

Aurangzeb's Warfare and Persian Intervention

Aurangzeb's Warfare Background

Aurangzeb spent most of his reign in war, especially in the **Deccan** against the Marathas and other southern rulers. These campaigns continued for decades but did not produce permanent results. Instead, they drained the empire's treasury and created divisions among the nobility. Soldiers faced poor conditions, which reduced their discipline and loyalty. Many provinces also stopped sending revenue because resources were being wasted on wars. This made the Mughal Empire weak and unstable.

Weakness Created by Continuous Warfare

The constant fighting left the Mughal state with deep internal problems. The treasury became empty, which forced the government to impose heavy taxes on peasants. This led to poverty and anger among the population. Nobles were burdened with war expenses and started acting independently. The army remained unpaid, corrupt, and disloyal. Provinces gained strength and ignored orders from Delhi. As a result, the Mughal prestige declined, and enemies both inside and outside the empire saw chances to attack.

Persian Invasion – Nadir Shah (1739)

In 1739, **Nadir Shah of Persia** invaded India through the **Khyber Pass**. The Mughal army was defeated at the **Battle of Karnal**, showing their weakness. Nadir Shah entered Delhi, where he ordered a massacre of thousands of people. He looted enormous wealth, including the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor diamond. This not only destroyed the Mughal treasury but also humiliated the empire before the world. The invasion became a turning point in the decline of the Mughals.

Consequences of Persian Invasion

The Persian invasion had lasting effects on the Mughal Empire. The emperor lost authority, and provinces like Bengal, Hyderabad, and Awadh began to behave like independent states. Nobles no longer trusted the emperor and looked after their own power. Delhi lost its wealth and importance, while repeated invasions from Persians and Afghans further weakened the state. The empire became politically fragile, and foreigners such as the British East India Company found opportunities to expand their influence.

Link with Pakistan Studies

The decline of the Mughals has great importance for Pakistan Studies. It shows how weak leadership and continuous wars lead to collapse. It also explains how Muslim provinces like Bengal and Hyderabad developed separate identities that later played a role in preserving Muslim culture. The destruction of Delhi shifted Muslim learning and political focus to

provincial centers. Most importantly, Mughal decline created the conditions for British expansion, which shaped the later Muslim political struggle that resulted in the **Pakistan Movement**.