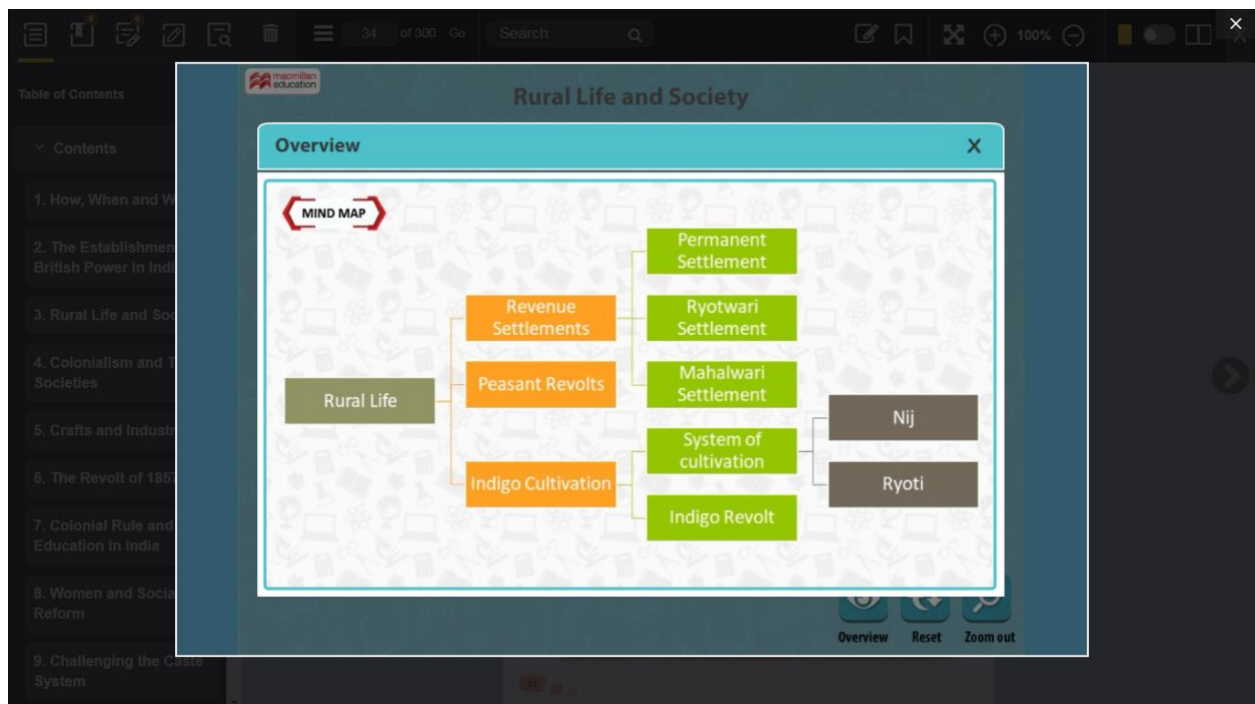


**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MANDLA ROAD, JABALPUR**  
**CLASS NOTES ON HISTORY**

**CHAPTER 3 - RURAL LIFE AND SOCIETY**

**BASIC CONCEPTS**



**IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES.**

1. Name the areas where the Permanent Settlement was introduced.  
Permanent Settlement was introduced in Bengal and Bihar.
2. Why could the Permanent Settlement not be introduced in the southern regions of India?  
The Permanent Settlement could not be introduced in the southern regions of India because there were no zamindars in the region with whom this land revenue settlement could be applied.
3. What was the main difference between the Permanent Settlement and the Ryotwari Settlement?

Under Permanent Settlement, revenue was collected by the zamindar, while under Ryotwari Settlement, land revenue was collected directly from the peasants.

4. List the names of three peasant rebellions that took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Santhal Rebellion of 1855-56, the Indigo Revolt of 1859-60, the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 and the Kaira (Kheda) Satyagraha of 1918 are some examples of peasant rebellions.

5. Name the two main features of indigo cultivation that were introduced in India.

The two main systems of indigo cultivation introduced in India were Nij and Ryoti.

#### **V. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF.**

1. What were the main features of the Permanent Settlement?

The main features of Permanent Settlement were:

- (a) The zamindars were recognised by EEIC as the owners of the land from which revenue would be collected. The peasants working on the land now became tenants of the zamindars.
- (b) The amount of tax that the zamindars would have to pay to the state was permanently fixed by EEIC.
- (c) The zamindars were to collect this tax from the peasants who worked on their lands. However, the amount of tax that the peasant had to pay to the zamindars in the form of rent was not fixed by the EEIC.

2. Why did the Permanent Settlement not work out as planned by the British?

The Permanent Settlement did not work out as planned by the British because of the following reasons.

- (a) The zamindars tried to extract as much rent from the peasants as possible as the amount of tax collection from peasants was not fixed.
- (b) The peasants were often forced to take loans from moneylenders to pay the zamindars. If they failed to pay the rent that was due, they were often forced to give up the land.
- (c) The amount of revenue to be paid to the British on time by the zamindars was very high, irrespective of whether the crops failed or not.

(d) In case a zamindar failed to pay his dues on time, his lands were taken by the British officials and auctioned off. Many zamindars lost their lands in such scenarios.

(e) The zamindars made no investments in the land to improve agricultural productivity.

3. What were the two other settlements that were introduced by the British? Describe both these settlements.

The two other settlements devised by the British were :

- i. The Ryotwari Settlement : introduced in the newly conquered areas of southern India from 1820 CE onwards by Thomas Munro. Under this, land revenue was collected directly from each individual cultivator by government agents. In addition, land holdings of the cultivators were measured and the amount of revenue due was calculated annually on the basis of the actual cultivation done on the land.
- ii. The Mahalwari Settlement : introduced in western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and parts of Madhya Pradesh in 1822. The land in these areas was commonly owned by a group of villages called 'mahal'. Under this, the task of collecting revenue and paying it to EEIC was assigned to the headman of each mahal. Along with this, the revenue demand was to be revised periodically.

4. What impact did the new revenue settlements have on rural life in India?

The new settlement policies had far reaching consequences:

- (a) The peasants were forced to mortgage their land and borrow money from moneylenders at high rates of interest in case they were unable to pay the revenues. When the peasant could not pay the loan and the interest, he had to surrender his land to the moneylender, which made him landless.
- (b) Land became a commodity that could be sold and auctioned off.
- (c) The zamindars and European planters increasingly began to force peasants to grow cash crops such as jute, sugar cane, tea, coffee, rubber and indigo on their farms instead of grains.
- (d) Famines became more frequent and dangerous.

5. Write a note about how indigo cultivation came to be introduced in India.

Indian indigo was in great demand in the European markets as it was the dye that was used most extensively by cloth manufacturers there. With the Industrial Revolution, Britain's cotton production increased tremendously by the end of the 18th century CE, and the demand for the blue dye rose accordingly. The supply of indigo declined when the indigo plantations in the Caribbean Islands were abandoned because of a slave rebellion there. The British then turned to India and began the cultivation of indigo on a commercial scale here.

6. Describe the two systems of indigo cultivation that were introduced by the British in India.

The two main systems of indigo cultivation were :

- i. The Nij System :

Under this, the British and European planters cultivated indigo on land which was directly under their control and often rented land from other zamindars as well. The disadvantage of the Nij system was that the area under indigo cultivation could not be expanded easily. Moreover, the large labour force and the farming implements that were needed to work on these plantations were not readily available to the indigo planters.

- ii. The Ryoti System :

The ryots, or the cultivators of the land, were forced to sign a contract, called satta, with the planters. Under the contract, cash advances at low interest rates were given to the ryots by the planters to produce indigo. The farmers soon realised that the cultivation of indigo was not beneficial. They were forced to grow indigo in the best part of their fields which exhausted the soil and made it impossible for them to grow food crops to meet their needs. The prices received by the farmers for the indigo from the planters were also very low.

**MAP WORK (TO BE DONE BY THE STUDENTS) – Page No. 34 of the book**

On a map of India, mark the areas under different land settlements brought about by the British.

**HOMEWORK – SKILL FOCUS (TO BE DONE BY THE STUDENTS) Page No. 35 of the textbook**