



SOCIAL SCIENCE

Class 8th

Chapter 2: Reshaping India's Political Map



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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:

- **Geographical factors:-** Dense forests, rivers, and hills made invasions difficult.
- **Military strength:-** They had strong armies and good defense systems.
- **Social unity:-** The people supported their rulers and worked together to protect their kingdoms.

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:- As Akbar gained experience, he realized that force alone could not unite a large empire. He listened to wise advisors, interacted with people of different religions, and understood the importance of peace and cooperation. This made him a more tolerant and kind ruler.

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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