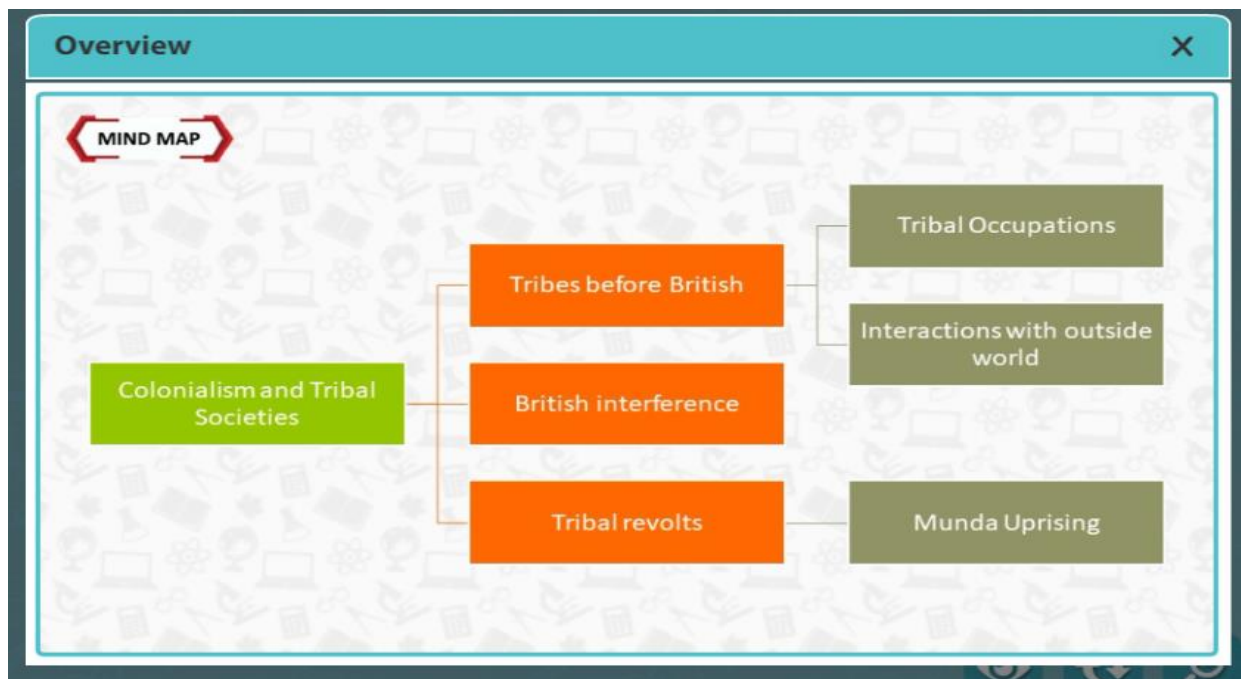


DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MANDLA ROAD, JABALPUR
CLASS NOTES ON HISTORY

CHAPTER 4 - COLONIALISM AND TRIBAL SOCIETIES

BASIC CONCEPTS



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

1. List the types of occupations that different tribal groups engage in.
Jhum cultivation, hunting and food gathering, herding, settled cultivation and artisanship were some of the occupations that the tribals engaged in.
2. What is Jhum Cultivation?
Jhum cultivation was shifting agriculture wherein land was cleared by burning the vegetation, crops were planted and after harvesting, the land was left fallow.
3. Who were referred to as the *dikus*?
The non-tribals such as traders, moneylenders and zamindars who began to settle in tribal areas were termed as dikus (outsiders) by the tribals. They were considered the biggest threat to their traditional ways of living.

4. What were reserved forests?

Reserved forests were those where only contractors, authorised by the state, were allowed to cut the timber.

5. What impact did the activities of the Christian missionaries have on the tribal groups?

The ties of kinship within the Mundas was threatened by the presence of the Christian missionaries in the region as the Mundas began to increasingly get divided along Christian and non-Christian lines.

V. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF.

1. Describe in detail any three types of occupations followed by tribal groups in British India.

The three occupations that the tribals were engaged in are:

(a) Hunting and food-gathering: Some tribes hunted animals and gathered edible forest products, which were shared by all the members of the tribe. They also sold forest products, in nearest local markets called haats, to earn money.

(b) Animal herding: Numerous tribal groups, such as the Koyas, lived as herders and breeders of animals and lived a nomadic life. The movement of these tribes was dependent on the seasons and the availability of fodder for their livestock.

(c) Artisanship: Some tribes, such as the Mohalis and Loharas, were simple artisans who practised basket-weaving and tool-making and sold their products in local markets for their subsistence..

2. Write briefly about the nature of the interaction between tribal groups and the outside world before the interference of the British in tribal life.

The tribal groups frequently interacted with traders in local markets to sell their products. They sold forest products, livestock or other items such as baskets made of leaves or bamboo and other forest produce and bought items of their day-to-day need. At times, when the produce of the forest was not enough to meet their basic needs, they often went to work in nearby villages.

3. What impact did the new administrative policies of the British have on the life of the tribals?

The tribal life was impacted in the following aspects as a result of British policies:

- (a) Tribal chiefs lost their significance as the British created their own systems of maintaining law and order in the land.
- (b) The tribals were forced into paying taxes for the use of land which traditionally belonged to them.
- (c) The high revenue demands of the British made many tribal groups borrow money from moneylenders at high rates of interest.
- (d) As the British brought more and more land under their direct control, the traditional habitat (forests) of tribal groups, became a subject matter of various administrative policies.
- (e) Some forests were declared as reserved forests where only contractors authorised by the state were allowed to cut the timber.
- (f) The expansion of the road and railway network led to a great demand for timber, which resulted in destruction of forests thereby loss of livelihood for tribal groups.
- (g) The opening up of mines and factories in areas where tribal groups lived, led to the tribals being used as cheap labour. They were mistreated and not paid enough.
- (h) Many non-tribals began to settle in tribal areas, these people were termed as dikus (outsiders) and were considered the biggest threat to their traditional ways of living.

4. What were the main reasons for the outbreak of the Munda rebellion?

The Mundas revolted against the British because of the following reasons:

- (a) Due to the new administrative and revenue policies of the British, the Chota Nagpur region saw an increase in the number of non-tribal people coming and settling down in the region.
- (b) Unable to meet the revenue demands of the state and loss of their traditional forms of livelihood, the Mundas were forced to work for these outsiders.
- (c) They became easy victims of forced labour, also called bethbegari. Many of them were also cheated by contractors into becoming indentured labour.
- (d) The ties of kinship within the Mundas were threatened by the presence of Christian missionaries as the Mundas began to increasingly get divided along Christian and non-Christian lines.

5. Write about the role of Birsa Munda in the Munda rebellion.
- (a) Birsa Munda proclaimed himself a prophet and called upon the Mundas to fight against superstitions, give up animal sacrifice, stop taking intoxicants and retain their old tribal traditions.
 - (b) He aimed at getting political freedom for the Munda area.
 - (c) Fearing a conspiracy, the British put him in jail for two years when he started recruiting volunteers to fight the British rule in 1895 CE.
 - (d) When he returned from jail, he was even more determined to oust the dikus from the Munda area.
 - (e) He and his followers started targeting symbols of European power and missionaries and attacked places such as police stations, post offices and other official symbols.
 - (f) He was able to raise the white flag as a symbol of Birsa Raj, but he was captured and put in jail where he died in 1900 CE.
 - (g) After his death, the Munda rebellion lost much of its strength and power.

MAP WORK (TO BE DONE BY THE STUDENTS)

1. On a political map of India, mark the major tribes of India (Page No. 38 of the book).
2. Make a list of other tribal rebellions that took place against British rule in India. On a map of India, mark the location where these rebellions started (Page No. 43 of the book).