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Military Expeditions of Akbar

Early life of Akbar:

Akbar was born on 15th October 1542A.D in the empire of Amarkot of Rana Varisal during the exile period of Humayun Hamida Bano Begum was the mother of Akbar who was the daughter of sufi saint Mir Baba Akbar. Akbar received the patronage of Askari during his early life and was nurtured by Sultan Begum, the wife of Askari. At the age of only 9 years Akbar was made the governor of Ghazni. Humayun appointed Munim Khan as the protector of Akbar. After the battle of Sarhind Humayun declared Akbar as his successor. After regaining Delhi Humayun made Akbar as the Governor of Lahore. Akbar after the death of Humayun did his coronation under the protection of Bairam Khan at Kalanore. He appointed Bairam Khan as his Wazir. During his coronation Mughal Empire expanded from Delhi to Kabul, Kandhar and Badaksha. Akbar was married to Rukaiya Begum the daughter of Hindal.

Second Battle of Panipath:

This battle of panipath was fought between Akabr and Hemu on 5th November 1556A.D. The army of Akbar turned victorious under the leadership of Bairam Khan. Hemu was killed during this battle. He also adopted the title of Vikramaditya. He was the fourteenth ruler to adopt this title.

Petikot Government:

Akbar ruled under the protection of Bairam Khan from 1556-1560A.D but after his death Akbar came under the influence of Atakakhel from 1560-64A.D. Atakakhel was a group of women and the relatives of Akbar who looked after him. This group consisted of his mother Hamida Bano Begum, Mahamanga, Adaham Khan, Jijianga, and Jijianga's husband Shashuddin Khan.

Expansion of Empire:

- **Malwa(1561A.D):**

The first expedition of Akbar was against Malwa. The ruler Malwa was Baaj Bahadur. His capital was Sarangpur. Baaj Bahadur and his wife Roopmati were both music lovers. On 29th March 1561A.D. Akbar sent his army under the leadership of Adham Khan who defeated Bajbahadur. But Adham Khan kept maximum of the wealth acquired which enraged Akbar. Thus, Akbar himself went to Sarangpur and defeated Adham Khan took away the wealth few days later Baj Bahadur gained control of Malwa again. Akbar again sent his army under the leadership of Abdullah Uzbek who successfully defeated Baj Bahadur. Hence, Baj Bahadur accepted his supremacy and became his mansabdar of 2000 jat/sawar.

- **Expedition of Medta(1562A.D):**

Medta was under the control of Jaimal the Jagirdar of Uday Singh, the ruler of Mewar. Akbar attacked on Medta in 1560A.D and defeated Jaimal.

- **Amer(1562A.D):**

On the way to Akbar's pilgrimage to the shrine of Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti. He met the ruler of Amer named Bharmal. Bharmal established a matrimonial alliance with Akbar and married his daughter. Harkabai to him who gave birth to Jahangir and became the most significant queen of Akbar thus, earned the title of of Mariyamuzzamani.

- **Expedition of Gondwana or Gadhkatanga(1564A.D):**

The capital of Gondwana was Chittoregarh near Jabalpur. The ruler of Gondwana was Rani Durgawati. Gadhkatanga was established by Amandas. The expedition was done under the leadership of Asaf Khan in 1564A.D. As a result of which Rani Durgawati committed suicide. Later Akbar returned area of Gondwana to its ruler.

- **Mewar(1567A.D):**

After receiving the information about Akbar's expedition on Mewar. Uday Singh the ruler of Mewar fled away from his kingdom leaving it in the hands of his feudal lords Jaimal and Fatah. Both of them fought bravely with Akbar but later died. Getting inspired by the bravery of these two warriors Akbar built the statues of both of them at the entrance gate of Fort of Agra.

- **Ranthambhore(1569A.D):**

The ruler of Ranthambhore was Surjan Hada. He was defeated by Akbar in 1569A.D.

- **Kalinjar(1569A.D):**

The ruler of Kalinjar was Ramchandra. He was defeated by Akbar in 1569A.D.

The rulers of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer(1570A.D) Also accepted the supremacy.

- **Gujarat Expedition:**

There are various reasons behind the expedition of Gujarat such as:

- It was the centre of trade with western world.
- The pilgrims of Mecca had to pass through Gujarat thus, Surat was named as Babul-i-mecca.
- The ruler of Gujarat, Muzaffar Khan gave shelter to the Mirzas who were the enemy of Akbar.

The ruler of Gujarat Muzaffar Khan III was defeated. But, as soon as Akbar reached Agra the revolt again began in Gujarat. Mirza Ajij Koka who was appointed as the governor of Gujarat by Akbar was removed from his position thus, Akbar reached back Gujarat in only 9 days thus, Smith termed it as the 'fastest expedition'. Finally Akbar defeated Muzaffar Shah III in 1584A.D and captivated him.

- **Expedition against Daud Khan(1576A.D):**

Akbar defeated Daud Khan the ruler of Bihar and ended the rule of last Afghan ruler.

- **Mewar(1576A.D):**

Maharana Pratap was the contemporary ruler of Mewar. In 1576A.D Akbar sent his army under the leadership of Maan Singh. The capital of Maharana Pratap was Kumbhalgarh. In the battle of Haldighati or Battle of Gongudda, Maharana Pratap was defeated but he did not give up. Badayuni wrote about this battle in his book Muntakhab-utt-tawarikh. Despite his victory over Maharana Pratap Akbar could not gain control over Mewar.

- **Revolts of Uzbegs:**

The Uzbegs rulers Abdullah Khan annexed Samarkand and Bukara. Now his empire expanded to South-Western Afghanistan due to which Kabul became unsafe. Moreover, Akbar led an expedition against Kashmir in 1586A.D against the Yusufzai ruler. Thus, the Yusufzai ruler. Thus, the Yusufzais revolted against Akbar. In order to suppress this revolt Akbar sent Maheshdas famous as Birbal but was killed in this revolt. Meanwhile Abdullah Uzbek died in 1598A.D. Thus, Akbar automatically got devoid of the tension of Abdullah Uzbek.

Southern Expedition:

- **Expedition of Ahmadnagar:**

In 1595A.D Akbar sent army under Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana and Prince Murad. The ruler of Ahmadnagar was Ibrahim who was an infant ruler who

ruled under the protection of his mother Chandbibi. Chandbibi was betrayed by Miyan Manju thus, he invited mughals to attack over the empire. Chandbibi was forced to sign a treaty with the mughals according to this treaty Akbar received the area of Berar. But later Chandbibi separated her empire and sardars tried to regain Berar. Hence, Akbar sent his army under Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana and Prince Murad. During the struggle Prince Murad died in 1597A.D. Later, Akbar sent his another son Daniyal. In 1600A.D Mughal army won over Ahmadnagar. A treaty was signed with Ahmadnagar and Murtuza Nizamshah was considered as the ruler. The mughals received the area of Balaghat and Berar and Ahmadnagar in return had to promise to never revolt again.

- **Expedition of Khandesh:**

Khandesh was considered to be the gateway of South India. The capital of Khandesh was Burhanpur, Raza Ali Khan was the ruler of Khandesh who was succeeded by Miran Bahadur after his death. Akbar sent his army under the leadership of Asaf Khan and Murtuza Khan in 1599A.D against Khandesh. Later, in 1601A.D Miran Bahadur had to give up and the mughals occupied the fort of Aseergarh of Khandesh. Thus, the campaign of Khandesh was the last expedition of Akbar.