



THE SAFFRON RESURRECTION: THE MARATHA CONFEDERACY, 1761

The Maratha Empire is hardly a century old, and it has already lived through a civil war, a major political shift in power to the Peshwa (the Prime Minister), and a rapid rise to the foremost power in South Asia. Yet after a colossal defeat by the Durrani Empire at the Third Battle of Panipat, the empire has been weakened economically, diplomatically, and militarily. Noble families have been granted autonomous territories by the Peshwa to prevent further fracturing of the country, a decision which marked the beginning of the period known as the Maratha Resurrection. As they represent members of the five most powerful noble families, delegates will face decades of economic stagnation, geopolitical diversity within the nation, and relations with foreign countries and trade companies—leading them to question what political structure balances both autonomy and security.



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