

<b>achievements</b>	Things that someone has succeeded in doing, especially with effort.	<b>global trade</b>	The exchange of things like food, clothes and resources between different countries.
<b>beliefs</b>	Ideas and values that people hold, guiding their actions and decisions.	<b>historically significant</b>	A person or event from the past which a modern historian decides is important.
<b>cultural diversity</b>	A mix of different types of people, languages, foods, music and more in one place.	<b>justice</b>	The idea of fairness and the protection of rights for all individuals.
<b>cultural exchange</b>	People from different places exchanging ideas and learning from each other's way of life.	<b>maritime routes</b>	Routes on the sea used for trading.
<b>equality</b>	Fairness and equal treatment for all individuals, regardless of background, race or circumstances.	<b>remarkable</b>	A person or event that was reported on at the time and later.



## Absolute Power

Absolute power is when one person, a king or a leader, makes all the decisions without anyone else telling them what to do or checking on them. They have complete control over everything, and nobody can challenge or stop them.

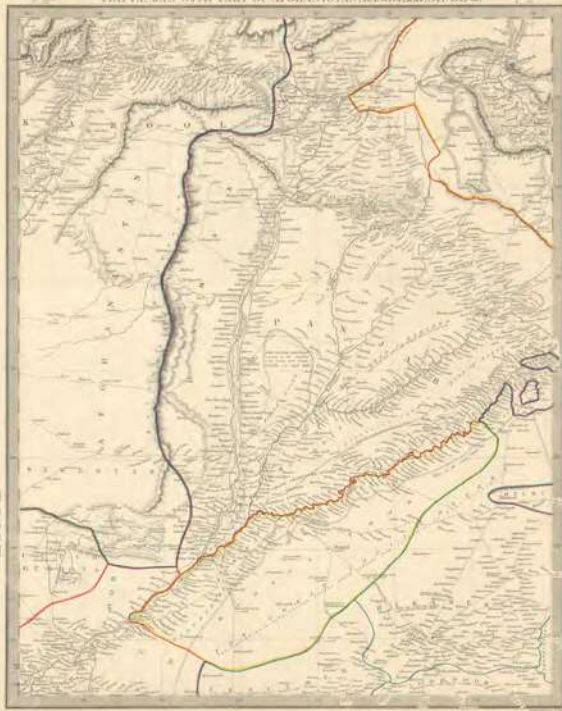
Credit: The History Collection / Alamy Stock Photo



## Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Maharaja Ranjit Singh, often called the 'Lion of Punjab', was born in 1780 into a Sikh family of warriors. Using diplomacy and military prowess, he united the various Sikh misls (confederations) to establish the powerful Sikh Empire. Under his leadership, the Sikh Empire embraced modernisation, forged strong alliances and became an important military force. Maharaja Ranjit Singh's reign marked a golden era for the Sikhs, ensuring Punjab remained independent for decades and leaving an enduring legacy in South Asian history.

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### Punjab

The Punjab is a fertile region in South Asia, including modern-day India and Pakistan. Traditionally the land of five rivers, its name derives from the Persian words "Punj" (five) and "Aab" (waters). As the birthplace of Sikhism, Punjab holds immense religious and historical significance for Sikhs. During the 19th century, under Maharaja Ranjit Singh's leadership, the Sikh Empire emerged with Punjab at its heart. This empire stood as a symbol of sovereignty and was a testament to Sikh military and administrative success. Punjab's geography, resources and people were central to the empire's strength and longevity.

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### Sikh Confederacy

The Sikh Confederacy consisted of 12 major misls. Each misl was an autonomous military unit and had its own leadership but they often worked together and shared decision-making in matters concerning the larger Sikh community, especially during the Sarbat Khalsa assemblies.



### Sikh Empire

The Sikh Empire, founded in the early 19th century by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was a significant power in South Asia. Originating from the unification of 12 Sikh misls, the empire expanded to include regions that today fall within India, Pakistan and parts of Afghanistan. With Lahore as its capital, the empire stood as a symbol of Sikh strength and governance. It introduced modern reforms, maintained a formidable army and promoted religious tolerance.

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