

Safavid Persia and Mogul India: The Islamic Center

I. Safavid Persia

A. Founding of Dynasty

1. Safavid < Safi al-Din
2. Shi'ite < *shi'at Ali* = "partisans of Ali"
 - a. four caliphs (Ali killed in 661)
 - b. twelve imams (last died in 870's)
3. Sufi < *suf* (= wool) or *safa* (= purity) or *sophia* (wisdom)
4. *Qizilbashi* (= "red caps")
 - a. warriors
 - b. twelve folds in turbans

B. Prominent Early Ruler

1. Shah Ismail (1500–1524)
 - a. Battle of Chaldiran (1514)

C. Shah 'Abbas I (r. 1587–1629)

1. Peace of Istanbul (1590)
2. *ghulam* = slave troops
3. defeated Uzbeks (1598)
4. moved capital to Isfahan (1599)
5. recovered from Ottoman Turks all that was given up earlier (1625)
6. Assessments
 - a. Sir Anthony Sherley — unabashed admiration
 - b. Sir Thomas Herbert — sadistic and murderous tyrant
 - c. David Morgan — emphasis on reforms

D. Cultural and Economic Influence

1. Persian language and literature
2. International trade: crafts and porcelain
3. Isfahan (38 km. in circumference; 1 million inhabitants)
 - a. Chahar Bagh (= "Four Gardens")
 - b. Maidan — marketplace and sportsfield
 - c. Lutfallah Mosque
 - d. Royal (Shah's) Mosque
 - e. Ali Qapu Palace
 - f. Qaysariya Gate
 - g. bazaar — 2–2½ km. long
 - h. Friday Mosque (Masjid-i-Jami)

II. Moghul India

A. Founding of Dynasty

1. Moghul (Mughal) < Mongol
2. Tamerlane (Timur the Lame)
3. Chingiz Khan

B. Prominent Early Ruler

1. Babur (1483–1530)

C. Akbar the Great (r. 1556–1605)

1. *Mansabdari* system (*mansab* = office; *mansabdar* = officeholder)
 - a. 33 ranks of officials
 - b. classified on basis of number of cavalry expected to raise
 - c. 70% of higher ranks were Muslim soldiers born outside India
 - d. 15% of higher ranks were Hindus
2. *Din-i-Ilahi* (Divine Faith)
 - a. declared in 1582 (“Allahu Akbar”)
 - b. Jesuits leave
3. Economics
 - a. premier industry = textiles (cotton, wool)
 - b. other products: indigo, opium, spices
4. Assessments
 - a. Abul Fazl, *Akbar-nama* — flattery/praised religious toleration
 - b. Al-Badaoni, *Muntakhabu-T-Tawarikh* — opposed religious toleration
 - c. Bamber Gascoigne — reforms saved Moghuls/toleration offended

D. Other Attempts to Find Solution to Conflict between Muslims and Hindus

1. Sikhism
 - a. guru Nanak (1469–1539)
 - b. ninth guru beheaded
 - c. Gobind Rai compiled *Granth* (= “the book”)
 - d. Golden Temple at Amritsar
2. Kabir (1440–1518)
 - a. low-caste Muslim weaver in Benares
 - b. rejected both Hinduism and Islam (and all religion)
 - c. *satguru* (inner self)
 - d. *Words* — songs written down by his disciples
 - e. defends unity of being (Allah, Rama)
3. Aurangzeb (1658–1707)
 - a. determined to spread rule over all India
 - b. believed his duty was to purify Indian Islam of Hindu elements