

CHAPTER-9

Kings and Chronicles

Ques. 1 Evaluate the concerns that shaped Mughal Policies and attitudes towards Regions outside the sub continents?

The special attention was started on the North West Frontier areas from the period of Akbar. The Political and diplomatic relations between the Mughal Kings and the neighboring countries of Iran and Turan hinged on the control of the frontier defined by the Hindu Kush Mountains that separated Afghanistan from the regions of Iran and Central Asia.

A constant Aim of Mughal Policy was to check/ prevent outside Potential danger by controlling strategic out posts- notably Kabul and Qandhar.

The relationship between the Mughals and ottomans was marked by the concern to ensure free movement for traders and pilgrims in the territories under ottoman control, where the important pilgrim centres of Mecca and Madina were located.

Qandhar was a bone of contention between safavids and the Mughals, the fortress town has initially been in the possession of Humayun reconquered in 1595 by Akbar, in 1622 A Persian army besieged Qandhar. The ill prepared Mughal army was defeated and had to surrender the fortress and the city to the safavids.

The Mughal Emperor usually combined Religion and commerce by exporting valuable merchandise to Aden and Mokha, Both red seaports and distributing the proceeds of the sales in charity to the keepers of shrines and religious men there.

On the basis of above mentioned causes we can say that Mughal emperors were very much vigilant especially to the North West frontier areas. Strong

efforts had been made to control these areas upto the period of Sharjahan but later his successors did not pay any attention on such important areas and this resulted invasion of Nadir Shah and Ahmad shah Abdali.

Ques No.2 “Sher Shah Suri was the forerunner of Akbar” Prove this Statement by giving reasonable arguments.

Answer Shershah Suri was the great Emperor of the Medieval Era. His works and successes of Shershah Suri were so great that these became ideal for the forthcoming Rulers.

Shershah was a hard working and disciplined personality. He was in favour of equal law for each and everybody and he considered Judgment as most holy religious work.

Keeping in view, the general welfare of the people and for the effectiveness of empire, he divided his empire into ‘Sarkars’ and the sarkar into ‘Parganas’.

The biggest gift of Sher Shah Suri to Akbar is in the area of land management. He divided the land and the land revenue according to the produce of the land.

Sher Shah Suri got shady trees planted along the road sides for convenience of the general public.

For the encouragement of the traders and convenience of general people. He introduced Gold, Silver, and copper coins and a certain amount of metal was kept in the coins.

Shershah was the first emperor who adopted religious liberty and equal behavior. He separated politics to the religion.

He recruited a vast central permanent army. HE gave cash payment to the Army, horse branded, getting the description rolls of the soldiers recorded and their recruitment and inspection of the troop from time to time.

He opened hospitals for the poor. He also encouraged the expansion of Education.

He was very much interested in the construction of the buildings. The tomb of Sahsram is an important construction which is a symbol of coordination of Mohamadden and local architectural styles.

By the micro analysis of the above mentioned works/ reforms of the Shershah. It becomes clear that Akbar adopted many works/ reforms of the Shershah as it is or by some modifications. Therefore Shershah can be called as the forerunner of Akbar.

Ques No.3 What is Mansabdari system? Evaluate the merits and demerits of this System.

Answer The word 'mansab' is derived from an Arabic word which means 'Fixing the place' or rank. The mansabdars were the holders of Ranks in the emperor's service. Every Commander to Public servant was given a rank of mansab. Each mansabdar was required to maintain a number of soldiers.

All officers holding a mansab of 5000 or less were divided into three classes.

- i. If the zat and sawar figures were equal, the officers belonged to the first class.
- ii. If the sawar figure was more than half of the zat figure, he belonged to the second class.
- iii. If the sawar figure was less than half of the zat figure, he was put in the third class.

The mansabdars were directly recruited, promoted, suspended and dismissed by the emperor. Unlike the Jagirdari system, the mansabdari system was not hereditary. The mansabdars could be transferred by the emperor upon his sweet will. The mansabdari troops were recruited by the

mansabdar himself. The king however, laid down general rules for recruitment, maintenance and payment of troops.

The mansabdars were highly paid. Akbar preferred to pay them salaries in cash. After the death of mansabdar his immovable property was taken by the king. Mansabdar had to maintain the record of soldiers and horses so that these may come in the use of the king while required. That is why this system could become the main base of the power of Mughal Empire. Mansabdars also created situations for the development of literature. Folk Art and Paintings were also flourished under the guidance of these mansabdars. There was very much dissimilarity in the salaries and allowances of the army regiments of the mansabdars. The soldiers of mansabdars were not responsible to the centre. Generally such kind of army used to obey the mansabdar not the army commander.

By evaluating above mentioned merits and demerits, it becomes clear that during the powerful kings this system contributed in the expansion and consolidation of the empire but during the weak successors mansabdars started to be out of control to the king and became an important cause in time decline of Mughal Empire.