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## CHAPTER ONE

## INDIA UNDER BABAR AND HUMAYUN

The beginning of modern Indian history dates from the coming of the Mughuls in 1526. The spirit of the Mughul Empire was more humane than that of the Sultanate of Delhi, it being more concerned with an all-round development of the country. This object could be achieved because for over three hundred years the same dynasty ruled from Agra and Delhi, and for half of this period, that is from 1556 to 1707, four great rulers in direct succession occupied the throne. This dynastic stability contributed immensely to the rich and varied cultural life of the age. The Mughuls extended their dominion, maintained peace at home and earned respect abroad, developed an administrative system in all its branches, and carried many arts towards perfection.

Zahiruddin Muhammad Babar was the ruler of Kabul when he invaded India in 1526, but his original territory was the little principality of Farghana¹ with its capital at Andijan in Turkistan. A Chaghtai Turk², he claimed descent from both of the great Central Asian generals an conquerors, Amir Timur³ and Chingiz Khan⁴. It was the connection with the latter that gave the dynasty the misleading title, Mughul, although it was Turkish in origin, and the cultural tradition, which Babar brought to India, was the one which had flourished on the banks of the Oxus.

