

Quadrant II : Notes

Programme: Bachelor of Arts

Subject: History

Paper Code: HSC 106

Paper Title: History of the Marathas (1630-1818)

Unit: II

Module Name: Maratha-Goa Relations

Module 9

Summary

The Political situation in the Deccan during the Seventeenth century is a subject of interest. The relation of Shahji Bhosle was cordial with the Portuguese. Shivaji exercised political sovereignty over certain parts of Deccan. The naval power of the Portuguese centered in Goa, posed a great challenge to Shivaji. The Portuguese under Afonso de Albuquerque succeeded in wrestling Goa, a port of considerable commercial and strategic importance. The Portuguese adopted a neutral policy towards the Marathas during the budding years of Shivaji's career. As Shivaji had grown powerful and aggressive, the Portuguese neutrality turned into hostility. Portuguese attacked Maratha fleet near Margaon in 1665. Portuguese secretly provided ammunition to the fort of Ponda when it was besieged by Shivaji. In November 1667 Shivaji attacked Bardez to punish the Dessai's from Konkan. Another attack of Shivaji was on the fort of Ponda in April 1675. Treaty of peace between Shivaji and the Portuguese. The Portuguese were following a policy which aimed at curtailing the growing power of Shivaji. Shivaji took initiative in building up a strong navy for his kingdom. He maintained many naval vessels at Bhivandi, Kalyan and Panvel, ports in the district of Bassein. Timber for ship building was available

Shivaji also imposed heavy duties on the imported salt of Bardez. The portuguese imposed the system of "Cartaz" in the oceanic trade. Shivaji used to intercept the hoards of oxen to carry goods and other merchandise. In 1669 Shivaji sent to Goa his ambassador Vithal Pandit to conclude a peace treaty with the Portuguese. Disregarding this treaty ,in November.1670 a naval unit of Shivaji took a Portuguese vessel. This type of antagonistic activities continued till his death in 1680. Portuguese wanted Cordial relations with Sambhaji. Sambhaji's plan was to construct a fort on the Anjadveep island in 1682, disturbed the relation. Marathas attacked Portuguese possessions in North Konkan as they helped the Mughals. As the Portuguese attacked Ponda Sambhaji came to Goa in November 1683. Sambhaji had planned to attack Old Goa. The Portuguese viceroy Alvor was under pressure. Sambhaji retreated as the Mughal prince Shah Alam attacked Maratha territory. Treaty between Sambhaji and the Portuguese in 1684.