

Expansion, Exploration, and Encounters**Lesson 1****The Mughal Empire in India****Key Terms and People****Babur** founder of the Mughal Empire**Mughal** name of the empire on the Indian subcontinent founded by Babur**Akbar** Mughal emperor with a genius for cultural blending, military conquest, and art; he ruled from 1556 to 1605**Sikh** member of a religious group that became the enemy of the Mughals**Shah Jahan** Mughal emperor who built Taj Mahal; he ruled from 1628 to 1658**Taj Mahal** magnificent tomb built by Shah Jahan for his wife**Aurangzeb** last important Mughal emperor, 1658–1707; he expanded the empire but also weakened it**Shivaji** Indian warrior king and founder of the Hindu community called Marathas**Before You Read**

In the last lesson, you read about political and social unrest in Europe following the Protestant and Catholic Reformations.

In this lesson, you will read about the establishment of the Mughal Empire in what is now India.

As You Read

Use a chart to identify the Mughal emperors and their successes.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE MUGHALS**How did the Mughal Empire begin?**

Following the Gupta Empire in the late 400s, India went through a long, unsettled period. Nomads from central Asia invaded the area and created many small kingdoms. In the 700s, Muslims arrived on the scene. This began a long history of fighting with the Hindus who had lived in India for centuries.

After about 300 years, a group of Muslim Turks conquered a region around the city of Delhi. They set up a new empire there. They treated the

Hindus in their area as conquered peoples. Their rule was brought to an end in 1398.

A little over a hundred years later, a new leader named **Babur** raised an army and began to win large parts of India. He was an excellent general. His empire was called the **Mughal** Empire because he and his families were related to the Mongols.

1. Who was Babur?

Lesson 1, *continued*

AKBAR’S GOLDEN AGE

Who was Akbar?

Babur’s grandson was **Akbar**. His name means “Great.” He ruled with great wisdom and fairness for almost 40 years.

Akbar was a Muslim. However, he believed strongly that people should be allowed to follow the religion they choose. Both Hindus and Muslims worked in the government. He hired people in his government based on their ability.

Akbar ruled fairly. He ended the tax that Hindu pilgrims and all non-Muslims had to pay. To raise money, he taxed people on a percentage of the food they grew. This made it easier for peasants to pay the tax.

He had a strong, well-equipped army that helped him win and keep control of more lands. His empire held about 100 million people—more than lived in all of Europe at the time.

During Akbar’s reign, his policy of blending different cultures produced two new languages. One was Hindi, which is widely spoken in India today. The other was Urdu. It is now the official language of Pakistan. The empire became famous for its art, literature, and architecture.

He also sponsored the building of a new capital city.

2. What are some examples of Akbar’s policy of fair rule?

AKBAR’S SUCCESSORS; THE EMPIRE’S DECLINE AND DECAY

Who ruled after Akbar?

After Akbar’s death in 1605, his son Jahangir took control of the Mughal

empire. During his reign, the real power was his wife, Nur Jahan. She had a bitter political battle with the **Sikhs**, members of a separate religion based on equality among all people.

The next Mughal ruler was **Shah Jahan**. He too chose not to follow Akbar’s policy of religious toleration. Shah Jahan was a great patron of the arts and built many beautiful buildings. One was the famous **Taj Mahal**, a tomb for his wife. His ambitious building plans required high taxes, though. People suffered under his rule.

His son **Aurangzeb** ruled for almost 50 years. He was a devout Muslim, and he punished Hindus and destroyed their temples. This led to a rebellion that took part of his empire. **Shivaji** was an important leader of the Hindu community called Marathas, which set up their own state in southwest India. At the same time, the Sikhs won control of a part of the empire in the northwest.

Aurangzeb used up the empire’s resources. People did not feel loyalty to him. As the power of the state weakened, the power of local lords grew. Soon there was only a patchwork of independent states. There continued to be a Mughal emperor, but he was only a figurehead, not a ruler with any real power.

As the Mughal empire was rising and falling, Western traders were building power. Aurangzeb handed them the port of Bombay. This gave India’s next conquerors a foothold in India.

3. How did Aurangzeb deal with Hindus?

Lesson 1, *continued*

As you read about the Mughal Empire, make notes in the chart to describe the outcome of each action listed.

1. Babur leads troops to victories over an army led by the sultan of Delhi and the Rajput army.	
2. Akbar governs through a bureaucracy of officials in which natives and foreigners, both Hindus and Muslims, can rise to high office.	
3. Akbar prohibits inheritance of land granted to bureaucrats.	
4. Akbar appoints Rajputs as officers in Mughal army.	
5. Akbar practices cultural blending.	
6. The Sikhs defend Khusrau in his rebellion against his father, Jahangir.	
7. Shah Jahan orders the building of the Taj Mahal.	
8. Aurangzeb strictly enforces Islamic laws and reinstates tax on non-Muslims.	
9. Aurangzeb dies.	