

## Jahāngīr

**Jahāngīr**, also spelled **Jehangir** (born Aug. 31, 1569, Fatehpur Sikri [India]—died Oct. 28, 1627, en route to Lahore [now in Pakistan]), Mughal emperor of India from 1605 to 1627.

Born Prince Salīm, Jahāngīr was early marked for the succession by his father, Akbar. Impatient for power, however, he revolted in 1599 while Akbar was engaged in the Deccan. Akbar on his deathbed confirmed Jahāngīr as his successor.

Jahāngīr continued his father's traditions. A war with the Rajput principality of Mewar was ended in 1614 on generous terms. Campaigns against Ahmadnagar, initiated under Akbar's rule, were continued fitfully, with Mughal arms and diplomacy often thwarted by the able Ḥabshī, Malik 'Ambār. In 1617 and 1621, however, Prince Khurram (later Shah Jahān) concluded apparently victorious peace treaties. Jahāngīr, like his father, was not a strict Sunni Muslim; he allowed, for example, the Jesuits to dispute publicly with Muslim 'ulamā' (theologians) and to make converts.

After 1611 Jahāngīr accepted the influence of his Persian wife, Mehr al-Nesā' (Nūr Jahān); her father, I'timād al-Dawlah; and her brother Āṣaf Khan. Together with Prince Khurram, this clique dominated politics until 1622. Thereafter, Jahāngīr's declining years were darkened by a breach between Nūr Jahān and Prince Khurram, who rebelled openly between 1622 and 1625. In 1626 Jahāngīr was temporarily placed under duress by Mahābat Khan, another rival of Nūr Jahān's group. Jahāngīr died while traveling from Kashmir to Lahore.

A heavy drinker and opium eater (until excess taught him comparative moderation), Jahāngīr encouraged Persian culture in Mughal India. He possessed a sensitivity to nature, acute perception of human character, and an artistic sensibility, which expressed itself in an unmatched patronage of painting.

"Jahangir". *Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Online.* Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2012. Web. 10 Dec. 2012.  
<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/299395/Jahangir>>.