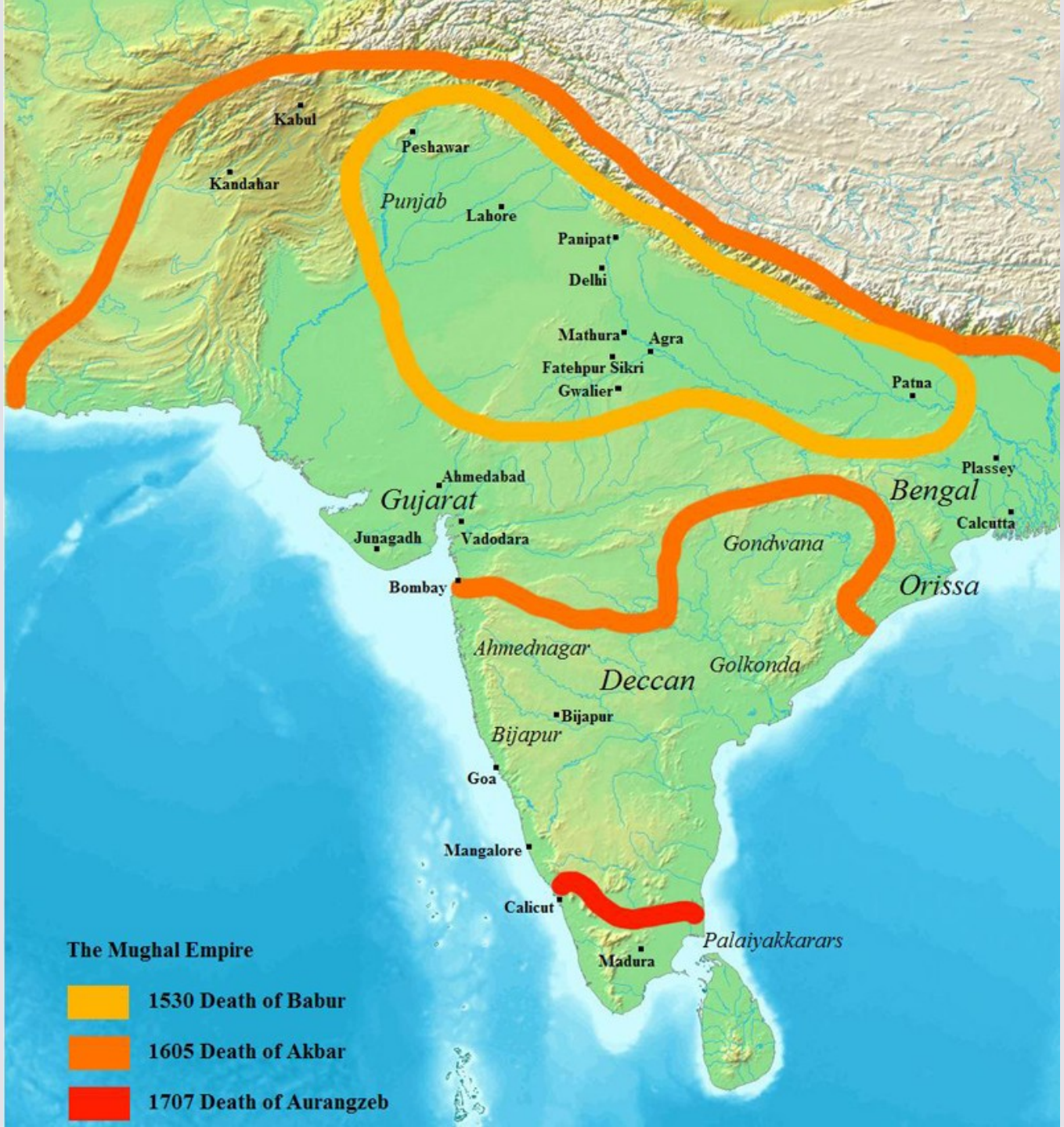
Art of Medieval India

Mughal art

The Empire of the Great Mogols is a Timurid state that existed on the territory of modern India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and southeastern Afghanistan in 1526-1540 and 1555-1858 (in fact, until the middle of the 18th century). The boundaries of the empire have changed significantly throughout its existence. The entire ruling class that entered India together with Babur, as E.I. Rudenko, called himself "Turanian".

The name "Great Mughals" appeared already under the British colonialists, neither the founder of the Empire, nor his descendants called themselves that. The term "mogul" was used by the



In 1500 Babur (1483-1530), the last of the Timurids and founder of the Indian Mughal dynasty, was expelled from Transoxiana and Eastern Iran, invaded the Punjab and captured the Sultanate of Delhi from the Turkish-Afghans. In 1526, a new dynasty founded the Empire which later would have been named Mughal.

Babur was the first in a series of emperors, artists and philosophers who established the rule of exceptional brilliance in India for three hundred years. These were princes committed to Persian culture. The first works of religious art that came out of their court were closely associated with the Herat school. Only in the second half of the 16th century did the Mughal style itself begin to develop. This was the time when the palace studios of Emperor Akbar (1542–1605) and his son Emperor Jahangir (1569–1627) began to hire Indian artists and received new impetus from the West. Mughal painting left the older Persian art as part of the



After Babur's death, his eldest son Humayun became the Sultan of the Mughal Empire. Several impressive architectural structures were built under him. In most cases, however, only a few ruins remain. However, among these structures is one mosque with characteristic features of the Timurid era with a long high portal and a prayer area with a dome. Also in 1533, Humayun began to build a citadel in Delhi, which became one of the main architectural attractions of the Mughal



A completely new era began when Babur's grandson, Sultan Akbar, the most famous and illustrious ruler of the Mughal Empire, came to power in 1556. His first architectural project was the construction of a tomb for his father, Humayun. He also built a citadel in his new capital, Agra.





Agra fort is also known as the Red Fort of Agra. The Fort is a walled palatial city which is classed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site of India.

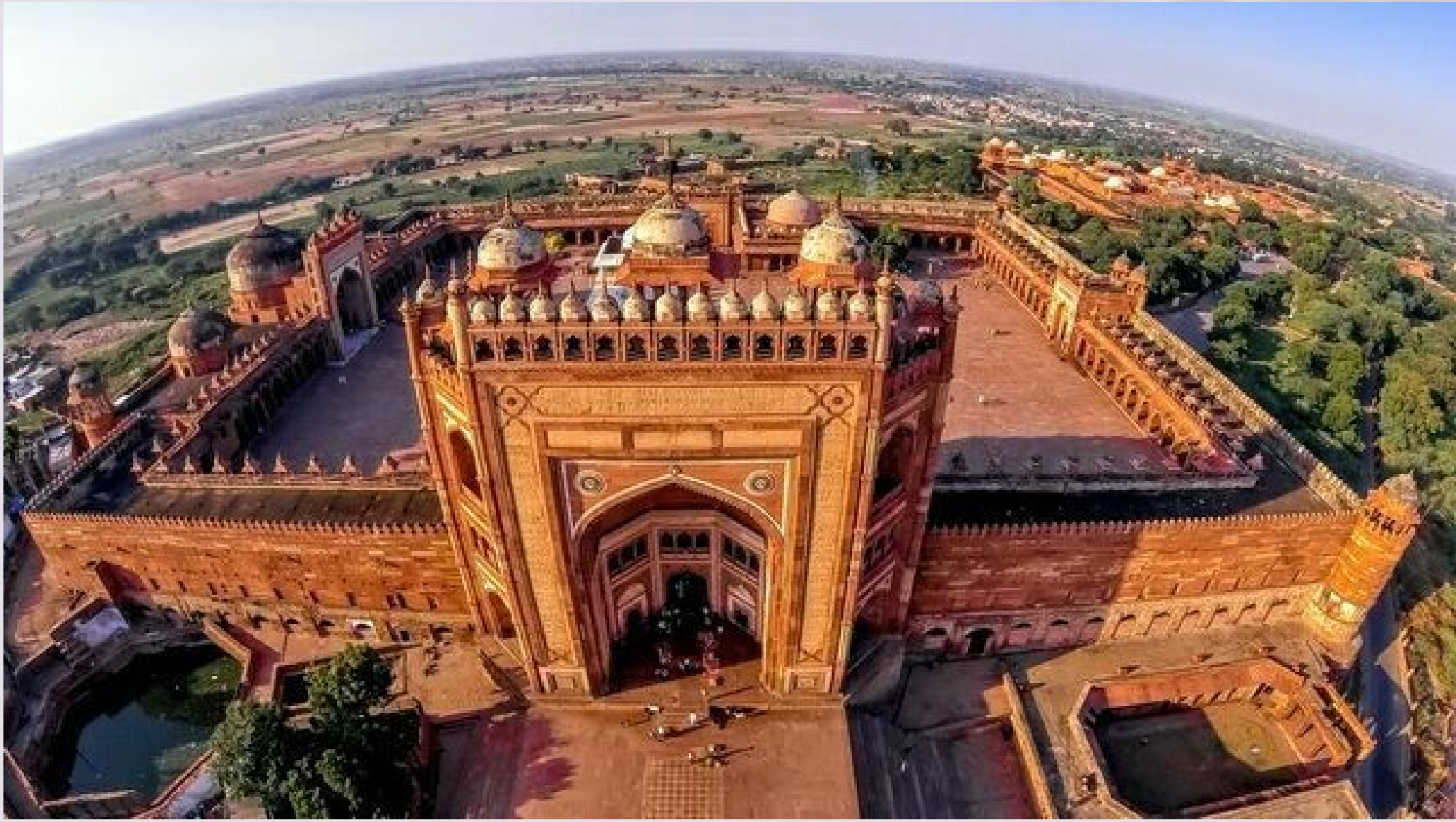


The most notable structure built during Akbar's reign is the Jahangiri Mahal, a palace intended, according to one version, for the sultan's wives. Located inside the Agra Fort, the palace bears all the features of the architecture of the Mughal period, including the



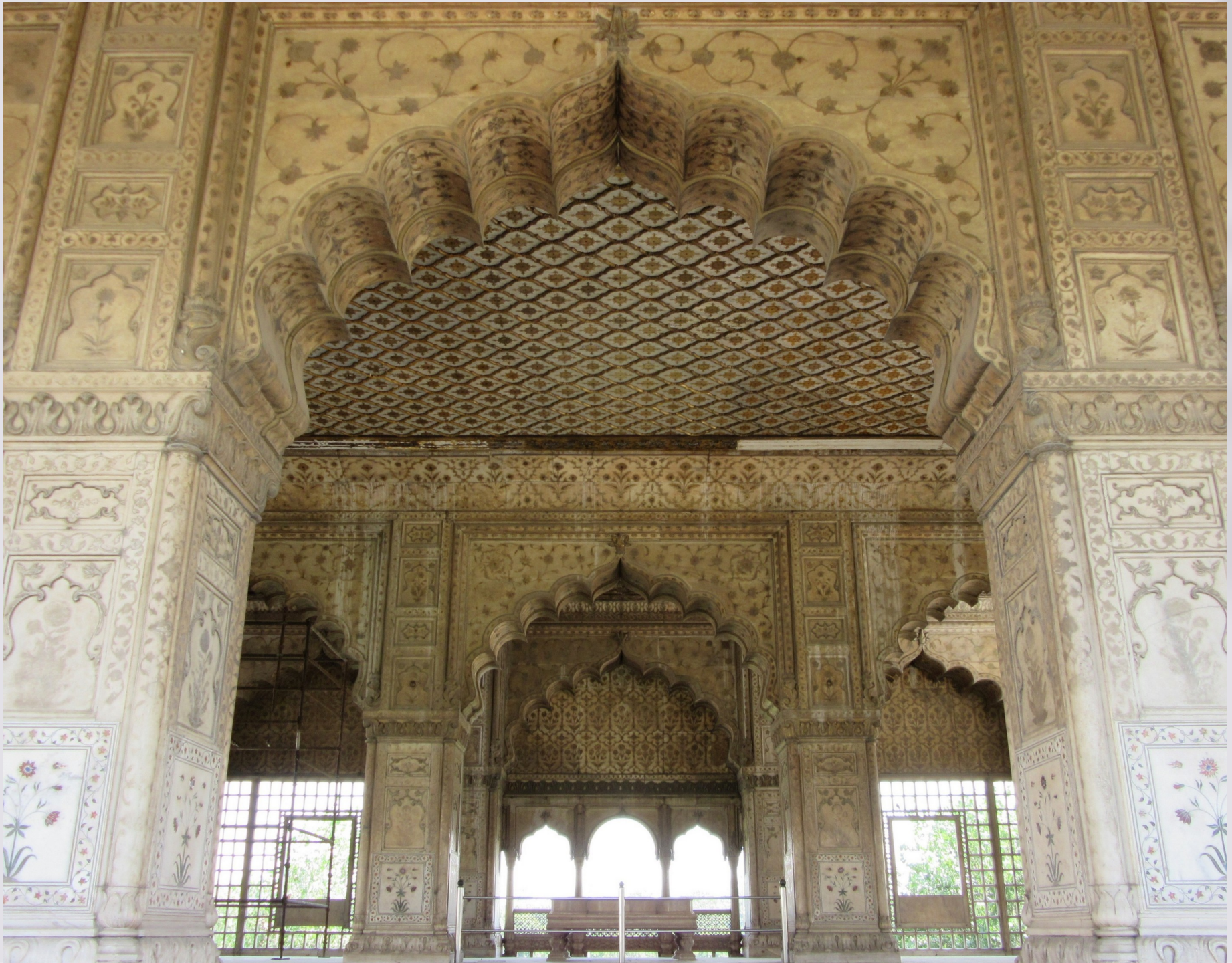

indiatourism.ws

Another notable historical site dating back to the reign of Akbar the Great is Fatehpur Sikri, a city founded by Akbar in 1572. Many parts of this city have survived to this day, which testifies to how great and





Shah Jahan became a zealous builder of sandstone and marble and brought the traditions of Mughal architecture to their heights, as manifested in the famous Taj Mahal in Agra. But before the Taj Mahal was built, Shah Jahan masters mastered the use of marble as a building material, erecting structures such as Divan-i-khasi and Divan-i-am, halls for private and public audience and **Moti Masjid. , or the Pearl Mosque**, in






THE PALACE, DELHI, INTERIOR OF DEWAN-I-KASS. 1350.

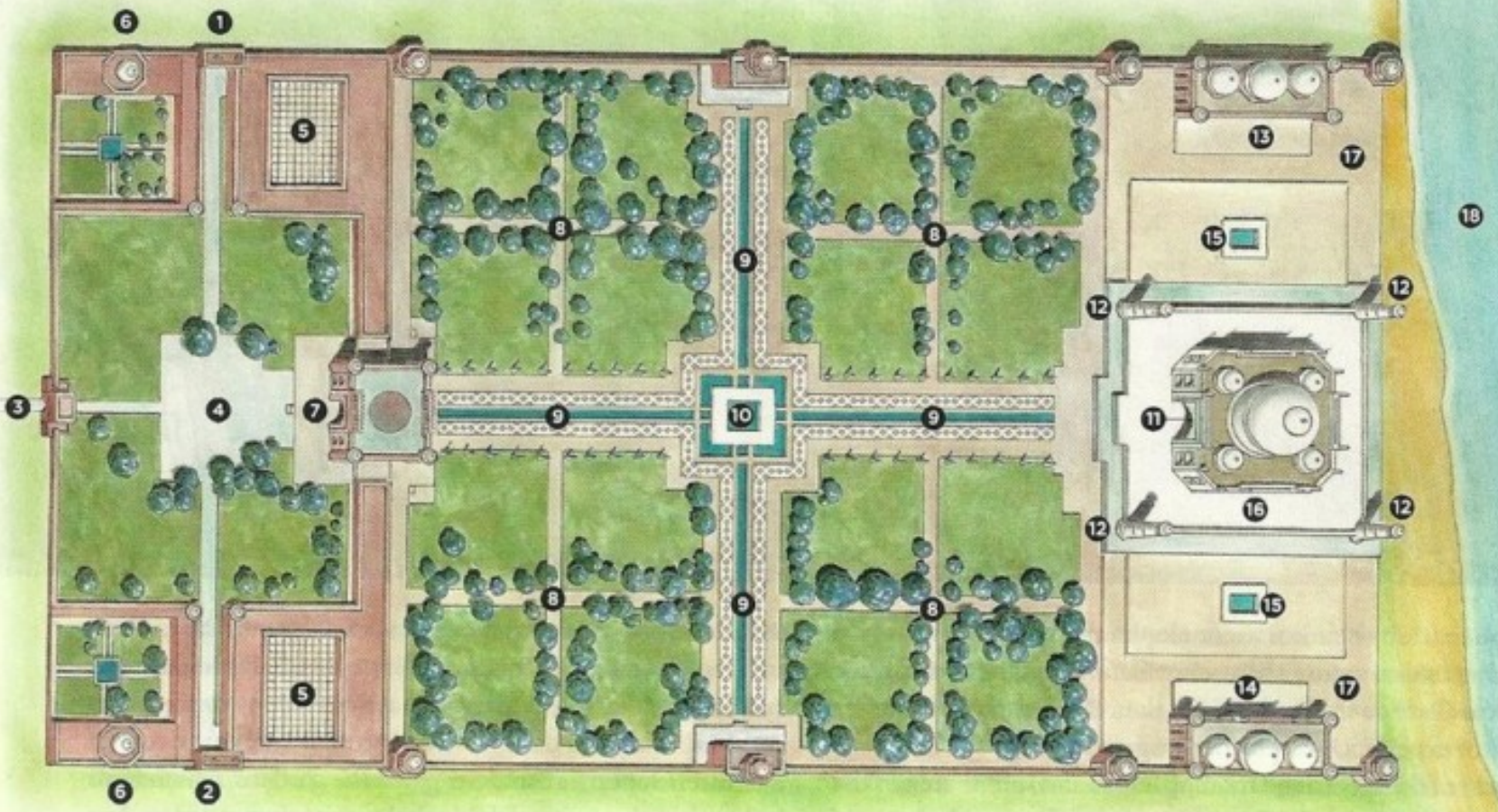
Their skills and craftsmanship reached their peak and were embodied in the building of the **Taj Mahal mausoleum**. Built in the garden, which was mandatory for the construction of Mughal tombs, the mausoleum was placed closer to the beginning of the garden than to its center, giving the impression of spatial depth and perspective when looking at the façade with perfectly proportioned proportions. Four minarets surrounding the central building form a spatial frame for an arched facade and an upward-directed dome.

The Taj Mahal mausoleum, erected at the behest of Shah Jahan for his beloved wife Mumtaz, who died early, is considered the pinnacle of Muslim-type architectural structures. Shah Jahan carefully chose and corrected the project of the mausoleum, referring to the best architects of the East at that time. The main idea was worked out by Ustad Mohammed Isa Effendi - a Byzantine Turk, a student of the largest Turkish architect Sinan, a Greek by origin. Masters from India, Central Asia, Persia, Arabia participated in the development of the project. Shah Jahan himself chose a place for an unheard of mausoleum below Agra on the right bank of the Jamuna. Construction lasted from 1631 to 1647; it permanently employed about 20 thousand workers.

Taj Mahal is a five-domed building (height with a central dome is about 74 m) on a platform, with 4 minarets at the corners. The walls are lined with white polished



The Taj Mahal's 42-acre complex of buildings and gardens mirrors an Islamic idea of Paradise



1. **WEST GATE**
2. **EAST GATE**
3. **SOUTH GATE**
   Originally faced an entry area filled with bazaars and caravanserai (inns)
4. **JILAUKHANA**
   forecourt
5. **KHAWASSPURAS**
   Living quarters for tomb attendants
6. **SAHELI BURJ**
   Subsidiary tombs, believed to be the burial sites of two of Shah Jahan's "lesser wives"
7. **GREAT GATE**
8. **CHARBAGH**
   four-square garden
9. **WATER CHANNELS**
   Symbols of the four rivers of Paradise mentioned in the Koran
10. **CENTRAL POOL**
11. **TAJ MAHAL**
    Mausoleum of Mumtaz Mahal
12. **MINARETS**
13. **MOSQUE**
14. **MIHMAN KHANA** *guesthouse*
15. **POOLS**
16. **MARBLE PLATFORM**
17. **SANDSTONE PLATFORM**
18. **YAMUNA RIVER**
    The largest tributary of the Ganges River, 851 miles long





Akbar painting school

During fifty years of his reign (1556-1605), Emperor Akbar expanded the borders of the Mughal Empire to the Deccan. He was an organizational genius and endowed India with a vast administrative network. He was equally open to ideas from the West and invited Jesuits to his court. It was from this time that European art began to influence the painting of the Mughal dynasty. Akbar was not only a warrior, administrator and diplomat, he was also a man of culture. His court in Fatepur-Sikri was Eastern Versailles. He founded a studio that attracted artists from all over his empire. Persian artists such as Mir Said Ali, Abdus Samad and Farrug Beg trained the Indians in Iranian miniature painting techniques. The works that came from these studios are of exceptional quality and were produced in such numbers that it is obvious that Indian artists were experts in their profession before the arrival of the Persians, otherwise they would not have been able to learn the lessons of foreigners so easily.

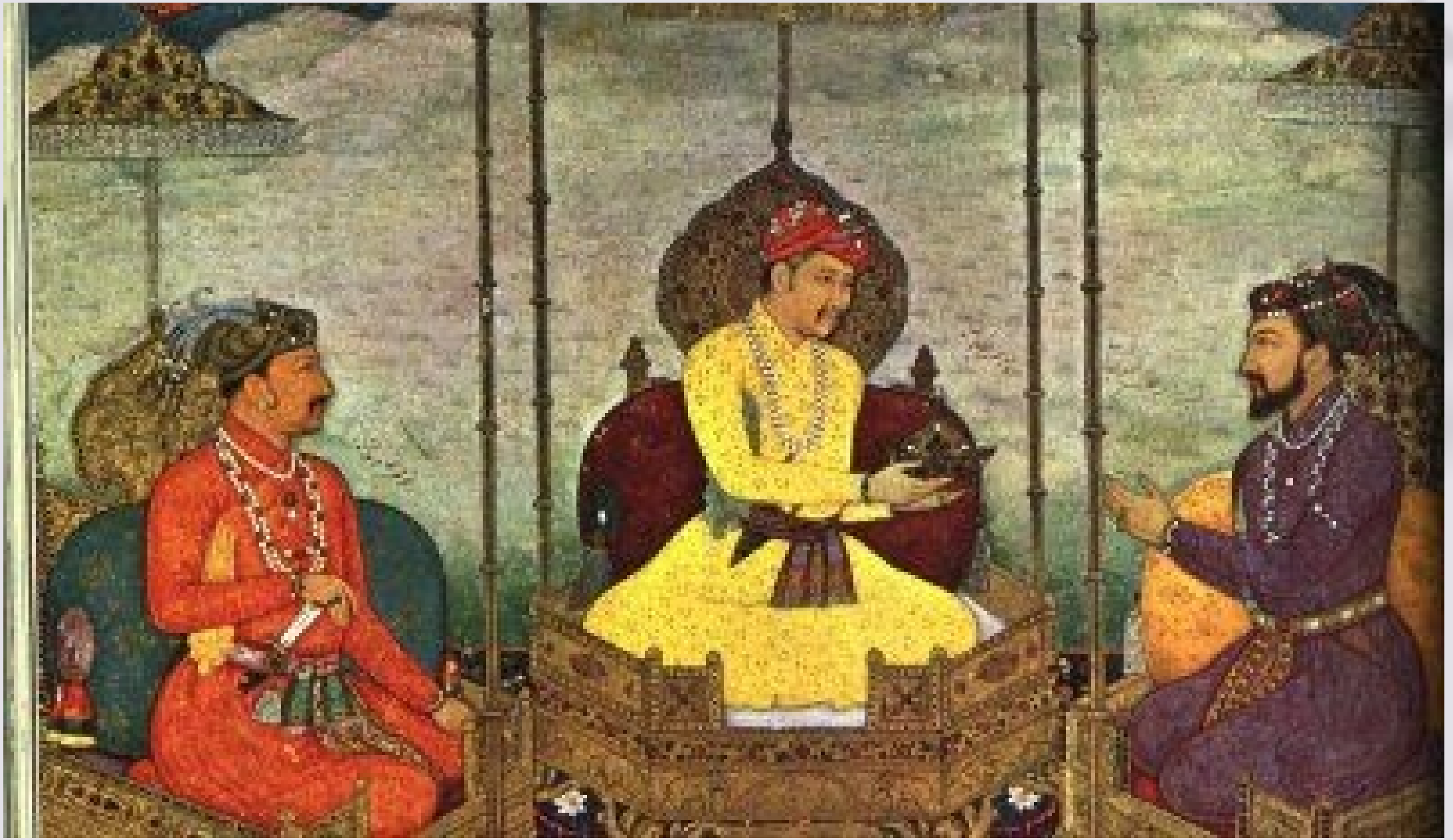
The work was supervised by the emperor himself. He encouraged artists and rewarded them with rich gifts. The wall paintings were done not by one artist, but by a large team: contour, figures, landscape, animals, coloring could be the work of different specialists. Thus, the picture became somewhat depersonalized, but the balance of style and the spread of talent compensated for this. Indian artists were able to bring naturalistic ideas to the purely decorative art of the Persians. This is clearly seen in the treatment of animals and landscapes. The flora of Persia, shrubs, slender cypresses gradually gave way to the rich vegetation of India, painted on large surfaces, and the leaves are arranged so as not to leave empty spaces. The influence of Italian Renaissance art, examples of which were presented to



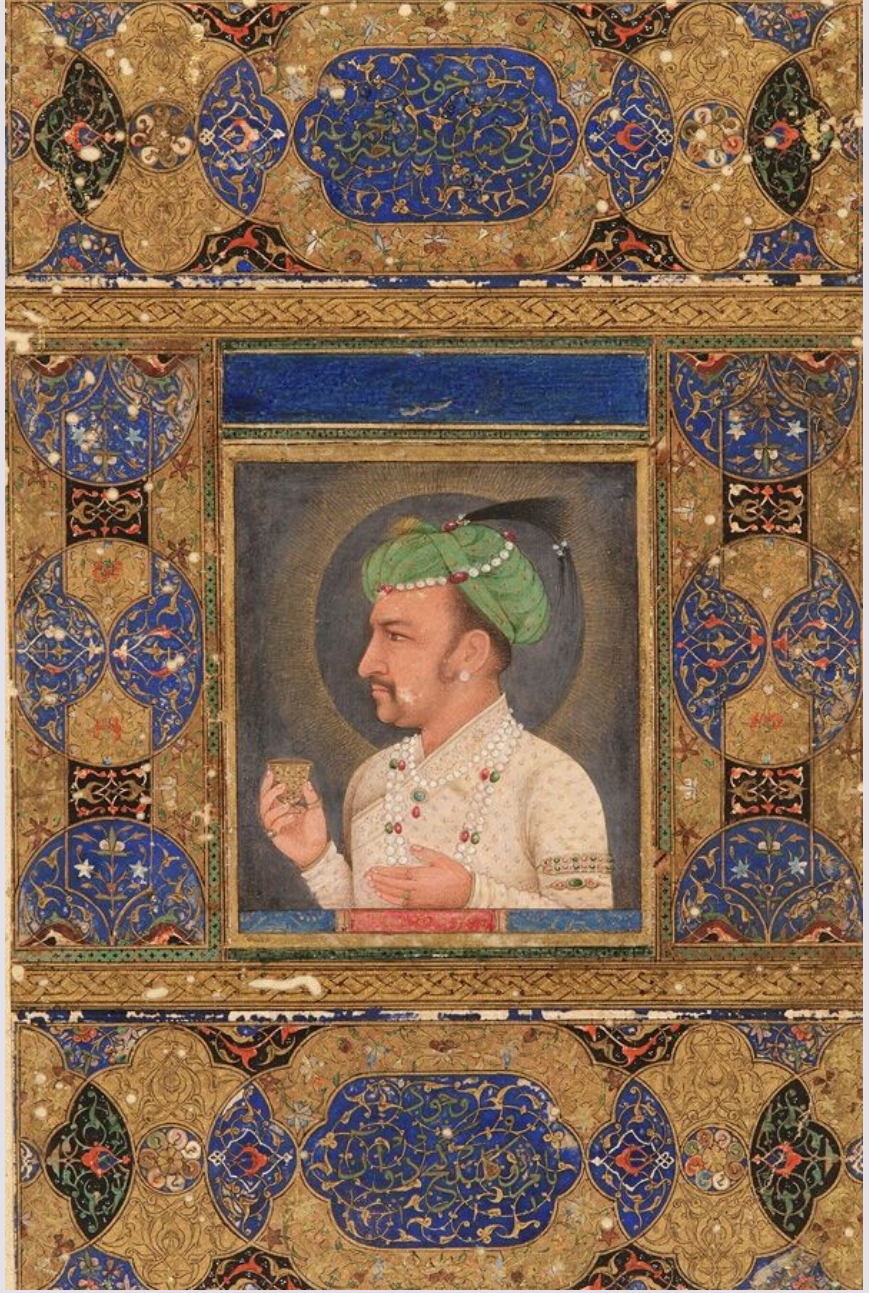
Mughal Empire. "Jahangir with a portrait of Akbar". Miniature. 1614.



Mughal Empire. "Babur". 17th century



Three Great Moguls (Babur, Akbar and Jahangir)



Padishah Jahangir 17th century.
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts



The hunt of padishah Akbar for lions.
Akbar name. 16th century.



Tamerlane, the ancestor of the Mughal dynasty, rulers of Hindustan, surrounded by soldiers in Indian clothes of the 17th century. Golconda, late



Salim killing rhinoceros and a lion,c.1600-04. Folio from a Shikarnama

Zahir ad-din Muhammad Babur - the author of the wonderful work "Babur-name" - "Babur's Notes" took a prominent place among the outstanding figures of science and culture of the medieval East. A talented writer, connoisseur of art, literature and science, an original memoirist, Babur, having a broad outlook and an inquiring mind, left a significant mark in many areas of the life of the peoples of Central Asia, Afghanistan and India.

Thanks to his outstanding abilities, Babur went down in history not only as a commander and ruler - the founder of the Baburid dynasty in India, but also as a scientist and poet who left a rich creative literary and scientific heritage in the field of Muslim jurisprudence. He wrote original lyric works (gazelles, rubai), treatises on Muslim jurisprudence (“Mubayin”), poetics (“Aruz risolasi”), music, military affairs, as well as a special alphabet “Khatt-i Baburi”.

However, the central place in Babur's work is occupied by an invaluable literary monument of prose in the Uzbek language - his historical work "Babur-name". The book was completed in India, it is mostly autobiographical and reflects the history of the peoples of Central Asia, Afghanistan and India in the late 15th - early 16th centuries.

In terms of the totality of information and their reliability, "Babur-name" is the most important and valuable historical and prose work, unrivaled among similar works written in the Middle Ages in Central Asia, Iran, Afghanistan and India.

In the richness and variety of material, in language and style, "Babur-name" stands above any historical chronicle compiled by the court chroniclers of that time. It is not surprising, therefore, that at different times this work attracted the closest attention of scientists all over the world.





وبالاعجب جست وجیپان می دود از طیور یکی طاووس است



پرزنگ وپرزیب جانوری است اندام او درخور زنگ وزیب اوست
درجثه برابر کلنگی بوده باشد اما برابر کلنگ بلند نیست در سر برا و در
سر مادهٔ او چست سی پر می باشد دو پر انگشت بلندی آن پرها باشد
در مادهٔ او زیب وزنگی نیست سر برا و سوسنی درخشنده است کردن او خوش رنگ
کبود است از کردن پایان تر پشت او ارزرد و توطکی و کبود و بنفش زنگها منقش

“... During the hunt, I chased the kulan: having jumped close, I fired an arrow, followed by another one, but these two wounds did not knock the kulan off its feet, only its running after being wounded became quieter than before. Having spurred my horse, I galloped close to the kulan and hit him so hard on the neck behind the ears that I cut his larynx. The kulan jumped up and rolled over so that he barely caught my stirrups with his hind



The rule of Padishah Akbar (1556-1605) is rightfully considered to be the "golden age" in the history of the Mughal Empire. It was he who proved the right of the Great Mughals to rule in India and turned the state from a small country into a world power with a population of 150 million people. The padishah was distinguished not only by religious tolerance, but also by the desire for knowledge, the exchange of cultural achievements. Under Akbar, there were such educational centers as Agra and Fathpur Sikri. There were schools and seminaries in them, they often became a place where intellectuals gathered, where scientists worked. Such was the famous Ibadat Khan in Sikri . Thanks to Akbar, a girls' school was opened in Fathpur-Sikri, which was located in the palace of the padishah. The girls were taught the holy Quran. However, the previously studied theology was replaced by the humanities, and Persian was taught instead of Arabic. Most educated Muslim women were writers and patrons of literature. For example, the memoirs of Gulbadan Banu Begam, the talented daughter of Babur, are still popular.

Thanks to Akbar's interest in history and religious teachings, the great works of Indian literature were translated from Sanskrit: Mahabharata, Ramayana, Harivamsa. In 1589, the padishah ordered the publication of works of a historical nature, the purpose of which was to show the legality of the rule of the Mughals in India. They are represented by a series of biographies "Babur - name", "Akbar - name«. In terms of the totality of information and their reliability, Babur-name is the most important and valuable historical and prose work, unmatched among similar works written in the Middle Ages in Central Asia, Iran, Afghanistan and India. "Akbar-name" is a detailed biography of the padishah Akbar, written by his

The manuscript "Akbar-name" ("Book of Akbar") is a historical treatise on the reign of Padishah Akbar in India. The treatise was written by Hamid Ullah Shahabadi Kashmiri, a renowned historian and poet from Kashmir, India. Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Akbar (1542–1605), or Akbar the Great, a padishah from the Mughal dynasty, ruled India from 1556 to 1605. The manuscript was written by an unknown scribe in the 19th century.



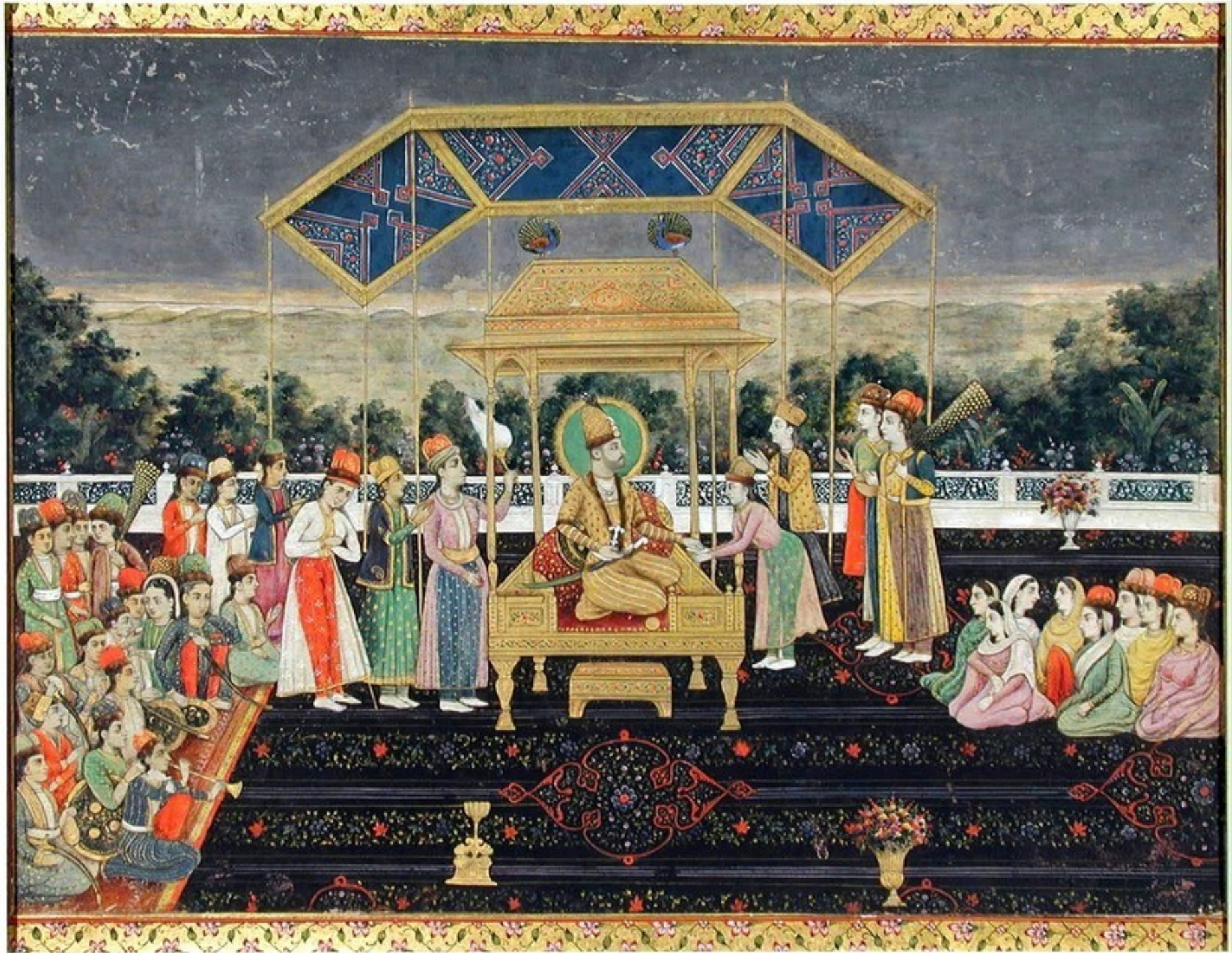
The peacock throne

The peacock throne - the golden throne of the Great Mughals, was taken out of India by the Persian Nadir Shah in 1739 and later destroyed.

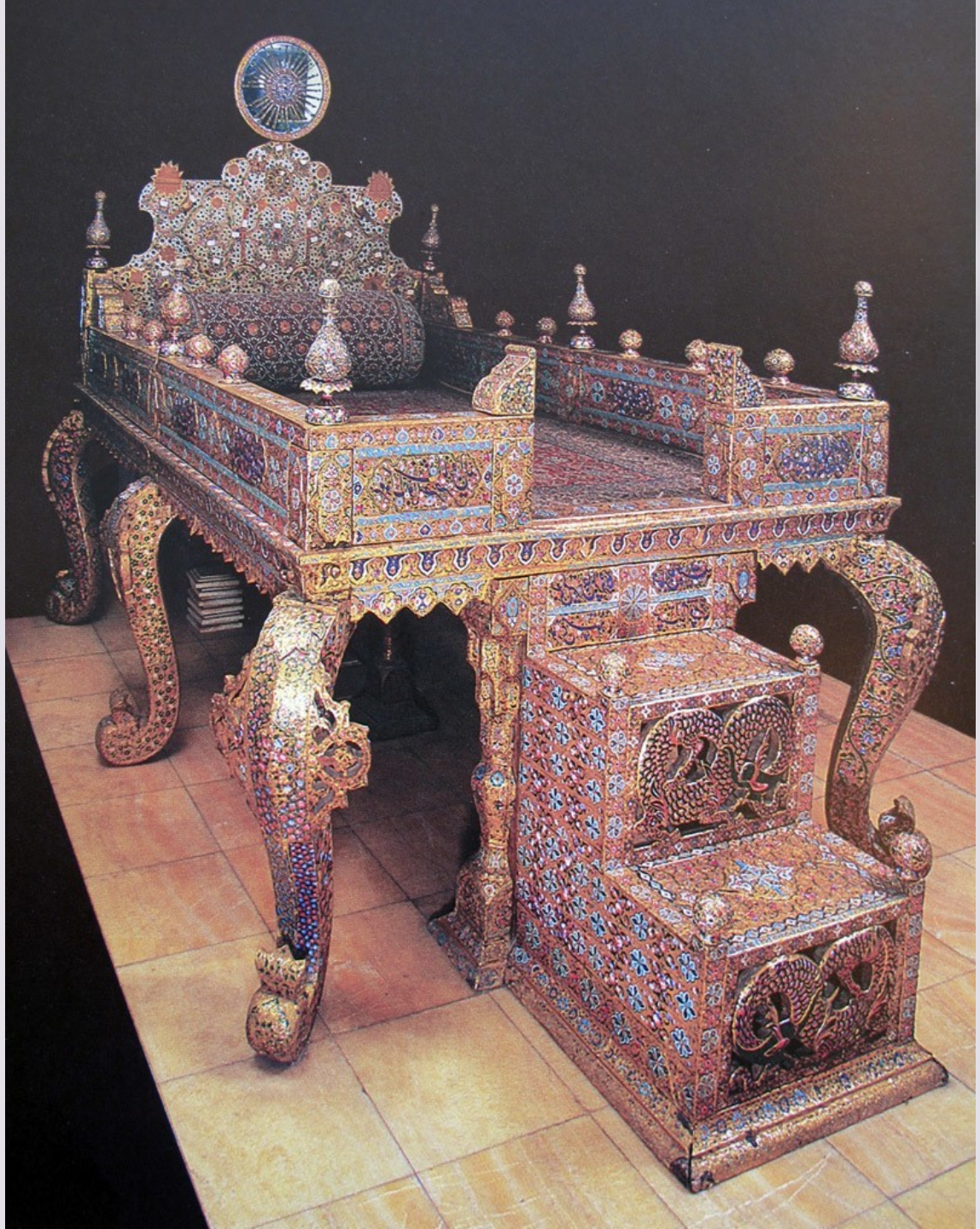
The peacock throne was made for the padishah of the Mughal Empire Shah Jahan in the 17th century. According to the descriptions of Europeans, in particular, Tavernier, it was the most luxurious throne in the world. The subjects approached him along the silver steps. The legs of the throne were gold and decorated with gems. Behind the back rose two peacock tails of gold, interspersed with diamonds and ruby, adorned with enamel.

The peacock throne (Takht-e Taus) took seven years to create. Among the precious stones inserted into the throne were pearls, emeralds, rubies, spinels, sapphires and diamonds. These jewels looked like multi-colored peacock feathers surrounded by ornaments. The most notable gems of the Peacock Throne were the Shah Akbar diamond, the Great Mogul diamond, Timur's ruby, the Big Tablet diamond and the Shah diamond.

During the sack of Delhi, Nadir Shah brought to Iran not only the Peacock Throne, but also a precious sofa with peacock attributes. An unnamed agent who saw the throne in Persia informed the Russian consul in Isfahan Kadushkin that at the sight of such fabulous wealth, it was why to go crazy: the Peacock throne itself weighed a little less than two tons of pure gold. Rubies, emeralds and diamonds set in gold alone (and among them the famous Koh-i-Nur) were taken out on 21 camels more than five tons, small diamonds up to half a ton, and







In the late 17th - early 18th centuries. internal crisis led to civil strife and the gradual collapse of the Mughal Empire. By the middle of the XVIII century. The Mughals actually owned only Delhi and the surrounding areas.

With the beginning of the collapse of the Mughal Empire in the first half of the 18th century. their former governors Navwaba Bengal, Navwaba Auda, Nizams of Hyderabad achieved de facto independence.

In the XVIII century. The English East India Company gradually took control of Bengal. In the XIX century. all the possessions of the named dynasties were seized by the East India Company. The weakening of the power of the Great Mughals and the suppression of the Sipai Uprising provided an opportunity for the British to overthrow the Mughal dynasty and establish direct control over Delhi in 1857.