CBSE Class –VII Social Science
NCERT Solutions
History Chapter 10
Eighteenth-Century Political Formations

Q1: Match The Following.

subadar	a revenue farmer
faujdar	a high noble
ijaradar	provincial governor
misl	Maratha peasant warriors
chauth	a Mughal military commander
kunbis	a band of Sikh warriors
umara	tax levied by the Marathas

Ans:

subadar	provincial governor
faujdar	a Mughal military commander
ijaradar	a revenue farmer
misl	a band of Sikh warriors
chauth	tax levied by the Marathas
kunbis	Maratha peasant warriors
umara	a high noble

Q2: Fill in the blanks:

(a) Aurangzeb fought a protracted war in the _____.

(b) Umara and jagirdars constituted powerful sections of the Mughal _____.

(c) Asaf Jah founded the Hyderabad state in _____.

(d) The founder of the Awadh state was _____.

Ans: (a) Aurangzeb fought a protracted war in the _Deccan_.

(b) Umara and jagirdars constituted powerful sections of the Mughal _administration_.

(c) Asaf Jah founded the Hyderabad state in _1724_.

(d) The founder of the Awadh state was _Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan_.

Q3: State whether true or false:

(a) Nadir Shah invaded Bengal.

(b) Sawai Raja Jai Singh was the ruler of Indore.

(c) Guru Gobind Singh was the tenth Guru of the Sikhs.

(d) Poona became the capital of the Marathas in the eighteenth century.

Ans: (a) False

(b) False

(c) True

(d) True

Q4: What were the offices held by Sa'adat Khan?

Ans: The offices held by Sa'adat Khan included subadari, diwani and faujdari.

Q5: Why did the Nawabs of Awadh and Bengal try to do away with the jagirdari system?

Ans: The Nawabs of Awadh and Bengal tried to do away with the jagirdari system because they wanted to put a curb on cheating as well as the Mughal influence in their kingdoms. The jagirdars appointed by Mughals were corrupt, so the Nawabs reduced the size of jagirs and appointed loyal servants to complete the tasks.

They checked the jagirdar's accounts and the districts' revenues were reassessed by officials appointed by the Nawab's court.

Q6: How were the Sikhs organized in the eighteenth century?

Ans: In the eighteenth century, the Sikhs organized themselves into a number of bands called jathas, and later misls. Their combined forces were known as the grand army (dal khalsa).

The entire body used to meet at Amritsar at the time of Baisakhi and Diwali to take collective decisions known as "resolutions of the Guru (gurmatas)". A system called rakhi was introduced, offering protection to cultivators on the payment of a tax of 20 per cent of the produce.

Guru Gobind Singh created the khalsa that helped Sikhs defeat the Mughal governors first and then Ahmad Shah Abdali who had seized the rich province of the Punjab and the Sarkar of Sirhind from the Mughals.

Q7: Why did the Marathas want to expand beyond the Deccan?

Ans: The Marathas wanted to expand beyond the Deccan to receive tribute and control trade and agriculture. They had built a rich and effective administrative system, so they could think of expanding beyond the Deccan for more power and resources.

Q8: What were the policies adopted by Asaf Jah to strengthen his position?

Ans: Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah, the founder of Hyderabad state, was one of the most powerful members at the court of the Mughal Emperor, Farrukh Siyar. To strengthen his position, Asaf Jah:

- brought skilled soldiers and administrators from northern India who welcomed the new opportunities in the south.
- appointed mansabdars and granted jagirs.
- ruled quite independently without seeking any direction from Delhi or facing any interference. The Mughal emperor merely confirmed the decisions already taken by the Nizam.
- gathered power by taking advantage of the turmoil in the Deccan and the competition amongst the court nobility.