

CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 10: CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 10, "Eighteenth-Century Political Formations," looks at the big changes in India's politics during the 18th century. During this time, the Mughal Empire started to weaken, and many regional powers began to rise. With the Mughal authority declining, strong local kingdoms like the Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, and Rajputs became important.

These new regional powers played key roles in shaping India's political landscape. The chapter explains how local leaders gained power, set up their own administrations, and fought for more land. It also discusses the growing influence of European trading companies, especially the British East India Company, which paved the way for British colonial rule.

Overall, the chapter provides an overview of the dynamic and changing political scene in 18th-century India, highlighting the many shifts and developments during this period.

CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 10 Eighteenth-Century Political Formation Overview

These notes for CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Chapter 10, "Eighteenth-Century Political Formations," are created by the experts at Physics Wallah. This chapter explains the major political changes in India during the 18th century. As the Mughal Empire became weaker, new regional powers like the Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, and Rajputs grew stronger and changed the political scene.

The chapter describes how local leaders gained power, set up their own governments, and fought for more land. It also talks about how European trading companies, especially the British East India Company, became more influential, leading to British rule in India.

These notes are easy to understand and give a clear summary of the important political changes during this time.

CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 10 PDF

These notes for CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Chapter 10, "Eighteenth-Century Political Formations," are provided in the PDF linked below and created by experts from Physics Wallah.

The chapter talks about how European trading companies, especially the British East India Company, became more powerful and eventually led to British rule in India. These notes give a clear and simple overview of the important political changes during this time, making it easier for students to understand.

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Eighteenth-Century Political Formation

The Crisis of the Empire and the Later Mughals

In the late seventeenth century, the Mughal Empire began to face many problems. Emperor Aurangzeb's long war in the Deccan drained the empire's military and financial resources. After his reign, the administration became less efficient. Nobles who were appointed as governors (subadars) often took control of both revenue and military administration.

There were peasant and zamindari rebellions in many parts of northern and western India, caused by high taxes. The Mughal authority had faced rebellions before, but after Aurangzeb, the emperors could not stop the shift of power to provincial governors, local chieftains, and other groups.

In 1739, Nadir Shah invaded Delhi, looting and taking away a huge amount of wealth. Following this, Ahmad Shah Abdali, the Afghan ruler, invaded north India five times between 1748 and 1761, further weakening the empire.

The empire was also weakened by internal conflicts among nobles. These nobles were split into two main groups, the Iranis and the Turanis (nobles of Turkish descent), which led to competition and division within the empire.

Emergence of New States

In the eighteenth century, the Mughal Empire gradually broke apart into many independent regional states. These new states can be grouped into three overlapping categories:

1. **Old Mughal Provinces:** These states, such as Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad, were once part of the Mughal Empire. Though they became very powerful and mostly independent, their rulers still maintained formal ties with the Mughal emperor.
2. **Watan Jagirs:** These states had significant independence even under Mughal rule. This group included various Rajput principalities that operated with a high degree of autonomy.
3. **Newly Independent States:** This group consisted of states like those of the Marathas, Sikhs, and Jats. These states varied in size and had gained independence from the Mughals through prolonged armed struggles.

The Old Mughal Provinces

Three significant states emerged prominently from the old Mughal provinces: Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad. These states were established by high-ranking Mughal nobles who had

previously served as governors of large provinces. Sa'adat Khan founded Awadh, Murshid Quli Khan established Bengal, and Asaf Jah created Hyderabad. All three leaders held high Mansabdari positions and enjoyed the trust and confidence of the Mughal emperors. Asaf Jah and Murshid Quli Khan both had a zat rank of 7,000, while Sa'adat Khan's zat was 6,000.

Hyderabad

Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah founded the state of Hyderabad (1724-1748). Initially appointed as the governor of Awadh, he later took charge of the Deccan. By 1720-22, Asaf Jah had already secured control over its political and financial administration, effectively becoming the ruler of the region. He recruited skilled soldiers and administrators, appointed Mansabdars, and granted jagirs, with the Mughal emperor merely confirming his decisions. Hyderabad was frequently engaged in conflicts with the Marathas to the west and independent Telugu warrior chiefs (Nayakas) of the plateau. Asaf Jah's ambition to control the rich textile-producing areas of the Coromandel coast in the east was thwarted by the British.

Awadh

In 1722, Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan was appointed subadar of Awadh and established the state. Awadh was a prosperous region, controlling the fertile Ganga Plain and the main trade route between north India and Bengal. Sa'adat Khan managed the political, financial, and military affairs of Awadh. He aimed to reduce Mughal influence by decreasing the number of Mughal-appointed officeholders (Jagirdars), reducing the size of Jagirs, and appointing loyal servants to vacant positions. The accounts of Jagirdars were scrutinized, and district revenues were reassessed by officials from the Nawab's court.

The state relied on local bankers and Mahajans for loans and sold tax collection rights to the highest bidders. These "revenue farmers" (ijaradars) agreed to pay the state a fixed sum of money, with local bankers guaranteeing the payment. In return, revenue farmers were granted considerable freedom in tax assessment and collection.

Bengal

Bengal broke away from Mughal control under Murshid Quli Khan, who was appointed as the naib, or deputy, to the governor of the province. Murshid Quli Khan seized all the power associated with this office, transferring Mughal Jagirdars to Orissa and ordering a major reassessment of Bengal's revenues. Revenue was collected in cash and with strict enforcement from all zamindars.

The formation of a regional state in eighteenth-century Bengal brought significant changes among the zamindars. Under the rule of Alivardi Khan (1740-1756), the close relationship between the state and local bankers became apparent.

Common Features Among Regional States

1. **Suspicion of Mughal Administrative Systems:** Though many of these larger states were established by former Mughal nobles, they were often highly suspicious of the administrative systems they had inherited from the Mughal Empire.
2. **Tax Collection Methods:** The method of tax collection in these states differed from traditional Mughal practices. The practice of *ijaradari*, or revenue farming, spread throughout India in the eighteenth century. This system involved selling the right to collect taxes to the highest bidder.
3. **Relationships with Bankers and Merchants:** A common feature in all these regional states was their emerging relationship with rich bankers and merchants. This connection was crucial for the financial stability and economic development of these new states.

The Watan Jagirs of the Rajputs

Many Rajput kings had distinguished themselves in service under the Mughals. In return, they were granted significant autonomy in their watan jagirs, or hereditary estates. These influential Rajput families held positions of authority in the rich provinces of Gujarat and Malwa. For instance, Raja Ajit Singh of Jodhpur served as the governor of Gujarat, while Sawai Raja Jai Singh of Amber was the governor of Malwa. Emperor Jahandar Shah renewed their offices in 1713.

Under Rajput rule, Nagaur was conquered and absorbed into the kingdom of Jodhpur, and Amber annexed large portions of Bundi. Sawai Raja Jai Singh established his new capital at Jaipur and was appointed as the Subadar of Agra in 1722. However, Maratha campaigns in Rajasthan from the 1740s exerted significant pressure on these principalities and restricted their further expansion.

Seizing Independence

The Sikhs

During the seventeenth century, Sikhs played a crucial role in regional state-building in Punjab. Guru Gobind Singh led several battles against Rajput and Mughal rulers, both before and after the establishment of the Khalsa in 1699. After his death in 1708, the Khalsa rebelled against Mughal authority.

In the eighteenth century, Sikhs organized into bands known as Jathas and later misls, forming the grand army (*dal khalsa*). They introduced a system called *rakhi*, offering protection to cultivators in exchange for a tax of 20 percent of the produce. Inspired by Guru Gobind Singh's teachings, the Khalsa declared their sovereign rule and minted their own coins in 1765. Maharaja Ranjit Singh united the Sikh territories from the Indus to the Jamuna, establishing his capital at Lahore in 1799.

The Marathas

The Maratha kingdom, led by Shivaji, became a formidable regional power with the support of powerful warrior families. Peasant pastoralists formed the core of the Maratha army. Under the Peshwas, the Marathas expanded their empire, seizing territories from the Mughals in Malwa and Gujarat. By the 1730s, the Maratha king was recognized as the overlord of the Deccan peninsula and had conquered Delhi in 1739.

The Marathas developed an effective administrative system, encouraging agriculture and trade. Their military campaigns expanded trade routes and brought prosperity to the region.

The Jats

During the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Jats consolidated their power in territories west of Delhi. Under leaders like Churaman and Suraj Mal, the kingdom of Bharatpur emerged as a strong state. The Jats were prosperous agriculturists, and their architectural achievements, such as the Bharatpur fort and the garden palace at Dig, reflected their growing influence and prosperity.

Benefits of CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 10 Eighteenth-Century Political Formation

- **Easy to Understand:** These notes are written in simple language, making it easier for students to understand complex historical topics.
- **Covers Important Points:** They cover all the important points related to the political changes in eighteenth-century India, helping students grasp the main ideas quickly.
- **Organized Format:** The notes are well-organized, presenting information in a structured way, which makes it easier for students to follow along.
- **Useful for Exams:** Students can use these notes as a study resource for exams, as they summarize key concepts and topics effectively.
- **Improves Understanding:** By studying these notes, students can improve their understanding of how regional states emerged during this period in Indian history.