

The causes for the decline of the Mughal Empire.

The Mughal Empire was one of the most powerful empires that ruled

in India during the medieval period. It lasted from 1526 to 1857. But it began to decline during the later days of Emperor Aurangzeb. The decline of the empire was attributed to numerous factors such as social, political and economic reasons.

Aurangzeb: The religious policies of Aurangzeb made the Hindus feel very uneasy and they lost their trust in this emperor. Policies such as imposition of the jizya, tax, destruction of the temples in certain places. As well as cancellation of certain festivals upset the Hindus. His Deccan policy led to a lot of money being spent, and a lot of time being spent in the Deccan area. The Rajputs, who were once the trusted pillars of the Mughal Empire, were now viewed with suspicion by Aurangzeb, and they were actually even transferred to far parts of the empire. He had to face challenges from different groups. And numerous rebellions from the Jats, Santanmis, Sikhs and this all led to financial issues during his time.

Weak Successors : By the time Aurangzeb died, his successor Bahadur Shah, the first was already an old man and the other successors after that were weak and incompetent. They were not capable of maintaining such a huge empire. Unfortunately, the later Mughal emperors spent more time in pleasure seeking and living luxuriously than looking for ways to control this massive empire and therefore they lost control of many of the states.

No definite law of succession. And therefore, after the deaths of number of the emperors, there was a war that broke out, and this led to anarchy and confusion. And numerous wars of this kind meant made the Mughal empire was weak and vulnerable to attacks from foreigners as well as from threats within.

Foreign Invasions: There were numerous foreign invasions during the time of the

Mughal Empire. Each invasion exposed the weakness of the empire and led to a lot of confusion and chaos occurring in the empire. There were two major invasions which really affected empire that is of Ahmad Shah Abdali. And Nadir Shah. Due to these foreign invasions. The empire became weak and vulnerable and susceptible to other foreign powers too.

The coming of the Europeans was yet another factor which affected the Mughal empire. The Europeans initially came as traders, but as time went on, they became more interested in the political developments and political conquest in India and began interfering in Indian politics. The British Empire lasted for almost 200 years. And the empire that they formed naturally ate into a lot of the territory of the Mughals

Challenges within: Besides this, there were challenges from within the Empire. The empire by this time was too large. And numerous people and groups like the Sikhs, the Jats, the Satnamis, Rajputs and others started threatening the peace and structure of the Mughal Empire due to various policies of the emperors and the Emperors after Aurangzeb could not control this empire. Once the Marathas started conquering territory in the North, it led to Mughal empire disintegrating even further. And finally, many of the provinces started becoming independent because of the weak rule of the emperors at the center. So, provinces like Hyderabad became independent leading to further disintegration of the empire.

Economic issues were one of the major reasons for the decline of the Mogul Empire. Aurangzeb had already drained alot of their resources due to his numerous wars and Expeditions. Later on there were constant, wars and foreign invasions. The Mughal rulers themselves spent lavishly Shahjahan went on a building and construction spree during his time. To fund their construction, they started charging higher taxes from the people and the people in turn started losing interest in cultivation.

Administrative problems. As the Empire became stronger and grew, there was a lot of corruption due to the increase of wealth, and many of those involved in administration were

inefficient. They were only interested in collecting money for themselves. Many of the provincial governors were tyrants and controlled their territory tightly, which led to further dissatisfaction from the people.

The Mansabdari system, a military administration system set up by Emperor Akbar, caused further deterioration as did the Jagirdari crisis. And finally, there was a lot of infighting among the nobility. Rather than fight for the empire, they were fighting for their own personal gains.

The condition of the people was bad. Numerous wars and the construction spree of the Mughals led to increase of taxes and it became very impractical for the farmers to be able to continue with their farming. So many of them left their lands because they were frustrated. Many of the rebellions started against Aurangzeb because of peasant uprisings from people such as the Jats and Satnamis. Many peasants now left the land and instead became band of robbers and adventurous, and this led to further deterioration in the law and order situation in the country.

Problems with the army. The Mughal Empire was powerful because of its army. It had one of the most powerful armies in the past, but due to luxury and wealth there was corruption and inefficiency in the army. They had outdated weapons and were no match for those who came from outside. The empire to attack them. The army was too huge and uncontrollable. And among the officers, there were jealousies and rivalries. Excessive wealth and luxury had made the army lazy, corrupt and inefficient and thus they could no longer defend this mighty empire.