

Introduction:

Advent of the Mughals  
Administration under the Mughals.

Social conditions: The Muhammadan conquest of India begun by Muhammad of Ghur in the last years of the 12th century introduced a new element in the population of India the Muslims who unlike the previous invaders like the Kushans and the Huns did not mix with the oldest population the Hindus owing to deep religious and social differences. Despite the attempts at re-approchement made by liberal Thinkers and Teachers on both sides e.g. Kabir, Nanak and the Sufi Saint the two sections of the population regarded each other with contempt the ruler openly encouraging the people of their own faith at the expense of the Hindus who had to pay taxes like the Jizya and suffer many social disabilities.

The ruler did not have any idea of building up a truly national state and setting up a government based on the willing consent of the governed. Alcbar for the first time tried to tackle this problem.

The Economic Conditions: Timur's invasion certainly brought in great economic distress but it was only temporary and recovery had begun even before the Mughal conquest. Whenever there was famine in a particular area the State remitted taxes and provided relief by the supply of free grain. The State's revenue consisted of land tax religious taxes like the Jizya, taxes on trade etc. In Industries textiles occupied the first place and Bengal and Gujarat were famous for the manufacture and export of cotton and textiles. Weavers and other Craftsmen organised themselves in guilds. Brisk trade was carried on with the Arab

The Administrative reforms of Sher Shah.

The whole empire was divided into 47 provinces or districts each of which was subdivided into parganas or groups of villages. The pargana had

Amin with revenue and judicial duties, one shiqdar or police officer, one treasurer and two writers called karkunns - one Hindu and one persian - to keep accounts. Their work was supervised by the officials of the sarban, the Shiqdar - i - Shiqdaran and the munsif - i - Munsifan. All officers were paid in cash and not by grant of jagirs.

Revenue reforms : In tune with his policy of centralisation Sher Shah did away with all intermediaries between the state and the taxpayer. The land tax was fixed after proper survey at  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the average produce of good, middling and bad lands and each owner cultivator received a patna or title deed from the State. Thus Sher Shah became the father of the ryotwari system as it is known today. The tax was payable in kind or cash and the latter was preferred. Remission were made during seasons of bad harvest. Sher Shah instructed his revenue officers to be lenient at the time of assessment but strict during collection. The state recognised tenant-farming and took from each tenant a copy of the katahat or deed of agreement defining his rights and liabilities. Compensation were given to cultivators in case of damage to crops caused by the encampment of soldiers.

The customs duties on articles of trade were collected only at the frontiers and in the markets and vexatious taxes on the roads and rivers were removed. This greatly encouraged internal trade.

The Din - Ilahi :

By 1582 Akbar had heard enough of the different religions India to enable him to formulate a religion, which would unite his subjects as one people. He formally proclaimed his new religion called the Din Ilahi or Divine Faith. In any case Din-Ilahi did not catch popular imagination - Akbar failed as a prophet.

## Mansabdari System:

Akbar knew the dangers of the Jagir system and hence, he converted the jagirs into crown land. He paid salaries to his officers and set up an elaborate bureaucracy with quasi-military ranks, known as mansabs, of which there were 33 grades. The three highest grades of mansabdars were captains of from 7,000 to 17,000 horse and were reserved exclusively for princes of the royal family. Every other mansabdar ranged from 10 to 5,000 horse. Every officer of the king held some mansabdar rank and drew a salary the higher ranks drawing huge sums. The mansabdar supplied contingents who required Akbar had his own regular state paid army which was small and efficient. To prevent fraudulent musters he enforced the practice of branding horses.

## Jagirdari System:

It is the assignment of the revenue of produce of the land. The land was never given it was the produce of the land that was allotted for the noble to take from his revenue, the salary that is due to him. Therefore the Jagirdari system is the salary of the mansabdar.

Zamindari System: The zamindars were made hereditary owners of the land under their possession. They and their successors exercised total control over land. (2) The zamindars could sell and purchase lands (3) The state had no direct contact with the peasants (4) The Company's share in the revenue was fixed permanently with the zamindars.

The main aspects of this Zamindari system is that farmers give their land to landlord and take some debt or money from them and if they are unable to pay the interest there will be in the controls of landlords.