

Name: _____ Date: _____

Eighteenth-Century Political Formations

Q1. How did Murshid Quli Khan decrease the Mughal influence in Bengal?

Ans. _____

Q2. How did Burhan-ul-Mulk reduce Mughal influence in the Awadh region?

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Q3. Who were the very powerful governors of Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad among the early and later Mughal rulers?

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Q1. How did Murshid Quli Khan decrease the Mughal influence in Bengal?

Ans. In an effort to reduce Mughal influence in Bengal he transferred all Mughal jagirdars to Orissa and ordered a major reassessment of the revenues of Bengal. Revenue was collected in cash with great strictness from all zamindars. As a result, many zamindars had to borrow money from bankers and moneylenders. Those unable to pay were forced to sell their lands to larger zamindars.

Q2. How did Burhan-ul-Mulk reduce Mughal influence in the Awadh region?

Ans. Burhan-ul-Mulk tried to decrease Mughal influence in the Awadh region by reducing the number of office holders (jagirdars) appointed by the Mughals. He also reduced the size of jagirs, and appointed his own loyal servants to vacant positions. The accounts of jagirdars were checked to prevent cheating and the revenues of all districts were reassessed by officials appointed by the Nawab's court.

Q3. Who were the very powerful governors of Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad among the early and later Mughal rulers?

Ans. All three states were founded by members of the high Mughal nobility who had been governors of large provinces – Sa'adat Khan (Awadh), Murshid Quli Khan (Bengal) and Asaf Jah (Hyderabad). All three had occupied high mansabdari positions and enjoyed the trust and confidence of the emperors. Both Asaf Jah and Murshid Quli Khan held a zat rank of 7,000 each, while Sa'adat Khan's zat was 6,000.