

Chapter 3 - *The East India Company Raj*

23/09/2023 9:18 pm

Book - Metcalf (56-81)

- In 1772, the British East India Company appointed Warren Hastings as the first leader in charge of their territories in India.
- Hastings wanted to bring order to the chaotic situation in Bengal caused by the Company's involvement.
- **Hastings made Calcutta the main capital and organized a system of government for British India.**
- **Hastings faced difficulties during his thirteen years in power. Many in his council in Calcutta disagreed with him, and he had to deal with a trial in England after he returned.**
- Hastings laid a strong foundation for British rule in India.
- When Hastings became the leader, **the people working for the East India Company didn't know much about India except for how to trade there.** They rarely went outside their protected coastal areas. Most of them, except for a few like Hastings, **didn't speak any Indian languages.**
- So, when the British took control of India, it was like entering unknown territory for them. **The people from the Company in India didn't want to give up their profitable trading to take on the uncertain job of governing.**
- **To deal with this, they introduced a series of laws called Regulating Acts. These acts aimed to make the Company follow the British Government's orders and make sure its agents in India took on the role of ruling, as stated by Edmund Burke, a political philosopher, as "trustees" for the people of India.**
- In 1783, they established the Board of Control, which was a group overseeing the Company's actions. The president of this board had a seat in the British Cabinet, showing how closely it was tied to the government.
- **The British didn't think it was right to use their own way of governing in India, because India was a land they had taken over.** They also didn't want to use the system they had in the American colonies, where there were elected representatives but still a governor chosen by the king
- Warren Hastings, who was in charge, told his superiors that they **needed to make rules and laws that fit with how the Indian people lived and understood things.** They wanted to respect the old customs and ways of doing things.
- **They couldn't openly support a very controlling kind of rule,** even though they knew that colonial rule naturally tended to become controlling.

What were Hastings two belief?

- Hastings had two important beliefs that influenced his approach to law in India.
- 1. **Hastings wanted to restore these original texts to their pure form, so that the British wouldn't have to rely on Indian scholars who were trained in Sanskrit or Arabic.**
- 2. **He also believed that there were separate sets of laws for Hindus and Muslims. For example, in cases about marriage or inheritance, he said Muslim laws from the Koran should be followed for Muslims, and Hindu laws from the Shaster for Hindus. - By insisting on this distinction between Hindu and Muslim laws, he simplified the diverse customs and practices of different sectarian communities into just two categories, each based on its own religious texts.**
- In 1776, a man named Hastings gathered a group of scholars who knew Sanskrit (pandits) to create a set of laws called the 'Code of Gentoo Laws'.
- The pandits had to carefully select sentences from different original Sanskrit legal texts.
- Since no English person knew Sanskrit at the time, the passages were first translated into Persian, and then into English by Halhed.
- Sir William Jones learned Sanskrit, which started a movement of studying ancient Indian texts.

How did Brahmanical ideas spread?

- **Brahman pandits, who were like legal experts, played a significant role in making decisions until 1864.**
- **This, along with the growing political power of the Brahman class, led to a strong influence of Brahmanical ideas in Indian law.**
- English case law was introduced, changing how legal cases were handled. Instead of using traditional methods based on discussion and agreement, individual cases were brought before a judge for trial.
- Hastings established a new form of colonial government with a person called the 'Collector' in charge of a district
- Hastings faced a problem because **there weren't enough trained British people for these roles.**
- Clive realized that trusting untrained British people for these matters is risky
- During Hastings' time, **much of the revenue administration was handled by existing Indian officials.**
- Big change came, when Lord Cornwallis came to India with a mission to make reforms
- Cornwallis was frustrated with the messy accounts left by Indian administrators
- He replaced many of the senior Indian officials, blaming them for the problems caused by English mismanagement.
- **In 1793, the Company formalized a policy that stated higher-level civil positions had to be held by European British individuals.**

What was district collector job?

- **The district collector's main job was to collect taxes.**
- His reputation was based on his ability to collect the full amount of taxes owed in his area.
- **Besides tax collection, he also had other roles: he controlled the police and sometimes acted as a judge in court.**
- **The collector reported to British officials above him and supervised Indian workers below him.**
- The Indian workers handled the actual tax collection, but they didn't have independent authority or chances for promotion.
- Cornwallis reforms aimed to make Company's civil servants (government workers) more honest and fair by giving them high salaries, senior positions, and guaranteed pensions.
- **Lord Wellesley established a college in Calcutta to teach incoming civil servants local languages before they started their jobs.**
- **The Company directors also set up a college in Haileybury, England, to give new civil servants a basic education before they went to India.**
- In the 1850s, significant changes were made to the administrative and military systems in India by the British rulers.
- **The administrative system, known as the Indian Civil Service, was highly regarded and consisted of British and Indian officials. This system was often called the 'steel frame' of Indian administration.**
- Officials were now not nominated by Company directors but were supposed to give Indian Civil Service exam
- The British also focused on building a strong military force to maintain control. Initially, they didn't need a large military, but as they expanded their territory, a bigger force became necessary
- European soldiers were expensive and scarce, so the **British started recruiting Indian soldiers, known as sepoys.** This recruitment drive was significantly increased after the Battle of Plassey. They selected people from High caste Hindu backgrounds like Awadh and Bihar
- **The sepoy army was a group of soldiers who were hired to fight for the British in India.**
- They were motivated to serve by getting regular pay and the promise of a pension
- **Sita Ram, a soldier, was inspired to join after seeing his uncle's impressive uniform and wealth. He quickly learned military drills, enforced with strict discipline. However, sepoys like him couldn't advance to officer ranks, which were reserved for Europeans.**
- Hastings restructured the government in India.
- He started a long-term effort to understand India's geography, history, and culture.
- Hastings believed that accumulating knowledge, especially through interacting with the people they ruled, was beneficial for the state.
- He thought it would create goodwill among distant populations and reduce the sense of oppression among the natives.
- **Hastings' significant achievement was establishing the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784.**
- **Led by Sir William Jones, this society primarily focused on studying ancient Indian religious and cosmological texts.**
- A significant moment in history was the discovery of a shared language connection between India and Britain, called 'Aryan' linguistic ties.
- **They discovered linguistic ties between Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin, which suggested a common origin for these languages, known as Indo-European.**
- Archaeological findings in the 19th century revealed India's rich history, such as the Mauryan dynasty and Emperor Asoka's reign, which was associated with non-violence and celebrated by later Indian nationalists.
- They admired Indian culture but still believed in the superiority of their own civilization.
- They thought that India's history went from greatness to what they saw as negative aspects like priesthood and superstition.
- **Jones compared India to 'mere children', he still considered them less advanced in scientific thinking**
- **British opinion about Indians started to change, this positive view started to fade away.**
- **A new idea came up that focused on the concept of biological race, suggesting that those of presumed Aryan descent in India had mixed their blood with indigenous people, making them different from Europeans.**
- Local knowledge and Indian systems of information influenced how the British governed India. They became part of Indian communication and information networks. They also worked closely with influential landowners.
- **When marking village boundaries, it wasn't just the British doing it. It was done with input from the community, with local people actively involved.**
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- Relying heavily on maps and statistics, however, created a gap between the British rulers and the opinions of informed Indians.
- **The forts in Calcutta and Madras were crucial symbols of colonial power, emphasizing the reliance on military force for control.**
- Madras had a distinct area called 'Black Town' dedicated to Indian businesses and homes, while British settlers lived in garden suburbs with grand Palladian mansions.
- In Calcutta, by the 1780s, the city had around 200,000 inhabitants, including over 3,000 Europeans. The city was sharply divided between the elegant European mansions in Chowringhee and the densely populated Indian neighborhoods
- English residents in Indian cities were living wealthy life but often fell ill due to tropical diseases, which led to many of them dying young.
- **They built grand monuments in places like the Park Street Cemetery in Calcutta to show their importance.**
- In the late 18th century, both wealthy English residents (nabobs) and common soldiers in India had relationships with Indian mistresses, called bibis.
- **British men were expected to live modestly with a British wife, wear British clothes, and avoid socializing with Indians outside of work. This change was partly due to the influence of British women, called "memsahibs,"**
- **they didn't fully accept the children born from their Indian mistresses as "British". These mixed-race individuals were labeled as 'half-castes' or Eurasians.**
- The British, who initially criticized despotic rule, found themselves acting like Indian rulers in some cases.
- The British continued to recognize the Mughal king's authority in Delhi, used Mughal symbols on their coins, and patronized Hindu and Muslim religious institutions.
- Despite these continuities, by 1800, the British had laid the foundations for a new political order. Their reforms introduced more rule-based governance, and their large army set them apart from previous rulers in India.
- **Lord Wellesley's Arrival (1798): Lord Wellesley's appointment as governor-general in 1798 marked the end of a period where the British existed as one of several Indian "country powers." Wellesley aimed to expand the British Empire to encompass the entire subcontinent.**
- Over the next two decades, Wellesley's military campaigns led to the Company gaining control over India by 1818.

Tipu VS British

- **Wellesley was a British leader who fought against Tipu Sultan in Mysore.**
- Tipu Sultan really didn't like the British and had a strong army with infantry, artillery, and light cavalry.
- Tipu ruled a state in a similar way to the British East India Company, but he was surrounded by British land and couldn't get help from France.
- This meant that Tipu didn't have enough resources to keep fighting forever.
- The British saw Tipu as a kind of harsh ruler from the East, and when they defeated him in 1799, it made a lot of people in Britain very happy.
- Wellesley extended British India northwards into the Ganges valley in the early 1800s and initiated the process of incorporating the Marathas into the British Empire.
- In 1802, Wellesley made a treaty called the Treaty of Bassein that made the peshwa in Poona (Pune) powerless. He also led campaigns in the north, which resulted in the conquest of Delhi in 1803, stopping Maratha ambitions there.
- The fight for control in central India was not over. It was only in 1817, when the British aimed to control groups of irregular cavalry called the Pindaris, who were causing trouble in central India, that the final battle with the Marathas took place. The Marathas were seen as supporters of the Pindaris.
- In the next year, the British added much of Gujarat and Maharashtra to their territory.

What was Subsidiary Alliance?

- Devised during Clive's time and involved alliances between the British East India Company and Indian princes.
- These alliances were initially justified as a means to protect Bengal from attack by stationing British troops within friendly Indian states.
- In return, the Indian prince received protection against both external and internal threats and agreed to cover the costs of maintaining the troops and hosting a British resident at their court.
- Starting from the mid-18th century, Indian princes were forced to seek financial help from bankers and financiers to maintain costly armies, due to the demands of 'military fiscalism'.
- **Aligning with the British worsened this financial pressure, as the British demanded large payments every year.**
- Princes struggled to generate the revenue needed for these payments, leading them to take extreme measures.
- The constant demand for revenue pitted local leaders against each other, destabilizing the political system
- In 1801, the British annexed half of Awadh to stop subsidy demands, but this left Awadh's rulers financially strained and reliant on local landowners.
- From 1815, the nawabs withdrew from governance and focused on arts, which the British disapproved of.
- **The British complained about disorder in Awadh, which was partly caused by their own actions, justifying their annexation in 1856.**
- After defeating the Marathas in 1818, the subsidiary alliance system lost its original purpose.
- **The British used a system called 'indirect rule' in India.**
- This system was closely monitored by the British authorities.
- Indian states were not allowed to have their own military or conduct diplomatic relations with each other.
- **A key part of this system was the 'Resident' who was stationed at the ruler's capital. Residents got involved in disputes over who would inherit power.**
- **They also formed alliances with state officials called diwans, who were often outsiders but had connections to the state's bankers and revenue officials.**
- However, the British were often frustrated because their attempts to improve how the states were governed didn't work well.
- **The British East India Company initially saw itself mainly as a business, buying Indian goods for the British market and finding new markets for things like raw cotton and opium in China.**
- The opium trade was especially profitable. The Company tightly controlled its production and sold it to British traders who smuggled it into China.
- The money from selling opium helped the Company's finances and meant Britain didn't have to use gold and silver to buy Chinese tea, which was becoming very popular.
- **The British Parliament ended the East India Company's trade monopoly in 1813 for India and in 1833 for China.**
- The trade of indigo dye, popular in Europe and a source of income for India, was unstable due to reliance on European planters and market fluctuations.
- They tried different methods to manage taxes, like leasing and auctions, but these experiments failed and made things worse.
- **In 1770, a severe famine hit Bengal, and because of the British mistakes, it had a much bigger impact than it should have.**
- **About a quarter of Bengal's population may have died, and the province's resources were damaged for a long time.**
- They saw the zamindar as an Indian version of an English farmer, and once their property rights were secure, they believed they would be as ambitious as their English counterparts
- The zamindar collected rent from the peasants, kept a portion for themselves, and passed the rest on as revenue to the state. They could only sell their right to collect revenue, not the land itself.
- Under the new system, the peasants lost their rights and became like tenants, while the zamindar became the owner, and their entire estate could be sold if they couldn't pay taxes
- Bengal landowners (zamindars) didn't focus on improving the land or acting like English landlords.
- They collected rent from existing cultivators rather than making costly upgrades.
- Zamindars became rentiers, living comfortably off collected rents.
- Cultivation remained small-scale for subsistence, unlike British consolidation of holdings.
- **After 1800, the British introduced the ryotwari system, giving property rights to peasant cultivators (ryots).**
- This change was partly due to wars that weakened the agrarian magnates.
- Thomas Munro, influenced by the Romantic movement, idealized the simple peasant life.
- The ryotwari system faced challenges, with village elites often intercepting settlement rights.
- The British abandoned fixed taxes, reserving the right to adjust assessments every few decades.
- This led to widespread discontent and rebellion in 1857.

Book - Metcalf

- The revolt of 1857-8 happened in northern India against British rule and is seen as a crucial moment in India's history.
- Technological changes like canals, railways, and telegraphs were brought to India shortly after they were introduced in Europe.
- Important modern state concepts, such as unified sovereignty, population surveys, and policing, and institutions for education, were also introduced in India around the same time as in parts of Europe.
- The colonial relationship with India played a crucial role in shaping modern states, including the practice of state secularism.
- Both India and Britain saw the emergence of new religious organizations that involved more laypeople than before.
- In both countries, the expansion of electoral politics led to debates about the role of religion in public life.
- The economic lives of both India and Britain became deeply interconnected and increasingly so over time.
- **In 1848, something important happened in India that is considered the beginning of the "modern state" there.**
- **In Europe during the same time, there were widespread protests asking for more rights and changes in how politics worked.**
- **In Britain, a movement called the Chartist movement brought working-class people to the streets to try to get more political power for themselves.**
- **In India, the opportunities for people to have a say in public life were not as widespread as in Europe.**
- The Indian colonial government, which was in charge at the time, was strict and didn't allow Indians to have much say in politics or their economy.
- **Colonial policies strongly influenced modern India, shaping it in significant ways. This challenges the earlier view that British rule brought only positive changes.**
- **In the 1830s and 1840s, British rule was based on Enlightenment ideals of universal human progress, although there was an authoritarian streak in evangelical and utilitarian reforms. However, by the 1870s, colonial officials displayed a noticeably authoritarian stance, asserting that a supposed inherent difference between British and Indian people justified prolonged control by the "superior race."**

----Dalhousie Safar Nama Shuru----

- Dalhousie, was an important figure during British rule in India from 1848 to 1856.
- He believed in the idea of British control over India both in terms of territory and law.
- He also emphasized the need for better communication and transportation networks in India.
- During his time, there was a war with the Sikh community in Punjab in 1848-49, which led to the annexation of Punjab.
- Dalhousie also fought a military campaign in Burma in 1852, mainly for economic reasons, and annexed part of the country.
- In Punjab, the administration was managed by a group of officers, particularly two brothers named John and Henry Lawrence, who believed in a form of rule that leaned towards enlightened despotism (a ruler making decisions for the benefit of the people).
- The Jallianwalla Bagh massacre of 1919 is an example of the dark consequences of this kind of official power. It illustrates the tragic side of the authority held by these officials.
- **The push for unification had two main goals:**
 1. **Limiting the power of local rulers (princes) to create a more centralized modern state.**
 2. **Expanding British control over territories by taking over states without natural heirs.**

What was Doctrine of Lapse and which states were taken over?

- Dalhousie used the term "lapse" to refer to the situation where a ruler died without a natural heir in a state connected to the British. He didn't recognize the practice of adoption to secure an heir.
- Using this strategy, Dalhousie took control of seven states in central India, Bengal, Rajasthan, and the Punjab hills. This included significant states like Satara and Nagpur, both belonging to the Maratha empire, as well as Jhansi
- Dalhousie also used the "lapse" justification to stop providing subsidies to pensioners, including Nana Sahib, the adopted son of the Maratha peshwa of Poona.
- **1856 Annexation of Awadh - Dalhousie also annexed Awadh not on basis of "lapse" , but rather on grounds of long-standing mismanagement.**
- Dalhousie even considered ending the symbolic rule of the Mughal emperor in Delhi, who, in legal terms, was considered a servant of the British East India Company
- He believed in using new technologies like railways, telegraphs, postal service, and improved steam transport to connect and develop India.
- Dalhousie thought railways were crucial for India's progress, they would help spread British influence and culture, create a bigger market for British goods, and provide access to raw materials like cotton/ also useful in military purposes
- The funds for these development were provided by British themselves
- Profits generated by the railway, which could have been used for India's own development, instead went into the pockets of British investors
- Dalhousie, a leader at the time, actively promoted the expansion of irrigation canal systems.
- Dalhousie's term also saw the completion of a telegraph system connecting major centers in India.
- In 1854, a government postal service was established in India, allowing people to send mail anywhere in the country at a low cost, similar to the system in Britain.
- Lord Dalhousie, the British administrator, established the legal foundations of a unified state with clear boundaries and defined subjects. He also greatly improved the technological infrastructure, which changed the daily lives of both the government and its subjects.

---- War of Independence 1857 ----

- In 1857 and 1858, there was a big rebellion in northern India that greatly impacted British rule (known as the Raj)
- Sayyid Ahmad, who had worked for the British for 20 years, was very loyal and helped protect European residents during the uprising.
- He wrote an essay in Urdu (later translated into English) that caught the British's attention.
- **Sayyid Ahmad argued that the rebellion wasn't just a soldiers' mutiny, but a response to various problems. These included British cultural policies, harsh tax assessments, and mistreatment of local rulers and elites, especially the exiled nawab of Oudh.**
- **Most importantly, he criticized the British for disrespecting and looking down on Indians, and stressed the need for open discussions that included Indian voices.**
- **The revolt started because soldiers in the Bengal Army were unhappy for several reasons/only Bengal army rebelled:**
 1. **They didn't like being sent to Burma for assignments.**
 2. **They were dissatisfied with their pay and chances for promotions.**
 3. **The annexation of Oudh upset high-caste soldiers from that area.**
 4. **They were given a new rifle that required them to bite off the end of cartridges, which they believed were greased with pig or cow fat, which was offensive to Hindus and Muslims.**
- When soldiers refused to use these rifles, they were publicly humiliated or kicked out of the army.
- On May 10, 1857, sepoys in Meerut, a city in north India, rebelled after seeing their colleagues punished. They killed English residents and marched to Delhi.
- More sepoys across India joined the rebellion, and the British lost control over a large part of north India, from Bihar to Punjab, as well as some areas in central India. It took them about a year to regain control.
- This revolt also gave disaffected groups in the countryside, like landlords, peasants, princes, and merchants, an opportunity to rise up against the British. They each had their own reasons for doing so
- **The first revolt took place in Oudh, a recently annexed province. This revolt was a "popular" movement where different social classes, including landlords, fought together for their sepoy soldiers and their deposed king.**
- **The landlords in Oudh were upset because they lost control of some villages in a land settlement in 1856. They gathered their supporters and marched towards Lucknow, where there was a small group of British soldiers.**
- **In the North-Western Provinces, a different type of revolt happened. Here, the response to the uprising was influenced by the fifty years of British rule. Landowners who benefited from British trade tended to stay loyal and suppress any signs of unrest among their tenants.**
- The revolt in the North-Western Provinces can be seen as a response to long-standing but scattered grievances, while the Oudh revolt had a more centralized leadership with the recently deposed royal family leading the charge.
- **Many people in India remained loyal to the British during a major rebellion.**
- **Soldiers from Punjab, who had recently been defeated by Bengal sepoys, supported the British.**
- **The armies in Bombay and Madras did not rebel, keeping southern India calm.**
- **Educated people in Bengal and wealthy landowners also supported the British.**
- **India's ruling princes, except those who lost their thrones, sided with the British.**
- **The rebellion was most intense in Delhi, Lucknow, and Cawnpore, and in central India led by the Marathas.**
- British troops caused widespread destruction and violence, even targeting civilians.
- **In a horrific incident, Nana Sahib betrayed and attacked British soldiers and civilians in Cawnpore, resulting in many deaths.**
- **Delhi was recaptured with help from reinforcements from Punjab, leading to the exile of Bahadur Shah and the killing of his royal sons.**
- **In Lucknow, Sir Henry Lawrence protected both Europeans and Indians in a well-fortified area "Lucknow Residency", but eventually succumbed to the rebellion.**
- **The Maratha leaders, including the Rani of Jhansi, Nana Sahib, and Tantia Topi, continued to fight in central India**
- **In 1858, the British Parliament passed a law called the Government of India Act. This law took away all the power that the East India Company had and gave it to the British government.**
- They created a new position called the Secretary of State for India, who would be in charge of governing India. This person would be advised by a Council of India.
- In India, the highest authority was the Viceroy, who used to be called the Governor General. This change was announced by Queen Victoria in 1858
- The Viceroy would have an executive council to help make decisions. Originally, this council was made up only of British members, but now it included up to twelve new members, half of whom were not part of the colonial government.
- This change was made in response to the requests of Indians like Sayyid Ahmad, who wanted to have a say in decisions. They brought in carefully chosen Indian aristocrats to advise the Viceroy.
- When the British government took over, they also made a lot of changes in how things were run, from things like policing and sanitation to forestry and finance. They paid special attention to finance because the revolt had cost a lot of money, and all of that was charged to India.
- **Queen Victoria's proclamation addressed the reasons behind the revolt in India.**
- **It guaranteed the princes their titles, reversing a previous policy.**
- **It allowed princes to adopt without restrictions and ensured their control over their territory**
- **The proclamation respected Indian religious beliefs and practices, and refrained from imposing British convictions.**
- **It acknowledged and respected the ancient rights, customs, and traditions of India**
- **The proclamation presented a contradiction in its approach to rule in India.**
- **It emphasized hereditary leadership, turning the princes and large landlords into supporters of British rule.**
- **However, it also introduced elements of British parliamentary and liberal political theory, which would ultimately weaken the hereditary rulers.**
- **A military policy called 'martial races' singled out specific groups of people based on presumed physical and moral traits that made them good fighters. This included Punjabis, Sikhs, Jats, Rajputs, Punjabi Muslims, Pathans, and Nepali Gurkhas.**
- The proportion of British personnel in the army increased substantially. During the revolt, British soldiers were only a small fraction of the Bengal Army, but the goal was to have one British soldier for every two or three Indian soldiers.
- The uprising led to increased British racism. Suspected sepoys (Indian soldiers) were executed in brutal ways. Delhi was looted, and monuments were either destroyed or repurposed for military use. The previous regime and its rulers were delegitimized.
- Initially, Muslims were viewed with suspicion as potential supporters of Muslim rule restoration. However, within two decades, they were seen as pillars of loyalty, much like the princes.
- **Sayyid Ahmad Khan played a central role in this transition. He established the Anglo-Muhammadan College in 1875, which taught English-style education and conservative politics to produce individuals suitable for the loyal consultative regime he advocated.**
- The British did not see rebel leaders as honorable opponents, but rather labeled them all as 'disloyal' and treated them accordingly. **Nana Sahib's killing of British women created intense hatred and left a lasting impact on British narratives and art.**
- **A marble memorial was built to commemorate the well in Cawnpore where a tragic event occurred. It was meant to remind the British of the sacrifices they endured in India.**
- **Cawnpore became a significant stop on a 'mutiny tour' for British travelers, along with Lucknow and Delhi. This tour reinforced a sense of heroism, moral superiority, and the belief in the British right to rule.**
- **Henry Lawrence's tomb in Lucknow was inscribed with his desire to be remembered as someone who tried to do his duty**

Chapter 2 *Mughal twilight: emergence of regional states & the EIC*, (pp. 44 – 55)

20/09/2023 6:40 pm

Book - Metcalf

- A long time ago in northern India, there was a **big fight between two groups: the Marathas and the Afghans**.
- They fought on a famous battlefield called **Panipat in the year 1761**.
- **The Afghans won the fight**, but they couldn't control such a big area far from their home in Afghanistan, so they left.
- The **Marathas, who were based in a city called Poona**, had been expanding their territory north and east for a while.
- **Marathas lost this battle** so they couldn't expand more
- Instead, they split into four separate groups, each led by a powerful Maratha family.
- Even though they were somewhat connected to the leader in Poona, they each had their own area: **the Gaekwad in Baroda, Sindhia in Gwalior, Holkar in Indore, and the Bhonsle in Nagpur**

Rise of English East India Company

- The English East India Company was a powerful trading company that started in **1600 and was supported by Queen Elizabeth**.
- It was one of many European companies trying to make money from the East (like India).
- The company was organized as a **joint-stock enterprise, meaning many people put their money together to trade in faraway places**.
- This joint-stock system reduced individual risk and allowed them to raise more money if needed.
- Unlike Portugal, the English Crown didn't want to risk its resources on such uncertain ventures.
- The company's strength came from its organized structure, including a 24-member Court of Directors and specialized staff.
- The company's main engagement was with India, where they interacted with local Indian businesses.
- Through this, Britain learned important lessons about modern state institutions.
- The most crucial lesson was how to set up a joint-stock corporation, a key element in modern economies.
- A British company had exclusive rights to control trade between Britain and Asia.
- They were allowed to protect their ships from other competitors.
- They wanted to get into the highly profitable spice trade in the East Indies.
- However, they faced **tough competition from a well-organized Dutch company**.
- So, they decided to **focus on trading in India instead**.

Challenges faced by the British company in India

- India **didn't have the spices** they wanted, except for Malabar pepper.
- The things England had to sell, like woolen goods, **didn't interest the people in India**.
- They **had to send precious metals (like gold and silver) to pay for what they wanted to buy in India**.
- **The Dutch could easily take control of small rulers in the islands**, but the English couldn't do that in India.
- The English couldn't even think about trying to conquer India because they were up against the powerful Mughal Empire.
- They had to ask politely for permission to trade

Benefits for the English in India

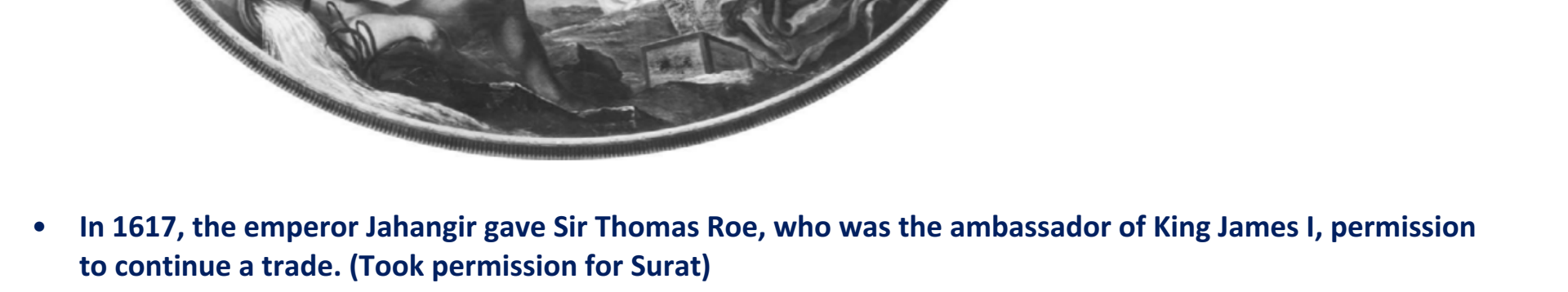
- The Mughal Empire and Indian merchants welcomed the English because it **balanced out the power of the Portuguese and later the Dutch**.
- It also gave **Indian merchants more opportunities to make money from trade**.

- In the 17th century, the East India Company found a secure and profitable trade.
- **Instead of only trading spices, they started selling other things from India like indigo (a blue dye) and saltpetre (used for gunpowder)** **IMPORTANT**

- **They also exported opium and it was sent to China, where people got so addicted**
- **The most valuable item was high-quality hand-woven Indian textiles**.

- In Britain, the demand for **Indian fabrics like chintz, calico, and muslin grew** rapidly because people wanted luxurious goods.

- There's a painting from 1778 called "The East Offering its Riches to Britannia" that shows Asian ports supplying valuable goods (like tea and textiles) to Britain. In the painting, Britannia (a symbol of Britain) looks powerful and her trade is helped by the Greek god Mercury.



- **In 1617, the emperor Jahangir gave Sir Thomas Roe, who was the ambassador of King James I, permission to continue a trade. (Took permission for Surat)**
- **Pondicherry - was French**

- The English were allowed to set up special places called **"factories" in certain ports controlled by the Mughal Empire, with Surat in Gujarat being the most important**.

- These "factories" were not like modern factories where things are made. Instead, they were like **big storage places where goods were kept until they could be put on ships**.

- Even though the English were good at sailing, they couldn't protect their factories with walls or defenses. So, they had to rely on the goodwill of the Mughal authorities for their business.

- The things they exported brought in money through taxes, especially in places like **Gujarat and later in Golconda. In 1678, money from Dutch and English trade paid the salaries of 17,000 cavalrymen**.

- This trade also made merchants and weavers richer.
- **A historian named Om Prakash said that about 80,000 jobs, mostly in weaving, were created in Bengal because of the demand from other countries**.

- The people who really made a lot of money were the local merchants. They gave money in advance to weavers and sold things to the European companies. Before the British took over, different European companies competing with each other helped Indian producers get a fair amount of money for what they made.

- **In the 1660s, the Mughal Empire's power started to weaken**.
- **The British East India Company had factories in India, especially one in Surat**.

- **Shivaji, an Indian ruler, attacked the Surat factory twice, making the Company feel less safe**.
- So, the Company decided to defend itself with weapons.

- This made the Mughal authorities angry, and **they defeated the Company in 1686**.
- **However, by 1700, the Company gained control of three important cities: Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta**.

- The British assured Indians that they wouldn't force them to convert to Christianity, unlike the Portuguese and French.

- Throughout the 18th century, the British didn't allow missionaries to live in their settlements.
- **In 1661, Bombay, which is an island with a really nice harbor, became a part of British territory. This happened because a Portuguese princess married King Charles II of England, and Bombay was given as a gift (like a special present) as part of her dowry**.

- The British East India Company, which was a big trading company, moved its **operations from a place called Surat to Bombay**. When they did this, a group of Iranian-origin people called **Parsi merchants and artisans also moved with them**.

- The Company's officials (important people who worked for the Company) lived together in forts on the island. From these forts, **they did business with Indian brokers and merchants who lived outside the forts**.

- These Indian traders would give money in advance to weavers in the countryside in exchange for textiles.
- These forts and cities were not established by the British for the purpose of taking over and ruling India. **They were more like trading centers**.

- The forts were protected by soldiers who weren't very well-trained. For example, in Madras, there were about 300 soldiers who were recruited from the streets of London.

- Indian trade was part of a big worldwide trading network.
- **Cloth from India, called 'Guinea' cloth, was sent to West Africa. It was used to buy slaves for plantations in the West Indies**.

- In South-east Asia, Indian textiles were used to trade for spices.
- In the 1600s and early 1700s, the English had to compete with other strong trading companies. They all set up fortified posts along India's coast.

- **By the 1680s, the Dutch, Danes, and French had also set up posts, with the French keeping control of a place called Pondicherry until 1950** **IMPORTANT**

- When the **Mughal Empire became weaker after Aurangzeb's death, trade became even more profitable**. This made people more tempted to use politics to get an advantage over their rivals.

- **In 1717, the British got permission from the emperor Farrukhsiyar to export their goods from Bengal without paying taxes**.

- The French, being newer to the scene, had the most to gain by getting involved in local politics.
- **Around 1744-1748, there was a big war in Europe called the War of the Austrian Succession. This war marked the start of about 70 years of fighting between Britain and France**.

- They weren't just fighting in Europe, but also in places like America and India.

- **In India, a French leader named François Dupleix saw a chance to help some Indian princes become more powerful**.
- **He did this by offering French soldiers to support a prince in a fight over who should rule a certain area**.

- **In return, once that prince won, they'd give France good deals on trading, even if it meant Britain got a worse deal**.
- **At the same time, Dupleix attacked and captured a city called Madras, which was controlled by the British**.

- **Dupleix, a French person, didn't feel like an outsider to the people of India**.
- **The Indians didn't see him as a foreigner who they should go against**.

- **Instead, the French, along with other Europeans, were just seen as part of the various local leaders and authorities in the area. They were integrated into the mix of powerful people in the region**.

How did British react to this threat?

- When their interests were threatened, the British took action.
- They got back control of Madras through a treaty in 1749 after the war ended.
- They decided to use the same tactics as Dupleix (a French official).
- They helped someone they supported become the ruler of Arcot.
- Because of these actions, Dupleix was called back in shame.
- Clive was sent to get back Madras, and he defeated French

French got weaken

- The French didn't have enough resources to compete in India.
- They were more focused on problems in Europe.
- Unlike the British, the French didn't have strong ties with Indian traders and middlemen.
- French trade in India was only about half as valuable as the British trade.
- By the middle of the century, it dropped to just a quarter of the British trade.

- **"Rule Britannia," a patriotic song, emerged in 1740, reflecting this new sense of British pride**.
- **The image of Britannia in the Spiridion Roma painting symbolizes this growing feeling of national identity, setting Britain apart from Asia, which was seen as a collection of separate cities and regions**.

- Between 1744 and 1748, there was a war that showed Europeans a new way of fighting in India.
- They saw that a small group of about a hundred French or British soldiers, standing in a square and shooting together, could stop thousands of Mughal horsemen.

- Indian rulers found European soldiers very important because they were skilled and could make a big difference in a battle.
- It was very important that European soldiers were loyal to their own country.
- Even if they worked for an Indian ruler, they would never fight against their fellow countrymen or switch sides in the middle of a battle.

- **From 1756 to 1763, there was another big war between Britain and France called the Seven Years' War**.
- This war made it very clear how important these new military tactics were.

The Conquest of Bengal

- In the 1700s, the East India Company **made a lot of money from trading in Bengal**.
- By 1750, Bengal was very important for the company. It was like a hub for trade from the Ganges valley.
- **75% of the goods the company got from India came from Bengal**.
- **Bengal seemed incredibly wealthy, and it was compared to Italy's canal-filled city, which was known for its maritime power**.

- **In a painting called "The East Offering its Riches," Calcutta was depicted at the center, presenting a valuable gift of jewels and pearls**.

- The British in Bengal wanted to make even more money, so they started misusing their right to free trade given by the emperor. They sold trade passes to favored Indians and let them participate in internal trading of goods like grain, which was against the rules.

- In 1756, the British fortified Calcutta to deter a potential French attack, seen as a challenge to the new Nawab's authority.

- **The Nawab, Siraj-ud-daula, captured Calcutta, resulting in the infamous "Black Hole" incident, though he did not order the mistreatment. This event became a lasting symbol of Indian cruelty for the British**.

- The British were really upset about being embarrassed, so they asked Colonel Robert Clive for help. He was already known for his success in wars in the south.

- They sent a group from Madras to take back Calcutta in February 1757 and also make sure the British company could keep trading there.

- Clive didn't stop there. **He secretly worked with a bunch of rich bankers led by Jagat Seth. They didn't like the new leader, Siraj, because he was demanding too much money from them**.

- **They chose a general named Mir Jafar, who was unhappy with Siraj too**. He promised the British lots of money if they helped him become the new leader.

- **They fought a big battle called Plassey on June 23, 1757. Even though Mir Jafar's troops didn't really help, Clive still won because Siraj's army fell apart**.

- **After the Battle of Plassey, Mir Jafar became the nawab, but he was basically controlled by the British, especially Robert Clive and his army**.

- The British received a huge amount of money, about 28 million rupees, which is like 3 million pounds today.
- Clive and the British didn't want to take over the whole country, and the directors of the British East India Company back in England didn't plan on it either.

- But the Company's employees in India wanted to make a lot of money for themselves, so they did whatever they could to get rich. **They lived very lavishly and were called "nabobs," which comes from the word "nawab" meaning governor**.

- Instead of sending money from Britain, they used the taxes they collected in Bengal to buy the goods they sent back to England. Clive said **Bengal was like a never-ending source of wealth**.

- The British took control of important goods like salt, betel nut, tobacco, and saltpetre from the Nawab, which were considered symbols of his power.

- **In 1760, Mir Jafar was replaced by Mir Kasim** after giving gifts to the British. Mir Kasim didn't want the British to keep taking valuable things from his territory.

- **Mir Kasim tried to regain control of the northern part of Bengal and nearby Bihar, which led to a big fight**. The British, wanting more wealth and power, didn't want any limits on what they could take.

- **In 1764, there was a big battle at Buxar. Mir Kasim, along with the Nawab of Awadh and the Mughal emperor, fought against the East India Company**. The British won and became the rulers of eastern India.

- **In 1765, the East India Company gained the right to collect taxes in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa in exchange for an annual payment to the Mughal emperor. DIWANI**

- Legal matters were overseen by the nawab, but the Company had actual control over Bengal.
- Eventually, in 1772, the Company took over tax collection directly due to mistrust and financial needs.

- **The decision to expand beyond trading was influenced by circumstances like the Seven Years' War and the desire for wealth**.

How and Why British succeeded in India?

- They employed strategies like showing respect to the Mughal emperor, controlling trade in valuable goods, maintaining a disciplined army, and forming strong financial ties.

- In the eighteenth century, India's economy began to prioritize overseas trade, in contrast to the seventeenth century Mughal period.

- The British promised local Indian merchants freedom from unfair taxes, a pledge not provided by local rulers.

- With Bengal's resources, the Company could field a larger army than its Indian rivals, and maintain a more efficient government structure, leading to dominance over other Indian states.