

THE GREAT MUGHALS (BABURIDS)

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Аннотация: В статье даются информации, а также труды востоковедов, посвященные Великим Моголам (Бабуридам) — шести наиболее влиятельным императорам империи Великих Моголов (Бабуридов) в Индии: Бабуру, Хумаюну, Акбару, Джахангиру, Шах-Джахану и Аурангзебу, правившим с XVI по начало XVIII вв.

Ключевые слова: великие Моголы, основанный, Индия, империя, территория, потомки, мемуары, попытки, правление.

Abstract: The article reveals the works of Western historians, and orientalist works dedicated to The Great Mughals (Baburids), the six most influential emperors of the Mughal (Baburid) Empire in India: Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb, who ruled from the 16th to the early 18th centuries.

Key words: the great Mughals, established, India, empire, territory, descended, memoirs, attempts, reign.

Аннотация: Мақоллада G'arb tarixchilari, sharqshunos olimlarning Hindistondagi Mug'ullar (Boburiylar) imperiyasining oltita nufuzli podishohlari: XVI asrdan XVIII asr boshlarigacha hukmronlik qilgan Bobur, Humoyun, Akbar, Jahongir, Shohjahon va Avrangzeb haqidagi ma'lumotlar yoritib berilgan.

Калит сўзлар: buyuk Mug'ullar, tashkil etilgan, Hindiston, sulola, hudud, nasl-nasab, xotiralar, urinishlar, hukmronlik.

The Mughals (Baburids) were a prominent dynasty that ruled much of the Indian subcontinent from the early 16th to the 19th centuries, known for their cultural achievements and significant contributions to the region's history. Their reign marked a period of great architectural, artistic, and economic flourishing, impacting trade networks and interactions across Asia and beyond.

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur was the founder of the Mughal empire which was established in 1526 after Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the first battle of Panipat. Thus, a new epoch and a new empire in India began, lasting for nearly three centuries beginning from 1526 to 1857. Six major rulers of this dynasty, Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb, known as the "Great Mughals", left their mark on Indian history. They ruled from the 16th to the early 18th centuries and established a powerful empire known for its military strength, cultural synthesis, and monumental architecture like the Taj Mahal. Their reigns oversaw a period of significant political unity, administrative organization, and a unique attempt to integrate the Hindu and Muslim populations within a single state. At its height, a period extending from the middle of the 16th century to the beginning of the 18th, the Mughal Empire controlled almost the entire Indian subcontinent,



marshaling vast amounts of money and manpower, and the military, artistic, and political glories of the empire are inextricably connected to their individual biographies. The empire declined after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. The rulers after Aurangzeb who ruled in the period of 1707-1858 years, also known as the "Later Mughals".

In the month of Ramadan of the year 899," writes the great Babur (1483-1530) in his autobiography, *The Baburnama*, "and in the 12th year of my age, I became ruler in the country of Fergana. " Babur – his name means "tiger" – inherited the tiny kingdom of Fergana, in what is now Uzbekistan, from his father. The family was descended from Genghis Khan and Tamerlane the Great. Babur the boy-king became the first of the Mughal (Baburid) emperors, a family of Turko-Mongol rulers who, according to the historian Abraham Eraly, "so decisively stamped their personalities on India that the Mughal Empire became, in the public perception, synonymous with India. "

The story of the Mughals begins in 1483, with the birth of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur in modern-day Uzbekistan. His father, a great-great-grandson of Tamerlane, was the ruler of Ferghana, a small but exceptionally fertile province to the west of Samarkand. His mother was directly descended from Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol Empire. A freak accident that killed his father brought Babur to the throne at the age of just eleven in 1494. A pigeon fancier, Babur's father had been tending his birds in a dovecote on the outer wall of his palace when the cliff below gave way. As Babur puts it so poetically in his memoirs: 'Umar Shaikh Mirza flew, with his pigeons and their house, and became a falcon.'

Two years into his reign, he made the first of three attempts to capture Samarkand. His initial bid failed, but he was able to take the city the following year – for a few months. In his absence, Ferghana was conquered by his half-brother, leaving Babur without a kingdom. Destitute, Babur, his mother and a small band of supporters spent the next few years wandering among the mountains and valleys of Central Asia. 'It passed through my mind that to wander from mountain to mountain, homeless and helpless, has little to recommend it,' he would later write.

In 1504, the twenty-one aged Babur gave up his dream of conquering Samarkand and instead set his sights on Kabul. The city's despotic ruler had just died, leaving his infant son as heir. Kabul was an easy conquest, and his success left Babur in control of several strategic crossroads linking India and Central Asia. A year later, he led his first of five expeditions into India. In 1514, after making one last unsuccessful attempt to conquer Samarkand, he began to look to northern India as territory where Timurid power could be rebuilt.

After his victory on Lodi in 1526, Babur rode to Delhi, staying just long enough for the khutba, or Friday prayer, to be read in his name, an act that signified the populace's tacit acceptance of their new ruler. Then he marched to the Lodi capital, Agra, where his son Humayun (1508–1556) had captured the family of the raja of the important North Indian state Gwalior. As a token of his acceptance of the new ruling dispensation, the raja presented Humayun with a gift of jewels, including a diamond so large that its worth would provide 'two and a half days' food for the whole world'. Babur didn't accept it from his son



Humayun. Years later Humayun would gift the stone, known as Babur's diamond, to the ruler of Persia. The fabled diamond was the Koh-i-Noor.

Babur took a bleak view of his newly conquered territories, as did his war-weary soldiers, who were pining for the cool mountain passes of Afghanistan. To dissuade them from returning, he asked, 'Shall we go back to Kabul and remain poverty-stricken? Let no one who supports me say such things henceforth. Let no one who cannot endure and is bound to leave be dissuaded from leaving.' India, he reminded them, was large and rich – even if it had little else to recommend it.

As we have said upon, Babur established his empire in India in 1526. His son, Humayun (1508-1556), who succeeded him, came close to losing everything that his father had achieved. It wasn't until the rule of Akbar (1542-1605), Humayun's son, that the Mughal Empire was consolidated. Akbar, slept only four hours a night. When he was awake, which was most of the time, he set about expanding the Mughal territories abroad and reforming the government at home. He ended the tax imposed on non-Muslims. Above all, he knew how to make friends as well as enemies. According to his court historian, Abul Fazl, "His majesty forms matrimonial alliances with princes of Hindustan and of other countries; and secures by these ties of harmony the peace of the world."

Jahangir (1569-1627) succeeded his father, Akbar, in 1605. He preferred carouse-hunting rather than to rule, and his wife, Nur Jahan, took on the responsibility of the state. The fifth Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan (1592-1666), was more like his grandfather Akbar and his great-great-grandfather Babur: a schemer, a man of grand plans and ideas. When his wife, Mumtaz, died in 1631, Shah Jahan was grief-stricken, so much so that, according to one observer, he "gave up the practice of plucking out grey hair from his beard". He also decided to build his wife a memorial. The English travel writer Peter Mundy described the construction: "The building is begun and goes on with excessive labor and cost, prosecuted with extraordinary diligence, Gold silver esteemed common Metal, and Marble but as ordinary stones." According to Rudyard Kipling, the place was "the embodiment of all things pure, all things holy, and all things unhappy". It was the Taj Mahal. Aurangzeb (1618-1707) was the sixth Mughal emperor, reigning from 1658 until his death in 1707. Under his reign, the Mughal Empire reached its greatest extent, with territory spanning nearly the entirety of the Indian subcontinent.

The last of the long line of Mughal emperors was Bahadur Shah II, known as Zafar. "Personally, he was one of the most talented, tolerant and likeable of his dynasty," writes William Dalrymple in *The Last Mughal* (2006). The first emperor, Babur, had been a warrior. Zafar was an aesthete – a poet and an architect. Alas, empires tend not to survive under aesthetes. Dr. Percival Spear:

Babur is one of the most attractive characters in Indian or any other history. He was not only a soldier-statesman of a familiar type, but a poet and man of letters, of sensibility and taste and humor as well. Wherever he went he laid out Persian gardens and his memoirs are dotted with references to natural beauties. It was the absence of the hills and streams of his homeland that he felt so keenly in India..."



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