

RISE OF REGIONAL POWERS (18th Century)

Background

- **1707 (Death of Aurangzeb)** → rapid decline of Mughal central authority
- Provincial governors, zamindars & military leaders asserted autonomy
- Result: **Political fragmentation + emergence of regional states**

CLASSIFICATION OF REGIONAL STATES

1. Successor States

(Emerged from Mughal provinces; nominal Mughal allegiance)

State	Founder / Key Ruler	Key Features
Awadh	Saadat Khan (1722)	Granary of India; Shia dynasty; capital Faizabad/Lucknow
Bengal	Murshid Quli Khan (1717)	Revenue reforms, capital Murshidabad
Hyderabad	Nizam-ul-Mulk (Asaf Jah I)	Asaf Jahi dynasty; Deccan power

2. Rebel / Insurgent States

(Against Mughal authority)

State	Leaders	Notes
Sikh State (Punjab)	Maharaja Ranjit Singh	12 Misls → Sikh Empire
Jat State (Bharatpur)	Suraj Mal	Peasant-based power
Marathas	Shivaji, Peshwas	Confederacy; Chauth & Sardeshmukhi

3. Independent Kingdoms

(Took advantage of Mughal decline)

State	Key Rulers
Mysore	Haidar Ali, Tipu Sultan
Travancore	Marthanda Varma
Rajput States	Jai Singh II (Jaipur)

SUCCESSOR STATES

Awadh

- Founder: **Saadat Khan (1722)**
- Dynasty: **Persian Shia**
- Capitals: **Faizabad → Lucknow**
- Important Nawabs:
 - **Safdarjung** – Mughal Wazir
 - **Shuja-ud-Daulah** – Lost **Battle of Buxar (1764)**
- Culture: **Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb**
- Architecture: **Bara Imambara (Asaf-ud-Daulah)**

Bengal

- Founder: **Murshid Quli Khan**
- Capitals: **Dhaka → Murshidabad**
- Key Nawabs:
 - **Alivardi Khan** – Defeated Marathas (Battle of Burdwan)
 - **Siraj-ud-Daulah** – Defeated in the **Battle of Plassey (1757)**
- British entry:
 - **Plassey (1757)** → Political control
 - **Dual Government** → Direct rule (1772)

Hyderabad

- Founder: **Nizam-ul-Mulk (Asaf Jah I), 1724**
- Dynasty: **Asaf Jahi**
- Paid **Chauth to Marathas**
- Came under British protection after the **Anglo-Maratha Wars**
- Capital: **Hyderabad**
- Religion: Islamic state, Hindu Diwans common

REBEL / INSURGENT STATES

Sikh State

- **The Khalsa Panth** was founded by Guru Gobind Singh
- **12 Misls** → united by **Ranjit Singh**
- Treaty with the British (1806): **No expansion south of the Sutlej**
- Secular administration

Marathas

- Founder: **Shivaji (1674 coronation)**
- Administration: **Ashta Pradhan**
- Military: **Guerrilla warfare**
- Zenith: **Baji Rao I**
- Decline: **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)**

Jats

- Centre: **Bharatpur**
- Leader: **Suraj Mal**
- Controlled Agra for a brief period
- Fort: **Lohagarh Fort**

INDEPENDENT KINGDOMS

Mysore

- **Haidar Ali**
 - Introduced western military training
 - French support
- **Tipu Sultan**
 - Treaty of Mangalore (1784)
 - Introduced a new calendar, coinage
 - Admirer of the **French Revolution**
 - Killed in the **Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)**

Travancore

- Ruler: **Marthanda Varma**
- Defeated the Dutch at the **Battle of Colachel (1741)** (*the only Asian ruler to defeat a European power*)
- Monopolised spice trade
- Irrigation & state-controlled army

Rajput States

- Key ruler: **Jai Singh II**
- Founded **Jaipur**
- Built observatories (**Jantar Mantar**) at:
 - Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Varanasi, Mathura
- Decline due to:
 - Disunity
 - Feudalism
 - Outdated military tactics

MCQs

Q1. With reference to Successor States in 18th-century India, consider the following statements:

1. They emerged directly from Mughal provincial administrations.
2. They completely rejected Mughal sovereignty from the beginning.
3. Awadh and Hyderabad are examples of such states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (b)

Q2. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Regional Power	Associated Feature
1. Bengal	Dual Government introduced
2. Mysore	Treaty of Mangalore
3. Travancore	Defeat of the Portuguese

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (a)

(Travancore defeated the Dutch, not Portuguese)

Q3. The Third Battle of Panipat (1761) is considered a turning point mainly because it:

- (a) Established British supremacy in India
- (b) Ended Mughal rule permanently
- (c) Crippled Maratha expansion in North India
- (d) Led to the formation of the Sikh Empire

Answer: (c)