

## **Political Formation in Eighteenth Century India**

### **Exercises**

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**Write short notes on the following:**

- 1.** Bengal
- 2.** Awadh
- 3.** The city of Hyderabad in the medieval period

## Solutions

### Write short notes on the following:

1. Bengal has a rich and diverse cultural history that dates back to the ancient times. The state was ruled by numerous dynasties. During Mughal rule, Bengal became a recognized commercial centre in the country. They were patrons of art and culture and Bengal's already rich culture blossomed even more. The Mughals appointed governors to rule Bengal. Murshid Ali Khan became the governor of Bengal in 1717 CE. He shifted the capital of Bengal from Dacca to Murshidabad and declared himself the Nawab. He paid a nominal allegiance to the Mughal emperor. He built the beautiful Katra Masjid.

Siraj-ud-din, his son-in-law succeeded him in 1725. He was generous and just. Alivardi Khan became the next Nawab. He faced problems of repeated conflict with the Marathas - His grandson, Siraj-ud-daulah succeeded him. This young Nawab had to face the growing ambitions of the British. He was defeated by them in the Battle of Plassey in 1757. After him, the British placed a puppet Nawab on the throne of Bengal. Peace and prosperity flourished in Bengal under the rule of the Nawabs. Trade and agriculture were promoted and there was no religious bias.
2. Awadh roughly occupied the area of modern day Uttar Pradesh. It was an important province because of its strategic location which was an advantage for trade and commerce. Also, agriculture flourished there because of fertile soil. In 1722, Saadat Khan was appointed the governor of Awadh by the Mughal emperor. As the power of the emperor declined, he established his own dynasty. He was succeeded by Safdarjung, his son-in-law. He faced many problems - the corrupt policy of the Delhi court, lawlessness and the army. He dealt with all the problems and established peace in the province. He was also very generous and helped the needy.
3. Hyderabad became a part of the Mughal Empire in the Deccan during the rule of Aurangzeb. After the death of Aurangzeb, the Mughal-appointed governor Nizam-ill- **Mulk Asaf Jah** became the governor of the Deccan in 1713. Later he was made the vizier of the Mughal Empire. But, later he moved back to the Deccan. In 1724, he declared himself the governor of the six Deccan provinces, Hyderabad being one of them. He started the Asaf Jahi dynasty. During this period, Persian, Urdu, Telugu and Marathi developed simultaneously. The highest official positions were given to the deserving person irrespective of their religion. Nizam-ul-Mulk's successors ruled as Nizams of Hyderabad. Nizam Ali Khan, Asaf Jahi II, moved the capital back to Hyderabad from Aurangabad. Hyderabad became the largest Indian state in British India.