

**GREAT
KINGS,
RULERS &
EMPERORS**
OF THE
ISLAMIC WORLD

MASHA BOOKS

For 10 years, Babur sought to recover Samarkand and twice he did so but held it only for brief periods. In 1501 Babur was defeated at Sar-I-Pol and in three years, he lost Samarkand and Fergana. Undeterred by these losses, Babur seized Kabul with his personal followers. His last attempt at Samarkand again ended in failure, forcing him to give up his quest and focus on expanding his Empire elsewhere. In 1522, he turned to Sindh and India before quickly capturing Kandahar, a strategic site on the road to Sindh.

In Babur's first raid into India in 1519, he attacked the Punjab region. That area was part of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi's domain but his Governor, Dawlat Khan Lodi resented Ibrahim's attempts to diminish his authority.



Sultan Ali Mirza and Babur meeting near Samarkand



Battle of Panipat 1526, depicting Mughal artillery and troops in action

In 1524, Babur invaded Punjab three more times but the course and web of politics that existed at the time, made it impossible for him to achieve a firm foothold. Babur now turned to Delhi and after mounting a full scale attack there, Babur had to return to Kabul to rout an Uzbek attack. It was only from the urging of Ibrahim's uncle and Dawlat Khan that Babur attempted a fifth raid, which at last was successful.

Babur met Ibrahim at Panipat in November 1525. Though Babur's army was considerably small, they were seasoned veterans and well versed in cavalry tactics. The forces were also aided by artillery acquired from the Ottomans. Babur won the battle by coolness under fire, effective use of artillery and Turkish wheeling tactics on a divided, dispirited enemy.

Thus there was the first Indian controlled Sepoy corps, armed with firelocks and bayonets, backed by artillery served by Europeans. Hyder Ali had independent command of Mysore in 1749, later displacing the Prime Minister Nanjaraj before becoming the ruler of Mysore. He then conquered Bednore, Kanara and defeated the feudal chiefs of southern India.

In 1766, the Nizam of Hyderabad entered into an alliance with the British along with the Marathas. This triple alliance soon attacked Hyder but the latter was able to bribe off the Marathas, take Mangalore and defeat the British army in Bombay. In 1769, he was promised aid from the British in the event of an attack. Later in 1771 when the Marathas did attack Hyder's territories, the British did not help him defend them. Deeply offended by this, Hyder Ali increased his French and European soldiers of fortune, then joined a confederacy with the Nizam and the Marathas against the British. In 1780, he attacked the Karnatic region of south India, destroyed a British detachment of 2,800 men and seized Arcot. The British retaliated first by taking away his allies and defeated him three times at the battles of Porto Novo, Pollilur and Sholinghur.



Hyder Ali as a Sepoy



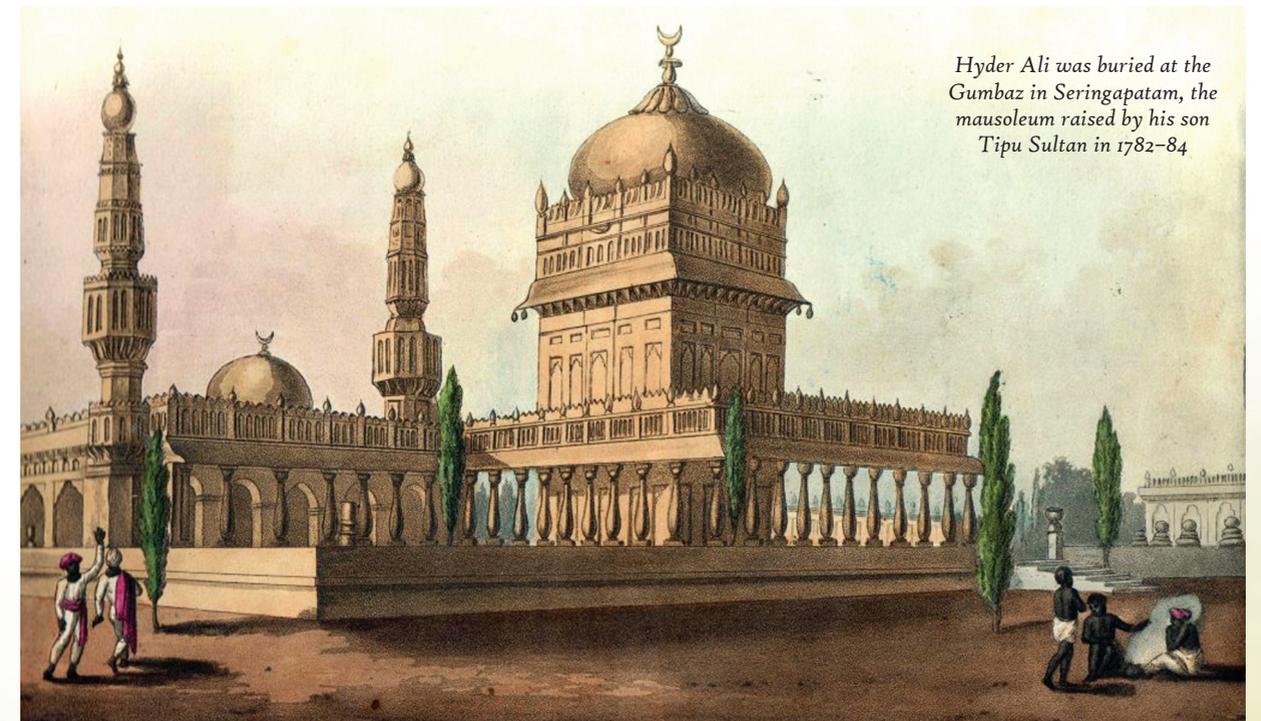
Hyder Ali's troops in battle

Amazing Fact

The Lal Bagh Gardens of Bangalore, India were laid out by Hyder Ali and were modeled after Mughal and French gardens.



In early 1782, an army under Tipu Sultan defeated 100 British and 1,800 Sepoys at the Kollidam River. In April of the same year, 1,200 French troops landed at Porto Novo and quickly seized Cuddalore, while British tried to drive Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan from their fort in Arni. Following the arrival of George Macartney as Governor of Madras and the capture of Nagappattinam by the British fleet, Hyder Ali was convinced that he could no longer stop the British. Right before he died, he implored Tipu Sultan to make peace with the British and not follow in his footsteps.

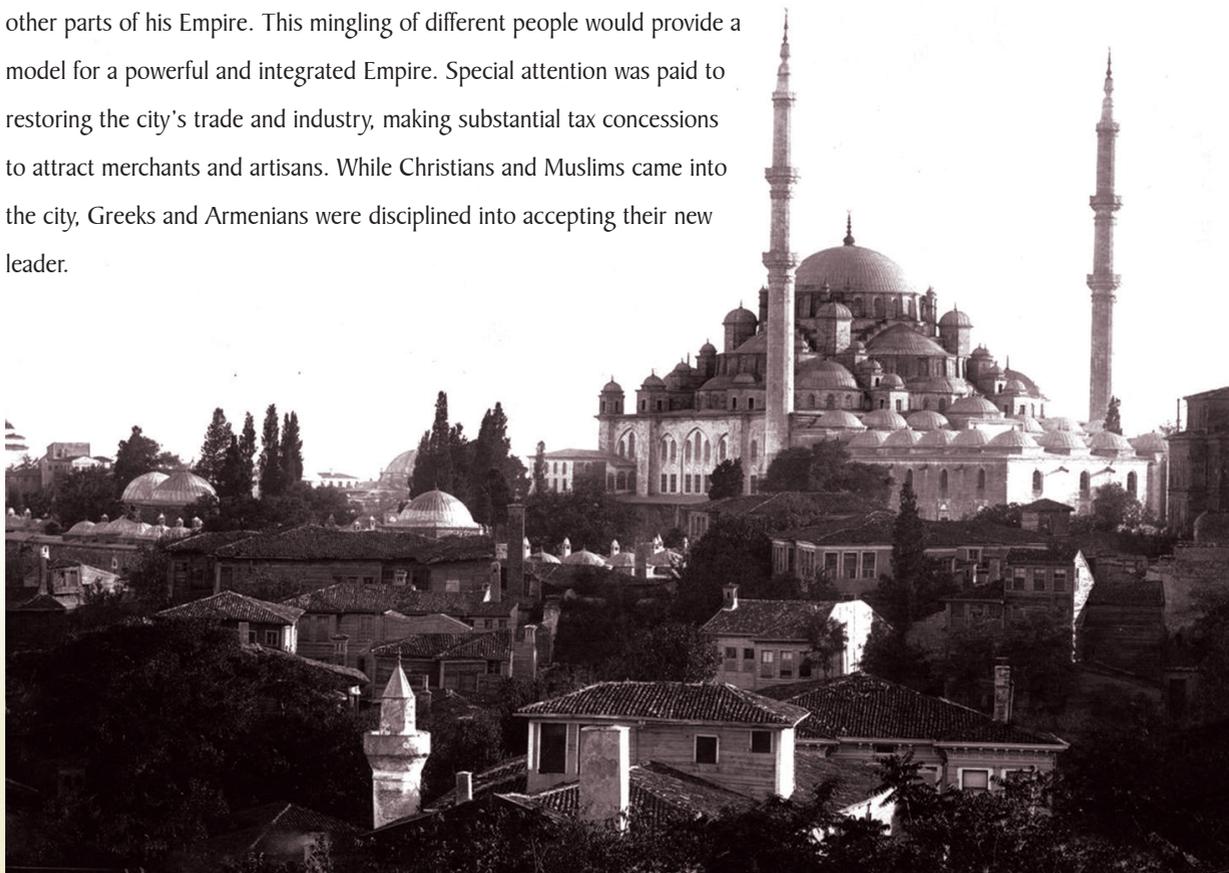


Hyder Ali was buried at the Gumbaz in Seringapatam, the mausoleum raised by his son Tipu Sultan in 1782-84



Between 1451- 1452, Sultan Mehmed II built the Roumeli Hisar Castle

To that end, he developed several bases of power. This was done in an effort to restore Istanbul, after the devastation he caused during his siege of the city. He diligently worked to repopulate the city with his own people and with people from other parts of his Empire. This mingling of different people would provide a model for a powerful and integrated Empire. Special attention was paid to restoring the city's trade and industry, making substantial tax concessions to attract merchants and artisans. While Christians and Muslims came into the city, Greeks and Armenians were disciplined into accepting their new leader.



The Fatih Mosque is the first imperial mosque built in Constantinople, following the Ottoman conquest.

Mehmed also gave special attention to Jews from central and western Europe, where they were subject to persecution. The loyalty of the Jews to the Ottomans was induced by that of their co-religionists in Byzantium. These people had supported and assisted the Ottoman conquests for a long time.

The various religious groups that populated the city were allowed to establish their own self-governing communities, known as "Millet". Each millet retained their religious laws, traditions and languages, under the protection of the Sultan. They were led by religious chiefs, who were both secular

and religious leaders, thus establishing the need for a long Ottoman rule. Mehmed used his army to restore much of the city; repairing streets, aqueducts and bridges. He also modernized sanitary facilities and a vast supply system was put into place, to provide for the city's inhabitants.

Mehmed then devoted his time to expanding his dominion in Europe and Asia, so that he could establish his claim to world leadership. For that to happen, he put down the last vassal Princes that could have disputed him and established direct Ottoman administration in provinces throughout the Empire.



The 1456 Siege of Belgrade, depicted on an Ottoman miniature

He also extended Ottoman rule far beyond the areas held by Murad II and from 1454- 1463, he focused on southeast Europe. He annexed Serbia and conquered Morea (a peninsula in southern Greece), thus ending the last major claims to the Byzantine throne. When Venice did not surrender their ports along the Aegean coast, Mehmed started the second Ottoman-Venetian war. He annexed several colonies along the Black Sea coast of Anatolia and later annexed Bosnia.

Amazing Fact

Mehmed is seen as the first Sultan to codify criminal and constitutional law, well before Suleiman's rule.