

Modern Indian History Class 13

30th October, 2023 at 9:00 AM

PERMANENT SETTLEMENT(PS) SYSTEM (CONTINUES) (09:12 AM)

- Refer to the uploaded handout for details.

- The land became a commodity after **PS**. 1793

Applied in Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and North Madras by Cornwallis 8693

- Zamindars lost police powers as now Zamindars were capitalist land owners.

- **Wellesley's Regulation VII of 1799** restored the police powers e.g. imprisonment, **property** seizure etc.

act

- Therefore many peasant revolts occurred after 1793.

- Therefore, the **Rent Act of 1859** was enacted in Bengal.

It is also known as **Bengal Rent Act of 1859** in which giving of occupancy rights to ryots and Right to fair rent was considered.

- This act gave occupancy rights to Ryots who cultivated land for more than 12 years.

- **The act was not implemented properly.** Zamindar removed ryots before 12 years.

(No FIR)

- Therefore, the **Indigo revolt** and the **Pabna Agrarian League 1873** revolt occurred.

(For issue of occupancy rights)

- Therefore, finally **Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885** was enacted where Ryot was given occupancy rights even if they cultivated different lands in the same village for more than 12 years (properly implemented).

(1859-63)

Indigo Commission was set up in 1860 which abolished this revolt by bringing some reforms but some sources mentioned that its effect was last upto 1862.

The Pabna Agrarian League Revolt (also known as the **Pabna Peasant Uprising**) was a peasant movement that took place in the Pabna district of Bengal (now in Bangladesh) during the 1870s. This revolt was a response to the exploitative practices of zamindars (landlords), who levied excessive rents and imposed arbitrary taxes on tenant farmers.



(Sindh, Coorg, Assam, Madras and Bombay)

SCAM-B



(1801)

RYOTWARI SETTLEMENT (09:49 AM)

Mainly started from Madras but also implemented in Bombay presidency, Assam and Coorg.

Birth-Death

- Refer to the uploaded handout for details.
- **By Thomas Munroe.** Thomas Munro (1761–1827) was a British soldier and colonial administrator in India, renowned for his contributions to administrative reforms, particularly in the Madras Presidency (southern India). He is best known for implementing the Ryotwari System. He also served as Governor of Madras presidency from 1820 to until his death in 1827. Munro is noted for trying to understand local practices, advocating for reforms that aimed to respect Indian customs and society rather than imposing British norms indiscriminately.
- **Reasons:** from Scotland where landowner cultivator was champion + Unorientalist.
- **Big Zamindars were unavailable in Madras.** bz rivers are seasonal in south
- **Deccan had problems with poor finances due to low productivity and high war expenditure in past.** Therefore, more income could be secured for the state if there was no middleman between the state and the people.
- **Loyalty of masses** (i.e. loyalty of masses directly to govt. bz govt. is making ryots as landowner) (landowners but not as big as big zamindars.)
- **Power of non-state actors. E.g. Power of Poligars and Deshmukhs will decrease.**
- **LR was not assessed permanently** to secure the financial interest of the state and for the same reasons, LR could be in percentage terms instead of absolute amounts. Soil fertility and Crop productivity was not good in south India, rivers are also seasonal, in PS1793 in Bengal problem of permanent is seen in context to inflation and approach of Thomas Munroe was like that he believe in rights of peasant along with revenue of government.
- **Impact**
- **Improper field survey led to high LR. Therefore ryots lost lands in govt auctions or took loans by mortgaging and lost lands to moneylenders when defaulted on loan repayments.** (as very high int. rates) lands
- **Mirasidars** were landowner cultivators who also joined lower bureaucracy as revenue officials who also had judicial and police powers. Mirasidars were a class of landholders or hereditary landowners in parts of southern India, particularly in the Madras Presidency, during both the pre-colonial and colonial periods. The term "mirasi" refers to a hereditary right or entitlement to land that passed down through generations within a family. Mirasidars held rights to cultivate and manage specific plots of land in a village and often had considerable social and economic influence within their communities.
- **They were corrupt and bought the best lands in auctions. They emerged as big landowners. Thus, the goal of govt to remove the intermediary failed.**
- **Madras Torture Commission report of 1855** revealed their oppression and now finally relief came and proper field surveys were conducted. (* shit man that is why Madras quite in 1857 revolt)

CUP
(Central Province,
United Province
and Punjab)

1820

MAHALWARI SYSTEM (10:43 AM)

- Refer to the uploaded handout for details.
- **Reason- Respect village economy** autonomy
- **Impact-** right of Taluqdars on hereditary land
- **Many Taluqdars lost their Milkiyat to ryots.** (IZ)
- **Improper field surveys led to the loss of land in govt auctions or to money lenders and this contributed to the 1857 revolt.**

The ryots were often the actual cultivators of the land, and under the Mahalwari system, they sometimes gained more control over the land as the system evolved.

As the British administration fixed the revenue and often reduced the power of traditional intermediaries (like the Taluqdars), many Taluqdars lost their control over the land, including their Milkiyat rights, and were unable to meet the fixed revenue demands.

In some cases, Taluqdars were forced to sell or transfer land to the ryots or other cultivators because they could not afford to pay the land revenue. As a result, the ryots gained greater control over the land they worked, and the Taluqdars lost their ownership or rights to it.

prelims: Settlement also named after officers who designed field survey-

Ryotwari:- Bombay survey system or Wingate or GoldSmid settlement or Wingate settlement of 1835 in Bombay.

Mahalwari:- 1822 in N-W provinces is equal to regulation VII of 1822 on the basis of Mackenzie's recommendation and then revision by R.M. Bird 1833.

bz control of Mughals were not too much in south, Village-Based and Communal land system were prevalent there and moreover Munroe also supported Ryotwari System there.

When ryots were not able to pay high LR then govt. auctioned their lands or ryots themselves lost their lands to moneylenders. So, purpose of abolition of intermediaries through Ryotwari System seems to fail here.

Q. 1857 revolt was just a catalyst in ending EIC rule. Analyze.



RELATION BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND EIC (11:14 AM)

- The rivalry between the British state and EIC developed and eventually, EIC rule ended.

- Reasons-

- EIC is a non-state entity that entered into domains of state i.e. became a ruler.

- EIC became very powerful- Economic power through taxes, military strong as EIC had its own military.

Before the Industrial Revolution, Britain primarily imported raw goods and luxury items from Asia through companies like the EIC. However, the Industrial Revolution transformed Britain from a primarily agrarian economy to an industrial one. Britain began producing goods (such as textiles) in large quantities, often at lower costs than those imported. This decreased the demand for some of the products EIC imported from India and China.

- Concern for British taxpayers' money.

- EIC was a trading company that did not serve any purpose after the Industrial Revolution.

- The monopoly of EIC was no more in line with British national interest.

- Select Committee of Parliament, 1772 -

- In 1772, EIC requested a one million pound loan as it was going bankrupt.

- After the Great Bengal Famine of 1770, the LR income declined and therefore trade income declined. Therefore EIC became bankrupt. This acted as an opportunity to bring EIC under regulation.

- Therefore, a Select Committee was set up to look into the status of EIC affairs in India and what can be the relationship between the British State and EIC regarding EIC territory in India and how EIC headquarters in London i.e. Court/ Board of Directors be made accountable to EIC administration in India.

- There was an issue of high war expenditure that had contributed to EIC going bankrupt.

- Result-

- COD of EIC was made accountable for EIC administration in India. It also led to the Regulating Act of 1773.

- Regulating Act of 1773/ Lord North Act (named after PM)

{ (*Br State: "Why GBF1770? Why War expenditure?"
COD of EIC: "Ask Clive etc. not me"
Br State: Bullshit *) }

- The Governor of Bengal was elevated to Governor General (GG) of Bengal.

- Governors of Bombay and Madras were subordinated to GG Bengal in matters of war and peace except in emergency circumstances. (* reason = high war expenditure)

- Supreme Council of Bengal or GG's council was created with GG and 4 councillors. This was done to ensure democratic decision-making as all decision was taken on the basis of a majority vote of 4 councillors and the decision was binding on GG who only had a casting vote (tie-breaker vote). (i.e. 1+4)

(* to control empire builders)

- Legislative function was given to GG's council i.e. common executive and Legislature (Journey towards Parliament, CoM has begun)

- GBO and GMA could be suspended by GG Bengal if they disobeyed in matters of war and peace. (*like PM/Centre removing governor of a UT)

centre is taking birth with the first subject, war and peace therefore aspirants with IFS as choice can feel proud that we are first. (power corrupts therefore)

and first GG of Bengal was Warren Hasting7385

GG toh bana diya but to control his power there exist 4 other councillors also in his council who played a significant role in decision making.

Governor of Madras

Governor of Bombay

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS- ACTS TO REGULATE EIC AFFAIRS (TO CONTINUE)