

THE SUBSIDIARY ALLIANCE

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

The subsidiary Alliance as imposed by Wellesley on the native rulers was the most effective instrument for the expansion of the British territory and political in India. Wellesley did not originate it. It was first devised by the French Governor Dupleix. He started the practice of providing military aid to native ruler in return for money. The English also adopted this practice and from Clive to Wellesley every English Governor General used it as a means to enhance the political influence of the Company. Wellesley, however, added some more terms to this alliance and made it a perfect instrument of extending British territory in India.

PART – II – DEVELOPMENT

There were four stages in the evolution of subsidiary alliance system.

1. **Sending of troops to the native ruler :** Warren Hastings had given, military aid to the Nawab of Avadh against the Rohillas.
2. **Taking the field on their own account only helped by native rulers:** This happened only when the native ruler could not fight the war and sought the help of the company.
3. **Requiring the native allies to supply not men but money:** Sir John Shore had entered into such type of subsidiary treaty in 1797 with the Nawab of Avadh had started taking a subsidy of 76 lakhs of rupees annually for the maintenance of troops.
4. **Taking territory in place of money:** Often the Indian ruler could not pay the money to the Company at the right time. Finding such irregularities, the English Company adopted a new policy and started taking territory in place of money as subsidy so that the income earned from the territory may be spent on the maintenance of the army.

Besides, Wellesley added a few more terms to the alliance:

- a) An English resident was kept in the court of the power in India.
- b) The native ruler was not allowed to employ in his service any American, European or a citizen of an enemy state of the English.
- c) He must accept Company as the permanent power in India.
- d) He was not to declare war or to make peace without the consent of the paramount power.
- e) He had to keep a British force in his State and pay for its maintenance.
- f) The Company in return was to protect him against rebellious and invasions. It is obvious that the ruler accepting the subsidiary system bartered away his political independence in return for British protection.
- g) In case of a conflict between the two subsidiary states they would agree to the decision made by the English.
- h) The English also promised non-interference in the internal affairs of the allied state, but this was a promise they seldom kept.

DEVELOPMENT OF BRITISH LAND REVENUE POLICY

PART – I – LAND REVENUE SYSTEM DURING THE DUAL GOVERNMENT IN BENGAL

1. In 1765 after the battle of Buxar through the treaty of Allahabad the East India Company got the right of Diwani viz. the right to collect revenue for Bengal, Bihar and Orissa from the Mughal Emperor named Shah Alam II.
2. Clive and his succession continued the traditional or old system of revenue collection though it increased the amount to be collect Rs. 14,290,000 in 1722 A.D. and Rs. 1,180,000 in 1764 to Rs. 23,400,000 in A.D.
3. Clive and his successor collected the land revenue through the land tax collectors or the zamindars. According to this system the revenue officials or these revenue collectors deducted 10 percent of the total collected amount as their commission and deposited the balance in the treasury of the Company.
4. The company was not concerned as to how that revenue as to be collected and what would be its impact on the condition of the common people of Bengal. Bihar and Orissa.
5. The East India Company and its officials increased their demand every year from the collectors. The Collectors in return increased their demand form the peasants. Therefore the peasants were the worst sufferers many for them left their lands and became decoits and robbers.

PART – II – IJARDARI SETTLEMENT

1. Introduced by Warren Hastings in 1772 in Bengal
2. Right to collect land revenue was given to highest bidder
3. It was a 5 year settlement
4. It was made annual settlement in 1777
5. Warren Hastings appointed **Amini Commission** (The first commission in British India) in 1776 to enquire the real value of land – it submitted report in 1778.

PART – III – ZAMINDARI SETTLEMENT/ PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

1. It was since 1770, i.e. even before Cornwallis arrived, that a number of Company officials and European observers like **Alexander Dow, Henri Patullo, Philip Francis** and **Thomas Law** were advocating for the land tax being permanently fixed.
2. Despite their various ideological orientations, they shared a common faith in the Physiocratic school of thinking that assigned primacy to agriculture in a country's economy.

3. **Alexander Dow** in his book **History of Hindustan** (768-72) introduced the idea of permanent settlement.
4. The idea was elaborated by **Henri Patullo**, an economist in 772.
5. Idea of recognizing Zamindars as proprietors of land on permanent basis was put forward by **Philip Francis** in 1776.
6. Pitt's India Act, 1784 (influenced by Idea of Philip Francis) laid down directions for **Permanent Rules** for land revenue.
7. **John Shore's Minute**, 1789 created the frame work of Zamindari settlement
8. it was introduced in 1790 by Cornwallis as a decennial (10 year) settlement.
9. It was made permanent in 1773
10. It was introduced in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa and later in Varanasi and some parts (Northern districts) of Madras – It was introduced in Tribal area of Chota Nagpur also, replacing traditional **Khuntkatti** system.
11. Under this Zamindaris were made proprietors of the land.
12. Zamindars were to pay 10/11 to the government and to retain 1/11 for them.
13. Enactment of **sale law** known as **sunset law** in 1794 under which Zamindari right was auctioned in the event of failure in payment of revenue.
14. Regulations of 1799 and 1812 gave the zamindars the right to seize property of the tenants in case of non-payment of rent without any permission of a court of law.

PART – IV – RAIYATWARI SETTLEMENT

SUB-PART – I – MADRAS PRESIDENCY

1. First introduced in Baramahal in 1792 by **Alexander Read**
2. Introduced in Kanara in 1799-1800 by **Thomas Munro**
3. Introduced in District of Bellary and Coddapa in 1801-02 by Thomas Munro
4. Introduced in Nellore, Arcot and Coimbatore in 1807
5. Introduced in Madras Presidency 1820 by Thomas Munro when he became Governor of Madras.

SUB-PART – II – BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

1. It had its beginning in Gujarat after its annexation in 1803 and then when the Peshwa's territories were conquered in 1818
2. Introduced by Elphinston in 1823-25
3. Modification based on Goldsind and Wingat plan in 1835
4. Joint report by H.E. Goldsind, G. Wingat and Davidson in 1847 regarding rules of settlement

Note: Raiyatwari Settlement was later introduced in Sind, Assam & Co org.

PART – V – MAHALARI SETTLEMENT

1. First experimented in Awadh in 1801 and then in territory acquired from Marathas in 1803-04
2. Introduced in North-West provinces (Upper Provinces) in 1822 – it was based on **Holt Mackenzie Plan** of 1819
3. Revenue was assessed on net produce that is gross produce minus expenditure on cultivation
4. Modification in 1833 by Bentinck – it was based on **Robert Marttines Bird Plan** – Basis of assessment was changed from **Net Produce to Rental Assets** (Rents payable on lands of particular qualities) Rate was reduced to 66% - Assessment was made for 30 years
5. Modification based on **James Thomson Plan**, 1844 – it was a comprehensive land settlement code – Approved of Shaharnapur district – so generally known as **Shaharanpur Rules**.

Note: It was introduced in Punjab and C. India later.

PART – VI – MALGUJARI SETTLEMENT

1. Introduced in 1863 in Central Provinces (Created in 1861)
2. Settlement with Malgujar who were traditional land revenue collectors
3. Malgujars were given proprietary rights
4. Rate was fixed as 50% according to Saharanpur rules
5. Settlement was made for 30 years
6. It was a variant of Mahalwari Settlement
7. The man behind this settlement was Richard Temple

PART – VII – TALUQDARI SETTLEMENT

1. Introduced in Awadh during 1860-1878
2. Settlement was made with Taluqdar (It was a move to passify the discontent of Taluqdar during the revolt of 1857)
3. Taluqdars were made proprietor of their estate.
4. Sub-proprietary rights vested in village communities in relation to Taluqdars
5. Settlement was made for 30 years.