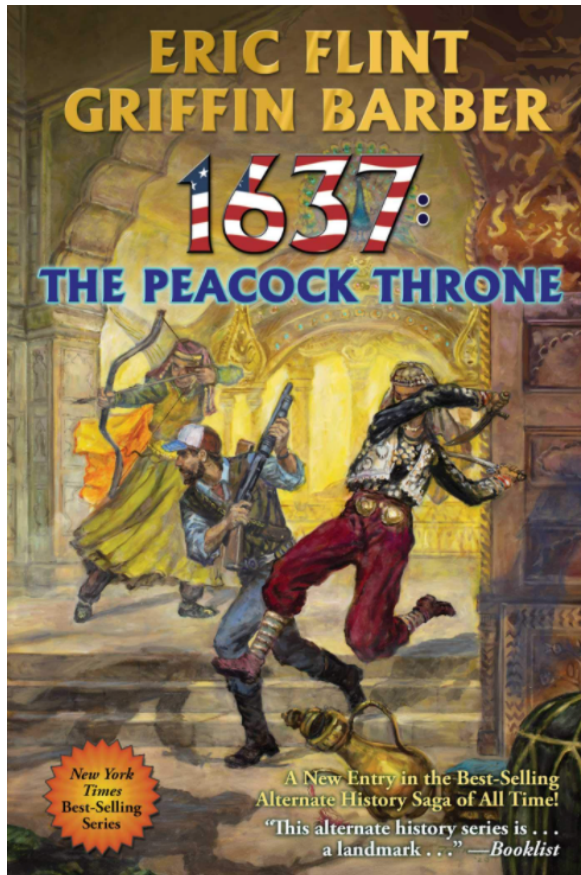


**BAEN BOOKS**

**TEACHER'S GUIDE TO *1637: THE PEACOCK THRONE***



**Contents:**

- Recommended reading levels
- Plot summaries
- Character sketches
- Suggestions for Introductory projects
- Suggestions for Contiguous projects that can be utilized throughout reading
- Guides to each part and chapter, including:
  - Prepare to read...
  - Vocabulary
  - Focus questions/initiating activities
  - Quiz/reading comprehension questions: multiple-choice/short-answer questions (answers provided, but answers may also vary in expression)
  - Discussion or short-essay questions: higher-order open-ended questions that might be utilized for quizzes, tests, class discussion, or essay prompts
  - Suggested activities/inquiry-based exploration

**RECOMMENDED READING LEVELS:** *1637: The Peacock Throne* is appropriate for a young adult to adult audience. Classroom use of the book is most suitable for upper middle school to high school students.

**BACKGROUND (PRECEDING NOVEL 1636: *MISSION TO THE MUGHALS*):**

...After carving a free state for itself in war-torn 17<sup>th</sup>-century Europe, citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century town of Grantville, West Virginia go on a quest for the making of medicines that have yet to be invented in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Europe.

The United States of Europe, the new nation formed by an alliance between Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus and the West Virginians hurled back in time by a cosmic accident—the Ring of Fire—is beset by enemies on all sides. The U.S.E. needs a reliable source of opiates for those wounded in action, as well as other goods not available in Europe. The Prime Minister of the U.S.E., Mike Stearns, sends a mission to the Mughal Empire of India with the aim of securing a trade deal with the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan.

The mission consists of a mixed group of up-timers and down-timers, including paramedics, a squad of soldiers with railroad-building experience, a spy, and a pair of swindlers. On reaching India, the mission finds a grieving emperor obsessed with building the Taj Mahal, harem-bound princesses, warrior princes, and an Afghan adventurer embroiled in the many plots of the Mughal court.

The emperor's sons are plotting against each other, and war is brewing with the newly risen Sikh faith. But in the midst of these intrigues, the U.S.E. mission finds an ally: the brilliant and beautiful Jahanara Begum, the eldest daughter of Shah Jahan. She is the mistress of her father's harem and a power in her own right, who wishes to learn more of these women who are free in a way she can scarcely comprehend.

When the emperor learns of what befalls his empire and children in the time that was, he makes every effort to change their fate. But emperors, princesses, and princes are no more immune to the inexorable waves of change created by the Ring of Fire than are the Americans themselves.

—from *Baen.com*

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE AUTHORS:**

**Eric Flint** is a modern master of alternate history fiction, with more than three million books in print. He's the author/creator of the multiple *New York Times* best-selling Ring of Fire series starting with first novel *1632*. With David Drake he has written six popular novels in the "Belisarius" alternate Roman history series, and with David Weber he has collaborated on *1633* and *1634: The Baltic War*, as well as the Honorverse series entry *Cauldron of Ghosts*. Flint's latest Ring of Fire novel is *1637: The Polish Maelstrom*. Flint was for many years a labor union activist. He lives near Chicago, Illinois.

**Griffin Barber** spent his youth in four different countries, learning three languages and burning all his bridges. Finally settled in Northern California with a day job as a police officer in a major metropolitan department, he lives the good life with his lovely wife, crazy-smart daughter, needy dog, and indifferent cat. He is the author, with Eric Flint, of *1636: Mission to the Mughals*.

—from *Baen.com*

#### **PLOT SUMMARY OF *1637: THE PEACOCK THRONE*:**

##### **The emperor is dead; long live the emperors!**

The assassinated Shah Jahan lies entombed beside his beloved wife in the Taj Mahal while their progeny drag the Mughal Empire into a three-sided struggle over the succession to the Peacock Throne.

The diplomatic and trade mission from the United States of Europe is openly siding with Princess Jahanara and her brother, Dara Shikoh. The mission, made up largely of Americans transplanted in time by the Ring of Fire, is providing the siblings with technical assistance as they prepare to fight their rivals for the throne, Aurangzeb and Shah Shuja. Meanwhile, the Afghan adventurer Salim Gadh Yilmaz, confidant of two emperors—Shah Jahan and now his son Dara Shikoh—has been elevated to the position of general. He has great challenges to face, not the least of which is resisting the fierce and forbidden mutual attraction between himself and Princess Jahanara.

As the conflict deepens, the junior members of the mission are sent east to buy the opium needed by the USE's doctors. Their guide, merchant Jadu Das, has an agenda of his own, one entrusted to him by Jahanara: seek out her great uncle, Asaf Khan, and promise whatever is needed to bring his army over to Dara's side.

The USE's mission was sent to India in search of goods needed in Europe. But now they find

that their straightforward task has become enmeshed in a great civil war for control of The Peacock Throne.

—from *Baen.com*

### **MAJOR AND NOTEWORTHY CHARACTERS:**

PRINCESS JAHANARA BEGUM is the eldest daughter of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal. She manages the harem of Dara Shikoh.

ROSHANARA is the second daughter of Shah Jahan.

DARA SHIKOH is the eldest son of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal. He seeks to take the Peacock Throne.

AURANGZEB is the third son of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal. He, too, seeks to take the Peacock Throne.

NUR JAHAN is the wife of Shah Jahan's father, Jahangir. She acts as an advisor to Aurangzeb.

NADIRA BEGUM is Dara Shikoh's wife and cousin.

ATISHEH is chief among Dara's female harem guards.

AMIR SALIM GADH VISA YILMAZ is an Afghan adventurer who returns to India with up-timer histories. He has been promoted to general in Dara's army.

SMIDHA is Jahanara's eldest and most trusted advisor.

LINHARES is the Viceroy of the Estado da India in Goa. He has forged an alliance with Aurangzeb.

FRANCISCO TINOCO DE CARVALHO is the Portuguese head of the *Nuovo Cristiao* merchant family in Goa. He is also a mercenary with artillery skills.

CRISTOVAO DE JESUS is a Portuguese Franciscan father who represents an alliance between the Estado da India and Aurangzeb.

SHAH SHUJAH is the second son of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal. He has remained neutral in the fight for the Peacock Throne.

SIDI MIFTAH HABASH KHAN is a Habshi clan leader known as the Habash Khan, whose clan has close ties to Maratha chieftains. He is an appointee to Aurangzeb.

SHAHAJI BHOSALE is a Maratha chieftain and umara, in command of a contingent of Aurangzeb's light cavalry.

FIROZ KHAN is a eunuch harem manager in Dara's court.

RODNEY TOTMAN is a medical expert for the USE mission.

PRISCILLA TOTMAN is a medical expert for the USE mission. She is married to Rodney.

RICKY WILEY is a security specialist for the USE mission. He has been tasked with an opium expedition.

BOBBY MADDOX is also a security specialist for the USE mission. He is on expedition with Ricky.

JADU DAS is a Hindu merchant who attends Ricky and Bobby on the opium expedition.

JOHN DEXTER (J.D.) ENNIS is a technology specialist for the USE mission.

GERVAIS VIEUXPONT is a skilled linguist and the father of Monique Vieuxpont.

MONIQUE VIEUXPONT is also a skilled linguist. She is in love with Bertram Weiman.

BERTRAM WEIMAN is a spy for the USE.

TALAWAT is a gunsmith and part of Dara's princely establishment. He has been commissioned to replicate up-timer munitions for Dara.

HARGOBIND SINGH is the Sixth Guru of the Sikh religion.

BIDHI CHAND is a disciple of Hargobind Singh. He leads an army of Sikh warriors.

ANGELO GRADINEGO is a Venetian con man.

AMAR SINGH RATHORE is a Rajput nobleman.

## Introductory Projects

- ❖ *My City in the Seventeenth Century*: Guide students in considering the ways in which their own city would impact Enlightenment Europe. As a class, create a *Cultural Features* list that enumerates as many of the “apparent values” of their city as possible. Have students consider questions such as: What are the overriding political leanings of your city? What technologies and institutions could your city provide that other cities might not? What prominent people who reside in your city might take up influential roles in seventeenth-century Europe?
- ❖ *Critical Vocabulary*: Assign small groups different sets of foreign terms and expressions occurring regularly throughout the novel. Instruct the groups to make brief presentations on their terms, using synonyms and imagery to enhance understanding.
- ❖ *Visualizing Mughal India*: Study a map of Mughal India with your students and collectively research major cities and ports, agricultural areas, and different climate regions. Make predictions on what parts of Mughal India might play a prominent role in the novel.
- ❖ *Novel Insights*: Assign your students to listen to Parts 1 and 2 of a Baen podcast wherein the authors of *The Peacock Throne* are interviewed on the novel’s preceding story *Mission to the Mughals*. Instruct students to take notes while listening to each podcast of interesting insights into Mughal India. Foster a class discussion on topics learned from the podcast. Topics might include: how the children of Mughal emperors established their own courts to control dissidence; the problems with how Dara Shikoh was raised by Shah Jahan; the motivations behind Shah Jahan’s building of the Taj Mahal; meritocracy and power in Mughal India; etc. The podcasts may be listened to here:
  - Baen Podcast Part 1: <https://www.baen.com/podcastfiles/mp3/baen-free-radio-hour-2017-04-07-Flint-Barber-1-Sea-45.mp3>
  - Baen Podcast Part 2: <https://www.baen.com/podcastfiles/mp3/baen-free-radio-hour-2017-04-14-Flint-Barber-Sea-46.mp3>
- ❖ *Questioning Influence*: Display the phrase, “The philosophical problem of meddling in history.” Consider also displaying the phrase “Moral Universalism vs. Cultural Relativism.” Ensure basic comprehension of these terms, then foster a class discussion, or organize a debate, over the question of when it is justified for one society to manipulate the political and social trajectories of another society. Ask students to bring in knowledge and observations from their learnings in other classes, encouraging them to make judgment calls based on real-world history.

## Contiguous Projects

- ❖ *Character Flaws*: Choose any character in *The Peacock Throne*, no matter how prominent a role they play in the novel, and investigate the character's key flaws. Cite a scene in the novel in which they exhibit their flaw, and explain how that flaw helps to define your overarching understanding of the character. Explain what the character could have done differently to have represented themselves in a more positive light.
- ❖ *Peacock Throne Event Tracker*: Keep a large blank map of India displayed on the classroom wall. Label the map during reading with important cities, buildings, homes, battlefields, or any other place where it is decided that significant events take place within the novel. Remind students that notable events do not have to be limited to large-scale events such as wars or expeditions, but conversations and internal thoughts of characters as well. Begin each class with a roundtable discussion of recently occurring notable events in the novel, and label the map with the events.
- ❖ *Family War*: Remind your class that the overarching conflict occurring in *The Peacock Throne* involves the struggle between brothers fighting for the throne and the influential actions of related and nonrelated female figures. Instruct students to think of another novel, comic or graphic novel, TV show, or film in which family conflict plays a large role. Assign students to write a paper or create a presentation comparing and contrasting the conflicts in the *Peacock Throne* and their chosen story.
- ❖ *Women Influencing History*: Assign students to choose a female figure from *The Peacock Throne* and consider in what ways this woman "steered" and influenced men and history in the novel. Students may write an essay or create a presentation analyzing the woman's influence, more specifically considering what forces the woman was up against in terms of their gender and social status in seventeenth-century India.
- ❖ *Women Against Expectations*: Assign students to choose a female figure from *The Peacock Throne* that they view as equally "powerful," or more so, than the men with whom they interact with in the novel. In a written or visual presentation, instruct students to 1) describe this character's power, 2) choose another figure from real life or fiction that reminds them of their chosen female character, and 3) compare and contrast these two women. Suggest that students include a consideration of how this character is or would be received by their own society today.
- ❖ *Choosing Your Ruler*: Have students research all of the children of Shah Jahan, male and female, and thoroughly explain in a written or multimedia presentation who they would choose to rule the Mughal Empire and why.
- ❖ *Theme/Motif Tracker*: Assign students to create a spreadsheet that tracks themes and motifs occurring throughout the novel, with a goal of creating a written or visual representation of what appear to be the most predominant examples. Consider having students draw connections to other works of fiction they have read.
- ❖ *Journalism Connection – News Story*: Assign students to choose an event from the novel and create a written news report on this event, including all of the normal elements of a news story, such as title, byline, imagery, and quotations.
- ❖ *Journalism Connection – Interview*: Assign students to choose a character from the novel and create an imagined hard-hitting interview with this character in the form of a written transcription, or even a filmed or animated presentation.

- ❖ *Religion in India*: Assign students to research the various religions at work in India during the Mughal period, such as Sikhism, Hinduism, and Islam. Students may create a written or visual presentation that compares and contrasts the religions in terms of their individual influence, their unique characteristics, and their overall impact on politics and society.

## **GUIDE TO Part 1: Chapters 1–4**

Prepare to read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary:
  - julabmost
  - firman
  - mansabdar
  - zamindar
  - Begum
  - sanguine
  - indomitable
  - umara
  - howdah
- Focus questions and initiating activities:
  - Introduce Shah Jahan’s Red Fort as a critical setting in the novel. As a class, analyze Red Fort as an architectural masterpiece of the Mughal Empire, with a goal of generally understanding the static and shifting purposes of the fort, and its reception by and influence on Indian society. Encourage students to consider what military fortifications or political buildings in their own society hold comparison in form and function. Information on Red Fort can be found at:
    - <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/231/>
    - <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/asia/india/delhi/articles/Mughal-India-an-insider-guide-to-Delhis-Red-Fort/>
    - <https://apnews.com/article/india-farmer-protest-654ef151a8af6de8c264c29363d0607b>
  - Orient your students to the “main players” of the novel by displaying and/or handing out a genealogical tree of the Mughal family. A tree can be found here: [http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00maplinks/overview/charts/mughal\\_genealogy.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00maplinks/overview/charts/mughal_genealogy.pdf).



Instruct students to highlight the main players on their maps (bolded names). Point out that in this real-world tree, Dara Shikoh is indicated as a lesser player in the realm of Mughal influence.

### Summary:

CHAPTER 1 – At the tail end of festivities for a birthday celebration for Nadira Begum’s son at the palace of courtier Amar Singh Rathore, Nadira leads poem recitations before explaining why she has allowed Jahanara Begum to lead the management of Dara Shikoh’s palace harem.

CHAPTER 2 – On the Gulf of Khambhat, Dutch captain Rune Strand learns from a local mansabdar that a pirate attack on Strand’s trade vessel *Lønsom Vind* is due to the dissolving of English firmans, and that the legitimacy of Strand’s own firman is vulnerable in light of the succession war following the death of Shah Jahan.

CHAPTER 3 – Father Cristovao De Jesus visits Estado da India viceroy Linhares at his Goa palace during a baptism for the nephew of merchant Francisco De Carvalho and is surprised to find himself in the company of the archbishop of Goa, as well as East India Company president William Methwold. Martires tasks De Jesus with traveling with Methwold on a mission to pledge Portuguese support to Aurangzeb and secure rights to operate in India, and Methwold agrees to work with the Estado in using the Company to cut off trade ships in order to secure goods and food for Aurangzeb.

CHAPTER 4 – Received on short notice by Priscilla Totman and Monique Vieuxpont, Jahanara visits Mission House to check on a convalescing Atisheh, who is informed of her appointment as Commander of *Urdubegis*, as well as that gunsmith Talawat has been commissioned to manufacture copies of up-timer guns. Jahanara proceeds to ask Priscilla to join with Angelo Gradinego and Gervais Vieuxpont in organizing the training of men and women as battlefield nurses. Jahanara returns to Red Fort at Agra with Monique.

### Quiz/Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. Why is Jahanara briefly overcome with shame while playing pulu with Roshanara? (ch. 1)
2. What rumor circulates about Roshanara following the death of her and Jahanara’s father? (ch. 1)
3. Why has Dara Shikoh delayed taking a new wife? (ch. 1)
4. What rumor circulates about Jahanara in terms of her role as manager of Dara’s harem? (ch. 1)
5. According to the mansabdar Captain Strand speaks with, why are pirates suddenly attacking vessels around Surat? (ch. 2)

6. What task has Archbishop Martires set for Father De Jesus? (ch. 3)
7. How does Archbishop Martires suggest that the East India Company help to provide foodstuffs to Aurangzeb's forces? (ch. 3)
8. Why does Viceroy Linhares argue for supporting Aurangzeb over Dara? (ch. 3)
9. Why does Linhares argue against sending a Jesuit priest to meet with Aurangzeb? (ch. 3)
10. When her howdah is delayed from entering Mission House, Jahanara's behavior and statements reveals about her all of the following characteristics EXCEPT: (ch. 4)
  - a. self-governance
  - b. capriciousness
  - c. diffidence
  - d. obstinateness
  - e. irascibility
11. All of the following adjectives illustrate the relationship between Jahanara and Atisheh EXCEPT: (ch. 4)
  - a. familial
  - b. sisterly
  - c. intimate
  - d. estranged
  - e. uninhibited
12. What worries Atisheh about the prospect of Talawat manufacturing copies of up-timer guns? (ch. 4)

Answers:

1. Jahanara remembers physically beating Roshanara on the night of their father's murder.
2. Roshanara has not cried since the night of her father's death.
3. Dara is showing signs of confusion and mood instability after having been injured, facts that could reveal themselves in a public marriage ceremony.
4. Jahanara is assumed to be exerting undue control over Dara.
5. The English have been exiled from the area after having their firmans revoked.
6. To pledge support on behalf of the Estado da India and the English to Aurangzeb in return for the right to open churches and schools in the territory Aurangzeb will command.
7. By using ships to cut off trade to Aurangzeb's rivals
8. Aurangzeb will soon be at a favorable physical distance to receive aid from the Estado and the English, and Aurangzeb has already shown a desire to work with the Estado and the English in the spirit of mutual benefit.
9. Linhares argues that a Jesuit would be inclined to challenge the beliefs of an otherwise religiously "ascetic" and humble Aurangzeb who is averse to theological debates.

10. c
11. d
12. Atisheh is concerned about the level of training down-timer soldiers will require in order to master the up-timer weapons.

### **Discussion/Reflection or Short Essay Questions:**

1. What can be gleaned about the individual characters and relationship between sisters Jahanara and Roshanara from the pulu game that opens the novel? Find and cite or paraphrase a short excerpt from this scene that you feel best represents your interpretation.
2. Following the pulu game, Jahanara comments on Roshanara's loss, "Better to properly seize an opportunity once than attempt to seize every chance, however small, and fail." Consider if you agree or disagree with Jahanara's statement. Is Jahanara's proclamation always, never, or sometimes true? Support your answer with your own experiences, if possible.
3. *The Peacock Throne* begins with scenes displaying women of athletic prowess and soldierly strength, as seen through Jahanara, Roshanara, and harem guards. Consider that guard Damla even expresses little concern over that fact that she is not married. Discuss what might be the authors' intentions of opening the novel with such depictions of female characters.

### **Suggested Activities/Inquiry-Based Exploration**

- ❖ *Sports and Society*: Research and present on the game of pulu (polo) as it was played in the seventeenth century. Study and report on what types and classes of people in Mughal India played this game, and who typically was in the audience. Consider what this game reveals about class and societal structure at this time, as well as any other interesting insights gleaned that shed light on Mughal society. A starting point for information on the foundation of polo in India can be found at: <https://www.lapolo.in/blog/how-and-when-indian-polo/>. A more general article on the origins of the sport can be found at: <https://www.polomuseum.com/sport-polo/history-polo>.
- ❖ *Current Events Connection*: Research and present on a country or nation that is currently in political disarray due to shifting power structures, whether through death-succession, societal revolution, or family conflict. Seek information on how the political disorder is affecting the economy and social life of the region.

- ❖ *Understanding Portuguese India:* In order to help frame the role of the Estado da India in *The Peacock Throne*, research and present on the impact of Portuguese India from the sixteenth century on. An article of the foundation of the Portuguese empire in Asia can be found at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-42390008>. An article on the liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule can be found at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-42390008>

## **GUIDE TO Part 2: Chapters 5–8**

Prepare to read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary:
 

○ Shehzada	○ paltry
○ jagir	○ zat
○ ferenghi	○ sowar
○ dissemble	○ munshi
○ qualms	○ diwan
○ Banjari	○ fripperies
○ jali	
  
- Focus questions and initiating activities:
  - Review up-to-date data on severe concussions and their short- and long-term effects on the brain, and have students consider how such effects could impact a political leader such as Dara Shikoh. A general overview of the effects of concussions can be found at: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/concussion/symptoms-causes/syc-20355594>. Continue to foster a discussion on the risks of anyone in a leadership role undergoing the effects of such a head injury.

### **Summary:**

CHAPTER 5 – While heading north with his forces through the Deccan on an approach to Shah Shuja’s army, Aurangzeb seeks Nur Jahan’s insight on why the Portuguese might be pledging their support to him, as well as on Aurangzeb’s options considering his depleting treasury, minimal supply sources, and uncertainty over Dara’s intentions and his next movements in the Deccan. Aurangzeb orders Nur to negotiate his first meeting with Shah Jahan.

CHAPTER 6 – At Mission House Atisheh determinedly exercises to speed up her recovery. Rodney and Ricky return from providing medical treatment to Dara. Gervais and Monique

Vieuxpont and Bertram Weiman strategize around the problem of Dara concentrating support, the condition and movements of Asaf Khan's and Aurangzeb's armies, and the question over whether and when the competing brothers will go to war or negotiate. Monique informs Gervais and Bertram that she has enlisted them to help Jahanara conceal Dara's fragile mental and physical condition resulting from his head wound.

CHAPTER 7 – Dara mistakenly reverses the amount of one of his Afghan commander's salaries with the salaries of the commander's sowars, hindering further recruitment of Afghan soldiers. Jahanara expresses concern to Nadira over Dara's refusal to consider new marriage alliances. Salim Gadh Visa Yilmaz returns from defending Shah Jahan from assassins.

CHAPTER 8 – Jadu Das offers to provide Salim assistance managing Salim's estates with the aid of a munshi and diwans from Jadu's own family. John Ennis, Bobby, and Ricky meet with Salim and Jadu to plan an eastward trade-mission route for acquiring opium and saltpeter, with the added goal of gaining information on Asaf Khan.

### Quiz/Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. Aurangzeb hypothesizes that Shah Shuja will try to convince Aurangzeb's elder brother of all the following EXCEPT: (ch. 5)
  - a. that Aurangzeb does not want to be emperor
  - b. that Aurangzeb wants to assassinate Shah Shuja in order to leverage power
  - c. that Aurangzeb wants to ignore inheritance laws set down by Akbar and instead divide the empire into sultanates
  - d. that Aurangzeb will forfeit his army to Shah Shuja so that Aurangzeb may retire to a life of religious study
2. How is Aurangzeb disadvantaged in terms of jagirs, or proceeds from land grants, previously allotted to him and members of his army by Shah Jahan? (ch. 5)
3. Based on her conversation with Aurangzeb in chapter 4, all of the following adjectives describe Nur Jahan EXCEPT:
  - a. candid
  - b. wary
  - c. strategic
  - d. reserved
  - e. skeptical
4. Use context clues in the sentence below to provide as many synonyms as possible for *restive*. (ch. 5)

Atisheh had been restive the last month, growling at her caregivers with an increasing impatience, volume, and grasp of English.

5. Who was actually behind Dara's recent decision to stop the transport of supplies to his brothers? (ch. 6)
6. According to Monique, how do successions to the throne in Mughal India differ from those in Europe? (ch. 6)
7. What two things has Dara done in regard to both Islam and money to display the image of confidence? (ch. 7)
8. How has Smidha secured the imperial bathhouse as a place where Dara can speak with counselors and doctors without fear of information leaks? (ch. 7)
9. According to Salim, why do most emperors limit the number of horse traders entering their country at any time? (ch. 7)
10. Why isn't Jadu concerned if an undefended Surat is not ultimately claimed by Dara? (ch. 8)

Answers:

1. b
2. Until a clear successor to the Peacock Throne emerges, claims to jagirs not already assigned are unlikely to be heeded. Furthermore, neither Aurangzeb nor Shah Shuja have the money to make good on the jagirs themselves in the meantime.
3. a
4. (Any dictionary-supported synonym acceptable)
5. Jahanara
6. Princes of Mughal India are expected to vie for control of the throne, even before succession comes into question.
7. Dara has ordered religious prayers to be said in his name, and he has also struck his own coins.
8. Smidha has serviced the bathhouse with illiterate mutes.
9. To prevent the ability to conceal an invasion by fixed routes into India
10. Surat would nonetheless remain for the empire a critical conduit for trade, wealth, and Hajj pilgrims in West India, while the empire has yet to secure deep-water ports in the east.

**Discussion/Reflection or Short Essay Questions:**

1. Gervais Vieuxpont believes that "a new monarch needs to avoid giving orders that will not be obeyed. Just because an order is given does not mean it will be followed." Ask your class to consider how this concept applies to leadership in general. Challenge your

students to provide examples of this concept from their own life, observations of others, or observations from other works of fiction or visual media.

2. Monique Vieuxpont states that servants of losing princes “really only declared for [them] because they had no choice, being in their power.” Ask you students to consider the question of what any leader is owed and/or deserves from those who are under their authority or rule. Encourage students to consider this question in light of their understanding of their own government.

### **Suggested Activities/Inquiry-Based Exploration:**

- *Literary Inheritance in Your Society*: Chapter 8 provides a general description of the role of a *munshi* as someone who is commonly employed by an “outsider” to the Mughal court to assist them as an expert on a wide range of “literary” applications, ranging from the arts to managerial skills. Further research the roles of munshis and consider the “literary inheritance of proper nobility” that they exhibited in their role. Create a presentation or paper that:
  - exhibits your understanding of the role of munshis in Mughal India; and
  - asks and attempts to answer the following questions:
    - Who are the “munshis” by any other name in your society today?
    - Do most people in your society today have the ability to acquire the skills and role of a munshi? Or is the privilege of gaining a “literary inheritance” still limited by social class?

Less-advanced readers may rely on the explanation of the munshi role in chapter 8.

Advanced-reading students may learn about the process of becoming a munshi here:

[http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00islamlinks/txt\\_alam\\_subramanyam\\_munshi.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00islamlinks/txt_alam_subramanyam_munshi.pdf).

- *Understanding Marriage Alliances*: Study and present on the purpose and impact of Mughal marriage alliances as established by Akbar. Consider:
  - the advantages and disadvantages to both parties
  - the makeup and functions of a Mughal harem
  - the problem of women maintaining their “honor”
  - the fates of women in marriage alliances

Consider researching modern arranged marriages in Indian culture and analyzing similarities in terms of the goals of and impact on each party involved. Information can be found at:

- <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/comment/rajputs-their-women--muslim-rulers-524111>

- <https://scroll.in/article/960434/the-making-of-akbars-complicated-harem-where-rajut-women-played-a-critical-role>
- <https://medium.com/lessons-from-history/the-sex-lives-of-women-in-a-mughal-harem-f6b58707795b>
- <https://www.vice.com/en/article/5dpp93/indian-matchmakers-arranged-marriage>
- <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/postcolonialstudies/2014/06/20/arranged-marriages-matchmakers-and-dowries-in-india/>

### **GUIDE TO Part 3: Chapters 9–14**

Prepare to read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary:
 

○ perquisites	○ chaturanga
○ obeisance	○ immured
○ acumen	○ betel
○ licentious	○ parry
○ emissary	○ caravanserai
○ kokas	○ wazir
○ sycophants	○ taqiyah
○ Atishbaz	○ austere
○ lackeys	○ bang (n.)
○ berm	○ amir
○ meritocracy	○ clemency
○ ingratiate	
  
- Focus questions and initiating activities:
  - Remind your class of Shah Shuja’s claim that “Shehzada Aurangzeb remains a prince. He does not order the khutba said in his name, nor order men to strike coins with his likeness nor name upon them.” Display coins that Aurangzeb had struck in his name. Consider even listening to an excerpt of a khutba sermon. Discuss the power of both imagery and prayers in terms of forming belief systems, especially in terms of believing in other people. Images of Mughal-era coins can be found at:
    - [https://en.numista.com/catalogue/inde\\_moghol-1.html](https://en.numista.com/catalogue/inde_moghol-1.html)
    - <https://www.mintageworld.com/coin/list/107/>
  - An English-spoken khutba sermon may be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNZ0Z9bdiMc>



## Summary:

CHAPTER 9 – Before meeting with Aurangzeb to lay out Viceroy Linhares' offer of assistance, Carvalho demands of De Jesus to ensure that Viceroy Linhares seek the protection of the *Nuovo Cristao* in the Estado. Nur gauges the motivations of Shah Shuja by claiming to him that Aurangzeb wishes him to seek the emperorship so that Aurangzeb may retire to religious study.

CHAPTER 10 – Talawat presents to John, Atisheh, and Bertram shotgun and pistol replicas he plans to mass-produce with the aid of Atishbaz families, their servants and apprentices, as well as tradesmen of various nationalities. Salim enlightens John on why John has been selected as an outsider to provide special military training to Dara's sowars.

CHAPTER 11 – Sikh troops sent by Hargobind Singh and led by Bidhi Chand arrive at Red Fort. Monique and Bertram provide Gervais with evidence that spies in Dara's harem have passed on information concerning Talawat's ammunitions factory and the arrival of Bidhi Chand's army. Jahanara is informed by Smidha of a larger spy network possibly in Dara's court, while suggesting that Dara send Amar Singh Rathore to defend Fort Asirgarh.

CHAPTER 12 – Ricky, Jadu, and a Bobby overcome with a waterborne sickness defend their camp from raiders likely sent by a local zamindar, and safeguard their acquired opium.

CHAPTER 13 – After agreeing to an alliance with the Portuguese, Aurangzeb visits Shah Shuja in a show of false deference to Shuja's claim to the throne, while expounding to Shuja's court a case against Dara. Nur takes position in Shuja's court and vets marriage prospects for him, while also vetting prospects for Aurangzeb. Nur receives a cipher confirming that Nadira has quashed rumors that attempted to paint a picture of a power-hungry Jahanara.

CHAPTER 14 – Jahanara requests a meeting with Salim at a secret location within harem precincts to thank him for his efforts to protect her family and to discuss ensuring Dara's reign. Roshanara is smuggled a missive by Angelo Gradinego explaining that Aurangzeb wants her to inform for him.

## Quiz/Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What adjective best describes Carvalho's initial attitude about aiding De Jesus and President Methwold at the request of Viceroy Linhares? (ch. 9)
  - a. dubious
  - b. ardent
  - c. amenable
  - d. frivolous
  - e. demoralized
2. On what condition does Carvalho agree to aid De Jesus and Methwold in forming an alliance with Aurangzeb? (ch. 9)
3. Why does Nur believe that Shah Shuja would be a poor ruler? (ch. 9)

4. What metaphorical construct does Nur imagine regarding her manipulation of the actions of Shah Shuja? (ch. 9)
5. According to Talawat, what is most challenging about replicating up-timer shotguns? (ch. 10)
6. What is special about Talawat's approach to replicating an up-timer pistol? (ch. 10)
7. Why did the umara prefer to build manors in close proximity to the emperors they served? (ch. 10)
8. What surprises John regarding former umara who threw their support to Shah Shuja? (ch. 10)
9. Explain Akbar's "peace with everyone" approach to ruling. (ch. 10)
10. According to Salim, what are two reasons John is being urged to provide special training for Dara's troops? (ch. 10)
11. How does Smidha argue that women are naturally supreme at the task of intelligence work, or rooting out spies? (ch. 11)
12. How does Aurangzeb's alliance with the Portuguese give him leverage in his relationship with Shah Shuja? (ch. 13)
13. How does Aurangzeb display his capabilities as an emperor to Shah Shuja's court even while feigning deference to Shuja? (ch. 13)
14. What is a benefit of Aurangzeb having delayed making any marriage alliances? (ch. 13)
15. All of the following adjectives describe Roshanara's reaction to receiving Gradinego's missive EXCEPT: (ch. 14)
  - a. contrite
  - b. composed
  - c. ambivalent
  - d. divided
  - e. disquieted

Answers:

1. a
2. That Viceroy Linhares removes Father Vittorio di Roma in order to stop the killings of the Nuovo Cristao families in the Estado.
3. Nur sees in Shah Shuja an inexperienced and pleasure-seeking man who has no wife to guide and support him.
4. Nur imagines that Shah Shuja is a horse whose reins she is handling.
5. Manufacturing shotgun shells that reliably extract from the gun when empty
6. He builds a short-range pistol that is rifled like a shotgun and uses larger-than-normal pistol rounds.
7. Proximity to an emperor was a physical manifestation of an emperor's favor of an umara.

8. In honor of what's considered a sacred obligation, the families of defecting umara are still well cared for in Dara's harem.
9. Akbar encouraged agreement between various religious leaders, lawmakers, and lore keepers to discuss what was best for all groups combined, resulting in a law-abiding meritocracy that rewards talent.
10. It is customary for Mughal armies to use ferenghi, or foreign experts, for special training. Furthermore, sowars being trained to use up-timer weapons by an up-timer himself will help to instill confidence among the troops.
11. Smidha argues that intelligence work brings with it "discomfort and uncertainty," both of which "are inherent in what it means to be a woman."
12. Aurangzeb's alliance with the Portuguese has given him access to new food and supplies, for which Shah Shuja is in need.
13. Aurangzeb displays himself as more serious than a drunken Shah Shuja, while passionately laying out a thoughtful case against Dara.
14. In having taken no wives, Aurangzeb appears uninterested in claiming the Peacock Throne and thus seems less of a threat to Shah Shuja.
15. b

### **Discussion or Short Essay Questions:**

1. Predict how the relationship between De Jesus, Carvalho, and Methwold will develop solely based on their interactions in chapter 8. What can you immediately infer about what each man thinks about the other? Support your prediction with examples from the text.
2. Salim points out that the Timurid people, who rule much of Mughal India, have assimilated so thoroughly into India that they "have more in common with the people here than many of their central Asian ancestors." Can you, yourself, relate to the Timurid people in this context, or do you know other people who might? What are both advantages and disadvantages to losing a cultural connection with your ancestors?
3. Consider Smidha's methodical suggestion of sending Amar Singh Rathore off to defend Fort Asirgarh, while keeping the zamindar of Gwalior in place. How does Smidha's suggestion display a deep understanding of human psychology? Support your conclusions with text evidence.

### **Suggested Activities/Inquiry-Based Exploration:**

- Research the *Nuovo Cristao* (or *Cristão Novo*, "New Christian") population and the history of their Jewish-Christian conversions during the Portuguese Inquisition. Seek to

find another example of a population in any time or place in history who were persuaded to convert religions, and investigate the reasons behind their conversion and the long-term effects of their conversion. Information can be found at:

- <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/marranos-conversos-and-new-christians>
- <https://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/when-christian-power-was-arrayed-against-judeo-muslim-ideology>
- <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/.premium-1536-inquisition-reaches-portugal-1.5249289>

### **GUIDE TO Part 4: Chapters 15–20**

Prepare to read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary:
  - nokar
  - platitude
  - largesse
  - mollified
  - umbrage
  - duplicity
  - dissolution
  - recalcitrant
  - propitiate
  - purdah
  - remounts
  
- Focus questions and initiating activities:
  - Discuss how Dara's forces might be mainly limited to the weaponry of the seventeenth century due to Talawat's apparent munitions factory explosion. As a class, research and discuss the advantages and limitations of the arquebus rifle, as well as bow-and-arrow warfare. Videos explaining how to use arquebus rifles can be found at:
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D67uvb\\_kxaY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D67uvb_kxaY)
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yzf0ZiVr9qw>
  - Information on arrow warfare during the Mughal period can be found at:
    - <https://archeryhistorian.com/the-mughal-bow/>
    - <https://royalarmouries.org/stories/indian-archery-a-heros-guide/>
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLWcfu\\_kS4A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLWcfu_kS4A)

## Summary:

CHAPTER 15 – Father De Jesus begins to push on Aurangzeb for remuneration to the Portuguese, while Methwold explains that he cannot guarantee a full supply chain to Aurangzeb if the Portuguese were to withdraw their support, nor the permanence of his own role in the delegation. Methwold lays out to De Jesus his reasons for continuing to support Aurangzeb.

CHAPTER 16 – At Red Fort, Bertram distracts Amar Singh Rathore from noticing a facial tic of Dara while Amar and Dara observe Bhidi Chand's Sikh troops train in shooting up-timer guns. Rodney worries that Dara is smoking opium despite having been weaned off.

CHAPTER 17 – Bobby recovers from his sickness, while the expedition nearly meets its goal in acquiring opium. Jadu's informants scout an advance guard of Asaf Khan near Patna who appear to be negotiating directly with horse traders, possibly indicating internal revolt. Jadu suggests that Ricky and Bobby accompany him on another trade task in order to gain information from questions asked about Ricky and Bobby as ferenghi.

CHAPTER 18 – Nadira informs Jahanara of her awareness that she and Salim are lovers. Jahanara learns of Aurangzeb's alliance with the Portuguese, meanwhile doubting the veracity of Aurangzeb's show of support for Shah Shuja, while also worrying over lack of correspondence from informants regarding that alliance.

CHAPTER 19 – Jahanara expresses to Dara her desire to build an army hospital staffed with medics trained by Rodney and Priscilla, and that Priscilla be made an umara and provided a munshi. Multiple explosions rock Talawat's ammunitions factory as John and Bertram approach for a weapons inspection, Bertram later explaining to John that there are no survivors after examining the building, and Salim preparing to report the loss of life and munitions to Dara, who is overcome by a seizure upon learning the news. Aurangzeb's and Dara's forces clash along the Tapti River in Burhanpur, while Shah Shuja's original commands to hasten the assault are privately held in question in consideration of Aurangzeb's losses.

## Quiz/Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. De Jesus' interaction with Aurangzeb can be described as: (ch. 15)
  - a. timid
  - b. deferential
  - c. calculated
  - d. reticent
  - e. audacious
2. How is Father De Jesus already creating tension in his relationship with Aurangzeb?
  - a. De Jesus is hastily pressuring Aurangzeb to deliver on promises he made to the Estado da India.

- b. De Jesus is openly expressing doubts over Aurangzeb's worthiness to take the Peacock Throne.
  - c. De Jesus is attempting to sow doubt in Aurangzeb's mind about the motivations of Methwold.
  - d. De Jesus is contributing unsolicited military advice to Aurangzeb.
3. What are 3-4 reasons that Methwold argues for not abandoning Aurangzeb to support Shah Shuja? (ch. 15)
  4. In Methwold's observations, what tension exists for De Jesus in his relationship with the Catholic Church? (ch.15)
  5. Why does Ricky suspect that Asaf Khan purchases horses in Patna directly instead of working with imperial officers, meanwhile keeping no secret of his actions? (ch. 17)
  6. Why does Jahanara suspect that informants are less willing to pass information to Dara's court about Aurangzeb and Shuja after their alliance? (ch. 18)
  7. What one condition does Dara set for Jahanara's army hospital? (ch. 19)
  8. What request by Jahanara concerning Priscilla Totman's rank threatens social customs in the Mughal Empire? (ch. 19)
  9. In what way does Dara's seizure upon hearing news of the munitions factory explosion inspire Jahanara regarding her plans to build a women-led army hospital? (ch.19)
  10. Why does Aurangzeb suppress his reaction to Shuja's spilling wine on his sleeve during an organized fighting match, and how does this lead to Aurangzeb realizing the similarities between the fighting match and the war for the Peacock Throne itself? (ch. 19)

Answers:

1. e
2. a
3. (1) Shuja would view Methwold and De Jesus as incompetent and liable to abandon Shuja as well, (2) Methwold's and De Jesus's lives would now be at stake as Aurangzeb would seek their murder, (3) Shuja has failed to show interest in gaining the support of the Portuguese, or (4) in retaliation for the withdrawal of support from the Portuguese and the Company, Shuja or Aurangzeb may decide to take Goa and its productive land and strike at Dara with secure lines of supply now under their control.
4. De Jesus cannot reconcile the tenets of his faith against the brutal realities of the Church's Inquisition against Jews and Gentiles.
5. Ricky suspects that there may be a revolt within the ranks of Asaf Khan, and that Khan may even be physically unwell.
6. Both Aurangzeb's and Shuja's enemy camps originally felt certain of Dara's downfall, and now their forces have been combined.

7. That women only treat other women.
8. That Priscilla be raised to the rank of umara and assigned a munshi despite not being a blood relation of Dara.
9. Jahanara vows at this moment to build a hospital that serves all in need, regardless of caste, religion, or privilege.
10. Aurangzeb understands that Shuja has spies in his company to take notice of anyone disapproving of his behavior or decisions. Meanwhile, Aurangzeb considers that he has his own spies present to look for signs of dissension among Shuja's court, making clear each brother's unspoken intent to prevent each other from obtaining the throne.

### **Discussion or Short Essay Questions:**

1. In considering the similarities between Sicilian crime mobs and the Thuggees, Jadu comments "[t]hat which motivates all men in this time and place holds true throughout the ages and places where the wheel of Heaven intersects with the blood and sinew of men." Encourage students to consider the behaviors and decisions of characters in the novel so far, and foster a discussion around the question, "What doesn't change about people, no matter the time period?"
2. Dara is continually protected by Jahanara and up-timers from having his mental and physical condition exposed to the public. What kinds of "weaknesses," however, do you think a leader *should* openly share with the public? What advantages might there be in a leader revealing certain of their weaknesses to their populace, even an injury such as Dara suffers?

### **Suggested Activities/Inquiry-Based Exploration:**

- ❖ *Impact of the East India Company:* Research and create a presentation or write an essay on the impact of the East India Company during the seventeenth century and form a thesis around the question of whether the Company ultimately had more of a positive or negative impact on India and its people. Consider what institutions today may be similar to the Company in terms of form, function, and impact. Information on the East India Company can be found at:
  - <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/The-East-India-Company/>
  - <https://www.history.com/news/east-india-company-england-trade>
  - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/04/east-india-company-original-corporate-raiders>

- ❖ *Battlefield Nurse Connection*: Consider Jahanara’s desire to break with the customs of Mughal India and establish a women-led military hospital. Then, investigate the role of female nurses in male-dominated war environments. Set a goal of understanding the origin of women’s involvement on battlefields throughout history even before their assignment as official war nurses; backlash against women being introduced to war environments; the advantages and disadvantages of assigning this role to women before their increased involvement in actual warfare in more recent history; and major figures who influenced this profession. Information can be found at:
  - <https://time.com/5450885/wwi-nurses/>
  - <https://onlinenursing.duq.edu/history-wartime-nurses/>
  - <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/florence-nightingale-lady-lamp>
  - <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-worlds-most-famous-nurse-florence-nightingale-180974155/>
  - <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/articles/what-was-a-typical-day-like-for-first-world-war-field-nurses/>
- ❖ *Eunuchs and the Third Gender*: In the novel, eunuchs play a crucial role as liaisons between Mughal courts and harems, but deeper investigation reveals that in the time of Mughal India eunuchs fulfilled several other functions as well, while also defining an entirely separate “gender.” Research and present on the role and evolution of the eunuch, considering what kinds of people became eunuchs, and the trajectory of their lives in general. Information can be found at:
  - <https://servantspasts.wordpress.com/2019/08/12/third-gender-and-service-in-mughal-court-and-harem/#:~:text=The%20Eunuchs%20or%20Khwajasaras%2C%20which,sustainin g%20the%20system%20of%20slavery>
  - <https://indianexpress.com/article/research/eunuch-security-guards-bihar-mughal-empire-history-5266102/>

## **GUIDE TO Part 5: Chapters 21–27**

Prepare to read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary:
  - bona fides
  - parlance
  - acumen
  - vassals
  - toadies
  - prevarications
  - ambit



- parapet
- crenellation
- Focus questions and initiating activities:
  - Review images and cross-sections of medieval fortifications. Ask your students to predict what would be the most vulnerable areas in such fortifications during a siege. Other helpful information can be found at:
    - <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/glossary-fortification-terms>
    - [https://www.castlesandmanorhouses.com/types\\_10\\_star.htm](https://www.castlesandmanorhouses.com/types_10_star.htm)
    - <https://www.medievalists.net/2015/09/medieval-fort-building-101/>

### Summary:

CHAPTER 21 – At a Patna market, Jadu, attended by an eavesdropping Ricky and Bobby, learns from a tax collector that Asaf Khan and his son Shaista are returning to Agra, their commanders having purchased all available horses in an adjacent horse market. With this information, Ricky, Bobby, and Jadu conclude that any infighting within Asaf Khan’s camp has been resolved.

CHAPTER 22 – At Asirgarh, Aurangzeb urges Shuja to advance slowly on Agra while dispatching a column to seek the whereabouts of Asaf Khan and deploying a commander to speak with Khan. Carvalho attempts to persuade De Jesus of the respect due Nur, who has been sent by Aurangzeb to speak with them about lingering concerns on behalf of the Estado and the Company.

CHAPTER 23 – John updates Dara on the progress of military training of his Sikh and Rajput contingent and a sniper group, as well as on the strength of artillery supplies following the explosion at Talawat’s munitions factory. Rodney updates Dara on his and Priscilla’s training of field medics and progress with the stockpiling of medical supplies. John imagines the merits of placing Jahanara herself on the Peacock Throne.

CHAPTER 24 – Jadu’s home is invaded by Asaf Khan’s son-in-law and fellow troops, and Jadu, Ricky, and Bobby are persuaded to accompany the unit back to a palace outside Patna where they are greeted by Shaista Khan, from whom the expedition learns that Asaf Khan is unwell.

CHAPTER 25 – Dara installs spies to observe Jahanara on the rumors that she is having an affair with Salim. Roshanara passes coded messages to a physician acting as a messenger for Aurangzeb. Dara assigns Priscilla a military rank and admits her to the rank of umara, while Bertram and Gervais are also given formal rank and salaries. Ilsa informs John that she is pregnant with his child.

CHAPTER 26 – Nur explains to Aurangzeb her efforts to obtain a powerful intoxicant to be given to Shah Shuja in order to drive his behavior to offensive limits. Carvalho’s troops engage in a siege against Dara’s troops at Asirgarh, while a breech explosion kills several of Carvalho’s crew. Shuja is overcome by a seizure after drinking Nur’s intoxicant, and Aurangzeb assumes

authority over Shuja's court while Nur gains command and is placed in charge of Shuja's recovery. Aurangzeb expresses his readiness to form a marriage alliance with a daughter of Shah Khan.

CHAPTER 27 – Dara is overcome by another seizure as he argues with Jahanara over her meetings with Salim, threatening to exile him. Roshanara passes a coded poem to be memorized by a eunuch messenger working for Nur. Aurangzeb's forces continue to storm forts in a northward path toward Red Fort, where John and Talawat conceive of installing explosive mines.

### Quiz/Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What use for saltpeter beyond its application in creating gun powder does Jadu demonstrate to Ricky and Bobby? (ch. 21)
2. What figurative construct is being used to describe Asaf Khan in the sentence below? (ch. 21)  
  
"He was, as long as he did not declare for one or another faction, a knife at everyone's throat."
  - a. personification
  - b. simile
  - c. metaphor
  - d. metonymy
  - e. alliteration
3. All are reasons Carvalho believes that Nur remains a "formidable personage" EXCEPT: (ch. 22)
  - a. She has shown clear signs of her ability to manipulate Aurangzeb.
  - b. She had once wielded great power.
  - c. She remains the closest female relative in the camps of Aurangzeb and Shah Shuja.
  - d. She is not restrained by purdah and thus can interact with Shah Shuja.
4. In recruiting for his spotter-shooter unit, how does Rodney ensure that the unit represents "the cream off the top" in terms of talent, while guaranteeing an ample supply of backup members in the unit? (ch. 23)
5. What is Rodney and Priscilla's main challenge in interviewing candidates for the role of field medic? (ch. 23)
6. Why does Nur want to obtain a powerful intoxicant? (ch. 26)
7. What are several reasons that Carvalho hates military sieges? (ch. 27)
8. What does Aurangzeb insincerely plead to Shuja's court concerning the cause of Shah Shuja's seizure? (ch. 27)

9. Explain the literary device involving stone imagery that the authors use to describe the shifting of power from Shuja to Aurangzeb in the Red Tent after Shuja's seizure. (ch. 27)
10. In Nur's analysis, all are reasons that Aurangzeb should not murder Shuja following Shuja's seizure EXCEPT: (ch. 27)
  - a. To murder one's own brother is against God's law.
  - b. Shuja's threat to Aurangzeb is diminished while Shuja recuperates.
  - c. If Aurangzeb were to imprison Shuja, Shuja's former supporters would retain favor with him if they were to free Shuja upon the death of Aurangzeb.
  - d. It would be obvious to Shuja's supporters that Aurangzeb murdered Shuja.
11. Besides their increasing firepower over time, what other factor regarding cannons contributed even more to the demise of medieval fortifications? (ch. 27)

Answers:

1. Jadu shows how a wine vessel is kept cool by a surrounding vessel filled with water mixed with saltpeter.
2. c
3. a
4. Rodney allows men from any caste in society to apply for the unit.
5. Candidates are offended by the notion of being trained by women.
6. To sneak the intoxicant into Shah Shuja's drink in order to drive him to behave recklessly in front of his court and so diminish confidence in his claim to the throne
7. Carvalho views sieges as wasteful in terms of loss of money, weaponry, and men. Carvalho also despises the risk of sickness passing through an army encamped for too long.
8. That Shuja's seizure be seen as a consequence of too much drink, rather than the work of God's will
9. The author uses an extended metaphor by describing power shifting from Shuja to Aurangzeb as a gradually building avalanche of stones gathering at Aurangzeb's feet.
10. d
11. The increasing mobility of canons

### **Discussion or Short Essay Questions:**

1. Jadu Das proclaims that "...everything happens according to our dharma, our fate. And my fate is to die at home, among family and enjoying the wealth made in a lifetime of trading." Later, Nur engages in a taboo when she suggests that Shuja, and not God, would be the "author of his own fate" after drinking an intoxicant that would influence him to behave inappropriately. How is the concept of dharma, or a person's fate as assigned by

God, complicated not only by the arrival of up-timers, but by down-timers' individual thoughts and decisions? How might believing in assigned fate, rather than fate that is self-created, influence a person's behavior and decisions? What might be some advantages to holding such a belief?

2. The physical affliction of seizures plays a role in the character arcs of both Dara Shikoh and Shah Shuja. However, each man's seizure is brought about by different circumstances and signifies different meanings. Foster a class discussion, or assign a short essay that deeply analyzes how the event of seizures enriches the character development and creates different subtextual meanings around Dara and Shah Shuja. Consider researching the connection between seizures and religious inspiration.
3. Rodney follows methods employed by the U.S. Allies in World War II by allowing men from any caste of Indian society to apply for a spotter-shooter unit. Besides this method ensuring that the best of the best are rewarded a place in the unit, what are additional advantages of forming an army unit that is diverse in social class? And besides creating an environment in which cultural/religious clashes might erupt, what are additional disadvantages to forming a unit this way? Where is this concept of group diversity relevant outside a military context?

### **Suggested Activities/Inquiry-Based Exploration:**

- ❖ *Petermen*: Research and present on the production and the historical and modern uses of saltpeter, including the emergence of "petermen." Consider which world powers throughout history enjoyed the most control over the resource, as well as the advantages enjoyed by such powers. Information can be found at:
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45fNvmdUrI8>
    - <https://io9.gizmodo.com/the-crazy-ass-history-of-a-boring-ass-chemical-1689478717>
    - <https://www.medievalists.net/2015/02/saltpetre-medieval-gunpowder-calcium-potassium-nitrate/>
  - ❖ *Learning to Cipher*: Research the art of creating a written cipher and create a short cipher. Present this cipher to the class and explain the method of decoding it. Information on the history of ciphers can be found at:
    - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/cipher>
    - <https://interestingengineering.com/11-cryptographic-methods-that-marked-history-from-the-caesar-cipher-to-enigma-code-and-beyond>
    - <https://www.thalesgroup.com/en/markets/digital-identity-and-security/magazine/brief-history-encryption>
- Information on how to create written ciphers can be found at:
- <https://www.instructables.com/The-Art-of-Sending-Secret-Messages/>

- <https://www.wikihow.com/Create-Secret-Codes-and-Ciphers>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRWILxF16No>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JfyAb5lx24>

## **GUIDE TO Part 6: Chapters 28–32**

Prepare to read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary:
  - regnal
  - betel
  - panoply
  - inveigle
  - rancor
  - recalcitrant
  - sacrosanct
  - interloper
  - tableau
  
- Focus questions and initiating activities:
  - Review information about siege warfare and trench warfare. Foster a discussion about the benefits and difficulties of trench warfare. Information can be found at:
    - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/trench-warfare>
    - <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/medieval/7-ways-win-medieval-siege.html>
    - <https://www.ancient.eu/article/1230/siege-warfare-in-medieval-europe/>
    - <https://www.historynet.com/medieval-warfare-how-to-capture-a-castle-with-siegecraft.htm>

### **Summary:**

CHAPTER 28 – At Asirgarh, Aurangzeb orders a ceasefire and sends Nur to inform Rajput commander Amar Singh Rathore that Aurangzeb requests Rathore continue to hold the fort. Shah Shuja is handed over to Rathore.

CHAPTER 29 – Dara experiences another seizure when confronting Salim about rumors of Salim’s romance with Jahanara. Jahanara informs Salim that Dara wishes to exile him, and that rumors of Portuguese involvement in Aurangzeb’s campaign have been confirmed. Jahanara and

Salim agree to exploit Salim's exile for Salim to attack Aurangzeb's supply lines. Jahanara and Salim consummate their love.

CHAPTER 30 – At Asaf Khan's camp outside Patna, Jadu, Ricky, and Bobby appeal to a sickly Khan for his support of Dara, while also advising him to ease off of smoking opium.

CHAPTER 31 – As Aurangzeb's forces approach Gwalior and citizens begin fleeing Agra, Salim leaves Red Fort on exile accompanied by supporters, information which Roshanara intends to leak. Atisheh informs Ilsa that resentment thrives against the up-timers within the harem.

CHAPTER 32 – Gwalior Fort's commander surrenders to Aurangzeb, agreeing to attach his garrison to Aurangzeb's as Aurangzeb's forces continue north toward Red Fort. Methwold attends De Jesus as De Jesus makes another request of Aurangzeb to make good on promises to the Estado and the Company of firmans granted and the protection of priests.

### Quiz/Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What does Aurangzeb's diwan of the Imperial Mint appreciate about the coins Aurangzeb is having struck? (ch. 28)
2. How does Jahanara suggest using Salim's exile to their advantage? (ch. 29)
3. What is the main reason that Jadu insists Ricky and Bobby wear scabbarded swords and dress in robes, especially while at Asaf Khan's camp? (ch. 30)
4. Asaf Khan's reception of Jadu Das can be described in all of the following ways EXCEPT: (ch. 30)
  - a. condescending
  - b. circumspect
  - c. obsequious
  - d. indisposed
  - e. obstinate
5. What are two hypotheses that Roshanara formulates about why so many men follow Salim into exile? (ch. 31)
6. How is the design of the courtyard at Red Fort related to elephants? (ch. 31)
7. According to Aurangzeb, what are three reasons the commander at Gwalior Fort has lost faith in and thus renounced his support of Dara? (ch. 32)
8. How has Aurangzeb's victory at Gwalior Fort made him less reliant on the support provided him by the Estado and the East India Company? (ch. 32)
9. All of the following qualities amaze Methwold about Aurangzeb's outward demeanor EXCEPT: (ch. 32)
  - a. Aurangzeb's stoicism
  - b. Aurangzeb's imperturbability
  - c. Aurangzeb's dispassion

d. Aurangzeb's belligerence

Answers:

1. The diwan appreciates that Aurangzeb has had a hand in the creation of the coins, contributing to their design in terms of providing his own calligraphy and personally choosing the prayer depicted on them.
2. Jahanara suggests that Salim uses his exile to attack Aurangzeb's supply lines between Agra and Bombay.
3. Dressing in such a way will ensure that Ricky and Bobby are taken seriously and viewed as worthy of being "allowed in the presence of power."
4. c
5. Roshanara thinks that either Salim is simply a very powerful leader, or that Dara's defeat is so certain that exile is preferable to staying at Red Fort.
6. The courtyard curves in such a way that an elephant cannot charge the inner gate of Red Fort, while also ensuring that only one elephant can advance on the gate at a time.
7. The explosion at Dara's arms manufactory; Asirgarh's quick capitulation to Aurangzeb; Dara's exiling of Salim, who is known to be Dara's most powerful supporter.
8. Aurangzeb has taken vast food stores from Gwalior Fort with which to feed his army.
9. d

**Discussion or Short Essay Questions:**

1. What does Salim Yilmaz's opinion of and relationship with palace eunuch Firoz Khan indicate about the character of Salim? What can the reader learn about him from his interaction with Firoz in chapter 29 that would not be apparent by simply knowing of Salim's accomplishments and travels?
2. Jahanara Begum lives in a time and place in which women had often had to repress their emotions and avoid romantic relationships in order maintain political or social order around them. Consider and discuss the potential risks of Jahanara and Salim's romance in terms of Dara's trajectory to the Peacock Throne. Then, consider and discuss all of the potential advantages of the romance.
3. Review Atisheh's conversation with Ilsa in chapter 31 as they exercise their horses. Analyze this conversation to develop a new understanding of Atisheh as a person. What experiences have influenced her as a woman and a warrior? What does she reveal about herself that may contribute to our pathos for her as a character and help us understand her more expansively?

### **Suggested Activities/Inquiry-Based Exploration:**

- ❖ *Refugees of War*: Research and choose one country or nation that is currently undergoing or has in the past undergone internal warfare. Create a written or visual presentation on the fate of this country’s citizens. Consider seeking to answer the question: What do governments owe the citizens of their countries during times of internal warfare? Guides to war-torn countries in recent history can be found at:
  - <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-world-s-most-war-torn-countries.html>
- ❖ Research and present on the historical use of elephants in warfare. Consider also investigating the evolution of the ethics of using elephants in war. Information can be found at:
  - <http://www.articlesonhistory.com/index/the-war-elephant-through-history>
  - <https://www.ancient-origins.net/history/war-elephants-military-tanks-ancient-world-009967>

### **GUIDE TO Part 7: Chapters 33–39**

Prepare to read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary:
  - cooper
  - fakir
  - baldric
  - envoy
  - polygamous
  - prescient
  - perfidious
  - gravitas
  - maudlin
  - incredulous
  - melee
  - ululating
  - drover
  - cosh
  - adjutant
  - redoubts
- Focus questions and initiating activities:
  - As a class, investigate the etymology of the word *mogul* and discuss the “power” that the word signifies. Information can be found at:
    - <https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=mogul>.
    - <https://grammarist.com/usage/mogul/>
  - Foster a discussion on the ethical implications of armies looting opposing cities in war. Review specific articles of the Hague and Geneva conventions relating to pillaging (<https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=mogul>). Ask students to search



their knowledge of modern examples of armies taking controversial actions against opposing countries in times of war. Have your class consider the question, “Should the citizens, not soldiers, of warring countries be considered enemies of one another?”

### **Summary:**

CHAPTER 33 – Upon Asaf Khan’s death, Shaista Khan informs Jadu Das that he will support Dara as rightful emperor. Jadu, Ricky, and Bobby agree to travel with Shaista back to Agra.

CHAPTER 34 – Aurangzeb’s forces approach the Taj Mahal at Agra. Smidha informs Jahanara of Salim’s travel progress and Talawat’s readiness for a siege on Red Fort. Aurangzeb visits his parents’ tombs at the Taj Mahal and steels his determination. Aurangzeb requests Nur visit Jahanara to negotiate the protection of Aurangzeb’s sisters and offer Dara and Shah Jahan’s youngest son mercy in exile.

CHAPTER 35 – Dara is informed that Shaista Khan is holding neutrality in the fight for the Peacock Throne. John updates Dara on progress relating to the army hospital, the fortification of Red Fort, and Talawat’s development of munitions. In the gardens of the Taj Mahal, Jahanara meets with Nur, demanding Aurangzeb relinquish his claim to the throne and interrogating Nur on her role in Shah Jahan’s death.

CHAPTER 36 – Aurangzeb receives a cipher confirming Salim’s exile, while Carvalho transfers heavy artillery toward Red Fort. Carvalho and Methwold plead with De Jesus to rescind his command to an audience with Aurangzeb to again demand Aurangzeb’s promised remunerations to the Portuguese, resulting in Carvalho’s punching De Jesus unconscious.

CHAPTER 37 – After he and his men surprise-attack a European-hired caravan in the Western Ghats, Salim sends his caravan past approaching Maratha war bands in hopes of distracting them with a stampede, while also sending out his chieftains to request a parley with the Maratha’s chieftain. At the parley, Salim allows Maratha clan leaders to go to reciprocally deadly blows over tensions regarding the serving of Aurangzeb. Salim considers how to sway the clans to his aims.

CHAPTER 38 – At Red Fort, Jahanara reports her conversation with Nur to Dara and his court, including Nur’s denial of having had a part in Shah Jahan’s death. Jahanara leads John, Bertram, Gervais, and Smidha to a hall below Red Fort where she displays products from Talawat’s munitions factory, admitting to John that the factory explosion was a deception to fool Aurangzeb; John is further informed that Roshanara has been aiding Gradinego in spying on Dara’s court. Bertram and Gervais confront Gradinego at Jahangir’s palace, resulting in Gradinego stabbing Bertram and falling to his death from his balcony.

CHAPTER 39 – As Jadu, Ricky, and Bobby head back west toward Agra with Shaista Khan’s forces, Bobby once again is taken ill. Aurangzeb cuts off Red Fort’s supply lines.

### Quiz/Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What did Dara ask Jadu Das to orchestrate in addition to negotiating Asaf and Shaista Khan's support of Dara? (ch. 33)
2. What specifically upsets Ricky about the idea of Shaista Khan potentially marrying a relation? (ch. 33)
3. What is the advantage to Aurangzeb delaying permission for his army to loot the city of Agra? (ch. 34)
4. According to Jahanara, what are two reasons that Mughal sowars are often not paid a full salary by their umara? (ch. 34)
5. Nur worries that Aurangzeb may not be suited to being an emperor due to: (ch. 34)
  - a. his faith being inauthentic
  - b. his having never experienced failure
  - c. his having such little experience commanding an army
  - d. his unwillingness to make compromises
6. What are 3-4 ways that rainy weather affects, or may later affect, Aurangzeb's campaign at Red Fort? (ch. 36)
7. Why must guards of European-hired caravans in the Western Ghats continually send scouts to check higher valleys for bandits? (ch. 37)
8. Over what major issue do Maratha chieftains Koyaji and Shahaji Bhosale fight? (ch. 37)
9. According to Jahanara, what is Dara's strongest claim to the Peacock Throne? (ch. 38)
  - a. Dara has already presented a son to his court.
  - b. Dara holds the most loyal court throughout the empire.
  - c. Dara has organized the most formidable military force.
  - d. Dara is the most merciful of all his brothers.
10. Though Bertram had originally known that Talawat's munitions factory explosion was a deception, why did Jahanara not inform Bertram that the corpses at the factory were a deception as well? (ch. 38)
11. Angelo Gradinego's apartment depicts a lifestyle of all the following EXCEPT: (ch. 38)
  - a. debauchery
  - b. squalor
  - c. meticulousness
  - d. hedonism
  - e. languor
12. According to Jadu, what message could it send if someone fails to declare support for a prince? (ch. 39)

Answers:

1. To arrange a royal marriage for Shaista Khan
2. Ricky is irritated by the contradiction of intrafamily marriages being acceptable in Mughal India against the reality of West Virginia citizens being untruthfully labeled as “backwards” and “inbred.”
3. Aurangzeb’s army remains compliant to him as long as they know a chance at wealth awaits them in Agra.
4. Sowars are paid less when promised that they will obtain additional wealth through looting. They are also paid less if they do not provide their own weapons and horses.
5. b
6. Carvalho’s movement of heavy artillery toward Red Fort is slowed; damp horse-bows might lose their outer coating; matchlocks are prone to misfire and failure; animal fodder being transferred toward Red Fort might deteriorate in wet conditions.
7. The Europeans refuse to bribe local tribesmen for accurate information about bandit activity.
8. Koyaji does not believe that his clan should serve Aurangzeb, but should rather stay free men who only “serve the gods.”
9. a
10. Bertram’s authentic surprise at the length to which the explosion was aimed at deception helped to ensure the deception was effective on behalf of any spies reporting the explosion back to Aurangzeb.
11. c
12. That this person is vying for power

### **Discussion or Short Essay Questions:**

1. In comparison to her observations of Mughal citizens, Priscilla explains to Jahanara that many twenty-first-century Americans had never encountered battle or real “life-and-death” violence up close, as most American wars were fought far from home. While it remains true that American military campaigns remain a foreign affair, do you agree with Priscilla’s overall assessment about the alienation of American citizens from “real” violence and war? Are there aspects of American-fought wars that “come back home,” so to speak? Do you actually see what can be called “war” being enacted in other spheres of your society?
2. Review Jahanara and Nur Jahan’s conversation in the gardens of the Taj Mahal in chapter 35. Consider creating a graphic organizer that illustrates the topics covered, and each woman’s arguments on each topic. Read back over the section and annotate to follow where each woman shows strength or weakness. Make an assessment as to which woman leaves the discussion in a more powerful position.

3. Review the sequence in chapter 37 in which Salim and his men encounter both a caravan and multiple war clans. Explain how this sequence displays multiple levels of intelligence on the part of Salim.

### **Suggested Activities/Inquiry-Based Exploration:**

- ❖ *Weather and War:* Consider how the lead-up to the siege at Red Fort involves rainy weather that affects the movements and artillery preparation of Aurangzeb's forces. Research other wars in history significantly affected by weather conditions. Create a presentation or write a paper that outlines the basic difficulties created by rainy conditions regarding the siege at Red Fort. Then explain one or two real-world examples of how weather affected a battle or a war in general.
  - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2019/03/20/weird-weather-saved-america-three-times/>
  - <https://www.historynet.com/how-civil-war-weather-forecasting-changed-future-conflicts.htm>
  - <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/weather-trenches-ww1-like.html>
  - <https://www.sciencealert.com/a-once-in-a-century-climate-anomaly-may-have-made-wwi-and-the-1918-flu-deadlier>
  - <https://www.almanac.com/wartime-weather>
- ❖ *Major Wartime Deceptions:* Research and create a presentation or write an essay that both reviews Talawat's munitions-factory deception and also illustrates one other famous military deception in more or less recent history. Seek to include information on the challenges to realize the deception, its ultimate success, and its fallout across all those involved. Information may be found at:
  - <https://www.history.com/news/6-ingenious-acts-of-battlefield-deception>
  - <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/dover-castle/history-and-stories/d-day-deception/>
  - <https://historycollection.com/12-historys-interesting-military-deceptions/>

### **GUIDE TO Part 8 & 9: Chapters 40–55**

Prepare to read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary:
  - subterfuge
  - durbar
  - dispassionate
  - eminently
  - peridots
  - dervish

- recalcitrant
  - precipitous
  - mollify
  - ablutions
  - fletching
  - pannier
  - arrhythmic
  - hauteur
  - serried
  - snaphaunce
  - cantle
  - ignominious
- Focus questions and initiating activities:
    - Foster a class discussion around the following question: Is a “fair fight” wholly contingent upon each opposing force having the same level of weaponry available to them?
    - Collectively research cannon technology in the 1600s. Information and videos can be found at:
      - <https://www.arc.id.au/Cannon.html>
      - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=Z08OF57gBfU>
      - <https://www.shmoop.com/video/history-of-technology-4-the-evolution-of-cannons>
      - <http://johnsmilitaryhistory.com/threepdr.html>

### Summary:

CHAPTER 40 – In a late-night meeting Gervais and Bertram apologize to John, Ilsa, Priscilla, and Rodney for not including them in the munitions-factory deception. John informs the group that Dara wants to lead a sally against Aurangzeb’s forces, with Bidhi’s forces making a parallel assault.

CHAPTER 41 – After discovering that Aurangzeb is aware that Shaista Khan has declared for Dara, Nur is informed by Aurangzeb of Salim’s encounter with the ill-fated Maratha leaders. Aurangzeb expresses to De Jesus that he is no longer interested in allying with the Portuguese, and De Jesus withdraws alone from Aurangzeb’s court. Aurangzeb informs his court that his army is to storm Red Fort on the following day.

CHAPTER 42 – Bidhi Chand informs John and Bertram of Aurangzeb’s early-morning approach of Red Fort, confirmed by the sound of war drums. Red Fort harem guards are deployed to defense, and Jahanara’s army hospital readies for wounded as firing commences. John informs Dara that none of Aurangzeb’s forces appear to be planning on attacking the surrounding river gate, though they are seen to now scale an outer fort wall.

CHAPTER 43 – From behind the walls of Red Fort, Dara’s men begin firing against Aurangzeb’s forces and lighting the battlefield with flares, while Carvalho’s recently arrived heavy artillery begins a battering counterattack against the fort. Aurangzeb’s infantry scales the

outer wall, where Carvalho's men are shaken by an exploding mine. Carvalho continues to effect little damage with his cannons while his men take heavy losses from long-range bullets, and Aurangzeb's men take additional losses from exploding mines set between the outer and inner walls of the fort, and from more long-range bullets. Soon, the bulk of Aurangzeb's Rajputs cresting the fort's inner wall are heavily thinned by semiautomatic guns.

CHAPTER 44 – Smidha and Ilsa apprehend a recalcitrant Roshanara. Rodney and Gervais begin taking in wounded with their teams at Red Fort's Pavilion of the Healers hospital. John and Bertram are rocked by cannon fire in the stairwell of Lahore Gate, while a Sikh regiment massacres Aurangzeb's men attempting to scale a nearby tower. After meeting with Dara at the north wall, where he has joined Sikhs amassing for a sally, Atisheh is surprised to encounter the Sixth Guru Hargobind Singh, who informs Atisheh that Bidhi is also ready to sally from Lahore Gate. Urged by Atisheh, Dara commences the sally.

CHAPTER 45 – Aurangzeb sends reserves against Dara's forces at Lahore Gate, while Carvalho continues a cannon assault with a diminished regiment. Methwold asks Nur to speak with Aurangzeb concerning promises made to the East India Company, Nur herself vouching for the continued utility in Aurangzeb's keeping the alliance.

CHAPTER 46 – John and Bertram escape the upper-level confines of Lahore Gate and join the gate's defenders against wall mounters before the arrival of reinforcements. Priscilla injures a traditionalist physician who refuses to accept that Priscilla be allowed, as a woman, to treat wounded men. Jahanara sends Roshanara to be imprisoned in the Jasmine Tower.

CHAPTER 47 – A large group of Aurangzeb's sowar are driven back toward a surrounding ravine on an overpacked battleground as Dara's forces attack with arrows in a slowly advancing wheel formation. Carvalho resets his artillery, including his largest cannon, away from Red Fort and against Dara's sowars on the battleground. Thrown from her horse by a nearby cannonball explosion, Atisheh mounts another passing horse and charges back toward the death wheel where she finds Dara still in command. Carvalho's left foot is crushed by a cannon dropping its weight after propelling upward in firing.

CHAPTER 48 – John collapses with a back wound. Smidha realizes that Jahanara is pregnant. Informed that Dara's Sikh regiments and infantry have begun to withdraw from Aurangzeb's unenthusiastic forces, Jahanara orders medics to the battlefield.

CHAPTER 49 – Aurangzeb orders Methwold to request an extremely short truce from Dara's commander in the falsely expressed intention of gathering dead and wounded. Aurangzeb plans to send additional forces to aid one of his commander's men who are facing the approach of Shaista Khan's army numbering fifty thousand. Dara responds to Methwold's truce offer by proclaiming he will offer medical services to all wounded troops regardless of affiliation.

CHAPTER 50 – Bertram and John are brought to the Pavilion of the Healers. John is given opium by Ilsa before she operates on his back. With Carvalho and his crews out of commission, Sidi suggests to Aurangzeb a retreat to Gwalior Fort. Nur decides to flee to Red Fort. An exhausted Dara is assisted out of his saddle and brought back to his harem, where Priscilla attends to him.

CHAPTER 51 – Aurangzeb begins withdrawing before the end of the cease-fire. Smidha confronts Jahanara about Jahanara's pregnancy, suggesting seclusion when Jahanara refuses abortion. Jahanara suggests to Dara that he offer Aurangzeb a governorship in the Deccan, before persuading Nur to agree to being a mediator between the brothers. Dara learns of Jahanara and Salim's scheme to use Salim's exile as a ruse to block Aurangzeb's supply lines, to which Jahanara pronounces she will remove herself for a year by going on Hajj, while also demanding that Salim be appointed governor of Gujarat.

CHAPTER 52 – Salim quarters his troops at a fort in the Western Ghats' Sinhagad while waiting on word from Dara. Jadu plans on returning to the USE with Bobby and Ricky to set up a new trade network. Jahanara requests that Bertram, Priscilla, and Rodney join her on Hajj.

CHAPTER 53 – Jadu Das helps to arrange a marriage between Roshanara and Shaista Khan.

CHAPTER 54 – Aurangzeb accepts Dara's offer to become governor in the Deccan, while sparing Nur's life and requesting that Carvalho be sent back to him. Dara orders Nur to attend Jahanara on Hajj. Gervais demands that Bertram marry Monique, to which Rodney suggests Dutch captain Rune Strand officiate the marriage. Salim is informed of his appointment as governor of Gujarat and encouraged to take his men along with him.

PART 9, CHAPTER 55 – Salim arrives too late at the quay in Surat to meet Jahanara before her departure. With a spyglass, Jahanara views Salim on horseback at the quay from her departing ship.

### **Quiz/Reading Comprehension Questions:**

1. What evidence inclines Bertram to believe that Aurangzeb is not planning a siege at Red Fort? (ch. 40)
2. Why can't the up-timer doctors request that Dara not lead his planned sally against Aurangzeb's forces? (ch. 41)
3. Nur agrees with Aurangzeb's choice to withhold his promises to Father De Jesus concerning the Estado da India. (ch. 41)
  - a. True
  - b. False
4. What pleases Nur about Aurangzeb's reaction to hearing news of Shahaji Bhosale's death? (ch. 41)
5. Explain the contradictions concerning De Jesus's Roman Catholicism that Aurangzeb uses against De Jesus to discredit him. (ch. 41)
6. Why is Aurangzeb's claim that all religions in the Mughal Empire are treated equitably not entirely true? (ch. 41)
7. How might the final sentence of chapter 41 be interpreted as foreshadowing?
8. What action does Carvalho take that inclines Aurangzeb to think of Carvalho as an experienced courtier? (ch. 43)

9. Why does Atisheh remind herself to cover her face with chain mail before entering the battlefield? (ch. 44)
10. What ultimately influences Dara to sally against Aurangzeb's forces? (ch. 47)
  - a. Dara becoming worried that if he doesn't act, he will be overcome with a seizure
  - b. Dara being urged by the Sixth Guru Hargobind Singh
  - c. Dara being urged by Atisheh
  - d. Dara being motivated by the sound of his sowars' war drums
11. Atisheh participates in a constantly moving firing line that is in the shape of a: (ch. 47)
  - a. wheel
  - b. L
  - c. square
  - d. S
  - e. arrow
12. Why does Aurangzeb decide against ordering another attack against Dara's withdrawing forces? (ch. 49)
13. For what major reason is Dara overcome with pride after his successful sally? (ch. 49)
14. What does Dara decide to do after being offered Aurangzeb's truce by Methwold? (ch. 50)
15. In what context does Jahanara bring up the "arms race" of up-timer history? (ch. 51)
16. All are reasons that Monique argues that no one will inform Dara of Jahanara's pregnancy EXCEPT: (ch. 52)
  - a. Potential informers in Dara's court remain loyal to Jahanara.
  - b. Jahanara would seek out all informers and punish them with death.
  - c. Dara may kill anyone informing him of Jahanara's pregnancy so as to prevent the information from becoming public knowledge.
  - d. Potential informers know that Jahanara, who has been managing the empire's financial affairs, can take better care of them than Dara.
17. What is the main task that Salim is instructed by Dara to complete once in Gujarat?

Answers:

1. Aurangzeb has not ordered his men to dig trenches around Red Fort.
2. Dara's credibility would be hurt if his court learned that up-timers, already unpopular for their influence over Dara and Jahanara, made such a request of him.
3. b
4. Nur hears sadness in Aurangzeb's voice as he explains the death of Shahaji, showing Nur that he is capable of having "feelings for his fellow man."



5. Aurangzeb points out that the Portuguese in the Estado are burning not only newly converted “hidden Jews,” but members of the local population as well, cultivating confusion as to the actual religious aims of the Portuguese in India.
6. Non-Muslims in the empire are taxed.
7. Nur is overtaken by a headache at the noise of Aurangzeb’s court crying out in enthusiasm at his proclamation that his army will storm Red Fort, creating a sense of foreboding over the question of Aurangzeb’s success.
8. Carvalho takes the initiative to position and fire his cannons before seeking permission from Aurangzeb, while simultaneously ordering a messenger to inform Aurangzeb of his decision.
9. So that her more conservative fellow men are not offended by the face of an unmarried woman
10. c
11. a
12. Aurangzeb knows that such an order will not be obeyed, and thus doing so would put into question his authority to issue orders at all.
13. Dara feels pride in continuing the legacy of his ancestors in leading men in battle.
14. Dara proclaims that he will offer medical services to all wounded troops, regardless of affiliation.
15. Jahanara makes an argument for offering Aurangzeb a governorship in the Deccan, claiming that such a move will ensure that Dara will be ahead in an arms race against Aurangzeb, who will be left with a resource-lacking land ravaged by famine, plague, and war.
16. b
17. To build a navy for Dara’s empire

### **Discussion or Short Essay Questions:**

1. Atisheh is compelled to mask her face with chain mail so that Dara’s “more conservative” sowars are not offended by fighting alongside an “unmarried woman.” Discuss the contradictions inherent in men being offended by fighting alongside a woman such as Atisheh. Do you think Atisheh should not have covered her face? What risks might she have faced?
2. Chapter 44 depicts an Atisheh who finds herself harshly judging the mindsets and abilities of other men, including Dara Shikoh. Imagine an alternate reality where a woman may rule as a man does in Mughal India. Consider all you know about Atisheh up to this point, including what she’s revealed about her history, as well as her behaviors and statements. What kind of an emperor would Atisheh be? What kind of society do you think she would strive to create?

3. Reread Nur and Methwold's conversation in chapter 45 and discuss the mutual respect that the characters have for one another. What is this respect based upon? Do the characters leave the conversation on an equal footing, or does one character still hold power over another?
4. Consider how Priscilla was criticized for being allowed to participate in medical work at the Pavilion of the Healers. Are there still roles or occupations in your society today that are deemed "inappropriate" for women? If so, what is this belief based on? What types of people or groups are working to maintain this belief?
5. Consider Dara's pride in carrying on the historic actions of his ancestors by leading men in battle. What actions of your own ancestors would you be proud to carry on in your own life? What actions of your ancestors might bring you shame? Do people have an obligation to carry on the "works" of their ancestors in some instances?
6. Compare Aurangzeb's and Dara's separate reactions to the loss of their men on the battlefield throughout chapter 49. What might each man's reaction show about his guiding motivations and underlying character?
7. The character of Priscilla argues that the Mughal Empire is ripe for change, citing the inability of certain people to marry freely, as well as violence being the expected outcome of family conflict. Reflect on another aspect of Mughal-era life gleaned from the novel that you find disagreeable in its archaic or anachronistic quality. Explain this aspect and present an argument for why and how you would change it.
8. Predict how the dilemma of Jahanara's pregnancy will ultimately be resolved. Do you think Nur will continue to have an antagonistic relationship with Jahanara? What kind of role might Salim play in Jahanara's future? Could Dara be swayed into a different perspective about Jahanara?

### **Suggested Activities/Inquiry-Based Exploration:**

- ❖ Research the Hindu religion and its people and examine their philosophies toward the sanctity of life, seeking to answer the following questions: Is it inaccurate that Hindus are naturally "pacifists"? What other wars or battles in history have Hindus participated in? Why might Hindus be portrayed as such dedicated warriors in *The Peacock Throne*?

Information may be found at:

- <https://www.learnreligions.com/theories-about-the-origin-of-hinduism-1770375>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvfbwmn/revision/7>
- <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdfplus/10.1086/479633>
- <https://www.sanskritimagazine.com/indian-religions/hinduism/hinduism-code-ethics-war/>

❖ Summarize the battle at Red Fort in a newspaper article or an imagined history excerpt. Include quotes from various players, and consider including illustrations as well. Images of the physical structure of Red Fort can be found at:

- <http://www.mapaplan.com/travel-map/delhi-city-top-tourist-attractions-download-printable-street-guide/high-resolution/delhi-top-tourist-attractions-map-06-red-fort-central-old-city-monuments-plan-historic-city-centre-printable-sightseeing-places-high-resolution.htm>
- <https://frontline.thehindu.com/arts-and-culture/heritage/manysplendoured-citadel/article9790500.ece>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBZ4jXTr6w8>