

Mughal dynasties and Islam in India

The Mughals arrived late in India. A misconception of many is that Babur brought Muslim domination to India. On the contrary the provinces Punjab, Delhi and almost all of Northern India were under the rule of the sultans for more than 350 years. The armies of several Muslim kingdoms existed not only of Muslims. Most of many kingdoms consisted of followers of the Vedic religions of which the largest is the Sanatan Dharma. The spread of Islam was relatively slow in India (hindustan) because of the caste system in which many people were trapped. By accepting Islam they saw an opportunity to escape poverty and oppression. Although Babur whose ethnicity was of Turkish/Mongol origin, many of his soldiers were Hindus when he conquered Delhi by defeating Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. Ethnicity and religion did not play a dominant role for the Mughals. There were already several Islamic kingdoms in South India from the 7th century. Trade, science and culture had already severed close ties between the Islamic world and India. India was best known for its craftsmanship in jewelry, textile/clothing and metal objects. Also herbs, science and impressive cultural diversity attracted a lot of attention from the world.

Inventions and influences of the Mughals

- Prefab houses were an invention at the time of the Mughal Emperor Akbar. Most palaces, temples, mausoleums and places of worship were built by means of this method on a large scale in the entire Empire.
- Hair shampoo is also an invention of the Mughal era from circa 1762, the many noble houses made good use of this to massage and cleanse their heads. The name is also derived from "Champo".
- The Mughals came up with a central government system in which each province was divided into districts. Each district had its own head and they fell under the head of the province. This central system of governing facilitated the whole administration system, making it easier to pass, control and the implementations of various projects.
- Urdu was introduced as an administrative, economic and legal language. It could be written in Arabic characters and the Devangari. Urdu is spoken in Pakistan and Hindi in India. These languages are quite similar and sometimes sound identical.
- The Mughals also have a great contribution to the art of India, witness the variety of different paintings and works of art of that period. Non-Muslim and Muslim craftsmen worked together on thousands of monumental projects.



Mughal Ruby
in Gold necklace



Mughal Pearls
with emerald Necklace



Mughal Ruby
Necklace

Mughal
Turban

Mughal Turban
Jewelry

It is impossible to imagine what the Mughals left behind in Hindustan/India, which is now split into India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. There were so many Mausoleums, mosques, fortresses, gates and even new cities built. Also, many schools, hospitals and courts were built and maintained. There were about 520 million Hindustani Muslims in the year 2011. Islam is the largest religion in Asia.