



CLASS - 8

SOCIAL SCIENCE



Chapter 2: Reshaping India's Political Map

Questions and Activities

Que 1. Compare the political strategies of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals. What similarities and differences existed between them?

Ans: Similarities:

1. Both expanded their empires through military conquests.
2. Both maintained strong central governments.
3. Both collected taxes from the people.

Differences:

1. The Delhi Sultanate mainly relied on military power to control territories.
2. The Mughals, especially Akbar, adopted policies of tolerance and included people from different communities in administration.
3. The Mughal administration was more organized and stable.

Que 2. Why did kingdoms like the Vijayanagara Empire and the Ahom Kingdom manage to resist conquest for a longer time compared to others? What geographical, military, and social factors contributed to their success?

Ans:- They remained independent for a long time because:

1. The geographical location of both the states was strong.
2. Vijayanagara was surrounded by hills and rivers.
3. The Ahom kingdom was located in the thick forests and the Brahmaputra valley.
4. Both armies were well trained.
5. The rulers had the support of the local people.
6. Due to strong administration and resources, they remained independent for a long time.

Que 3. Imagine you are a scholar in the court of Akbar or Krishnadevaraya. Write a letter to a friend describing the politics, trade, culture, and society you are witnessing.

Ans:-

Dear Friend,

I hope you are well. I am serving in the court of Emperor Akbar. The empire is peaceful and well-governed. Trade is flourishing, and merchants from many countries visit our markets. Art, music, and literature are encouraged by the emperor. People of different religions live together peacefully. The society is prosperous, and learning is highly respected.

Your Friend

Que 4. How come Akbar, a ruthless conqueror in his young days, grew tolerant and benevolent after some years? What could have led to such a change?

Ans:-

1. Akbar became more mature as the experience of governance grew.
2. He tried to understand different religions and cultures.
3. The thoughts of scholars and saints had an impact on him.
4. He felt that peace and cooperation make the state stronger.
5. For this reason, he adopted a policy of religious tolerance and kindness.

Que 5. What might have happened if the Vijayanagara Empire had won the Battle of Talikota? Imagine and describe how it could have changed the political and cultural history of south India.

Ans:- If Vijayanagara had won:

1. Its empire might have become stronger.
2. South India could have remained politically united for a longer time.
3. Art, architecture, and culture of Vijayanagara would have developed further.
4. Foreign trade and economic prosperity might have increased.

Que 6. Many values promoted by early Sikhism, including equality, seva, and justice, remain relevant today. Select one of these values and discuss how it remains relevant in contemporary society.

Ans:-

Value: Equality

Equality remains important today because all people deserve the same respect and opportunities regardless of their religion, caste, gender, or background. Practicing equality helps create a fair and peaceful society.

Que 7. Imagine you are a trader in a port city (Surat, Calicut or Hooghly). Describe the scenes you see as regards goods, people you trade with, movement of ships, etc.

Ans:-

I am a trader in Surat. The port is very busy with ships arriving from different countries. Merchants buy and sell spices, textiles, silk, and precious stones. Sailors, traders, and travelers from many places can be seen. Goods are loaded and unloaded every day, making the city lively and prosperous.

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