Maratha State 1674 -1720 and Maratha Confederacy 172-1818

MARATHA STATE (1674-1720):

- Born at Shivneri fort. Father ShahajiBhosle initially served Nizam ruler of Ahmednagar. Later he joined the Bijapur.

- He inherited the jagir of Poona from his father in 1637. At the age of 16 he captured the Torna fort, followed by many more forts.

- He created an independent Maratha kingdom with Raigad as its capital.

- He captured Javali from Chandrarao More in 1656. At the Battle of Pratapgarh (1659) he killed Afzal Khan (Adil shah's general).

- Battle of Pavankhind (1660) – smaller Maratha force led by Baji PrabhuDeshpande held back the larger enemy to buy time for Shivaji to escape.

- Shivaji was defeated by Shaista Khan (sent by Aurangzeb). Later He made a bold attack on Shaista Khan's military camp at Poona in 1663 & wounded him.

- Treaty of Purander (1665)

    - Signed between Raja Jai Singh (under Aurangzeb) and Shivaji.
    - Shivaji ceded some forts to Mughals & visited Agra to meet Aurangzeb.

- He defeated Mughals in Battle of Salher (1672). He was crowned & assumed the title Maharaja Chhatrapati in 1674 at Raigad fort.

- He died in 1680 at the age of 52.

SHIVAJI'S ADMINISTRATION:

- He divided the territory into three provinces. Provinces were divided into Prants which were subdivided into Parganas or Tarafs.
- Shivaji had well organized Army & Navy. The regular army was called Paga, while the loose auxiliaries called silahdars & were supervised by havildars.

- Salary in cash was paid to the regular soldier, though sometime the chiefs received revenue grants (saranjam).

- He was assisted by a council of ministers called "Ashtapradhan" Mandal. Each minister was directly responsible to Shivaji. (No collective responsibility).

SAMBHAJI (1680-1689)

> Sambhaji was the son of ShivajiMaharaj and as per Treaty of Purandar was a Mansabdar of Mughals.
> His rule was largely shaped by the ongoing wars between the Maratha kingdom and Mughal Empire as well as other neighbouring powers such as Siddis, Mysore and the Portuguese in Goa.
> In 1687, at the Battle of Wai he defeated Mughal forces.
> In 1689, Sambhaji was captured, tortured and executed by the Mughals.
> He was succeeded by his brother Rajaram I.
>

SHAHU (1707-1749)

> Shahu's reign saw the rise of Peshwas & reducing Bhosale's to mere figureheads.
> By the time of Rajaram II/Ram raja the power of Chhatrapati was almost overshadowed by that of Peshwa.

BalajiVishwanath (1713-1818): First Peshwa

> He started his career as a small revenue official. He was given a title of SenaKarte in 1708 by Shahu.
> He became a Peshwa in 1713 & made the post most important and powerful as well as hereditary.

MARATHA CONFEDERACY (1720-1818):

Baji Rao I (1720-40)

> Succeeded BalajiVishwanath. Maratha power reached its zenith under him.
> Was one of the greatest exponents of guerrilla tactics after Shivaji.
> Initiated the system of confederacy. Thus, many families became prominent and established their authority.
> He captured Salsette and Bassein from Portuguese in Battle of Vasai (1733). He defeated Nizam-ul-Mulk in 1737 & concluded Treaty of DuraiSarai.
> His several expeditions in the north weakened the Mughal and made Marathas supreme power in India.
> He said about Mughal: "Let us strike at the trunk of the withering tree and the branches will fall of themselves".

ANGLO-MARATHA WARS

There were three wars fought between the Maratha Empire and the British East India Company over territory.

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775–1782)	• Struggle of Power between SawaiMadhav Rao and Raghunath Rao was supported by British resulted in First Anglo-Maratha War. • The treaty of Salbai in May, 1782 – British acknowledged Madhavrao as the Peshwa of the Maratha Empire and ended the Anglo-Maratha War.
Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–05)	• The second war was caused by the peshwa Baji Rao II's defeat by the Holkar (one of the leading Maratha clans) and his acceptance subsidiary alliance (Treaty of Bassein) in 1802. • Unhappy Maratha confederacy challenged the British power but got defeated.
Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-1818)	• Distressed By low income Pindaris made up of many castes and started plundering neighbouring territories, including those of companies. • Lord Hasting (Governor General) charged Marathas with giving shelter to the Pindaris and hence fought war. • Maratha warlords fought separately instead of forming a common front and they surrendered one by one.