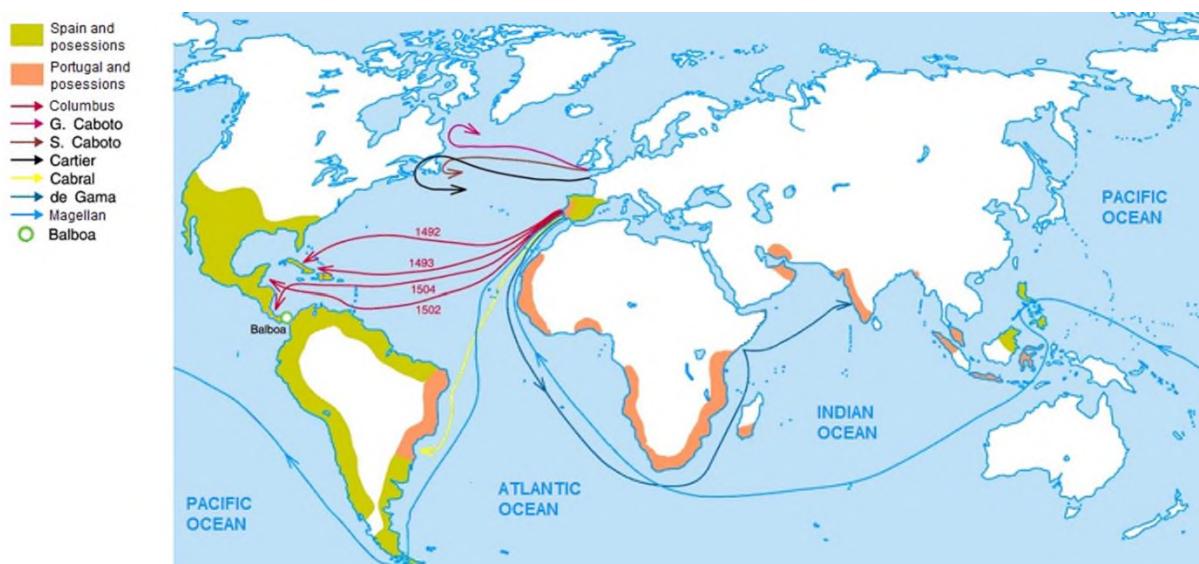


Modern India 2024
Handout 2: Early Modern Era
Nikhil Sheth

The **Early Modern Period** is a historical era that spans from the late 15th century to the mid-18th century, roughly covering the **period between the Renaissance and the Enlightenment**. This period is characterized by significant social, cultural, economic, and political changes that transformed Europe that laid the foundations for the modern world.

- **Era of Discovery – New World Exploration**

- The Early Modern Period saw a significant expansion in European exploration and colonization, including the voyages of Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Ferdinand Magellan. This led to the establishment of global trade networks and the colonization of the Americas, Africa, and Asia.



1488	Bartolomeu Dias		Portuguese
1492	Columbus		Genoa, funded by Portugal
1497	Vasco da Gama		Portuguese
1520s	Ferdinand Magellan		Spain
1577	Francis Drake		English
1642	Abel Tasman		Dutch
1770	Capt James Cook		English
1853	Comm Matthew Perry		American

Europeans often displayed a sense of superiority and entitlement towards native peoples, and their actions often had devastating consequences for indigenous populations.

	<p>Monument of the Discoveries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in Lisbon along the river where ships departed to explore and trade with India. • It celebrates the Portuguese Age of Discovery/Exploration during the 15th and 16th centuries. • Main statue of <u>Henry the Navigator</u>.
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Indian Ships (Medieval Era)	Chinese Ships of Zheng He	Columbus's three ships: Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria

Colonisation

The history of colonialism begins with the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Caribbean Sea (1492) and the appearance of Vasco da Gama in the Indian Ocean (1498). The first event set in motion processes which led to the conquest of the American continent and the second resulted in the subjugation of various parts of Asia and Africa.

For nearly three centuries, from circa 1500 onwards, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands (Holland), England, and France were the main European nations engaged in colonizing non-European societies.

(A) 16th century Empires: Spain in the West, Portuguese in the East

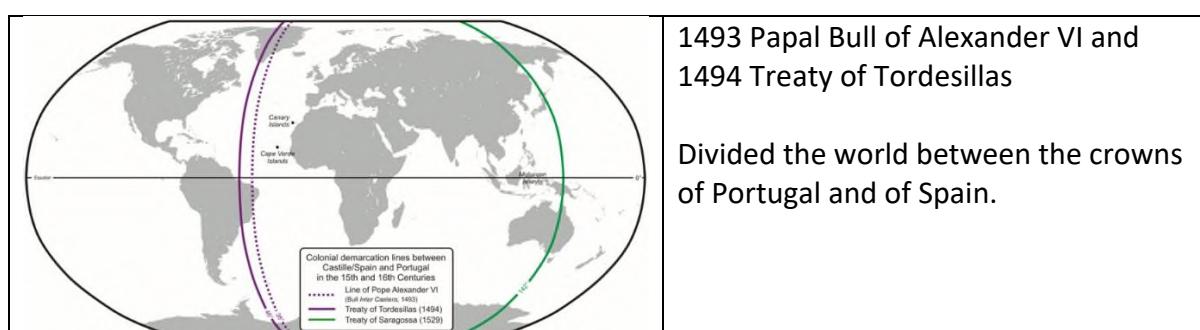
During the Early Modern Period, **Portugal and Spain were two of the major imperial powers** in the world, and their empires played a **significant role in shaping the global political and economic landscape**.

Portugal

- Established its first colony in **Brazil in 1500**, and over the next few centuries, it built a vast empire in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Portugal also established a **trading post empire in Asia**, which included Goa, Malacca, and Macau, and it played a major role in the development of the global economy and the expansion of Western influence in the world.

Spain

- Established its first colony in the Americas with the conquest of **Mexico in 1521**, and it quickly built a **vast empire** in the New World, including most of South and Central America, as well as the **Philippines**.



(B) 17th century: Dutch Prominence

The Dutch (i.e. the Netherlands) replaced the Portuguese as the dominant colonial power in the Indian Ocean in the **seventeenth century**.

- By the early decades of the seventeenth century the Dutch East India Company (VOC) had managed to gain control over the seaborne trade between Asia and Europe, using the Cape of Good Hope route.
- As there was hardly any demand for European commodities in Asian markets, the VOC had to pay for the goods it carried from Asia to Europe with bullion. This exchange was

useful for Asian economies since Asia was deficient in the production of silver, which in this context should be regarded as a commodity.

- As some of the **Indonesian islands** were major producers of spices, the Dutch colonized Indonesia, initially large parts of Java. From the 1650s onwards, the VOC, which had taken possession of the **Cape of Good Hope**.

(C) 18th century: Global Anglo-French Rivalry

At the beginning of the **eighteenth century**, England and France emerged as major colonial powers.

- The EIC was incorporated in **1600**, and the French company in **1664**. However, it was only by the end of the seventeenth century, following the decline of the VOC, that these began to make their presence felt in the Indian Ocean.
- Southern India became a major arena of conflict between the two companies in the first half of the **18th century**. This was part of a larger struggle between England and France for colonies. Throughout the century both were engaged in a global contest for **supremacy**, culminating in the **Napoleonic Wars** (c. 1800-15).
- With the defeat of **Napoleon**, the ascendancy of England (Britain) was assured for the next hundred years.

(D) 19th century: British Dominance

From 1815, till the outbreak of World War I, Britain dominated the international capitalist economy.

- British **naval dominance** was unchallenged for most of this period, making it possible for Britain to acquire and control a **vast empire**. However, ultimately what made **Britain** the pre-eminent colonial power in the world was its economy. The **industrialization** of England from the mid-eighteenth century onwards had made its economy the most advanced in the world.
- It is not a coincidence that the first phase of the Industrial Revolution gathered momentum (**1760-80**) just around the time that the EIC **conquered Bengal**. **It is the plunder of Bengal and Atlantic slave trade** that substantially funded the British Industrial Revolution.
- By the nineteenth century Britain also had extensive territorial possessions in the African continent. Ultimately, however, the Indian empire was perhaps the most important component of its **colonial domain**.

Portuguese: The Maritime empire of Estado da India

For centuries, Europe had been trading in **spices, perfumes, and textiles with India**. In the ancient time, the Greeks and Romans were the main actors. During the Middle Ages, it was **Arab merchants** monopolized this highly **profitable trade**. They were in trade with the merchants of Venice which made Venetians very prosperous. Rest of the Europeans envied them for prosperity and despised them for indulging in trade with Muslims.

Fall of **Constantinople** in **1453** resulted in the **domination of Turks** over the land route connected Asia with Europe. Then Portuguese came to India with the explicit mission to seek Christians and Spices.

“Discovery” of India by Vasco da Gama

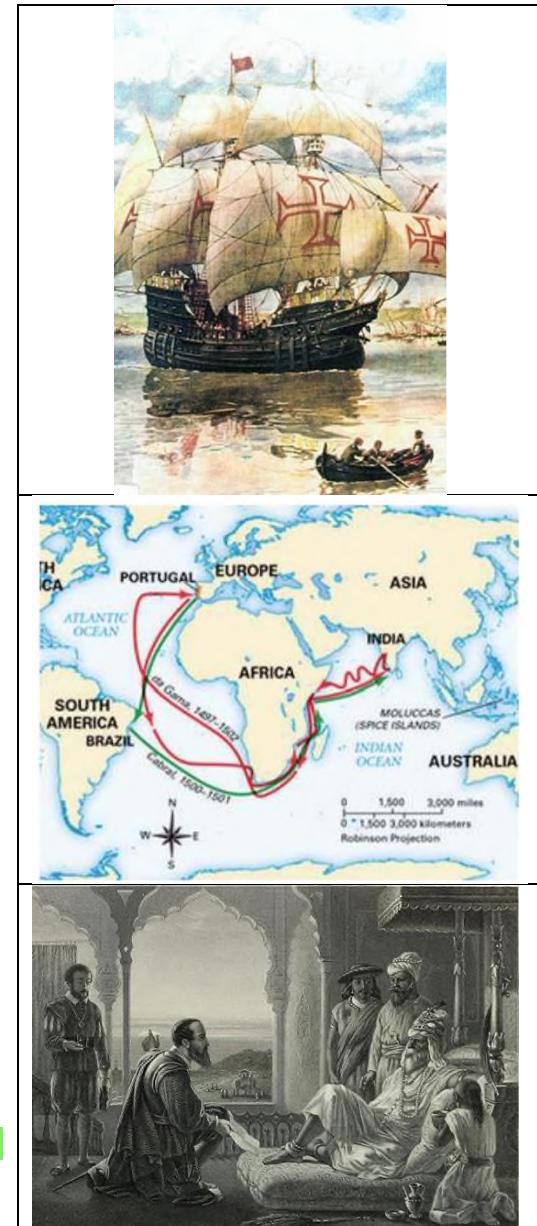
Vasco Da Gama set out from **Lisbon** in **1497** leading a convoy of **four** ships on a journey along the Atlantic coast of Africa, then around the Cape of Good Hope, into the Indian Ocean, finally **disembarking at Calicut** (Kozhikode) in **1498**. During his journey, he was guided by an Indian merchant **Abdul Munid Nayar Gujrati**. Calicut was a prominent centre of trade in spices, especially **pepper**. The local ruler bore the title **Zamorin** in European accounts. When da Gama returned, the cargo sold for **60 times** the cost of his **voyage**.

In 1500, a ship sailed under **Pedro Alvarez Cabral**. The Arab merchants tried to obstruct the Portuguese. **Pedro** realized he could take commercial advantage of the mutual **animosity** between the regional rulers of Kerala by using force. Later it became the typical Portuguese **modus operandi**.

The second expedition (1502) of Vasco Da Gama triggered an armed conflict in 1500, culminating in the bombardment of Calicut. In the **third expedition (1524)**, Da Gama ordered massive bombardment of Calicut to enforce his terms of treaty on **Samudri Raja** and a large part of Calicut was destroyed in action.

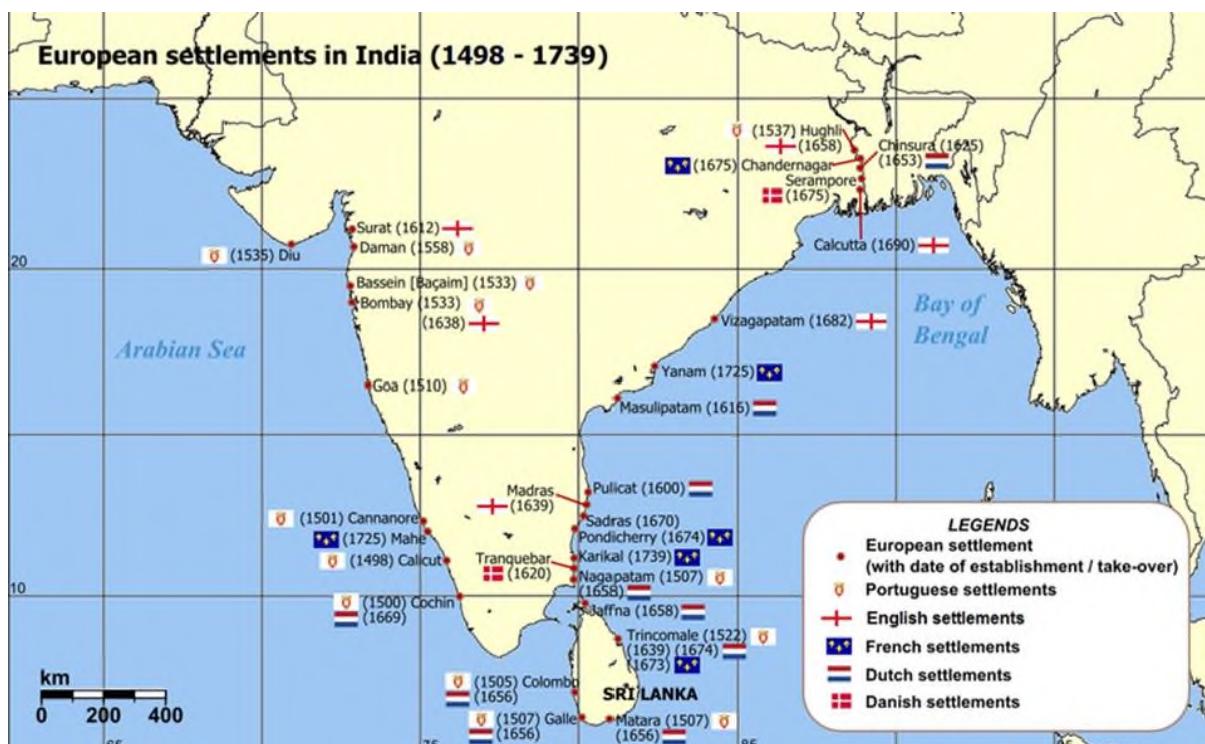
Within a few years of the voyage of da Gama, the Portuguese were travelling regularly along this all-sea route between **Lisbon** and India. In 1503, **Afonso de Albuquerque** came to India and made **Cochin as Portuguese HQ**.

Initial aim of Portuguese was to establish their **supremacy** over **spice trade** but after the expedition of Cabral, Portuguese decided to control the entire trade between Asia and



Europe. The **western coast of India** increasingly became the main zone of the Portuguese commercial activities in Asia. A series of **factories** (feitorias, trading posts) were established all the way from Khambat in north to Malabar in south:

Western Coast	East Coast
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cochin Diu, Daman Goa Bombay, Bassain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pondicherry Nagapattinam Hooghly



Portuguese soon established factories on **strategic coastal locations** in Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea and South China Sea, for procuring commodities for sale in European markets. These locations enabled them to monitor and regulate shipping in Asian waters.

- Goa, 1510
- Malacca, 1511
- Hormuz, 1515
- Colombo, 1518

The project, which was initiated by the Portuguese state and the route itself became a **crown monopoly**. The Portuguese commercial enterprise in Asia was conducted by **Casa da India**, a state organization, on behalf of the crown. Widely dispersed Portuguese colonial possessions in Asia from China and Timor came to be collectively designated as **Estado da India** (state of India) which functioned under the control of Casa da India.



this location are still strategic coastal locations.



Reis Magos Fort, Goa

Built in 1550s, it served as a fort, a prison, a hospital, over next 400 years. Goa finally became independent in 1961.

Three Governors:

Francisco de Almeida (1505-1509)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">He constructed some forts – Azaniva, Bassein, Cochin.Fought against the armies of Egypt, Turkey and Begarha.	
Afonso de Albuquerque (1453-1515)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">He annexed Goa from Ismail Adil Shah, the sultan of Bijapur in 1510. The Portuguese power in India came to be established with victory over Goa.Established cordial relationship with Vijayanagara Empire.Encouraged Portuguese to marry Indian women.	
Nuno da Cunha (1529-38)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bahadur Shah of Gujarat to meet him on ship but in some scuffle, he fell off and died.New factories came up at San Thome (Coromandal) and at Satgaon Hooghly and Chittagong (Bengal)Goa became the Headquarter of the Portuguese in 1530. Henceforth, it became the principal official in Asia	

In order to exercise effective control, Portuguese evolved a notorious **Cartaz System** (*Cartaz-Armada-Kafila system*) whereby;

- Every ship had to carry a **cartaz** issued by the authority of **Estado da India**. It mentioned particulars of ship, details of **voyage and cargo**.
- Every ship was forced to play along only specified **routes**.
- It was prohibited from carrying **commodities** such as **spices** which were sought by **Portuguese**.
- A **fee** was charged for issuing a cartaz, this became an additional source of income.
- Ships were compelled to proceed via specified Portuguese settlements where they had to pay **custom duties**.
- Ships plying without a cartaz or found **contravening** its terms were captured and the crew was killed/made captive.

Was the Monopoly really established?

- Whereas the Cape of Good Hope was monopolized by Portuguese, the traditional sea-cum-land route from West Asia continued to operate like before, despite Portuguese efforts to close it down. Their possession of Hormuz gave them control over Persian Gulf but the Red Sea remained under Ottoman control, after their failure to occupy Aden or any other strategic location.
- In the second quarter of the 16th century, there was a series of military engagements between Portuguese and Ottomans (1538-1560), spread over from Gujarat to Egypt. It subdued the Portuguese expansion in Indian Ocean.
- Nevertheless,
 - The activities of Arab and Gujarati merchants received a setback. Few Indian ships now could sail to East Africa and Arabia, as well as far East and Spice Islands.
 - By the latter half of the 16th c, over 75% of the pepper available in European markets was being supplied by Portuguese, which was primarily sourced from India.

Limitations:

After initial success, Portuguese colonies remained stagnant for long time and then declined. When other European powers emerged on the scene, the Portuguese lost most of their gains.

1. Economic Reasons:

- Portuguese commerce in Asia was partly sustained by the resources of its empire in Brazil.
- Portuguese didn't have infrastructure for building a wide distribution network in Europe.
- By the closing decade of the 16th century, Portuguese were finding it difficult to mobilize sufficient capital for investing in commercial voyages to Asia.
- Maintaining it financially afloat became extremely difficult in 1580, Phillip II of Spain usurped the throne of Portugal and then Portugal remained under Spanish control till 1640.
- Gradually, Portugal became interested in gold in Brazil, slave trade in Atlantic rather than pepper in India.

2. Strategic Reasons:

- Portuguese antagonized local population and created powerful adversaries in the vicinity. It could subdue some petty powers on Malabar but further expansion in India was not possible, when at the same time mighty Mughals were rising in north India and there were strong kingdoms in Deccan as well.
- As their advance into hinterland was limited, the colonies were just fragmented pockets without any land connectivity.
- All these forced Portuguese to rely more on international trade, rather than regional trade.

3. Administrative Reasons:

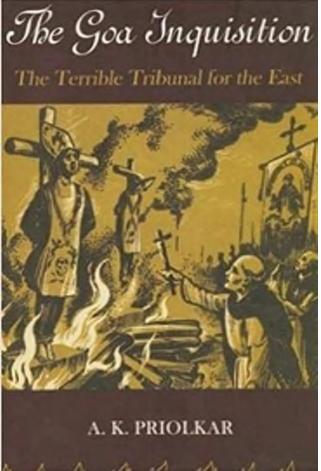
- It was a crown initiative. The king appointed courtiers and country nobles in the administration who had access to the king directly. This led to ill-development of civilian bureaucracy with single point of command, which had long term implications.
- There was no unity of command agenda since the mix of government officials, private traders, soldiers, and clergy - all had their own agenda. Due to lack of

unified command, many parallel power centers emerged with competing objectives to pursue, and they worked at cross purpose.

4. Social and Religious Reasons:

- a. Religious fanaticism was a millstone around the neck of Portuguese administration.
- b. The biggest problem the missionaries created was by the religious persecution of Hindus and Muslims, the religious persecution reached the next stage when the converted Christians were tortured through Goa Inquisition if they follow any of their earlier customs.

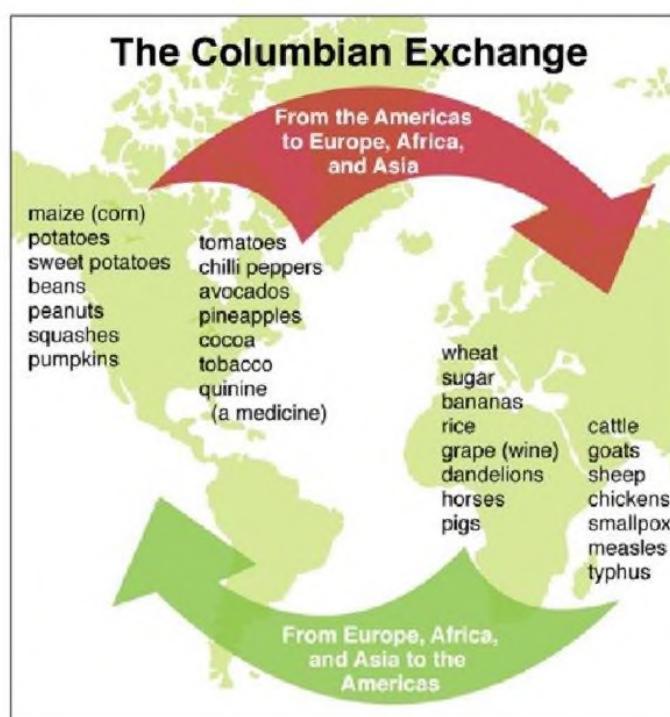
Finally, the Dutch and English exploited the situation.

	
Basilica of Bom Jesus, Goa, 1594 UNESCO World Heritage	Goa Inquisition to enforce Catholic Orthodoxy

Comment: |

Prelims related facts:

- Afonso de Albuquerque had abolished **Sati** practice in Goa.
- The **first printing press** of India was set up in 1556 at St. Paul's College, Goa. This college was founded by saint Francis Xavier in 1540s. And the first mention of the press comes from a letter to St. Ignatius of Loyola.
- **Tobacco cultivation in India** was introduced by Portuguese in 1605. Initially tobacco was grown in **Kaira and Mehsana** districts of **Gujarat** and later spread to other areas of the country.
- **Bombay** was given to British in **dowry** in 1661 when Spain ruled over **Portugal** and Spanish queen, **Catherine of Braganza** married British king.
- **Bassain** (Vasai) was conquered by **Marathas** in 1739 under the leadership of **Chimaji Appa**.

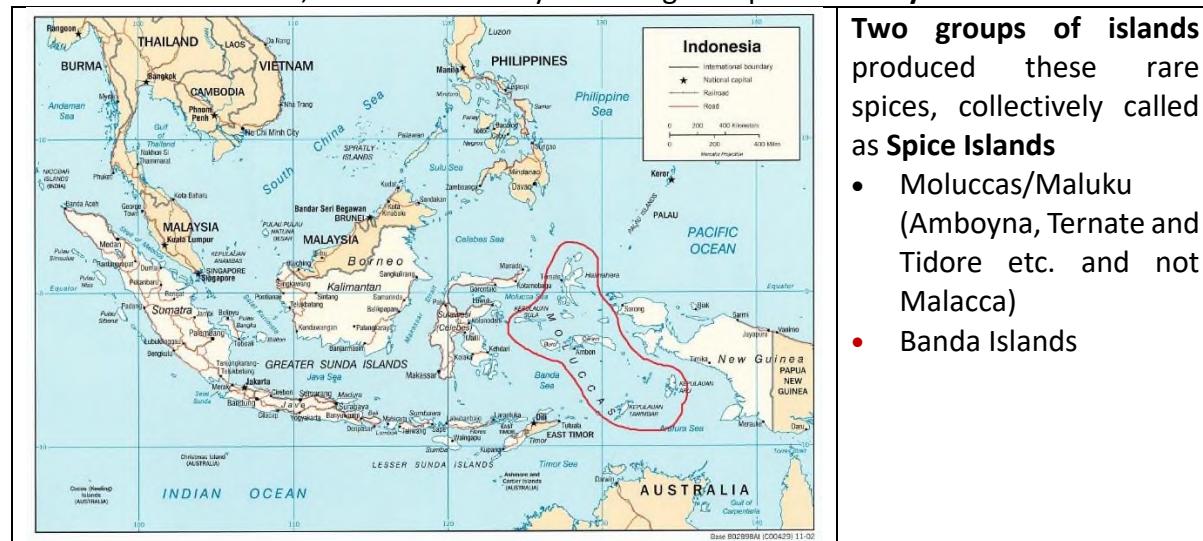


Towards the end of the 16th century, **Portuguese monopoly** on the Cape of Good Hope route began to be challenged by other European traders. The weakening of Portuguese power in the **Indian Ocean** by the end of the 16th c had created a vacuum which the **English** and the Dutch tried to fill. Soon, the **Dutch replaced the Portuguese. They were to dominate the Asia-Europe trade in the 17th c.**

VOC (Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie = United Dutch East India Company)

- It was a **joint-stock company** formed in **1602**.
- It was given a **monopoly** over trade with the **East Indies**.
- By **1660**, it had established bases in South Africa, Indonesia, Ceylon, and India, to become the largest and the richest company in the world. Amsterdam thereby became the centre of world trade.

In the opening decades of the 17th c, the VOC was engaged in a **tussle with Portuguese**, attempting to take over some of its **strategic locations in Indian Ocean**. But the focus of VOC was **Indonesia**. Indonesia was the major producer of **spices**. Much **greater profits**, up to several hundred times, could be made by obtaining the spices **directly**.



By 1620s, VOC conquered both these groups of Islands and made Java as the base of operations in SE Asia. The Dutch consolidated their position by taking over Malacca from Portuguese in **1641**. For the next half a century, SE Asia was the preserve of the VOC. This ensured their sole access to the supplies of spices, except pepper.

Jakarta became the seat of Dutch Asian empire. It was renamed **Batavia**.



Intra-Asian trade through multi-continental trading stations was a novel concept at that time, in which Dutch were vigorously invested.

Indian textiles were in great demand across SE Asia, esp. the **cottercotton** varieties for everyday use. These could be directly or indirectly exchanged for spices. The Dutch obtained the textile from **Gujarat** and **Coromandal regions** were the two most important producers of the cotton textile varieties. **Masulipatanam** in **Coromandal** and **Surat** in **Gujarat** became the strongholds of the Dutch. The Dutch soon discovered that there was a European demand for Indian cotton textiles.

Coromandal	Gujarat	Orissa and Bengal	Malabar
The first Dutch factory was established at Petapoli (AP) . 1. Masulipatanam (1605) 2. Pulicut (1610) 3. Nagapattinam (1658)	1. Surat (1618). In 1618 that the VOC received permission from the Jahangir , the Mughal Emperor to do business from a trading post in Surat. 2. Very soon, Dutch outposts emerged all over Gujarat , which were all subordinate to Surat.	The search for supplies of raw silk for Japanese trade took the VOC to Orissa and thence to Bengal during the era of Shah Jahan . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hariharpur (Jagatsinghpur, Orissa) in 1633 With its growing presence in Bengal, the Dutch set up a factory in Hooghly. (1635) Chinsura (1656) became the VOC HQ in Bengal Soon, factories came up in Agra, Patna, Kasimbazar and Dhacca etc. 	In 1663, Dutch supplanted the Portuguese from Malabar when they took over Cochin .

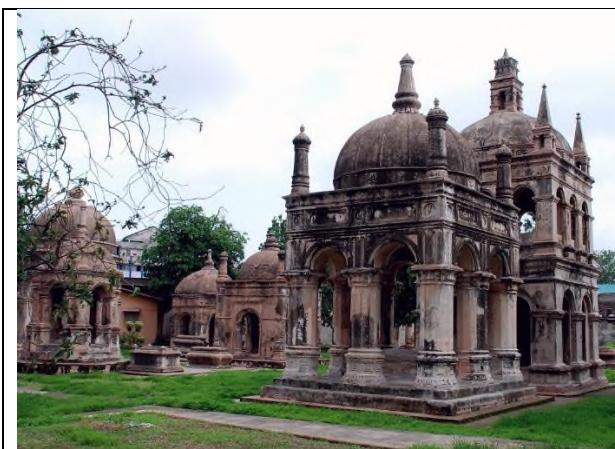
In 1658, they also conquered Sri Lanka from the Portuguese.

Anglo-Dutch Wars

- The Netherlands was a major maritime power in the 17th century and had established a dominant position in international trade. However, England was also becoming a major naval and commercial power and was keen to challenge Dutch dominance.
- Both had different economic interests and trading patterns in the region.
 - The Dutch → primarily interested in the monopoly over the spice trade in the East Indies.
 - The English → primarily interested in the textile trade (cotton, silk, muslin etc) in India.
- Despite different economic interests, they also competed for access to markets and resources. The first three wars took place from 1650s-1670s and the fourth war in 1780s. These wars were mainly fought around the world.
- Outcome
 - In Battle of Bedara (Chinsura) in 1759, Dutch were defeated by British and finally expelled from India by 1795. England now started to emerge as the dominant naval power and the Dutch Republic experienced a decline in power and influence.
 - The Fourth Anglo-Dutch war (1780s) was a financial disaster for the Dutch Republic as well as the VOC. After the French Revolution, the Dutch Republic itself was disturbed. The revolutionary committee nationalized VOC (1799).
 - In the end, Dutch continued their trade in Indonesia in spices, the English concentrated on Indian textile trade.

Prelims related factoids:

- The Dutch were very good at mapping the coasts and sea around India and recording the change of currents and seasons because it was important for the merchants to come and go. Consequently, in the Dutch archive one can find a large number of maps of Indian territories.
- The Dutch had a distinctive way of recording daily events in the social and political life of the local community in the form of daily registers called as ‘Dagh-registers’.
- **Battle of Colachel 1741** (Marthanda Varma of Travancore vs Dutch)



Tombs in the Dutch Cemetery, Surat.

Comment:

Handout 3: Advent of British and French, Carnatic Wars

Nikhil Sheth

(A) Hon. English East India Company

Queen Elizabeth I's (r. 1558-1603) initiatives laid the groundwork for the United Kingdom's future international naval dominance. She wished for England to be formidable at sea because she was a firm believer that 'ships made history.'

So, it was under Elizabeth that the definite pattern had been set which was continued for next two centuries.

It was exactly the time when the weakening of Portuguese power in the Indian Ocean by the end of the 16th c had created a vacuum which the English and the Dutch tried to fill. Since the merchant capitalists of England were, as a class, much weaker at this stage than their Dutch counterparts, their progress was much slower in so far as their share of the Asia-Europe trade was concerned, at least till 1680s.

Formation of the EIC - 31 Dec 1600

English traders got alarmed that the Dutch were cornering the spice trade. Worst of all, the Dutch were buying English ships from England for this very purpose.

So, they decided to join hands and pool their resources, leading to the formation of a joint stock company in 1600. It was a private shareholders' company and the founding 101 shareholders consisted of politicians, merchants, petty investors, and speculators.

These merchants, based in London, had succeeded in persuading the authorities to grant them special privileges, through a royal charter, for participating in the seaborne trade via Cape of Good Hope.

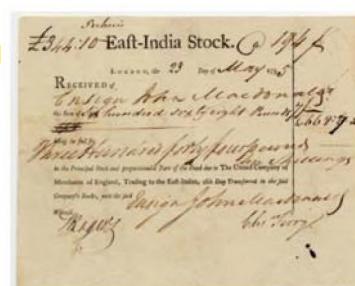
The charter was initially for 15 years, and it was later continuously renewed with changes in terms from time to time, till 1853 when it received the final charter.



Elizabeth I



Francis Drake



EIC: 17th century in England

Even before the first charter ran its full course, a new charter was granted to the EIC by James I, who had succeeded Elizabeth in 1603.

EIC was purely a commercial enterprise, a private undertaking. It had little support from the government in the initial decades. Thus, it was imperative for it that profit making remains the top priority and only objective. Thus, the only policy was that of expediency.

The 17th century was a period of great political turmoil and social unrest in England, marked by the conflict between the monarchs and the parliament on the issues of taxation and religion.

- In 1637, Courten Association obtained a charter from Charles I (r. 1625-1649) to trade in the East. In 1657, when England was a republic briefly (1649-60), a fresh charter was granted to the EIC by Oliver Cromwell, restoring its monopoly.
- Scottish parliament authorized another company to engage in trade with East India. Eventually, the separate Scottish trading venture failed due to intense English hostility.
- After the Glorious Revolution of 1688, which established supremacy of Parliament over crown, the political influence of the EIC was somewhat reduced. Parliament created a new company - now called as English Company (as against London Company for the old company). But it was soon realized that such competition was disastrous for English overseas commerce. Eventually a compromise was worked out and the two companies were merged under parliamentary and state supervision in 1709.

However, all this disorder didn't impinge much upon the functioning of the EIC - in stark contrast to its European competitors as their position depended much on the fortunes of the government of their mother country.

First Englishmen visiting India:

1579	Thomas Stephens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Jesuit missionary First Englishman to reach India (Goa) Author of Krista Purana (epic poem on Christ in Konkani + Marathi)
1584	Ralf Fitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Englishman to travel through India. Came to Goa with John Newberry, John Eldred, and James Story. Except for Story, the other three visited other parts of India.
1603	John Mildenhall	He met Emperor Akbar . However, his journey was not sponsored by the Company. Hence, Sir William Hawkins was sent to India to declare all his dealings null and void .

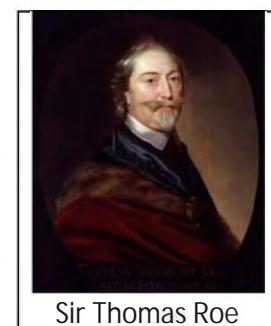
First Expedition/Voyage of EIC fleet to **Spice Islands** (Indonesia) under James Lancaster and Henry Middleton in 1601. India was only incidental to the plans of English and its main objective was to procure **spices** from SE Asia, but the English were driven out of SE Asia by Dutch by 1623. So, English prudently turned towards India and towards trade in textiles instead of spices.

(i) Western India: Surat and Bombay

The first mission by Captain William Hawkins (1608) to the **court of Jahangir** failed to achieve substantial result due to Portuguese opposition.

English realized that their future in India would be **uncertain** if the Portuguese continued to exert their **influence** in the Mughal court. The English consolidated their position in India by defeating Portuguese in the two naval encounters - at **Surat** (1612, English led by Capt. Thomas Best) and at Swally (1614, English led by Sir Henry Middleton). The English company was now granted the permission to **open factories** in Surat (1613), Ahmedabad and Bharuch.

In 1615, **Sir Thomas Roe**, sent by King James I, led the second mission (first royal ambassador) and spent three years hanging around the **court of Jahangir** before the Company could get the royal firman to establish factories anywhere in India. Roe also played an important role in **securing** the release of English merchants who had been held captive by the Portuguese in Goa.



Sir Thomas Roe

Roe's mission marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the EIC in India. By 1619, the English were able to establish the factories in **Surat, Agra, Ahmedabad, and Bharuch** etc.

The hostilities between Portuguese and English ended by 1630. Consequently, the English trade started to expand at great pace and the number of English factories multiplied.

In 1665, Charles II of England got dowry of Bombay from Catherine of Braganza of Portugal in the marriage. This was a marriage of states, in which the two dynasties got into a diplomatic alliance by marrying off their royal family members, along with the exchange of gifts and privileges.

The EIC later acquired these islands from the Crown for extending loan of 50,000 pounds and nominal rent of 10 pounds/annum in 1668. The Company was keen to develop the region, with its natural harbour, into a British trading post. Soon, it became the chief trading post for the company on the western coast. Within 20 years, in 1687, the administrative HQ of the western coast was shifted to Bombay from Surat. Now Bombay was fortified, and it soon replaced Surat as the chief port but couldn't progress much due to rising Maratha power.

(ii) Coromandal Coast:

- Masulipatanam was the first factory of British here, established in 1611. It was the seaport of the Golconda Sultans. The activities of the EIC expanded on Coromandal in 1630s and 40s.
- Madras (1639)
 - Permission from local Raja (fortify, mint, first territory, without war).
 - Fort Saint George was built at this place in 1640. It was the time when cotton supplies to Europe were increasing due to the increasing demand. As the trade increased, so did the city of Madras, which absorbed a lot of immigrants from the nearby regions who were seeking to escape the socio-political instability, before and after the conquest of South India by the Mughals.
 - In 1652, Madras became the presidency and the entire eastern coast, including Bengal. It remained the HQ of the Company in India till 1750s.

(iii) East India (Bengal, Odisha):

First English company in the East was Hariharpur, Balasore in 1633. Soon, the British came to Bengal by establishing a factory at Hooghly in 1651, which later on spread to more locations like Patna, Dacca and Kasimbazar (WB).

But English were expelled from Hooghly in 1680s after Anglo-Mughal war. It was Job Charnock who received the permission to open factory in Bengal again 1690 from Aurangzeb. He bought the zamindari of three villages of Sutanati, Gobindpur and Kalikata from Bengal subedar Azim Usman in 1698 and formed a settlement and called it Calcutta.



Marriage certificate of Catherine and Charles II



Original 7 Islands of Bombay. These were joined together in the 19th c to form today's southern part of Bombay city.



St. Mary's Church, Fort St. George, Madras. Robert Clive married here, so did Elihu Yale, a president of the EIC, who became rich in India and later endowed Yale University in USA in 1701.

The English settlement soon expanded and around 1700, the Fort Williams was constructed with the permission of the Bengal Nawab. Now, Bengal became a **separate Presidency**. Of the three presidencies, it was more lucrative and less disturbed. In 18th century, 60% of British export (from entire Asia) came from Bengal.

East India Company and the foundation of three presidency towns:

Bombay	7 Islands George Fort	1668 1769	EIC leased the islands from the Crown King George III
Madras	Fort St. George	1639	St. George (military saint), patron saint of England
Calcutta	Fort Williams	1698-1702	William III, the then king of England

EIC: Trends in the 17th century

voyages meaning
a long journey involving travel by sea or in space

Theme 1: For the English Company, despite some spectacular profits in its early **voyages**, it was a troubled time. Not so much because of **occasionally** adverse trading conditions, but because of **financial and political difficulties at home** - in securing sufficient capital, upholding their **monopoly rights** and suffering from political wars and religious turmoil.

Theme 2: Anglo-Dutch rivalry

- Due to the Dutch stranglehold over Southeast Asian spice supplies the EIC tried to use more of **Indian networks** (and subsequently in China for tea). Thus, there was gradual expansion of factories India.
 - The fact was that the English could trade in India with relative freedom, esp. in Mughal territories. It didn't have to face the kind of obstacles that were placed in its way by the **Dutch in SE Asia**, presented it with a historical opportunity that it made good use of.
- The competition with Dutch also led to **confrontations**, partly as a consequence of rivalries taking place in Europe. Between 1650s and 1670s, England and Dutch fought three wars which put English company in tight spot. In order to survive and protect its interests, the Company evolved its outlook and started to use strong arm tactics.

Theme 3: The 17th c. witnessed changes in Asia-Europe trade which eventually benefitted and were accelerated by the EIC. In the second half of the 17th c, there was a steady rise of the exports of **Indian textiles**, and to some extent **Indigo**.

Theme 4: From Supplication to Aggression with State Support

From 1650 to 1690, the trade of the Company made great progress, and with it, its ambitions rose.

By **Charter of 1661**, it was authorized to raise army, make **peace and war**, and to acquire **territories** and administer **justice** in its territories. Armed with the governmental authority, some of the EIC merchants began to dream of **power and dominion**. The company henceforth began fortifying its **stations** in India and setting up small militia to protect them.

It was thus the period of active support of the government. Even while there was always a dividing line between the government and the company, the line was thin and fairly pervious.

With this, after first 70 years of peace there was the Mughal-Anglo war of 1686-90.

In the 1680s, the EIC management in London, with the sanction of king James II, formally launched an offensive in India on two fronts to increase the Company's influence. It was the aggressive manner of Josiah Child, the president of the Company, which led to this mistaken belief of superiority. The company was certainly in no position to take on Mughal military might at this stage. As a result, the company was temporarily dislodged from the west coast and might have lost Bombay forever. In the end, the Company had to surrender unconditionally. Aurangzeb imposed huge indemnity as a price to allow EIC to trade.

Theme 5: Beginning of Anglo-French Rivalry

While the competition with the Portuguese and Dutch was eventually overcome, owing largely to the two countries' internal problems and weaknesses, the conflict with the French became particularly bitter.

French Governor Dupleix began meddling in Deccan regional conflicts, primarily with the intention of driving the British out of India.

Following in the footsteps of the French, the English company created its own armed contingents and became actively involved in neighbouring disputes. It formed shady alliances with provincial rulers and utilised its army of Indian mercenary warriors to help local rulers bolster their positions in exchange for money and land rights.

Companies approach towards war: Although the Company's success story is drenched in blood, the Englishmen never overlooked the importance of the business angle. The Company made a lot of money from trade as well as plunder, blackmail, and extortion, and hence had enough money to fight wars.

(B) French EIC

In France, the Compagnie des Indes Orientales (East India Company) was founded under royal patronage in 1664. It was Louis XIV's PM Colbert's initiative.

Settlements:

- Phase I: Many factories in India
 - First factory was at Surat (1668) to purchase textile.
 - Second factory was at Masulipatanam (1669)
 - In 1673, a factory was established at Chandarnagar, very close to Calcutta.
 - Then came Pondicherry (1674) and eventually it became the HQ for all French possessions in India.
- Phase II - Revival/new momentum in 1720s led to creation of new posts.
 - 1721-Occupation of Mauritius
 - 1725-Mahe
 - 1739-Karikal
- French influence on western coast is very less. It was present largely on the eastern coast.

Changing fortunes of the French EIC:

- Given its financial weakness, the French EIC was not in a position to engage very actively in trade between Europe and Asia during the first few decades of its existence.
- At the beginning of the 18th century that the French EIC became a profitable business concern. At this juncture, it quickly emerged as the formidable trade rival to the English EIC in India. The French trade was considerably higher than EIC in this era. Yet, its focus remained on pure trade by Lenoir and Dumas (1720s-30s) and no political ambition was displayed.
- With the entrance of Dupleix, the French began to formulate imperialist plans in India. The French company's expanding political ambitions, as well as Europe's shifting political alignments, injected tension into the relationship with the English. Both were embroiled in a struggle for political and commercial dominance in India between 1740s and 1750s.

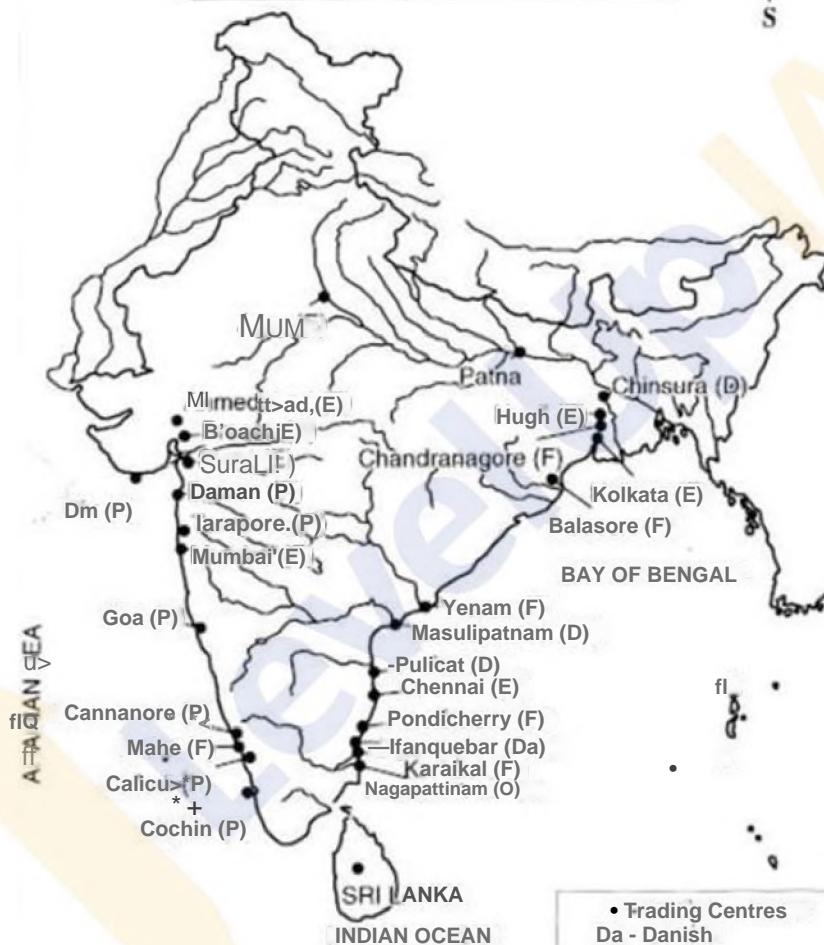
Danish EIC

Not very significant in India

- Two Companies (combined of Denmark-Norway)
 - First Company: 1616-1650
 - Second Company: 1670-1729
 - Revived in 1730 as Danish Asia Company, functioned till 1840s.
- Not much activity in India. Then they sold their possession in India to British and left.
- Locations
 - Trancobar (TN) and Serampore (Bengal) were imp centres.
 - Serampore imp because before 1813, EIC didn't allow spread of Christianity in its area. So, Serampore was used (Danish) Europeans for evangelism.

No.	Country	Company Formation	First Factory in India
1	Portuguese	Earliest	Calicut (1500-02)
2	English	1600	Masulipatanam (1611) Surat(1613)
3	Dutch	1602	Masulipatanam (1605)
4	Dane	1616	Tranquebar (1620)
5	French	1664	Surat (1668)

**EUROPEAN TRADING CENTRES
IN INDIA**



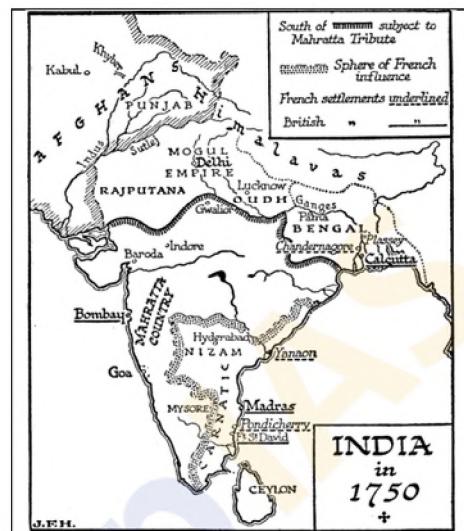
(C) Carnatic Wars - Elimination of Rivals

(1746-63, 18 years, 3 rounds of war)

By 1700, the English were able to dash out both the Portuguese and the Dutch from the Indian scenario. Now they were left with a single competitor - France.

An ongoing international conflict between Britain and France intensified the struggle between the English and French companies in India in 1740s and 1750s. Both sought to enhance their influence in southern India by strengthening their own security, building forts and enlisting Indian soldiers in the name of self-defence.

Southern India was thrown in prolonged political turmoil when Aurangzeb launched his Deccan campaign in 1681. The situation only aggravated after his death in 1707. The balance of power was upset, Marathas were emerging as a major power and there was emergence of a lot of new states, leading to instability. The net result of all this strife was total breakdown of the administrative order. This political instability offered the two companies a golden opportunity.



Carnatic Region: Mughal possessions in South India (TN, AP, Telangana) were called as Karnataka Payanghat. They were administered from Arcot since the closing years of Aurangzeb's years.

	Causes	Main Battles	Treaty/Outcome
First (1746-48)			
Second (1751-55)			
Third (1756-63)			

First Carnatic War (1746-48) (Outcome depended on sea power)

In 1742, Joseph Dupleix was appointed as governor of French possessions and remained till 1752. He is the most prominent figure in the history of French colonial expansion in India.

His appointment coincided with the outbreak of a series of military conflicts in Europe which are together referred to as the War of Austrian Succession (1740-48). France and England were supporting different candidates as heirs to the Hapsburg throne in the war. Thus, in India too, the two companies were arrayed against each other, leading eventually to the full-blown war.



Course of the War:

Early French victory - Capture of Madras	Weaker French tried to avoid hostilities but British were deliberately provocative on sea and they threatened Pondicherry. In retaliation, Dupleix, with the help from La Bourdonnais, captured Madras. This placed EIC in a precarious position in Coromandel. However, the gains of this initial victory were quickly lost due to the quarrel between the two and French could not consolidate their position.
Defeat of Anwaruddin	British approached Anwaruddin, the Nawab of Carnatic for help. The Nawab agreed to intervene and sent a huge army to defeat French. But he suffered ignominious defeat by a small disciplined French army (important lesson for the first time in superior European trained army)
Stalemate	French laid a long siege (18 months) of Fort St. David (Cuddalore) which was a minor British possession, but the British were able to defend it. On the other hand, British navy besieged Pondicherry for 40 days but it ended up in disaster and British had to retreat. The successful resistance of Pondicherry reinforced the reputation of Dupleix as an able military leader.

Meanwhile, the war ended in Europe in 1748, and with that there was a brief interval in Anglo-French conflict in India. Following the protracted negotiations, as per the Aix-la-Chappelle Treaty, English possessions in Madras was restored.

War ended but not the rivalry between the two companies. The peace was only the wait for the next round of war. Dupleix was reluctant to sign a peace treaty with the English, but he was compelled to do so under the instruction of the government of France.

Lessons of the First Carnatic War

- Superiority of French in the first war: Capture of Madras was the salutary achievement which enhanced the power and prestige of the French as a territorial and naval power in India.
- Dupleix got opening into the domestic quarrel of Indian princes.

Second Carnatic War (1751-55)

This time, there was no European pretext for the outbreak of hostilities. Indian rivalries provided the context. Its basis lay in the political instability in Carnatic - succession crisis for Nawab of Carnatic and Nizam of Hyderabad.

<u>Hyderabad</u>	<u>Arcot</u>
In 1720s, Nizam-ul-Mulk Chin Qilich Khan (Asaf Jah I) founded the state of Hyderabad.	Saadatulla Khan (d 1732) was the Mughal diwan of Karnataka Payanghat. His dynasty is called Navaiyat dynasty. He was the last Mughal-appointed in Carnatic. After him, Carnatic tried to be independent.
The death of Asaf Jah I (1748) created political vacuum in Hyderabad which the French and English rushed to fill in by exploiting the dispute over succession.	In 1743, Nizam of Hyderabad intervened and appointed Anwaruddin (1744-49) as Nawab who replaced the Navaiyat dynasty. So, even the Arcot principality owed its origin to Mughals, its present ruler Anwaruddin was ruling on behalf of Nizams. However, since Nizam was busy in North and with Marathas - so Carnatic became practically independent.
Nasir Jang (son of Asaf Jah I) became the next Nizam but he was challenged by Muzaffar Jang (grandson of Asaf Jah through a daughter). In it, the French offered services to Muzaffar Jang and English thus lent their support to Nasir Jang.	Marathas set Chand Sahib free after 7 years of captivity in 1748. Chanda Sahib was related to Navaiyat dynasty and aspired to supplant the incumbent ruler Anwaruddin Khan. Upon his return, with the help of French he sought to oust Anwaruddin.
However, Nasir Jang was assassinated in 1750. Dupleix then moved swiftly. Accompanied by a large contingent of troops under the command of Charles de Bussy, Muzaffar Jang was installed.	In 1749, Anwaruddin was killed in the battle of Ambur, in which was fighting against the combined forces of Muzaffar Jang, Chanda Sahib and the French.
When Muzaffar Jang was in turn assassinated (1752), de Bussy backed Salabat Jang, the younger brother of Nasir Jang as the successor, who then stayed as Nizam for a decade.	 Battle of Ambur Death of Anwaruddin 1749
In return the French company received extensive grants in Tamil Nadu and the authority to govern vast areas. More importantly, the new Nizam ceded a few districts on coastal Andhra (Guntur, Rajamundry, Ellore)	Chanda Sahib now declared himself the ruler of Arcot. On the other hand, British were supporting the cause of Muhammad Ali (Wallajah), one of the Sons of Anwaruddin. British threw full weight behind Muhammad Ali and prepared for full-scale offensive.

etc) which were administratively designated as Northern Circars. Dupleix was handsomely rewarded for his assistance with a present of £77,500, the high Mughal rank of Mansab of 7,000 horses, the rich port of Masulipatnam and a jagir (a landed estate) worth £20,000.

Maratha, Tanjore, Mysore all were brought together to support Muhammad Ali. While the French were busier in Hyderabad, English attacked a massive offensive against Chanda Sahib. Arcot and Trichy were occupied.



Clive in the Siege of Arcot (1751)

Siege of Arcot: Robert Clive attacked Arcot as a tactical diversion. Its seizure demoralized French.

French forces were repeatedly defeated at Trichy and other places. Soon dispirited Chand Sahib also surrendered to British. He was beheaded (1752). It helped the EIC to establish its supremacy over Carnatic. Tide turned in favour of English. Muhammad Ali was declared as a nawab.

Under the circumstances, it was a kind of stalemate in India. So, the two companies arrived at a negotiated settlement. Representatives of the two companies started discussion leading to the Treaty of Pondicherry (1754)

- One outcome of these talks was the recall of Dupleix in 1754. Dupleix's career ended in 1754. He returned home after the career of 34 years in India. Charles Godeheu appointed as new GG with wide-ranging powers to sort out the problems.
- Muhammad Ali (Wallaja) became Nawab of Carnatic. Each side not to interfere in local powers.
- There was a complete reversal of Dupleix policy. His work was undone in Carnatic. Only in Hyderabad de Bussy continued influence.

Before the treaty could be ratified at home, the Seven Year war broke out. Thus, the only effect of the treaty was to give a breathing space to two sides.

Third Carnatic War (1756-63)

It was an offshoot of the Seven Years' war in Europe, which in turn was a part of an international conflict among western powers for colonies, although it involved some specifically European political issues. The English and the French were at war wherever the two had been seeking to wrest colonial possessions from each other, especially in North America and India.

In India, there were two theatres of war.

- Bengal theatre
 - British captured Chandarnagar in 1756. French could do nothing till the fleet arrived.
 - In the Battle of Plassey (1756) British managed to gain control over Bengal. This victory had remarkably boosted their morale. They also now had access to almost unlimited amount of wealth from Murshidabad to fund their war in South.
- Carnatic theatre
 - With defeat in Bengal, French sent a senior military officer de Lally as commander general of colonies in India with instruction to inflict maximum damage to the British. It was an desperate attempt to reverse the tide of their misfortune, but in vain.
 - Lally spent an year attacking Tanjore and besieging Madras without any outcome,
 - Lally lost Hyderabad.
 - Lally unwisely ordered Bussy to leave Hyderabad to render assistance in Carnatic. He had to leave the troops under incompetent commanders. English sent army, captured Northern Circars and replaced French in Hyderabad court.
 - Battle of Wandiwash (1760)
 - * It was the most decisive battle in which the French were forced to surrender.
 - General Eyre Coote vs Lally - Coote complete defeated Lally
 - With the route of French in Wandiwash, British were able to establish their ascendancy over large parts of peninsular India. English followed up their success at Wandiwash quickly:
 - In next few months, all major possessions of French were captured.
 - * Pondicherry surrendered - the city was completely routed and reduced to rubble by British.
 - In the final act of humiliation, Lally was captured by British and send to Europe as PoW

Two treaties:

- Treaty of Pondicherry (1761) marked the end of the French aspirations in India.
- Meanwhile, France had to face defeat in the Seven Years' War. In the Peace of Paris (1763), Peace was restored.

French factories and Pondicherry were returned but without fortifications and confined only to local trade. However, the possibility of the French Empire in India was over. Hereafter, they were to live under British protection and not allowed to fortify or garrison their towns nor permitted to interfere in political affairs of India. Thus, the French dream of creating an empire in India was shattered forever.

- By the end of the Third War, the EIC became a territorial power in South India and had established pre-eminence in Hyderabad. The most substantial gain was however in the Eastern India after the battle of Plassey. And there was near complete French expulsion from Bengal too.

End of the French EIC

French government went heavily into debt during the Seven Years' War. It had neither resource nor intent to salvage the company in India. The Company now completely lost the royal attention. French EIC formally ended in 1769. The French crown maintained the possessions thereafter.

Causes of the French Failure:

History of Modern India starts with the beginning of 18th century. During the 18th century, new developments took place in India, especially in political and economic sphere. On the one hand, the Mughal Empire disintegrated with the onset of the 18th century and a kind of political vacuum developed in which many new states emerged. On the other hand, British East India Company was taking over India part by part in the latter half of the 18th century.

(A) Peeling pf the Mughal Empire

From Akbar until Aurangzeb's reign, the Mughal Empire expanded steadily. The Mughal empire had attained its greatest geographical extent, albeit for a very brief time, in 1707, the year Aurangzeb died. Its borders stretched from Kabul to Bengal, and from the Himalayan foothills to the deep south. It was, however, in the grip of a crisis. It began to crumble in the latter half of Aurangzeb's reign and dissolved fast after his death.

Aurangzeb to Azam Shah in a letter written a few days before his death.

"Health to thee! My heart is near thee. Old age has arrived: weakness subdues me, and strength has forsaken all my members. I came stranger to this world, and a stranger I depart. I know nothing of myself, what I am, and for what I am destined. The instant which passed in power, hath left only sorrow behind it. I have not been the guardian and protector of the empire. My valuable time has been passed vainly.... I brought nothing in this world and except the infirmities of man, carry nothing out..."

Later Mughal Padshahs

• Bahadur Shah I (Shah Alam I)

- Prince Muazzam defeated his two brothers Muhammad Azam and Kam Baksh and ascended the throne with the title Bahadur Shah.
- He was broad-minded person and followed policy of compromise and conciliation instead of the narrow-minded policies of Aurangzeb. He showed tolerance towards Hindu leaders and kings.
- He made peace with Guru Govind Singh (Sikhs), Chatrasal (Bundela chief), Churaman (Jats chief), released Shahu and granted sardeshmukhi but not chauth to the Marathas.
- His reign was characterised by reckless grant of promotions and jagirs and thus the state finances deteriorated immensely in his reign. Khafi Khan called him **Shah-i-Bekhabar**. Unfortunately died soon.

- **Jahandar Shah**

- After Bahadur Shah's death, Jahandar Shah, one of the less abled sons came to throne with the help of a noble Zulfiqar Khan giving opportunity to Zulfiqar Khan to gain control of Mughal affairs. Since he was a weak and degenerate king, wholly devoted to pleasure. Thus, administration went in the hands of wazir **Zulfiqar Khan**
- Zulfiqar belonged to **Irani** group. Though he was able, he was **opposed** by court politics.
- Zulfiqar Khan adopted a wholesome policy of promoting friendly relations with neighbours and strengthening his own position especially by conciliating Hindu Chieftains. There was a rapid reversal of Aurangzeb policies like **Jizyah, which was now abolished**, because there was a need of Hindu support (Rajputs, Marathas etc) in the court politics.
- Zulfiqar tried to improve state finances by checking the reckless growth of **Jagirs and offices**. An evil tendency of **Ijarah** system was encouraged under which the right to collect revenue was auctioned.
- However, the emperor Jahandar was defeated by his nephew Farrukhsiyar at Agra in 1713.

- **The rise and fall of Sayyid Brothers** (Abdulla Khan and Hussain Ali)

- These two brothers were known as the **king-makers** in Mughal history. Earlier,

Abdulla Khan was the governor of Allahabad and Hussain Ali was the governor of Patna. In this period, they gained complete control of the state. There ensued a constant and **prolonged power struggle** between emperor and Sayyid brothers.

- **Farrukhsiyar (1713-19)**

- Jahandar Shah's inglorious reign came to an early end in January 1713 when he was defeated at **Agra** by Farrukh Siyar, his nephew. Farrukh Siyar owed his victory to the Sayyid brothers. He made Abdulla Khan as **Wazir** and Hussain Ali Khan Baraha and the Mir Bakshi.

He followed the policy of religious tolerance and **abolished pilgrimage tax**.

- Prolonged power struggle between the emperor and Farrukhsiyar, finally they deposed and killed the emperor.

Later Mughal Emperors

- Bahadur Shah(1707 -1712)
- JahandarShah(1712-1713)
- Farrukhsiyar (1713 -1719)
- Rafi-ud-daulah (Shah Jahan II) (1719)
- Rafi-ud-darjat (1719)
- **Muhammad Shah - Rangeela (1719-48)**
- Ahmad Shah Bahadur (1748 - 1754)
- Alamgir II (1754-1759)
- Shahjahan III (1759)
- **Shah Alam II (1759 -1806)**
- Akbar II (1806-1837)
- Bahadur Shah (1837-1862)



Farrukhsiyar receiving
Hussain Ali Khan

- Sayyid Brothers followed policy of Religious Tolerance (Abolition of Jizya) and focused on reconciliation with Rajputs, Jats and Marathas (granted swarajya to King Shahu; right to collect Chauth and Sardeshmukhi).

- Two more kings

The three successors of Farrukh Siyar were mere puppets in the hands of the Saiyids. They controlled the throne from 1713-20. They adopted the policy of religious tolerance and made efforts to create peaceful empire.

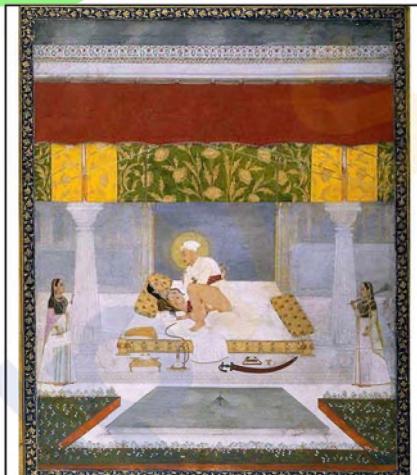
- Anti-Saiyid Camp

- Saiyid brothers had tried hard to conciliate all sections, yet a powerful group of nobles headed by Nizam-ul-Mulk began to conspire against them. These nobles declared that the Saiyids were following anti-Mughal and anti-Islamic policies.

- Muhammad Shah (1717-48)

- Roshan Akhtar became the emperor with the title Muhammad Shah.
- **End of Sayyid Brothers:** There was a growing anxiety and jealousy against sayyid brothers due to their power and hold over the administration. The deposition and Murder of Farukhsiyar created revulsion among public and led to branding of Sayyid brothers as "Namak Haram" (Not true to their salts). Muhammad Shah conspired against Sayyid brothers with the help of Chin Qulich Khan (Nizam-ul-Mulk). Hussain Ali was assassinated while Abdulla Khan was defeated in war. Thus ended the era of 'king maker' brothers in 1720. With this, Chin Qulich Khan was made the Wazir of the Mughal Empire.

NIZAM UL MULK FOUNDED HYDARABAD AND BURAN UL MULK FOUNDED AUDHA



Muhammad Shah Making Love, ca. 1735. British Library, London



Sadarang

- **Rangile:** Muhammad Shah had a long reign of 30 years. It could have been the last chance of Mughal revival, but he was not the man for the task. He was rather fond of easy life. He neglected affairs of the state and was under the influence of corrupt and worthless flatterers and intrigued against his own ministers.
- **Nizam-ul-Mulk** tried to reform the administration, but he was not given any importance. Disgusted with the fickle-mindedness, suspicious nature, and the constant quarrels, Nizam-ul-Mulk got frustrated and decided to leave the emperor. He marched Southwards and found a state of Hyderabad in Deccan in 1724.
- The other powerful and ambitious nobles also now began to leave. Everywhere petty zamindars, rajas and nawabs raised the banner of rebellion and

independence. Several states thus became independent during the reign of Muhammad Shah.

- One of the most important incidences during his reign was the **invasion of Nadir Shah** in 1739.

The Mughal army was defeated in the battle of Karnal. The Mughal army was commandeered by Mir Bakshi Khan-i-Daura.

- Delhi was laid waste, massacre took place. Mughal emperor was made prisoner. Nadir Shah received 70 crore rupees and a huge loot including peacock throne and Kohinoor diamond was carried away.
- Nadir Shah died in 1747 and one of his ablest generals, Ahmad Shah Abdali, succeeded him in 1748 in Afghanistan. He invaded India 7 times between 1748 and 67.



Mughals trying to negotiate with Nadir Shah's army outside Delhi

The effects of Nadir Shah's campaign on Mughal Empire were:

- Complete loss of central authority and irreplaceable loss of prestige.
- Exposed hidden weaknesses of Mughal empire to Maratha Sardars and European trading companies.
- Ruined imperial finances and affected economic life of country as impoverished nobles began to oppress peasantry even more in order to recover lost fortunes.

Loss of Kabul and Areas west to Indus opened threats for further attacks from northwest front.

Thus, there is no doubt that under a succession of weak and ineffective emperors (who were emperors only in name), Delhi lost its former grandeur. It was said at that time that the realm of the Mughal Badshah extended from **Lal Qila to Palam**.

Mughal Decline: Factors and forces

There were many internal and external causes which were responsible for the decline of the empire. Earlier historians believed that weak successors, undisciplined nobility etc were the major causes. But later historians have given attention to the institutional drawbacks such as Jagirdari crisis, tension between Zamindars and Mughal officials, Agrarian crisis etc. further, external aggression gave pace to the process.

- **Aurangzeb's role:** Aurangzeb inherited a large empire, yet he adopted a policy of expansion which put Mughal empire in loggerheads with prominent powers in the deccan and south mainly Marathas, Bijapur and Golconda Kingdoms. Aurangzeb's basic failure lay in the realm of statesmanship as he did not want to reconcile with Marathas and Rajput. This led to a long and Protracted war against Marathas in deccan which resulted in immense loss of men and material along with a gradual degradation of Mughal administration. Aurangzeb's religious orthodoxy and his policy towards Hindu rulers also damaged stability of Mughal empire. His policy of imposing Jizya and destroying Hindu temples and putting certain restrictions on Hindus, alienated the Hindu and split the Mughal society thereby widening the gulf between hindu and muslim upper class and weakened the alliances with Hindu Rulers for example the Rajputs.
- **Defective law of succession:** The absence of the law of primogeniture among the Mughals usually meant a war of succession among the sons of dying Mughal empire in which military leaders of the time took sides. This resulted in futile conspiracies, treachery and debauchery which hampered the foundations of efficient administration of state and denigrated the authority of the Mughal state.
- **Weak Successors of Aurangzeb:** A Monarchical system of government much depends on the character and the nature of Ruling personality. Mughal empire being built on similar foundations was no less vulnerable to the vagaries caused by poor and weak ruling personalities. Unfortunately, all Mughal emperors after Aurangzeb were weaklings and therefore unable to meet the challenges of the mighty empire. Most of the emperors were consumed in the luxuries of the royalty with no imminent plan on furthering the Mughal empire.
- **Degeneration of Mughal Nobility:** Apart from the personalities of Great Mughals, the strength of Mughal empire lay in the organisation and character of its nobility. The weakness of the king could have been successfully overcome with an alert and efficient nobility. However, the quality of nobility gradually declined with most nobles living an extravagant life. They got power hungry and utilized every war of succession to their own benefits. Nobles were often poorly educated and not even skilled in the art of warfare. Nobles monopolised all offices barring entry to fresh blood. Overall, the nobility reflected general decline in morals and their devotion towards the Mughal empire.
- **Economic Bankruptcy:** What worsened the Economic and financial conditions of the Mughals in the 18th century was the long and protracted wars in Deccan against Marathas which not only drained the treasury but also ruined the Trade and Commerce. Under later Mughal emperors, the financial conditions further deteriorated. The

numerous wars of succession and political convulsions coupled with lavish lifestyle of emperors empties royal treasury to an extent that salaries of soldiers could not be paid.

- **Military Weaknesses:** The problems with the Mughal Army were both structural and Technical. The Mughal armies were organized more or less on feudal lines where soldiers owed allegiance to the mansabdar rather than the emperor. This provided an administrative disconnect between the soldier and the State. On the technical Front, Mughal army were nothing more than an armed rabble. The Mughal artillery was crude and ineffective against the guerilla tactics of marathass. There was a general lack of discipline among the soldiers as well which reduced their overall efficiency and kill power.
- **Rise of Marathas:** The most important external factor which brought about the decline of Mughal empire was the rising power of Marathas under the Peshwas. The peshwas consolidated the Maratha power in western India and channelized energies of nation in an attack on Mughal empire.
- **Failure of Jagirdari system & impoverishment of Peasantry:** As the number of Nobles Increased and Land Being fixed, there was increasing Paucity of Jagirs and the reducing income out of the Jagir. This led to intense rivalry among the nobles for possession of Jagirs. Due to the Paucity of Jagirs, Nobles tried to maximise their earnings at the cost of Peasantry. They made heavy demands on the Peasants and cruelly oppressed them, often in violation of official regulations. This led to severe Discontent among the peasantry which found their outlet in various uprisings for example the Satnamis, Jats, Sikhs etc which in turn eroded the stability of the empire.
- **Invasions by Nadir Shah and Ahmad shah Abdali:** The final blow to Mughal empire was a series of foreign invasions. Invasions by Nadir Shah and Ahmad shah Abdali which were themselves the consequences of their weakness, drained the empire of its wealth, ruined its trade and industry in north, and almost destroyed its military power.

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(B) Regional Power: Three Type of States

After the decline of the Mughals, many regional powers came into existence. These regional powers can be classified into three categories:

Successor States	Arose as result of assertion of autonomy by Mughal governors.	bangal, auvadh, hydrabad,
Rebel states	Due to rebel by chieftains, zamindars, and peasants.	jatts, shikh, marathas
Independent kingdoms	Not much significant Mughal influence	mysore , tevsome



Recent historical writings on eighteenth century India have tended to focus on the emergence of regional political systems as a central theme, rather than highlighting the decline of the Mughal Empire as a process dominating the century. The emergence of these states represented a transformation rather than collapse of the polity. It signified a decentralisation of power and not a power vacuum or political chaos.

State	Founder
Hyderabad	Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah (Chin Qulich Khan)
Awadh	Saadat Khan (Burhan-ul-Mulk)
Bengal	Murshid Quli Khan
Mysore	Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar woderyar dynasty and de facto hyder ali khan.
Carnatic	
Bharatpur	Churaman Jat (r. 1695-1721)
Ruhelkhand	

The Mughal Structure:

Suba	Subedar (Nazim) Diwan Bakshi Qazi Waqai Navis	System of checks and balances <ul style="list-style-type: none">The imperial control over the provinces was mainly through the control over appointment of the Nazim and the Diwan.Many other officials like Amils, Faujdars, etc., were dependent on the emperor who appointed them.
Sarkar	Fauzdar Amalguzar	
Paragana	Shiqdar Fotedar	
Local	Zamidars Chowdhary	

Weakening central control in the successor states:

So, the **subbedars** established their own **dynastic rule** in the provinces.

Gradually the relationship of the centre with the provinces was virtually reduced to **tributary**. Soon, the **flow of tribute to** the imperial treasury became **irregular**.

- Tendency among the governors was to **appoint their own men** in the **administration**.
- Subedars obtained collaborative support of local elements like **zamindars** and **merchants/money lenders**.

Though the sovereignty of the Mughal emperor was not challenged. The establishment of practically independent and hereditary authority by the governor and subordination of all offices within the region to the governor showed the emergence of an independent states.

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- **Murshid Quli Khan** laid the foundation - Emergence of new power structure.

- He was the **Subedar** of Bengal in 1713. However, he was the effective ruler of Bengal since 1700 when he was appointed as its **Diwan** by Aurangzeb.
- He **established peace** by freeing Bengal of internal and external danger. He suppressed three major uprisings during his reign. He was a very successful governor who **reformed administration** and **increased** the collection of land **revenue**. Most importantly, he **consolidated Zaminadari** tenures by handing over the estates to his favourites.
- There was growing **importance of commercial elements** due to relentless pressure on zamindar for payments.
- Large number of **Hindu officers** were also part of his administration.

	<p>Murshidabad on the bank of Hooghly River was named after Murshid Quli Khan. It was the capital of the prosperous subah of Bengal, which included today's Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Bangladesh.</p> <p>It was strategically located on the Hooghly River for transportation of goods from the countryside to cities and the seacoast. It also became a centre of high-quality silk weaving that attracted the interest of British, Dutch, and French.</p> <p>This wealth and power enabled the nobility and its trading community to invest in grand structures - the building of lavish homes, public buildings, and tombs.</p>
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- **Shuja-ud-din** (r. till 1739)

- Delhi ties and tribute continued but practically complete administrative independence achieved in his era.

- **Alivardi Khan (1740-56)**

Alivardi Khan killed Sarfaraz Khan, the son and successor to Shuja-ud-din and seized power. Thus, the family of Murshid Quli Khan was replaced by the family of Alivardi Khan in 1740.

He later obtained the imperial confirmation of the appointment. He was a key figure in the chief establishment of Bengal. His rule **ushered in an era of political stability**.

- He was backed by the Zamindars and bankers.

- **He relied heavily on bankers for revenue collection** which enabled a few financial concerns to make huge profits through what actually amounted

Nawabs of Bengal		
1	Murshid Quli Khan	1713-27
2	Shuja-ud-din	1727-39
3	Sarfaraz Khan (incapable)	
4	Alivardi Khan	1740-56
5	Siraj-ud-daulah	1756-57
6	Mir Jafar	1757-60
7	Mir Qasim	1760-63
8	Mir Jafar	1763-65
9	Najim-ud-daulah (minor)	1765-66

to usury. The most important of these ban king firms was that of the famous Jagat Seths.

- During his reign, there was **total break from the Mughals**.
 - All major appointment (of Alivardi's choice) without reference to the emperor. For the first time, all the revenue flow from Bengal to Delhi was completely stopped.
- He encouraged **trade** and **industry** by ensuring peace and order throughout his regime. He started giving **taccavi** **loansto** strengthen agriculture sector.
- Two external threats
 - **Marathas** entering from Central India and demanding Chauth. Alivardi sued for peace by agreeing to pay **Chauth** and handing over Odisha.
 - **Afghans** (Mustafa Khan) captures Patna, but Alivardi defeated him.
- After his death, **Siraj-ud-daula** became the nawab of Bengal in 1756. Suraj was his daughter's son. He came in direct face off with the British power in 1757 in the battle of Plassey.



Alivardi Khan with Hawk, in audience with nobles. (V&A Museum)



The Jagat Seth Palace, Murshidabad
(Indian imitation of European building)

Jagat Seth was a **Jain family**, originally from **Rajasthan**. It rose to prominence and power after becoming the bankers (**seths**) and financiers of the nawabs of Murshidabad. The Jagat Seth family forged close ties with the British and conspired to overthrow **Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula**, for which they were later punished. Murshidabad lost its eminence when the treasury and banking centre was moved to **Calcutta**.

(2) Awadh

• Saadat Khan (Burhan-ul-Mulk)

- Burhan-ul-Mulk held the combined offices of subadari, diwani and faujdari. In other words, he was responsible for managing the political, financial and military affairs of the province of Awadh. With this, he created his own authority and exercised his independent power.
- In 1722, he refused the imperial order transferring him to Malwa from Awadh and declared himself the independent ruler of Awadh, based in Lucknow.
 - Suppressed local rebellious zamindars.
 - Reduced authority of madad-i-mash grantees.
- Systematised revenue collection by introducing revenue reforms.
- Filled up all posts with his relatives.
- Saadat wanted to use Persian connection to increase role in Delhi politics, but Nadir Shah frustrated that attempt. Saadat committed suicide in 1739.



Safdar Jang (1739-54)

- He became Wazir of the Mughal emperor in 1748 and from this time onwards, the Nawab of Awadh came to be known as Nawab-Wazir.
- Revenue to Delhi was sent irregularly.
- Office of Diwan was abolished, large number of Hindu gentry officers were absorbed.
- Last monumental tomb garden of Mughal era.



Safdar Jang's Tomb, New Delhi

He was the nephew of Saadat Khan. He lived in Delhi and served in the court of Muhammad Shah. He died in 1754 and was buried in Delhi.

The tomb is made in red sandstone, like Humayun's tomb, yet its elongated form, pointed onion-shaped dome and painted stucco decorations lack elegance of the older imperial style.

Shuja-ud-daula (r. 1754-75)

- He didn't cut off the ties with Delhi completely, formal nominal acknowledgement continued. He re-established dominance of Awadh over Delhi and got appointed as **Wazir**.
- He took the side of Ahmad Shah Abdali to check **Maratha** threat in north India during the **Third Battle of Panipat**.
- He was in alliance against rising English power but defeated by **British in Buxar** (1764).



Bara Imambara (Lucknow) was built in 1780s as famine relief operation.



Built in 1789s, Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow is also known as Turkish gate. It is a fine example of Late Awadhi architecture.

(3) Bharatpur State of Jats

Churaman Jat (r. 1695-1721) established the Jat state of Bharatpur in Agra-Mathura region. He had become the Jat leader after the death of Rajaram and continued with his hit-and-run raids. Under Churaman, Jats acquired control over territories situated to the west of the city of Delhi, and by the 1680s they had begun dominating the region between the two imperial cities of Delhi and Agra. For a while they became the virtual custodians of the city of Agra. Aurangzeb's successors had no option but to yield to the demands of the Jats.

Under Badan Singh (1721-56), Jats consolidated their position and built forts of Degh, Bher, Kumbher and Bharatpur. Ahmad Shah Abdali conferred him with the titles of Raja and Mahendra.

Suraj Mal Jat (r. 1756-63) succeeded him. In the Third battle of Panipat, he was the only north Indian state that helped Marathas in some capacity against the invasion of Abdali. He had taken Agra and marched onto Delhi in 1763. He was made Faujdar of Mathura by Mughals - a clear signal that the later Mughals were unable quell the Jats and were forced to recognize their power.



Lohagar Fort, Bharatpur

It was built by Suraj Mal between 1740-60. From here, Jats controlled the prosperous land between Agra and Delhi and hence were continuously attacked by Mughals.



Palace complex at Deeg

While Bharatpur fort was built in traditional style, the Deeg palace is elaborate garden palace combining styles seen at Amber and Agra, (eg Bangla dome)

(4) Rohilla Pathans - Rohilkhanda

Rohilla Pathan named [Ali Muhammad Khan](#) established Rohilla state at the foothills of Himalayas between Ganga and Kumaon mountains. It largely came into existence as a check to the power of Awadh during factional politics in Delhi. Its initial capital was [Aaolan](#) in Bareilly and later it moved to Rampur.

Some important personalities:

[Najib ud Daula](#) - His collaboration with Abdali during later's invasion of India made him Mir Bakshi and Delhi passed under his control. During the Third battle of Panipat, he sided with Ahmad Shah Abdali against Marathas.

- [Muhammad Khan Bangash](#) Pathan founded independent state of Farrukhabad.

This state existed from 1721 till 1774 as independent power. It was first invaded by Awadh and then it continued as the princely state of Rampur under British.

Rampur Raza Library:

It was built up by successive Nawabs of Rampur and is now managed by the [Government of India](#) on the name of Raza Ali Khan of Rampur. It contains very rare and valuable collection of manuscripts, historical documents, specimens of Islamic calligraphy, miniature paintings, astronomical instruments, and rare illustrated works in Arabic and Persian.



(5) Kingdom of Amber (Dhoondhar or Jaipur State)

The most outstanding Rajput ruler of the 18th century was Raja Sawai Jai Singh of Amber (1681-1743). He was a distinguished statesman, law-maker, and reformer.

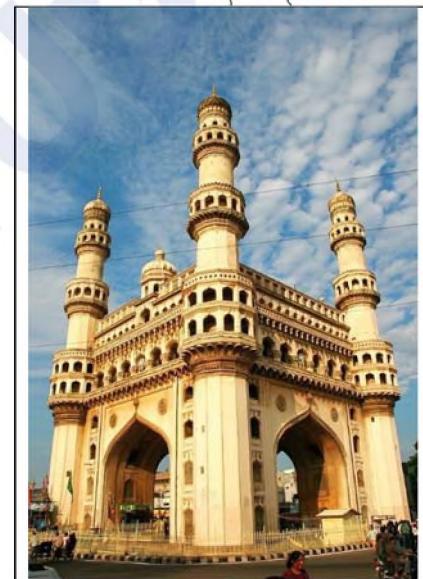
- He founded the city of Jaipur and transformed it into a great centre of science and art. Jaipur was built on strictly scientific principles and according to a regular plan.
- He also erected observatories with accurate and advanced instruments at Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Varanasi and Mathura. He drew up a set of tables entitled Zij Muhammad Shai.
- He had translated Euclid's Elements of Geometry, Napier's work on construction and logarithms into Sanskrit.
- Jai Singh was also a social reformer. He tried to enforce a law to reduce the lavish expenditure which the Rajputs had to incur on their daughters' weddings.



UNESCO World Heritage Sites	
Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	Jaipur City, Rajasthan
<p>The Jantar Mantar, in Jaipur, is an astronomical observation site built in the early 18th century. It includes a set of some 20 main fixed instruments. They are monumental examples in masonry of known instruments but which in many cases have specific characteristics of their own. Designed for the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye, they embody several architectural and instrumental innovations. This is the most significant, most comprehensive, and the best preserved of India's historic observatories. It is an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period.</p> 	<p>The walled city of Jaipur, in India's north-western state of Rajasthan was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II. Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture. The streets feature continuous colonnaded businesses that intersect in the centre, creating large public squares called chaupars. Markets, shops, residences and temples built along the main streets have uniform facades. The city's urban planning shows an exchange of ideas from ancient Hindu and early modern Mughal as well as Western cultures. The grid plan is a model that prevails in the West, while the organization of the different city sectors (chowkris) refers to traditional Hindu concepts. Designed to be a commercial capital, the city has maintained its local commercial, artisanal and cooperative traditions to this day.</p>

(7) Hyderabad - Asaf Jahi Family

- **Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I** (Chin Qulich Khan) (r. 1724-48)
 - Initially, he was appointed subedar in Deccan in 1713. He stayed on in Deccan and went to the Mughal court to become **Vazir** in 1721 after elimination of Sayyid brothers, but only after leaving his own appointee in charge.
 - In 1724, when he was given the title of Nizam-ul-Mulk and made the governor of Deccan, he removed the Mughal officials in Hyderabad and installed his own men. He also assumed the right to make **treaties**, wars and **grant mansabas** and **titles**. Now gradually the Mughal authority was reduced to a symbolic reading of **Khutba** etc.
 - After his death, Hyderabad became the scapegoat in the Anglo-French rivalry.
- **Nizam Ali** (1762-1803)
 - By his time, **Carnatic**, **Marathas** and **Mysore** had all settled their territorial claims and some kind of a stable political pattern emerged in Hyderabad.
 - One key feature of the administration was meticulous record-keeping and here **Hindu Kayasthas** played an important role as **scribes**.
 - In spite of external threats, the principality of Hyderabad was prosperous. But growing pressure from Maratha and Mysore made the ruler sign a treaty with the EIC in 1759 which ensured an influence British presence - Resident, troops, and concession of territory in Hyderabad. Finally, he signed subsidiary alliance with British in 1798.



Charminar, Hyderabad

This landmark gateway to the old city of Hyderabad was built by Sultan Quli Qutb Shah in 1590s to provide employment after a deadly plague.

- Peshwa-Nizam Relations:
- Battle of Palkhed (1728)
 - Battle of Bhopal (1737)
 - Battle of Udgir (1760)
 - Battle of Kharda (1795)

(8) Marathas

TBD Later

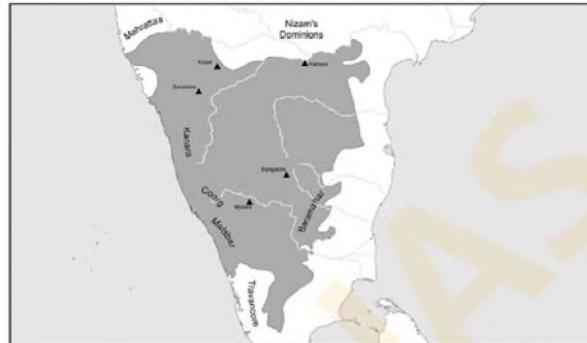
(9) Mysore

Mysore was the successor state of Vijayanagara after its decline. Wodeyar rulers transformed it from Vijayanagar viceroyalty to autonomous state.

Chikkadeva Raja Wodeyar (r. 1673-1704)

- He was the most notable of the early Mysore kings who not only managed to survive but expand the territory.

Began the militarization of Mysore state. To sustain it, he needed more revenue from state officials and exempted lands held by soldiers from revenue demands.



The political chaos which followed the decline of Mughal empire fostered the rise of a group of energetic and ambitious military adventurers in the 18th century. One such successful military adventurer was Hyder Ali who laid the foundation of the autonomous Nawabi Riyasat of Mysore. Under Hyder and Tipu, Mysore not only emerged as an advanced military power but also became home to modern economic developments.

Hyder Ali

- In the midst of the 18th century, Haider Ali, a captain in the army, rose to prominence. His victory against the Marathas at Bangalore in 1758, resulting in the annexation of their territory, made him an iconic figure. In honour of his achievements, the king gave him the title "Nawab Haider Ali Khan Bahadur." So, starting from a low origin, Hyder gradually worked up his way through hierarchy.
- In 1761, he overthrew the authority of the king and established himself as the sultan. Within the next two decades, Mysore became the leading state of the region with an army that could effectively challenge the EIC.

Centralization of power

- Controlled independent poligars' activities.
- Introduced the system of imposing land taxes directly on the peasants.

He expanded the territories. The territories of the state now encompassed much of present-day Karnataka, large portions of Andhra, most of western Tamil Nadu barring the extreme south and northern Kerala. He also succeeded in defeating British in a number of military encounters.

Tipu Sultan

- He took the reign from father in 1782. In 1787, he declared himself Badshah after repudiating the overlordship of the Mughal emperor Shah Alam.
- He played a very significant role in the modernization of Mysore. Under Tipu, the state became a critical player in various kinds of economic activities.

development of agriculture and horticulture

Tipu played very significant role in agriculture.
tax incentive vest line declmentation
protecting peasant from money lender and

industry Gun factory/ foundery salt factory
he try to devolve modern industry with French support

trade and commerce's among Indian rule he first try to run first trading company on model of Europe.
he sends ambassador to France and try to build navy for oceanic trade.
introduce state monopoly :
he participated in lucrative trade sandal wood, coconut, silk rise by established trading center including Mysore.

Globale outlook : Tipu was much aware than contemporary in India in trends in polities. He attempted to forge international alliance by sending ambassadors to Turkey and France. His relationship with France became more cardinal in which his sympathy with Jacobin.

military reorganisation : they understood the rule of Mysore do well in polities only if they modern military

Prelims Facts:

- As part of his social reform measures, Tipu tried to abolish various social abuses like **alcoholism**. He was the first modern Indian monarch to ban consumption of alcohol in the entire State, not on religious grounds, but on moral and health grounds.
- First to **confiscate** the **property** of upper castes, including Mutts, and distribute it among the Shudras.
- Tipu established a biodiversity garden named Lal Bagh.
- Tipu belonged to the Chisti/Bande Nawaz tradition of Sufism.
- Tipu identified himself with the American and French Revolution and Jacobinism



Daria Daulat Bagh, Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, Srirangapatna, Mysore.

Tipu built a walled enclosure for his wooden summer palace. Its wide veranda is animated with paintings of marching, warring armies of the French and the British. There are several paintings of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan leading their men into battle.

The four states which became prominent in Kerala were Calicut, Chirakkal (Kannur), Cochin and Travancore. Among them, Calicut and Travancore were more prominent. Calicut was ruled by Zamorin.

Travancore had always maintained its independence from Mughal rule. After the decline of Vijayanagara, it was unified in the 18th century by Martanda Varma.

- (Anizham Tirunal) **Martanda Varma (r. 1729-58)**

- Started expanding his dominions with the help of his **modernized army**.
- Dutch were ousted in the **Battle of Colachel** (1741) and the **English** were made to accept his terms of trade.
- By the beginning of the 1740s, Varma had constructed a **powerful bureaucratic state**, which required control over larger resources. He resolved this problem by **proclaiming royal monopoly**, first on pepper trade and then on all trade in the prosperous Malabar coast.



- **Rama Varma (Dharma Raja) (1758-1798)**

- His period is considered a **Golden Age in the history of Travancore**.
- He not only retained the **territorial gains** of his predecessor, but also improved and encouraged **social development**. Travancore was known for its relatively **high** literacy rate and its progressive government.
- He was a **poet, scholar, musician, a renowned actor** and a man of great culture. Under his leadership, his capital became a **centre of scholarship** and art. During his reign, **Malayalam** language developed.
- Travancore withstood the shock of a **Mysorean invasion** in 1766 (Hyder Ali) and 1798 (Tipu Sultan).

- **BalaRama Varma** (1798-1810), the weakest ruler of the dynasty. A treaty brought Travancore under a **Subsidiary alliance with the East India Company** in 1795.

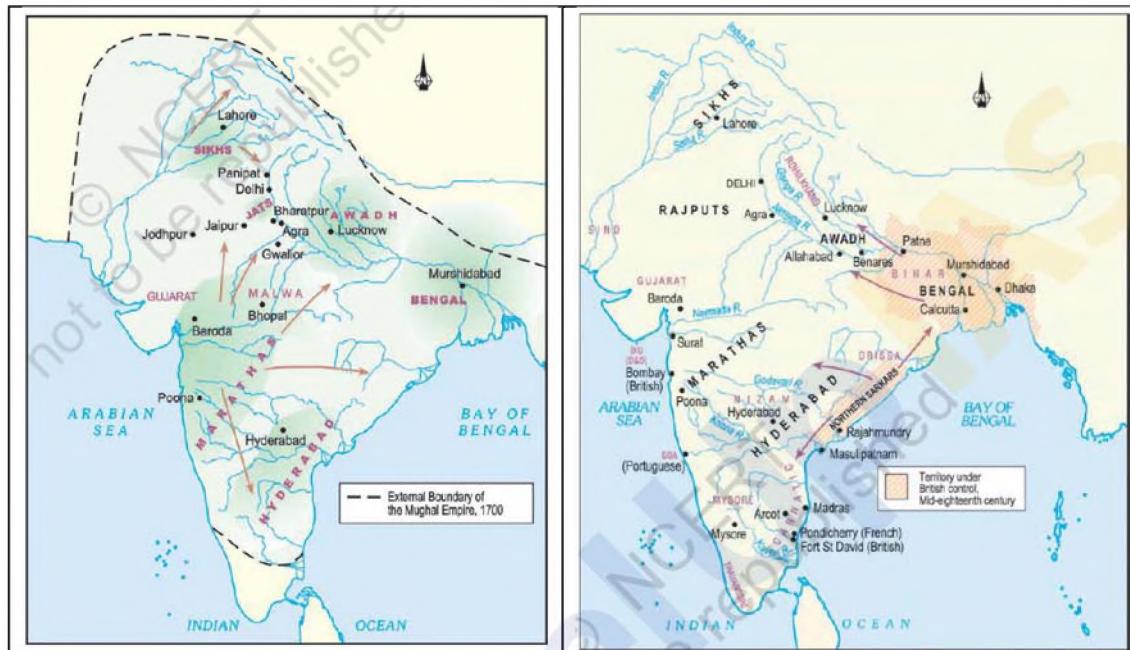
- **Velu Thampi Revolt (1809)**



Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma (1829-46) was a patron of music and arts.

(C) 18th century Debate

Traditionally, the 18th century was divided into two parts i.e. first half and second half. Then in the course of their evaluation, both were juxtaposed with each other. The first half of the 18th century was characterized as the 'Dark age' or the age of crisis and the second half was projected as a progressive age which was associated with the Plassey Revolution. But in the light of recent scholarship, such a view has been rejected.



First half of the 18th c = Dark age or the Age of Crisis

Historians of the early generation saw the 18th century in Indian history as a period of decline. The contemporary British writers and later British historians described the period as one of total chaos. Rebel leaders were fighting with each other, and **Maratha raids disrupted** overall peace. It created overall anarchy from which India was rescued by British rule, who alone were able to establish stability.

Sir **Jadunath Sarkar** referred to the first half of the 18th century as a dark age for the moral decay and degeneration of the Mughal aristocracy leading to collapse of Mughal empire, and consequent political fragmentation of India. Many Indian historians believed that the 18th century represented the dark age due to Mughal **decline and political fragmentation** but most of them didn't buy the second half of the British -that British rescued Indian out of an abyss. For them, British only added to the chaos and confusion.

Then Marxist historians called this period the age of crises i.e., **Jagirdari crisis, Agrarian crisis**, etc. causing economic stagnation and leading to complete anarchy.

With the progress of historical scholarship however this view has appeared to be too simplistic. Recent scholarship on the subject has unveiled the fact that the on-ground realities

of the period were not so simple, and that the cultural and political developments of the period were more complex than they were earlier supposed to be. It appears that there were isolated pockets where cultural and economic regeneration, on a small scale, took place.

Why had this view been rejected?

- 1) rise of successer state: while on one hand central power is been disintegrating other hand efficient goverment are established at reginal level bengal avadh hydrabad marathas. these goverment only impove law and order but also charish economical activity . lack of central empire is not sign of decline and present of central empire is not sign of progress.
- 2) such views of dark ages emerge delhi centric focus of study however mughal decline does not changes india . many social group outside the orbit was not affected by mughal decline
- 3) during this period two factors afffected the economical procerity activity influc of silver ,and influx of new cash crop on larger scale .hence this periods prosprouse economical puppets
- 4) above all period is mark by grate theory of abserg althogh mughal empire disintegrate there was wide culture spread in regional level paining architected etc.

enlight of above mentioned factors first half of century does not become dark age rather this period egalant with new potentialites
establishment of new polites was doment feature rather than rise of all indian empire than another.

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Second half of the 18**1 c = Age of Revolution

This view has been promoted by a British apologist scholar, Sir Jadunath Sarkar. He characterized the Battle of Plassey as the Plassey Revolution. He believes that the conquest at Plassey heralded the process of modernization in India. So, he declared, with the Battle of Plassey the medieval age ended, and modern age started. In fact, the British apologist scholars characterized the first half of the 18th century as dark age so that it would be easy for them to highlight the success of British rule after the Battle of Plassey.

On 23rd June 1757 the Middle Ages of India ended and her modern age began in the twenty years from Plassey... all felt the revivifying touch of the impetus from the west. - Sir Jadunath Sarkar

However, this view has totally been rejected by Indian scholars. After the Battle of Plassey, during almost whole of the 18th century the company government did not take any concrete step to modernize India. Up to the end of the 18th century, the company government maintained almost all the old Mughal structure and the government with limited modifications. During this period, their main objective in India was simply to maximize the collection of revenue.