

RAJPUT POLICIES OF AKBAR

Some distinct features

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Matrimonial Alliances

- In 1562, Akbar married the daughter of Raja Behari Mal of Amber.
- He also married two other princesses, one of Jodhpur and other of Jaisalmer.
- He married his son Jahangir to the daughter of Raja Bhagwan Das, son of Raja Behari Mal.

Appointment to High Posts

- Raja Todarmal and Raja Birbal occupied important positions in the imperial court. Raja Behari Mal, his son Bhagwan Das and grandson Man Singh were among his close confidants.

Equal Treatment and Religious Independence

- Akbar accorded equal status to the Rajputs as well as Muslims.
- Akbar granted full religious independence to the Hindus.
- Hindus could build temples, worship in them and celebrate their festivals.
- Rajput queens were free in their observance of their faith. Akbar himself respected Hindu Gods and their religious rituals.

Full Respect and Honour to the Rajput rulers

- All those Rajputs who submitted to Akbar were given full respect and honour.
- Employment of Rajputs in his army was more than 20%.
- Akbar never interfered in the internal administration of the Rajput kingdoms.
- Akbar established personal relations with many Rajput rulers. It is said that when the son-in-law of Rai Singh of Bikaner, died accidentally, Akbar himself went there to console the family and share their grief.

Reformative Measures in the Society

- Akbar attempted to remove some social evils like a 'sati' and child marriage from the Rajput society.
- He gave royal sanctions to widow remarriage.
- Akbar abolished 'jaziya', a tax which was levied by the Muslim rulers upon the Hindus.
- Akbar abolished pilgrimage tax, again a tax levied on Hindus.
- Akbar forbade the cow slaughter again respecting the Hindu sentiments.

CONCLUSION

- Akbar was an imperialist. Thereby realized, the importance of Rajputs in establishing a vast empire.
- In the words of Dr. Beni Prasad, "His relations with Rajputs symbolized the dawn of a new era in Indian politics. It gave the country a line of remarkable sovereigns, it secured to the four generations of the Mughal emperors, the services of some of the greatest generals and diplomats, that medieval India produced.