

Class: VII

Subject: SST (History)

Prepared by: Ms. Anju V

L8- Eighteenth Century Political Formations

1. State whether true or false:

- (a) Nadir Shah invaded Bengal. —**False**
- (b) Sawai Raja Jai Singh was the ruler of Indore. —**False**
- (c) Guru Gobind Singh was the tenth Guru of the Sikhs. —**True**
- (d) Poona became the capital of the Marathas in the eighteenth century. —**True**

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

Answer: During the 17th century the Sikhs got organised into a political community. This led to the regional state-building in Punjab. Guru Gobind Singh fought many battles against the Rajputs as well as Mughal rulers, both before and after the institution of the Khalsa in 1699. After the death of Guru Gobind Singh in 1708, the Khalsa revolted against the Mughal authority under the leadership of Banda Bahadur and declared their sovereign rule.

Banda Bahadur was captured in 1715 and executed in 1716. In the 18th century, the Sikhs organised themselves into a number of bands called jathas and later on rrdsls. Their well-knit organisation enabled them to put up successful resistance to the Mughal governors first and then to Ahamd Shah Abdali. Who had seized the rich province of the Punjab and the Sarkar of Sirhind from the Mughals.

3. Why did the Marathas want to expand beyond the Deccan?

Answer:

Marathas wanted to expand beyond the Deccan because of the following reasons:

- 1. They wanted to clip away the authority of the Mughal Empire.
- 2. Maratha king to be recognised as the overlord of the entire Deccan peninsula.
- 3. To possess the right to collect Chauth and sardeshmukhi in the entire region.

4. Do you think merchants and bankers today have the kind of influence they had in the eighteenth century?

Answer: During the 18th-century merchants were more influential than the bankers. They used to provide more loan opportunities at higher interest rates. But now, with the spread of education people prefer banks which provide loans and other financial assistance at cheaper rates. Bankers also provide subsidy on the interest rate. They have different scopes of loans for different purposes. So they are more influential today than the merchants.

Extra Questions:

1. How did the later Mughal emperors lose their control over their nobles?

Answer: The efficiency of the imperial administration broke down under the later Mughal emperors. It became increasingly difficult for them to keep a check on their powerful nobles appointed as governors who often controlled the offices of revenue and military administration as well. This gave them extraordinary political, economic and military powers over vast regions of the Mughal Empire. As the governors consolidated their control over the provinces the periodic remission of revenue to the capital declined.

2. Describe the impact of Nadir Shah's invasion upon Delhi .

Answer: Nadir Shah, the ruler of Iran, sacked and plundered the city of Delhi in 1739 and took away immense amounts of wealth. As a result, the Mughal treasury became vacant. Delhi turned into a deserted place. The wealthy now became beggars. There spread chaos everywhere. Those who once set the style in clothes now went naked and those owned property were now homeless. The new city, Shahjahanabad turned into rubble. Delhi once so rich, became poor after Nadir Shah looted it.