

Decline of the Mughal Empire

Initial Signs of Decline

- ✚ The process of decline began during Aurangzeb's reign (1658-1707) and was exacerbated by his weak successors.
- ✚ Upon Aurangzeb's death, the Mughal Empire was the largest in India, but it was akin to an inflated balloon—its vastness only weakened the central authority.
- ✚ Aurangzeb's socio-religious policies and fundamentalism, in stark contrast to his ancestors, incited rebellion among the subjects, including the Marathas, against whom he waged futile wars in the Deccan for 20 years.
- ✚ It has been aptly said, "The Deccan ulcer proved to be as fatal to the Mughal Empire as the 'Spanish ulcer' was to the Napoleonic Empire."

Factors Leading to Disintegration

- ✚ Within 50 years of Aurangzeb's death, the Mughal Empire disintegrated due to a combination of factors.
- ✚ Nine Mughal emperors followed one another in quick succession.
- ✚ Many adventurers, both Indian and foreign, carved out independent principalities in India.
- ✚ By 1739, Delhi had been invaded by Nadir Shah.

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- ✚ By 1761, after Abdali's invasion, the Marathas had replaced the Mughals as the defenders of India.
- ✚ By 1765, the Mughal emperor had been reduced to a pensioner of the British.

Later Mughals and External Aggressions

- ✚ Between 1707 and 1857, there were as many as 12 Mughal emperors, known as the Later Mughals.
- ✚ Two of the longest surviving of these were Muhammad Shah (1719-48) and Shah Alam (1759-1806).
- ✚ They witnessed devastating attacks by Nadir Shah in 1739 and Ahmad Shah Abdali, who attacked India seven times between 1748 and 1767.

Internal Weaknesses and External Aggressions

- ✚ The internal weaknesses of the Mughal Empire, combined with external aggressions, left the foundations of the empire completely shaken.
- ✚ This instability tempted regional powers to assert independence and European trading companies to intervene in Indian politics.

Challenges before the Mughals

External Challenges

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Nadir Shah (Persian) Invasion [1738-1739]

- **Invasion and Context:**

- ✚ Emperor Nader Shah, the Shah of Iran and founder of the Afsharid dynasty, invaded Northern India, attacking Delhi in March 1739.
- ✚ The Mughal Empire's neglect of the North-West Frontier areas prompted Nadir Shah, then ruler of Afghanistan, to invade India.
- ✚ Attracted by India's wealth, Nadir Shah sought plunder. Delhi was one of the richest capitals in the world, making the Mughal Empire, among the Ottoman and Persian realms, the most affluent and splendid in the 18th century.

- **Pretext for War:**

- ✚ Nadir Shah asked Muhammad Shah to close the Mughal frontiers around Kabul to prevent Afghan rebels from seeking refuge.
- ✚ Despite agreeing, Muhammad Shah took no practical action, citing pre-occupation with the "Deccan infidels." Nadir Shah seized this as a pretext for war.

- **Battle and Aftermath:**

- ✚ Nadir Shah's army easily defeated the Mughals at the Battle of Karnal on 24 February 1739 and subsequently captured the Mughal capital.
- ✚ Delhi was sacked for several days, and an enormous fine of 20 million rupees was levied on its people.
- ✚ Muhammad Shah handed over the keys to the royal treasury, losing the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor and Darya-i-Noor diamonds, now part of the British and Iranian Crown Jewels, respectively.
- ✚ The devastation of Delhi was famously lamented by poets Mir and Sauda.

Ahmad Shah Abdali Invasion (1748-1767)

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Where Passion Meets Purpose

• Emergence and Early Invasions:

- ✚ After Nadir Shah's assassination in 1747, Ahmad Shah Abdali, one of his military generals, became the independent ruler of Afghanistan.
- ✚ Between 1748 and 1767, Abdali invaded India several times, continuously harassing the Mughals. In 1751-52, the Mughals ceded Punjab and Multan to Abdali to buy peace.
- ✚ Mir Mannu, appointed by the Mughal Emperor as governor of Punjab, acted as an agent of Abdali. Upon Mir Mannu's death, his widow, with the help of Wazir of

Delhi, Imad-ul-Mulk, appointed Mir Munim as governor of Punjab without Abdali's consent.

- **Subsequent Invasions and Capture of Delhi:**

- ✚ Infuriated by this move, Abdali invaded India, captured Punjab, and pillaged Delhi in January 1757. Mathura and Brindavan were desecrated.
- ✚ After capturing Delhi, Abdali left an Afghan caretaker to oversee the Mughal Emperor.
- ✚ He recognized Alamgir II as the Mughal Emperor and appointed the Rohilla chief, Najib-ud-Daula, as Mir Bakhshi, acting as Abdali's supreme agent.

- **Maratha Conflicts and Third Battle of Panipat:**

- ✚ In 1758, the Maratha chief, Raghunath Rao, expelled Najib-ud-Daula from Delhi and captured Punjab.
- ✚ In 1759, Ahmad Shah Abdali returned to India for revenge against the Marathas. In 1761, Abdali defeated the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat, curtailing their ambition to rule over India. Abdali's final invasion came in 1767.

Battles of Panipat

- **First Battle [1526]:**

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✚ Between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi, it laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire by ending the Delhi Sultanate's rule.

Babur's use of artillery in this battle was notable.

- **Second Battle [1556]:**

✚ Between Akbar and Hemu, this battle ensured the continuation of Mughal rule.

- **Third Battle [1761]:**

✚ Between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali, it ended the Maratha ambition of ruling over India.

Weak Rulers after Aurangzeb

Bahadur Shah I / Shah Alam I (Shah-i-Bekhabar) [1709 - March 1712]

- **Background and Ascension:**

✚ Bahadur Shah I, also known as Shah Alam I, was the eldest son of Aurangzeb and ascended to the throne at the age of 63.

✚ He adopted a pacifist policy towards various regional powers, including the Marathas, Jats, Rajputs, and Bundelas.

- **Policies and Actions:**

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- ✚ **Marathas:** He allowed the Maratha prince Shahu, held captive since 1689, to return to Maharashtra.
- ✚ **Rajputs:** Made peace with Rajput chiefs and confirmed them in their states.
- ✚ **Jats and Bundelas:** Made peace with Jat chief Churaman and Bundela chief Chhatrasal, who had joined him in the campaign against Banda Bahadur.
- ✚ **Sikhs:** Attempted to reconcile with the Sikhs by giving Guru Gobind Singh a high mansab.
- ✚ However, after the Guru's death, the Sikhs revolted again under Banda Bahadur. Bahadur Shah led a campaign against them, defeating Banda Bahadur at Lohgarh, but the Sikhs later recovered the fort in 1712.

- **Administration and Legacy:**

- ✚ Lavish grants of jagirs and promotions led to administrative deterioration.
- ✚ Known as Shah-i-Bekhabar (Heedless King) by Khafi Khan, he died in 1712.

Parties at the Mughal Court and the Kingmakers

- **Post-Bahadur Shah Era:**

- ✚ After Bahadur Shah's death, Mughal politics saw a shift where nobles became direct aspirants to the throne, using

princes as pawns to capture positions of authority. This marked the rise of powerful nobles as 'kingmakers.'

- **Notable Kingmakers:**

- ✚ **Zulfiqar Khan:** Emerged as the kingmaker during the reign of Emperor Jahandar Shah.
- ✚ **Sayyid Brothers:** Played a significant role during the reign of Emperor Farrukhsiyar, raising him to the throne in 1713 and deposing him in 1719 when he ceased to serve their interests.

- **Factionalism and Nobility:**

- ✚ The Mughal Court saw the emergence of various parties, prominently the Turanis, Iranis, Afghans, and Hindustanis.
- ✚ The Turanis, Iranis, and Afghans were descendants of foreigners from Central Asia, Iran, and Afghanistan and formed the backbone of the 'army of occupation'.
- ✚ The Turanis and Afghans were mostly Sunnis, while the Iranis were mostly Shias.
- ✚ The Hindustani party comprised Muslims born in India and received support from the Rajputs and Jats.

- **Political Dynamics:**

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- ✚ The nobles often raised slogans of race and religion to suit their interests but abandoned them when they were no longer profitable.

Jahandar Shah [February 1712 - February 1713]

- **Background and Characteristics:**

- ✚ Jahandar Shah was a degenerate prince devoted to pleasure.
- ✚ His administration was largely managed by the capable Zulfiqar Khan, who became his wazir (prime minister).

- **Policies and Actions:**

- ✚ **Marathas:** Confirmed an agreement with Shahu, allowing Marathas to collect chauth and sardeshmukhi of the Deccan, to be collected by Mughal officials and handed over to Marathas.
- ✚ **Rajputs:** Appointed Jai Singh of Amber as Governor of Malwa and Ajit Singh of Marwar as Governor of Gujarat.
- ✚ **Jats, Bundelas, Sikhs:** Continued to pacify Churaman Jat and Chhatrasal Bundela while suppressing the Sikhs.
- ✚ **Religious Tax:** Abolished the hated jizya tax.
- ✚ **Revenue Farming (Ijarah/Izara):** Introduced revenue farming, allowing middlemen to extract as much as possible from peasants, leading to increased oppression.

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- **End of Reign:**

- ✚ Defeated by his nephew Farrukhsiyar at Agra.
- ✚ Zulfiqar Khan was executed.

Farrukhsiyar [1713 - 1719]

- **Ascension to Power:**

- ✚ Came to power with the help of the Sayyid Brothers (Abdullah Khan and Hussain Ali).
- ✚ Appointed Abdullah Khan as wazir and Hussain Ali Khan as Mir Bakshi.

- **Policies and Actions:**

- ✚ **Religious Tolerance:** Adopted a policy of religious tolerance, conciliating the Marathas, Rajputs, and Jats while suppressing the Sikhs.
- ✚ **Victory Over Sikhs:** Captured Sikh leader Banda Bahadur, who was later executed.
- ✚ **Abolished Taxes:** Abolished jizya and pilgrimage tax.
- ✚ **British East India Company:** Issued three farmans in 1717, known as the Magna Carta of the British East India Company.

- **End of Reign:**

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- ✚ First Mughal emperor to be killed by nobles with the help of Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath.

Rafi-ud-Darajat [February 28 - June 4, 1717]

- Ruled for the shortest period among Mughal emperors.

Rafi-ud-Daula (Shah Jahan II) [June 6 - September 17, 1719]

- Known for being an opium addict.

Muhammad Shah (Roshan Akhtar Bahadur) [1719 - 1748]

Ascension to Power:

- ✚ Came to power after the assassination of the Sayyid Brothers with the help of Nizam-ul-Mulk.

Characteristics:

- ✚ Known as Muhammad Shah 'Rangeela' due to his fondness for wine and women.
- ✚ Fell into the influence of a dancing girl Koki Jiu and the eunuch Hafiz Khidmatgar Khan.

Decline of the Empire:

- ✚ His reign marked the irreversible decline of the Mughal Empire.

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- ✚ **Semi-Independent States:** Powerful nobles began carving out semi-independent states (e.g., Nizam-ul-Mulk in Hyderabad, Murshid Quli Khan in Bengal, Saadat Khan in Awadh).
- ✚ **Marathas:** Began their northern expansion, with Baji Rao I raiding Delhi in 1737.
- ✚ **Nadir Shah:** Invaded India in 1739, defeating the Mughals at the Battle of Karnal.
- ✚ **Ahmad Shah Abdali:** Invaded and plundered the Mughal Empire seven times between 1748 and 1767, beginning his first invasion during Muhammad Shah's reign.

Ahmad Shah [1748-1754]

- **Background:**

- ✚ Incompetent ruler, left the throne in the hands of Udham Bai (Queen Mother/Qibla-i-Alam).
- ✚ Udham Bai ruled with the help of Javid Khan, a notorious eunuch.

- **Invasions by Ahmad Shah Abdali:**

- ✚ Abdali invaded India twice during this period: in 1749 and 1752.
- ✚ Ahmad Shah appeased Abdali by surrendering Punjab and Multan to save Delhi from devastation.

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- **Political Changes:**

- ✚ In 1752, Ghazi ud-Din Khan Feroz Jung III (Imad-ul-Mulk) was appointed as Mir Bakshi and received the titles of Amir ul-Umara and Imad-ul-Mulk.
- ✚ Feroz Jung III allied with the Maratha chief Sadashiv Rao Bhau. Together, they blinded and deposed Ahmad Shah in 1754, raising Alamgir II as a puppet ruler.

Alamgir II [1754-1759]

- **Significant Events:**

- ✚ **Battle of Plassey (1757):** Major battle marking the beginning of British colonial rule in India.
- ✚ **Abdali's Invasion:** Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded India and plundered Delhi in 1757.
- ✚ **Maratha Intervention:** Imad-ul-Mulk invited the Marathas to drive out the Afghans and Rohillas. In 1758, Raghunath Rao led a massive Maratha force to Delhi, defeating the Afghan garrison and expelling Najib. They also overran Punjab and occupied Lahore.

- **End of Reign:**

- ✚ In August 1759, Abdali returned to avenge the Marathas, leading to the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761, resulting in a crushing defeat of the Marathas.
- ✚ Imad-ul-Mulk had Alamgir II murdered in 1759 and placed Shah Jahan III on the throne.

Shah Jahan III [1759-1760]

- **Background:**

- ✚ Son of Muhammad Kam Bakhsh, the youngest son of Aurangzeb.
- ✚ Installed as a puppet ruler by wazir Imad-ul-Mulk in December 1759.
- ✚ Deposed by Maratha chiefs after a brief reign.

Shah Alam II (Ali Gauhar) [1759-1806]

- **Third Battle of Panipat (1761):**

- ✚ After the battle, Ahmad Shah Abdali named Shah Alam II as emperor and Najib-ud-Daulah as Mir Bakshi before leaving Delhi in March 1761.
- ✚ Abdali invaded India for the last time in 1767, further hastening the Mughal Empire's downfall.

- **Exile and Restoration:**

- ✚ Shah Alam II was not allowed to enter Delhi for 12 years (1760-1772) and remained in exile until the Marathas escorted him back to his throne in 1772.
- ✚ During his absence, the Rohilla leaders Najib-ud-Daulah, his son Zabita Khan, and grandson Ghulam Qadir held power in Delhi.

• **Battle of Buxar (1765) and Treaty of Allahabad:**

- ✚ Shah Alam II was forced to grant the Diwani (right to collect revenue) of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa to the British.
- ✚ In return, he received a subsidy of 26 lakh and the districts of Kora and Allahabad.
- ✚ Resided in the fort of Allahabad for six years as a virtual prisoner of the British.

• **Blindness and Restoration:**

- ✚ Ghulam Qadir deposed and blinded Shah Alam II in 1788.
- ✚ Mahadji Scindia hunted down Ghulam Qadir, restoring the blind Shah Alam II as the emperor in October 1788.

• **British Protection:**

- ✚ In 1803, Delhi was recaptured by the British after defeating Daulat Rao Scindia.

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- ✚ Shah Alam II accepted British protection and from 1803 to 1857, the Mughal dynasty served as a political front for the British.

- **Legacy:**

- ✚ Shah Alam II authored his own Diwan of poems and was known by the pen-name Aftab.
- ✚ His power was so depleted that it led to the Persian saying, "Sultanate-Shah Alam, Az Dilli ta Palam," meaning "The kingdom of Shah Alam is from Delhi to Palam" (a suburb of Delhi).

Akbar II [1806-1837]

- **Raja Ram Mohan Roy:**

- ✚ Akbar II gave the title of "Raja" to social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- ✚ Sent Raja Ram Mohan Roy to England to seek an increase in the pension given to the Mughal emperor.

- **East India Company's Actions:**

- ✚ In 1835, the East India Company ceased recognizing itself as a subject of the Mughal Emperor.

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- ✚ The Company discontinued issuing coins in the Mughal Emperor's name, removing Persian inscriptions indicating Mughal sovereignty.

Bahadur Shah II (Zafar) [1837-1858]

- **Role in the Revolt of 1857:**

- ✚ During the Revolt of 1857, Bahadur Shah Zafar was declared the Emperor of India by the rebel forces.
- ✚ After the defeat of the revolt, Bahadur Shah Zafar was captured by the British and deported to Rangoon (now Yangon), Burma, where he died in 1862.

Decline and End of the Mughal Empire

- **Shah Alam II and Successors:**

- ✚ Shah Alam II and his successors were largely symbolic rulers with actual power held by their nobles, the Marathas, or the British.
- ✚ The British maintained the facade of the Mughal Empire until 1858 for political convenience.

- **Legal End of the Mughal Empire:**

- ✚ The Mughal Empire officially ended on November 1, 1858, with Queen Victoria's proclamation, marking the

formal assumption of direct control over India by the British Crown.

Causes of The Decline Of The Mughals

Aurangzeb's Misguided Policies

- ✦ **Vast Empire:** The Mughal Empire had expanded beyond effective control, weakening central authority.
- ✦ **Religious Intolerance:** Aurangzeb's policies antagonized the Rajputs, Sikhs, Jats, and Marathas, leading to rebellions.
- ✦ **Continuous War:** His continuous wars, especially in the Deccan against the Marathas, drained the empire's resources and marked the beginning of its decline.

Weak Successors

- ✦ **Incompetent Rulers:** Later Mughal emperors were weak and incapable, falling victim to court intrigues and conspiracies.
- ✦ **Ineffective Administration:** These successors were inefficient generals and administrators, unable to suppress revolts.

Wars of Succession and the Role of Kingmakers

- ✦ **Absence of Succession Law:** Without a clear law of succession, wars broke out among Mughal princes.
- ✦ **Kingmaker Influence:** Key figures, such as Zulfiqar Khan, the Sayyid Brothers, and Mir Mohammad Amin, played significant

roles in deciding succession, weakening the empire's stability and fostering partisanship over patriotism.

Nature of the Mughal State

- ✚ **Police State:** The Mughal state focused primarily on law and order and revenue collection.
- ✚ **Religious Disharmony:** The Mughals failed to foster harmony between Hindus and Muslims, with Aurangzeb's policies reversing Akbar's efforts. Many Indian chiefs viewed the Mughals as foreign oppressors.

Degeneration of the Mughal Nobility (Military Aristocracy)

- ✚ **Mansabdari System:** Initially organized by Akbar based on personal loyalty, it became hereditary and exclusive to certain groups (Irani and Turani factions).
- ✚ **Luxurious Lifestyle:** Nobles abandoned military discipline for luxury, weakening their morality and the empire's strength.

Shifting Loyalty of the Zamindars

- ✚ **Hereditary Landowners:** Zamindars played a crucial role in revenue collection and local administration.
- ✚ **Autonomous States:** They exploited the empire's weakness to establish autonomous states, reducing central control.

Jagirdari Crisis and Resulting Court Factions

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- ✚ **Economic Crisis:** The number of mansabdars increased without a corresponding rise in jagir land, leading to competition and factionalism.
- ✚ **Deccan Wars:** These wars exacerbated the jagirdari crisis, straining the empire's resources and personal bonds of loyalty.
- ✚ **Reduced Administration Funds:** The crown's inability to maintain financial stability forced it to cede territory and weakened its control.
- ✚ **Court Politicking:** After Bahadur Shah's death in 1712, intense politicking divided the court into factions, notably:
 - **Irani Group:** Led by Asad Khan and Zulfiqar Khan.
 - **Turani Group:** Led by Ghazi-ud-Din Khan Feroz Jung and Chin Qilich Khan (Nizam ul Mulk).
 - **Hindustani Group:** Led by the Sayyid Brothers.

Military Weakness

- ✚ **Feudal Organization:** The Mughal military was organized in a feudal style where soldiers were more loyal to their mansabdars than the Emperor, leading to indiscipline and potential revolts.
- ✚ **Degeneration of Military Aristocracy:** The decline in the quality and effectiveness of the military aristocracy weakened the army. There was a lack of able commanders, effective supervision, military reforms, and new technology.

- ✚ **Cumbersome Military Movement:** The Mughal army traveled with a large entourage, including markets, stores, non-combatants, women, and children, making it unwieldy and inefficient.
- ✚ **Internal and External Challenges:** The military's weakness invited challenges from both within and outside the empire.
 - **Maratha Challenge:** The Marathas under Shivaji repeatedly challenged Mughal authority, and post-Aurangzeb, they even plundered Delhi's suburbs in 1738.
 - **Persian Invasion:** The Persian invasion under Nadir Shah in 1739 and the subsequent sack of Delhi severely damaged the empire's prestige.

Empty Treasury

- ✚ **Construction Costs:** Shah Jahan's extensive construction projects depleted the treasury.
- ✚ **Deccan Wars:** Aurangzeb's prolonged wars in the Deccan further drained financial resources. The military marches destroyed crops, and Maratha raids exacerbated the damage.
- ✚ **Agricultural Decline:** Peasants abandoned agriculture for plunder and robbery due to the devastation of crops.
- ✚ **Autonomous States:** Under later Mughals, the financial condition worsened as autonomous states stopped paying revenue to the central authority.

Size of the Empire and Rise of Regional Powers

- ✚ **Unwieldy Empire:** The Mughal Empire's vast size made it difficult to control from a central authority, especially given the medieval transport and communication conditions.
- ✚ **Regional Defiance:** During Aurangzeb's reign, powerful regional groups like the Sikhs, Jats, Rajputs, and Marathas defied Mughal authority, aiming to establish their own kingdoms.
- ✚ **Continuous Struggles:** Ongoing struggles with these regional powers significantly weakened the empire and contributed to its decline.

Rise of Regional States

Successor States

These were former Mughal provinces that gradually established their own independent and autonomous polities.

- ✚ **Awadh:** Founded by Saadat Khan/Burhan-ul-Mulk.
- ✚ **Hyderabad:** Established by Kilich Khan/Nizam-ul-Mulk.
- ✚ **Bengal:** Formed under the leadership of Murshid Kuli Khan.

Independent Kingdoms

These kingdoms emerged due to the destabilization of Mughal control over their provinces.

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- ✚ **Rajput States:** Various Rajput states asserted their independence as Mughal power waned.
- ✚ **Mysore:** Gained prominence under rulers like Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan.
- ✚ **Kerala:** Martanda Varma played a significant role in the establishment of an independent Kerala.

New States

These states were established by rebels who rose against Mughal rule.

- ✚ **Jats:** Churaman and Badan Singh founded the Jat state in Bharatpur.
- ✚ **Sikhs:** Established a powerful state in Punjab under leaders like Guru Gobind Singh and later, Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
- ✚ **Marathas:** Became a dominant power under leaders like Shivaji and later the Peshwas.
- ✚ **Rohilkhand:** A region in northern India that emerged as an independent entity under Rohilla leaders.

Growth of Peasants' and Workers' Movements (1920s-30s)

Early Associations:

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1. Sasipada Banerjee and Bharat Sramjibi (1870s):

- ✚ **Activity:** In Bengal, Sasipada Banerjee, a Brahmo, founded the Working Men's Club and published the journal Bharat Sramjibi in 1874.
- ✚ He also organized night schools for educating jute mill workers.

2. NM Lokhande and Bombay Mill-Hands Association (1880s-90s):

- ✚ **Contribution:** NM Lokhande started the weekly Dinabandhu and founded the Bombay Mill-Hands Association in 1890.
- ✚ **Significance:** Lokhande is remembered as the Father of the Indian Labour Movement for his pioneering efforts in organizing and advocating for workers' rights.

3. Madras Labour Union (1918):

- ✚ **Founding:** Established in April 1918 in Madras (now Chennai) by BP Wadia, associated with Annie Besant.
- ✚ **Background:** Formed to address the grievances of workers at the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills in Perambur.

- ✚ **Leadership:** Key figures included Selvapati Chettiyar, Ramanujalu Naidu, V. Kalyanasundaram Mudaliar, and B. P. Wadia.
- ✚ **Impact:** This union marked a significant milestone as the first trade union in India, advocating for labor rights and mobilizing workers.

4. Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (1920):

- ✚ **Establishment:** Founded on February 25, 1920, following a strike led by Gandhi and Anasuya in Ahmedabad in 1918.
- ✚ **Founders:** Anasuya, Gandhi, and Shankerlal Banker.
- ✚ **Importance:** This association, also known as Majoor Mahajan Sangh, became Gujarat's oldest labor union, focusing on the rights and welfare of textile mill workers.

Gandhi's Philosophy on Labour:

- **Theory of Trusteeship:**
 - ✚ **Concept:** Gandhi proposed the Theory of Trusteeship, rejecting the idea of class warfare.
 - ✚ **Ideology:** According to this theory, capitalists, landlords (zamindars), and princes should act as trustees for their workers, tenants, and subjects.

- ✚ **Purpose:** Gandhi advocated for a change of heart among the wealthy and powerful, urging them to consider their wealth and power as a responsibility to uplift and support those less fortunate.

Formation of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)

Establishment and Early History:

- ✚ **Founding:** AITUC was founded on October 31, 1920, in Bombay.
- ✚ **Founders:** Key founders included Lala Lajpat Rai, Joseph Baptista, N. M. Joshi, and Diwan Chaman Lall.
 - **First President:** Lala Lajpat Rai served as its first president, and Diwan Chaman Lall was the General Secretary during the first conference.
- ✚ **Association:** Over time, prominent leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, V. V. Giri, Sarojini Naidu, C.R. Das, and others associated with the freedom struggle were involved in subsequent conferences and activities of AITUC.
- ✚ **Early Resolutions:** AITUC adopted a resolution for Swaraj (complete independence from British rule) during its second session in Jharia in 1921, preceding the Congress's adoption of a similar resolution in 1929.

- ✚ **Global Role:** Post-World War II, AITUC played a significant role in the formation of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) in London, representing millions of workers globally.
- ✚ Delegates like S.A. Dange, R.A. Khedgikar, and Sudhindra Pramanik represented AITUC and contributed to the workers' charter adopted at the conference.

Rise and Fall of Trade Unionism

Periodization:

1. Period of Growth of Trade Unionism (1920-1929):

- ✚ **Activities:** Active economic struggles and mobilization among workers marked this period.
- ✚ **Significance:** Saw heightened union activities and the establishment of AITUC as a leading federation.

2. Period of Decline of Trade Unionism (1929-1935):

- ✚ **Challenges:** Government actions like the Public Safety Act and Trade Disputes Act stifled union activities.
- ✚ **Impact:** Decline in organized labor movements and a focus on economic struggles rather than political activism.

3. Period of Expansion of Trade Unionism (1935 onwards):

- ✚ **Revival:** The period saw a resurgence in trade union activities, with AITUC playing a key role.
- ✚ **Unity Restored:** Communist factions joined mainstream movements, leading to unity within AITUC and broader support for workers' rights.

Peasant Movements of the 1920s and 1930s

- ✚ **Abwabs:** Refers to various fines, cesses, or taxes levied by native chiefs on subjects, including house tax, grazing tax, irrigation tax, etc.
- ✚ **Significance:** Peasant movements during this period focused on agrarian issues, rights, and resistance against oppressive taxation and landlordism.

Peasant Movements during the 1920s

Uttar Pradesh

Baba Ram Chandra's Movement:

- ✚ **Initiative:** Baba Ram Chandra organized peasants in Oudh against zamindars and taluqdars, presenting their bondage as due to both the government and landlords.
- ✚ **Background:** Baba Ram Chandra, a Maharashtrian Brahmin, arrived in Oudh in 1917-18 after working as an indentured

laborer in Fiji. He mobilized peasants, adopting a sanyasi-like appearance and quoting from the Ramcharitmanas.

- ✚ **Association with Non-Cooperation Movement:** By 1920, the peasant movement aligned with the Non-Cooperation Movement. It turned militant in 1921, spreading to districts like Rae Bareli, Faizabad, and Sultanpur, leading to amendments in the Oudh Rent Act of 1921.

Eka Movement:

- ✚ **Led by Madari Pasi:** Peasants in districts like Hardoi, Barabanki, and Sitapur initiated the Eka Movement.
- ✚ **Reasons:** Primarily driven by high rents, often exceeding 50% of recorded rents in some areas.
- ✚ **Suppression:** The movement faced severe repression from the British, effectively ending by March 1922.

Bihar

Movement against Darbhanga Raj:

- ✚ **Leadership:** Swami Vidyanand led a peasant movement in north Bihar against the oppressive practices of the Raja of Darbhanga.
- ✚ **Nature:** Though not as militant as in Uttar Pradesh, it focused on challenging the authority of the Darbhanga estate.

Bengal

No-Tax Agitation:

- ✚ **Location:** The agitation primarily occurred in the Midnapore district.
- ✚ **Outcome:** Peasants protested against Union Board taxes, leading to the government's decision to halt the processing of Union Boards.

Malabar (Moplah Rebellion, 1921)

Causes and Events:

- ✚ **Background:** Muslim Moplah peasants revolted against landlord oppression and British anti-Khilafat policies.
- ✚ **Leadership:** Led by Ali Musaliar, a local Khilafat leader, in response to the Indian Muslim unity under the Ali brothers.
- ✚ **Actions:** Rebels blocked roads, cut telegraph and railway lines, and engaged in violent clashes with Europeans.
- ✚ **Government Response:** The British sent a strong contingent to suppress the rebellion, leading to brutal retaliations and significant casualties among the Moplahs.

Gujarat and Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)

Context and Actions:

- ✚ **Trigger:** Adverse impacts of floods and famines in 1925 followed by a 22% increase in tax rates by the Bombay Presidency.
- ✚ **Leadership:** Vallabhbhai Patel was invited by Bardoli farmers to lead the movement, supported by Gandhiji through his writings in "Young India" magazine.
- ✚ **Campaign:** Patel organized the taluk into camps, involving men and women from various communities in door-to-door campaigns.
- ✚ **Women's Role:** The women of Bardoli bestowed the title "Sardar" upon Patel.
- ✚ **Strategies:** Peasants took oaths of non-payment of taxes and boycotted those who paid, also advocating for the rights of landless laborers.
- ✚ **Government Response:** The Maxwell-Broomfield Commission was set up to investigate the matter, leading to a reduction in revenue rates to 6.03% and the return of confiscated lands to peasants.
- ✚ **Impact:** Bardoli Satyagraha became a symbol of successful non-violent resistance against unjust taxation and oppressive policies.

Peasant Movements during the 1930s

Uttar Pradesh

Continued Peasant Revolt:

- + **Focus:** Uttar Pradesh remained a central hub for peasant revolt during the 1930s.
- + **Agitations:** Leaders like Kalka Prasad of Rae Bareilly advocated for no-rent agitations alongside Congress' call for no-revenue movements.
- + **Government Response:** Despite these efforts, severe repression by the government effectively crushed the movements.

Bengal and Bihar

No-Tax Agitations:

- + **Bengal:** Tribal peasants in areas like Manbhum, Singbhum, and Dinajpur participated in the salt satyagraha and protested against the Chowkidara Tax, which forced villagers to pay for their own oppressors.
- + **Bihar:** The movement mainly focused on no-tax agitations.

Madras Presidency

Andhra Ryots' Association:

- + **Formation:** In 1928, under the leadership of Professor NG Ranga, the Andhra Ryots' Association was formed.
- + **Objectives:** The association launched an anti-zamindari struggle, targeting the Venkatgiri zamindari in Nellore district.

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- ✚ **Spread:** The movement gained momentum during the Civil Disobedience Movement, particularly in Tanjore, Madura, and Salem.
- ✚ **Educational Initiatives:** Summer Schools of Economics and Politics were organized for peasant activists, featuring prominent Leftist leaders of the time.

Kerala

Formation of Karshak Sanghams:

- ✚ **Background:** Activists of the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) facilitated the formation of Karshak Sanghams (peasant associations).
- ✚ **Demands:** Peasants demanded the abolition of feudal levies (akramapirivukal), renewal fees (policceluthu), and amendments to the Malabar Tenancy Act of 1929.
- ✚ **Impact:** The campaign created significant awareness about tenancy issues, laying the groundwork for future concessions.

Punjab

Punjab Kisan Committee:

- ✚ **Initiatives:** The Punjab Kisan Committee, established in 1937, revitalized peasant mobilization.

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- ✚ **Issues Addressed:** Peasants protested against resettlement of land revenue in Amritsar and Lahore, and increased water rates in canal colonies of Multan and Montgomery.
- ✚ **Outcome:** Strikes by peasants forced the government to make concessions.

Maharashtra, Bihar, and Central Provinces

Forest Satyagrahas:

- ✚ **Resistance:** Peasants and tribals defied forest laws that restricted their access to forest resources.
- ✚ **Goal:** These movements aimed to protect and reclaim their traditional rights to forest resources.

All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS)

Formation (Lucknow, 1936):

- ✚ **Background:** Provincial Kisan Sabhas had been active since the 1920s under communist and socialist influence.
- ✚ **Formation:** The All India Kisan Congress was established in Lucknow, later renamed the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS).
- ✚ **Leadership:** Swami Sahajanand, founder of the Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha, was elected President, and NG Ranga became the General Secretary.

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- ✚ **Influence:** The AIKS manifesto and its agenda significantly influenced the agrarian program adopted by the Congress at its Faizpur session.
- ✚ **Expansion:** The AIKS grew rapidly and organized its second session in Faizpur, Maharashtra, attended by prominent leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, MN Roy, and SA Dange.
- ✚ **Socialist Orientation:** NG Ranga declared the AIKS' commitment to the inauguration of a socialist state and society, reflecting its radical socialist ideals.

Congress Ministries in the Provinces and Growth of Peasant Movements (1937-1939)

Impact of Congress Ministries: Mission Meets Purpose

New Phase in Peasant Movements:

- ✚ **Enthusiasm and Expectations:** The formation of Congress Ministries in the provinces infused new hope and enthusiasm among peasants, who felt empowered by having their own people in positions of power.
- ✚ **Legislative Reforms:** The Congress-led ministries introduced several pro-peasant legislations, aiming to address agrarian issues and tenant rights.

- ✚ **Mobilization:** Kisan conferences and meetings became key platforms for mobilization, where grievances were aired and resolutions passed.

Specific Peasant Movements during 1937-39:

Bakasht Movement (Bihar, 1937-38):

- ✚ **Objective:** Directed against landlords, specifically fighting against the forceful eviction of peasants from bakasht lands.
- ✚ **Context:** Bakasht lands were previously held by occupancy tenants but were lost to zamindars during the Depression years due to non-payment of rent. Peasants continued to cultivate these lands as share-croppers.
- ✚ **Congress Ministry Influence:** With the formation of the Congress Ministry in Bihar, the Kisan Sabha seized the opportunity to demand restoration of bakasht lands.
- ✚ **Legislative Success:** The Bihar Tenancy Act and the Restoration of Bakasht Land Act were passed in 1938, providing relief to peasants. **Main Leader:** Karyanand Sharma played a significant role in leading this movement.

Hat Tola Movement (Bengal):

- ✚ **Objective:** Launched in northern districts of Bengal against landlords who imposed levies on peasants selling produce in weekly markets (hats).

- ✚ **Resistance:** Peasants protested against this additional financial burden imposed by landlords.

Burdwan Satyagraha (Bengal):

- ✚ **Leadership:** Led by Bankim Mukerji in Burdwan district.
- ✚ **Cause:** Protested against the Canal Tax imposed on peasants following the construction of the Damodar Canal.
- ✚ **Outcome:** The government partially accepted the demands of the Kisan Sabha, leading to the withdrawal of the movement.

Movement of the Share Croppers (Bengal):

- ✚ **Nature:** Initiated in 1939, this movement focused on securing tenure rights for share croppers who were vulnerable to eviction despite their labor.
- ✚ **Geographical Focus:** Gained momentum in Dinajpur district, north Bengal.
- ✚ **Government Response:** The movement forced the government to negotiate and reach compromises with the protesting peasants.

Gujarat Movement:

- ✚ **Demand:** Peasants in Gujarat demanded the abolition of the hali system (bonded labor).

- ✚ **Success:** The movement achieved significant success in abolishing the hali system, marking a victory for the peasant community.

The States' People's Movement (1920 to 1947)

British Relations with Princely States:

Establishment of British Supremacy:

- ✚ British control over India was established through a combination of direct conquest, intimidation, and accommodation of pre-colonial Indian political entities.
- ✚ This resulted in direct British rule over three-fifths of the subcontinent, while the remaining two-fifths were under indirect rule or "Paramountcy," where Indian princes nominally ruled.

Historical Phases of British Policy towards Princely States:

1740 to 1765 (Struggle for Equality):

- ✚ **Early Commercial Phase:** Before 1740, the English East India Company operated primarily as a commercial entity in India.
- ✚ **Political Ambitions:** Political ambitions began to emerge around 1740 with the onset of the Carnatic Wars, where French and British interests clashed under figures like Dupleix.

- ✚ **Shift to Political Dominance:** The Battle of Plassey in 1757 marked a turning point where the East India Company emerged as a political force, backing the Nawab of Bengal.
- ✚ **Acquisition of Diwani Rights:** Following the Battle of Buxar in 1764 and the Treaty of Allahabad in 1765, the Company gained Diwani rights over Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, establishing a significant political foothold.

1765 to 1813 (Policy of Ring Fence):

- ✚ **Buffer State Strategy:** During this period, the East India Company pursued a policy of creating buffer states around its territorial holdings in Bengal.
- ✚ **Defensive Measures:** Actions like Warren Hastings' wars against Mysore and the Marathas, as well as Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance system, were part of this defensive strategy.
- ✚ **Subsidiary Alliance System:** Under this system, princely rulers were obliged to disband their independent armed forces and accept Company troops for protection.
- ✚ **Financial Implications:** Princely states had to pay for these subsidiary forces; failure to do so could result in territorial penalties or annexation.
- ✚ **Example:** The Nawab of Awadh was an early adopter of the Subsidiary Alliance after the Battle of Buxar, while the Nizam

of Hyderabad became a victim of this policy under Wellesley in 1798.

British Policy towards Princely States (1813-1935)

1813 to 1857 (Policy of Subordinate Isolation)

Under Lord Hastings (1813-1823):

- ✚ **Subsidiary Alliances:** The subsidiary alliances formed during this period were no longer based on mutual amity but on the princely states' subordinate cooperation with the British government.
- ✚ **Role of Resident Officers:** Resident officers evolved from diplomatic agents to controlling officers representing British authority in the princely states.
- ✚ **Charter Act of 1833:** This act directed the East India Company to cease its commercial activities, pushing it towards continuous territorial expansion.
- ✚ **Doctrine of Lapse:** Introduced by Lord Dalhousie, this policy allowed the annexation of states on the grounds of misgovernance or the absence of natural heirs.
 - Examples of annexations: Mysore (1831), Cachar (1832), Coorg (1834), Jamtia (1835), and others under subsequent Governors-General.

Doctrine of Lapse/Policy of Annexation (Lord Dalhousie, 1848-1856)

- ✚ **Doctrine of Lapse:** Under this policy, adopted sons could inherit the private property of rulers but not their ruling authority. States where rulers died without natural heirs were annexed by the British.
- ✚ **End of Policy:** The policy of Doctrine of Lapse was officially ended after the suppression of the 1857 Revolt during Lord Canning's tenure as Viceroy.

1857 to 1935 (Policy of Subordinate Union)

Queen's Proclamation of 1858:

- ✚ **Abandonment of Annexations:** The Queen's Proclamation declared that there would be no further annexations of Indian princely states.
- ✚ **Status of Princes:** While immunity from annexation was granted, it came at the cost of lowered status for the Indian princes.
 - **Royal Titles Act (1876):** This act formalized the relationship, declaring the Queen as Kaiser-i-Hind (Queen Empress of India).
- ✚ **Condition of Rule:** Rulers were installed with British sanction, maintaining possession but not sovereignty over

their states. Their continued rule was conditional on loyalty to the British Crown.

The Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal, 1920)

- ✚ **Establishment:** Created under the Government of India Act 1919, it provided a forum for princely rulers to voice their needs and aspirations to the British colonial government.
- ✚ **Meetings and Structure:** Met annually with the Viceroy presiding, also appointing a Chancellor from among its members to head its Standing Committee.
- ✚ **Consultative Role:** While consultative and advisory, the Chamber had no authority over individual states' internal affairs.
- ✚ **Butler Committee (1927):**
 - **Purpose:** Formed to examine the relationship between princely states and the British paramountcy.
 - **Recommendations:** Upheld paramountcy while suggesting adjustments to meet evolving circumstances and princely states' aspirations.
 - **Reaction:** Princes and leftist parties criticized the committee's findings, particularly its undefined stance on paramountcy and the role of Indian legislatures.

1935 to 1947: Policy of Equal Federation and Princely States' Integration

Round Table Conferences (1930-32) and Government of India Act 1935

+ Round Table Conferences (RTCs):

- The Indian Princes participated in the Round Table Conferences held between 1930 and 1932.

+ Government of India Act 1935:

- Proposed an All India Federation which required princely states to meet certain conditions to join:
 - States entitled to at least half of the seats (52 seats) in the proposed Council of States should agree to join.
 - These states should collectively represent at least 50% of the total population of all Indian states.
- Since these conditions were not met, the proposed federation did not materialize.



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Congress Successes in 1937 Elections and Influence on Princely States

Congress Electoral Success (1937):

- + Congress's success in the 1937 elections in British India provided momentum to the national movement, influencing sentiments in princely states.

Misgovernance in Princely States:

- ✚ **British Paramountcy:** Princely states acknowledged British paramountcy in return for security guarantees from the British.
- ✚ **Effects of Autonomy:** Many rulers engaged in misgovernance, leading to high taxes, serfdom, slavery, and forced labor among subjects.
- ✚ **National Movement Influence:** Ideas of democracy and civil liberties from the Indian national movement began influencing princely states' populations.

Praja Mandals or State Peoples' Conferences

- **Emergence of Political Organizations:**
 - ✚ **Praja Mandals:** These were formed in various princely states such as Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kathiawad States, Deccan States, Jamnagar, Indore, and Nawanagar.
 - ✚ **Prominent Leaders:** Leaders like Balwantrai Mehta, Maniklal Kothari, and CR Abhyankar emerged from these movements.

All India States People's Conference (AISPC):

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- Established in 1927 in Bombay, it sought Congress's support but initially received limited backing until Nehru's presidency in 1939.
- **Congress Relationship:** Initially hesitant, Congress distanced itself from the AISPC post-independence, aligning instead with princely rulers through accession agreements.



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