

# Terms, People, and Places

Sultan:

Delhi:

Rajah:

Sikhism:

Babur:

Mughal:

Akbar:

Nur Jahan:

Shah Jahan:

Taj Mahal

# Lesson Objectives

- Describe the impact the Delhi sultanate had on India.
- Explain why Muslim and Hindu traditions clashed and how they blended.
- Summarize the policies of Akbar that strengthened Mughal India.

# **Summary**

## **“India’s Muslim Empires”**

Muslim invasions and rule over India led to cultural diffusion as well as bloody clashes between Muslims and Hindus.

**CHAPTER**  
**10**  
**SECTION 4**
**Section Summary**
**INDIA'S MUSLIM EMPIRES**

After 550, rival princes fought for control of India. Around 1000, Muslim armies moved in. Muslim attacks included onslaughts that killed many Hindus and destroyed Buddhist temples. Muslims triumphed due to military superiority, rivalries among Hindu princes, and the many Hindus who converted to Islam. By the 1100s, a sultan controlled northern India. From the capital in Delhi, the Delhi sultanate ruled from 1206 to 1526.

Muslim rulers reorganized Indian government and increased trade. During the Mongol raids of the 1200s, scholars fled from Baghdad to India, bringing Persian and Greek learning with them. These newcomers helped turn Delhi into a place where art and architecture flourished. However, in 1389, Mongols attacked Delhi, destroying much of its culture.

The Muslim advance brought two very different religious groups—Hindus and Muslims—face to face. Muslims worshiped a single god, while Hindus prayed to many. Hindu accepted the caste system, while Islam promoted equality.

Gradually, the cultures blended. Hindus were allowed to practice their religion and some *rajahs*, or local Hindu rulers, continued governing. Many Hindus converted to Islam because it rejected the caste system. Muslims followed some Hindu customs and ideas. A new language, called Urdu, blended Arabic, Persian, and the Indian language spoken in Delhi. A new religion, Sikhism, was a blend of Muslim and Hindu beliefs.

In 1526, Babur led Turkish and Mongol armies into northern India to establish the Mughal dynasty, which would last until 1857. Babur's grandson, Akbar, known as Akbar the Great, ruled from 1556 to 1605. He established a strong central government that had paid officials; he also modernized the army and encouraged international trade. He allowed Hindus to work in government and promoted peace through religious tolerance.

After Akbar's death, his son's wife, Nur Jahan, managed the government skillfully. She was the most powerful woman in Indian history until the twentieth century. Akbar's grandson, Shah Jahan, ruled when Mughal literature, art, and architecture were at their height. He built the Taj Mahal, a tomb for his wife. It is a spectacular building and a great monument of the Mughal empire.

**Review Questions**

1. What are two differences between Hindu and Muslim beliefs?

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2. What were Nur Jahan's contributions to the Mughal empire?

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**READING CHECK**

What religion is a blend of Muslim and Hindu beliefs?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *onslaughts* mean in the underlined sentence? Look for context clues to its meaning in the sentence. Use those clues to help you write a definition of *onslaughts*.

**READING SKILL**

**Identify Supporting Details**  
 Record details that support this statement:

In India, the Hindu and Muslim cultures blended.

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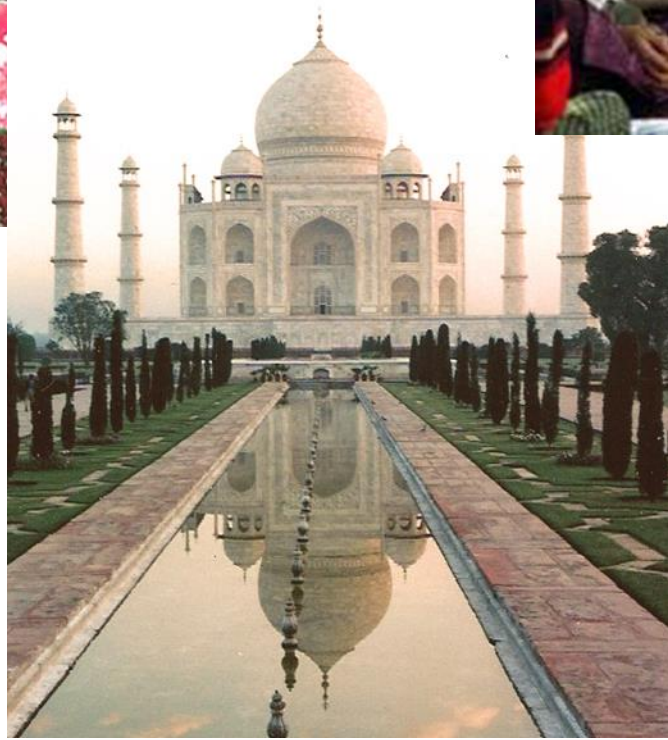


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# Aim #11: How did Islam impact India?

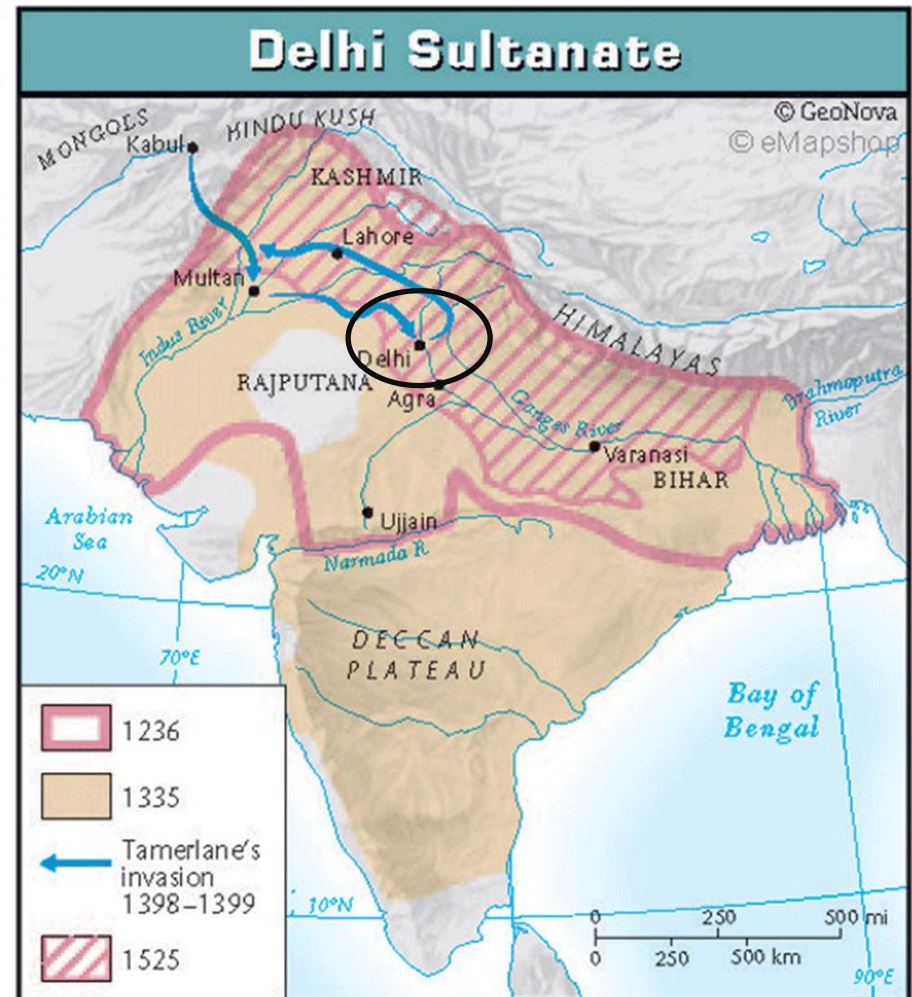


# India Post-Gupta (550-...)

- Fragmented
- rival princes battled
- Culture & trade flourished

# Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526)

- Late 1100's, **sultans** defeat Hindus
- organized **sultanate**
  - beginning of Muslim rule in India
- Muslims (Turks, Arabs, Persians) moved to Delhi
  - Brought trade, culture, & learning





# Checkpoint

How did the Delhi sultanate change India?



# Muslim-Hindu Clash

## Hinduism

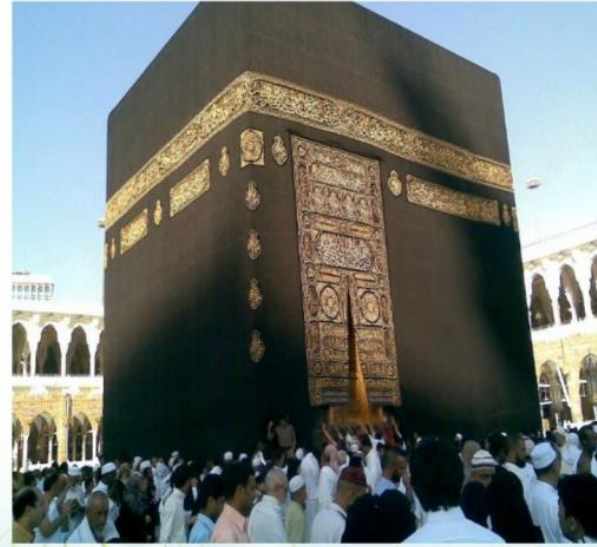
- Prayed to statues/gods
- Polytheistic
- Caste System

## Islam

- statues forbidden
- Monotheistic
- Equality for all

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## Hinduism Vs Islam



# Interactions

- Muslims became tolerant
  - Accepted Hindus as monotheistic (Brahman)
- Many Hindus converted bec.:
  - rejected Caste system
  - equality
  - opportunities in Muslim gov't & trade



# Blending of Cultures

- Muslims absorb Hindu culture
- **Urdu** evolved
- Art (mix Persian/Indian)
- Nanak found **Sikhism**

الكشف عن اللغة

Arabic

تشخيص زبان

Persian

زبان کی شناخت

Urdu





# Sikhism

## Sikhism: A Blend of Religious Beliefs

### Islam

- Belief in One God
- Religious and Moral duties defined in the 5 Pillars
- Belief in Heaven and Hell, and a day of Judgment
- No priests; all believers are religious equals



### Hinduism

- Belief in many gods, all part of Brahman
- Emphasis on religious and moral duties, or dharma
- Belief in a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth



### Sikhism

- Belief in the “Unity of God”
- Belief in Reincarnation
- Rejection of the Caste system



# Checkpoint

How did Islam & Hinduism clash and blend?

# Mughal Dynasty (1526-1857)

- Babur
- **Akbar the Great** (R.1556-1605)
- strong central gov't (Absolute)
  - Hired officials (not hereditary)
- religious harmony & toleration
  - married Hindu
  - gov't jobs to all castes
  - ended “non-Muslim tax”
- Modernized army
- Encouraged global trade
- Patron of arts & science





## FACES OF HISTORY

# AKBAR

1542–1605



A Mughal emperor of India, Akbar united Indian territory north of the Vindhya Range under one empire. His rule is noted for many

reforms, including the abolition of slavery and the development of trade. He was a patron of the arts and encouraged the development of science. Although himself a Muslim, his tolerance for non-Muslims in his empire was remarkable. His enlightened leadership became a model for later Mughal rulers.

**Analyze** Why was Akbar considered a great ruler?

# Akbar's Successors

- Jahangir, weak leader
  - wife, **Nur Jahan**, ran gov't efficiently
- Shah Jahan
  - High point of arts & literature
  - Married Mumtaz Mahal
  - **Taj Mahal** in her honor
- Aurangzeb seized throne by force
- rejected religious toleration
- persecuted Hindus
- Expansion
- heavy taxes
  - revolts
  - weakened empire
  - **allowed Europeans in**



(r.1658-1707)



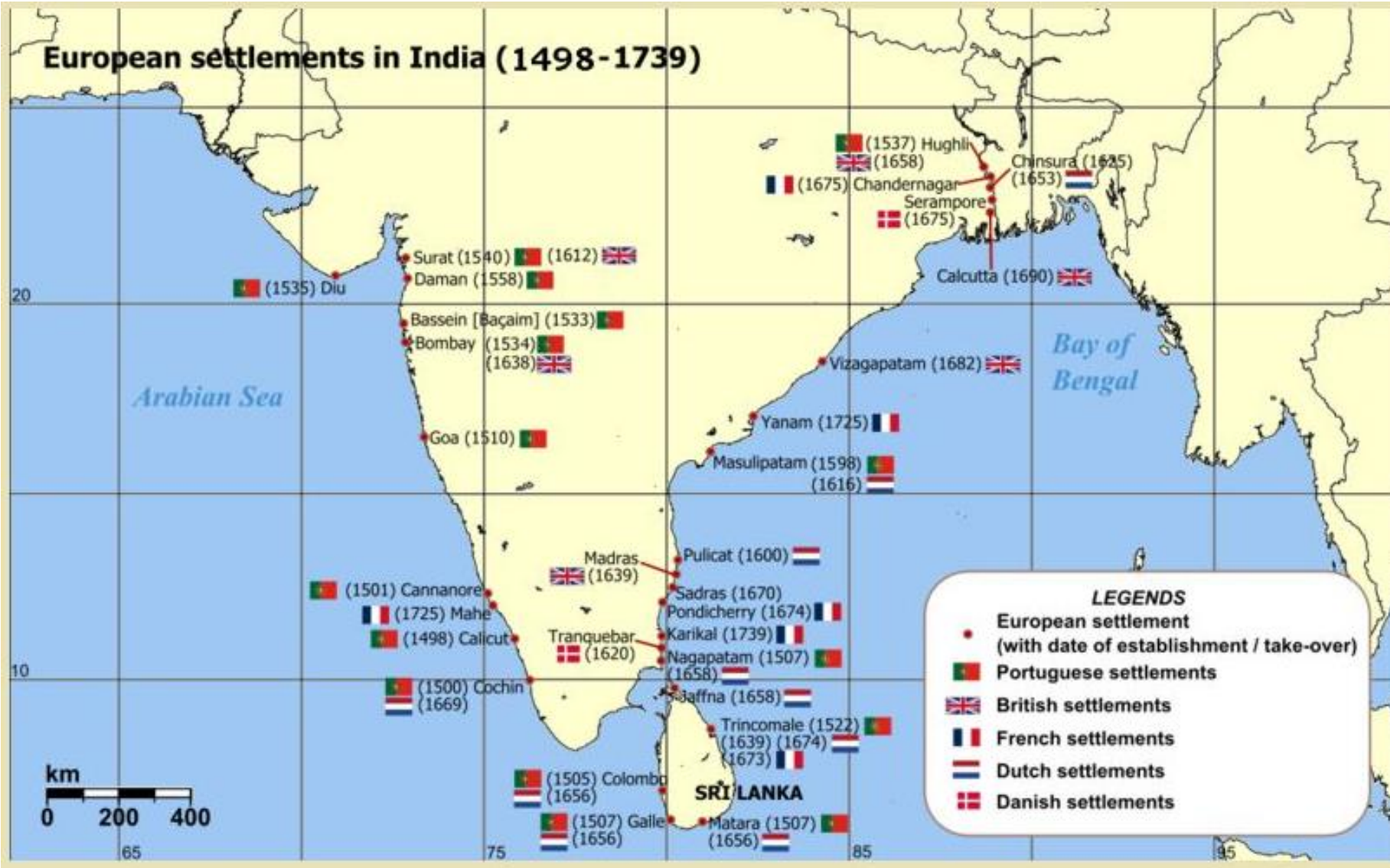


# Taj Mahal Facts

- 20yrs & 22k workers to build (1631-1653)
- “Crown Palace”
- Designed by Persian architect
- Domes & minarets reflected in clear blue reflecting pools
- Verses from Quran decorate inside walls
- greatest monument of Mughal empire



# European settlements in India (1498-1739)





## **Checkpoint**

How did Akbar & successors rule the  
Mughal empire?



I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD  
Please jot down what you  
have gotten from today's  
lesson and what you still  
have questions on.