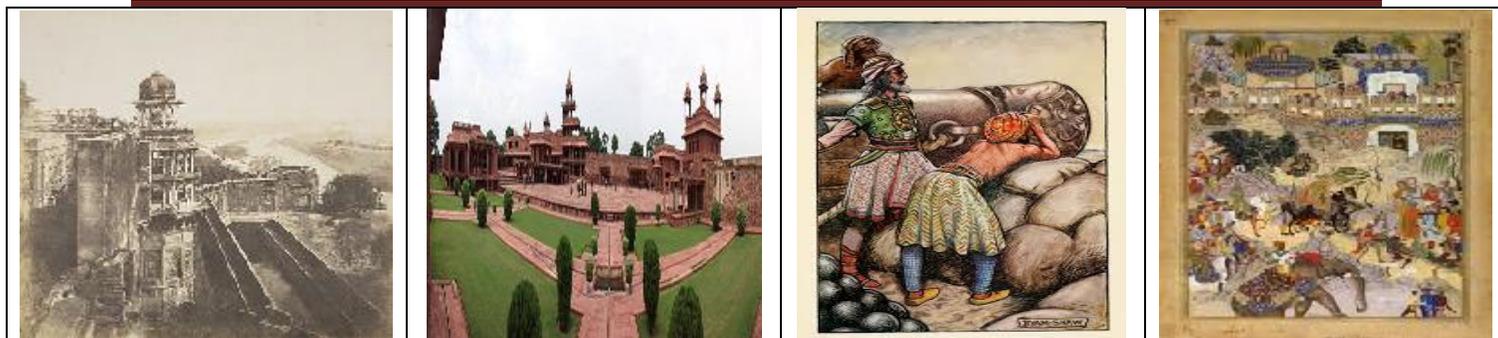


AKBAR



The young monarch began what was to be the greatest reign of the Mughal dynasty. A powerful and brave character in his own right, tales of his superhuman strength and cunning warrior's mind preceded Akbar wherever he went. Such notoriety undoubtedly helped him expand the empire, as he conquered nearly all of modern-day northern India and Pakistan, and successfully converted independent states such as Gujarat and Rajasthan into vassal satrapies. Beyond his ability as an effective conqueror, Akbar was a keen administrator who developed a centralized federal government that delegated tasks to powerful bureaucracies. But above all, he is perhaps best known for recognizing the importance of tolerance, which was paramount to his dynasty's long term viability. Akbar's wives were also of different religious backgrounds - each marriage was thus a strategic union that would allow the adherents of India's many faiths to feel that they too were a part of the royal household. Over time, Akbar's fascination with religion grew to almost an obsession when he fashioned his own faith, called Din Ilahi. Akbar established a new capital at Agra, where he built the marvelous Agra Fort. But by the 1570s, he moved it again, 40 miles west of Agra, to a new capital called Fatehpur Sikri. Akbar resettled in Agra later. Akbar died in 1605, nearly 50 years after his ascension to the throne, and was buried outside of Agra at Sikandra.

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Where & when born

Jalal ud-din Muhammad Akbar was born on 15 October 1542 at the Rajput Fortress of Umerkot in Sindh (in modern day Pakistan), to his parents of Mughal emperor Humayun and Hamida Banu Begum who had been given refuge by the local Hindu ruler Rana Prasad.

Brief history of the person

Defeated in battles at [Chausa](#) and [Kannauj](#) in 1539-40 by the forces of [Sher Shah Suri](#) Mughal emperor [Humayun](#) fled westward to [Sindh](#) There he met and married the then 14-year-old [Hamida Banu Begum](#), daughter of Shaikh Ali Akbar Jami, a teacher of Humayun's younger brother [Hindal Mirza](#). Jalal ud-din Muhammad Akbar was born the next year on 15 October 1542 (the fourth day of [Rajab](#), 949 AH) at the [Rajput Fortress](#) of [Umerkot](#) in [Sindh](#) (in modern day Pakistan), where his parents had been given refuge by the local Hindu ruler Rana Prasad

During the extended period of Humayun's exile, Akbar was brought up in Kabul by the extended family of his paternal uncles, [Kamran Mirza](#) and [Askari Mirza](#), and his aunts, in particular Kamran Mirza's wife. He spent his youth learning to hunt, run, and fight, made him a daring, powerful and a brave warrior, but he never learned to read or write. This, however, did not hinder his search for knowledge as it is said always when he retired in the evening he would have someone read. In November of 1551, Akbar married his [first cousin](#), [Ruqaiya Sultan Begum](#) at Kabul. Princess Ruqaiya was the only daughter of his paternal uncle, [Hindal Mirza](#), and was his first wife and chief consort. The marriage was arranged by Akbar's father and Ruqaiya's uncle, Emperor Humayun, and took place soon after the untimely death of Hindal Mirza, who died in a battle.

Following the chaos over the succession of Sher Shah Suri's son [Islam Shah](#), Humayun reconquered Delhi in 1555, leading an army partly provided by his Persian ally [Tahmasp I](#). A few months later, Humayun died. Akbar's guardian, [Bairam Khan](#) concealed the death in order to prepare for Akbar's succession. Akbar succeeded Humayun on 14 February 1556, while in the midst of a war against [Sikandar Shah](#) to reclaim the Mughal throne. In [Kalanaur, Punjab](#), the 13-year-old Akbar was enthroned by Bairam Khan on a newly constructed platform, which still stands. He was proclaimed *Shah an shah* ([Persian](#) for "King of Kings"). Bairam Khan ruled on his behalf until he came of age

After his victories over Delhi, Agra, Punjab, Lahore, Ajmer and Gwalior Fort, Royal begums, along with the



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families of Mughal amirs, were finally brought over from Kabul to India at the time—according to Akbar's vizier, Abul Fazl, "so that men might become settled and be restrained in some measure from departing to a country to which they were accustomed. Akbar had firmly declared his intentions that the Mughals were in India to stay. This was a far cry from the political settlements by his grandfather, Babur, and by his father, Humayun, both of whom had done little to indicate that they were anything but transient rulers

From an early age, Akbar was raised in a tolerant milieu. Although his family was Sunni, two of his childhood tutors were Persian Shias. As an emperor, Akbar made the Sufi concept of Sulh-e-Kuhl, or "peace to all," a founding principle of his law.

As he mentioned to Philip II of Spain in his letter, cited above, he loved to meet with learned men and women of all faiths to discuss theology and philosophy. From the female Jain guru Champa to Portuguese Jesuit priests, Akbar wanted to hear from them all.

Interestingly, Akbar even formed an alliance with the Catholic Portuguese to punish the Ottoman Empire, which controlled the Arabian Peninsula at that time

Akbar maintained more enduring relations with other empires, however. Despite the Mughal capture of Kandahar from the Persian Safavid Empire in 1595, for example, those two dynasties had cordial diplomatic ties throughout Akbar's rule. The Mughal Empire was such a rich and important potential trading partner that various European monarchs sent emissaries to Akbar, as well, including Elizabeth I of England and Henry IV of France

On 3 October 1605, Akbar fell ill with an attack of dysentery, from which he never recovered. He is believed to have died on or about 27 October 1605, after which his body was buried at a mausoleum in Sikandra, Agra.

Bhavishya Purana is a minor [Purana](#) that depicts the various Hindu holy days and includes a section devoted to the various dynasties which ruled India, having its oldest portion dated to 500 CE and newest to the 18th century. It contains a story about Akbar in which he is compared to the other Mughal rulers. The section called "Akbar Bahshaha Varnan" written in Sanskrit describes his birth as a "[reincarnation](#)" of a sage who immolated himself on seeing the first Mughal ruler Babur, who is described as the "cruel king of Mlecchas (Muslims)". In this text it is stated that Akbar "was a miraculous child" and that he would not follow the previous "violent ways" of the Mughals.

In the Quest of conquering the world

Akbar, who had been born in 1542 while his father, [Humayun](#), was in flight from the victorious [Surs](#), was only thirteen when he was proclaimed emperor in 1556. His father had succeeded in regaining control of the [Punjab](#), [Delhi](#), and [Agra](#) with [Safavid](#) support, but even in these areas Mughal rule was precarious, and when the Surs reconquered Agra and Delhi following the death of Humayun, the fate of the boy emperor seemed uncertain. Akbar's minority and the lack of any possibility of military assistance from the Mughal stronghold of [Kabul](#), that was at this time in the throes of an invasion by the ruler of [Badakhshan](#), Prince



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Mirza Suleiman, aggravated the situation. When his regent, [Bairam Khan](#), called a council of war to marshal the Mughal forces, none of Akbar's chieftains approved of it. However, Bairam Khan was ultimately able to prevail over the nobles and it was decided that the Mughals would march against the strongest of the Sur rulers, [Sikandar Shah Suri](#), in the Punjab. Delhi was left under the regency of [Tardi Baig Khan](#). Sikandar Shah Suri, however, presented no major concern for Akbar, and avoided giving battle as the Mughal army approached. The gravest threat came from [Hemu](#), a minister and general of one of the Sur rulers, who had proclaimed himself Hindu emperor and expelled the Mughals from the [Indo-Gangetic plains](#).

Urged by [Bairam Khan](#), who re-marshalled the Mughal army before Hemu could consolidate his position, Akbar marched on Delhi to reclaim it. Akbar's army, led by Bairam Khan, defeated Hemu and the Sur army on 5 November 1556 at the [Second Battle of Panipat](#), 50 miles north of Delhi. Soon after the battle, Mughal forces occupied Delhi and then Agra. Akbar made a triumphant entry into Delhi, where he stayed for a month. Then he and Bairam Khan returned to Punjab, to deal with Sikandar Shah, who had become active again. In the next six months, the Mughals won another major battle against Sikander Shah Suri, who then fled east to [Bengal](#). Akbar and his forces occupied [Lahore](#) and then seized [Multan](#) in the Punjab.

In 1558, Akbar took possession of [Ajmer](#), the aperture to [Rajputana](#), after the defeat and flight of its Muslim ruler. The Mughals had also besieged and defeated the Sur forces in control of [Gwalior Fort](#), the greatest stronghold north of the [Narmada](#) river.

In 1560, Akbar resumed military operations. A Mughal army under the command of his foster brother, [Adham Khan](#), and a Mughal commander, Pir Muhammad Khan, invaded Malwa. The Afghan ruler, [Baz Bahadur](#), was defeated at the Battle of Sarangpur, and fled to [Khandesh](#) for refuge leaving behind his harem, treasure, and war elephants. Despite initial success, the campaign proved a disaster from Akbar's point of view. His foster brother retained all the spoils and followed through with the Central Asian practice of slaughtering the surrendered garrison, their wives and children, and many Muslim theologians and Sayyids, who were the descendants of [Muhammad](#). Akbar personally rode to Malwa to confront Adham Khan and relieve him of command. Pir Muhammad Khan was then sent in pursuit of Baz Bahadur but was beaten back by the alliance of the rulers of Khandesh and [Berar](#). Baz Bahadur temporarily regained control of Malwa until, in the next year, Akbar sent another Mughal army to invade and annex the kingdom. Malwa became a province of the nascent imperial administration of Akbar's regime. Baz Bahadur survived as a refugee at various courts until, eight years later, in 1570, he took service under Akbar

In 1564, Mughal forces conquered the [Gondwana](#) kingdom. Gondwana, a thinly populated hilly area in central India was of interest to the Mughals because of its herd of wild elephants. The territory was ruled over by Raja Vir Narayan, a minor, and his mother, [Durgavati](#), a [Rajput](#) warrior queen of the Gonds. Akbar did not personally lead the campaign because he was preoccupied with the Uzbek rebellion, but left the expedition in the hands of Asaf Khan, the Mughal governor of Kara. Durgavati committed suicide after her defeat at the Battle of Damoh while Raja Vir Narayan was slain at the Fall of Chauragarh, the mountain fortress of the Gonds. The Mughals seized immense wealth, an uncalculated amount of gold and silver, jewels and 1000 elephants. Kamala Devi, a younger sister of Durgavati, was sent to the Mughal harem. The brother of Durgavati's deceased husband was installed as the Mughal administrator of the region.

Having established Mughal rule over northern India, Akbar turned his attention to the conquest of [Rajputana](#). No imperial power in India based on the Indo-Gangetic plains could be secure if a rival centre of power existed on its flank in Rajputana. The Mughals had already established domination over parts of northern Rajputana in [Mewar](#), [Ajmer](#), and Nagor. Now, however, Akbar was determined to drive into the heartlands of the [Rajput](#) kings that had never previously submitted to the Muslim rulers of the [Delhi Sultanate](#). Beginning in 1561, the Mughals actively engaged the Rajputs in warfare and diplomacy. Most Rajput states accepted Akbar's suzerainty; the ruler of Mewar, [Udai Singh](#), however, remained outside the imperial fold. Raja Udai Singh was descended from the Sisodia ruler, [Rana Sanga](#), who had died fighting Babur at the [Battle of Khanwa](#) in 1527. As the head of the Sisodia clan, he possessed the highest ritual status of all the Rajput kings and chieftains in India. Unless Udai Singh was reduced to submission, the imperial authority of the Mughals would be lessened in Rajput eyes. Furthermore, Akbar, at this early period, was still enthusiastically devoted to the cause of Islam and sought to impress the superiority of his faith over the most prestigious warriors in Brahminical Hinduism.

In 1567, Akbar moved to reduce the [Chittorgarh Fort](#) in Mewar. The fortress-capital of Mewar was of great strategic importance as it lay on the shortest route from Agra to [Gujarat](#) and was also considered a key to holding the interior parts of Rajputana. Udai Singh retired to the hills of Mewar, leaving two Rajput warriors, [Jaimal and Patta](#), in charge of the defense of his capital. Chittorgarh fell on February 1568 after a [siege of four months](#). Akbar had the surviving defenders massacred and their heads displayed upon towers erected throughout the region, in order to demonstrate his authority.

The fall of Chittorgarh was followed up by a Mughal attack on the [Ranthambore Fort](#) in 1568. Ranthambore was held by the [Hada](#) Rajputs and reputed to be the most powerful fortress in India. However, it fell only after a couple of months. Akbar was now the master of almost the whole of Rajputana. Most of the Rajput kings had submitted to the Mughals. Only the clans of Mewar continued to resist. Udai Singh's son and successor, [Pratap Singh](#), was later defeated by the Mughals at the [Battle of Haldighati](#) in 1576. Akbar would celebrate his conquest of Rajputana by laying the foundation of a new capital, 23 miles W.S.W of Agra in 1569. It was called [Fatehpur Sikri](#) ("the city of victory"). [Rana Pratap Singh](#), however, continuously attacked mughals and was able to retain most of the kingdom of his ancestors in the life of Akbar

Akbar's next military objectives were the conquest of Gujarat and Bengal, which connected India with the trading centres of Asia, Africa, and Europe through the [Arabian Sea](#) and the [Bay of Bengal](#) respectively.

In 1572, he moved to occupy [Ahmedabad](#), the capital, and other northern cities, and was proclaimed the lawful sovereign of Gujarat. By 1573, he had driven out the Mirzas who, after offering token resistance, fled for refuge in the [Deccan](#). [Surat](#), the commercial capital of the region and other coastal cities soon capitulated to the Mughals. The outnumbered Mughal army then won a decisive victory on 2 September 1573. Akbar slew the rebel leaders and erected a tower out of their severed heads. The conquest and subjugation of Gujarat proved highly profitable for the Mughals; the territory yielded a revenue of more than five million rupees annually to Akbar's treasury, after expenses

In 1574, the Mughals seized [Patna](#) from Daud Khan, who fled to Bengal. Akbar returned to Fatehpur Sikri and left his generals to finish the campaign. The Mughal army was subsequently victorious at the [Battle of](#)



[Tukaroi](#) in 1575, which led to the annexation of Bengal and parts of Bihar that had been under the dominion of Daud Khan. Only [Orissa](#) was left in the hands of the [Karrani dynasty](#) as a fief of the Mughal Empire. A year later, however, Daud Khan rebelled and attempted to regain Bengal. He was defeated by the Mughal general, [Khan Jahan Quli](#), and had to flee into exile. Daud Khan was later captured and executed by Mughal forces. His severed head was sent to Akbar, while his limbs were gibbeted at Tandah, the Mughal capital in Bengal

In August 1581, Akbar seized Kabul and took up residence at Babur's old citadel. He stayed there for three weeks, in the absence of his brother, who had fled into the mountains. Akbar left Kabul in the hands of his sister, Bakht-un-Nisa Begum, and returned to India. He pardoned his brother, who took up de facto charge of the Mughal administration in Kabul; Bakht-un-Nis continued to be the official governor. A few years later, in 1585, Muhammad Hakim died and Kabul passed into the hands of Akbar once again. It was officially incorporated as a province of the Mughal Empire.

In 1586, Akbar negotiated a pact with Abdullah Khan in which the Mughals agreed to remain neutral during the Uzbek invasion of Safavid held [Khorasan](#). In return, Abdullah Khan agreed to refrain from supporting, subsidizing, or offering refuge to the Afghan tribes hostile to the Mughals

Akbar immediately fielded new armies to invade the Yusufzai lands under the command of [Raja Todar Mal](#). Over the next six years, the Mughals contained the Yusufzai in the mountain valleys, and forced the submission of many chiefs in Swat and Bajaur. Dozens of forts were built and occupied to secure the region. Akbar's response demonstrated his ability to clamp firm military control over the Afghan tribes

The last of the rebellious Afghan tribes were subdued by 1600. The Roshaniyya movement was firmly suppressed. The [Afridi](#) and [Orakzai](#) tribes, which had risen up under the Roshaniyyas, had been subjugated. The leaders of the movement were captured and driven into exile. Jalaluddin, the son of the Roshaniyya movement's founder, Bayazid, was killed in 1601 in a fight with Mughal troops near [Ghazni](#). Mughal rule over today's Afghanistan was finally secure, particularly after the passing of the Uzbek threat with the death of Abdullah Khan in 1598

While in Lahore dealing with the Uzbeks, Akbar had sought to subjugate the [Indus valley](#) to secure the frontier provinces. He sent an army to conquer [Kashmir](#) in the upper Indus basin when, in 1585, Ali Shah, the reigning king of the Shia Chak dynasty, refused to send his son as a hostage to the Mughal court. Ali Shah surrendered immediately to the Mughals, but another of his sons, Yaqub, crowned himself as king, and led a stubborn resistance to Mughal armies. Finally, in June, 1589, Akbar himself travelled from Lahore to Srinagar to receive the surrender of Yaqub and his rebel forces. [Baltistan](#) and [Ladakh](#), which were Tibetan provinces adjacent to Kashmir, pledged their allegiance to Akbar. The Mughals also moved to conquer [Sindh](#) in the lower Indus valley.

Akbar responded by sending a Mughal army to besiege [Sehwan](#), the river capital of the region. Jani Beg mustered a large army to meet the Mughals. The outnumbered Mughal forces defeated the Sindhi forces at the Battle of Sehwan. After suffering further defeats, Jani Beg surrendered to the Mughals in 1591, and in 1593, paid homage to Akbar in Lahore



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Akbar ordered the Mughal forces to conquer the rest of the Afghan held parts of [Baluchistan](#) in 1595. The Mughal general, [Mir Masum](#), led an attack on the stronghold of Sibi, situated to the northwest of [Quetta](#) and defeated a coalition of local chieftains in a pitched battle. They were made to acknowledge Mughal supremacy and attend Akbar's court. As a result, the modern-day Pakistani and Afghan parts of Baluchistan, including the area's of the strategic region of [Makran](#) that lay within it, became a part of the Mughal Empire. The Mughals now fronted Persian ruled Kandahar from three sides

In 1593, Akbar received the exiled Safavid prince, Rostam Mirza, after he had quarrelled with his family. Rostam Mirza pledged allegiance to the Mughals; he was granted a rank (mansab) of commander of 5000 men and received Multan as a jagir. Beleaguered by constant Uzbek raids, and seeing the reception of Rostam Mirza at the Mughal court, the Safavid prince and governor of Kandahar, Mozaffar Hosayn, also agreed to defect to the Mughals. Mozaffar Hosayn, who was in any case in an adversary relationship with his overlord, [Shah Abbas](#), was granted a rank of 5000 men, and his daughter [Kandahari Begum](#) was married to Akbar's grandson, the Mughal prince, [Khurram](#). Kandahar was finally secured in 1595 with the arrival of a garrison headed by the Mughal general, Shah Bayg Khan. The reconquest of Kandahar did not overtly disturb the Mughal-Persian relationship. Akbar and the Persian Shah continued to exchange ambassadors and presents. However, the power equation between the two had now changed in favour of the Mughals.

Leadership qualities

Military Tactics

His excellent military tactics and political knowledge helped him to expand the Mughal empire

The basis of this military prowess and authority was Akbar's skillful structural and organisational calibration of the [Mughal army](#).

Organisational reforms were accompanied by innovations in [cannons](#), [fortifications](#), and the [use of elephants](#).

He took special delight in the practice of mechanical arts with his own hands.

There was nothing that he did not know how to do, whether matters of war, or of administration, or of any mechanical art. Therefore he took particular pleasure in making guns and in founding and modelling cannon."

He was credited with many inventions and improvements. That side of his character suggests a comparison with Peter the Great. . . .

Akbar also took an interest in [matchlocks](#) and effectively employed them during various conflicts



Principles & Practices

He cared little for flesh food, and gave up the use of it almost entirely in the later years of his life, when he came under Jain influence. . . .

"A monarch," he said, "should be ever intent on conquest, otherwise his neighbours rise in arms against him. The army should be exercised in warfare, lest from want of training they become self-indulgent." Accordingly he continued to be intent on conquest all his life and to keep his army in constant training.

In 1582 he resolved to attempt the impossible task of providing all sects in his empire with one universal eclectic religion to which he gave the name of Divine Monotheism.

His attitude towards religion expressed the queer mixture in his mind of mysticism, rationalism, superstition, and a profound belief in his own God-given powers. His actions at times gave substantial grounds for the reproach that he was not unwilling to be regarded as a God on earth.

Political government

Akbar's system of [central government](#) was based on the system that had evolved since the [Delhi Sultanate](#), but the functions of various departments were carefully reorganised by laying down detailed regulations for their functioning

- The revenue department was headed by a *wazir*, responsible for all finances and management of *jagir* and *inam* lands.
- The head of the military was called the *mir bakshi*, appointed from among the leading nobles of the court. The *mir bakshi* was in charge of intelligence gathering, and also made recommendations to the emperor for military appointments and promotions.
- The *mir saman* was in charge of the imperial household, including the harems, and supervised the functioning of the court and royal bodyguard.
- The judiciary was a separate organization headed by a chief [qazi](#), who was also responsible for religious beliefs and practices
- He supported religious freedom
 - Akbar the Great chided Philip for the anti-Protestant excesses of the Spanish Counter-reformation. Spain's Catholic inquisitors had by this time mostly rid the country of Muslims and Jews, so turned their murderous attentions to Protestant Christians instead, particularly in Spanish-ruled Holland.
 - Although Philip II did not heed Akbar's call for religious tolerance, it is indicative of the Mughal emperor's attitudes towards people of other faiths.
- He abolished the non-Muslim tax
- He accepted many influences from different cultures to influence the arts and education.



Trade

The reign of Akbar was characterised by commercial expansion. The Mughal government encouraged traders, provided protection and security for transactions, and levied a very low custom duty to stimulate foreign trade. Furthermore, it strived to foster a climate conducive to commerce by requesting local administrators to provide restitution to traders for goods stolen while in their territory. In order to minimize such incidents, bands of highway police called *rahdars* were enlisted to patrol roads and ensure safety of traders. Other active measures taken included the construction and protection of routes of commerce and communications. Indeed, Akbar would make concerted efforts to improve roads to facilitate the use of wheeled vehicles through the [Khyber Pass](#), the most popular route frequented by traders and travellers in journeying from [Kabul](#) into Mughal India. He also strategically occupied the northwestern cities of [Multan](#) and [Lahore](#) in the [Punjab](#) and constructed great forts, such as the one at [Attock](#) near the crossing of the [Grand Trunk Road](#) and the [Indus river](#), as well as a network of smaller forts called *thanas* throughout the frontier to secure the overland trade with Persia and Central Asia.

Akbar was a great innovator as far as coinage is concerned. The coins of Akbar set a new chapter in India's numismatic history.

Akbar's policy of matrimonial alliances marked a departure in India from previous practice in that the marriage itself marked the beginning of a new order of relations, wherein the Hindu Rajputs who married their daughters or sisters to him would be treated on par with his Muslim fathers-in-law and brothers-in-law in all respects except being able to dine and pray with him or take Muslim wives. These Rajputs were made members of his court and their daughters' or sisters' marriage to a Muslim ceased to be a sign of degradation, except for certain proud elements who still considered it a sign of humiliation

Critical moments and conspiracies against him.

By 1559, the Mughals had launched a drive to the south into Rajputana and [Malwa](#). However, Akbar's disputes with his regent, Bairam Khan, temporarily put an end to the expansion. The young emperor, at the age of eighteen, wanted to take a more active part in managing affairs. Urged on by his foster mother, [Maham Anga](#), and his relatives, Akbar decided to dispense with the services of Bairam Khan. After yet another dispute at court, Akbar finally dismissed Bairam Khan in the spring of 1560 and ordered him to leave on [Haji](#) to [Mecca](#). Bairam Khan left for Mecca, but on his way was goaded by his opponents to rebel. He was defeated by the Mughal army in the Punjab and forced to submit. Akbar however forgave him and gave him the option of either continuing in his court or resuming his pilgrimage, of which Bairam chose the latter. Bairam Khan was later assassinated on his way to Mecca, allegedly by an Afghan with a personal vendetta

Despite ultimate success in Malwa, the conflict however, exposed cracks in Akbar's personal relationships with his relatives and Mughal nobles. When Adham Khan confronted Akbar following another dispute in 1562, he was struck down by the emperor and thrown from a terrace into the palace courtyard at Agra. Still alive, Adham Khan was dragged up and thrown to the courtyard once again by Akbar to ensure his death. Akbar now sought to eliminate the threat of over-mighty subjects. He created specialized ministerial posts



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relating to imperial governance. No member of the Mughal nobility was to have unquestioned pre-eminence.

When a powerful clan of Uzbek chiefs broke out in rebellion in 1564, Akbar decisively defeated and routed them in Malwa and then [Bihar](#). He pardoned the rebellious leaders, hoping to conciliate them. But they rebelled again, so Akbar had to quell their uprising a second time. Following a third revolt with the proclamation of [Mirza Muhammad Hakim](#), Akbar's brother and the Mughal ruler of Kabul, as emperor, his patience was finally exhausted. Several Uzbek chieftains were subsequently slain and the rebel leaders trampled to death under elephants. Simultaneously the Mirza's, a group of Akbar's distant cousins who held important fiefs near Agra, had also risen up in rebellion. They too were slain and driven out of the empire. In 1566, Akbar moved to meet the forces of his brother, Muhammad Hakim, who had marched into the Punjab with dreams of seizing the imperial throne. Following a brief confrontation, however, Muhammad Hakim accepted Akbar's supremacy and retreated back to Kabul

Like in Malwa, however, Akbar entered into a dispute with his vassals over the conquest of Gondwana. Asaf Khan was accused of keeping most of the treasures, and sending back only 200 elephants to Akbar. When summoned to give accounts, he fled Gondwana. He went first to the Uzbeks, then returned to Gondwana where he was pursued by Mughal forces. Finally, he submitted and Akbar restored him to his previous position

At the time of Akbar's ascension in 1556, the Portuguese had established several fortresses and factories on the western coast of the subcontinent, and largely controlled navigation and sea-trade in that region. As a consequence of this colonialism, all other trading entities were subject to the terms and conditions of the Portuguese, and this was resented by the rulers and traders of the time including [Bahadur Shah of Gujarat](#).

In the year 1572 the [Mughal Empire](#) annexed [Gujarat](#) and acquired its first access to the sea, the local officials informed Akbar that the Portuguese have begun to exert their control in the [Indian Ocean](#). Hence Akbar was conscious of the threat posed by the presence of the Portuguese, remained content with obtaining a [cartaz](#) (permit) from them for sailing in the [Persian Gulf](#) region. At the initial meeting of the Mughals and the Portuguese during the [Siege of Surat](#) in 1572, the Portuguese, recognising the superior strength of the Mughal army, chose to adopt diplomacy instead of war, and the Portuguese Governor, upon the request of Akbar, sent him an ambassador to establish friendly relations. Akbar's efforts to purchase and secure from the Portuguese some of their compact [Artillery](#) pieces were unsuccessful and that is the reason why Akbar could not establish the [Mughal](#) navy along the Gujarat coast

Akbar accepted the offer of diplomacy, but the Portuguese continually acknowledged their authority and power in the [Indian Ocean](#), in fact Akbar was highly concerned when he had to request a permit from the Portuguese before any ships from the [Mughal Empire](#) were to depart for the [Haji](#) pilgrimage to [Mecca](#) and [Medina](#).



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Historiographies

Akbar's reign was chronicled extensively by his court historian [Abul Fazal](#) in the books *Akbarnama* and *Ain-i-akbari*.

Other contemporary sources of Akbar's reign include the works of Badayuni, Shaikhzada Rashidi and Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi.

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