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Views from the Other Side
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Timurid-Mongol Influence on the Mughal Empire in India

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Mongol Empire, 1206-1368: founded by Temujin of Borjigin tribe, who was able to unify the Mongol tribes by 1206 and pursue conquest on multiple fronts across China, Central and West Asia, creating the largest contiguous land empire in world history. Ultimately a multi-lingual/multi-religious empire.

Ilkhanid “secondary” Khanate within the greater Mongol Empire: west Asian Mongol khanate, established by Hulegu Khan in Iranian territories in 1256. Region originally conquered by Chingis Khan between 1219-1221. Ilkhanid conversion to Islam by Ghazan Khan in 1295. Collapse in 1336.

Timurid Empire, 1370-1507: founded by Timur of the Turkic Barlas tribe, affiliated with the Chaghatayid Mongol Khanate. United western half of the Mongol empire, including Russian steppes, West Asia, including Ottoman Anatolia, and parts of South Asia. Profoundly influenced by Persian/ Ilkhanid legacy. Court language: Persian; Religion: mostly Sunni Muslim

Mughal Empire, 1526-1858, founded 1526 by last independent Timurid prince, Zahir al-Din Muhammad Babur. At its height, the Mughal empire encompassed much of modern-day Afghanistan, eastern Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh and most of the Indian subcontinent. British conquest and exile of Bahadur Shah Zafar, “the Last of the Timurid Kings,” after 1857 rebellion. Court language: Persian; Religion: mostly Sunni Muslim

People:

Chinggis (Genghis) Khan aka Temujin (d. 1227), his title meaning “Oceanic or Eternal Khan”

Sons: Jochi (d. 1227), Chaghatay (d. 1242), **Ogodei** (d. 1241) and Tolui (d. 1233)

Tolui’s sons: **Mongke** (1208-1259, Great Khan 1251-1259), **Kublai** (1215-1294, Great Khan 1260-1294), (Hulagu (1217-1265; Ilkhanid Khan in Iran 1256-1265)

Timur “Guregen” Barlas, known in West as Tamerlane (1336-1405)

Zahir al-Din Muhammad Babur (1480-1530), founder of Mughal empire
sister Khanzada Begum (d. 1545)

Successors:

Humayun (1508-1556; r. 1530-1540/1555-1556) m. Hamida Banu Begum
brothers include: Askeri (d. 1558, Hindal (d. 1551), Kamran (d. 1557)
sister: Gulbadan Begum (1523-1603)

Akbar (1542-1605; r. 1556-1605)
brother Muhammad Hakim (d. 1585)

Jahangir aka Salim (1569-1627; 1605-1627)
m. Mihr al-Nisa aka Nur Jahan
brothers: Murad d. 1598 and Danyal (d. 1604)

Shah Jahan aka Khurram (1592-1666; r. 1628-1658)

m. Arjumand Banu aka Mumtaz Mahal, 1592-1631)

brothers: Khusrau, d. 1622, Parviz, d. 1626, Shahryar, d. 1628

Aurangzeb aka Alamgir (1618-1707; r. 1658-1707)

Brothers: Dara Shikoh (d. 1659, Shah Shuja, d. 1659, Murad Baksh, d. 1661

Sisters: Jahanara, d. 1681, Raushanara, d?

Bahadur Shah Zafar (r. 1837-1857/8)

Vocabulary:

Chingissid: of the empire of Chingis Khan

Timurid: of the empire of Timur

Mirza: prince

Padshah: ruler, king, emperor

Begum: title for Turkic/Timurid noblewoman

Khanum: title for Mongol noblewoman

Suggested Reading:

Lisa Balabanlilar, *Imperial Identity in Mughal India*, London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 2012.

Also: Balabanlilar, *The Emperor Jahangir: Power and Kingship in Mughal India*, I.B.

Tauris (Bloomsbury), April 2020 [A *Financial Times* Summer Book of 2020].

Stephen F. Dale, *The Garden of the Eight Paradises: Babur and the Culture of Empire in Central Asia, Afghanistan and India (1483-1530)*, Leiden: Brill, 2004.

William Dalrymple, *The Last Mughal, The Fall of a Dynasty: Delhi, 1857*, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Also: Dalrymple, *The Anarchy*, London: Bloomsbury, 2022.

Munis Faruqi, *The Princes of the Mughal Empire*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Lentz, Thomas W. and Glenn D. Lowry, *Timur and the Princely Vision: Persian Art and Culture in the Fifteenth Century*, Los Angeles and Washington, DC: Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Arther Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, 1989.

Ebba Koch, *Mughal Architecture: An Outline of its History and Development (1526 – 1858)*, Primus Books; 2nd edition 2014—among other beautifully researched Ebba Koch books on Mughal art and architecture

John Richards, *The New Cambridge History of India: The Mughal Empire*, Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Susan Stronge, *Painting for the Mughal Emperor: The Art of the Book 1560-1660*, Victoria and Albert Museum, NY: Henry A. Abrams, 2002.