

CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 4: In CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 4, we learn about the Mughal Empire.

The Mughal rulers, like Babur, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb, were very important. They set up a strong government system, made new rules, and supported arts and culture. The chapter talks about how the Mughals ruled, collected taxes, and what they believed in.

It also tells us about the amazing buildings, art, and books they created. Overall, it helps us understand how the Mughal Empire shaped India's past and culture.

CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 4 The Mughal Empire Overview

These notes on CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Chapter 4: The Mughal Empire are created by subject by experts of Physics Wallah. They're like a guide to help you understand this important part of history. In this chapter, you'll learn about the Mughal Empire.

By studying these notes, you'll get a better understanding of the Mughal Empire and its impact on India.

CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 4 PDF

You can access the PDF for CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 4: The Mughal Empire through the provided link.

This PDF contains comprehensive notes covering various aspects of the Mughal Empire, including its rulers, administration, society, culture, and contributions to Indian history. It is a valuable resource for students looking to deepen their understanding of this important period in Indian history.

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CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 4 The Mughal Empire

Mughals

The Mughals were a prominent dynasty that ruled over the Indian subcontinent from the 16th to the 19th century. They were descendants of two distinguished lineages of rulers: Genghis Khan, the famed Mongol ruler who governed parts of China and Central Asia, from their maternal side, and Timur, the powerful ruler of Iran, Iraq, and modern-day Turkey, from their paternal side.

While the Mughals were technically of Mongol descent, they preferred not to be associated with the term "Mughal" or "Mongol" due to the negative connotations associated with Genghis Khan's memory. Genghis Khan's legacy was linked to mass massacres, and the term "Mughal" was also connected with the Uzbeks, their Mongol rivals.

Instead, the Mughals took pride in their Timurid ancestry. Timur, also known as Tamerlane, was a renowned conqueror who had captured Delhi in 1398. The Mughals regarded him as their great ancestor and celebrated his achievements. Therefore, while they acknowledged their Mongol heritage, they primarily identified themselves with the Timurid lineage, which played a significant role in shaping their identity and self-perception as rulers of the Indian subcontinent.

Mughal Military Campaigns

The Mughal Empire's military campaigns were important in shaping its expansion and dominance over the Indian subcontinent. Led by skilled rulers and commanders, the Mughal army conducted numerous campaigns that significantly impacted the region's political landscape.




Babur's Conquests: Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, initiated the empire's military expansion with his conquests in the early 16th century. After establishing his rule in Central Asia, Babur set his sights on India. In 1526, he achieved a decisive victory over Ibrahim Lodi, the Sultan of Delhi, at the Battle of Panipat. This victory marked the beginning of Mughal rule in India, with Babur capturing Delhi and Agra.

Humayun's Campaigns: Babur's son, Humayun, faced numerous challenges during his reign, including internal rebellions and external threats. Despite initial setbacks, Humayun managed to reclaim the throne after being ousted by Sher Shah Suri. He conducted military campaigns to regain lost territories and consolidate Mughal power in northern India.

Akbar's Expansion: Akbar, one of the greatest Mughal rulers, expanded the empire's boundaries through a series of military conquests. He employed innovative strategies such as alliances with Rajput rulers and administrative reforms to strengthen Mughal authority. Akbar's campaigns resulted in the annexation of territories in Gujarat, Bengal, and the Deccan, significantly enlarging the Mughal Empire.

Jahangir and Shah Jahan's Rule: Jahangir and Shah Jahan, successors of Akbar, continued the tradition of military expansion. Jahangir's reign saw campaigns to suppress rebellions and maintain control over the empire's vast territories. Shah Jahan, known for his architectural achievements, also engaged in military campaigns to assert Mughal dominance and quell revolts in various regions.

Aurangzeb's Conquests: Aurangzeb, the last great Mughal emperor, conducted extensive military campaigns to expand the empire to its greatest territorial extent. He annexed territories in the Deccan and the south, although his aggressive policies led to prolonged conflicts and strained resources. Aurangzeb's reign marked the peak of Mughal military expansion but also contributed to the empire's eventual decline.

Table 1	
MUGHAL EMPERORS	
Major campaigns and events	
	BABUR 1526-1530 1526 – defeated Ibrahim Lodi and his Afghan supporters at Panipat. 1527 – defeated Rana Sanga, Rajput rulers and allies at Khanua. 1528 – defeated the Rajputs at Chanderi; Established control over Agra and Delhi before his death.
HUMAYUN 1530-1540, 1555-1556 (1) Humayun divided his inheritance according to the will of his father. His brothers were each given a province. The ambitions of his brother Mirza Kamran weakened Humayun's cause against Afghan competitors. Sher Khan defeated Humayun at Chausa (1539) and Kanauj (1540), forcing him to flee to Iran. (2) In Iran Humayun received help from the Safavid Shah. He recaptured Delhi in 1555 but died the next year after an accident in this building.	
AKBAR 1556-1605 	Akbar was 13 years old when he became emperor. His reign can be divided into three periods. (1) 1556-1570 – Akbar became independent of the regent Bairam Khan and other members of his domestic staff. Military campaigns were launched against the Suris and other Afghans, against the neighbouring kingdoms of Malwa and Gondwana, and to suppress the revolt of his half-brother Mirza Hakim and the Uzbeks. In 1568 the Sisodia capital of Chittor was seized and in 1569 Ranthambhor. (2) 1570-1585 – military campaigns in Gujarat were followed by campaigns in the east in Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. These campaigns were complicated by the 1579-1580 revolt in support of Mirza Hakim. (3) 1585-1605 – expansion of Akbar's empire. Campaigns were launched in the north-west. Gandahar was seized from the Safavids, Kashmir was annexed, as also Kabul, after the death of Mirza Hakim. Campaigns in the Deccan started and Berar, Khandesh and parts of Ahmadnagar were annexed. In the last years of his reign Akbar was distracted by the rebellion of Prince Salim, the future Emperor Jahangir.



Mughal Traditions of Succession

The Mughals followed a unique tradition of succession that differed from the rule of primogeniture, where the eldest son inherits his father's estate. Instead, they adhered to the Mughal and Timurid custom of coparcenary inheritance, which involved the division of inheritance among all the sons.

Under this tradition, upon the death of a Mughal emperor, his empire and wealth were divided among his sons. Each son would receive a portion of the inheritance, and the empire would be fragmented into separate territories ruled by different princes. This practice aimed to prevent disputes and conflicts over succession by ensuring that each son received a share of the inheritance.

While coparcenary inheritance provided a mechanism for the peaceful transfer of power within the Mughal dynasty, it also led to the fragmentation of the empire and sometimes resulted in power struggles among rival princes vying for control over different regions. Despite these

challenges, the Mughals upheld this tradition throughout their rule, shaping the dynamics of succession within the empire.

Mughal Relations with Other Rulers

The Mughal rulers maintained complex relationships with other rulers across the Indian subcontinent. Initially, they engaged in constant military campaigns against those who refused to acknowledge Mughal authority. However, as the Mughals grew in power, many rulers, such as the Rajputs, willingly aligned themselves with the Mughal Empire.

The Rajputs, in particular, formed significant alliances with the Mughals. Many Rajput princes forged matrimonial ties by marrying their daughters into Mughal families. In return, they received prestigious positions within the Mughal court. However, not all Rajput rulers accepted Mughal authority. For instance, the Sisodiya Rajputs of Mewar staunchly resisted Mughal dominance.

Despite these resistances, the Mughals pursued a strategy of balance, aiming to defeat their opponents while avoiding humiliation. When the Sisodiya Rajputs were defeated, they were treated honorably by the Mughals, who restored their lands and granted them assignments known as watan jagirs. This approach enabled the Mughals to extend their influence over many kings and chieftains without causing widespread resentment.

Maintaining this delicate balance, however, proved challenging for the Mughals. Despite their efforts, conflicts and tensions occasionally arose, testing the stability of their relationships with other rulers. Nonetheless, by carefully navigating these dynamics, the Mughals were able to expand their influence and consolidate their power over vast territories across the subcontinent.

Mansabdars and Jagirdars

As the Mughal Empire expanded, it welcomed people from various backgrounds into its service, including Turkish nobles, Iranians, Indian Muslims, Afghans, Rajputs, and Marathas. Some of these individuals served as mansabdars, holding positions or ranks within the empire. The term "mansabdar" refers to an individual who holds a "mansab," indicating their rank, salary, and military responsibilities.

The Mughals employed a grading system to determine the rank and salary of a mansabdar. This system assigned a numerical value, known as "zat," to each mansabdar, with higher zat indicating a more prestigious position and larger salary. Mansabdars were also responsible for maintaining a specific number of cavalymen, known as "sawar."

Mansabdars received their salary in the form of revenue assignments called jagirs. These jagirs were similar to iqtas but differed in that most mansabdars did not directly administer their jagirs. Instead, they delegated the collection of revenue to their servants while serving elsewhere in the country.

During Akbar's reign, jagirs were assessed to ensure that the revenues matched the salary of the mansabdars. However, under Aurangzeb's rule, the actual revenue collected often fell short of the granted sum. This, combined with an increase in the number of mansabdars, led to a shortage of jagirs and prolonged waits for allocation. As a result, jagirdars sought to maximize revenue during their tenure, sometimes at the expense of the peasantry, leading to discontent among the population.

Zabt and Zamindars

The Mughal rulers derived their main source of income from taxes imposed on the peasantry. These taxes were often collected through intermediaries known as zamindars, who acted as rural elites or local chieftains.

Todar Mal, Akbar's revenue minister, conducted a comprehensive survey of crop yields, prices, and cultivated areas over a ten-year period. Based on this data, taxes were fixed for each crop in cash. Each province was divided into revenue circles, each with its own schedule of revenue rates for different crops. This revenue system, known as zabt, was prevalent in areas where Mughal administrators could conduct land surveys and maintain meticulous records.

However, in regions like Gujarat and Bengal, where such surveys were impractical, zamindars wielded more power. Exploitative practices by Mughal administrators sometimes led to rebellion among the zamindars. Occasionally, zamindars and peasants of the same caste joined forces in rebellion against Mughal authority.

Peasant revolts, which emerged towards the end of the 17th century, posed a significant challenge to the stability of the Mughal Empire. These revolts underscored the tensions and discontent simmering within the empire's agrarian society.

A Closer Look: Akbar's Policies

Akbar's administration, as detailed in Abul Fazl's Akbar Nama and Ain-i Akbari, was marked by several significant reforms. The empire was divided into provinces known as subas, each governed by a subadar responsible for political, judicial, and military matters. Financial affairs were overseen by a diwan, while military management fell under the purview of the Bakshi. Additionally, there were ministers in charge of religious and charitable patronage (sadr), military commanders (faujdar), and town police commanders (kotwals) to maintain order.

Akbar's nobles, entrusted with large armies and substantial revenue, played a crucial role in the efficient functioning of the empire. However, by the late 17th century, many nobles had developed independent networks, weakening their loyalty to the empire. Akbar's engagement with religious scholars from various faiths at Fatehpur Sikri in the 1570s led him to advocate for the idea of sulh-i kul, or "universal peace." This concept promoted tolerance and emphasized universal ethical principles of honesty, justice, and peace, regardless of religious affiliation. Abul Fazl played a key role in shaping Akbar's governance around this principle.

The Mughal Empire in the 17th Century and After

The Mughal Empire experienced great economic and commercial prosperity due to its administrative and military efficiency. However, this prosperity coexisted with widespread poverty and glaring inequalities. Documents from Shah Jahan's reign reveal that a small number of highest-ranking mansabdars received a disproportionate share of the empire's revenue. While this expenditure benefited artisans and the peasantry, the primary producers, such as peasants and artisans, struggled to improve their standard of living.

The enormous wealth amassed by the Mughal elite bolstered their power, even as the authority of the Mughal Emperor declined. Mughal servants emerged as powerful regional centers of authority, forming new dynasties and controlling provinces like Hyderabad and Awadh.

Despite this, these regional powers continued to recognize the Mughal Emperor in Delhi as their sovereign. By the 18th century, the provinces of the empire had solidified their independent political identities, marking a significant shift in the Mughal political landscape.

Benefits of CBSE Class 7 Social Science History Notes Chapter 4 The Mughal Empire

- **Comprehensive Coverage:** The notes provide a detailed overview of the Mughal Empire, covering its origins, military campaigns, administrative structure, succession traditions, and relations with other rulers.
- **Clear Explanation:** Complex historical concepts are explained in a simple and easy-to-understand language, making it accessible for students of all levels.
- **Structured Format:** The notes are organized in a structured format, making it easier for students to follow along and retain information effectively.
- **Key Insights:** Students gain valuable insights into various aspects of Mughal rule, including governance under different emperors, military strategies, and socio-economic conditions of the time.
- **Historical Significance:** By understanding the history of the Mughal Empire, students develop a deeper appreciation for its significance in shaping India's cultural, political, and economic landscape.