

**Study of the Mughal-Maratha Period
(1500 AD to 1800 AD)**

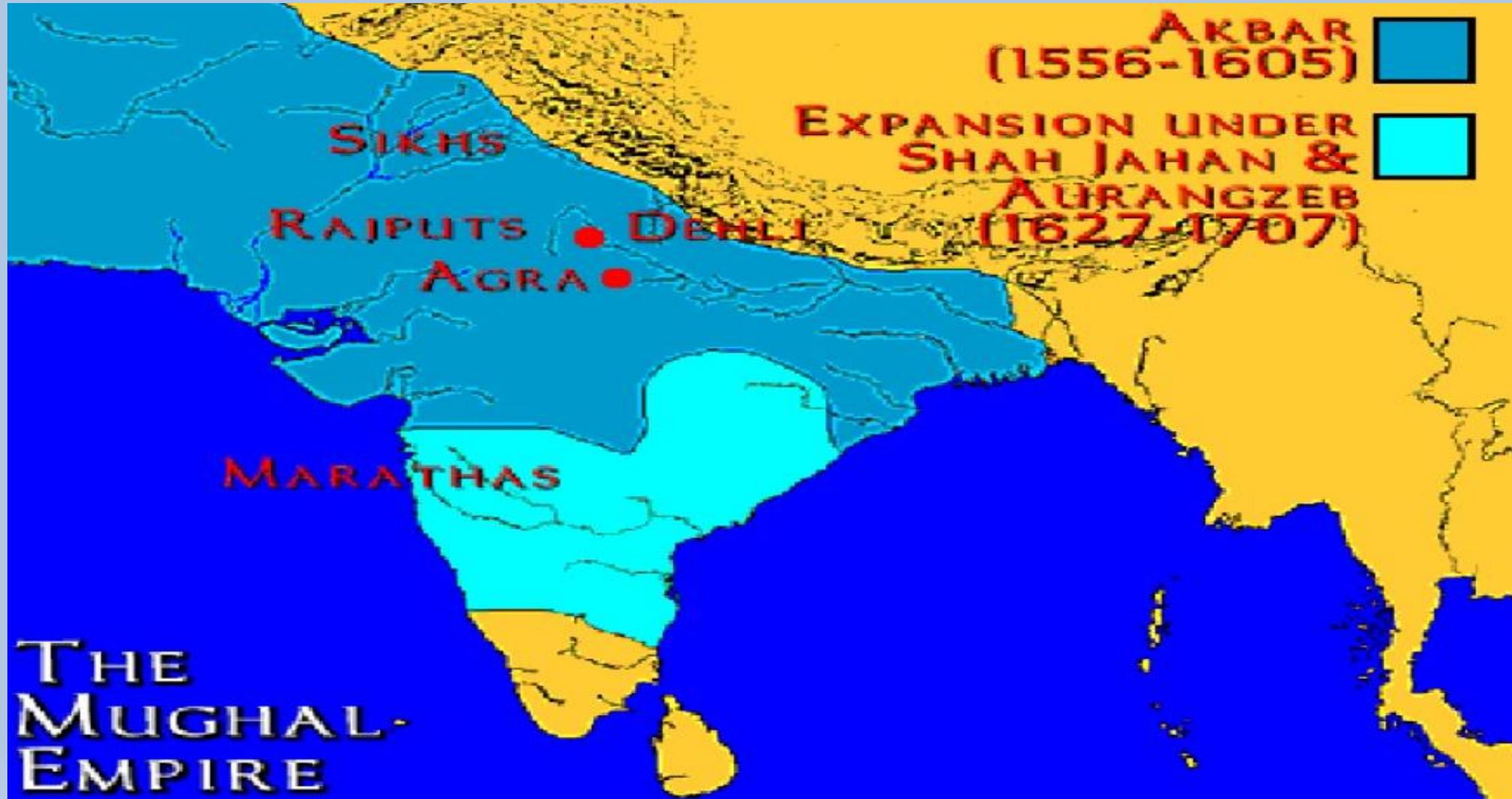
Economy and Politics

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Highlights of Mughal-Maratha Period

- Production surpluses led to a spike in trade, while taxation and bureaucracy hindered growth.
- Economic growth could not be maintained.
- Individual freedom was curtailed, and people were fearful and insecure.
- Marathas succeeded in challenging and weakening the Mughals, but failed to sustain the effort because of internal rivalry and the lack of good artillery.
- And the British were thus able to make inroads.

The Mughal Empire



Economy – Mughal Period

- ***Agricultural production*** was the main source of revenue. The vast majority of population depended on agriculture.
- ***Agricultural lands expanded:***
 - Forests were cleared for farming and harvesting. Economic growth spiked as agricultural lands expanded.
 - Commerce flourished; commodities like cotton, indigo and opium generated good export revenue.
- The construction of wells, tanks and canals helped artificial irrigation. This is one of the most important feature of the irrigation systems during this period.
- Mughal India became the world's largest economic and manufacturing power.

Economy – Mughal Period (cont'd)

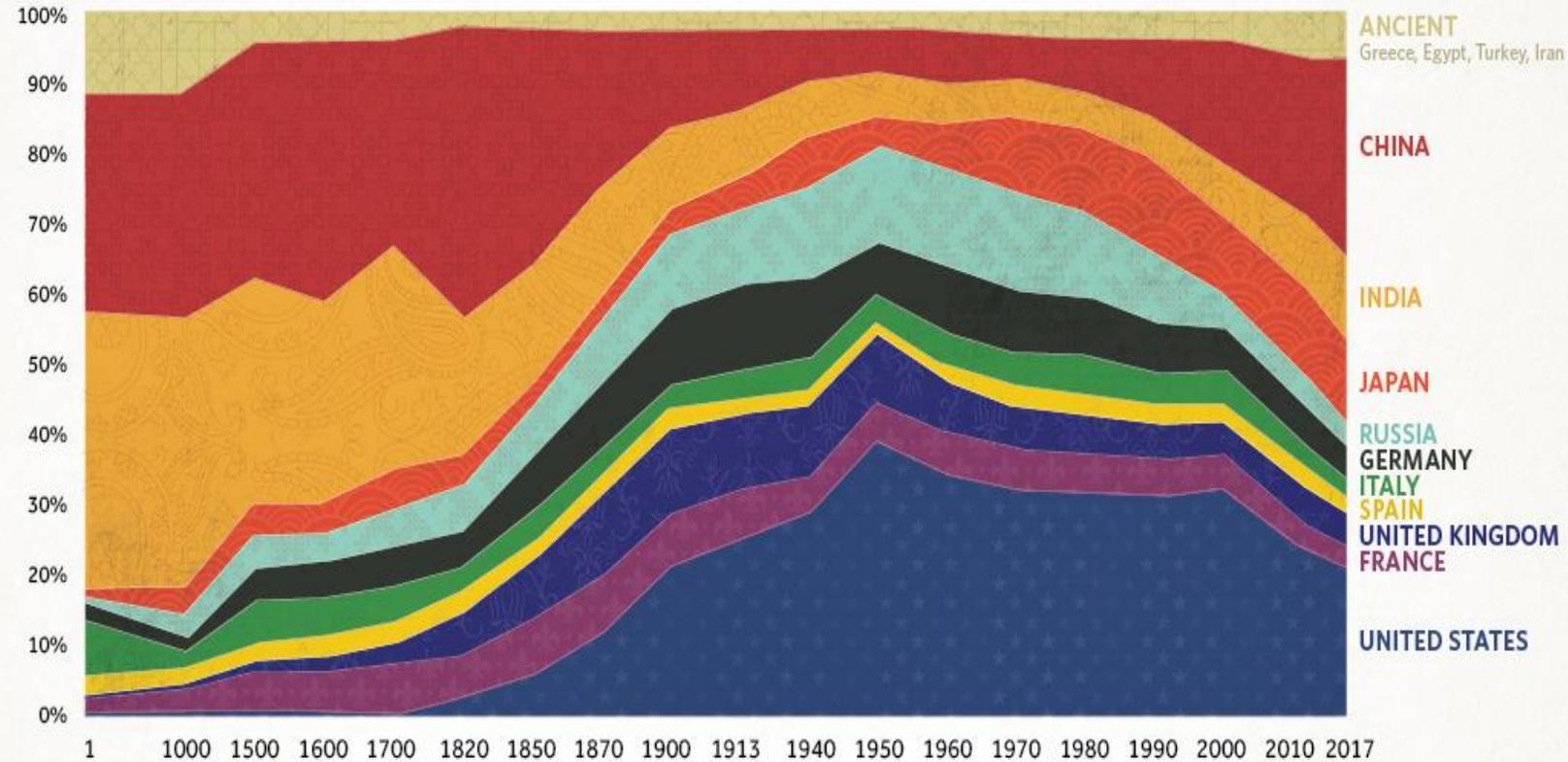
- Cities like Agra, Ahmednagar, Banaras, Dacca, Fatehpur Sikri, Lahore and Patna, became new trade centers.
- Use of standard currency and measures of weight facilitated trade and commerce. Gold mohur and the silver rupee were the units of currency, however in south India, pagoda, the coin of ancient Hindu kings, was still the standard of value.
- Foreign commerce was favored. Improved transport facilities helped the trade activities of the Dutch, Portuguese and the English.
- Several industries flourished during this period. Various products of arts and crafts became very popular not only in India but also abroad.
- Landless farmers became wage workers, destroying their traditional occupation.

GDP of all major powers(1AD-2017 AD)

2,000 YEARS OF ECONOMIC HISTORY IN ONE CHART

All major powers compared by GDP from the year 1 AD

SHARE OF GDP (WORLD POWERS)



<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/2000-years-economic-history-one-chart/>

Trade – Mughal Period

- Inland and Foreign trade flourished during this period. Mughals exported large quantities of highly valued commodities such as :
 - ❑ **Agricultural products:**
Cotton, Sugarcane, Spices, Indigo, Opium
 - ❑ **Textiles :**
Dyed yarn,
fine cotton goods like muslins
Brocades, calico, embroidered textiles
- Imports during this period were :
 - ❑ Horses, velvets, guns, gun powder, scents, wine, decorative goods



Taxation – Mughal Period

- Land revenue was the most important source of income. Bureaucrats studied years of production to calculate tax rates. Cash payment of land revenue helped a lot in the growth of trade and commerce. A variety of taxes, transit charges, Jizya were imposed.
- ***High taxes burdened people.*** When taxes were not paid, land was taken away, which ***displaced*** people.
- ***Overhead of Empire needed support.*** Revenues and expenditure were divided between the central and provincial governments. Main expenditures were:
 - ❑ *defense*
 - ❑ *civil administration and religious organizations of empire*
 - ❑ *maintenance of courts, royal palaces, cost of buildings and other public works.*

Functions of Central Officer - Mughals

The four principal officers of the central government were:

- **Diwan:** Performed the duties of a Chief Minister
- **Mir Bakhshi:** The head of the military, in charge of gathering intelligence
- **Mir Saman:** The officer responsible for making all purchases for the royal household, in charge of karkhanas
- **Sadr:** The officer in charge of religious matters and charities

Judicial System - Mughals

- The judicial system was rudimentary, unreliable, and often corrupt.
- Judicial courts provided by the Mughals were both **secular** and **religious**. The emperor, governors, and executive officers attended court to settle disputes.
- Civil disputes between **Muslims** were resolved by the **qazis**, and settled according to **Sharia** (Islamic religious) law. Secular disputes were dealt by a **kotwal**.
- When both parties in a dispute were **Hindus**, the case was referred to **Hindu pandits**.

Judicial System (cont'd)

- ***Imprisonment*** was not a method of punishment and was seldom used.
- ***Death penalty*** had to be confirmed by the emperor, but this rule was often not followed.
- ***People were insecure*** as frequent cruel punishments were imposed
 - ❑ Capital punishments, mutilations, impalement, dismemberment
 - ❑ Parading the offender in an embarrassing condition
 - ❑ Whipping

Prominent Mughal Emperors



Babur



Jahangir



*Bahadur/
Shah*



*Muhammad
Shah*



*Shah Alam
II*



Humayun



Shah Jahan



*Jahandar
Shah*



*Ahmad
Shah
Bahadur*



*Akbar Shah
II*



Akbar



Aurangzeb



Farrukhsiyar



Alamgir II



*Bahadur
Shah II*

Decline of the Mughal Empire

- The Mughal Empire declined due to:
 - **Weak** successors
 - Aurangzeb's **failed policies**
 - Over-expenditure on construction (depleted the treasury)
 - Internal dissatisfaction
 - Foreign invasions and
 - The rise of independent states
- By law, those unable to pay taxes had their lands confiscated, making **peasants landless**.

Decline of the Mughal Empire

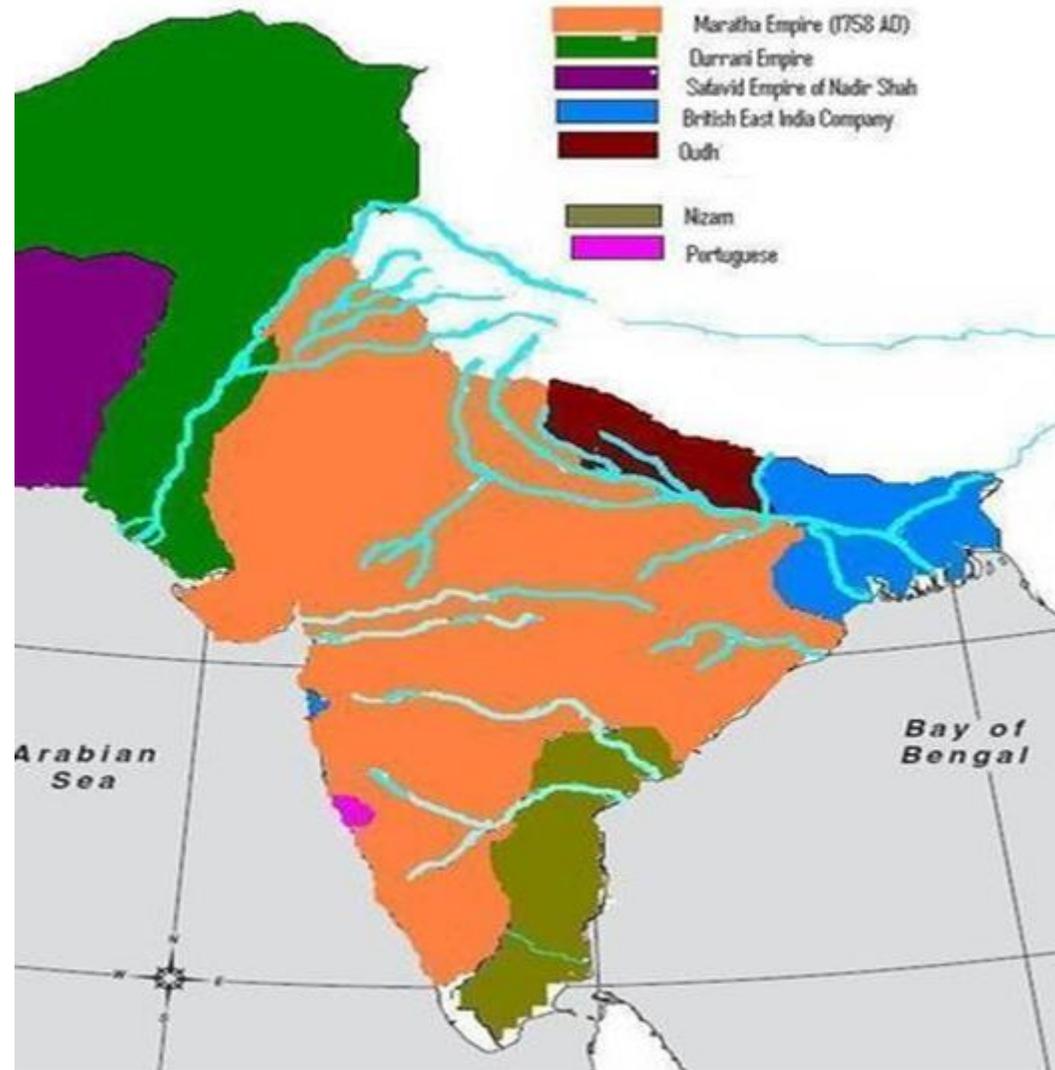
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- Military organization was **weak**. Mughals failed to build up an effective army, **discipline** lacked at the lower ranks, and the practice of taking along a great number of camp followers and the royals slowed the army.
- Technical improvements in **weaponry** were not improved.
- Within 50 years of Aurangzeb's death, the Mughal Empire had disintegrated.

Legacy of the Mughal Empire

- The economy continued to prosper, with **surplus agricultural produce**, new factories, and revenue from trade helped the economy spike. But towards the end, the Economy could no longer be sustained.
- Many monuments were built for protection, some were built due to love of **architecture**.
- **Tax burden**, loss of land ownership, high expenditure on construction, bureaucratic and overhead officials led to the downfall of the Mughal Empire.
- **Political tyranny** created **insecurity** in people; in desperation, they could not produce anymore, and converted to being wage workers to support themselves. This displaced people.
- Administration imposed **regimented rules** upon people, who lost religious freedom and were forced to convert to Islam.

The Maratha Empire at its peak 1758 AD



Establishment of the Maratha Empire

- After many exploits and guerrilla wars with Adilshah and Aurangzeb, Shivaji founded an independent Maratha nation. Shivaji's vision embraced dev (God), desh (Country), and dharma (Religion) as a unity.
- The Maratha empire was marked by a ***policy of religious tolerance*** - Shivaji's fundamental belief. People could ***practice their faiths*** without persecution.
- Marathas had profound effects on economy, law, education and social make-up of Maharashtra, central India and Gujarat.
- By the 16th century, Islamic rule in India appeared to be exhausted. Hindu sentiment was rising in the villages, following years of abuse from foreign rulers. ***Marathas emerged*** from the ***resistance to foreign domination***.

Economy during the Marathas

- Shivaji introduced the collection of two taxes: called the ***Chauth***(1/4th) and ***Sardeshmukhi***.
- Land in every village was measured and the produce was roughly assessed. Cultivators were asked to pay about 35% of their produce as land revenue.
- The ***Ryotwari system*** was followed, where revenue was directly collected from farmers.
- Farmers were given the option to pay land revenue in cash or grains. They could also pay it in ***installments***.
- The **accounts** of the revenue officers were thoroughly **checked**.
- In case of **famine** or natural calamity, the **state** offered loans to peasants.

Administration under Maratha period

- **Talented people** were employed irrespective of religion and caste.
- Ministers were held **accountable** for their responsibilities.
- There was **no inheritance** in office.
- Special attention was given to administration of the **forts**.
- In matters of administration, **civil** officers were given higher positions than military officers.
- **Ryotwari system** was established in revenue administration. The state maintained direct contact with the farmers.
- Shivaji's administration took special attention to respond to the **needs** of people.

Maratha Empire – Central Officers

Functions of Central Officers : The Empire was ruled by a series of Prime Ministers, advised by a Council of 8 (*Ashta Pradhan*), similar to Akbar's Navaratnas and Krishna Deva Raya's Astadiggajas.

Central Officer	Function
<i>Peshwa</i>	Prime Minister
<i>Amatya</i>	Finance Minister
<i>Shurunavis</i>	Secretary
<i>Waqia-Navis</i>	Interior Minister
<i>Senapati</i>	Commander in Chief
<i>Sonopant</i>	Foreign Minister
<i>Nyayadhis</i>	Chief Justice
<i>Panditrao</i>	High Priest

Central / Provincial / Judicial System

Central Administration:

Shivaji's (Ashta Pradhans) advised him on matters of state but he was not bound by them. He could appoint or dismiss them, based on their efficiency. The Peshwa was the first among the ministers. |

Provincial administration:

Shivaji divided his kingdom into provinces. Province was divided into districts and villages. The village was an organized institution.

The province head was called Mamlatdar (Viceroy).

The village chief was called **Deshpande** or **Patel**. He ran the affairs of the village with the help of the Village Panchayat.

Judicial administration:

Judicial administrative system was primitive and crude. The highest court was the court of the king. The day-to-day administration was carried on by the village Panchayats and the village 'Patel' adjudicated criminal cases.

Military administration

Shivaji's army was efficient, patriotic, well trained and mobile. He introduced the following military reforms:

- Maintain a **full time army**, with soldiers serving year round (traditionally, soldiers served for 6 months and worked in their fields for the other 6).
- Soldiers were recruited based on **merit** and trained in guerilla warfare.
- **Discipline** was enforced, soldiers were inspired with **patriotism**.
- **Forts** also served as military cantonment; old forts were repaired and new forts were built.
- Families of deceased soldiers were looked after carefully.

Prominent Maratha Emperors



Shivaji



Sambhaji



Rajaram



Tarabai



Shahu

Decline of Maratha Empire

- Political and economic power suffered during Maratha period leading to disharmony and weakness.
- British goods such as machine-made textiles competed against local products and destroyed productive local industries.
- There was a lack of emerging leaders to defend the English.
- Marathas were caught in Internal rivalry; without unity, they were unable to fight the English.
- Marathas also failed because of their outdated artillery compared to that of British.

Legacy of the Maratha Empire

- The nature of the Maratha empire was revolutionary, and brought certain fundamental changes initiated by Shivaji.
- Religious tolerance gave equal importance to Hindu interests, against the expanding Mughal influence.
- The Maratha Empire did not adhere to the caste system. People were brought into leadership based on talent, not caste.
- The Maratha regime was very mobile.
- This empire also created a significant navy.

THANK YOU !