

Name: _____ Date: _____

Eighteenth-Century Political Formations

Q1. Why did the Marathas want to expand beyond the Deccan?

Ans. _____

Q2. What was the impact of Nadir Shah's invasion upon Delhi?

Ans. _____

Q3. Who established a stable Maratha kingdom and how?

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Q1. Why did the Marathas want to expand beyond the Deccan?

Ans. Marathas wanted to expand beyond the Deccan for power and authority.

It gradually chipped away at the authority of the Mughal Empire. By the 1720s, they seized Malwa and Gujarat from the Mughals and by the 1730s, the Maratha king was recognised as the overlord of the entire Deccan peninsula. He possessed the right to levy chauth and sardeshmukhi in the entire region.

Q2. What was the impact of Nadir Shah's invasion upon Delhi?

Ans. In the midst of this economic and political crisis, the ruler of Iran, Nadir Shah, sacked and plundered the city of Delhi in 1739 and took away immense amounts of wealth. This invasion was followed by a series of plundering raids by the Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali, who invaded north India five times between 1748 and 1761.

Q3. Who established a stable Maratha kingdom and how?

Ans. The Maratha kingdom was another powerful regional kingdom to arise out of a sustained opposition to Mughal rule. Shivaji (1627-1680) carved out a stable kingdom with the support of powerful warrior families (deshmukhs). Groups of highly mobile, peasantpastoralists (kunbis) provided the backbone of the Maratha army. Shivaji used these forces to challenge the Mughals in the peninsula.