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978-1-107-02217-1 - The Princes of the Mughal Empire, 1504–1719

Munis D. Faruqi

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The Princes of the Mughal Empire, 1504–1719

For roughly two hundred years, the Mughal emperors ruled supreme in northern India. How was it possible that a Muslim, ethnically Turkish, Persian-speaking dynasty established itself in the Indian subcontinent to become one of the largest and most dynamic empires on earth? In this rigorous new interpretation of the period, Munis D. Faruqi explores Mughal state formation through the pivotal role of the Mughal princes. In a challenge to previous scholarship, the book suggests that far from undermining the foundations of empire, the court intrigues and political backbiting that were features of Mughal political life – and that frequently resulted in rebellions and wars of succession – actually helped spread, deepen, and mobilize Mughal power through an empire-wide network of friends and allies. This engaging book, which trawls a diverse archive of European and Persian sources, takes the reader from the founding of the empire under Babur to its decline in the 1700s. When the princely institution atrophied, so too did the Mughal Empire.

Munis D. Faruqi is an associate professor in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a co-editor of two forthcoming volumes: *Religious Interactions in Mughal India* (forthcoming), and *Expanding Frontiers in South Asian and World History: Essays in Honor of John F. Richards* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

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This book has been a long time in the making. It is the outcome of not only my own research and teaching, but the scholarship of others as well. Among the many specialists cited in the bibliography, I am particularly indebted to the prior work of Muzaffar Alam, M. Athar Ali, Karen Barkey, Jos Gommans, Irfan Habib, Farhat Hasan, Iqtidar Alam Khan, Leslie Peirce, James Scott, and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. My greatest intellectual debt, however, is to my late supervisor and friend John F. Richards. I wish he had lived to see this book.

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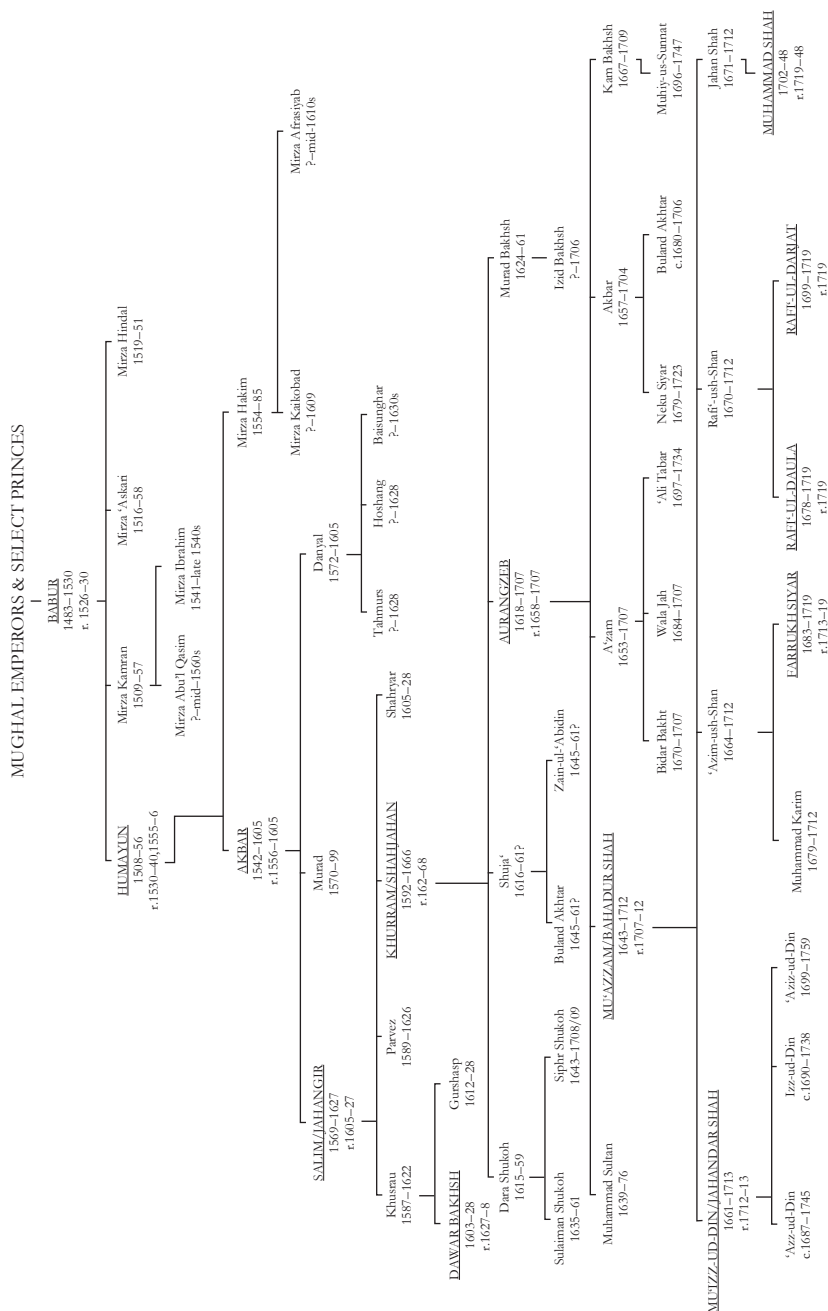
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Mughal Family Tree



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Chronology

1483	Birth of Babur in Ferghana (contemporary Uzbekistan)
1494	Babur becomes ruler of Ferghana upon death of his father
1501	Uzbeks defeat Babur; he is forced to vacate Samarqand
1504	Babur captures Kabul
1507	Uzbeks take Herat; Babur last Timurid prince to still rule a kingdom
1508	Babur assumes the title of <i>padshah</i> ; birth of oldest son Humayun
1519	Badakhshan given to Humayun as his princely appanage
1526	Babur invades India; the Lodis defeated; the Mughal Empire established
1527	Babur defeats Rajput coalition under Rana Sangha at Khanua; Humayun sent back to Badakhshan, sacks Delhi treasury on way out
1529	Humayun returns to Mughal court without Babur's permission
1530	Death of Babur; Humayun ascends throne
1531	Mirza Kamran annexes the Punjab
1540	Humayun defeated by Sher Khan Suri, flees India; Mughal rule collapses
1540–52	Humayun and Mirza Kamran battle for supremacy
1542	Birth of Akbar
1551	Akbar given Ghazni as his princely appanage

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Chronology

- 1553 Mirza Kamran captured by Humayun, blinded, and exiled to Mecca
- 1555 Humayun invades India, reestablishes the Mughal Empire
- 1556 Death of Humayun; Akbar ascends the throne
- 1564–6 Revolts of the Uzbeks and Mirzas
- 1566 Mirza Hakim invades India, defeated by Akbar
- 1569 Birth of Salim/Jahangir
- 1570s Akbar introduces the *mansabdari* and *jagirdari* systems
- 1581–2 Mirza Hakim re-invades India, defeated by Akbar
- 1583 Akbar offers his sons first experience of running the Mughal Empire
- 1585 Death of Mirza Hakim; Kabul annexed by Akbar; end of princely appanages; Akbar's three sons accorded adult status
- 1591 Murad sent to govern Malwa in face of rising tensions with Salim
- 1592 Birth of Khurram/Shah Jahan
- 1594 Akbar gives seven-year-old Khusrau imperial rank
- 1599 Akbar moves to the Deccan following Murad's death
- 1599–1604 Salim's rebellion
- 1605 Death of Danyal and Akbar; Salim/Jahangir ascends the throne
- 1606 Khusrau's rebellion; imprisoned following capture
- 1607 Khusrau blinded; Khurram accorded adult status
- 1611 Jahangir marries Mehr-un-Nisa/Nur Jahan
- 1612 Khurram marries Arjomand Banu Begum (later Mumtaz Mahal)
- 1614 Khurram defeats Rajput kingdom of Mewar
- 1615 Birth of Dara Shukoh
- 1616–17 Khurram enjoys military success in the Deccan
- 1618 Birth of Aurangzeb
- 1618 Raja Bikramajit, retainer of Khurram, conquers Kangra
- 1620 Shahryar married to Ladli Begum, daughter of Nur Jahan
- 1621–2 Khurram undertakes second successful campaign in the Deccan
- 1622–7 Khurram's rebellion
- 1624 Khurram defeated by Parvez and Mahabat Khan at Tons
- 1626 Rebellion of Mahabat Khan; death of Parvez
- 1627 Death of Jahangir; war of succession follows

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- 1628 Khurram/Shah Jahan ascends the throne
- 1634 Aurangzeb accorded adult status
- 1636–44 Aurangzeb serves as governor of the Deccan
- 1643 Birth of Mu‘azzam
- 1644 Aurangzeb returns to imperial court without permission, stripped of rank
- 1646–7 Failed Mughal campaign against Balkh and Badakhshan
- 1649–53 Failed Mughal campaigns against Qandahar
- 1652–7 Aurangzeb serves as governor of the Deccan
- 1653 Birth of A‘zam
- 1656–7 Aurangzeb wages war against kingdoms of Bijapur and Golkonda
- 1657–9 War of succession involving Shah Jahan’s four adult sons
- 1658 Shah Jahan forced to abdicate, imprisoned in Agra; Aurangzeb ascends the throne
- 1659 Muhammad Sultan’s rebellion against Aurangzeb, imprisoned until death in 1676
- 1661 Birth of Mu‘izz-ud-Din/Jahandar Shah
- 1666 Death of Shah Jahan
- 1676 Asad Khan appointed chief minister, serves until 1707
- 1681 Akbar rebels against Aurangzeb
- 1683 Birth of Farrukh Siyar
- 1685–7 Mughal campaigns against Bijapur and Golkonda
- 1687–95 Mu‘azzam imprisoned by Aurangzeb
- 1690s Emergence of Ghazi-ud-Din Khan, Chin Qilich Khan, and Zulfiqar Khan as key imperial generals
- 1693 Kam Bakhsh briefly placed under house arrest
- 1695 Mu‘azzam and his sons given administrative positions in northern India
- 1700–2 All major princes removed from command positions in the Deccan
- 1701–5 A‘zam serves as governor of Gujarat
- 1707 Death of Aurangzeb; war of succession follows; Mu‘azzam/Bahadur Shah I ascends the throne
- 1712 Death of Bahadur Shah; war of succession ensues; Jahandar Shah ascends the throne with the help of Zulfiqar Khan

xvi	<i>Chronology</i>
1713	Jahandar Shah overthrown; Farrukh Siyar ascends the throne; Sayyid brothers emerge as most powerful nobles in the empire
1719	Farrukh Siyar overthrown; Sayyid brothers successively appoint Rafi‘-ul-Darjat and Rafi‘-ul-Daula as emperors; end of the open-ended system of succession

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Note on Transliteration and Translation

All foreign words not commonly used in English have been italicized; a nonitalicized letter “s” indicates the plural form. I have chosen not to use diacritical marks for names of persons or places. But I do use (‘) and (ʾ) for the *‘ain* and *hamza* respectively. Although I have generally relied on F. Steingass’s *Comprehensive Persian English Dictionary* when transliterating Persian words and phrases, I have chosen to spell certain combined words differently. For example, instead of *u’l*, indicating the Arabic definite article *al*, I have generally chosen *ul* placed between two hyphens. Elsewhere, I have favored phonetic forms such as “Ghazi-ud-Din,” “Rafi’-ush-Shan,” and “Shukrullah” instead of “Ghaziu’d-Din,” “Rafi’u’sh-Shan,” and “Shukru’llah.” I have also made certain exceptions for commonly accepted usages, such as “Mughal” in place of “Mughul,” “Aurangzeb” instead of “Aurang-zib,” and a few others. Finally, although I maintain the English spellings of the printed Persian language editions in my footnotes – hence *Ma’asir-ul-Umara* is kept as *Maasir-ul-Umara* (for volume 1) and *Maasiru-l-Umara* (for volumes 2 and 3) and Mu’tamid Khan as Motamad Khan – I follow the previously mentioned conventions for in-text references. All translations are mine, unless otherwise noted.