

JIWAJI UNIVERSITY GWALIOR(M.P.)

M.A HISTORY 4TH SEMESTER

**UNIT 5 – RISE OF MARATHA POWER –
ADMINISTRATION OF SHIVA JI**

**COURSE CODE
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Rise of Marathas

We have already seen that the Marathas had important positions in the administrative and military systems of Ahmadnagar and Bijapur and that power and influence in the affairs of government had grown as Mughals advanced towards the Deccan. Both the Deccani sultans and the Mughals made a bid for their support and Malik Ambar saw them in his army in large numbers as loose auxiliaries. Although a number of influential Maratha families - the Morees, the Ghatages, the Nimbalkars, etc. exercised local authority in some areas, the Marathas did not have any large, well-established states as the Rajputs had.

The credit for setting up such a large state goes to Shahji Bhonsale and his son, Shivaji. As we have seen for some time Shahji acted as the kingmaker in Mimadnagar and defied the Mughals . However , by the treaty of 1636 Shahji yielded the territories he was dominating . he joined the service of Bijapur and turned his energies to Karnataka. Taking advantage of the unsettled conditions , Shahji tried to set up a semi independent principality at Bangalore just as Mir Jumla , the leading noble of Golconda, tried to carve out such a principality on the Coromandel coast.

Central Administration

Shivaji was assisted by eight ministers in his administration. Each of them was the head or the pradhan of the department.

The prime minister or the peshwa enjoyed superiority among his colleagues. He looked after the general administration and welfare of the kingdom, promote harmony in the administration, represent the king in his absence and put his seal below the king's to all royal letters and dispatches.

The Amatya or Majumdar was responsible for the account of income and expenditure of the state.

The Mantri or Waqia-Nawis was responsible for the personal safety of the king and supervise his daily routine-work.

The duty of the Sachiv was to see that all royal letters and dispatches were drafted in the proper style. He also checked the accounts of the paraganas.

The Sumant or Dabir was the foreign minister. He advised the king regarding questions of war and peace with other states, received foreign ambassadors, collected news from other states and advised the king in appointing ambassadors to foreign states.

The Senapati or Sar-i-Naubat was in charge of recruitment, organisation, and discipline, training of soldiers and arranging their supplies.

Pandit Rao or Danadhyaksha looked after the charitable and religious works of the state. He also tried to attempt moral uplift of the people. The Nyayadhish was next to the king, and was the highest judicial authority in the kingdom.

Provincial Administration of Shivaji

The kingdom of Shivaji was divided into three provinces. Each was ruled by a governor. The Northern Province was under More Trimbale Pingle. The southern province included Konkan, south of Mumbai, and the north Kanara coast. It was governed by Aunaji Datto. The southeastern province which was under Dattaji Pant included the districts of Satara and Koihapur of the Deccan plateau, the districts of Dharwar to Kopal west of the river Tungabhadra in Karnataka.

However, he could not consolidate his hold over this territory and ruled it by sheer force. Besides, Shivaji collected taxes from the territory of Kanara, south Dharwar, Sondha and Bedmir though it was yet under dispute and it was conquered just before the death of Shivaji.

Army

Shivaji's military administration was equally successful. His ranking of his officers both in the infantry and the cavalry, payment of wages of soldiers on the fixed day, personal supervision of their recruitment, training and promotion, etc. were all winning measures.

His guerrilla system of warfare and administrative measures concerning the forts were in a way, novelties of his military administration while keeping soldiers busy in fighting for eight months provided them the best possible training in the art of fighting.

His army observed high morality. Shivaji made certain other regulations as well concerning the army which were strictly enforced. Thereby, he was able to build up a strong fighting force which virtually became invincible in the seventeenth century. Shivaji also organized a navy which successfully safeguarded the coast-line and trade of the kingdom.

Finance and Revenue

The revenue System during the reign of Shivaji was quite an efficient one. Currency, trade tax and land revenue were the most important sources of the fixed income of Shivaji.

Shivaji collected the chauth and sardeshmukhi from the territory which was either under his enemies or under his own influence. The revenue system of Shivaji was Ryotwari in which the state established direct contact with the peasants. The revenue system of Shivaji enhanced the prosperity of his subjects.

Thus, the kingdom of Shivaji was well-administered. He has been regarded as one of the great personalities of medieval India because he provided an efficient administration.

The background is a gradient from dark purple to blue, featuring faint technical diagrams such as circular gauges with numerical scales and arrows, and a starry space pattern.

Thank you

Sanjay mohhan