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Session: 2025-2026

CLASS: VII

SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: HISTORY

CH-8

Political Developments in the 18th Century

A. Tick (✓) the correct option.

1. What does the term 'Dal Khalsa' mean? **ii) The grand army**
2. Who was the last Mughal Emperor? **ii) Bahadur Shah Zafar**
3. In the Battle of Buxar, the British army was led by _____.
i) Hector Munro
4. Nadir Shah was the king of _____. **iii) Persia**

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words and phrases.

1. Maratha kings introduced taxes like Chauth and **Sardeshmukhi**.
2. The powerful guides of Shivaji's successors were called **Peshwas**.
3. **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** established his capital at Lahore in 1799 CE.
4. The Battle of Plassey was fought in the year **1757**.

C. Write 'T' for true or 'F' for false for the following statements.

1. Bahadur Shah Zafar participated in the revolt of 1857. — **T**
2. Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat. — **T**
3. Sa'adat Khan became the governor of Awadh in 1756 CE. — **F**
4. The Sikh military forces were known as Gurumat. — **F**
5. The Marathas seized Punjab from Abdali in 1758CE - **T**

D. Short answer questions

1. What were Chauth and Sardeshmukhi?

Chauth was 25% of the land revenue and Sardeshmukhi was an additional levy of 10% of revenue.

2. What was the effect of the Battle of Buxar on the Mughal empire?

The result of Battle of Buxar was a huge blow to the Mughals. The Mughal emperor along with his allies was defeated by the British army. The British got the right to collect revenue in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In return, the British were to pay the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II, an annual pension of 26Lakhs.

3. Write about the rise of power of the Sikhs.

The Sikhs of Punjab rose to power during the 17th century. They became an organised political community under the efficient leadership of Guru Gobind Singh and Banda Bahadur. They organised themselves into different bands known as jathas or misls. The Sikh military forces were known as Dal Khalsa (the grand army). The leaders also offered protection to cultivators on the payment of tax.

4. Write about the emergence of independent states after the decline of the Mughal empire.

- States that were Mughal provinces under a governor or subedar like Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad became powerful but did not break off their connection with the Mughals. They did not rise in revolt.
- States that had been a part of Mughal empire as watan jagirs. This group included territories that were quite independent even when under the Mughals. The Rajput states who had accepted the suzerainty of Mughal emperors but continued with their rule, fell under this category.
- Another group consisted the Marathas, Sikhs and Jats who struggled with the Mughals and broke free.

E. Long answer questions

1. Write a short note on the administration of Maratha kingdom.

The Marathas developed an effective administrative system even with constant military campaigns. They encouraged agriculture and revived trade which gave resources to raise powerful armies. Land revenue also became a major source of income for the Marathas. The territories that were directly under control of the Marathas gave two-fifths of the total land produce. However, the territories that were under Mughals or other rulers had to pay Chauth and Sardeshmukhi. Chauth was 25% of the land revenue and Sardeshmukhi was an additional levy of 10% of revenue.

2. Give reasons for the decline of the Mughal empire.

There were several reasons for the decline of the Mughal empire. These are-

- Aurangzeb had used up the financial and military resources in his war against the Deccan. The long war and Aurangzeb's lengthy absence from Delhi had weakened his control over the north.
- The successors of Aurangzeb were incompetent and could not exercise any authority or control over the mansabdars. Slowly the power shifted to the governors, local chieftains and other leaders who has gained importance.
- The arrival of the Europeans was another cause of the decline of the Mughals. Various European powers began to capture territories in India.
- The invasion of Delhi by Nadir Shah, the king of Persia, in 1739 CE was a major setback for the Mughals.

- Ahmad Shah Abdali, an Afghan leader, further weakened the Mughal empire by invading North India five times between 1748 CE and 1761 CE.

3. Write a short note on any two independent regional states which rose to power during the 18th century.

Bengal:

- Bengal gradually broke away from the Mughal control under Murshid Quli Khan, deputy governor of the province.
- Bengal was an important province and has three powerful Nawabs- Nawab Murshid Quli Khan, Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah and Nawab Alivardi Khan.
- Alivardi Khan promoted bankers in Bengal.
- All three Nawabs ensured prosperity and peace to their subjects. They looked after the interests of the farmers and encouraged trade and commerce even with the foreigners.
- The Battle of Plassey with the British in 1757 CE weakened their power and control over Bengal.

Hyderabad

- Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah, was the founder of Hyderabad state. He took the advantage of the disturbances in the Deccan and gathered power in his hands to established his control and become the actual ruler of that region in 1724 CE.
- The state of Hyderabad was constantly at war with independent Telegu warrior chiefs (nayakas) of the plateau.
- Asaf Jah's successors were called the Nizams of Hyderabad. But in 1798 CE the Nizams of Hyderabad came under the control of the British.

4. Write in brief about the state of Hyderabad.

Omitted