Timurid-Mongol Influence on the Mughal Empire in India

Lisa Balabanlilar
Rice University
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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 Chinggis 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 Chaghatayyid 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:


