

A Study of the rise and fall of the Mughal Empire in India



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Abstract

One of the most spectacular empires of the Early Modern era was the Mughal Empire. It symbolized the establishment of an Islamic Central Asian dynasty's control over substantial portions of India between the early 16th and the early 18th century. At its height, it controlled a sizable portion of the Indian subcontinent and had military, administrative, economic growth, and development capabilities that were very proficient. It also gave rise to one of the richest and most renowned imperial civilizations, with contributions to jewels, urban planning, visual arts, music,

literature, and architecture. The dynasty gave birth to six outstanding emperors, each of whom brought something unique to the development and upkeep of the empire. They said at the time that European invasion into Asia was starting, but they were originally able to deal with this menace. However, the dynasty finally collapsed due to a combination of factors, including internal strife, a failure to continue using the incorporative and liberal methods that had initially been successful, "overstretching" its military goals, as well as the growing influence of Europeans. Theoretically, it persisted in a weakened state until the middle of the 19th century.

Keywords: military, administrative, economic growth, imperial civilizations, visual arts.

1. Introduction

A large portion of South Asia was under the rule of the Mughal Empire, an early-modern empire, between the 16th and 19th centuries. The empire spanned a period of around 200 years, extending from the western margins of the Indus River basin, northern Afghanistan, and Kashmir in the north, to the highlands of modern-day Assam and Bangladesh in the east, and the uplands of the Deccan Plateau in south India.

According to conventional wisdom, Babur, a warrior chieftain from what is now Uzbekistan, established the Mughal empire in 1526 after using assistance from the Safavid and Ottoman sultanates to defeat Ibrahim Lodi, the sultan of Delhi, in the First Battle of Panipat and conquer the North Indian plains. However, the Mughal imperial building has sometimes been assigned a date of 1600, under the reign of Akbar, Babur's grandson. This imperial organisation persisted until 1720, only a few years after the passing of Aurangzeb, the final great emperor, under whose rule the empire expanded to its greatest extent. Following the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the empire was later reduced to the area in and around Old Delhi and was declared disbanded by the British Raj.



Figure 1: India in 1700

The Mughals had to rule the Indian subcontinent for more than a century before their power was finally solidified. The Mughals' sequence of conquests in the Indian subcontinent started in 1526 when Babur defeated Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat.

The Mughals started to lose influence as the British gained prominence in the Indian subcontinent. This resulted from growing internal disputes. Additionally, when European nations sought for new avenues for economic territorial expansion, they concentrated on the empire's profusion of riches. The empire lasted until the great uprising of 1857, although its influence had been progressively eroding since the mid-1700s.

1.1. Objective of the Study

- To analyse the rise and fall of Mughal Empire in India.
- To Examine the Impact of Mughal Empire in India

2. The Rise of the Mughal Empire

During Aurangzeb's reign in the 1700s, the Mughal empire grew to its greatest extent. The Mughals had their greatest success during this time. They may have gained power for a variety of factors, and there are various reasons why they have maintained their influence for so long.

Regarding determining the highest authority, they had an entirely different perspective. The Mughals made it clear that they were the only ones with the right to govern, despite the possibility of several kingdoms existing inside their borders. They claimed to be the supreme authority and made sure that everyone knew it. They were able to rule over several kingdoms in this fashion without having to annex such areas. The minor kingdoms were permitted to maintain their spheres of influence and use their power, but they were ultimately accountable to the Mughals.

The Mughals were skilled at keeping both friends and foes near. They maintained diplomatic ties with the Rajputs and other rivals. They were able to do this while encroaching into hostile territory. The Mughals were vastly superior to the other kingdoms of the time militarily and financially. They became one of the richest empires in the world as a result of this. The great Mughal Empire ruled over the region now governed by Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh for more than two centuries. However, by the middle of the eighteenth century, the empire began to show signs of weakness.

3. The Strength of Empire

The Mughals were the Muslim rulers of the Indian subcontinent, who also had a sizable Hindu population. Even though there were theological differences, the rulers were understanding, valued all cultures, and tried to keep things peaceful. In this manner, commerce and companies grew

across the regions, and there was peace between the different social classes. The Mughals placed a strong emphasis on producing unique spices and handwoven fabrics. They made their biggest earnings from this.

Indian cotton and silk were already well-known across the globe by the fifth century. With their many ties, the Mughals improved commerce and increased the amount of money entering the country. With the addition of the wide variety of spices, particularly the renowned black pepper, trade with the Indian subcontinent reached a new high. As a result, the Mughals had a greater opportunity of securing a firmer grip on the Indian subcontinent because to thriving commerce and open alternatives.

The Mughals granted the rulers of each kingdom sufficient authority for them to be known as mansabdars. Because they were in charge of tiny kingdoms within the Mughal empire, the mansabdars had the authority to levy taxes on behalf of the emperor on commoners. In addition, they received property ownership, pay for their labour, and a prominent position among the other nobility. The emperor might, however, revoke the mansabdar title at any moment. For a very long period, the empire was able to remain stable because to this arrangement. This was true up to the time at which the empire began to crumble.

4. The Start of the fall of the Mughal Empire

The first century of Mughal reign was characterised by calmness and tranquillity. Every socioeconomic group and member of the working class approved of the Mughals and their laws. The Mughals had used up all of their territory under rule and all of the territories they could have given the mansabdars to appease them when their reign extended into the second part of the next century. The mansabdars, on the other hand, had already grown to be highly dominant, both financially and in terms of territory. As the influence of the many mansabdars grew, so did the number of confrontations between the groups, which resulted in extreme political instability.

Famines and droughts also started to occur often in the Indian territories about the same period. Religious disagreements also arose during this unsettling time. The Mughal emperors had a difficult and sad time throughout this time.

It wasn't that.

Even the Europeans searched the southern subcontinent for little plots of land where they might establish their trade organisations. The British East Company received the status of mansabdars in a variety of methods. They were handed control over a tiny patch of land in Bengal. They accepted the Mughals as the ultimate authority, just like all the other mansabdars, and were given permission to levy taxes. For their economic advantages, the British extended their dominion throughout time into other nations. They also formed agreements with other mansabdars who disapproved of the Mughals and despised other Europeans because they were cunning.

The Mughals' control over such a vast territory infuriated the neighbouring nations of Afghanistan, Persia, and Uzbekistan as well. They sometimes even engaged the Mughals in battle. Much royal wealth was lost as battles were waged more often to protect the crown. The Mughals lost control of their monarchy, giving the British more and more influence.

5. Conclusion

Due to the Mughal Empire's rise, they were able to effectively expand their dominion even into hostile countries. The Mughals were vastly superior to the other kingdoms of the time militarily and financially. They became one of the richest empires in the world as a result of this. The British dominion in India grew as a result of the demise of the Mughal Empire. Its incapacity to maintain control over their economic and military provinces was the main factor in their gradual downfall. They were more drawn by greater money and better property than by good administration. And that's how one of the biggest empires in history fell to the ground.

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