

HISTORY

Chapter 10: Eighteenth - Century Political Formations



Swotters

Important Questions

➤ Multiple Choice Questions :

Question 1. Who was the founder of the Maratha Kingdom?

- (a) Maharana Pratap
- (b) Shivaji
- (c) Raja Ajit Singh

Question 2. Kunbis were the:

- (a) Maratha peasant warriors
- (b) Maratha warriors
- (c) Maratha farmers

Question 3. Khalsa was instituted in the year:

- (a) 1700
- (b) 1699
- (c) 1689

Question 4. Sawai Raja Jai Singh found his new capital in:

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Jodhpur
- (c) Bikaner

Question 5. Which part of India associated with peasant and zamindari rebellions?

- (a) Southern and eastern parts of India.
- (b) Northern and southern parts of India.
- (c) Northern and western parts of India.

Question 6. Bahadur Shah was the son of:

- (a) Shah Jahan
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Aurangzeb

Question 7. Chauth was a tax:

- (a) imposed by Maratha
- (b) imposed by Mughals
- (c) imposed by Peshwa



Question 8. Surajmal was a leader of:

- (a) Maratha
- (b) Jats
- (c) Rajput

Question 9. Murshid Quli Khan was Governor of:

- (a) Bengal
- (b) Awadh
- (c) Hyderabad

Question 10. Khalsa was found by:

- (a) Guru Gobind Singh
- (b) Guru Nanak
- (c) Guru Arjun Dev

Question 11. What were the small political groups of the Sikhs called?

- (a) Khalsa
- (b) Misls
- (c) Dalkhalsa
- (d) None of these

Question 12. Who were the ijaradars?

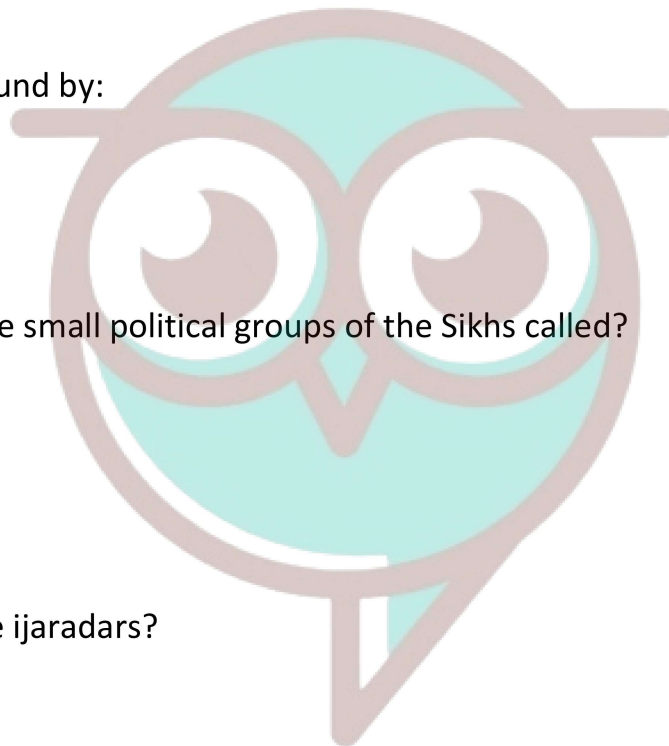
- (a) Revenue farmers
- (b) Farmers
- (c) Tax collectors
- (d) All of these

Question 13. What was the Jats were prosperous about?

- (a) Artists
- (b) Agriculturist
- (c) Craftsman
- (d) None of these

Question 14. Who got the title of Asaf Jah founder of state of Hyderabad?

- (a) Burhan-ul-Mulk
- (b) Nizam-ul-Mulk
- (c) Both (a) and (b)



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(d) None of these

Question 15. Nadir Shah was the ruler of which country?

(a) Iran

(b) Afghan

(c) Iraq

(d) None of these

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. Aurangzeb fought a protracted war in the _____.
2. In the eighteenth century, the Sikhs organized themselves into a number of bands called _____.
3. Umara and jagirdars constituted powerful sections of the Mughal _____.
4. Asaf Jah was given charge of the Deccan subadari in _____.
5. Sawai Raja Jai Singh founded his new capital at _____.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. Nadir Shah invaded Bengal.
2. Murshid Quli Khan was appointed as the naib, deputy to the governor of the Bengal province.
3. Sawai Raja Jai Singh was the ruler of Indore.
4. Guru Gobind Singh was the tenth Guru of the Sikhs.
5. Poona became the capital of the Marathas in the eighteenth century.

➤ **Very Short Questions :**

1. Where was Bharatpur fort built?
2. Who was Jawahir Shah?
3. When was khalsa established?
4. When was Banda Bahadur captured and executed?
5. When was the third battle of Panipat fought?
6. When did Marathas successfully raid Delhi?
7. Where did Sawai Raja Jai Singh found his new capital?
8. Name the ruler under whose leadership the Jats became powerful.
9. Name two important trading centres in the areas dominated by Jats.
10. What was the result of Aurangzeb's long war in the Deccan?

➤ **Short Questions :**

1. Who ruled the Maratha kingdom after the death of Shivaji?
2. Why zamindars of Bengal had to borrow money from bankers and moneylenders?
3. Write a short note on administration of Marathas.
4. Why did the Marathas want to expand beyond the Deccan?
5. Who established a stable Maratha kingdom and how?

➤ **Long Questions :**

1. What were the different overlapping group of states that emerged in the 18th Century after the decline of the Mughal Empire?

OR

Divide the states of the eighteenth century into three overlapping groups.

2. Write a short note on expansion of Maratha Empire between 1720 and 1761.

OR

Give an account of the Maratha expansion occurred between 1720 and 1761.

3. Discuss the factors that led to the decline of Mughal Empire.

OR

The Mughal Empire had to face a variety of crises towards the closing years of the 17th century. What were the causes behind it?

4. Describe the three common features of the states like Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad.

OR

State the three common features between the states Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad.

OR

What are the common features of the three regional states of Bengal, Awadh and Hyderabad?

5. How were the Sikhs organised in the eighteenth century?

ANSWER KEY –

➤ **Multiple Choice Answer :**

1. (b) Shivaji
2. (a) Maratha peasant warriors
3. (b) 1699
4. (a) Jaipur

5. (b) Northern and southern parts of India.
6. (c) Aurangzeb
7. (a) imposed by Maratha
8. (b) Jats
9. (a) Bengal
10. (a) Guru Gobind Singh
11. (b) Misls
12. (a) Revenue farmers
13. (b) Agriculturist
14. (b) Nizam-ul-Mulk
15. (a) Iran

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

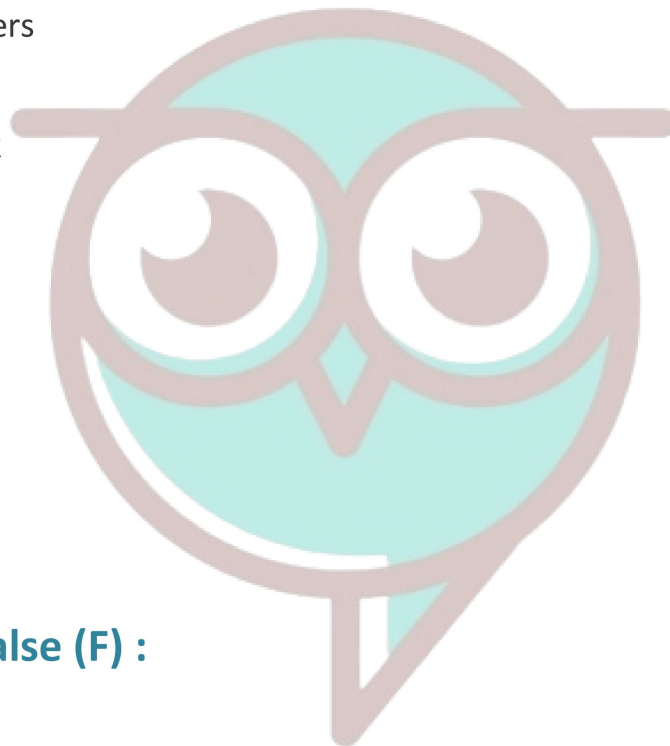
1. Deccan
2. Jathas
3. Administration
4. 1724
5. Jaipur

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True

➤ **Very Short Answer :**

1. Bharatpur fort was built at Dig.
2. Jawahir Shah was son of Nadir Shah.
3. The Khalsa tradition was initiated in 1699.
4. Banda Bahadur was captured in 1715 and executed in 1716.
5. The third battle of Panipat took place in 1761.
6. 1737 AD



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7. Sawai Raja Jai Singh founded his new capital at Jaipur.
8. Churaman.
9. Panipat and Ballabgarh became important trading centres in the areas dominated by Jats.
10. Emperor Aurangzeb had depleted the military and financial resources of his empire by fighting a long war in the Deccan.

➤ Short Answer :

1. After Shivaji's death, effective power in the Maratha state was wielded by a family of Chitpavan Brahmanas who served Shivaji's successors as Peshwa (or principal minister). Poona became the capital of the Maratha kingdom.
2. Revenue was collected in cash with great strictness from all zamindars. As a result, many zamindars had to borrow money from bankers and moneylenders.
3. The Marathas developed an effective administrative system as well. They introduced revenue demands gradually taking local conditions into account. Agriculture was encouraged and trade revived. This allowed Maratha chiefs (sardars) to raise powerful armies.
4. Marathas wanted to expand beyond the Deccan for power and authority. It gradually chipped away at the authority of the Mughal Empire. By the 1720s, they seized Malwa and Gujarat from the Mughals and by the 1730s, the Maratha king was recognised as the overlord of the entire Deccan peninsula. He possessed the right to levy chauth and sardeshmukhi in the entire region.
5. The Maratha kingdom was another powerful regional kingdom to arise out of a sustained opposition to Mughal rule. Shivaji (1627-1680) carved out a stable kingdom with the support of powerful warrior families (deshmukhs). Groups of highly mobile, peasantpastoralists (kunbis) provided the backbone of the Maratha army. Shivaji used these forces to challenge the Mughals in the peninsula.

➤ Long Answer :

1. **Broadly speaking the states of the eighteenth century can be divided into three overlapping groups:**
 - i. States that were old Mughal provinces like Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad. Although extremely powerful and quite independent, the rulers of these states did not break their formal ties with the Mughal emperor.
 - ii. States that had enjoyed considerable independence under the Mughals as watan jagirs. These included several Rajput principalities.
 - iii. The last group included states under the control of Marathas, Sikhs and others like the Jats. These were of differing sizes and had seized their independence

from the Mughals after a long-drawn armed struggle.

2. Between 1720 and 1761, the Maratha empire expanded. It gradually chipped away at the authority of the Mughal Empire. Malwa and Gujarat were seized from the Mughals by the 1720s. By the 1730s, the Maratha king was recognised as the overlord of the entire Deccan peninsula. After raiding Delhi in 1737 the frontiers of Maratha domination expanded rapidly: into Rajasthan and the Punjab in the north; into Bengal and Orissa in the east; and into Karnataka and the Tamil and Telugu countries in the south. These were not formally included in the Maratha empire, but were made to pay tribute as a way of accepting Maratha sovereignty.
3. Mughal Empire faced crisis caused by a number of factors towards the end of the seventeenth century.
 - i. Aurangzeb depleted military and financial resources of his empire by fighting a long war in the Deccan.
 - ii. It became increasingly difficult for later Mughal Emperors to keep a check on powerful mansabdars.
 - iii. The Governors established independent kingdoms in different areas.
 - iv. Mounting taxes led to Peasants and zamindari rebellions.
 - v. Nadir Shah sacked and plundered the city of Delhi in 1739 and took away immense amounts of wealth.
 - vi. This invasion was followed by series of plundering raids by the Afghan ruler, Ahmad Shah Abdali, who invaded north India five times between 1748 and 1761. The empire was further weakened by the competition amongst different groups of nobles.

4. **Three common features amongst these states were:**

Firs: though many of the larger states were established by erstwhile Mughal nobles they were highly suspicious of some of the administrative systems that they had inherited, in particular the jagirdari system.

Second: their method of tax collection differed. Rather than relying upon the officers of the state, all three regimes contracted with revenue-farmers for the collection of revenue. The practice of ijaradari, thoroughly disapproved of by the Mughals, spread all over India in the eighteenth century. Their impact on the countryside differed considerably.

The third: common feature in all these regional states was their emerging relationship with rich bankers and merchants. These people lent money to revenue farmers, received land as security and collected taxes from these lands through their own agents. Throughout India the richest merchants and bankers were gaining a stake in the new political order.

5. Under a number of able leaders in the eighteenth century, the Sikhs organized themselves into a number of bands called jathas, and later on misls. Their combined forces were known as the grand army (dal khalsa). The entire body used to meet at Amritsar at the time of Baisakhi and Diwali to take collective decisions known as “resolutions of the Guru (gurmatas)”. A system called rakhi was introduced, offering protection to cultivators on the payment of a tax of 20 per cent of the produce.



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