

Class 12 History

Part-II: Chapter 5

Kings and Chronicles.

Key concepts in nutshell:-

- The production of chronicle (1526 -1707) provides us with the information on the Mughals and their empires.
- The name Mughal is derived from Mongol.
- From Turkish to Persian – Mughal court chronicles were written in Persian.
- The making of manuscripts – all books in Mughals was manuscripts i.e. they were handwritten.
- The **Akbarnama** and **Badshanama** – among the important illustrated Mughal official histories the Akbarnama and Badshanama.
- A unifying force – **sulh-i kul** – **Abu'l** Fazl describes the ideal sulh-i-kul (absolute peace) .

- Capitals and courts – capital city – the heart of Mughal empire is capital city where the court assembled.

- Titles and Gifts – The granting of titles to men of merit was an important aspect of Mughal policy.

- Mughal kings commissioned court historians to write accounts. These accounts recorded the event of the emperor's time.

- Babur laid the foundation for the Mughal Empire in India by defeating the last Lodhi King Ibrahim Lodhi through the battle of **Panipat**.

- Modern historians writings in English have termed this original text or accounts of texts as chronicles, as they present a continuous chronological record of events.

- The creation of a manuscript involved a number of people performing a variety of tasks.

- Painters too were involved in the production of Mughal manuscripts.

- Babur took over the Lodi capital of Agra.

- During the 1560s Akbar had the fort of Agra constructed with red sandstone quarried from the adjoining regions.
- In the 1570s he decided to build a new capital, Fatehpuri sikri.
- The keeping of exact and detailed records was a major concern of the Mughal administration.
- Akbar was curious about Christianity and dispatched an embassy to Goa to invite Jesuit priests.
- The first Jesuit mission reached the Mughal court at Fatehpur Sikri in 1580 and stayed for about two years.
- The Jesuit spoke to Akbar about Christianity and debated its virtues with the ulama. Two more missions were sent to the Mughal court at Lahore in 1591 and in 1595.

The Mughals and Their Empire

1. During the sixteenth century, Europeans used the term 'Mughal' to describe the Indian rulers of Timurids-Mongols descendant branch.

2. The founder of the empire, Zahiruddin Babur, was driven from his Central Asian homeland, Farghana, by the warring Uzbeks.

3. He first established himself at Kabul and then in 1526 pushed further into the Indian subcontinent in search of territories and resources for his clan.

4. His successor, Nasiruddin Humayun (1530-40, 1555-56) expanded the frontiers of the empire, but lost it to the Afghan leader Sher Shah Sur, who drove him into exile.

5. In 1555 Humayun defeated the Surs.

6. Jalaluddin Akbar (1556-1605) is considered to be the greatest of all the Mughal emperors.

7. He consolidated his empire and made it the largest, strongest and richest kingdom of his time.

8. Akbar succeeded in extending the frontiers of the empire to the Hindukush mountains, and checked the expansionist designs of the Uzbeks of Turan (Central Asia) and the Safavids of Iran.

9. Akbar had three successors – Jahangir (1605-27), Shah Jahan (1628-58) and Aurangzeb (1658-1707).

10. The three rulers maintained and consolidated the various instruments of governance.

11. The court was the visible centre of Mughal power.

12. After 1707, following the death of Aurangzeb, the power of the dynasty diminished.

13. In 1857 the last scion of this dynasty, Bahadur Shah Zafar II, was overthrown by the British.

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