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Mughals not Mongols:  
Babur’s Indian Empire  

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4:30pm  
Callaway S-319  
Emory University  

Zahir al-Din Muhammad Babur (1483-1530) founded a Gurkhanian or Timurid empire in Hindustan in 1526. However, unlike his ferocious ancestor Timur, who sacked Delhi in 1398, Babur was a sophisticated, literate individual who envisaged ruling a cultured Perso-Islamic sedentary kingdom. Even before his death, his vision began to be realized in the Persianate gardens he and his Turco-Mongol begs constructed in and around Agra, the later site of the Taj Mahal. Local inhabitants referred to these riverside estates as ‘Kabul,’ a recognition of the fact that Babur saw the geometrically precise Persianate garden as the fundamental social and cultural institution of his Empire.