

Chapter 4 The Mughal Empire

1. Match the following:

mansab	Marwar
Mongol	governor
Sisodiya Rajput	Uzbeg
Rathor Rajput	Mewar
Nur Jahan	rank
subadar	Jahangir

Answer:

mansab	rank
Mongol	Uzbeg
Sisodiya Rajput	Mewar
Rathor Rajput	Marwar
Nur Jahan	Jahangir
subadar	governor

2. Fill in the blanks:

- (a) The capital of Mirza Hakim, Akbar's half-brother, was _____.
- (b) The five Deccan Sultanates were Berar, Khandesh, Ahmadnagar, _____ and _____.
- (c) If zat determined a mansabdar's rank and salary, sawar indicated his _____.
- (d) Abul Fazl, Akbar's friend and counsellor, helped him frame the idea of _____ so that he could govern a society composed of many religions, cultures and castes.

Answer: (a) The capital of Mirza Hakim, Akbar's half-brother, was **Kabul**.

(b) The five Deccan Sultanates were Berar, Khandesh, Ahmadnagar, **Bijapur** and **Golconda**.

(c) If zat determined a mansabdar's rank and salary, sawar indicated his **number of cavalrymen**.

(d) Abul Fazl, Akbar's friend and counsellor, helped him frame the idea of **sulh-i-kul** so that he could govern a society composed of many religions, cultures and castes.

3. What were the central provinces under the control of the Mughals?

Answer: The central provinces under the control of the Mughals were Delhi, Kabul, Mewar, Sindh, Marwar, Gujarat, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Chittor and Deccan.

4. What was the relationship between the mansabdar and the jagir?

Answer: Mansabdars received their salaries as revenue assignments called jagirs which were somewhat like iqatas. The Mansabdars did not actually reside in or administer their jagirs rather they only had the rights to the revenue of their assignments which was collected for them by their servants while the mansabdars themselves served in some other part of the country.

5. What was the role of the zamindar in Mughal administration?

Answer: Zamindar was a term used by the Mughals to describe all intermediaries, whether the local headmen of a village or any powerful chieftain. The role of the zamindar in Mughal administration was to collect the revenues and taxes from the peasants that were a source of income for the Mughals. They acted as an intermediate between the Mughals and the peasants and in some areas the zamindars exercised a great deal of power.

6. How were the debates with religious scholars important in the formation of Akbar's ideas on governance?

Answer: During the 1570s, Akbar had a discussion on religion with the ulama, Brahmanas, Jesuit priests who were Roman Catholics and Zoroastrians. These discussions took place during his stay at Fatehpur Sikri in the ibadat khana. Akbar was interested in the religion and social customs of different people and his interaction with people of different faiths made him realise that their teachings created divisions and disharmony amongst his subjects. Thus Akbar came to an idea sulh-i kul which focused on a system of ethics – honesty, justice, peace. Abul Fazl helped Akbar in framing a vision of governance around this idea of sulh-i kul which was also followed by Jahangir and Shah Jahan as well.

7. Why did the Mughals emphasise their Timurid and not their Mongol descent?

Answer: From their mother's side, the Mughals were descendants of Genghis Khan (died 1227), the Mongol ruler who ruled over parts of China and Central Asia. From their father's side, they were the successors of Timur (died 1404), the ruler of Iran, Iraq and modern-day Turkey. However, the Mughals did not like to be called Mughal or Mongol. This was because Genghis Khan's memory was associated with the massacre of innumerable people but the Mughals were proud of their Timurid ancestry.

8. How important was the income from land revenue to the stability of the Mughal Empire?

Answer: The income from land revenue played an important role in establishing stability in the Mughal Empire. It strengthened the economic system of the Empire. Money collected was invested in building forts, was used for the welfare of subjects. Its importance can be easily assessed that Todar Mal, Akbar's revenue minister, took 10-year period to carry out the proper calculation of land revenue.

9. Why was it important for the Mughals to recruit mansabdars from diverse backgrounds and not just Turanis and Iranis?

Answer: It was important for the Mughals to recruit mansabdars from diverse backgrounds and not just Turanis and Iranis because:

- a. The empire had expanded to encompass different regions and provinces thus it was needed to provide stability to the empire.
- b. The problems of common folks would be understood better by the people living with them only.
- c. Mughal also didn't want people to rebel against them on the issue of privileges to Turanis and Iranis.
- d. They came here to rule so they needed to maintain a balance between the diversity of the country as well as respect it.

