

Rise of Maratha Power

Chapter 3: The Rise of the Marathas · Topic 1

Key Concept

Shivaji Maharaj founded the Maratha kingdom, using guerrilla warfare tactics and strategically built forts to successfully resist larger empires, including the Mughals.

Shivaji established an efficient administration, with a council of ministers (Ashtapradhan) helping manage revenue, military affairs, and justice across his kingdom.

The Marathas built a strong navy too, to protect the western coastline from foreign traders and rival powers, showing their strategic vision beyond land warfare.

The Maratha kingdom laid the foundation for a larger Maratha Empire, which would later expand significantly and become one of the most powerful forces in India.

Quick Revision Notes

- Shivaji Maharaj founded the Maratha kingdom in the 17th century.
- Shivaji used guerrilla warfare and forts effectively.
- The Marathas resisted larger empires, including the Mughals.
- Ashtapradhan was Shivaji's council of ministers.
- The council managed revenue, military and justice.
- The Marathas built a strong navy.
- The navy protected the western coastline.
- This kingdom laid the foundation for the larger Maratha Empire.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Shivaji Maharaj's early life.
- 2 Discuss why guerrilla warfare suited the Maratha terrain.
- 3 Research one fort built by Shivaji.
- 4 Explain the role of the Ashtapradhan.
- 5 Discuss why a navy was important for the Marathas.
- 6 Create a timeline of Shivaji's major achievements.