

Examine the internal and external causes of the decline of the Mughal Empire?

Introduction

Empire collapse of its own weakness
rather than from strength of
enemies. ~ will Durant

The decline of Mughal Empire is not the result of a single cause. It is shaped by both internal weakness and external pressure.

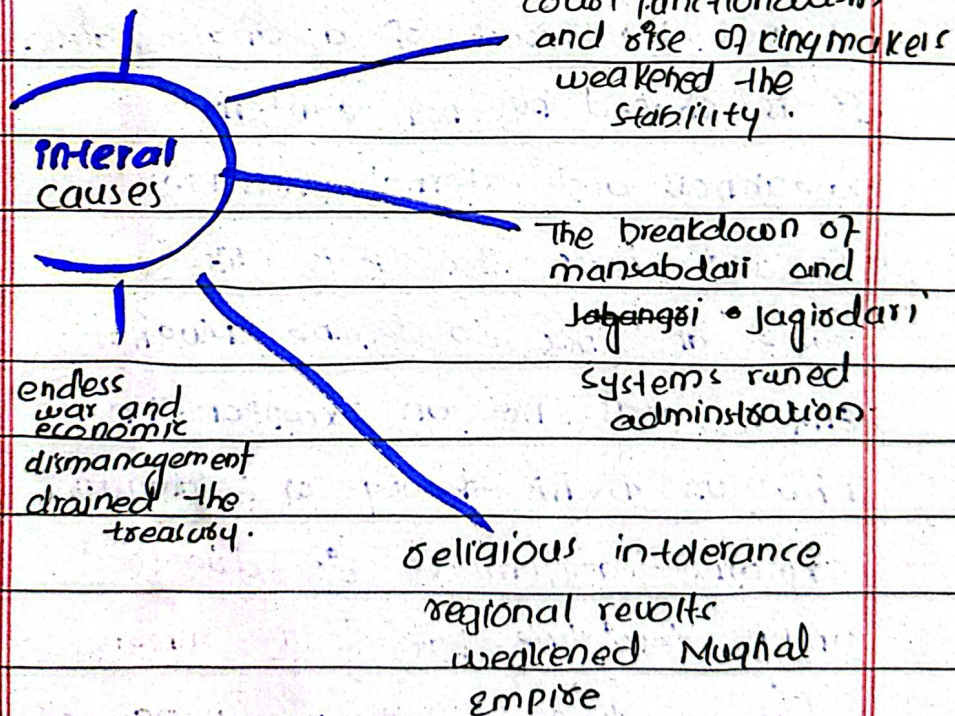
History shows that it is like a cycle and has to decline. Mughal Empire was not an exception. Ibn-e-Khaldun in his theory of Asabiyyah explains that empire rise due to unity discipline but decline when these qualities weaken. Aurangzeb's long chain of wars and strict policies weaken the empire within. Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali's

invasion weaken its foundation.

After Aurangzeb weak successors played a vital role in decline of Mughal Empire.

Causes of Decline of Mughal Empire

The weak successors after Aurangzeb failed to protect the empire



The weak Successors

after death of Aurangzeb

failed to protect the

empire

After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707.. The weak successor failed to protect the empire. Emperor like Jahandar Shah was too depended on nobles in decision making (Zulfiqar) but he was murdered. Muhammad Shah Rangila was more interested in music, entertainment than handling administration. They were not like Akbar who give unity discipline to the empire and kept noble under his control, but the new rulers involved nobles in decision making that's how they lose respect and stop fearing emperor especially governors and nobels.

Court functionalism and rise of kingmakers destroyed stability.

The Mughal court became divided into many rival groups like Trans (Central Asians), Iranis (Persians), Afghans and Hindustanis, who instead of serving people started fighting each other for influence. The Sayyid brothers became very powerful who helped Farrukhsiyar in 1713 to become the ruler, but when he resisted them after becoming emperor they killed him in 1719. Emperors were just symbolic representation of nobles. However, Akbar kept such nobles under his control and balanced, but later emperor lacked this skill functionalism weakened the empire.

The Breakdown of mansabdari and Jagirdari system ruined the administration

The mansabdari system introduced by Akbar in which every mansabdar (officer) were given jagirs as a source of income from which they would collect revenue and maintain troops for emperor. But later this system became one of the causes of decline of Mughal empire especially in 18th century where the mansabdars (officers) were more than jagirs. Mansabdars started corruption, weak emperor failed to control this disorder and the system collapsed. As a result provinces like Bengal, Awadh and Hyderabad become almost independent. Thus, a system that was once strength of Akbar empire

later - rushed into weakness.

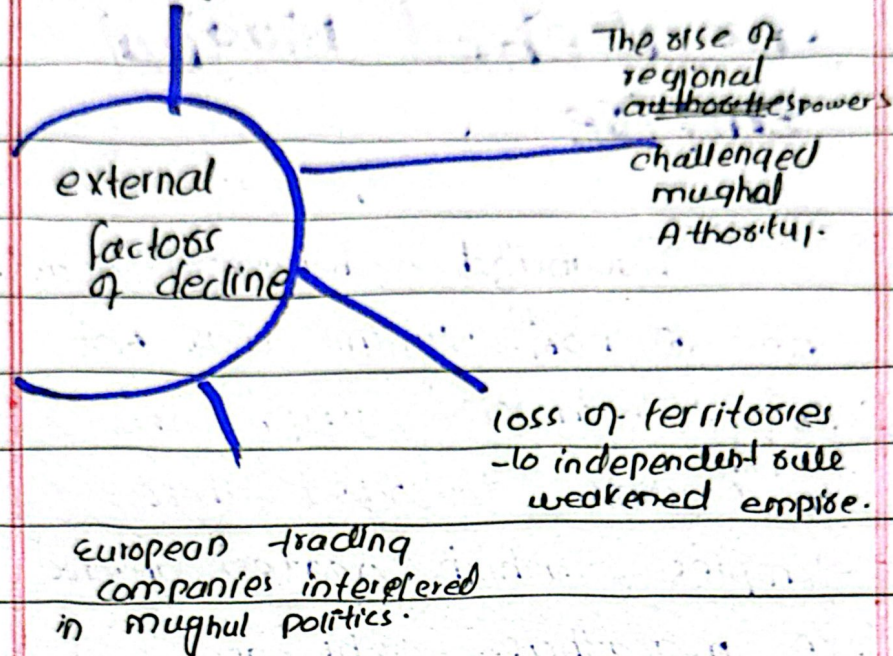
Endless war and economic mismanagement drained the treasury.

Aurangzeb's ^{seven} twenty year's war in Deccan left the treasury empty. Successors of Aurangzeb ~~it~~ instead of working for betterment of economic conditions they were busy in spending money on their luxurious life imposed high taxes on peasants agriculture, trade were also about to decline. While Akbar who introduced revenue system and kept the treasury strong once now became the reason of decline the way new rulers were careless.

Religious intolerance and regional revolt weakened Mughal Empire

Aurangzeb's behaviour towards the ~~the~~ non-Muslims was not fair. He imposed jizya on ^{non} Muslims destroyed their temples which created anger in marathas, sikhs and among Rajputs. They also started many battles. Marathas under Shivaji and Sikh under Guru Gobind resisted Mughal rule which weakened Mughal empire within.

invasions by
Nadir shah weakened
the mughal empire



Invasion of Nadir shah weakened mughal empire.

In 1739 Nadir shah from persia invade mughal empire and captured northern india and Delhi, looted wealth and treasury and also famous peacock throne. This not only destroy mughals wealth but also shook the prestige of the

emperor showing their weakness
that how easily that could
be targeted by invaders and
they could not defend or protect
their rule. They way Akbar
and Aurangzeb could resist
them.

The rise of regional power challenged mughal's authority.

As the mughal center
authority became weakened the
regional kingdoms like sikhs,
rajputs, marathas, Jats became
independent or semi independent.
Marathas under the leaders like
Peshwa Bajirao I expanded their
territory rapidly upto Delhi.
Rulers like Akbar & Aurangzeb
kept these regions under control
but later when saw change they
started attacking until they were
successful in complete decline of
the emperor.

loss of territories also weakened the empire

Territories like Awadh, Bengal, Kashmir and Hyderabad effectively became independent in 18th century which was a big loss of Mughal empire. This loss meant less soldiers, revenue and weaker administration.

European trading companies interfered in Mughal politics.

The British East India Company, French Portuguese gradually expanded their influence in India. They used diplomacy, military power to gain their remaining territory. British captured Bengal after 3rd battle of Panipat in 1575, 1757.

which reduced Mughal's revenue and authority

Conclusion

The Mughal rule started in 1526 ended on 1857. Many causes and events contributed to decline of Mughal rule. Both internal and external causes played vital role in Mughal's rule end. Like the weak successors after Aurangzeb failed to protect the empire, court functionalism and rise of kingmakers, religious intolerance, regional revolts weakened Mughal empire, invasion by Nadir Shah and rise of regional powers challenged Mughal authority. These reasons played a major role in decline of Mughal empire.