



The Rajput Policy of the Mughal Emperors

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Abstract: *During its heydays (1526–1540 and 1555–1707), the Mughal Empire controlled a large portion of present-day India. The empire Babur founded in 1526 continued to expand gradually until the beginning of the 18th century. Prior to the arrival of the Mughals, northern India was ruled by the Muslim Delhi Sultanate. This means that even in pre-Mughal India, there existed friction between Muslim authorities and Hindu citizens. Tensions between Islam and Christianity eased under the reign of Akbar the Great because he intended to establish a kingdom in which people may freely follow their religion without fear of persecution. But when Aurangzeb assumed power, the empire went in a new direction. This monarch's actions, and those of his successors, exacerbated the religious strife. Several factors contributed to the demise of the Mughal Empire, including the increasing economic independence of its constituent kingdoms, religious tensions between Hindus and Muslims, and the growing presence of European economic powers in the Indian subcontinent. The fundamental purpose of the research is to provide an explanation of the Mughal rulers' attitude toward the Rajputs.*

Keywords: *Rajput Policy, Empire, Matrimonial Alliance, Tax, Mansabdar.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mughal Empire's development and union were helped by their treatment of the Rajputs. In fact, the political necessities of the domain assumed a huge part in its creation. The Mughal partnership with the Rajputs was not simply founded on the lords' own strict convictions. In any case, different causes and conditions affected approach, including what is happening, the socio social setting, and the distinguished components' journey for strength or independence. Rajput lords who openly drew in into marriage relations with them or acknowledged his position were left in charge of their domains. They were granted significant situations inside the state, and their administration was unaffected. Notwithstanding, they were expected to give the sovereign a yearly recognition. Akbar put forth extensive attempts to earn the Hindus' favour. He wiped out the expense on Hindu pioneers as well as the jizya (survey charge) on non-Muslims. It



was likewise taboo for Hindu widows to do sati. The act of involving wartime detainees as slaves was similarly ceased. His appeasement with the Rajputs included marriage agreements with regal Rajput families and, according to Rajput honorability, lofty posts in the Mughal court. The combination of individuals' societies and feelings was censured by an open minded strict strategy. Numerous Muslim rulers have married Rajput princesses before Akbar. Nonetheless, as he kept solid binds with the families, Akbar's receptiveness assisted these intimate relationships with turning into an incorporating force between two unique societies. As indicated by legend, Akbar marry Harkha Bhai, otherwise called Jodha, who was the Amber-based Raja Bhar Mal's (otherwise called Bihari Mal's) girl. He additionally marries Rajput princesses from Bikaner and Jaisalmer. Harkha Bhai's child, Prince Salim, marry Raja Bhagwan Das' little girl. The child of Bhagwan Das, Raja Man Singh, rose to the position of confided overall under Akbar. At Akbar's court, Rajputs who would not enter marital ties regardless got high honours. His Rajput strategy ensured the administrations of extraordinary fighters and chairmen for the domain. Raja Todar Mal was an income expert who turned into the Diwan. Akbar was joined by Birbal. Mewar, and Marwar, two Rajput realms crushed the Mughal Empire. Rana Pratap Singh, child of Rana Udai Singh, battled against the Mughals till his passing in 1597 by declining to recognize Akbar's suzerainty. Haldighati was the site of the last clash between Rana Pratap Singh and Mughal armed forces in 1576. In spite of the fact that his sibling battled for the Mughals, the ruler of Marwar (Jodhpur), Chandra Sen, child of Maldeo Rathore, struggled against the Mughals till his passing in 1581. The sibling of Chandra Sen, Udai Singh, was picked by Akbar to lead Jodhpur. Akbar's most memorable capital was in Agra, yet he at last migrated it to Fatehpur Sikri in the wake of reconstructing it. There are a few extra structures in this presently abandoned city, including a shocking mosque and the marvellous Buland Darwaza. A faithful fighter individuals, the Rajputs showed their value by maintaining Akbar's standard and the distinction of the Mughal Empire. Accordingly, Akbar offered motivators and mansabs. Rajputs were recruited into the Mughal armed force. There were a few Mansabdars conceived. After the centre of the sixteenth 100 years, various Rajput heads grew close binds with them and delivered different administrations to them. Because of the Rajputs' help, Akbar had the option to lay out the Mughal Empire in India.

2. METHODLOGY

The current study utilized a historical cum descriptive method in conjunction with a qualitative approach, and it addresses a wide variety of topics. Because of this, it appears as though the individuals who are intended to look at the research might actually do so. For the purpose of substantiating its findings, the study consults both primary and secondary sources of information. During the course of the inquiry, data was gathered from a variety of sources, including books, articles located on the internet, printed publications, and international journals and magazines. In addition, a tool known as the thematic analytical tool was utilized throughout the research process in order to carry out a qualitative analysis of the secondary data and reach a conclusion.

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES



To provide a description of and an analysis of the Rajput policy of the Mughal rulers, holding the belief that the fall of the Mughal Empire was brought on by Aurangzeb's rejection of Akbar's Rajput policy.

4. DISCUSSION

The way the Mughals treated the Rajputs contributed to the course of events and the Mughal Empire's reputation. It's true that meeting the domain's political requirements was generally planned. The secret terrible convictions of the specific kings had still to determine the Mughal conspiracy with the Rajputs. However, technique was influenced by a variety of forces and circumstances, such as the struggle for individuality or freedom by the favoured groups, the socio-social elements, and the country's geo-key location. Babur and Rana Sanga engaged in combat with the Lodi. Sanga followed Babur's instructions as he moved forward in accordance with his plan of action. Babur's sudden entrance in the Gangetic Valley astounded Sanga. Babur's push toward Delhi was attempted to be slowed down by Rana Sanga and Afghan plots. Sanga and Babur's conflict was not particularly fierce because of Sanga's true partnership's link with brain. However, notwithstanding Babur's declaration that the test against Sanga constituted a Jihad, the goal was to solve the problem by alleviating his fighters' intense emotions. Babur crushed Rana Sanga at Khanwa and Chanderi. The Mughals and Rajputs' connections did not develop throughout Babur's reign along obvious and favourable lines, but rather in accordance with the demands of politics.

Regarding the Rajputs, Humayun's kept up his father's system. He did, however, miss a unique chance to come to know the Mewar Rajputs. When Rani Karnvati of Mewar volunteered to turn into his sister one night, he didn't support Mewar against Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. He also failed to secure support for Maldeo of Marwar's campaign against Sher Shah. In terms of Rajasthan, Humayun's situation was mostly security-focused; a hostile approach was postponed till later. He realised that Mewar's strength was eroding as a result of intra-Mewar fighting. For Humayun, its tactical significance as a partner was insufficient. Akbar was the main Mughul leader who sought an organised approach toward the Rajputs during the reigns of Humayun and Babur, when affiliation with Rajputs was primarily prohibited by the Afghan issue and friendly association could not be created. His Rajput system's strategy involved a number of different elements. Akbar led the way. He needed to transport the subject as much of India as he could to his position. Therefore, it was crucial for him to suzerain the Rajput kings. Akbar was enthralled by the Rajputs' bravery, tenacity, daring, fighting skills, etc. He enjoyed the opportunity to get to know them rather than seeing them as his enemies. Even though Akbar's alliance with the Rajputs started as a political alliance, it later evolved into a tool for stronger ties between Hindus and Muslims, which shaped the justification for a broadly liberal, permissive regime for everyone while paying little attention to confidence. A Rajput contingent led by Bhara Mal, the head of Amber, lately astounded Akbar in 1557 by demonstrating to him its unflinching excellence. These links hinted at the potential for political action that did not call for Islam to be modified or Hindu traditions to be broken. Additionally, they did not lead to any unusual



alliances between

Rajputs and Mughals. These alliances with the Rajputs were not also made with the intention of highlighting resistance to outside forces or enlisting the Rajputs in military advances. In all honesty, conjugal alliances were frequent, and similar plots were prevalent before Akbar's reign as well. In a similar vein, the Akbar period represented a moment of personal commitment. Akbar made an effort to cultivate friendly relationships with the family heads who eventually bowed to him. It was believed that a single connection would best guarantee political allegiance. The liberal policies that Akbar implemented between 1562 and 1564, such as the cancellation of jiziya and the reduction of voyager fees, increased public confidence in Akbar as a liberal leader. The Mughals and Rajputs did not, however, live in a completely concordant environment as a result of their actions. For instance, the Rajputs provided a strong barrier during the Chittor skirmish despite Bhagwant Singh and Akbar's presence. Akbar, on the other side, presented the conflict as jihad and the religious figures as ghazis, giving the situation a serious spin. However, this was only done to draw in officers for the impending battle.

As a result, Akbar's attitude toward Rajputs falters at the crucial moment. Rajputs (like Rao Dalpat Rai) were acknowledged for their excellent assistance and given jagir. Marriage relationships also contributed to the fading of this bond. Few Rajputs actually became close allies of Akbar. For instance, when Akbar pressed ahead with the Gujarat hall, Bharamal was given control of Agra. However, Akbar's harsh opinions, public methods, and behaviour toward Rajputs were created along distinct lines and accepted until afterwards. While Akbar made an effort to develop the Rajput conspiracy, some elements of the earlier process were still in place. The Mughal-Rajput relations were greatly improved by Akbar's Gujarat campaign. The Rajputs were methodically recruited as heroes, and for the first time, their pay scales were established. Strangely, the Rajputs were dispatched outside of Rajasthan and given important tasks and positions. Akbar was primarily dependent on the Rajputs (Kachawahas) Man Singh and Bhagwant Singh during the Gujarat insurrection of the Mirzas. The Rana of Mewar intended to retake Chittor and refused to consent to personal convenience. Akbar was certain about the criteria for individual praise. Marwar was repressed by Akbar in the meantime. Once more, a conflict between Hindus and Muslims or a struggle for independence from new control did not serve as a deterrent with Rana of Mewar. It will generally be portrayed to some extent as the declaration of the ideal of neighbouring freedom. The Rajput system of Akbar did not establish a form that would be despised by the Muslim majority in the country or pose a threat to the Muslim population.

The fall of the manager sadr Abdun Nabi from power and the declaration of the mahzar are crucial moments that mark the beginning of Akbar's rupture with universality. Jiziya's reinstatement (1575): It was a stage where Akbar was fully anticipating a conflict with Mewar, indicating that he thought he could use religion to his political advantage. The Rajputs developed as the Empire's cutting edge and were ultimately greatly attracted by their Mughal connections. It mostly occurred as a result of Mirza Hakim's attack, during which Akbar passionately relied on the Rajputs, who afterwards displayed notable strength and



dependability. In return, Bhagwant Das was appointed the administrative head of Lahore, and Man Singh was given control over the Indus area. Additionally, Akbar made an effort to establish tight ties with the Rajput governing houses through marriage, which intrigued his rulers Salim and Daniyal. These links demonstrate Akbar's desire to promote his replacement in order to continue maintaining a friendly relationship with the Rajputs. Akbar started another process of selecting steadfast Muslim and Hindu blue-bloods to handle administrative duties in 1583–1584. For instance, Raja Birbal, a close associate of Akbar, was in danger because of his importance. The pay division gave specific assignments to Raja Todar Mal and Rai Durga Sisodia of Rampur. How effective this method of communication is cannot be said with certainty.

Jahangir carried out his father's agreement in a same manner. Although he was tolerant of the Rajputs, there were fewer Rajputs in senior positions under his administration. Additionally, he made an effort to persuade Mewar to grant the accommodation that it had so far refused. From the very beginning of his rule, he regularly dispatched a small number of Mughul forces to invade Mewar. Like his father, Rana Amar Singh fought the Mughals with vigour. He refused to submit, despite the fact that the Mughals had virtually destroyed all of Mewar and had set up military fortifications everywhere.

But finally, under the leadership of Prince Karan and several of his aristocracy, he agreed to peace, and in 1615 A.D., the Mughals approved the agreement on the following terms: The Rana recognised the power of the Mughul head and appointed his offspring and replacement, sovereign Karan, to travel to the Mughul court in place of himself. Inquiries on entering a matrimonial alliance with the Mughul emperor were not made to the Rana. Jahangir returned to the Rana whole region of Mewar while keeping in mind the requirement that Chittor's post not be repaired. The protracted conflict between Mewar and the Mughals was thus resolved. Up until Aurangzeb's attempts to subdue Mewar during his tenure, the Ranas of Mewar were aware of this pact.

It would be incorrect to assume that Rana Amar Singh did everything in his power to undermine the reputation of Mewar and had dishonoured his father, Rana Pratap, by approving the Mughal truce. Amar Singh fought the Mughals just as courageously as Rana Pratap had, and he only gave in after Prince Karan, his son and successor, and several of his nobles prodded him to do so. He continued to feel unfulfilled after that and without more delay gave the company to his child. He then spent the remainder of his days in a desolate area called Nauchauki. Additionally, the Rana's subjects demanded tranquilly. Mewar was essentially destroyed as a result of the prolonged and difficult conflict with the Mughals. For its restoration, harmony was necessary. On his part, Jahangir gave Rana extremely lenient sentences. He made no attempt to denigrate the Rana in the least. In reality, he gave him back control of the entire Mewar region as well as the Chittor citadel.

Shah Jahan adopted the same Rajput tactics as his father and grandfather. During his leadership, the Rajput genuinely supported the Mughal realm. However, their current predicament was not



as obvious as it had been in the past. Shah Jahan had the power to suffocate the Rajput state of Mewar when he was known as Prince Khurram and ruled under Jahangir. However, once more under his power, Jagat Singh, the Rana of Mewar, began to disobey the 1615 agreement and reinforce the garrison of Chittor. Shah Jahan had deployed a force against Mewar and finally the Ran in this way.

5. CONCLUSION

During this time, the Mughals' strategy for dealing with the Rajputs helped the empire grow and get stronger. In fact, a big part of its planning went toward meeting the political needs of the imperial government. The different kingdoms of the Mughal emperor thought about other things when deciding whether or not to join forces with the Rajputs. The policy that was chosen was affected by how the aristocratic factions fought for power or independence, by sociocultural factors, and by the country's geostrategic environment. From what has been said about Aurangzeb's relationship with the Rajputs so far, it is clear that during his reign, the Mughal government's relationship with the Rajputs went back to the way it had been with his forefathers. Because of this, he couldn't keep the Rajputs' loyalty, even though they were known for being strong, brave, and loyal. It also stopped Aurangzeb from keeping a reliable group of smart administrators and brave soldiers working for him. The Mughal Empire also lost a lot of men, money, and prestige because of it. The Rajputs' revolt against Aurangzeb's rule gave the other noble families the idea to rise up against him as well. Because of this, the emperor's control over the government began to weaken, which helped bring about the end of the Mughal Empire. This was one of the things that made it happen. So, we can say that Aurangzeb's refusal to follow Akbar's Rajput policy had a big effect on the Mughal Empire, but it can't be blamed for the fall of the Mughal kingdom on its own.

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