

Safavid Empire

Origins of the Safavids

- The Safavid Empire was bordered on the west by the Ottoman Empire and on the East by the Mughal Empire of India.
 - It was in modern day Iran.
- Practiced a Shiite form of Islam. This differed from the Ottoman Empire who practiced a Sunni form of Islam.
 - **Shiite**- stricter form of Islam. More fundamentalist
 - **Sunni**- more moderate in interpretation of Koran.

The Safavid Empire (modern day Iran)



Origins of the Safavids

- Developed a military group to fight for political power in the 1400's. The army was called the **kizilbash** ("Red Heads" for the red hats they wore).
- **Esmail** became head of the kizilbash in 1500 and brought all modern Iran and part of present-day Iraq under his rule.
 - He took the title of shah. ("king of kings") and required everyone to become Shiite.
- There was constant warfare between the Safavids and Ottomans. The struggle for territory continued into the mid-1500s and by 1570, they had lost much of their territory.



Origins of the Safavids

- During these battles, the Safavid's made treaties with European nations to help fight the Ottomans.
 - This helped England gain control of the spice and silk trade around 1622.



Shah Abbas the Great

- In 1587, the **Abbas** (“the Great”) became shah. (Shah Abbas the Great)
 - He regained control of Northeast Persia and within a few years, they had recovered all the territory they lost.
- The capital was, then, moved to **Esfahan** on the Plateau of Iran
 - **Esfahan** became one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
 - Became a political, spiritual, and commercial leader in the world.
- In 1629 Abbas died and the empire began to decline. In 1736, it ended and split Persia into many smaller states.

Shah Abbas the Great

- Came to power when empire was unstable.
- Modeled army after the Ottomans by using foreign prisoners of war as troops loyal to the shah.
- Responsible for moving capital city to Esfahan. Liked to walk the streets of Esfahan and be around his subjects.
- Reigned during time of economic development. He encouraged manufacturing and foreign trade.



Economy of the Safavid Empire

- Carpet weaving a major industry.
- Fabrics and silks exported to Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- Produced tiles and ceramics.



Mughal Empire

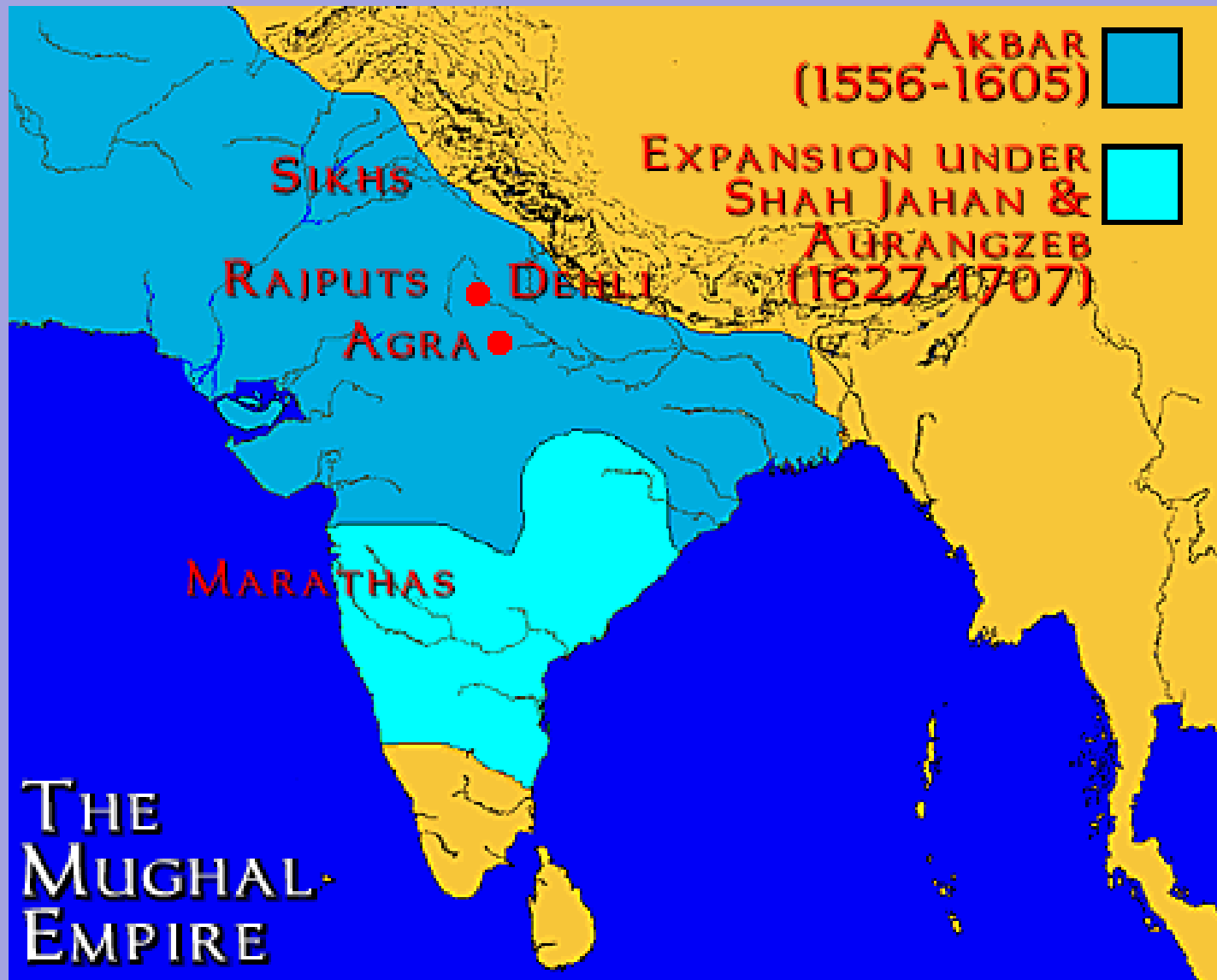
(1526-1707)

Origins of the Mughal Empire

- By 1206, Turkish Muslims had conquered most of northern India.
- In the 16th century, a group of Indian warrior princes called **rajputs** challenged them, beat them out of India, and established their own empire.
- The rajputs were descendents of the Asian Mongols led by Babur. (descendent of Timur, who conquered the Ottomans at one point)
- The empire was called the **Mughal Empire**.
 - They were primarily Muslim and India was Hindu, so the Mongol leaders had to be quite strict in order to stay in control.



Mughal Empire-Present-Day India (1526-1707)



Akbar the Great

(ruled from 1556-1605)



- He unified the empire and extended it into northern India.
- Akbar was known as a brilliant organizer
 - Divided India into provinces and allowed trained administrators to run them.
- Promoted Religious toleration (very similar to Ottoman millet system)
 - Used Hindus as administrator and army commanders.
- Improved the tax system and spent taxes wisely
 - Built road and minted coins.
- Spent much time as judge, listening to complaints and made legal decisions.

Economy of the Mughals

- The greatest success of the Mughal leaders was to strengthen the Indian economy.
- Indian agriculture produced many crops. Among them was sugar, opium, and tobacco)
- They also produced textiles and iron products like cannons.
- Indian coastal trade flourished when Portugal built trading posts along the coastline. The English, Dutch, and French soon followed.
- The Mughals were so talented that the English word for a highly successful business person is mogul.

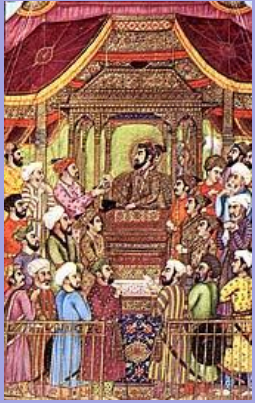
Mughal Empire after Akbar's Death

- Akbar had tried to start a religion called the Divine Faith. It did not last after his death but resulted in a blending of Islam and Hinduism.
 - **untouchables** liked the idea of Islamic equality and became Muslims.
 - Hindu women in northern India were forced into Muslim practices of **purdah**, which means “seclusion”, and veiling of their faces.

Shah Jahan (1628-1658)

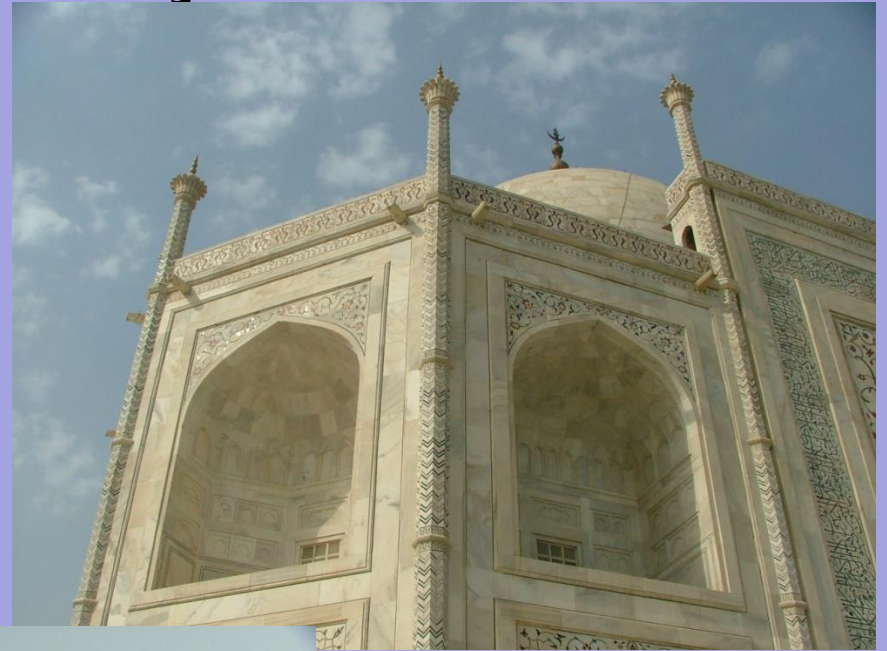
- Built the **Taj Mahal**. It was a tomb for his wife.
- ruled during the height of the Mughal empire. Engaged his empire in expensive military campaigns against Persia.
 - As a result, he taxed his people heavily and many suffered.

Taj Mahal



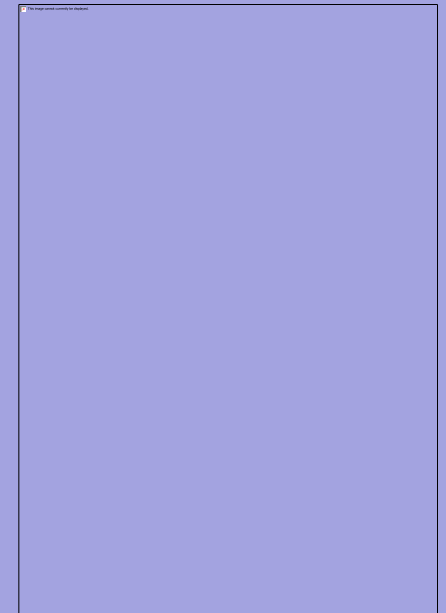
<http://www.history.com/topics/taj-mahal/videos#deconstructing-history-taj-mahal>

Pictures of Taj Mahal



Shah Jahan

- He sought to make the capital city of **Delhi** the world's most beautiful capital.



Shah Jahan

- After his death, the Mughals suffered many Hindu revolts and economic problems that weakened the empire.
 - religious tolerance was renounced and Hindu temples were destroyed.
 - The central government suffered a breakdown which led to local leaders becoming more powerful.
 - By 1858, the Mughal empire was nothing more than a few small provinces in Northern India.