

Chapter 10

Eighteenth-Century Political Formations

Q.1 Match the following:

Subadar	a revenue farmer
Faujidar	a high noble
ijaradar	Provincial governor
Misi	Maratha peasant warriors
Chauth	A mughal military commander
Kunbis	a band of Sikh warriors
Umara	tax levied by the Marathas

Ans.:

Subadar	Provincial governor
Faujidar	A mughal military commander
ijaradar	a revenue farmer
Misi	Maratha peasant warriors
Chauth	a band of Sikh warriors
Kunbis	tax levied by the Marathas
Umara	a high noble

Q.2 Fill in the blanks:

- (a) Aurangzeb fought a protracted war in the _____.
- (b) Umara and jagirdars constituted powerful sections of the Mughal _____.
- (c) Asaf Jah founded the Hyderabad state in _____.
- (d) The founder of the Awadh state was _____.

Ans.:

- (a) Aurangzeb fought a protracted war in the deccan.

The Mughal army had successfully conquered two Muslim kingdoms in deccan: Nizams of Ahmednagar and the Adil shah of Bijapur. Then the



Mughal army arrived at Golconda Fort in deccan. The war in Golconda lasted for 8 months.

(b) Umara and jagirdars constituted powerful sections of the Mughal administration.

Umara and jagirdars were the important sections of the mughal empire as their revenue and their army helps the administration system.

(c) Asaf Jah founded the Hyderabad state in 1724.

Mir Qamar-ud-Din Siddiqi, a viceroy of the Deccan under the Mughal Empire from 1713 to 1721. He ruled after Aurangzeb's death in 1707. In 1724, Mughal control lapsed, and Asaf Jah declared himself independent in Hyderabad.

(d) The founder of the Awadh state was Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan. When Mughal empire declined Awadh grew stronger and more independent. The capital city at the time was Faizabad.

Q.3 State whether true or false:

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

Ans.: (a) Nadir Shah invaded Bengal (**False**)

Nadir shah did not invaded Bengal he invaded Delhi in 1739.



(b) Sawai Raja Jai Singh was the ruler of Indore **(False)**

Sawai Raja Jai Singh was the ruler of Amber (known as Jaipur in present days)

(c) Guru Gobind Singh was the tenth Guru of the Sikhs **(True)**

Guru Gobind Singh was the tenth Guru of the Sikhs who fought several battles against the Rajput and Mughal rulers.

(d) Poona became the capital of the Marathas in the eighteenth century **(True)**

Yes, Poona became the capital of the Marathas in the eighteenth century.

Q.4 What were the offices held by Sa'adat Khan?

Ans.: The offices held by Sa'adat Khan included subadari, diwani and faujdari or we can say that he was responsible for managing the Political, financial and Military affairs of Awadh.

Let's discuss

Q.5 Why did the Nawabs of Awadh and Bengal try to do away with the jagirdari system?

Ans.: The Nawabs of Awadh and Bengal tried to do away with the jagirdari system because:

1. They wanted to restrain cheating as well as the Mughal influence in their kingdoms.
2. Under the jagirdari system, revenue was collected by the jagidars appointed by the Mughal emperor, so by abolishing emperor-appointed



jagirdars they wanted to take the revenue (finance) department under their control.

3. They have rights of dismissal of the jagirdars and selling the right to collect revenue to revenue farmers. It helps them to acquire control over the resources of the province. Hence, they tried to do away with the jagirdari system.

Q.6 How were the Sikhs organized in the eighteenth century?

Ans.: After the Guru Gobind Singh, Sikhs were mobilized by Banda Bahadur, who declared their sovereign rule by striking coins in the name of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh. However, he was executed by Mughals in 1761.

1. In the eighteenth century, the Sikhs organized themselves into a number of bands called jathas, and later misls.
2. Their combined forces were known as the grand army (dal khalsa).
3. The entire body used to meet at the time of Baisakhi and Diwali to take collective decisions.
4. A system called rakhi was introduced offering protection to cultivators on the payment of a tax of 20 percent of the produce.

Q.7 Why did the Marathas want to expand beyond the Deccan?

Ans.: The marathas wanted to expand to the Deccan because of the following reasons:

1. Marathas wanted to establish their unquestioned rule over the subcontinent by defeating Mughals.
2. They wanted to expand beyond the Deccan to receive tribute and control trade and agriculture.

Q.8 What were the policies adopted by Asaf Jah to strengthen his position?

Ans.: In order to strengthen his position Asaf Jah adopted following policies:

1. He brought skilled soldiers and administrators from northern India who welcomed the new opportunities in the south.
2. He appointed mansabdar and granted jagir.
3. He worked independently of the Mughal Emperor.