

Name: _____ Date: _____

Eighteenth-Century Political Formations

Q1. How did the later Mughal emperors lose their control over their nobles?

Ans. _____

Q2. How did moneylenders and bankers achieve influential position in the state of Awadh?

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Q1. How did the later Mughal emperors lose their control over their nobles?

Ans. Under later Mughal emperors, the efficiency of the imperial administration broke down. It became increasingly difficult for the later Mughal emperors to keep a check on their powerful mansabdars. Nobles appointed as governors (subadars) often controlled the offices of revenue and military administration (diwani and faujdari) as well. This gave them extraordinary political, economic and military powers over vast regions of the Mughal Empire. As the governors consolidated their control over the provinces, the periodic remission of revenue to the capital declined.

Q2. How did moneylenders and bankers achieve influential position in the state of Awadh?

Ans. The state depended on local bankers and mahajans for loans. It sold the right to collect tax to the highest bidders. These "revenue farmers" (ijaradars) agreed to pay the state a fixed sum of money. Local bankers guaranteed the payment of this contracted amount to the state. In turn, the revenue-farmers were given considerable freedom in the assessment and collection of taxes. These developments allowed new social groups, like moneylenders and bankers, to influence the management of the state's revenue system, something which had not occurred in the past.