

India in the 18th Century

Chapter 4: India in the 18th Century · Topic 1

Key Concept

After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the Mughal Empire weakened significantly, with regional governors and rulers gaining increasing independence.

Regional powers like the Marathas, Sikhs, and various Nawabs (regional rulers) rose to prominence, filling the power vacuum left by declining Mughal authority.

European trading companies, especially the British and French, competed for influence and trade dominance in India during this period.

This period of political fragmentation and competition set the stage for British colonial expansion and eventual dominance over India.

Quick Revision Notes

- Aurangzeb died in 1707.
- The Mughal Empire weakened significantly after.
- Regional governors gained more independence.
- The Marathas, Sikhs and Nawabs rose to prominence.
- They filled the power vacuum from Mughal decline.
- British and French companies competed for influence.
- This was a period of political fragmentation.
- It set the stage for British colonial expansion.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the decline of the Mughal Empire.
- 2 Research the rise of the Marathas or Sikhs.
- 3 Discuss British-French competition in India.
- 4 Explain what a Nawab was.
- 5 Create a timeline of 18th century Indian politics.
- 6 Discuss how fragmentation helped British expansion.