

EUROPEAN SOURCES ON MIR JUMLA'S INVASION OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT:

European travel accounts provide valuable external perspectives on Mir Jumla's invasion of Assam (1661–63). Writers such as Franz Jansz Van der Heiden, François Bernier, Niccolao Manucci and Jean-Baptiste Tavernier describe the Mughal campaign, its military scale, riverine warfare, and the severe geographical and climatic challenges of Assam. Van der Heiden offers a vivid eyewitness narrative of the Mughal army, naval battles on the Brahmaputra and the devastation caused by monsoon floods. Bernier and Manucci emphasise Aurangzeb's political motives, Ahom resistance, guerrilla tactics, and the decisive role of the rainy season in forcing Mughal withdrawal. Tavernier adds observations on Assam's resources and firearms, though his account contains exaggerations and factual errors. Collectively, these European sources, despite biases and inaccuracies, complement indigenous chronicles and enrich the historiography of Mir Jumla's Assam expedition.

KEYWORDS: *Mir Jumla, Assam Invasion, European Travellers, Mughal–Ahom Conflict, Monsoon Warfare, Brahmaputra.*

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