



MARKED VICISSITUDES IN MUGHAL BATTLE FIELDS: FROM PANIPAT TO DECCAN ULCER

SREEKANTH K

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
BJM GOVT COLLEGE CHAVARA
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
Kerala, India

Abstract: Mughal period witnessed many wars for the consolidation of the empire. The dynasty came to power with the victory in the first battle of Panipat with the Afghans. They had to confront a number of strong adversaries like Rajputs, Afghans and native powers. During the time of Humayun, Mughal power eclipsed for a short period and Afghans rose to prominence under Shershah. Akbar consolidated his power by diplomacy and War. The Empire became huge and military power was established on a sound basis. Jahangir and Shahjahan maintained the inherited empire with an element of decay. During the period of Shahjahan, the war of succession broke out and Aurangzeb came to power. As a man of strong decision, Aurangzeb tried to extend his power to Deccan by subduing the Shia kingdoms. But Deccan proved to be the Waterloo of Aurangzeb. His religious and Rajput policy proved to be disastrous for the unity of the empire. After Aurangzeb, the Mughal power declined and form of authority became nominal.

Index Terms: Mughal, Consolidation, Panipat, Akbar, Humayun, Shahjahan, Jahangir, Aurangzeb, Diplomacy, Decay, War of Succession, Waterloo, Empire, Disastrous, Nominal.

INTRODUCTION

“War begins in the minds of men” is a famous dictum enunciated by the Atharva Veda. It is the psychology and goal-oriented behaviour which perpetuates a battle or war. Indian history is noted for a number of military raids ranging from plunder to empire building. The ambitious hoards unsheathed their swords to wrest the “melting pot” from the incumbent for having a share in the fabulous riches of the empire. Darius, Alexander the great, Sakas, Kushanas, Hunas, Turks, Afghans and Mughals tried their luck in building an empire in northern plains. Some of them showed perseverance and resolute attitude to carve out a permanent empire on the Indian soil. While, the plundering raids of Timur, Huns and Nadirshah became a terror in the mind of the people of the contemporary period. In an age which lacked an international authority to check the territorial violations, expediency proved to be the best remedy to overcome misfortunes and uncertainty. The idea of hegemony only allowed a few to earn epithets like “Great” as in the case of Alexander the Great. To the laymen it was a merely a passing episode recollecting Mathew Arnold’s saying “She left legions of thunders past and plunged into deep thought again”. Most of the wars had no effect on the life of villagers, who never cared for dominant ideology and the principle of hegemony was superficial. Even thinkers like Marx analysed the passive and stagnant nature of Indian villages during precolonial period. Many wars in medieval India failed to produce a change in the economic structure or in the nature of social life.

The victory in the traditional battles were influenced by a number of factors. (a) geographical conditions, (b) terrain, (c) technology, (d) climate, (e) leadership, (f) emotional solidarity, (g) tactics, (h) character and nature of participants, (i) communication and transport, (j) psychological warfare, (k) organizational capacity and trustworthiness, (l) the element of chance, these factors may influence the course of every battles. The condition that affects a war is a novel

experience noted for its uniqueness. Many great generals like, Napoleon Bonaparte took wrong decisions in battlefields and tasted the bitter fruit of defeat. Still, he is considered to be a great general. Napoleon's decision of attacking Russia across a vast territory proved to be a folly. The decision of inaugurating Continental system against England was also a failure. We have to consider the element of chance or Cleopatra's nose in battlefield also. Though victories in war usually had scientific causation, the element of luck created vicissitudes in the military history of the world.

II. NEED OF THE STUDY.

The need of study is to analyse the circumstances that paved the way for Mughal wars which decided the fate of India as a Nation. The causes, the techniques course and the impact of the Mughal wars is an interesting subject to study

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Method used here is the Historical Method. I have used analytical and descriptive method for Coming to the Conclusions. A thorough review of literature was conducted, analysis of primary and secondary sources, were done to ascertain the truth about the proposed study.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Historical background

Indian military experiences in battle begins with Sudas's victory in the battle of Ten Kings. The art of pitched battle and the diplomacy behind wars by sages like Vasishta is narrated in works like Rigveda. Ramayana and Mahabharata contain stories about the war and war tactics. The use of Vyuhas and proficiency in weapons are highlighted in Mahabharata. These classics contain references about detailed instructions to limit the scope of a war in to the military camps. The element of Dharma loomed large in defining war during this period. The ritualistic and ideological background of war is adhered by Bhagavatgita. Kautilya in his Saptanga theory of state is projecting the role of army. In the period of state formation in the Gangetic plains war became a necessary evil. Alexander the Great had to face stiff opposition from Porus who waged a battle of liberation. Mauryas even had a standing army and vast resources for facing the onslaughts of all kind of adversaries. The foreign tribes like Kushanas and Yavanas had only meteoric success in the plains of North India. But during Kushana period, foreign military tactics were used in India. Samudra Gupta and Chandra Gupta II conducted successful military sojourns for consolidating a vast political empire. The Huns with their vandalism created terror in the minds of men during the final years of Gupta period. The glorification of war and military practices of feudal nature began with Rajputs. The troubles and tribulations of the period and the lack of centralised authority resulted in the invasion by Turks and the consequent subjugation of the country. The conditions of India prompted the Turks to try their luck in India. The lack of huge centralised empires and internal dissensions invited such a calamity. India, witnessed a period of political balkanisation in this period.

Medieval wars and the advent of Babur

During the Medieval period new practices started in organising military operations. The Ghazi type of soldiers, standing army, Chahira and Dagh became a part of Indian military culture. The word Ghazi indicates religious solidarity and the role of faith in ensuring victories in pitched battle. During Alauddin Khilji's time, militarism prevailed in India. His market regulations were aimed for maintaining a huge standing army. Alauddin was the first medieval monarch to recognise the role of a standing army for developing potentialities of the mighty empire. His brilliant South Indian campaigns prove the military calibre of Alauddin Khilji. The veteran generals like Malik Kafur carried out strong military raids in South India. Muhammed Bin Tughlaq and Firuz Shah Tughlaq conducted some valiant raids against potential enemies. But these raids were not significant to carve out new principalities for the Sulthanate administration. Tughlaq period saw the decline of military strength to a considerable extent. Sulthanate period saw a number of military geniuses like Alauddin, Balban and Malik Kafur. The army was feudal in nature as shown by rich land grants and feudal tactics used in the war. The traditional warfare centred around forts which played a great role in the military history of the country.

During the last days of Sulthanate power, Babur came to India. As a seeker of fortune, Babur restrained from Central Asian politics and tried his luck in India in the capacity of rightful descendent from Timurid house. In fact, the troubled conditions of central Asia forced Babur to try his luck somewhere else. The feudal anarchy, internal dissensions, disunity of Rajputs, outmoded war techniques and invitations from Daulat Khan Lodi and Rana Sanga prompted Babur to attack India. The stage was now opened for a major showdown between Mughals and Afghans.

The Afghans represented a typical decaying feudal clannish spirit and the Mughals represented a spirited, robust military attitude emboldened by religious spirit. The decisive battle of Panipat was fought on 20th April 1526. Babur led the Mughal army and Ibrahim Lodi led the Afghan army. This ensured the tussle for power between two powers in north India-Mughals and Afghans.

Like the battle of Plassey in modern period, the battle of Panipat marked the literal beginning of Mughal empire. It weakened the already emaciating Afghan power in India. Lodi commanded a large army, but his army was not loyal. The indiscipline in army and the repudiating nature of nobles proved to be a curse for Ibrahim Lodi. Lodi's army was clannish in nature. He was not a good general or statesman. Babur's cavalry got an upperhand over Lodi's elephantry. The war techniques and tactics of Lodi was not a match for Babur. Babur's army was well trained and disciplined in nature. 'Tulugama' and 'Araba' (two modern techniques) were used by Babur. Babur divided his army in to different units like left wing, right wing and centre. He arranged a forward and rear division in army. The centre and forward divisions were provided with Arabs or carts which defended them from the enemy. Mughals used cannons and mantlets. The discharge of cannons was decisive. Ibrahim Lodi along with 15000 soldiers died in the battlefield. Babur was able to exhort his followers to a victory. According to Tuz-Ki-Babri, Babur declared his victory as a gift of God. The war proved the efficacy of artillery in Indian wars. Babur's artillery men like Ustad Ali and Mustafa deserves special mention in this connection. The victory at Panipat made Babur the de jure sovereign of India. If he had to become the defacto sovereign of Delhi, Babur needed to overcome a formidable enemy namely Ranasanga. Ranasanga was a war veteran and Lanepool called him as 'a fragment of a soldier'. The advance guard of Babur was defeated by Ranasanga's troops. This affected the morale of the Mughal army. At this moment, like a man of born leadership, Babur exhorted his soldiers in an emotional tone. He asked the soldiers to die as martyrs for the cause of God. He viewed death as a nuptial feast when it is among friends. This religious tone and emotional fervour raised by Babur emboldened his followers to achieve a decisive victory over Ranasanga. With this Babur wiped the chance of Rajput confederacy to rule India. This war ended the fortune seeking days of Babur and he became the undisputed sovereign of Hindustan. Babur acquired the title of Ghazi and Rajput racial superiority and the concept of clannish supremacy ended. The offering of a pitched battle with inferior techniques resulted in the slaughter of Rana Sanga's army. The battle of Chanderi and the battle of Ghagra completed the consolidation of north Indian plains. Both armies were feudal in nature and administration. While Babur advocated religious patriotism, Rajputs advocated hierarchical clannish patriotism.

Humayun

The word 'Humayun' means Fortunate. But, Humayun was not fortunate to consolidate his empire. His entire career was obsessed by fluctuations which even resulted in the loss of empire. When he came to power Mughal empire was not consolidated. The Afghan threat still loomed large in the political horizons of Hindustan. Babur was able to subdue the Rajput threat, but the martial trait of Rajputs still created problems to the new born empire. Humayun was a seeker of pleasure and lacked sustained effort to consolidate the empire.

The army of Humayun was not disciplined. Patriotism or enthusiasm was absent in their activities. It included different racial groups like Mughals, Afghans, Turks, Uzbeks, Indian Muslims and Persians. Such an army lacked patriotism and India was not yet consolidated in to a nation. The commanders were plotting against each other. Humayun lacked sustained effort and after victory he will retire to opium eater's paradise. His wars with Kalinjir (1531), battle of Dourah (1532), siege of Chunar (1532) and war with Bahadurshah were indecisive in nature. By this time Afghans rallied under Shersha, an able military genius and administrator. Humayun and Shersha crossed swords with each other at Chausa (26 June 1539). Both the parties remained inactive for three months and this lag favoured the intentions of Shersha. When the rain started Mughal encampment was flooded. Humayun was defeated and saved his life with the help of a water carrier. Battle of Chausa was followed by battle of Kanauj (17th May 1540). Humayun's brother, Kamran left the Mughal camp due to internal dissensions. Humayun delayed battle for a month and his artillery failed to check the advance of Shersha. The battle of Kanauj was fought and lost and Humayun became a fugitive. Though a brave soldier he lacked conviction and perseverance. He delayed battles without strong reasons. The internal dissensions, lack of patriotism and the element of luck was against him. Shersha was able to cut the supply and communications of Humayun between Delhi and Bengal. This adversely affected the fortunes of Mughal empire. Humayun tumbled throughout his life and tumbled out of it. He selected low terrains for battle and this was a foolish act. He delayed wars against Bahadurshah and repeated the same at Chausa and Kanauj. Lack of fortune also affected Humayun. The unsettled conditions ended with Humayun and his successor Akbar consolidated the administrative structure of the Mughal empire.

Akbar and consolidation

The abrupt death of Humayun brought Akbar to throne and he was coronated at the age of fourteen. Akbar was assisted by Bairamkhan who was well versed in administration. The immediate threat faced by Akbar was to check the rising power of Hemu, the primeminister of Ibrahim Adilshah of Bengal. In November 1556 Akbar faced Hemu in

the historical battlefield of Panipat. During the initial phase of war Hemu got an upper hand in the battle. But by chance an arrow struck on the eye of Hemu who was mounted on an elephant. He was carried away from the battlefield by the elephant's driver. This created confusion in Afghan army which became leaderless and hence perplexed. Hemu was captured and brought before Akbar. The little emperor was lenient enough to grant pardon to Hemu but Bairamkhan advised him to be a Ghazi and slay the enemy. Akbar slayed the enemy and contemporary writers like Abul Fazl was silent about this incident. Hemu's fall was accidental but it proved the obsolete nature of Afghan warfare with elephantry. Hemu lacked planning and his artillery was captured by the Mughals. He foolishly exposed himself in battle by mounting on an elephant. This was a Himalayan blunder in eastern battles where leader was considered as an icon of resistance. Hemu didn't get the support of Ibrahim Adilshah from eastern direction. Afghan army was clannish and was not able to face the onslaughts of Mughal army who were familiar with the tough conditions of Central Asia. The second battle of Panipat had far reaching consequences. It ensured the safety of the little emperor who in his turn consolidated the Mughal empire. Afghan claims for the throne of Delhi ended and Delhi and Agra were captured by the Mughals.

Akber's army was recognised thoroughly on scientific principles. It ensured all the features of a standing army having advanced techniques of war in Hindustan. It divided army in to regular compact units. Discipline was strictly maintained. It valued the selection of detachment. Corps de elite was formed so as to ensure triballoyalty. The Mughal cavalry was quick, virile and lethal. The artillery was recognised on Central Asian standards. It acquired the characteristic of a national army though nationalism was absent in India during 16th century. Though the army inherited feudal characteristics, science and technology helped Akbar to reorganise the army. There were references about machines for smoothening gun barrels. Special measures were taken to ensure the efficiency of handguns, artillery, wheellock and matchlock. The guns with 17 barrels and ships at Allahabad trumpeted the Mughal success. The reference to Futhuh-Illah-Shirazi is noteworthy in this context. Thus, before consolidating the administration Akbar reorganised the army and equipment. Akbar empowered his army with an eye for the consolidation of the same. He had to face the mighty challenge of Rajputs who wanted to restore their lost glory and prestige.

Gondwana was annexed in 1564. The country had enormous wealth and 53 forts. Asafkhan, the general of Akbar marched against Rani Durgavati and conquered that land. Akbar, followed a policy of carrot and stick in Rajputana. He entered in to matrimonial alliances with them and showed hostilities to states which obstructed his movement. Chittor, an ancient Rajput house of valour and prestige acted as a thorn in Akbar's way. In October 1567, he conquered Chittor and the Raja became a vassal. This victory had great psychological impact because it ensured the acquisition of other Rajput kingdoms without much bloodshed. Udaisingh, the ruler of Chittor retired to frontiers and the fort of Chittor was protected by two gallant soldiers named Jaimal and Patta. Gun powder was used to make breaches in the fort. The breaches in the fort were repaired by Jaimal but accidentally wounded by the handgun of Akbar. The fall of the chief eclipsed the fate of Sisodia house and Rajputs after performing Jauhar became ready for the final battle. The fort of Chittor fell in 1568. After two short wars Akbar captured Kalinjir and Jodhpur.

The ruler of Chittor, Udaisingh died in 1572. Maharana Pratap Singh came to power. Patriotism was the watchword of the new master and he obstructed the imperialist designs of Akbar. The diplomatic meeting of Rana with Raja Mansingh failed. The events culminated in the battle of Haldighati in 1576. The Mughal troops were led by Raja Mansingh and Asaf Khan. Maharana Pratap and 3000 soldiers gallantly offered resistance in the pass of Haldighati. Rana was seriously wounded in the war. He retired to the forest area. The victors were exhausted to pursue him. The battle was barren and failed in its primary objective. Rana fought in a traditional manner without encircling the enemy. He offered a pitched battle which became futile in its objective. The Rana was not able to maintain order in the army. The Rana died in 1597 and it ended the age-old resistance of the house of Sisodias. Rana as a strategist gave defensive warfare by cutting the communications of the enemy and conducting surprise attacks. The Bhil regiments also fought valiantly against the Mughals. These observations point out Rana as a superior strategist who departed from traditional way of warfare continued by Rajputs. Akbar continued his attacks against Gujarat and Bengal but he failed to conquer Kabul and Kashmir. He also failed to conquer Quandahar and Sindh. His attacks against Asigarh and Ahmednagar shows his success in Deccan.

Akbar used Draconian measures in war which was usual in the medieval period. This gave him psychological advantage in a pitched battle. In all most all battles of Medieval India, such tactics were freely employed. The only exception is the case of chivalrous Rajputs who followed a neat war etiquette which protected civilians from war excesses. Akbar followed a policy of realism in his Rajput wars and assimilated them into the mainstream of the Mughal empire with due prestige. The later introduction of Mansabdari system of Akbar was original in nature, though it contained feudal elements. Akbar borrowed it from Persia and readjusted the same in Indian circumstances. The system supports hereditary transaction of properties by the Mansabdars. It indicated a violation of the principle of efficiency. Later, Mansabdari system became feudal in nature and contained self-destructive

tendency. But during the time of Akbar the same worked with efficiency and granted privileges to a rising class of nobles, who acted as the bulwark for redeeming a national empire from temporary eclipses. The absorption of Rajputs, Afghans and various other clans to the coveted service marked the beginning of a national army. The maintenance of cavalry in an efficient manner was ensured by the same.

Jahangir

During the time of Jahangir, wars were conducted against Kangra, Mewar, Kistwar and Ahmednagar. None of these battles were decisive. The period saw the weakening of Mansabdari system because of its feudal nature. Shah Jahan, the magnificent, fought battles against Quandahar and Balkh. The period saw the decline of Mughal administrative infrastructure due to internal dissensions and financial strains. The last days of Shah Jahan witnessed a war of succession among his four sons, Dara, Shuja, Murad and Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb, who was clever and successful in Deccan, proved to be the victor. Though scholarly, Dara was audacious in his nature and estranged the Mughal nobles. The second son Shuja was a seeker of pleasure and the climate of Bengal enervated him. Murad lacked judgement and decision making. But Aurangzeb was astute and was able to placate Mughal and Rajput nobles. The fatal battle of Samugarh in 1658 sealed the fate of Dara. He became a prisoner and was executed. The diplomacy of Aurangzeb earned him the title of the master of Hindustan.

Aurangzeb and the decline of the Mughal empire

Aurangzeb had great quality and had a meritorious record as a general and statesman. He canvassed orthodox Muslims, with his religious tone and maintained a huge army. He suppressed the revolt of Afridis, and reconquered Quandahar. His Hindu policy and Deccan policy were shortsighted and invited rebellions and serious setbacks. He estranged the Rajput nobles who became the pillars of the Mughal empire during the time of Akbar. The Rajput war of Aurangzeb started in 1679 and lasted upto 1681. But he lost the support of a trustworthy martial clan. Ever since, Akber's days Rajputs acted as the backbone of Mughal army. Their loyalty and martial traditions were not recognised by Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb faced the revolt of Satnamis, Jats, Bundelas and Sikhs. The regional resistance to Mughal hegemony culminated during the period of Aurangzeb. The rise of local powers, discontent among peasantry, religious policy and lack of communication caused discontent. In spite of his debacles in North India, Aurangzeb tried to make inroads in South India by subjugating the Deccani states. His conquest of Bijapur (1686) and conquest of Golconda (1687) removed all kinds of checks on the rising Maratha power. The balance of power in Deccan got a severe setback during the period of Aurangzeb. The tilt in power finally went to the side of Marathas who became audacious enough to check the prestige of the Mughal empire.

Maratha power emerged as a victorious band of soldiers during the twilight of the Mughal empire. As a state, they had certain advantages. The hillocks and uneven surfaces of Deccan developed a character of perseverance for the Marathas. This enabled them to undertake long difficult wars with tenacity of purpose. The hillocks and hilly shelters proved to be the natural forts and congenial in creating Guerrilla warfare as a method of war technique. Their sudden dazzling attacks and safe retreat perplexed many veteran Mughal generals. They got religious solidarity as redeemers of Hindu culture. By the ideological background provided by Bhakti saints, they undertook the delicate task of carving a Hindu empire with utmost practical wisdom. Shivaji took the title 'Haindhava Dharmodhark'. It means the introduction of religious patriotism. Their mercenaries like Pindaris created Draconian measures to subdue enemies. Aurangzeb's attack and destruction of the Shia empires of South removed all the obstacles in the Maratha path. Aurangzeb tried to introduce Jagirdari system in a hasty manner in the South again affected the fortunes of the Mughal empire. The lack of proper transport and communications in that age adversely affected the fortunes of Mughal empire. The Hindu policy of Aurangzeb was a failure. His introduction of Jizyah and puritan ideology estranged the masses and created suspicion among them.

Maratha Nationalism

The founder of the Maratha empire Shivaji came in to prominence in a typical Maratha manner. He used tact and diplomacy to win over his enemies and conducted surprise attack on them. After Shivaji, resistance was continued under Sambaji, Sahu, Rajaram and Tarabai. The Marathas had swift-moving cavalry while Mughal camp was filled with pleasure seekers who lost their early robust nature. Intense factionalism and estrangement of Rajputs did havoc to the Mughal prestige. Sir. Jadunath Sarkar remarked that it is the Deccan ulcer which ruined Aurangzeb. Like the national army in Spain, the Marathas destroyed the prestige of the Mughal empire. Maratha became a formidable enemy who resorted to any severe measure to achieve victory in war. But the Mughal encampment contained many laymen which even outnumbered the strength of the actual army. All these shows how lack of diplomacy and obstinate nature on the part of the emperor proved to be the curse of the Mughal empire. In a centralised monarchy, such kind of an abrupt policy change marked the decline of a majestic empire noted for its religious idealism in Medieval period.

Aftermath of war

Trade was disrupted as a result of the war. The long duration of war drained the resources of both parties. Plundering and looting became a common feature which affected the safety and security of the empire. The green environment and cultivation were completely ruined. Penniless Jagirdars went over to the side of Marathas for better fortune. Baluchi camel owners and Afghan mercenaries created confusion and despair to common people. Huge bribing, maintenance of forts, war costs and military movements emptied the treasury. The Mughal empire had to face financial insolvency. The promises of grants and loans became futile. Mughal Sardars became weary of war and became homesick. Chronic disorder occurred in provinces like Agra. Aurangzeb had to face military mutiny which sapped the morale of the Mughal army. Marathas earned the title of 'king makers' in Delhi. They continued such a position up to the third battle of Panipat. After third battle of Panipat, Indian powers lost their prestige and the British dominance became a foregone conclusion. The two centuries old tussle ended in British supremacy with a strong navy and new war techniques.

Conclusion.

A meteoric look at the decisive battles of the Mughal period to point out certain conclusions.

1. Mughals as a community were exceptional warriors who had plenty of experiences in troubled Central Asian politics. That helped them to consolidate a big empire consisting of diverse cultural elements. Their policy of consolidation was marked by wars and diplomacy which continued for two centuries. Their army had courage and discipline and were guided by Medieval Ghazi spirit which prompted them to fight in the name of religion. Babur, Akbar and Aurangzeb used this religious patriotism which was more superior to the clannish patriotism. When the same spirit aroused in Maratha camp, Aurangzeb tasted bitter fruit of failure. The continuous luxurious life of Mughal nobles weakened their robust qualities and they began to offer feeble resistance in Deccan campaigns. The will power, hit and run tactics, geographical conditions and religious nationalism of Marathas were new to the Mughal Sardars. They were able to subdue Rajputs in pitched battles, but the same valour is not a match for Marathas. Mughals used modern techniques of war in the subcontinent like Tulugama, Araba, advance guards and artillery. But the passes of Haldighati questioned the superiority of Mughal army. The tough conditions and heroic resistance at Haldighati were a warning to the Mughals in their future war attempts. Their encounter with Afghans were also successful except in the case of Humayun. The leadership qualities of Mughal emperors were visible on a number of occasions. Their victories at Kanwah, Haldighati and in Rajput wars prove this point. Their failure against Marathas were the results of a number of reasons. Aurangzeb's religious policies, his Deccan policy, time factor for the consolidation of Deccan, geographical features of Maratha region, their religious nationalism, etc; proved to be the obstacles in Mughal sojourn. Chance or accidents played a vital role in certain battle like battle of Chausa and second battle of Panipat. But, the lack of planning is so essential in a pitched battle. The irony of history is that, the Marathas who were experts in the Guerrilla warfare perished in a pitched battle with Ahmed Shah Abdali at the famous battlefield of Panipat in 1761. All medieval wars were noted for Draconian measures to get a psychological advantage over the enemies. At the end of all medieval tussles, European powers emerged in the scene with most modern weapons and a fine navy. The advantage of a modern capitalist nation over feudal elements is a foregone conclusion. Even in 1761, at Panipat Indian forces fared badly against Ahmed Shah Abdali which really questioned the efficacy of traditional battles on Indian soil.

Suggestions and review

1. To identify the Mughal wars, their techniques and events of the troubled years in a process of empire building. To analyse the role played by various factors like fortune, chance, techniques, novelty, geographical conditions, leadership and religious solidarity played their role in the process of empire building.
2. Analyse how Akbar or Shershah in building a national empire amidst of clannish loyalties with the backbone of a powerful army. The consolidation of medieval power was achieved by Shershah and Akbar with the help of their army. Both had challenging times in their career, yet they contributed very much for empire building with the help of a powerful army. Alauddin Khilji also proved the vital nature of a standing army for an efficient consolidation process.
3. The role of war in making the Mughal state as a bankrupt one. The untold miseries of ordinary peasants and army men should be highlighted as a moral story for posterity. The Deccan wars were destructive and sapped the foundations of Mughal empire. It emptied the treasury and pathetically affected green environment by destroying agriculture and dislocated trade in Medieval India. Posterity must understand the writing on the wall that such destructive wars will be a curse and will destroy the safety of nations.
4. The martial character of Rajputs induced James Todd to take sound administrative and cultural steps to focus their story. Such an empathetic attitude should be the watchword of modern rulers. The martial prowess of Rajputs inspired James Todd to create a marvellous work like 'Annals and antiquities of

Rajasthan' which highlighted the chivalrous character of Rajputs and their legendary resistance. While dealing with their administrative settlements, he showed sympathy for their feudal claims.

5. Accept military history as a part of the curriculum of modern army institutions, so as to inculcate the values of patriotism and moral courage.

REFERENCES

1. Bharadwaj Suraj Bhan .2016, Contestations and accommodations, New Delhi: Oxford University Press,
2. Chandra Satish .2003, Medieval Indian History, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
3. Chattopadhyaya. D.P. 2005, The State and society in Medieval India, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
4. Chaurasia. R.S. 2004, History of The Marathas, Delhi: Atlantic
5. Habib Irfan. 1997, Akbar and His India, New Delhi: Oxford University Press
6. Majumdar, R.C. Ray Chaudhari. H.C. Kali Kinkar Datta .1946, An Advanced History of India, New Delhi: Mc Millan
7. Sandhu Singh Gurcharan. 2003, A Military History of Medieval India, Michigan: Vision Books
8. Sarkar Jadunath. 2008, The Fall of The Mughal Empire, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan
9. Sarkar Jadunath. 2022 Military History of India, Chandigarh: Abhisekh Publications
10. Sir Haig Wolsely. Sir Burn Richard .1987 The Cambridge History of India, New Delhi: S.Chand and company
11. Sreevastava. A.L .1986, The Mughal Empire, Agra: Shivalal Agarwala and company.
12. Sreevastava. A.L. 1987, History of India, Agra: Shivalal Agarwala and company.

