Mughal-Afghan Conflict in South Asia: Origin and Development

Himayatullah Yaqubi (Research Fellow, National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad)

Abstract:

Afghans and Mughals remained at war with each-others not only in the mainland of India but also along the porous north-western border inhibited largely by the Afghans. In fact, Zahir-ud-Din Babur, the founder of Mughal Dynasty, had faced the Afghan danger not only in border areas but also had to compete with them for the throne of Delhi. However, very little academic work has been done to discover the origin of their conflict that took the contour of an un-ending rivalry between the two nations. The Afghans in general, throughout the Mughal rule in India, never reconciled with them and most of the time resisted their intrusions. The paper aims at to dig out the actual cause or causes of their conflict and its development in historical perspective. The objective is to relocate roots of their relationship in Kabul when Ulegh Beg Mirza, brother of Umar Shaikh Mirza, was ruling over there. In addition, its effects, on the Indian political events that unfolded during Babur and Humayun times, would be judged to comprehend its true nature. It would be judged that how their relationship in Kabul fashioned future Indian political discourse between the two nations.

Key words: Mughal, Afghan, Zahir-ud-Din Babur, Delhi, Kabul, Indian political.