

CONQUEST OF THE BRITISHERS IN INDIA, THE LAND REVENUE SYSTEMS AND LEGISLATION



Carnatic wars 1748-1763

The Carnatic wars were a series of Wars and Battles fought between British and French East India Company with the objective of establishment of their trade monopolies in the Subcontinent.

- **1st Carnatic war(1746-48)**, Cause of the war was Austrian war of Succession and It resulted in the **the treaty of Aix-la-chapelle**.
- **2nd Carnatic war(1749-54)**, Cause of the war Hyderabad's war of Succession and it resulted in the **Treaty of Pondicherry**
- **3rd Carnatic war(1756-63)**, Cause of the war 7years war btw English and French and it resulted in the **Treaty of Paris 1763**.

Conquest of Bengal 1757 :

- **Autonomy under the Mughals:** Bengal was an autonomous region under the Mughal Empire.
- **Nawab Aliwardi Khan:** Ruled Bengal until his death in 1756.
- **Succession:** Succeeded by his grandson Sirajuddaula, who was young and inexperienced.
- **Internal Conspiracy:** Noblemen, led by Mir Jafar, conspired against Sirajuddaula.
- **British Involvement:** Conspirators were joined by the British.
- **Resistance to British Expansion:** Sirajuddaula opposed British expansion in Bengal.
- **Battle of Alinagar:** Sirajuddaula attacked Fort William and defeated the British.

Black hole Incidence 1756



Treaty of Alinagar & Battle of Plassey:

•Treaty of Alinagar (1757)

- Signed after British counterattack by Robert Clive and Admiral Watson.
- Sirajuddaula was forced to retreat and sign the treaty.
- British gained privileges and fortification rights for Calcutta.

•Tensions with the French

- Sirajuddaula sought French assistance, angering the British.
- British viewed this as a treaty violation.

•Battle of Plassey (June 1757)

- Conspirators: Mir Jafar, Khadim Khan, Rai Durlabh, Seth Manikchand, Jagat Seth, and Seth Amichand.
- Sirajuddaula was easily defeated due to betrayal.
- Sirajuddaula was later killed



Battle of Buxar 1764

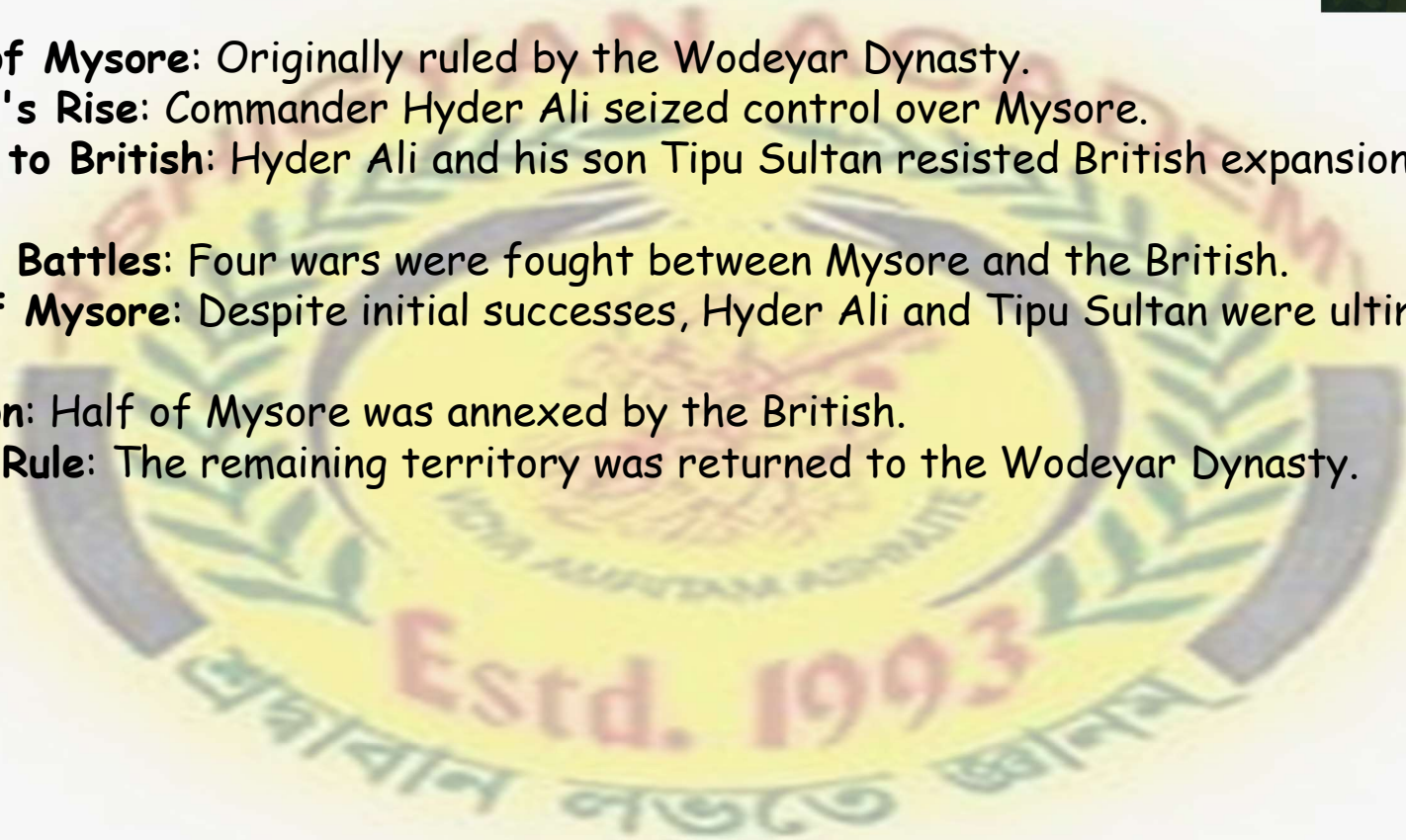
- The new nawab of Bengal Mir qasim tried to overthrow the supremacy of British from Bengal with the help of Mughals and Nawab of Awadh
- Once again the British won and the battle was followed by the treaty of Allahabad.



Battle of Buxar

Anglo-Mysore Wars (1767-1799):

- **Kingdom of Mysore:** Originally ruled by the Wodeyar Dynasty.
- **Hyder Ali's Rise:** Commander Hyder Ali seized control over Mysore.
- **Challenge to British:** Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan resisted British expansion in India.
- **Wars and Battles:** Four wars were fought between Mysore and the British.
- **Defeat of Mysore:** Despite initial successes, Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan were ultimately defeated.
- **Annexation:** Half of Mysore was annexed by the British.
- **Restored Rule:** The remaining territory was returned to the Wodeyar Dynasty.



Causes and results of Anglo Mysore wars:-

1st War- 1767-1769, Cause- Hyder Ali's Ambition of expansion in the Carnatic region, Result-War ended with Indecisiveness but upper hand of Haider ali. (**Treaty of Madras was Signed**).

2nd war- 1780-1784, Cause- Hyder's friendship with French and giving them the Mahe port, Result- War ended Indecisive with Mysore having Upper hand, (**Treaty of Mangalore was Signed**).

3rd war- 1789-1791, Cause- Tipu's Attempt to Invade Travancore kingdom which was an ally of British, Result- Defeat of tipu and half of Mysore divided btw Marathas, Nizam and British, (**Treaty of Srirangapatnam was Signed**).

Fourth Anglo Mysore war 1799

•**Cause of the War-** The Rise of Napoleon In Europe and his Growing friendship with Tipu had alerted the British, Tipu could give Napoleon a foot hold in India which would prove dangerous for the british.

•So they Decided to End the Rule of Tipu.

•Srirangapatnam was Attacked, Tip fought Bravely but was Killed in Action

Anglo-Maratha Wars (1775-1818):

- **Post-Panipat Crisis:** Marathas faced a leadership crisis after the Third Battle of Panipat.
- **Resurgence:** Madhavrao Peshwa, Nana Phadnavis, Mahadji Scindhia, and Ahilyabai Holkar revived Maratha power (1761-1771).

1st Anglo-Maratha War (1775-1782)

- **Cause:** Raghunath Rao killed Narayan Rao and sought British support after opposition from Mahadji Scindhia.
- **Initial Conflict:** British provided troops but were defeated by Scindhia.
- **Prolonged War:** Warren Hastings continued the war with additional British troops.
- **Outcome:** Treaty of Salbai (1782) ended the war, largely in favor of the Marathas.

2nd Anglo-Maratha War (1803-1805)

- Cause:** Bajirao II became Peshwa but was opposed by Yashwantrao Holkar of Indore.
- Conflict:** Bajirao II was defeated by Yashwantrao Holkar in the Battle of Poona.
- British Involvement:** Bajirao II sought British help, granting them Salsette and Bassein in return.
- Outcome:** War began with British intervention against the Marathas.

3rd Anglo-Maratha War (1817-1818)

- Cause:** British aimed to consolidate power in India, facing Maratha resistance.
- Outcome:** British defeated the Marathas, leading to the dissolution of Maratha Confederacy and annexation of territories.

Anglo Sikh wars 1846-1848

- After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh the Sikh Empire in Punjab collapsed rapidly due to the Infighting, British took advantage of it and fought two wars with Sikhs.
- **1st Anglo Sikh war** - 1845-46 in which Sikhs were defeated **the treaty of Lahore** was Signed

2nd Anglo Sikh war resulted in complete destruction of Sikh political power and the annexation of Punjab by the British.

Abolishment of the Thuggee (1830-1840):

- **Thugs:** Secret criminal group, partly hereditary, specialized in strangling travelers for theft.
- **Criminal Activity:** Known to native rulers but the full scope (tens of thousands of victims) was not initially recorded.
- **Captain William Henry Sleeman:** Led the suppression of the Thugs.
- **Time Period:** Suppression occurred between 1830-1840.
- **Outcome:** Thugs were completely suppressed by 1840

Land Revenue Systems of the British:

Permanent Settlement of Bengal (1793)

- **Introduced by:** East India Company, Governor-General Lord Cornwallis.
- **Agreement:** Between the company and Zamindars to fix land revenue.
- **Zamindars:** Recognized as landowners with hereditary rights.
- **Revenue Payment:** Zamindars retained ownership if they paid the fixed revenue on time; otherwise, land was auctioned.
- **Revenue Split:** 10/11th for the government, 1/10th for the Zamindar.
- **Tax Rate:** Higher than in England.

Ryotwari System:

Introduced By: Sir Thomas Munro, Governor of Madras in 1820.

Practiced In: Madras, Bombay, Assam, Coorg provinces.

Land Ownership: Peasants/cultivators regarded as landowners.

Rights: Could sell, mortgage, or gift land.

Tax Collection: Directly from peasants by the government.

Tax Rates: 50% for dryland, 60% for wetland.

Flexibility: Rates could be increased.

Mahalwari System:

- **Introduced By:** Holt Mackenzie in 1822, reviewed by Lord William Bentinck in 1833.
- **Areas:** North-West Frontier, Agra, Central Province, Punjab, etc.
- **Structure:** Land divided into Mahals (village clusters).
- **Taxation:** Assessments on the Mahal, paid by individual farmers.
- **Ownership:** Peasants had ownership rights.
- **Features:** Blend of Zamindari and Ryotwari systems.

Regulating Act of 1773:

- **Purpose:** Control misgovernment and financial crises in Bengal by East India Company.
- **Provisions:** Established Governor-General of Bengal and Supreme Court at Calcutta.
- **Authority:** Company retained territorial possessions but regulated by British Parliament.

Pitt's India Act, 1784:

- **Purpose:** Corrected defects of Regulating Act, introduced dual control by British government and East India Company.
- **Structure:** Board of Control for political matters, Court of Directors for commercial affairs.
- **Administration:** Bengal Presidency gained dominance, Calcutta became administrative center.
- **Impact:** Established British Crown's authority over Indian territories; Company retained commercial monopoly.

Charter Act of 1793:

- **Rule Continuation:** Extended East India Company's governance in British territories.
- **Trade Monopoly:** Extended for 20 years.
- **Governor-General:** Empowered to override council decisions in certain cases.
- **Financial Changes:** Company responsible for salaries, paid Rs. 5 Lakhs annually to British government from Indian revenue.
- **Travel Restrictions:** Senior officials needed permission to leave India; leaving without permission meant resignation.
- **Trade Authority:** Granted company power to issue trade licenses in India.

Charter Act of 1813:

- **Renewal:** Extended East India Company's charter for 20 years.
- **Sovereignty Assertion:** Affirmed Crown's sovereignty over British possessions in India.
- **Trade Monopoly Ended:** Except for tea, opium, and trade with China.
- **Missionary Permission:** Allowed missionaries to conduct religious activities in India.
- **Cultural Support:** Provided financial support for revival of Indian literature.

Charter Act of 1833:

- **Renewal:** Extended East India Company's charter for 20 years, ended trade monopoly.
- **Settlement:** Allowed British citizens to settle freely in India.
- **Governor-General:** Elevated to Governor-General of India, centralized civil and military powers.
- **Territorial Transfer:** Company's Indian territories transferred to British Crown.
- **Slavery Mitigation:** Acted to mitigate slavery in India; slavery abolished in British territories in 1833.

Charter Act of 1853:

- **Territorial Trust:** Company retained Indian territories and revenues in trust for British Crown indefinitely.
- **Legislative Council:** Established Indian Legislative Council, modeled after British Parliament procedures.
- **Civil Services:** Opened to Indians through competitive exams, ending patronage appointments.
- **Provincial Expansion:** Added Sind and Punjab as new provinces; appointed Lieutenant Governor for Punjab in 1859.

120. Who among the following was the first Indian to qualify for the Indian Civil Service ?

- (a) Satyendranath Tagore
- (b) Surendranath Banerjee
- (c) R.C. Dutt
- (d) Subhas Chandra Bose

31. Which one of the following statements with regard to ryotwari settlement is **not** correct ?

- (a) In southern and western India, the ryotwari settlement was adopted.
- (b) Ryotwari was in principle a direct contract between the ryot and the state.
- (c) It means a tax contract valid for usually 30 years.
- (d) In principle, it strengthened the former elite, the zamindars and weakened the peasantry.

77. Which one of the following British officials was elevated to the position of Governor General after the Regulating Act of 1773 ?

- (a) Warren Hastings
- (b) Lord North
- (c) Mountstuart Elphinstone
- (d) Philip Francis