



CHAPTER-18

NEW POLITICAL FORMATIONS IN THE 18TH CENTURY

NOTES:

- The decline of the Mughal empire began immediately after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 and the most important reasons of the decline was the intolerant religious policy and the Deccan campaign of Aurangzeb which further got worsened due to the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739.
- After the death of Aurangzeb, chaos and confusion prevailed in almost all parts of the declining empire and consequently, a number of independent states emerged in different parts of India.

A RISE OF INDEPENDENT KINGDOMS:

i) SIKHS

- The Sikhs rose in Punjab under Guru Har Govind, the sixth Guru who organized the sikhs into a militant community ,but the first Guru and the next four gurus after him had interest only in religion.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru had directly confronted Aurangzeb which led to his execution and had severely hurt the feelings of the Sikhs.
- Guru Govind Singh, son and successor of Tegh Bahadur organized themselves into Khalsa Panth for fighting the Mughals with arms but the Sikhs were very much disunited during that time.
- Towards the close of eighteen century, Ranjit Singh (1786-1839) who was the Misaldar of the Sukarcharia Misl brought together all the Sikhs misls ,west of Sutlej river under his control.
- Ranjit Singh occupied Kashmir, Ladakh, Multan, Peshawar etc and a big powerful kingdom was founded under him.

ii) RAJPUTS:

- The observatory, the Jantar Mantar at Delhi was built by a Rajput King ,Raja Jai Singh.
- The Rajputs had accepted the over lordship of the Mughals but the great Rajput ruler of Mewar, Rana Pratap Singh did not submit to the Mughals.

- Raja Jai Singh of Amber built the ‘ Pink City ‘of Jaipur and he was a great astronomer, so he built astronomical observatories at Delhi, Jaipur ,Varanasi, Ujjain and Mathura .
- The Rajputs were subjugated by the Marathas in the end of the eighteenth century.

iii) LATER MUGHALS:

- The term ‘Later Mughals’ refer to those Mughal rulers ruling at Delhi after the death of Aurangzeb and they did not possessed any power and prestige.
- Bahadur Shah was victorious in the war of succession and ruled Delhi from 1707 to 1712. After him all the Mughal emperors were under the influence of the Nobles.
- With the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739,the situation worsened, Muhammad Shah became the ruler and the empire began to decline.
- The Successors of Muhammad Shah ruling from 1748 to 1806 were emperors in name only.
- The last of the Mughals, Bahadur Shah Zafar was executed by the British for his involvement in the Great Revolt of 1857 and the Mughal dynasty which ruled more than 300 years came to an end.

iv) AWADH :

- The Kingdom of Awadh was founded by Saadat Khan who helped the Mughals in overthrowing the Sayyid brothers and in 1722 was made the governor of Awadh.
- Saadat Khan was succeeded by Safdar Jung ,who later became the Wazir of Mughal emperor ,Ahmad Shah.
- After safdar Jung's death in 1754,his son Shuja – Ud – Daula became the Subahdar of Awadh under the Mughals and in 1764 he became the Wazir of Emperor Shah Alam II .
- Shuja - ud- Daula's alliance with Shiraj -ud- Daula of Bengal and Shah Alam II was crushed to defeat in the Battle of Buxar in 1765.
- In the Treaty of Allahabad in 1765, Awadh became dependency under the British.

v) BENGAL :

- Bengal was a Mughal Subah for a long time.
- In 1740,Alivardi khan ,the deputy Governor of Bihar had usurped the governorship of Bengal from Sarfaraj Khan, the governor of Bengal.

vi) HYDERABAD:

- Hyder-ul- Mulk was the commander of the Golconda army, who conquered the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh from the Reddy Kings.
- The city of Hyderabad was founded in commemoration of his victory and his successor, Sultan Mohammad built the famous Charminar in 1591.

- A powerful Hyderabad state emerged under Chin Qulich Khan ,popularly known as the Nijam -ul -Mulk and in 1722 Qulich became the Wazir under the new Mughal emperor, Muhammad Shah.
- The Mughal ruler recognized the Nizam as the Viceroy of Deccan and gave the title of 'Asaf Shahi' . Thus, the Hyderabad state became virtually independent.
- The Nizam was defeated by the Marathas in 1728and 1723.
- Qulich khan died in 1748 and his Dynasty came to be known as the Asaf Shahi dynasty and continued to rule until 1748 .The rulers of Hyderabad came to be known as the Nizams.

B. MARATHAS: A CASE STUDY

I) SHIVAJI

- Shivaji founded the Maratha kingdom during the reign of Aurangzeb and the Marathas lived in the hilly areas of Konkan and Poona in present day Maharashtra.
- Shivaji was born near Poona and he was the son of a chief in the court of the Sultan of Bijapur.
- He had the ambition to become a king himself.
- He organized a band of men who were trained in guerilla warfare and with their help began to capture the fort of the Sultan of Bijapur.
- Shivaji had to reckon with the Mughals and went to plunder and attack Surat
- After capturing Surat Shivaji proclaimed himself as the emperor and adopted the title of Chatrapati in 1674 and the independent Maratha Kingdom was established.
- After Shivaji the Marathas **broke into two rival groups and Shahu his grandson became victorious .**

II) RISE OF THE PESHWAS:

- Balaji Viswanath,a brahmana from Konkan greatly contributed to the success of Shahu.
- Balaji rose to the position of Peshwa in 1713 and inaugurated an era of Maratha supremacy.
- In 1718, Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath entered into a pact with Sayyid Hussain Ali and under the pact ,the Peshwa secured the right to collect Chauth or Sardeshmukhi in the six Mughal Subahs in Deccan.
- Balaji gave away distinct areas for collection of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi and with this, the foundation of the Maratha confederacy was laid.
- Balaji's expansionist policy was followed by his son ,Baji Rao I who became Peshwa in 1720 and Baji Rao's son Balaji Baji Rao also continued the expansionist policy of his father.
- Thus, the Maratha power was at its highest in the middle of the eighteenth century.

C MANIPUR UNDER GARIBNIWAZ (1709- 1748) :

- Garibniwaz was the eldest son of King Charairongba (1697-1709) and queen Nungthil Chaibi.
- He ascended the throne in 1709 AD and his original name was Pamheiba, also he assumed the title Mayamba on his accession.
- Garibniwaz was the greatest king of Manipur, he was a great conqueror administrator, a social and religious reformer and a patron of Hinduism.
- He was in conflict with the Burmese for 30 years and one of his important war with the Burmese was in 1738. In the war he occupied Sagaing.
- Garibniwaz invaded Samsok many times between 1717 and 1748 as they refused to pay tribute to Manipur.

ADMINISTRATION

- Garibniwaz was a great administrator, he allocated administrative duties to a number of nobles and most important post was given to the prince.
- In the hill villages, the title Ningthou (chief) was changed to Khullakpa (administrator of the village). Sometimes the Khullakpa was referred as the Khunbu (owner of the village).
- The most important achievement of his reign was judicial reform in 1715 he entrusted the administration to his nobles as earlier the king used to sit in the Cheirap only.

RELIGIOUS CONDITION:

- **Garibniwaz became a** follower of Vaishnavism and it influenced his policy and actions in many ways.

He assumed the title of Maharaja and also created the office of Mantri.

Garibniwaz was initiated to Vaishnavism by Guru Gopal Das and the form he adopted was Chaitanya School of Vaishnavism in which Lord Krishna was the main theme.

Later on another preacher named Shanti Das following the Ramanandi School of Vaishnavism influenced Garibniwaz so much that Vaishnavism became the state religion of Manipur under Garibniwaz



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