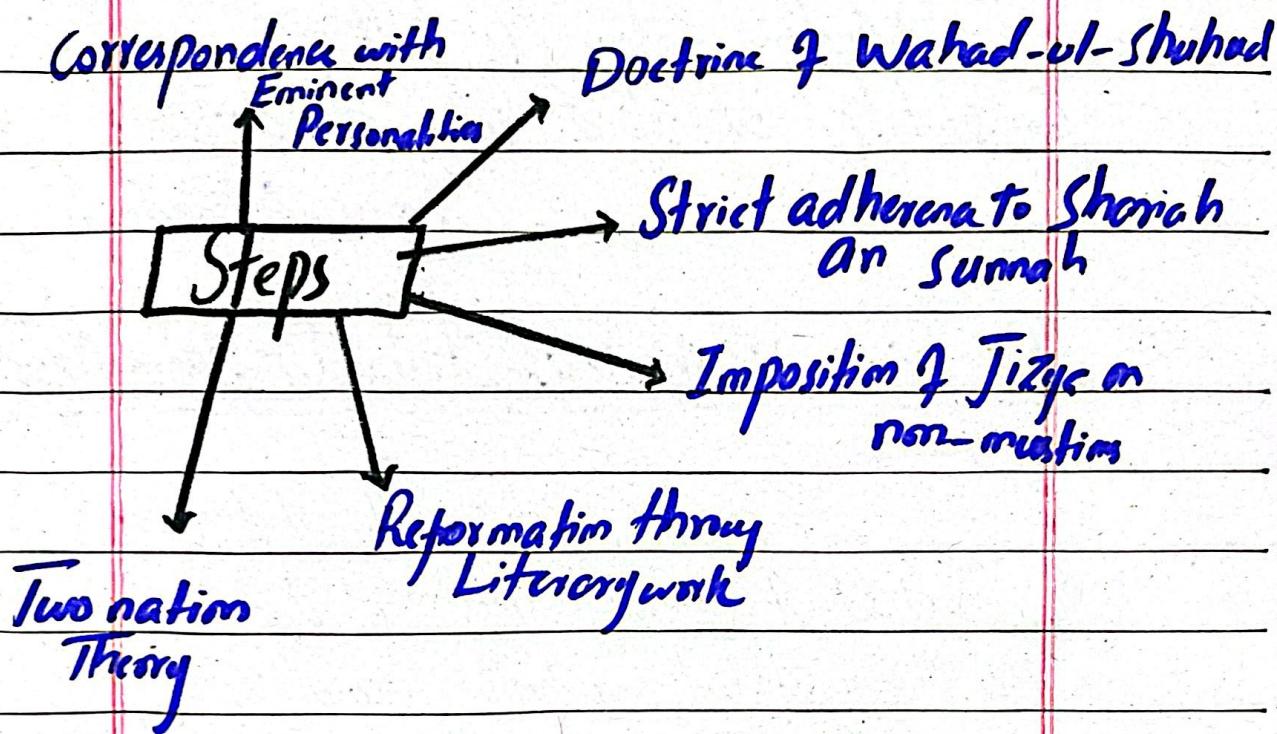
### (ii) Doctrine of Wahad-Al-Wujood

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 developed a Belief in Karamat 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 b/w Hindus and Muslims. He

wrote 525 letters which are called  
**Maktubat-Imam Rabbani**

" Sirhindi forbade and saved  
 the Muslim rulers to fall or  
 Completely absorbed into Hinduism"

Syed Moududi

## 2- Doctrine Wahad-us-Shuhud or Hama Azast

To Counter the doctrine  
 of Wahad-ut-wujood 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. **Ishraqi 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 Shariyah

He pressed upon the following of Shariyah and Itteba-e-Sunnah.

He made the people realized that mystic beliefs and un-Islamic values should be abandoned. He preached that mysticism without Shariyah 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

Prisoned for 2 years at Gwalior 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 Shariyah
- Explained the importance of rituals (Namaz, Zakat and Fast)
- Told 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 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 Alf Sani and Two nation Theory

He explained and advocated the difference b/w Hindus and Muslim 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 Alf Sani to purify the religious and political life of Muslim 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 Muslim 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>ruler</sup> in India"

### Conclusion

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