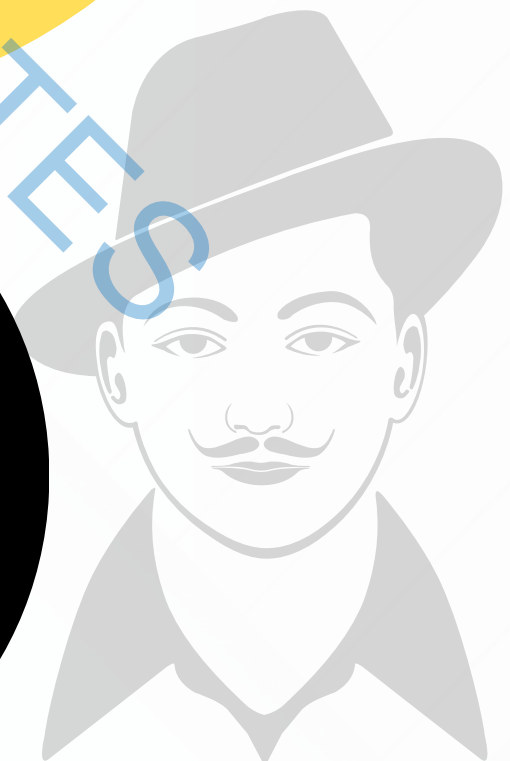




# **MODERN HISTORY TRP NOTES**

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PROGRAM (TRP) FOR UPSC PRELIMS  
BY TOPPERS**

- Ultra-Crisp Notes | High-ROI Output
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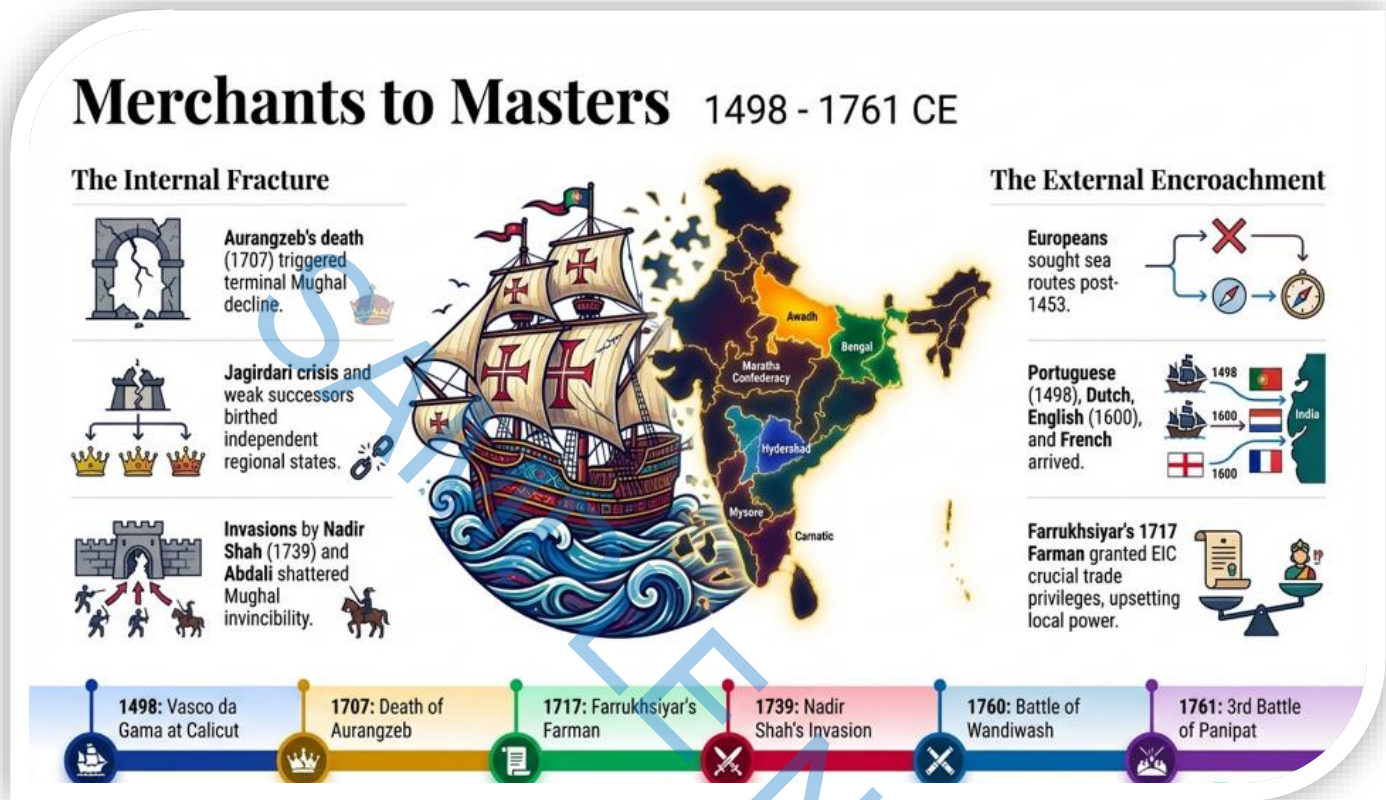
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## MODERN INDIAN HISTORY - MASTER INDEX

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## DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE & INDIA ON THE EVE OF BRITISH CONQUEST (1707-1757 CE)

### Contemporary Relevance:



- The collapse of the Mughal Empire created a **political vacuum** that the British strategically exploited. Understanding this transition is critical as it explains why the European trading companies were able to transform from merchants to rulers.

### Political Fragmentation after Aurangzeb (1707 CE)

- The death of **Aurangzeb in 1707 CE** marked the beginning of the **terminal decline** of the Mughal Empire. His **50-year reign** had militarily overstretched the empire, depleted the treasury, and alienated the Marathas, Rajputs, Sikhs, and Jats through religious intolerance. The immediate post-**Aurangzeb** period witnessed a **rapid succession of weak emperors**, noble factional conflicts, and the rise of autonomous regional powers.

### Weak Mughal Emperors After Aurangzeb

Emperor	Period	Key Event / Feature
Bahadur Shah I	1707 - 1712	<b>Pacifist policy with Marathas, Rajputs &amp; Jats; released Shahu; also known as Shah Alam I</b>
Jahandar Shah	1712 - 1713	Helped by <b>Zulfikar Khan</b> ; introduced <b>Ijara (revenue-farming)</b> system; <b>abolished Jaziya</b>
Farrukhsiyar	1713 - 1719	Helped by <b>Sayyid Brothers</b> ; issued <b>Farmans to the English (Magna Carta of EIC)</b> ; <b>1st Mughal king killed by nobles</b>

Emperor	Period	Key Event / Feature
Rafi-ud-Darajat	1719	Puppet of <b>Sayyid Brothers</b> ; extremely short reign
Rafi-ud-Daula	1719	Another Sayyid puppet; died within months
<b>Muhammad Shah</b> (Rangeela)	<b>1719 - 1748</b>	Killed <b>Sayyid Brothers</b> with <b>Nizam-ul-Mulk</b> ; <b>rise of independent states</b> ; defeated by <b>Nadir Shah</b> at <b>Karnal (1739)</b>
Ahmad Shah	<b>1748 - 1754</b>	<b>Dominated by Queen Mother Udham Bai (Qibla-i-Alam)</b> and Javid Khan
Alamgir II	<b>1754 - 1758</b>	<b>Battle of Plassey (1757)</b> ; invasions by <b>Ahmad Shah Abdali</b>
Shah Jahan III	<b>1758 - 1759</b>	Briefly enthroned
Shah Alam II	<b>1759 - 1806</b>	<b>3rd Battle of Panipat (1761)</b> ; <b>Battle of Buxar (1764)</b> ; became pensioner of EIC
Akbar II	<b>1806 - 1837</b>	Gave title of Raja to <b>Ram Mohan Roy</b> ; Mughal coins stopped in <b>1835</b>
Bahadur Shah Zafar	<b>1837 - 1857</b>	<b>Last Mughal emperor</b> ; symbolically led the <b>1857</b> revolt; <b>exiled to Rangoon</b>

### External Challenges to the Mughal Empire

- **Nadir Shah's Invasion (1739):** Nadir Shah of Persia invaded India during the reign of **Muhammad Shah** and defeated the Mughals at the **Battle of Karnal (1739)**. He looted Delhi, massacred thousands, and carried away the **Peacock Throne** and **Kohinoor Diamond**. He also gained **territories west of the Indus including Kabul**. This single invasion **depleted the Mughal treasury** and **shattered the myth of Mughal military invincibility**.
- **Ahmad Shah Abdali / Durrani (1748-1767):** Successor of **Nadir Shah**, **Ahmad Shah Abdali** (also called **Durrani**) invaded India multiple times between **1748** and **1767**. In **1757**, he captured **Delhi** and left an Afghan caretaker. The Rohilla chief **Najib-ud-Daula** was **appointed Mir Bakshi**. In **1761**, the **Third Battle of Panipat** was fought between Abdali and the Marathas, resulting in a **decisive Maratha defeat** that temporarily ended Maratha dominance in North India.

### Causes of Decline of the Mughal Empire

- **Jagirdari Crisis:** The **number of jagirdars increased while available land for jagirs decreased**, leading to intense factional competition among nobles.
- **Shifting Allegiance of Zamindars:** **Zamindars stopped remitting revenues** and openly defied Mughal authority.
- **Rise of Regional Aspirations:** Provinces like **Hyderabad**, **Bengal**, and **Awadh** became virtually independent under their nawabs.
- **Economic and Administrative Breakdown:** The treasury was drained, military salaries went unpaid, and administrative machinery collapsed.

- **Aurangzeb's Religious Policy: Reimposition of Jaziya, destruction of temples,** and hostility toward Marathas and Rajputs alienated major power blocs.
- **Absence of the Law of Primogeniture:** Succession wars after every ruler weakened the empire structurally.

## Survey of Regional Kingdoms (Post-Mughal Successor States)

### Hyderabad

- **Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah (Kilich Khan)** was disgusted with **Muhammad Shah's** appointment of **Mubariz Khan** as **viceroy** of the Deccan. He fought and defeated **Mubariz Khan** at the **Battle of Shakarkhedla (1724)** and became the **viceroy** himself in **1725**. He founded the **Asaf Jah** dynasty of Hyderabad, which remained the **most powerful Deccan state** until Indian independence.

### Awadh

- **Saadat Khan (Burhan-ul-Mulk)** founded the virtually independent state of Awadh. The state was known for its administrative efficiency, cultural synthesis, and became a buffer between British Bengal and the Marathas/Afghans.

### Bengal

- Bengal passed through four key nawabs: **Murshid Quli Khan** (who became Diwan in **1700** and **shifted the capital to Murshidabad**), **Shuja-ud-Din** (1727-39), the **incapable Sarfaraz Khan** (1739-40), and the **able Alivardi Khan** (1740-56), who killed Sarfaraz and paid a large sum to the Mughal emperor for legitimacy. Bengal prospered under **Alivardi Khan**, who resisted both Maratha incursions and **EIC** overreach.

### Mysore

- The **Wodeyar dynasty** emerged in Mysore in **1612**. By the mid-18th century, the kingdom became weak due to repeated Maratha and Nizam incursions. **Haider Ali**, a soldier of fortune, rose through the ranks and became the **de facto ruler of Mysore** in **1761**. He modernized the Mysore army with **French training**, established an arms factory at **Dindigul**, and created a **swift cavalry** to counter the Marathas.

### Rajputs, Jats, Sikhs and Marathas



- **Rajputs:** Remained feudatories of the Mughals but increasingly asserted independence after **Aurangzeb's** death. **Ajit Singh of Jodhpur** and **Jai Singh II of Jaipur** were prominent rulers. Jai Singh II built **five astronomical observatories (Jantar Mantar)** at Delhi, Jaipur, Mathura, Benaras, and Ujjain.
- **Jats:** Agricultural settlers around Delhi, Mathura, and Agra who revolted against **Aurangzeb's** policies. **Churaman and Badan Singh** established the **Jat state of Bharatpur**. The Jat state reached its zenith under **Suraj Mal**.
- **Sikhs:** Rose to power under **Ranjit Singh** in Punjab. The Sikh Confederacy emerged as a formidable force after the dissolution of Mughal authority in Punjab.
- **Marathas:** After the **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)**, the Marathas temporarily retreated but recovered quickly under the Peshwas. They remained the single most powerful Indian force until their defeat in the **Third Anglo-Maratha War (1818)**.

## Socio-Economic Conditions on the Eve of British Conquest

### Agriculture

- Stagnant and technologically backward agriculture; peasants paid revenue to state, zamindars, jagirdars, and revenue-farmers **simultaneously**.
- **Major crops:** Rice, wheat, sugar, pepper, spices, cotton, and **indigo**.

### Trade and Industry

- **Exports:** Cotton textiles, raw silk, silk fabrics, hardware, **indigo, saltpeter, opium**, rice, wheat, sugar, pepper, spices, precious stones, and drugs.
- **Imports:** Gold, musk, woolen cloth, copper, iron, lead, paper, porcelain, pearls, dates, dried fruits, coffee, tea, ivory, and rosewater.

### Education and Society

- **Elementary education:** Pathshalas (Hindu) and Maktabas (Muslim) for primary education.
- **Higher education:** Chatuspathis or Tols (Hindu) and Madrasahs (Muslim); complete absence of scientific, technical, and geographical education.
- Society was stratified into Varnas and sub-castes among Hindus; castes, race, tribe, and status determined social position among Muslims.

### Art and Culture

Ruler/Region	Contribution
Asaf-ud-Daula, <b>Lucknow</b>	Built the Bada Imambara, a masterpiece of Indo-Islamic architecture
Sawai Jai Singh, Jaipur	Built the Pink City of Jaipur and five <b>Jantar Mantar</b> observatories
Kangra and Rajputana	Flourishing schools of miniature painting developed
Urdu Language	Emerged as a powerful literary medium combining Persian and Hindi traditions

### Important NCERT Concepts - Transition Chapter

- **Jagirdari Crisis:** The structural contradiction in the Mughal system where the number of jagir-seekers exceeded available jagirs, fueling noble factionalism and political instability.
- **Ijara System:** Revenue-farming system introduced by **Jahandar Shah** under **Zulfikar Khan's** influence. Tax collection rights were auctioned to private contractors (*ijaradars*), leading to peasant exploitation.
- **Nazim and Diwan:** The dual system of provincial governance. The Nazim handled military and law-and-order; the Diwan managed revenue. Separation of these roles was crucial to Mughal provincial administration.

- **Sayyid Brothers: Abdullah Khan and Husain Ali Khan**, the 'kingmakers' of the Mughal court who controlled succession from **Farrukhsiyar** to **Muhammad Shah**, until **Muhammad Shah** destroyed them with **Nizam-ul-Mulk's** help.
- **Asaf Jah Dynasty**: Founded by **Nizam-ul-Mulk**, this dynasty ruled **Hyderabad** for over 200 years (1724-1948) and was the **largest princely state at the time of independence**.
- **Tripartite Struggle (18th Century Version)**: Unlike the medieval tripartite struggle over Kanauj, the 18th-century struggle was between Marathas, Mughals/Nawabs, and the British for supremacy over the Indian subcontinent.
- **Successor States**: Awadh, Bengal, Hyderabad, Mysore, Rajput states - these regional powers emerged from the wreckage of the Mughal Empire and initially traded with Europeans before being subordinated by the British.
- **Kohinoor Diamond**: Carried away by **Nadir Shah** during the 1739 sack of Delhi; passed through Afghan and Sikh hands before being handed over to the British **East India Company** after the **Second Anglo-Sikh War**, and is now **part of the British Crown Jewels**.
- **Maratha Confederacy**: Founded by **Bajirao I's** policy of assigning spheres of influence to prominent chiefs - **Gaekwad** of Baroda, **Bhonsle** of Nagpur, **Holkars** of Indore, **Sindhias** of Gwalior, and the **Peshwa** of Poona - all nominally under **Shahu**.
- **Peacock Throne (Takht-e-Tawus)**: Commissioned by **Shah Jahan**, this was the most famous treasure of the Mughal court, looted by **Nadir Shah** in 1739 and taken to Persia, where it was later destroyed.

### PYQ Facts - Transition Chapter

- **UPSC 2014**: The **Nizam-ul-Mulk** defeated **Mubariz Khan** at the **Battle of Shakarkhedla** in 1724, establishing Hyderabad's de facto independence from the Mughals.
- **UPSC 2010**: **Ahmad Shah Abdali's** invasion of 1761 resulted in the **Third Battle of Panipat**, marking the decisive defeat of the Marathas.
- **UPSC 2018**: **Sawai Jai Singh II** of Jaipur built observatories (**Jantar Mantar**) at five locations: Delhi, Jaipur, Mathura, Benaras, and Ujjain.
- **UPSC 2019**: **Farrukhsiyar** was the **first Mughal emperor to be killed by nobles** (the **Sayyid Brothers**).
- **UPSC 2015**: **Murshid Quli Khan** became Diwan of Bengal in 1700 and later shifted the capital from Dacca to Murshidabad.
- **UPPCS 2016**: The Jat state of Bharatpur reached its **zenith under Suraj Mal**, not Churaman or Badan Singh.
- **BPSC 2018**: **Haider Ali** established an arms factory at **Dindigul** in **Tamil Nadu** and introduced Western-style military training in Mysore.
- **UPSC 2020**: **Nadir Shah** carried the **Peacock Throne** and the **Kohinoor Diamond** from Delhi after his sack of the city in 1739.
- **UPSC 2017**: The **Sayyid Brothers** (Abdullah Khan and Husain Ali Khan) were the 'kingmakers' of the Mughal court between 1713 and 1720.
- **UPSC 2013**: **Muhammad Shah** (Rangeela) was the Mughal emperor who allied with **Nizam-ul-Mulk** to destroy the **Sayyid Brothers**.



### UPSC Prelims Traps to Avoid - Transition Chapter

- **Trap 1 - Nadir Shah vs Ahmad Shah Abdali**: **Nadir Shah** sacked Delhi in 1739 and carried the **Kohinoor**. **Ahmad Shah Abdali** came later (1748 onwards). Examiners mix these two. **Nadir Shah** was Persian; **Abdali** was Afghan.
- **Trap 2 - Nizam-ul-Mulk's Title**: His real name was Kilich Khan. He was given the title **Nizam-ul-Mulk** (Regulator of the Kingdom) and the epithet **Asaf Jah**. Do not confuse his name with the dynasty name.

- **Trap 3 - Battle of Shakarkhedla Year:** This battle is frequently wrongly dated. It was fought in **1724**, not 1723 or 1725.
- **Trap 4 - Jantar Mantar Locations:** Five observatories were built. Jaipur's **Jantar Mantar** is the largest and best preserved. The Delhi one is in Connaught Place area. Mathura's observatory no longer exists.
- **Trap 5 - Suraj Mal vs Badan Singh:** Badan Singh founded the Jat kingdom. Suraj Mal, his son, took it to its zenith. Questions often attribute zenith to Badan Singh - this is wrong.
- **Trap 6 - Mughal Emperor during Plassey:** The **Battle of Plassey (1757)** was fought during the reign of **Alamgir II**, not **Shah Alam II**. **Shah Alam II** came later (1759 onwards).
- **Trap 7 - Murshid Quli Khan's Role:** He was the Diwan (revenue administrator) of Bengal, not the Governor. He became the independent Nawab later. His administrative dual role is frequently misrepresented.
- **Trap 8 - Maratha Confederacy Founder:** It was **Bajirao I** who systematically organized the confederacy by assigning spheres of influence. Shivaji was the founder of the Maratha kingdom, not the confederacy.
- **Trap 9 - Farrukhsiyar's Farmans:** The Farmans given to the British **EIC** (called the '**Magna Carta of the Company**') were given by **Farrukhsiyar** in **1717**, not **1713** (when he became emperor).
- **Trap 10 - Haider Ali's Origin:** **Haider Ali** was not from the **Wodeyar dynasty**. He was a soldier of fortune who overthrew the **Wodeyar** administration and became de facto ruler. He never held the title of King formally - Mysore kings were always nominally the **Wodeyars**.

