

Name: _____ Date: _____

Eighteenth-Century Political Formations

Q1. Discuss the factors that led to the decline of Mughal Empire.

Ans. _____

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Ans. Mughal Empire faced crisis caused by a number of factors towards the end of the seventeenth century.

- i. Aurangzeb depleted military and financial resources of his empire by fighting a long war in the Deccan.
- ii. It became increasingly difficult for later Mughal Emperors to keep a check on powerful mansabdars.
- iii. The Governors established independent kingdoms in different areas.
- iv. Mounting taxes led to Peasants and zamindari rebellions.
- v. Nadir Shah sacked and plundered the city of Delhi in 1739 and took away immense amounts of wealth.
- vi. This invasion was followed by series of plundering raids by the Afghan ruler, Ahmad Shah Abdali, who invaded north India five times between 1748 and 1761. The empire was further weakened by the competition amongst different groups of nobles.