

Expansion of the Maratha Empire

Chapter 3: The Rise of the Marathas · Topic 2

Key Concept

After Shivaji's death, the Peshwas (chief ministers) took on greater power, leading Maratha expansion across large parts of India, from Delhi to the Deccan.

The Marathas formed a confederacy, a loose alliance of powerful families like the Scindias, Holkars, and Gaekwads, each controlling different regions while nominally under the Peshwa.

At its peak, the Maratha Empire controlled vast territories, collecting tribute (chauth) from various regions and significantly influencing Indian politics.

The Marathas eventually declined after significant defeats, like the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761, weakening their power and paving the way for British expansion.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Peshwas led Maratha expansion after Shivaji.
- The Marathas expanded from Delhi to the Deccan.
- The Maratha confederacy included the Scindias, Holkars and Gaekwads.
- These families controlled regions under the Peshwa.
- The Marathas collected tribute called chauth.
- The Maratha Empire significantly influenced Indian politics.
- The Third Battle of Panipat was in 1761.
- This defeat weakened the Marathas and helped British expansion.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the role of the Peshwas.
- 2 Find one Maratha confederacy family and their region.
- 3 Discuss what chauth meant for conquered regions.
- 4 Research the Third Battle of Panipat.
- 5 Explain how Maratha decline helped British expansion.
- 6 Create a map showing Maratha Empire territories.