

HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA

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UNIT I - EARLY MODERN INDIA

- INDIA IN 18TH CENTURY
- RISE OF REGIONAL KINGDOMS
- THE COMING OF EUROPEANS
- BRITISH CONQUEST OF INDIA
- CULTURAL AWAKENING, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL REFORM
- THE REVOLT OF 1857

1. INDIA IN 18TH CENTURY

Introduction:

The eighteenth century is a historical landmark in the history of the Indian subcontinent. The Mughal Empire, which was brought to its pinnacle of glory by the great Mughals, saw decline in its fortunes and glory in the eighteenth century during the last years of Aurangzeb's reign who died on February 20, 1707.

The succeeding Mughals of the eighteenth century, collectively called the **later Mughals**, were too weak and incompetent to maintain the banner of the Mughal rule and could do little to prevent the rise of the regional powers and later, the East India Company.

Later Mughals

- *Bahadur Shah I (1707-12);*
- *Jahandar Shah (1712-13);*
- *Farrukhsiyar (1713-19);*
- *Muhammad Shah (1719-48);*
- *Ahmad Shah (1748-54);*
- *Alamgir II (1754-58);*
- *Shahjahan III (1758-1759)*
- *Shah Alam II (1759-1806)*

FALL OF THE MUGHALS

Here is a brief chronology of Important Mughal rulers:

- 1658 - 1707 - **Aurangzeb**
- 1707 - 1712 - **Bahadur Shah** (son of Aurangzeb)
- 1712 - 1713 - **Jahandar Shah** (son of Bahadur Shah)
- 1713 - 1719 - **Farrukhsiyar** (nephew of Jahandar Shah)
- 1719 - Quick succession of two princes - **Rafi-ud-daulah** (Shah Jahan II) and **Rafi-ud-darjat** – both of whom died quickly.
- **1719-1748 - Muhammad Shah - Rangeela** (grandson of Bahadur Shah); Delhi suffered the invasion of Nadir Shah of Persia in 1739 during his reign after which the disintegration was profound.
- **1748-1754 - Ahmad Shah Bahadur** (son of Muhammad Shah); the emperor was deposed and blinded by his own Wazir **Imad-ul-mulk** who placed Alamgir II on the throne.
- **1754-1759 - Alamgir II** (second son of Jahandar Shah); Murdered by conspiracy of Imad-ul-mulk and Maratha ruler Sadashivrao Bhau.
- **1759 - Shahjahan III** (grandson of Aurangzeb); deposed within a year.
- **1759- Shah Alam II** (son of Alamgir II came to the throne but spent most of the time away from Delhi. He was finally defeated by the British in Battle of Buxar in 1764.

BAHADUR SHAH (1707 - 1712)

- Prince **Muazzam** defeated his two brothers Muhammad Azam and Kam Baksh and ascended the throne with the title Bahadur Shah.
- He made peace with Guru Govind Singh (Sikhs). Chatrasal (Bundela chief), Churaman (Jats chief), released Shahu and granted *sardeshmukhi* but not *chauth* to the Marathas.