

	The Mughal Empire
Location/time	1526-1857; original empire was centered in Northern India along the Indus and Ganges; gained more as time went on; Aurangzeb reached its height in size – entire subcontinent except southern tip (Tamil Kingdom) (early 1700s)
Babur	Claimed to be a descendent of Genghis Khan; responsible for taking over Delhi Sultanate which was a Hindu Dynasty; he established a new Muslim empire in Northern India in 1530 called the Mughal Empire, like Osman and early Safavid, had gunpowder tech and utilized warrior aristocracy to grow
Akbar	Grandson of Babur; considered the greatest Mughal ruler comparable to Suleiman of Ottoman; ruled 1556-1605; gained territory, skilled negotiator; ended taxes on non-Muslims and devised law codes fair to all; to encourage unity in the divisive empire, he had religious discussions even with the Jesuits – religious toleration, women's rights (encouraged Hindu widow remarriage, discouraged child marriages although still widely practiced, wanted to prohibit sati, set aside special market days for upper class women to go in public)
Shah Jahan	grandson of Akbar (1628-1658); unable to create as unified as an empire as Akbar; increased taxes to support military campaigns; spent heavily on Taj Mahal (tomb for his wife with white marble and domes etched with artistic patterns and encrusted with gold, silver and jewels)
Aurangzeb	Son of Shah Jahan(1658-1707)expanded to included almost all of India; his policies contributed to the decline of the empire; to get rid of debt he did away with gov't sponsored art, architecture and history; attacked Hindus and Sikhs and reinstated non-Muslim tax
Government	Absolute rule; divided into provinces and districts giving local governors land rights; main source of gov't revenue were taxes; Zamindari system helped that; bureaucratic style with Muslim minority in control of gov't
Economy	Agrarian based; manufactured cotton textiles (many of the different names of cloths are named after Indian ports) Europe desired these cloths and exchanged them for other Asian goods or coinage
Society	Rulers were Islamic but majority of people within the empire were Hindu; language was Persian, but Urdu (blend of Hindi and Arabic) was used often in literature; Mughal architecture still stands today with the most famous being the Taj Mahal; women in lower classes – Child marriage grew in popularity and age limit was lowered like 9 years old, seclusion was enforced among upper caste women and even got to be that the birth of a girl was seen as unlucky); Akbar would tried to much to resolve women's subordination but tradition surpassed any attempts
Contributions	Hindu and Muslim traditions influenced each other blending to create a distinctive Mughal culture; Taj Mahal is a good example; Persian influences in art and architecture; Sikhism
decline	Increased military campaigns caused high taxes and discontent among the people; corrupt officials during Aurangzeb's military campaigns, intolerance. Europeans began to gain control of parts of India (Dutch East India Company, British East India Company and French East India Company); Gov't collapses in 1858 when the British make India a direct part of their empire