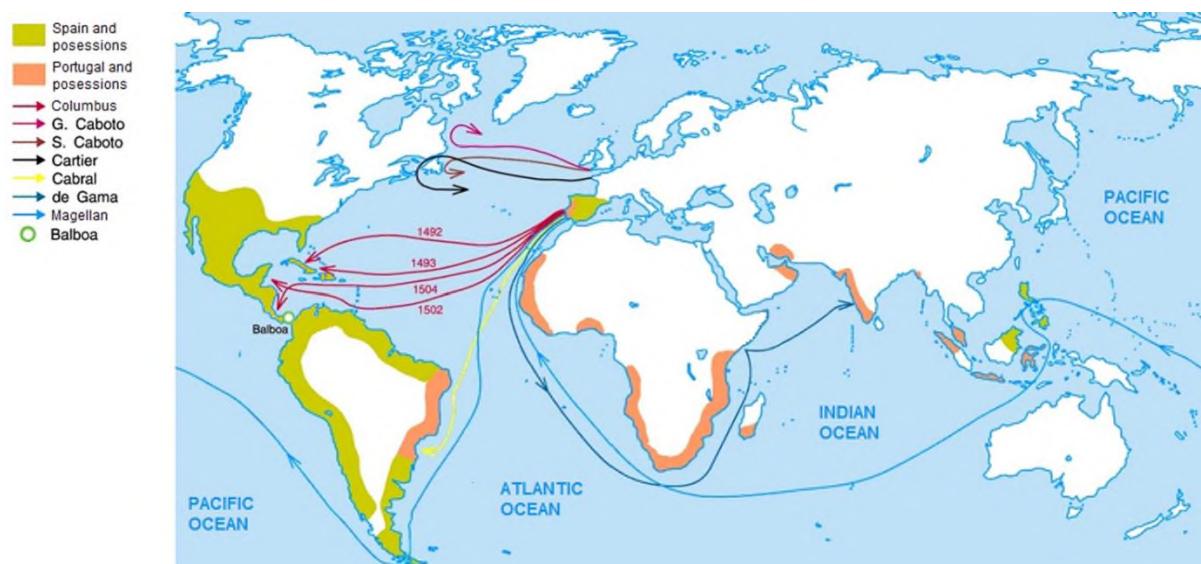


**Modern India 2024**  
**Handout 2: Early Modern Era**  
Nikhil Sheth

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><b>Monument of the Discoveries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in Lisbon along the river where ships departed to explore and trade with India.</li> <li>• It celebrates the Portuguese Age of Discovery/Exploration during the 15th and 16th centuries.</li> <li>• Main statue of <u>Henry the Navigator</u>.</li> </ul>
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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) 16<sup>th</sup> century Empires: Spain in the West, Portuguese in the East

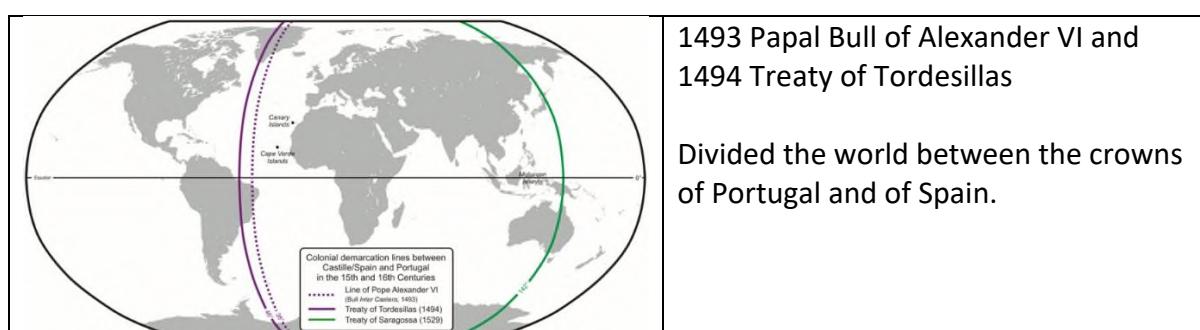
During the Early Modern Period, **Portugal and Spain were two of the major imperial powers** in the world, and their empires played a **significant role in shaping the global political and economic landscape**.

#### **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) 17<sup>th</sup> 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) 18<sup>th</sup> 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 **18<sup>th</sup> 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) 19<sup>th</sup> 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**

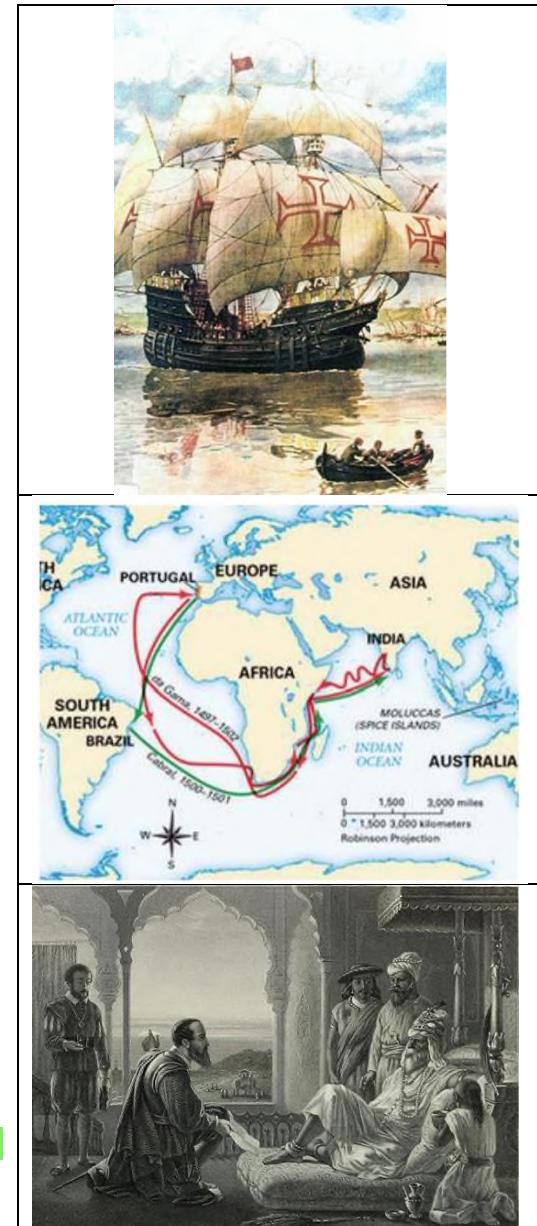
**Vasco Da Gama** set out from **Lisbon** in **1497** leading a convoy of **four** ships on a journey along the Atlantic coast of Africa, then around the Cape of Good Hope, into the Indian Ocean, finally **disembarking at Calicut** (Kozhikode) in **1498**. During his journey, he was guided by an Indian 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.

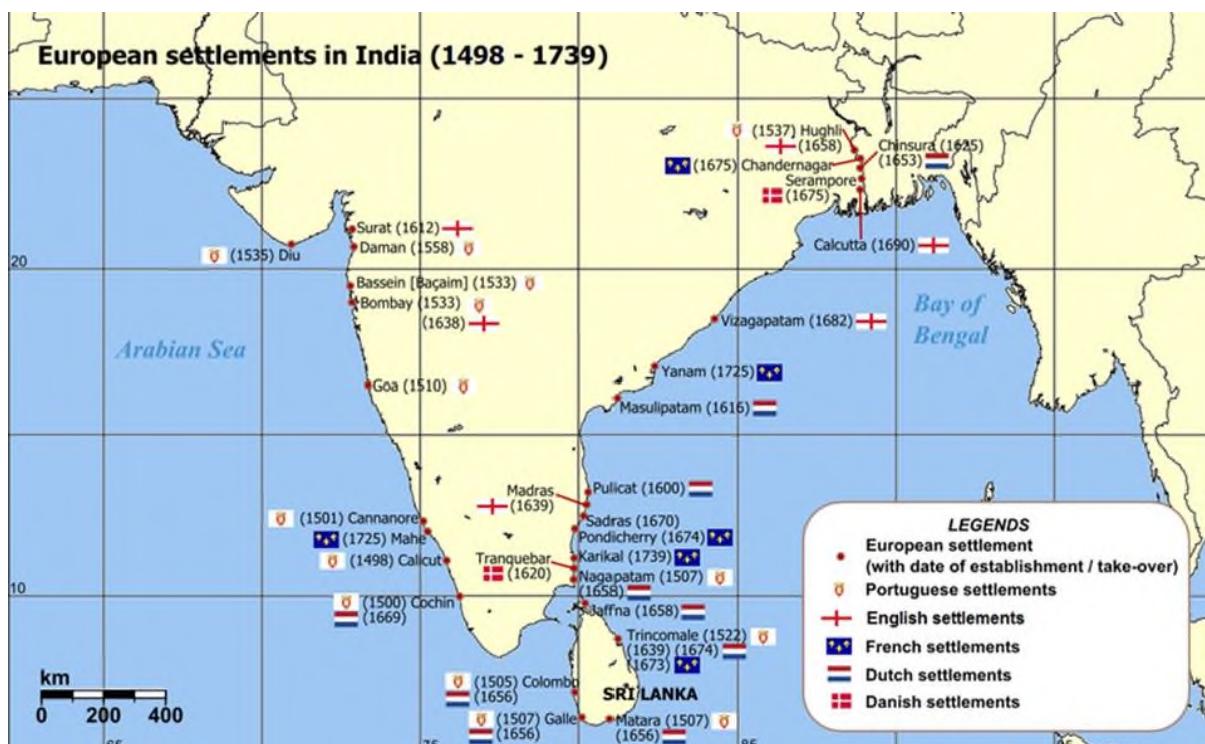
Within a few years of the voyage of da Gama, the Portuguese were travelling regularly along this all-sea route between **Lisbon** and India. In 1503, **Afonso de Albuquerque** came to India and made **Cochin** as Portuguese HQ.

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



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

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:

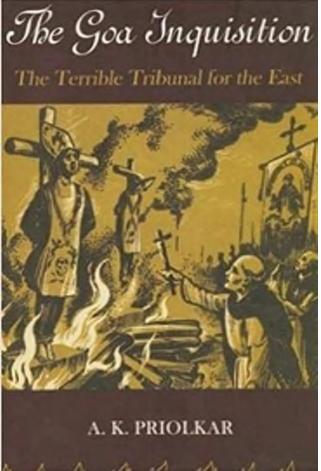
- It was a crown initiative. The king appointed courtiers and country nobles in the administration who had access to the king directly. This led to ill-development of civilian bureaucracy with single point of command, which had long term implications.
- There was no unity of command agenda since the 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.

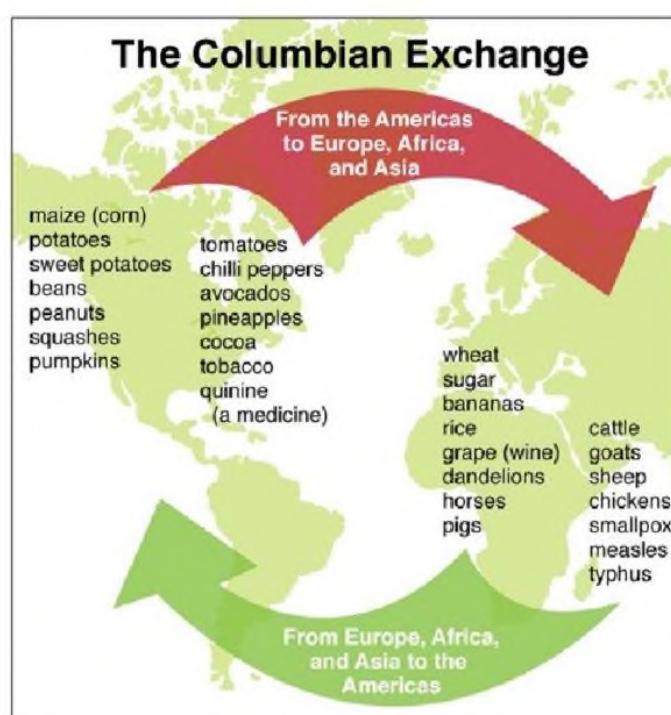
Finally, the Dutch and English exploited the situation.

	
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**.



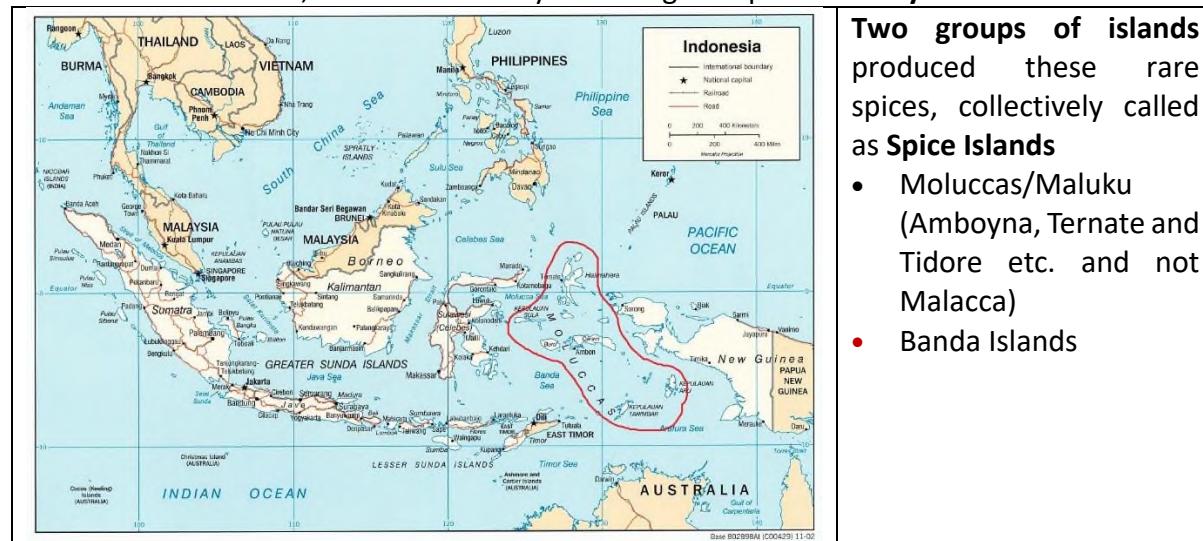
## Dutch VOC (1602-1799)

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**.



**Two groups of islands** produced these rare spices, collectively called as **Spice Islands**

- Moluccas/Maluku (Amboyna, Ternate and Tidore etc. and not Malacca)
- Banda Islands

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

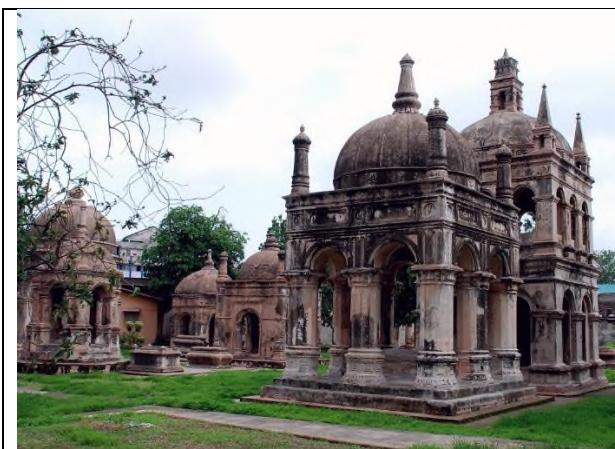
In 1658, they also conquered Sri Lanka from the Portuguese.

## 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.

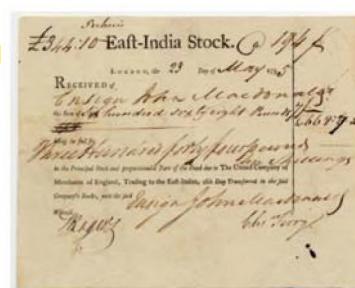
The charter was initially for 15 years, and it was later continuously renewed with changes in terms from time to time, till 1853 when it received the final charter.



Elizabeth I



Francis Drake



## EIC: 17<sup>th</sup> 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"> <li>A Jesuit missionary</li> <li>First Englishman to reach India (Goa)</li> <li>Author of <b>Krista Purana</b> (epic poem on Christ in Konkani + Marathi)</li> </ul>
1584	Ralf Fitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Englishman to travel through India.</li> <li>Came to Goa with John Newberry, John Eldred, and James Story. Except for Story, the other three visited other parts of India.</li> </ul>
1603	John <b>Mildenhall</b>	He met Emperor <b>Akbar</b> . However, his journey was not sponsored by the Company. Hence, Sir William Hawkins was sent to India to declare all his dealings <b>null and void</b> .

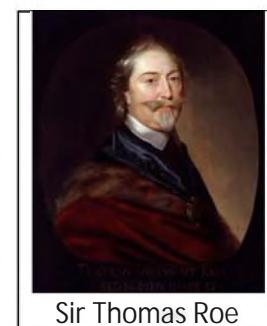
First Expedition/Voyage of EIC fleet to **Spice Islands** (Indonesia) under James Lancaster and Henry Middleton in 1601. India was only incidental to the plans of English and its main objective was to procure **spices** from SE Asia, but the English were driven out of SE Asia by Dutch by 1623. So, English 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

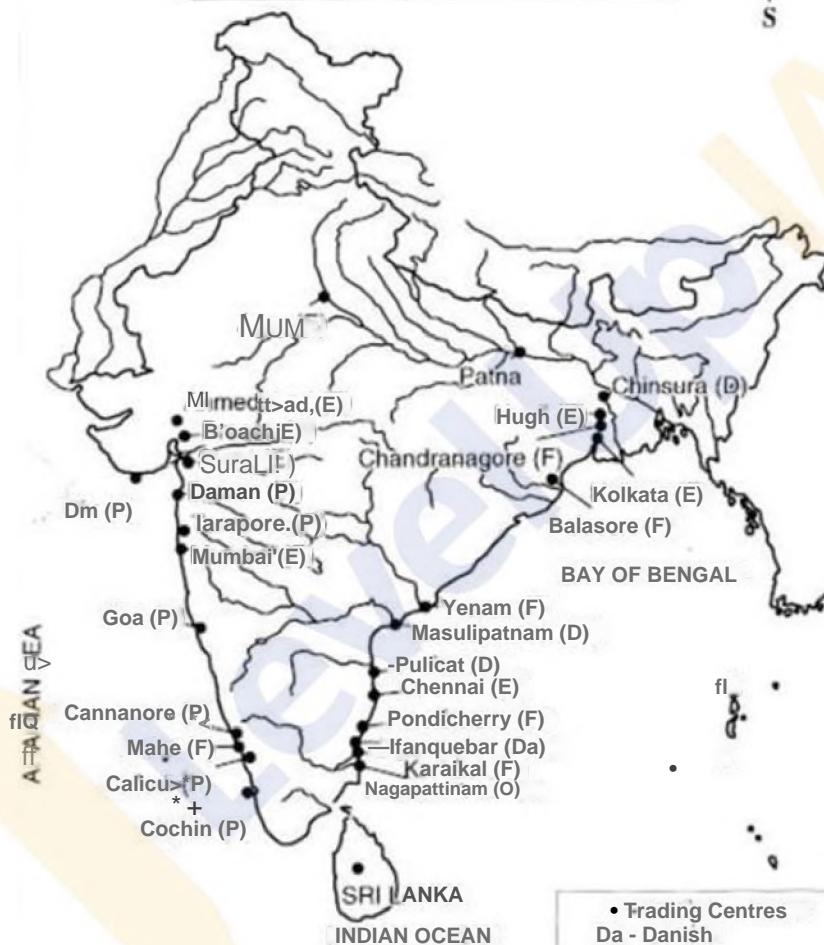
### Danish EIC

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**



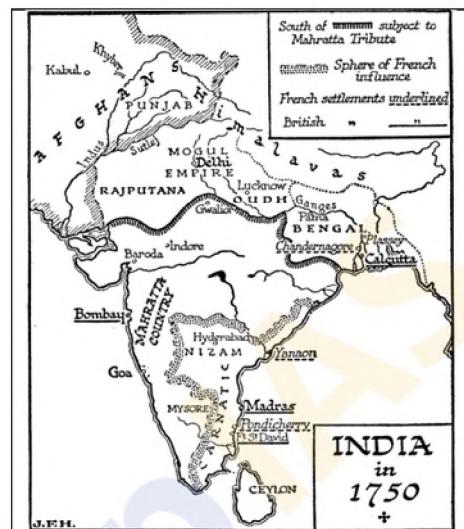
### (C) Carnatic Wars - Elimination of Rivals

(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 18<sup>th</sup> century. During the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

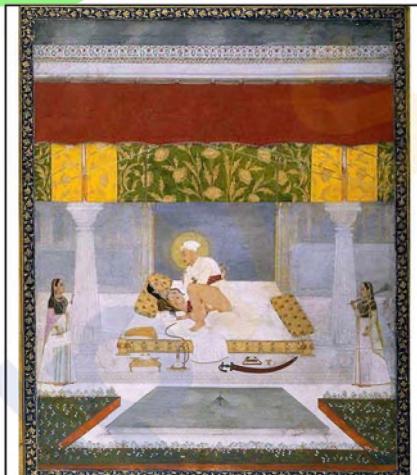
- Anti-Saiyid Camp

- 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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:

<b>Successor States</b>	Arose as result of assertion of autonomy by Mughal governors.	bangal, auvadh, hydrabad,
<b>Rebel states</b>	Due to rebel by chieftains, zamindars, and peasants.	jatts, shikh, marathas
<b>Independent kingdoms</b>	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:

<b>Suba</b>	Subedar (Nazim) Diwan <b>Bakshi</b> Qazi Waqai Navis	<b>System of checks and balances</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The imperial control over the provinces was mainly through the control over appointment of the <b>Nazim and the Diwan</b>.</li><li>Many other officials like Amils, Faujdars, etc., were dependent on the emperor who appointed them.</li></ul>
<b>Sarkar</b>	Fauzdar Amalguzar	
<b>Paragana</b>	Shiqdar Fotedar	
<b>Local</b>	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><b>Murshidabad</b> on the bank of Hooghly River was named after Murshid Quli Khan. It was the capital of the prosperous subah of Bengal, which included todays <b>Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Bangladesh</b>.</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 <b>silk weaving</b> 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)



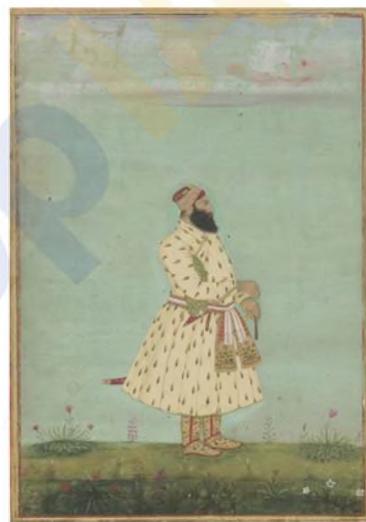
The Jagat Seth Palace, Murshidabad  
(Indian imitation of European building)

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 18<sup>th</sup> century was Raja Sawai Jai Singh of Amber (1681-1743). He was a distinguished statesman, law-maker, and reformer.

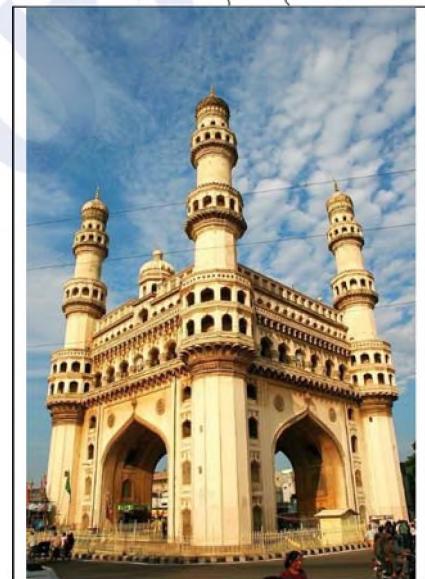
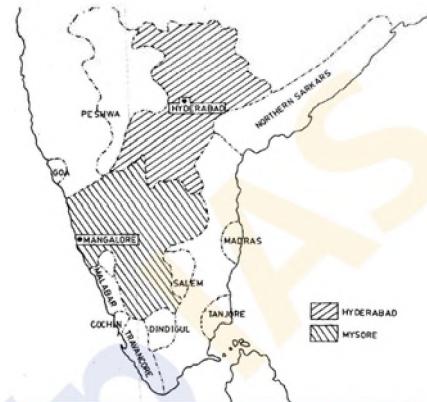
- He founded the city of Jaipur and transformed it into a great centre of science and art. Jaipur was built on strictly scientific principles and according to a regular plan.
- He also erected observatories with accurate and advanced instruments at Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Varanasi and Mathura. He drew 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

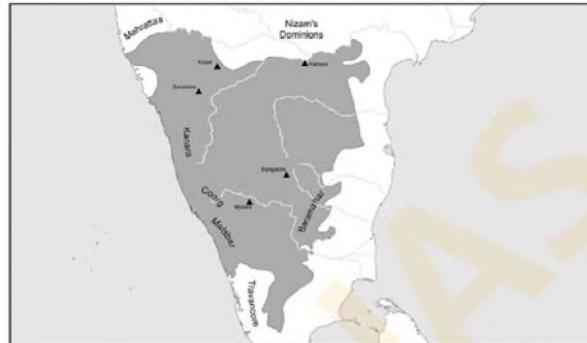
## (9) Mysore

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

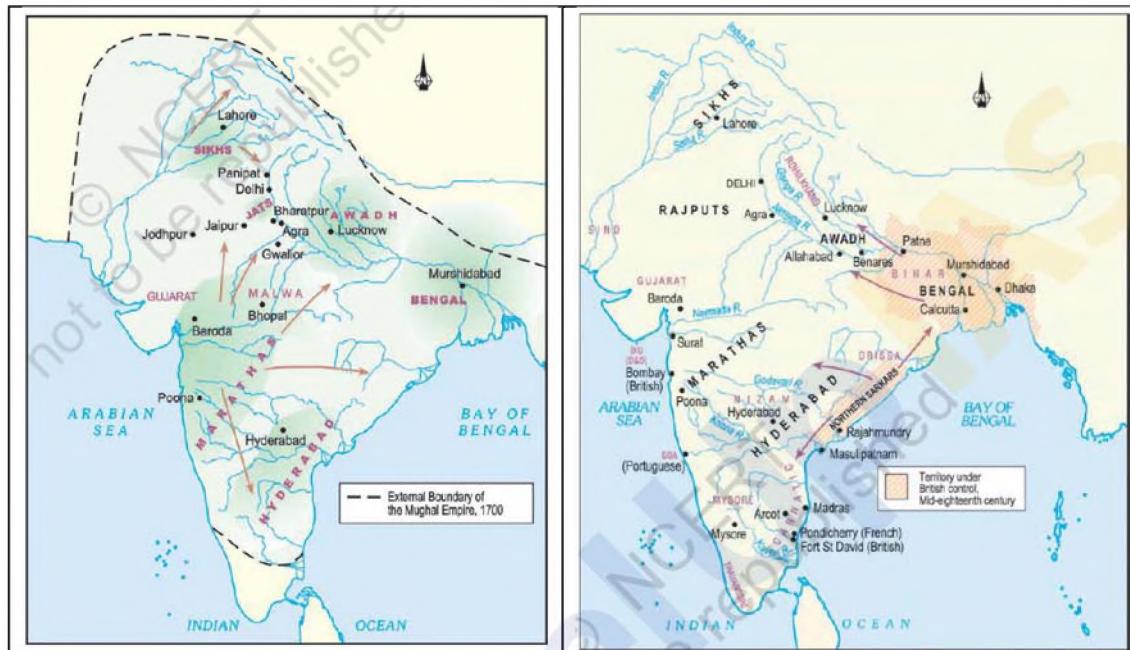
- **Velu Thampi Revolt (1809)**



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

### (C) 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> c = Dark age or the Age of Crisis

Historians of the early generation saw the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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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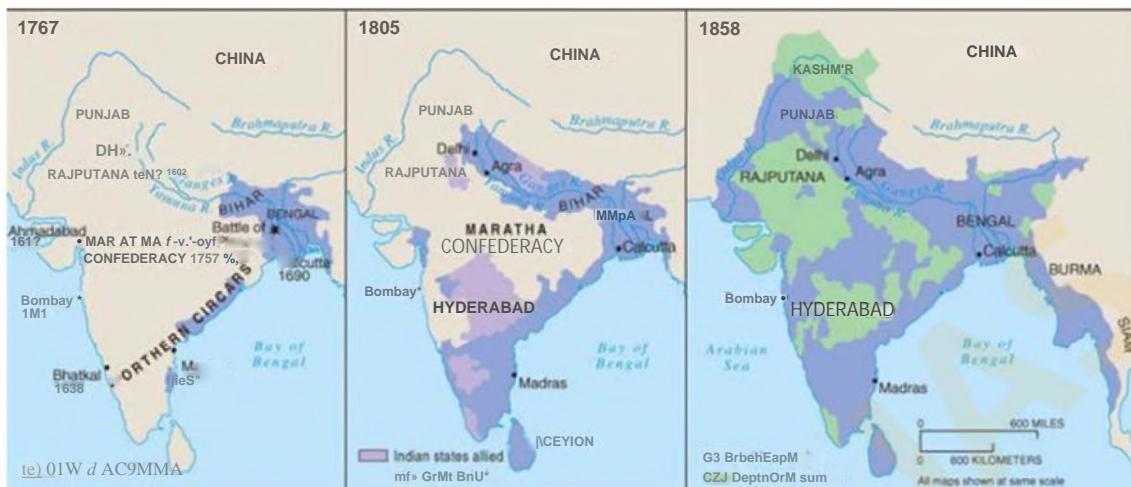
### Second half of the 18\*\*1 c = Age of Revolution

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.

Modern India 2024  
Handout 5: Conquest of Bengal (Plassey and Buxar)  
Nikhil Sheth



Years	Phase	Governors (General)	Major Wars and Conquests
1757-1813	Mercantile Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert Clive (1758-60)</li> <li>Henry Vansittart (1760-64)</li> <li>Robert Clive (1765-67)</li> <li>Warren Hastings (1772-73)</li> <li>Warren Hastings (1773-85)</li> <li>Cornwallis (1786-93)</li> <li>Richard Wellesley (1798-05)</li> <li>Lord Minto (1807-13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carnatic Wars</li> <li>Bengal - Plassey and Buxar</li> <li>Four Anglo-Mysore Wars</li> <li>Two Rohilla Wars</li> <li>First and Second Anglo-Maratha War</li> </ul>
1813-1858	Industrial Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lord Hastings (1813-23)</li> <li>Lord Amherst (1823-28)</li> <li>William Bentinck (1828-35)</li> <li>Lord Auckland (1836-42)</li> <li>Lord Ellenborough (1842-44)</li> <li>Henry Hardinge (1844-48)</li> <li>Dalhousie (1848-56)</li> <li>Lord Canning (1856-58)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third Anglo-Maratha War</li> <li>Annexation of Sindh</li> <li>First Anglo-Afghan War</li> <li>Gorkha War</li> <li>Two Burmese Wars</li> <li>Gwalior War</li> <li>Two Anglo-Sikh Wars</li> <li>Annexations, Subjugation of Princely States and Doctrine of Lapse</li> </ul>
1858 onwards	Financial Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lord Canning (1858-62)</li> <li>Lawrence (1864-69)</li> <li>Earl of Mayo (1869-72)</li> <li>Lord Northbrook (1872-76)</li> <li>Lytton (1876-80)</li> <li>Ripon (1880-84)</li> <li>Dufferin (1884-88)</li> <li>Lansdowne (1888-94)</li> <li>Elgin (1894-99)</li> <li>Lord Curzon (1899-1905)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bhutan War</li> <li>Second Anglo-Afghan War</li> <li>Third Burmese War</li> <li>Tibet Expedition</li> </ul>

Rich resources of Bengal were known since ancient times. Bernier (1620-88) wrote "The rich exuberance of the country has given rise to a proverb in common use among the Portuguese; English and Dutch that the kingdom of Bengal has a hundred gates open for entrance, but not one for departure."

By the 18<sup>th</sup> century,

- The Mughal province of Bengal had turned into an independent Nawabi Riyasat under Murshid Quli Khan. He combined both Diwani and Nizami into one post in 1717 and managed to carve out an independent Nawabi.
- There was fierce competition among various European companies. In the process of mercantile expansion, Bengal had become the hunting ground for Dutch, French and British companies.
- In 1717, Farrukhsiyar gave firman to the EIC which conferred on it the right to custom-free trade in Bengal at the payment of Rs. 3000/year. The firman also contained other important concessions-the rent of 38 villages adjacent to Calcutta, the permission to use the royal mint for minting coins out of its imported bullion.
  - John Surman was sent from Calcutta to negotiate with the Mughal emperor.
  - Actually, the firman confirmed the privileges granted to the Company in 1691.
  - Rs3000 = £350. At that time Company's exports from Bengal were worth more than £50,000 a year. 6% tax
  - This firman is also called as Magna Carta of the company.

As the nawabs of Bengal experienced heavy loss to the exchequer due to this, there was always pressure from the provincial administration to compel the English Company to pay more for its trade in the province.

- During the era of Murshid Quli Khan, this firman became the fountainhead of commercial abuses pursued by the English merchants. What worried him more was the duty-free private trade carried on by the servants of the Company and their rights to issue dastaks (certificates).
- EIC trade + private trade together deprived the Bengal treasury of its due revenue. It was in unscrupulous manner of swindling and defrauding. The nawab thus tried to force the English merchants to pay the same custom duty as was paid by other merchants.
- Alivardi Khan came to the throne in 1740 and tried to be relatively more assertive over trade privileges. He acted against British and other European companies and also recovered arrears. He occasionally intercepted the goods cargo of foreign merchants and forced them to pay huge sums. Alivardi also didn't allow English and French to fight in Bengal during the First Carnatic war. He opposed their fortification in Calcutta and Chandernagar and didn't allow them to consolidate their military position in Bengal.
- However, on the whole, both Murshid Quli and Alivardi avoided open conflict with the English and allowed the company to carry out duty-free export trade from Bengal, provided the goods genuinely belonged to the company and not to a private trader. Bengal nawabs so far didn't disturb the economic privileges of the Company in the hope that the English trade would bring economic prosperity in Bengal.

Siraj-ud-Daulah (1756-57) succeeded Alivardi Khan as Nawab of Bengal in 1756.

- Succession Issue
  - His succession was opposed by his aunt Ghasiti Begum, his cousin Shaukat Jang (Governor of Purnea) and a section of nobility in the court. But Siraj was quick to smell the plot and detained Ghaseti Begum at Moti Jheel palace in Murshidabad. He suspected that the English company was involved in the plot.
  - Besides this, there was internal dissension within the Nawab's court. Jagat Seth, Umichand, Raj Ballabh, Rai Durlabh, Mir Jafar and others who were also opposed to Siraj.
- Straining Siraj-Company relations
  - There was a serious threat to Nawab's position from the growing commercial activity of the English Company. On his accession, English company didn't provide customary nazrana, as all other foreign merchants did. A suspicion grew in Siraj's mind that the English were hostile to him and were supporting his rivals.
  - Siraj decided to take hard-line towards the English. Siraj was determined to stop the illegal trade and would not hesitate to use force, if necessary. However, the Company was teeming with confidence after its recent victory over the French in Carnatic and was in no mood to tolerate assertive nawab of Bengal.
  - The English were determined to continue the misuse of dastaks.
  - Company officials suspected that Siraj would cut down the privilege of the Company in alliance with the French in Bengal. Without any permission from the Nawab, English tried to expand the fortification around Calcutta, on the pretext of imminent French attack. Siraj saw it as violation of sovereignty.
  - Company gave shelter to Krishna Das (son of Raj Ballabh) who was one of the chief supporters of the plot, fled with immense wealth against Siraj's will.
  - Siraj realized that Company was running a *state within state* and it was a direct challenge to his sovereignty. Siraj thus determined to teach the English a good lesson.



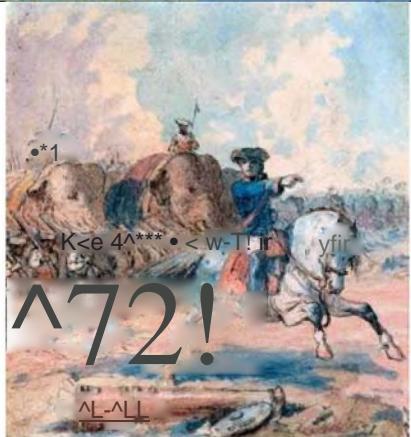
Siraj-ud-Daula rides off to war.

Series of events:

<p>Siraj-ud-daula's attack on the English fort at Calcutta precipitated an open conflict.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Si raj seized Kasimbazaar factory and invaded Calcutta. He captured Fort Williams. British had only 500 men there. British ran away to Fulta island under leadership of Drake. Siraj changed the name of Calcutta to Alinagar.</li> <li>Meanwhile Holwell (junior member Calcutta council) surrendered - Black Hole tragedy. Nawab captured 146 Europeans who were confined to a tiny room for the night. It was alleged that it was too small to accommodate so many people, and thus many of them perished out of suffocation.</li> </ul>	
<p>Recapture of Calcutta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrival of a strong English force (900 Europe, 1500 Indian) underthe command of Officer Robert Clive and Vice Admiral Charles Watson to Calcutta from Madras strengthened the British position in Bengal. He captured Calcutta.</li> <li>Meanwhile Abdali had captured Delhi. Siraj got unnerved and started to conciliate the British. Thus, Treaty of Alinagar (1757) - all company privileges were restored.</li> <li>Clive also captured and destroyed French Chandarnagar.</li> </ul>	
<p>Hatching of Conspiracy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was a sham peace concluded with the Nawab. Meanwhile, Clive was involved in secret negotiations for removing Siraj. Clive became aware of the secret plan to dethrone Siraj (Omi Chand, Mir Jafar, Jagat Seth, Rai Durlabh, Yar Latif Khan) and supported the plot.</li> <li>Mir Jafar was offered Nawabship in return for the help. Mir Jafar promised to neutralize a section of Nawab's army during Clive's attack on Murshidabad.</li> </ul>	
<p>Plassey (23 June 1757)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clive marched against Nawab on trivial pretext. Clive now wanted respectable casus belli. He sent letter to Siraj accusing of breaking Alinagar treaty, hobnobbing with French and then without waiting for his rplv, hp lpt Calntta with army and reach Plassey (12 miles south of Murshidabad)</li> <li>It was a minor skirmish. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>800 Europeans + 2500 Indians versus 50,000 Indians.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Due to Mir Jafar and Rai Durlabh's treachery, the army didn't fight. Only a small group of soldiers led by Mir Madan and Mohanlal fought valiantly. Siraj left the battleground on the request of his loyal associated but was captured later and put to death by Mir Jafar's son Miran.</p>	



Calcutta, Plassey, Murshidabad, Munger, Buxar



Battle of Plassey looks very heroic in this painting, which was commissioned by Clive of India. *Was it so?*



Robert Clive meeting with Mir Jafar after the [Battle of Plassey](#)



[Palashi Monument](#)

Madras had been the headquarters of the Company's activities in 17<sup>th</sup> century. After the victory at the Battle of Plassey, the EIC moved its headquarters from Madras to Calcutta and Clive became Governor of Bengal in 1765.

## Significance of Plassey:

military significance : english victory in battle of plassi is confirm even before the battle is fough is not the superiority of mility power but the conspercy of nawab official that help english side.

political : significance is noting much because nawab of bangal still the soveign otherity but in the long turn plassey mount begin of the concer of india. history of bangal in 1757-65 is gradual tranfer of power from nawab to british

economil significance : immense because company found new kind of policial signifcase to establish political monopoly in the bangal. bangal emmarge as punder state after the plassey because company exploite the resources every possible way. bangal was force to pay bangal convest of india. the resouce gain by company after the plassey are used in anglo french war of carnatic.

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	<p>Siraj-ud-Daula's palanquin, taken from the battlefield of Plassey.</p>
	<p>Clive's loot and acquisitions are on display in the Clive Museum at Powis Castle. It looks very English, but it contains more Mughal loot than anywhere in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh.</p>
	<p>A simple flat-roofed tomb of Siraj-ud-daula's named Khasbagh at Murshidabad.</p>
	<p>The territorial ambitions of the mercantile East India Company were viewed with distrust and doubt in England. After the Battle of Plassey, Robert Clive wrote to William Pitt, one of the Principal Secretaries of State to the English monarch, on 7 January 1759 from Calcutta: <i>But so large a sovereignty may possibly be an object too extensive for a mercantile Company... I flatter myself... that there will be little or no difficulty in obtaining the absolute possession of these rich kingdoms:... Now I leave you to judge, whether an income yearly of two million sterling with the possession of three provinces... be an object deserving the public attention...</i></p>

## Mir Jafar and British (1757-60)

In accordance with the secret deal struck before Plassey, Mir Jafar was made the Nawab, but he was supposed to function merely as a puppet. Mir Jafar was made to pay a heavy price to his English friends for their favour.

- Presents and compensation.
- Zamindar of 24 Paragana
- Mint at Calcutta
- Monopoly of saltpetre in Bihar
- Freedom of trade throughout the region
- Nawab to treat all enemies of the companies as his enemies.

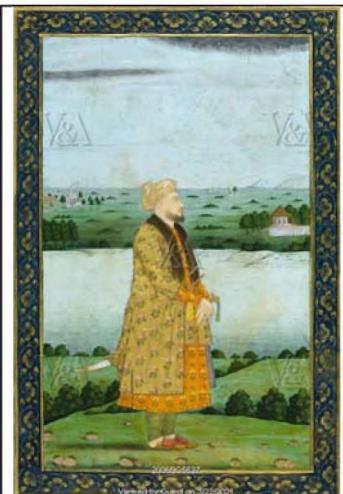
Clive estimated later that the English extracted more than 3 crore rupees from him. Servants of the company asked for more presents almost as a matter of right. But the treasury of Murshidabad did not have enough resources to satisfy the demands of Clive and his fellow countrymen. Its fabled treasure was not as rich as imagined. Thus, Mir Jafar's treasury soon got exhausted in meeting the demands of the Company servants.

EIC's incessant demands for money and territory, and constant interference in internal administration, made it impossible for Mir Jafar to run the government. He soon realized his mistake.

Finally, he tried to change one master for another and started secret talks with Dutch, but the Dutch were soon defeated in the naval battle of Chinsura/Bedara in 1759.

Mir Jafar now lost the confidence of the English. The rebellion of Mir Jafar's army for their due salary provided pretext for the British to force Mir Jafar to step down. In 1760, Mir Jafar was replaced with Mir Kasim (Mir Jafar's son-in-law) by a new Governor Henry Vansittart.

Kasim paid large amounts of money (gifts upto 30 lakhs rupees) and gave zamindari of three districts: Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong to the English Company. Henry Vansittart and his family received 2 lakh pounds. The greed and nepotism shown by Vansittart was bottomless.



Mir Jafar was an elderly Arab whose family migrated from Iraq originally.



Henry Vansittart,  
Governor of Bengal (1759-64)

## Mir Kasim and British (1760-63)

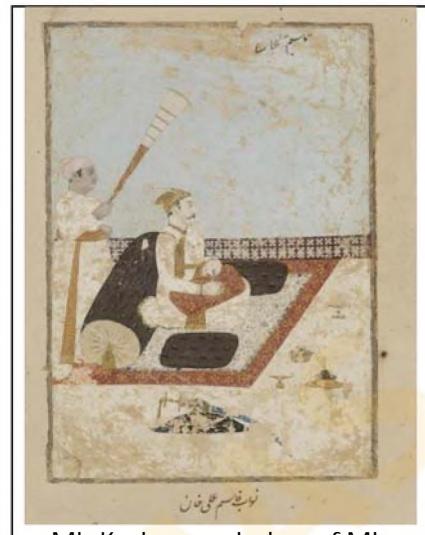
Mir Kasim had an independent personality of his own. He was an efficient, hard-working, and independent-minded person. He realized that to be independent, a full treasury and a strong army are required.

Now, Company merchants became very aggressive in their behaviour. They were almost looting and plundering the countryside. The Company didn't pay any attention to persistent complaints by Mir Kasim regarding this law-and-order situation. Finally, to restore the order, ensure revenue flow and reorganize the army, Mir Kasim initiated a few steps.

- Shifting the capital from Murshidabad to Munger (Bihar) in order to keep a safe distance from the day-to-day meddling of the Company.
  - Here, he reorganized the bureaucracy by the men of his own choice and purged the pro-EIC elements.
  - Re-modeled the army on western lines to enhance its skill and efficiency.
    - He paid the outstanding dues to soldiers.
    - Several European adventurers like Reinhard (Sumru), Marcat Gentil, Aratoon etc. were admitted to Nawab's army.
    - He set up a factory of arms and ammunition at Munger.
- The issue of misuse of dastaks remained as the bone of contention.

In 1757, Clive had secured custom duty exemption from Jafar for company's private trade. However, Indian merchants still had to pay full tax. Mir Kasim retaliated by abolishing internal duties altogether for everyone, thus creating an equal playing field. But English merchants would not have native merchants on equal footing.
- He got investiture from Shah Alam II (Mughal Padshah)
  - This was too much for the English to tolerate.

British now started searching for a suitable replacement of Mir Kasim. But Mir Kasim was not ready to surrender so easily. Therefore, an armed clash between the Nawab and the English became inevitable.



Mir Kasim, son-in-law of Mir Jafar was a second generation Persian immigrant.

## Battle of Buxar (Baksar)

In 1763, a regular campaign against Mir Kasim began. Mir Kasim initially defeated the English in battles at Giria, Udayanala etc. But then Mir Kasim had to flee and took refuge in Awadh. In Awadh, he tried to put up a united resistance against the British with the help of the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II and Nawab Shuja-ud-daula of Awadh.

The allied army of the three was routed by Hector Munroe at Buxar on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1764. He inflicted a crushing defeat in the fiercely contended battle of Buxar.

Shah Alam submitted to English.

- Shuja fled to Rohilkhand and Awadh was overrun by British.

Mir Kasim's political career ended here. He became fugitive and died in extreme poverty as homeless wanderer in Delhi in 1777.

EIC was not entirely confident that it could defeat Shuja in an extensive war. Thus, shortly after the battle, officials of the company made overtures of friendship to the emperor. Negotiations began in right earnest when Clive returned to India in May 1765 for his second term as the Governor of Bengal.



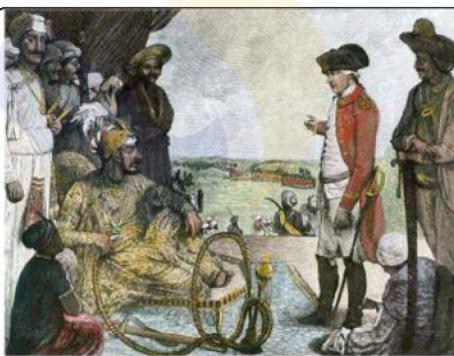
Hector Munroe

Now, Mir Jafar was brought back as the Nawab. Three districts: Midnapore, Burdwan and Chittagong were fully transferred to the English for the maintenance of their army. Also, duty free trade in Bengal {except a duty of 2% on salt) was permitted formally.

### Treaty of Allahabad and the beginning of the Dyarchy (1765)

In the summer of 1765 Clive came back as the Governor of Bengal (second term). Clive now engaged himself in completing his unfinished task, i.e., to make the British the supreme political authority in Bengal.

In August, Clive travelled to Allahabad to pay his respects to the emperor. Then, shuttling between Allahabad and Banaras (where Shuja had set up his headquarters).



Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II as the prisoner of the Company after Buxar

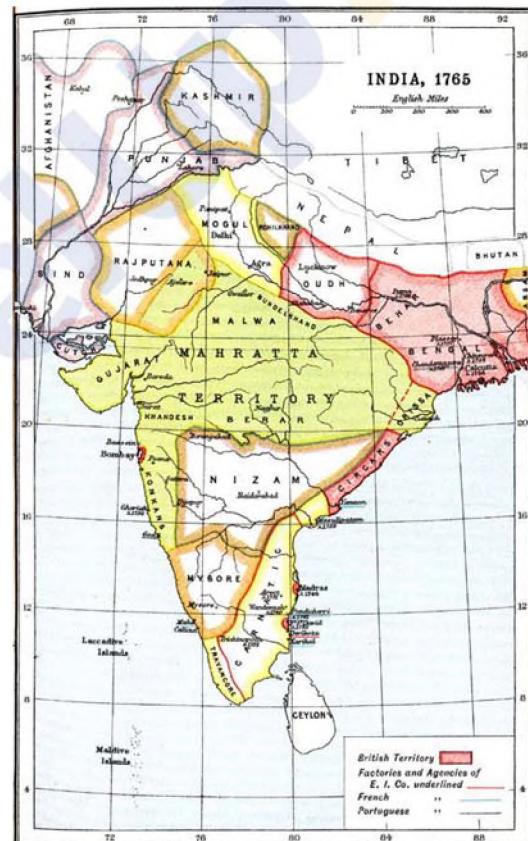


Mughal emperor Shah Alam hands a scroll to Robert Clive, the governor of Bengal.

Phase I of Treaty of Allahabad Robert Clive and Shuja-ud-daula (20 August)	Phase II of Treaty of Allahabad Robert Clive and Shah Alam II (12 August)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shah Alam was to be given Allahabad and the adjoining territories. <u>Chunarto</u> to be retained by British.</li> <li>Zamindari of Benaras to be with the family of <u>Balwant Singh</u> under British protection, although formally under Awadh.</li> </ul> <p>Nawab to pay <u>50 lakhs</u> to the Company as war indemnity.</p> <p><u>Nawab to defray the cost of maintenance of the troops for the defence of his frontier.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The emperor granted by a firman, the <u>Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa</u> to the <u>East India Company</u>. The right of Diwani authorized the Company to collect revenue of the subah of Bengal.</li> <li>Shah Alam was taken under the <u>Company's protection</u>. He was assigned <u>Kara and Allahabad region</u> ceded by Shuja-ud-daula. From now on, Shah Alam was to reside at Allahabad.</li> <li>Company to pay Rs <u>53 lakh</u> for administrative expenses and Rs <u>26 Lakhs</u> for personal expenses annually as <u>tribute to the emperor</u>.</li> </ul>

Now, while Diwani was with the Company, the Nizamat (responsibility for defence, law and order and the administration of justice) remained in the hands of the Nawabs. Thus, there was a dual government or dyarchy as it was called. Appointment of Muhammad Reza Khan as Naib Subedar marked the virtual end of the British rule in Bengal.

The system of dyarchy actually enabled the Company to establish its supreme control over both Nizamat and Diwani departments, without assuming the direct or formal control of either. The Company thus now enjoyed all the power without any responsibility and the Nawab of Bengal was reduced to a phantom, a man of straw. This arrangement continued till 1772 when Bengal was brought under direct British control.



Significance of the battle of Buxar:

the battle of buxar gave company complete policial control over the bangal thus it was more decisive than plassey

- 1) it most **decisive** battle ever fought in this battle three of most important indian power defeated simultaneously mughal empor shal alam 2 came under british protection while state of auvadha came under indirect under compony
- 2) the outcome of the battle devised by the **quality** of leader and strengths of the arms, compair to plassey which won by **traiacy** buxer was fearsly constated battle it was superior leadership of hector munuro. british demonstrated the art of order.

the victory of buxer comfirm the virdict of plassey.plassey makes puppets by british but the buxer unchallenged master of bangal

company established the commersial monopoly over the bangal  
defeat of siraj udola and the mughal empore confirm the degeneration the army was not confime to navab but the governal general of bangal.

- 4) the company emerge the real master of resources of bangal with the right of dewani

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#### Additional Information

##### Internal Reforms by Clive as Governor of Bengal

1. Within the company, Clive enforced his authority by accepting some resignations and enforcing others.
2. Gifts amounting to a value of more than 4,000 rupees were forbidden, and those between that figure and 1,000 rupees were only to be received with official consent.
3. The regulation of private trade was more difficult, for the company paid virtually no salaries. Clive formed a Society of Trade, which operated the salt monopoly, to provide salaries on a graduated scale.
4. Clive dealt with overgrown military allowances with equal vigour, overcoming a white mutiny headed by a brigade commander (1766). He used a legacy from Mir Jafar to start the first pension fund for the Indian army.

Modern India 2024  
Handout 6: Anglo-Mysore Wars  
Nikhil Sheth

With the conquest of Bengal began the process of the **subjugation** of the entire Indian subcontinent, a process that continued for the next hundred years and even beyond. The Company continued to **systematically** weaken local/regional polities elsewhere by intervening in their disputes, as they had done in **Bengal**.

Apart from being engaged in devising means for the appropriation of the Bengal resources, for much of the latter half of the century, the Company concentrated its energies on establishing effective control over South India. From 1760s to 1790s, the Company's expansionist drive in south India was fiercely resisted by the state of Mysore under **Hyder Ali** and **Tipu Sultan**. The Anglo-Mysorean relations between 1760-99 must be understood in this context.

Causes for conflict:

- Pro-French policy pursued by both **Hyder** and **Tipu**
  - During the second Carnatic war, Hyder came in contact with the French through **de Bussy**'s subordinates. This tilt became more pronounced by the **1760s**. Ties between the two states acquired greater depth in later half of the century, particularly after the French **Revolution**.
- **Hostilities** between French and British at global level.
- Mutual rivalries among Indigenous powers (eg **Arcot**, **Hyderabad**, **Marathas**)
- English policy of supporting one indigenous ruler against another
- Other British interests
  - Mysore controlled part of rich Malabar coastal **trade** which was a threat to British trade in **cardamom and pepper**.
  - **Buffer** state issue: Powerful Mysore near Madras was a threat.

"...most **contemporary** Indian rulers were tyrannical usurpers of previous dynasties and rights and could therefore **dispensed** with at will so that (this ancient, and highly cultivated people) could be '**restored** to the full enjoyment of their **religious** and civil rights'." (Perception created by British to **legitimize their rule**)

## First Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69)

Lord **Verelst** (1767-69) was the governor of Bengal Presidency and Charles Bourchier was the governor of Madras Presidency (1767-70) during this phase.

- British felt threatened by the military might of Mysore and its pro-French stance.
- In late 18th c, **Mysore** assumed central importance. The Nizam of Hyderabad, Nawab of Arcot and Marathas also felt threatened. English now joined them and formed a broad-front against Mysore. (**Triple Alliance**)
- Haider rose to the occasion. He diplomatically turned the Marathas neutral and Nizam into his ally against Nawab of Arcot. He offered Marathas the regions of **Shivener** and **Gutti**, apart from war indemnity of Rs. **32 lakh**.
- After isolating British, Haidar suddenly attacked Madras. His forces reached the outskirts of **Madras**, causing complete chaos and panic. This compelled the English to **sue** for peace. Though Haider did not want stop his offensive against the English, the threat of Maratha invasion forced him to negotiate peace with the English.
- **Treaty of Madras (1769):**
  - It restored the status quo and mutual restitution of territories.
  - There was no provision for war compensation.
  - Important clause: This was a defensive alliance and both powers agreed to help each other in case of an attack by a **third party**.

This treaty was an honourable treaty for Hyder Ali. It severely damaged the **prestige** of English in India. The importance of the First Anglo-Mysore war lies in the fact the English, for the first time in India, seemed to be on backfoot. The seeds of a continuous friction between Mysore and the British power were thus **sowed**.



iramukhoty Hyder Spanks the English

To show that the English did not have sole rights on myth making, here is a cartoon by **Antoine Borel**, showing Hyder Ali of Mysore giving a British officer a thorough spanking while a French soldier **smirks** and supplies the **twigs**

The French had fought in large numbers for Hyder Ali and Tipu sultan during the 1778-1784 second Anglo-Mysore wars, and this cartoon reflects that mood in France. The French were particularly peeved with the brits for having captured their main trading post, Pondicherry, during the American Revolutionary War.

Bibliotheque National des Estampes, 1783

[View all 13 comments](#)

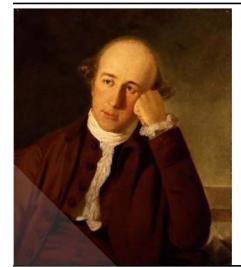
williamdalrymple Brilliant

## Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84)

### Warren Hastings (1772-85)

Warren Hastings and Robert Clive are credited with laying the foundation of the British Empire in India - from difficult position post-Mughal and regional rivalries.

- First Anglo-Maratha War
- Second Anglo-Mysore War



### Causes

- The second war started after about a decade since the first war.
- In 1771, Mysore was invaded by the Maratha but British didn't come to help. Despite his appeal, they preferred to remain neutral. Hyder Ali considered it a contravention to the spirit of the Treaty of Madras and accused them of breach of faith.
- Haider Ali found the French more resourceful in terms of fulfilling the army requirements of guns, saltpeter and lead. Consequently, he started importing French war materials to Mysore through Mahe, a French possession on the Malabar Coast.
- The increasing friendship between Mysore and French raised concern for the British. In 1779, the British company invaded the French region, Mahe. As Mahe fell under the jurisdiction of Mysore, Haider Ali resisted British attempt to capture it and took it as a direct challenge to his sovereign power. It provided the immediate pretext for the war.



### Course of the War

- It was a fiercely fought military context ranging over a vast area stretching from Mangalore on the west coast to Arcot in the east.
- Using his rare diplomatic skill, Hyder was able to win over Marathas and Nizam on his side for some time. This broad united front worked fairly well initially.
- His main strength lay in his cavalry and semi-guerrilla tactics. He was able to capture almost the whole of Carnatic.
- However, after 1781, tables started turning.
  - Battle of Porto Novo (1781): General Eyre Coote defeated Hyder Ali
  - British made peace with Marathas which enabled them to concentrate their entire military strength against Mysore.

The battle of Pollilur (near Kanchipuram, 1780) when Mysore army led by Tipu defeated the EIC forces. EIC suffered massive losses 'the severest blow that English had suffered ever in India.' The painting offers the wealth of information on battle formations, composition of armies with horses, elephants, foot soldiers, uniforms and military band that accompanied them.

- In 1782, Hyder Ali died when the war was in full-swing. It was Tipu Sultan who took command of the war for its remaining duration (1782-84).
  - Tipu got big military successes at many places and hence British came under the pressure. Neither side was capable of overpowering the other completely.
  - At the same time, Madras was hit by financial crunch and Lord Macartney, the Governor of Madras initiated peace talks. Tipu also needed time to consolidate his hold and strengthen administration.
  - Thus, it remained an inconclusive War.
- Treaty of Mangalore (1784)
  - Both sides restored all conquests. This treaty kept Tipu's kingdom and military intact. It was a respectable treaty for Tipu as there was no place for war compensation even in this treaty.
  - Although the British had been shown to be too weak to defeat Mysore, they had certainly proved their ability to hold their own in India.

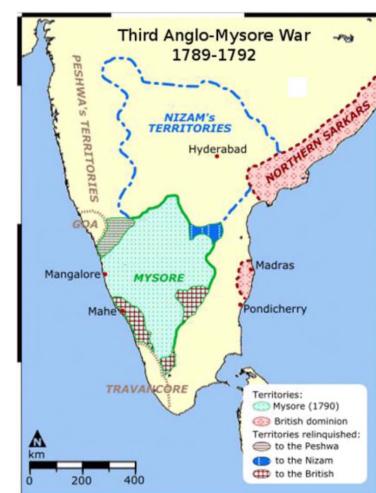
### Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790-92)

#### Cornwallis (1786-93)

- He was sent with instructions to avoid conflict.
- Known for administrative, legal and revenue reforms
- Third Anglo-Mysore War - he inflicted temporary defeat on Tipu



- The Treaty of Mangalore was not enough to resolve the conflict. It was just a temporary respite before a final showdown.
- The relationship between Tipu and Iran/France were improving, which threatened the British interests.
- *"The authorities of the East India Company were acutely hostile to Tipu. They looked upon him as their most formidable rival in the south and as the chief obstacle standing between them and complete domination over South India. Tipu, on his part, thoroughly disliked the English, saw them as the chief danger to his own independence and nursed the ambition to expel them from India."* - NCERT
- Causes
  - Lord Cornwallis diplomatically brought Marathas and Nizam to the British side. They were against Tipu's growing power.
  - In 1789, Tipu invaded the state of Travancore. Travancore was protected by British as per the Treaty of Mangalore (1784).
- War



- Cornwallis came out to protect Travancore and sent an expedition led by General Meadows against Tipu. However, this expedition of unsuccessful.
- Then, Cornwallis formed a Triple Alliance and succeeded in isolating Tipu diplomatically - Marathas and Nizams against Tipu along with British. The rulers of the states of Travancore, Cochin and Arcot were already hostile to Tipu.
- Tipu was compelled to fight simultaneously on several fronts which overstretched his military resources. Still, he sustained the war for one long year. Finally, Tipu was comprehensively defeated in 1792 and had to make a treaty of Srirangapatam.

- Treaty of Seringapatam (1792)

- Humiliating treaty for Tipu - he lost half of his region to the British, along with 3.3 crore rupees as war compensation.
- British shared some regions submitted by Tipu with their allies. (Kadappa and some regions near Tungabhadra to Marathas, regions near Pennar river to Nizam) but the most important regions at Cochin, Coorg and Malabar coast and places like Dindigul, Barmahal (Salem district) were brought under their own control.

- This war depleted Tipu's strength and destroyed his dominant position in the south and firmly established British supremacy there.



Mysorean Rockets

First iron case rockets



*Cornwallis receiving the sons of Tipu Sultan as hostages, painted by Daniel Orme, 1793*



Velu Nachiyar was an 18th-century queen of Sivaganga. She was one of the first queens to fight against the British rule in India.

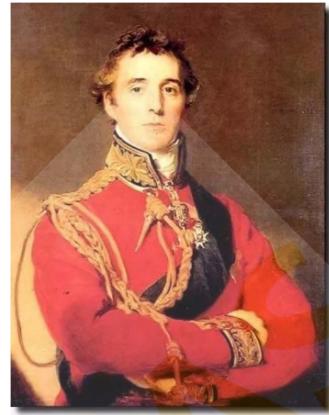
In 1780, when the British captured Sivaganga and forced her to flee, she sought refuge in the Kingdom of Mysore. With the help of Gopala Nayaka, Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, she regained control of Sivaganga in 1780, becoming the first queen to do so in Indian history. She then ruled the kingdom with the help of Tipu Sultan until her death in 1796.

## Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)

**Lord Wellesley (1798-1805)**

- French Menace

- He was sent to India during when Napoleon was preparing for the invasion of Egypt and there was a possibility of French invasion of India and the danger of French revival in India. Wellesley was expressly sent to India to check the French menace.



- Fresh vigour to the British expansionism (policy of annexation)

- He tried bringing as many Indian states as possible under British control. By his arrival, the two strongest Indian powers (Mysore, Marathas), had declined in power; aggression was easy as well as profitable. And in that, the French menace provided good pretext.

- Wellesley adopted three different methods to achieve his goal:

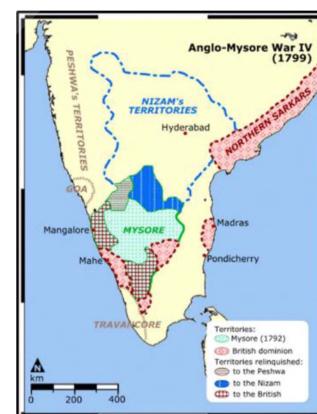
- The method of war - 4th Anglo-Mysore, 2nd Anglo-Maratha
- The method of Subsidiary Alliance
- The method of Annexation - Surat, Tanjore, Carnatic (he created the Madras Presidency by merging these areas)

- Wellesley had no doubt about its legality or morality. His only objective was supremacy of the British in India.

- Tipu's spirit of resistance did not subside even when reduced to half. He was in the search of alternative method to counter the British.

- French Connection

- Developed some military arsenals with French support. He developed three armouries - Mangalore, Wazirabad and Malidabad - with the French help.
- He entered in negotiations for an alliance with Revolutionary France.
- He hoisted French flag and hoisted Tree of Liberty in Seringpatanam. He subscribed himself to the Jacobin Club and preferred to call himself Citizen Tipu.



- British were not prepared to accept Tipu's Francophile policy.

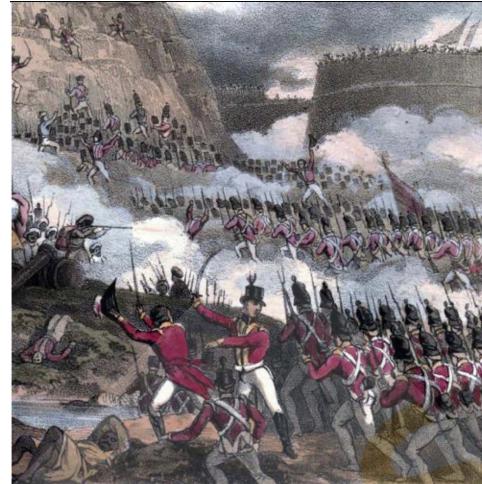
- Sent ambassadors to many regions including France, Mauritius, Constantinople, Afghanistan and Iran to forge an anti-British alliance. He even maintained correspondence with Napoleon.

- Under the circumstances, the destruction of Tipu's power became even more urgent from the British viewpoint. Tipu was accused of plotting against the British with treasonable intent. Lord Wellesley decided to eliminate Tipu first.

- He sent Arthur Wellesley and Major Stewart to crush the power of Tipu. British attempted to persuade Tipu to sign Subsidiary Alliance but he refused.
- British forces attacked Seringapatnam in 1799. Although by now, Tipu was no match for the British, yet he fought valiantly. The battle of Seringapatnam was brief but fierce. Tipu died valiantly fighting in 1799.

#### Outcome

- Nearly half of Tipu's kingdom was divided between Nizam and British. A small portion was restored to Wodeyars. They were made to sign the subsidiary alliance system.
- Thus ended the independent Mysore state. It had taken the English 32 years to subjugate Mysore.
- The fall of Mysore permanently brushed aside the threat of French revival in the Deccan.
- Just after it, in 1801, there was the formation of the so called 'Madras Presidency'.



British Regiment storming  
Seringapatam

the downfall of the Mysore has been attributed to the inability to handle the political situation as tactful as Hyder Ali would have done. Hyder Ali born to create the empire and Tipu to loose one." However the close scrutiny of the South India gives in closing decades of 18th century much more complexity.

- 1) Political situation in India and abroad has gone transformation in the days of Hyder Ali. Hyder took advantage of the ongoing Anglo French and Anglo Maratha contest in the South India. British made the peace with the Maratha, and thus concentrated exclusively with Tipu. By the time Tipu ascended the thrown English had outside the French from the India.
- 2) Tipu's attempt to build up an anti-British front did not succeed while he had far-sidedness to feel the necessity of other indigenous power on another page.
- 3) The British diplomatic gestures could successfully realign the Indian power to suit their interest by bringing Nizam, Tughlaq, Maratha on the side, British isolate Tipu. While the English received the assistance from the indigenous power, Tipu attempted to receive help from the French, which was not successful. Tipu had to fight the British single-handedly.
- 5) The British power was high in 1790; there was now perennial supply of funds to continuous war while hitherto relied on cavalry to disclose the British infantry. Tipu depended on artillery forces directly. The English succeeded because they were better equipped.

conclusion:

finally, the sooner and later the fall of mysoor was inevitable tipu did not have the power to reverse the force of british.



Tipu's Tiger Contraption,  
Victoria and Albert Museum



Tipu Sultan's camping tent, seized after fall of  
Seringpatnam, today in Powis castle (Welsh)

GS Foundation 2024: Modern India  
Handout 7: Anglo-Maratha Wars  
Nikhil Sheth

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### Maratha Confederacy

Originally, Chhatrapati was the fountainhead of all power during the time of Shivaji. But subsequently, the Maratha political-economic system underwent a qualitative transformation. Power was no more concentrated in the hands of the Chhatrapati, or the successors of Shivaji. There set in a process of feudalization among the Marathas in which political structure became more decentralized. A loose association of confederacy of military leaders (sardars) emerged.

This process can be traced back to the days of Balaji Vishwanath, who assigned separate watans/saranjams (jagirs) to Maratha sardars for efficient collection of Chauth and sardeshmukhi. When Balaji Vishwanath returned from Delhi in 1719 with firman for Chauth and Sardeshmukhi, he made a complex division of the collection of chauth and sardeshmukh between Shahu and his sardars. It was actually a political technique devised by him to rally the Maratha sardars to his side. In the long run, this proved to be a major weakness of the Maratha empire. The office of Peshwa (one of ashta-pradhans) became hereditary and actual head of the empire while Chhatrapati remained symbolic head. After the death of Shahu of Satara (1749), Peshwa became virtually all-powerful.

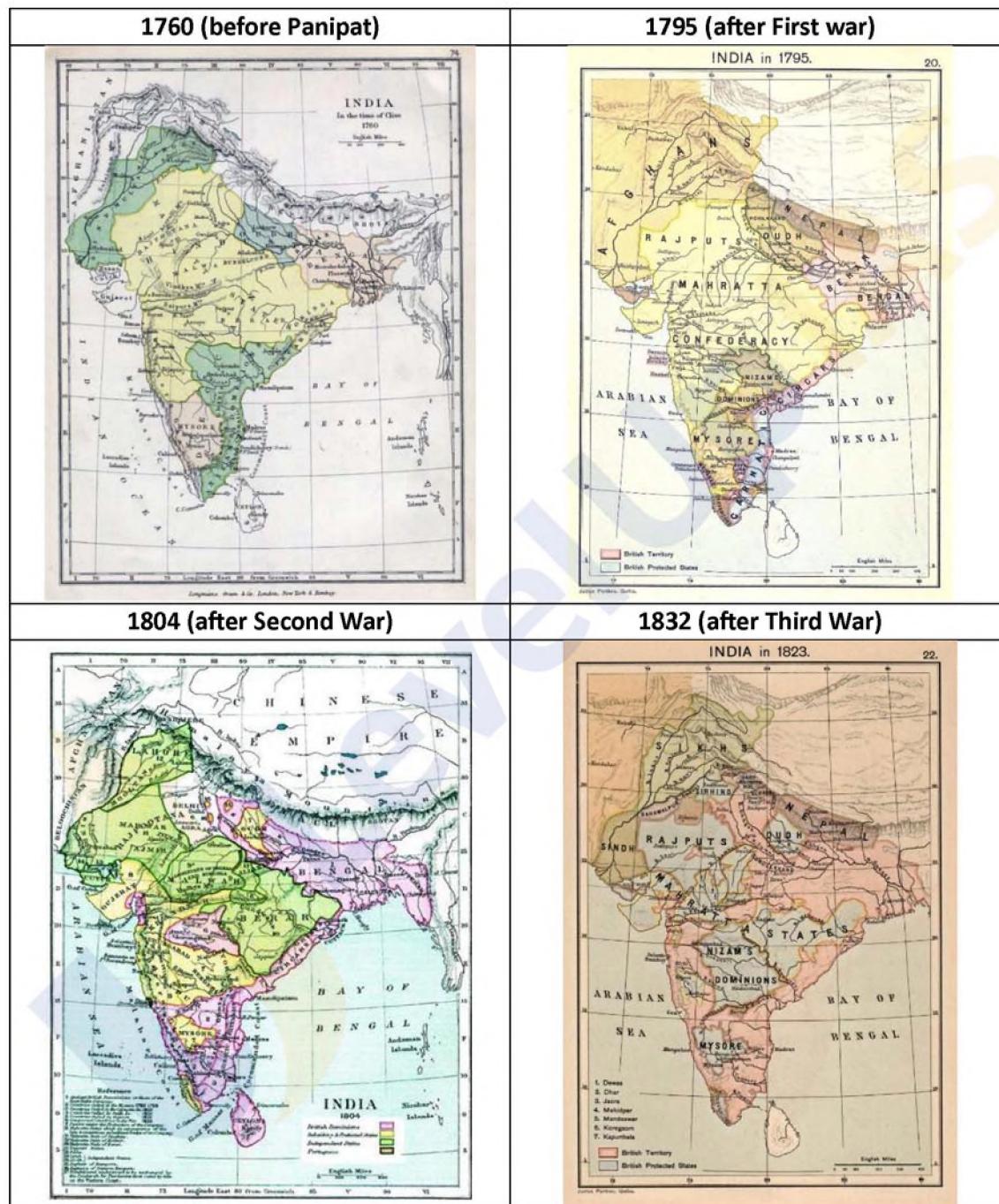


The process of economic feudalization also triggered off political feudalization. The Maratha Chiefs who were assigned the right to collect Chauth and Sardeshmukhi became the administrative heads of the respective areas. They enjoyed complete autonomy and emerged as state-within-state. As a result, political power was diffused. The Maratha state now assumed the character of a confederacy comprising a number of independent chiefs.

Among all the states that emerged in this era, Marathas had the most potential, but it didn't materialize - due to its own structure.

- In the Confederacy, power was shared among the chiefs. Parts of the Maratha state had been alienated to these military commanders.

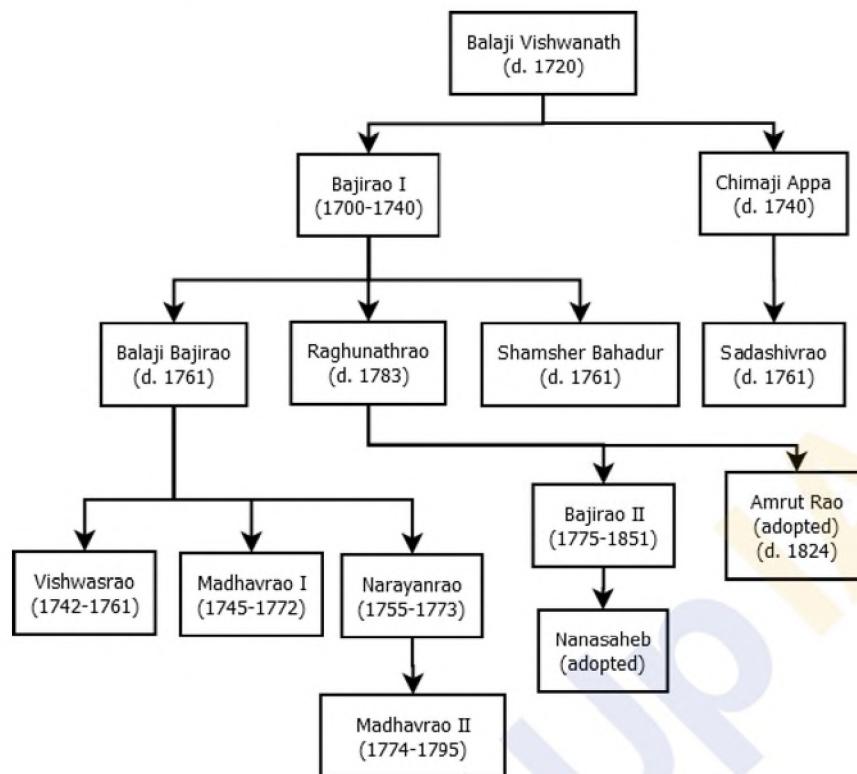
- It was difficult to control the **chiefs**, who did not always like the **peshwa** regulating their activities. Rather, their **loyalty** to **Peshwa** became increasingly nominal. Instead, they joined opposing factions at **Pune** and intrigues with the enemies of Marathas.
- There was also increasing factional rivalry among the Maratha sardars. Their mutual jealousy **crippled** the military power of Marathas **to considerable extent**.



## Overall Timeline:

Peshwas		
Balaji Vishwanath	1713-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolved the Maratha civil war.</li> <li>Assisted the Syed Brothers in deposing the emperor Farrukhsiyar in 1719.</li> </ul>
Bajirao I	1720-40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of Hindu Pad Padshahi.</li> <li>Defeated Nizam of Hyderabad multiple times (eg Palkhed, Bhopal)</li> <li>Conquest of Malwa, Rajputana, Gujarat</li> <li>Attacked Delhi in 1737</li> <li>Created Maratha Confederacy</li> </ul>
Nanasaheb (Balaji Bajirao)	1740-61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension in North, South, East - From Cuttack to Attock and Peshawar in 1758</li> <li>Third Battle of Panipat 1761</li> <li>Expansion of Pune city</li> </ul>
Madhavrao I	1761-72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal crisis, yet recovered from Panipat crisis - Maratha Resurrection</li> <li>Defeated Nizam in the battle of Rakshasabhuwan.</li> </ul>
Narayanrao	1772-73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assassinated by Gardi guards at the behest of Raghunathrao</li> </ul>
Raghunathrao	1773-74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deposed by barbhai (led by Nana Phadanvis), fled for British protection. ↘</li> <li>First Anglo-Maratha War</li> </ul>
Madhavrao II	1774-96	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as infant by generals and ministers as regents.</li> <li>Era dominated by Nana Phadanvis</li> </ul>
Baji Rao II	1796-1802	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defeated by Holkar in the battle of Poona.</li> <li>Fled for British protection, provoked Second Anglo-Maratha War</li> </ul>
Amrit Rao	1802-03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed by Holkar after defeating Peshwas and Scindia.</li> </ul>
Baji Rao II	1803-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third Anglo-Maratha War - End of Maratha Confederacy</li> </ul>

### The Family Tree of Peshwas:



## First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-82)

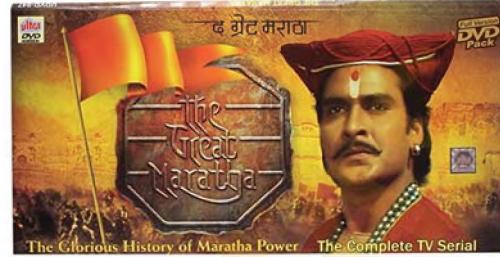
During the period of Warren Hastings (1772-85), two important wars took place - First Anglo-Maratha War and the Second Anglo-Mysore War.

### Post-Panipat Resurrection of the Maratha

Marathas were still powerful after the defeat in Third Battle of Panipat.

- Rise of Shinde in North:

- Mughal Emperor Shah Alam (British pensioner) was recovered by Mahadji Scindia and restored in Delhi in 1771 and left a strong Maratha army in Delhi for protection. Mughal emperor was now a Maratha prisoner.
  - The title of Wakil-e-Mudalat was given to Peshwa. Till 1803, Delhi remained majorly under Maratha control.
  - Warren Hastings immediately stopped the pension to Shah Alam.



- Able leadership of Madhavrao Peshwa in South:

- Maratha cavalry again started dominating the north and south under his leadership.
  - Defeated Nizam of Hyderabad (at Rakshasbhan) and Hyder of Mysore (at Sira and Madhugiri)
  - However, his untimely death due to TB.

Just after his death, a series of conspiracies and counter-conspiracies started in the court to control the gaddi of Peshwa.



- Raghunathrao (brother of Nana Saheb) wanted to be Peshwa but he couldn't succeed in his designs due to the intervention of Nana Phadnavis. So, Raghoba sought British help. This conflict gave British a handle to interfere in Maratha politics.

- Treaty of Surat, 1775, with British obliged Raghunath Rao to

- Give the regions of Salsette and Bassein to the British
  - Give the revenue of Surat and Broach
  - Accept to consult the British before making alliance with any other power.

### British Interest:

Expansion to cotton producing region of western India.

- Bombay was an important opium supply route.
- Bombay officers adventured - Intervention into internal matters of Poona court, into the succession rights.

In May 1775, an army contingent led by Col. Keating was dispatched to help Raghoba, thereby commencing the first Anglo-Maratha war. Warren Hastings, however, didn't like the idea and sent Col. Upton to mediate between the Marathas and the Bombay government. This culminated in the Treaty of Purandar (1776). This treaty provided:

Nana ph

- British would get Salsette, while other regions would be vacated by both the parties.
- British should not help Raghoba

england

But the Bombay officials were not satisfied with it and appealed to the Court of Directors and received a favourable ruling. Thus, the treaty of Purandar was annulled. This promoted the Bombay presidency to resume the war.

In the battle of Talegaon (1779), British were roundly defeated by the Marathas and this led to the signing of the Treaty of Wadgaon (1779). This treaty led to the status quo ante be Hum and Salsette went to Marathas again. All the benefits earned by British were lost.

1780 turned out to be a very difficult year for the British, when Nizam, Hyder, and Marathas joined hands against them due to diplomacy of Nana Phadanvis. Now, British went on offensive, and Hastings sent resources from the Bengal Presidency.

General Goddard was sent to invade Ahmedabad after crossing central India.

Col. Pofam was dispatched against Gwalior.

Sir Eyre Coote won the battle of Porto-Novo (against Mysore, 1781)

So, Hastings created severe military pressure on Marathas and forced them to come to the table. Thus, was signed the Treaty of Salbai (1782). According to this treaty:

- British got the control of Salsette, along with Elephanta Islands

The Company promised not to interfere in the internal matters of the Marathas.

Although an expansionist strategy, it was an extension of the policy of Ring-Fence. It was not an entirely novel idea, some of elements were visible earlier.

- Dupleix had a similar treaty with Hyderabad in 1740s.
- Clive concluded first such treaty with Shuja-ud-Daulah back in 1765 (Treaty of Allahabad had seeds of SA - protection to Awadh for cost/land)
- In 1787, Cornwallis signed Treaty with Carnatic - foreign policy of Carnatic was under British control.

### Evolution of Subsidiary Alliance System:

The process of evolution of Subsidiary Alliance is divided into 4 phases.

1. In the 1st stage the company assisted a friendly native ruler in his wars.
2. In 2nd stage the company started playing a bigger role in wars and battles of friendly native states. The native rulers started playing a secondary role.
3. In the 3rd stage, the company asked a friendly native state to supply money and not men. The company fought wars of such friendly native states on its own.
4. In the 4th stage, the company began to station a permanent subsidiary force in capital of friendly native state. Native ruler was asked to pay for the upkeep of this force. Smaller state was asked to pay in cash and bigger state was asked to transfer a part of its territory yielding revenue equal to the cost of upkeep of subsidiary force.

Gradually other provisions were added to it which transformed it into a system. Using the pretext of hyped French Menace to justify the aggression, the earlier practices were given a definite formal shape and theoretical framework by Wellesley in the form of Subsidiary Alliance. Before starting the final war with Mysore, Wellesley signed the first treaty with Hyderabad in 1789. It inaugurated the era of Subsidiary Alliance System.

### Order in which the Indian States entered Subsidiary Alliances

- . Hyderabad (1798,1800)
- Mysore and Tanjore (1799)
- . Awadh (1801)
- Peshwa (Marathas) (1802)
- Bhojpal and Gaekwad (Marathas) (1803)
- Scindia (Marathas) (1804)

After the capture of Mysore, political entities in India were to be offered the option of submitting peacefully by becoming the part of the subsidiary alliance system, or of a military context if they resisted colonial domination.

The nawabs of Awadh and Arcot drawn into this alliance at an early stage. Later, Wellesley increased the demand for subsidy from the Indian allies. In the case of major states like Awadh, collaboration with the British and acceptance of subsidiary alliance didn't prevent eventual outright annexation. Subsequently the treaty was forced upon the Maratha chiefs.

Wellesley thus used it to subordinate the Indian states to the paramount authority of the Company.

## Constituents of the Treaty

- Permanent Subsidiary Army
  - Stationed within the territory of the state to protect from internal disorder and external aggression.
  - Payment of a subsidy in cash (for smaller states) or ceded territory (for bigger states) to defray its expenses.
  - The state had no control over this army.
- Posting a British Resident at his court. Theoretically, the company was not allowed to interfere in the internal matters of the state but practically, this rule was almost always flaunted.
- Control over external relations
  - Not to employ any European in service without consent.
  - Not to directly negotiate with any other Indian ruler.

### Effects of the Treaty:

For the British - Extremely useful	On Indian States - Devastating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It allowed company to gradually and silently disarm Indian native states.</li> <li>• Maintain a large army at the cost of the Indian states. Ostensibly for the protection of the state, it helped the Company in maintaining a large army using state resources.</li> <li>• This subsidiary force was stationed in capital of native states which were places of great strategic significance. The company could fight wars far away from their own territories - throw forward military and expanded political frontier. It also ensured safety of the British territory.</li> <li>• This force was led by European commanders. It was always battle ready. It could be used anywhere by the company at short notice.</li> <li>• Company now controlled the defense and foreign relations of the protected allies. The possibility of any native alliance against company was eliminated.</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">It eliminated French threat in India because no French men could be</p>	<p>It proved to be extremely degenerative for Indian native states because native rulers purchased security at the cost of Independence and sovereignty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The army was allegedly for the protection but, it turned the ruler into a tributary client. Indian state virtually signed away its independence. Disbandment of the local armies led to loss of livelihood for soldiers and officers.</li> <li>• British Resident, who interfered in the day-to-day administration. It led to internal decay and rulers gradually lost all spirit and energy. The rulers of the protected states tended to neglect the interests of their people and to oppress them. As a result, a situation of extreme mal-administration developed in many native states. The admin machinery collapsed completely. And this resulted in extreme suffering for common masses, because of this impact Thomas Munro commented that it must run everywhere its full course and destroy every government which it undertakes to protect.</li> </ul>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>recruited by a native ruler without the permission of the company.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This system allowed the company to ensure that only its favourites were sitting on throne of native state because at any time native ruler tried to threaten the interest of company he was immediately replaced. The system of Subsidiary Alliances was, in the words of a British writer, "a system of fattening allies as we fatten oxen, till they were worthy of being devoured".</li> <li>It transformed company into an arbitrator of Indian disputes because any kind of conflict involving native state was to be settled by English company. Thus, the Company could easily maintain its paramountcy over native states.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lost all vestiges of sovereignty in external matters - it became subservient in diplomatic relations, could not employ foreign experts, or settle disputes with its neighbours. It lost the right of self-defence as well.</li> <li>Extremely high cost of subsidy - leading to diversion of disproportionate share of revenue. The native rulers were regularly in debt and to overcome this debt extremely heavy burden of taxes were imposed on the common masses. It thus ruined agriculture, disrupted economy and impoverished people. Many states became bankrupt in no time.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

The Company thus got the right both to use the Indian ruler's territory as a buffer against its own enemies and prevent a combination of Indian rulers against it. The native states were gradually brought under the sovereign control of English company because every native state accepted company as paramount power. That is why it is commented that it was a trojan horse tactics of empire building.

## Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05)

### Causes

- By the end of 18th century, British had contained all the major powers in India.
- Almost all the important Maratha leaders had passed away by this time. Next generation leadership was not so competent, lacked **pragmatic program** and involved in **internecine conflict**.
- The internecine conflict between Shinde and Holkar made the Maratha fall almost inevitable. Shinde-Holkar were competing to get influence over Peshwa.
- Due to this, Bajirao II took refuge in the British camp. Lord Wellesley was waiting for **this opportune moment**. The price extracted by the British for extending the support to Bajirao II was a subsidiary alliance treaty which deprived him of control over military and foreign affairs. On 31st December, the Treaty of Bassain (1802) was signed which had the following important provisions:
  - British accountable for the safety and security of Peshwas from internal and external dangers.
  - British regiment stationed at Poona for payment of 26 **lakh/annum**.
  - British resident stationed at Poona and the foreign policy of Peshwas had to be conducted at the advice of **British resident**.
  - Differences between Peshwas-Nizam or Peshwas-Gaikwad to be resolved under British **mediation**.
- As per the treaty
  - British army under Arthur Wellesley restored Peshwa at Poona. British intervention into the internal matters irritated different members of the Confederacy. Peshwa started seeking the support of **Bhonsle** & **Shinde** against the British after realising problems of the **treaty**.
  - However, even in this critical situation, Marathas couldn't unite - Shinde & Bhonsle formed one front. Gaekwads supported the British while **Holkar remained separate** and was planning to wage war on his own.



**The Battle of Assaye, 1803**



Thus started the Second Anglo-Maratha War in 1803.

### Two military commands: First Phase of War

North: Lord Gerard Lake	South: Arthur Wellesley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defeated Shinde in the battle of Aligarh, battle of Laswari in north India.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defeated the combined Daulatrao Shinde &amp; Raghuji Bhonsle in a series of wars. The</li> </ul>

<p>He captured Delhi and Agra. Delhi was conquered by the British from the Marathas in the battle of Patparganj (1803).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Now Mughal Emperor again came under British control and remained till 1857.</li> </ul>	<p>most famous battle was the Battle of Assaye (1803)</p>
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- Subsidiary Alliance Treaties:
  - Treaty of Devgaon with Bhosle. By this, Bhosle relinquished the right over Cuttack and the adjoining areas of Odissa and Bengal.
  - Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon (1803) with Daulatrao Shinde. By this, Shinde lost control of North India, esp Delhi. Later on, treaty of Mustafapur (1805) was also foisted upon Shindes.

*"By the establishment of our subsidiary forces at Hyderabad, and Poona, with the Gaikwad, Daulat Rao Shindha... an efficient army of 22,000 men is stationed within the territories, or on the frontier of foreign states, and is paid by foreign subsidies. This force may be directed against any of the principal states of India, without the hazard of disturbing the tranquility of the company's possession, and without requiring expenses of the Government of India"* Arthur Wellesley

"Our policy and our arms have reduced all the powers of India to the state of mere cyphers." Arthur Wellesley.



Arthur Wellesley,  
1st Duke of  
Wellington

### Second Phase of War:

The war with Yashwant Rao Holkar continued till 1805. He, along with the ruler of Bharatpur, were at war with the British. Though Lord Lake invaded Bharatpur, he was not successful.

The most outstanding event of this phase was the crushing defeat inflicted by Yashwant Rao on a British force under Colonel William Monson in the battle of Mukandwara Pass near Kota in 1804. The British force lost five infantry battalions and six companies of artillery in this battle. He was later once again defeated in the battle of Farrukhabad.

In the meantime, the Court of Directors in London realized the extravagance of the war and recalled Wellesley. They sent Cornwallis again to India (1805) to curb expansionist policies of Wellesley, but he died after reaching in India. Thus, George Barlow was sent as the new Governor-General who concluded peace with Holkar in 1805 (Treaty of Rajpurghat).

So, the second Anglo-Maratha ended in stalemate. The tangible gains for the British were their ascendancy at Pune and the acquisition of some territory mainly in northern India. There was one noteworthy prize that came their way, although its significance was largely symbolic. Emperor Shah Alam was kept under Company protection and confined to the Red Fort.

## Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-18)

### **Lord Hastings (1813-23)**

- Before 1813, the EIC was not willing to increase its responsibilities. It generally avoided the policy of annexation as far as possible.
- Now, there was a new objective: India to be developed as a market for the British industrial products. Thus, from Lord Hastings to Dalhousie there was an era of unabashed "Policy of Paramountcy." *Now the Company claimed that its authority was paramount (supreme), hence its power was greater than that of Indian states. In order to protect its interests, it was justified in annexing or threatening to annex any Indian kingdom.* This view continued to guide later British policies as well.



### **The events**

#### **Pindari War (1817-18)**

- The final Anglo-Maratha overlapped with a large-scale campaign against the Pindaris. In fact, the so called Pindari menace provided the pretext and justification for military mobilization against the Marathas. Pindaris created a law-and-order situation for the British.

Lord Hastings decided to eliminate them. For him, annihilation of Pindaris was a prerequisite to the destruction of the Marathas. He formed a task force for the same purpose in 1816 CE. They were surrounded by an army of about 120,000 men, which converged upon them from Bengal, the Deccan, and Gujarat under the supreme command of the Governor-General Lord Hastings (northern command) and LG T. Hislop (southern command).



The sheer military might of the Company resulted in victory. The Pindaris themselves offered little resistance. Their bands simply dissolved and there was no direct encounter. Most of the leaders surrendered (some killed, some restored).



Hastings used Pindari campaign as a pretext to attack Marathas. After finishing the Pindari campaign, Lord Hastings asked Maratha commanders to sign new treaty and when they hesitated a war was declared on them immediately. Thus, along with the Pindaris, even Marathas became the target of the same army.

### (A) Peshwa of Pune

The Company wanted to capture Poona for strategic importance. Thus, Peshwa and the confederacy were pressurized due to continuous British intervention. Their reaction led to the war.

- War

- o In 1818, Peshwa Attacked Poona Residency. He was defeated in the battle of Khadki and Pune surrendered.
- o Peshwa was again defeated in the battle of Koregaon Bhima.
- o The subjugation of Peshwa domain took several months. Several military campaigns had to be carried out to put down resistance in various parts of western

Maharashtra even as Peshwa continued to be on the move. The last major encounter was in Ashti near Pune. Bajirao nevertheless continued with his resistance for a few more months. Eventually he agreed to negotiate.

- Treaty

- o The defeat of Peshwa broke the Maratha Confederacy. Bajirao II formally abdicated his office and was sent to Bithur with an annual pension of 8 lakh. He lived there in exile till 1851. The gaddi of Peshwa was abolished and region of Maharashtra (including Pune) was completely annexed. However, to assuage the feelings of Maratha spirit, a separate state of Satara was carved out and granted to Pratap Singh, a descendant of Shivaji.



Mountstuart  
Elphinstone, LG of  
Bombay (1819-27)

### (B) Bhosle of Nagpur

Another major objective of the war was the subjugation of the Nagpur state which was ruled by Bhosle. Raghujji Bhosle died by 1817 and Company intensified its attempts to destabilize the state through the Resident.

- Raghujji Bhosle died by 1817 and Company intensified its attempts to destabilize the state. The main instrument of British interference was the resident, Richard Jenkins. Jenkins prevailed upon Appa Sahib to sign a subsidiary alliance which enabled the Company to place its troops in Nagpur. When the battle broke out, Appa Sahib aligned himself with Peshwa.

War

- o In 1818, Appa Saheb attacked British Resident at Nagpur.
- o British had a difficult time in overcoming the resistance of Nagpur. It was only with the arrival of reinforcements that British got the handle over the situation. Appa Saheb was defeated in the battle of Sitabuldi, Nagpur.

- Treaty

- o Appa Sahib also entered alliance with the British with many controls on Nagpur. Raghujji III became the new successor.

### (C) Holkars of Indore

While Tusi Bai favoured negotiations with the Company, the Holkar Army was resolved to fight the British.

- Story
- War
  - In 1818, Holkar attacked Indore Residency.
  - Holkars were defeated at Mahidpur after a fierce battle in which the casualties of British side were very high (around 800).

#### Treaty

- Treaty of Mandsore with Holkar forced them to cede areas around Narmada to British. It substantially reduced the territorial possessions of Holkars.

#### (D) Shinde of Gwalior

- Though Shinde was not involved in the war. Company, through its show of arms, ensured that Daulat Rao Shinde disengaged himself from the Pindaris.  
With respect to Shindes, a new treaty was foisted upon them in 1818.
- This paved the way for the subjugation of the Rajasthan states.
  - Charles Metcalf was sent to conclude subsidiary alliance treaties with the Rajput states of Marwar, Udaipur, Jaipur etc. Overall, 19 states signed the treaties surrendering their independence. None of them had the resources to engage in military contests to resist colonial supremacy, making the extension of colonial rule in the area a relatively smooth affair.

#### (E) Gaekwads of Baroda

- Gujarat, much of which was ruled by Gaekwads, was brought under subsidiary alliance system in 1802 already.
- In 1817, the company signed a new treaty with them on the eve of the war with Bajirao II. As per it, the strength of the subsidiary force was increased, and the city of Ahmedabad was formally ceded.

#### Consequence

The third Anglo-Maratha war finally ended the independence of the Maratha states - Nagpur, Indore, Gwalior, Baroda - and made the EIC a major territorial power in western and central India. The Peshwa's authority was terminated and his seat of authority, Pune, formally became part of the Company's territory (except for certain parts which were given to successors of Shivaji in Satara to calm the sentiment) and Bajirao II was exiled to Bithur. Although Maratha Confederacy was dissolved, the Shindes, Halkars, Gaikwads and Bhosles still retained large tracts of territory at the end of the war, being incorporated into the British India empire as princely states.

Maratha could not offer alternative to Mughal rule political vacuum left behind by the Mughal eventually fill up by the British. despite brilliant initial military success under leadership of Shivaji and first peshwas the Maratha power decline in fount of repeated British on slots. the cause of downfall of Maratha are as follows.

- 1) organizational flaw: the Maratha sardar resemble later mughal noble they remain unified as long as Shivaji system of strong system of central authority was in place following Shivaji Maratha state devolved loose constipation of autonomous states.
- 2) week revenue base and financial insolvency was perpetual problem of Maratha state the economic system of Maratha state was unpredictable. the Maratha chief had to resort to period raids plunder to run their economic. this economic insolvency also excreted evil influences in the political stability of empire. Maratha consideration big five chief who could not found abroad united front against common enemy British.
- 4) by the end of the 18 century all the talent and expired leader maharji Scindia tukoji holkar, nana Phadnavis were dead bajirao2 was selfish and inefficient and the absence of good leader led to mutual corals. the Maratha military supremacy code its origin war fair based on gorilla tactics. but the later Maratha leader opted for the Westen method of warfare and they could not integrate two.
- 5) finally maratha fail because lack ability adapt to new circumstance, they didn't have far site ness to devlope the new economy they could not relied on the import of science and technology only way by which maratha could have save the empire and combat the brish was by transforming state to modern state.

U LevelUP IAS



Four of the main leaders in 1857 were the proteges of the Bajirao II at Bithur - Lakshmibai, Nana Saheb, Tatya Tope and Raosaheb Peshwa - who actually fought from the front.

GS Foundation 2024: Modern India  
Handout 8: Mercantile Phase (1757-1813)  
(Administrative, Economic and Socio-cultural policies)

**Nikhil Sheth**

Between 1772 and 1857, changes were frequently made to the administrative structure the British East India Company had established in India. Such changes were not unnatural, given that British Indian administration was essentially a continuous process of experimentation, adjusted and readjusted either in accordance with the ideological developmentstaking place at the time in Great Britain or in accordance with the peculiar on-the-ground realities that the Company encountered in India.

#### **Limited Objective of the Mercantile Phase (1757-1813)**

##### **Objective**

- **Maximize revenue** to invest in trade and commerce.
- Not interested in major restructuring of the existing administrative structure.  
Preferred to maintain the existing Mughal structure with certain modifications.

##### **Policies**

- Creation of a political and administrative environment conducive to trade and investment.
- **Administrative Policy:**
  - Maintenance of law and order at the minimum possible cost
- **Economic Policy:** Origin of drain of wealth, Decline of handicraft industries.
- **Social Policy:** Maintain traditional social structure.
- **Cultural Policy:** Orientalism (Indians should be ruled according to their own traditions and customs)

#### **The Perspective...**

As the British conquered and annexed different parts of the country, they were faced with the difficult question of how to govern these territories. Clive didn't bother to take the administration of Bengal directly into his hands. Warren Hastings tried to plant British elements on the Mughal system, yet he wasn't ready to overhaul the whole structure. Reforms by Lord Cornwallis were guided by a sense of British egoism i.e. belief in supremacy of British institutions.

Clive	Warren Hastings	Lord Cornwallis	Lord Wellesley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treaty of Allahabad (1765) - Diwani Right!</li><li>• Dyarchy</li><li>• Heavy Land Revenue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abolition of Dyarchy</li><li>• Duties standardized</li><li>• Land Revenue experiments</li><li>• Judicial Plan of 1772, 1774</li><li>• Codification of Laws</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lather of Civil Services</li><li>• Thana Darogha system</li><li>• Judicial Structure, Humanisation</li><li>• Permanent Settlement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fort Williams College</li><li>• Censorship of Press Act, 1799</li></ul>

## **(A) Administrative and Revenue Policies**

### **(1) Robert Clive's Reforms**

#### **Dual Government**

Clive chose not to usurp the **Nizami** rights directly and instead developed the **system of Dyarchy**.

- Dyarchy (direct **diwani**, indirect **nizamat**)
- EIC received Diwani of Bengal directly from the Mughal emperor.
- EIC avoided taking administration (**Nizamat**) directly. However, the Nawab had become the puppet of the Company.
- A new post of Deputy **Nawab/Nazim** was created who combined the function of both **Diwani** and **Nizami** and the actual power was **wielded** by the Company through him.

#### **Reforms in Land revenue system**

- Heavy enhancement in land revenue (almost doubled)
- Indian revenue collectors continued but under **supervision of inexperienced/untrained European authorities** -> excessive corruption.

It is here that the **dyarchy** system was far from successful. This dual type of administration led to **anarchy** in **Bengal**. The class hardest hit by the new system was the **peasantry**. Neither the Nawab nor the Company cared for their **welfare**. The result of Dual Government was the impoverishment of Bengal's economy. The **disastrous** effects of the Double Government found manifestation in the famine of **1770** which proved to be one of the worst events in the history of mankind.

#### **• Detrimental Impact on Bengal**

- Uncontrolled power without responsibility
- Exploited peasants.
- Disorganized administration
- Gomasta grain trade monopoly
- Crop failure, smallpox

why English does not go for whole control:  
1) cost of admin  
2) manpower trained.  
3) if all the power united against.  
4) focus on trade  
5) status other european company.

**Great Bengal Famine (1770):** one-third of Bengal's population perished (**70 lakh to 1 crore**)

- The famine hastened the end of dual governance in Bengal, the Company becoming the **sole** administrator soon after.

### The Regulating Act 1773

As the British East India Company emerged as a territorial power in India, an intense struggle broke out in Britain as to whose interest the newly acquired empire would serve. This was a time when imperial policies began to be seriously questioned against the backdrop of problems that Britain was facing in keeping its American colonies under control. It became necessary to determine the framework of Company's Government in India and to exert some control on it.

The acquisition of political power by the Company also had an adverse reaction in Great Britain. There grew the fear that the newly rich nabob class might be able to influence British Parliamentary politics by dint of their economic power and thereby disturb the balance of British democracy.

Although the Company had emerged as an important political power in India but at the same time company was losing badly as a commercial entity. Spending on wars, corruption in private trade and famines had led to huge losses, thus, the Company was in dire need of credit just when its activities began to be scrutinized in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and had applied to the government for a large loan. This made it difficult for it to resist demands for some kind of parliamentary control over its functioning. In other words, the Regulating Act was linked to the British Parliament's sanction for the loan.

The Regulating Act was passed by the British Parliament in 1773. By this legislation the parliament sought to regulate the Company to a limited extent.

- The Directors of the Company were duty-bound to **submit before the British Government all correspondence** relating to civil, military and revenue affairs in India to enable it to monitor the management of the empire.
- The **Company's organizational structure** was streamlined under this Act by restricting the voting rights of shareholders.
  - o This was done firstly by limiting the vote to those who held minimum £1,000 worth of stock. Besides, the shareholder had to be in possession of the stock for at least one year in order to qualify for voting.
  - o Members of the **court of directors** were to be elected for a period of four years. One fourth of the members were to retire every year, and stay out of office for a minimum duration of one year before they could seek re-election.
- The Act laid down that the Government of Bengal would be headed by the **Governor General and a Council comprising four members**. All civil and military authority was vested in the governor general and his council.
  - o Hereafter, the Governor of Bengal came to be known as the 'Governor-General of Bengal.' Hastings was the first Governor-General of Bengal.
  - o The Governor-General was required to run the Government of Bengal according to the decisions taken in the council by a majority vote. The Governor-General

vote in case the house was divided equally on a given issue. Each had a five-year term.

- It recognized the **precedence of the Bengal Presidency** ('Presidency of Fort William in Bengal') over the two other presidencies. The presidencies of **Madras** and **Bombay** were placed under the overall **supervision** of Fort William. Now, the British authorities at Bombay or Madras had no power to strike alliance with or declare war against any other power.
- The Act also provided for the **establishment of a Supreme Court in Calcutta** to administer justice to the Europeans and their employees.
  - In tune with this provision, the first Supreme Court was established in Calcutta in 1774. **Sir Elijah Impey** became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The attempt of the British Parliament to develop a **remote-control** mechanism to regulate the Company ended in a **failure**. The Regulating Act did not give the British Government effective control over the Company. The Act had certain inherent **loopholes** which created problems in the running of **administration**.

- Under the provisions of the Act, it was not possible for the Governor-General to act independently. The numerical composition of the council (**four members** in addition to the governor general) constituted under the 1773 Act rendered the governor general vulnerable in case **three** of the members combined to oppose him.
- Though the Act created the **Supreme Court**, it did not **clearly** indicate the specific power of the said court **vis a vis the Governor-General-in-Council**.
- The Regulating Act intended to make the **Governments of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies** subordinate to the Governor-General of Bengal. But, in reality, the control of the Governor General **over the other two Presidencies** was **inadequate**.
- The Regulating Act failed to resolve the friction between the Company and **its rival groups in England**. The opponents of the Company continued to exert pressure on the Parliament to discipline the Company.

Thus, the **1773** Act had several anomalies which were sought to be rectified through a subsequent legislative measure, enacted in **1784** (Pitt's India Act).

## (2) Warren Hastings (1772-1785)

- Reforms of Clive -> fiasco.
  - Ruin of agriculture ruined company finances and exports.
  - Thus, both revenue and trade were adversely affected.
- **Abolition of Dual Government**
  - The Diarchy was abolished and the Company in 1772 assumed the **direct responsibility of the revenue administration of Bengal**.
  - The direct management of the revenue administration had other implications too. It meant that the Company, hereafter, would also be in charge of the **judicial administration** as well. Thus, the Company had to shake off its **commercial** nature to some extent. It now began to assert the authority of a state. Thus started the initial shape to the British admin **stricture in Bengal for future, (trendsetter)**

### **Warren Hastings - Revenue Reforms**

- Transferred the **royal treasury** from **Murshidabad** to **Calcutta**.
- **Toll Tax Reform:** **Standardization** of collection of duties (to **incentivize trade**)
- Land Revenue Reforms - **Farming System** (for maximization of **revenue**)
  - It was the phase of **trial** and **error**. Experiments followed in quick succession.
  - Initially it was only for a **five-year scheme** (1772-76). The **auctioning** system was carried out under supervision of **diwans** and European collectors. It didn't make **revenue** stable, and adversely affected **agriculture**.
  - To gather systematic information about the different aspects of the Indian agrarian structure he appointed the Amini Commission in **1776**.
  - After five years, in **Y1T1**, the five-year settlement was abolished. A new **one-year scheme with role for zamindars**.
  - Thus, in the actual control of the revenue management, Hastings was not satisfied, achieving a little more than a series of unsuccessful experiments.

### **Warren Hastings: Judicial Plans of 1772,1774**

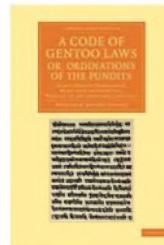
India's modern judicial system was **laid down** by the British. **Rule of law was** the basic feature of these reforms.

- Reasons
  - Closely connected to Land Reform
  - No uniform system before the EIC.
  - Issue of Corruption
- Hastings established a **hierarchy** of civil and criminal courts (Development of The Adalat System). **Civil** district courts under Indian officials were setup. **Qazis** and **Muftis** were appointed for **criminal** cases. To make **adalats accessible**, he divided Calcutta, Orissa and Bihar into **six divisions with several districts each**.

## Codification of Laws

According to the orientalist influence, Indians were supposed to be governed as per Indian custom. However, to bring efficiency, uniformity and consistency, some amount of codification was required.

- Hastings appointed Hindu Pandits & Muslim Ulemas for codification of laws. Thus, under Warren Hastings a series of law codes such as 'Code of Gentoo laws', 'Colebrook's Digest' etc. came into existence.



Trial of Warren Hastings (1732-1818) in the British House of Commons.

In 1785, Hastings was accused of abuse of office and blackmail by the Whig politicians Sir Philip Francis (1740-1818) and Edmund Burke (1729-1797). The impeachment trial went for about a decade from 1774 to 1784. Finally, he was acquitted.



Edmund Burke



**Golghar, Patna (1786)**

Constructed by John Garstin of Bengal Engineers. It was designed to store grain and worked like a silo. On the side of the building is a carved inscription that states that the granary was ordered by the governor general in 1784 for the 'Perpetual Prevention of Famine in these Provinces.' Unfortunately, the building never served its purpose.

"Hastings provided a coherent shape to a state of which Clive had only sketched an outline, and he successfully defended that state almost singlehanded with hardly any help from home against a concerted Indian attack." - Percival Spear

## Pitt's India Act 1784

The various limitations of the Regulating Act and the increasing pressure of the rival groups on the East India Company in England encouraged the Government of Britain to pass the Pitt's India Act in 1784. The Act came to be known so as William Pitt was then the Prime Minister of England. By this Act, The British Government was finally able to tighten up its grip over the Indian administration. According to the provisions of this Act

- The most important feature of the 1784 Act was the introduction of a permanent mechanism for monitoring, on behalf of parliament, the administration of the Indian empire. A Board of Control comprising six commissioners was created. The Board of Control was to work in a supervisory capacity. However, it was the court of directors that actually governed the Indian empire. Normally, instructions would be sent out to India by or via the court of directors, but the 1784 Act contained provisions for conveying orders of the board, whenever necessary, directly to Fort William through a 'secret committee' bypassing the court of directors.
  - o Thus, Pitt's India Act thus established a system of dual control on the Indian affairs. This became the main instrument till 1858 for parliamentary supervision over the Indian empire.
- The Pitt's India Act elevated the status of the Governor-General to a very extent and in this sense, it was an improvement upon the Regulating Act.
  - o The governor general's council was reconstituted by reducing its strength from four to three. More powers were concentrated in the hands of the governor general so that his authority might not be constrained by the council.
  - o The Bombay and Madras Presidencies were subordinated to Bengal in all matters relating to war, diplomacy and revenues in unambiguous terms.
  - o Thus, Pitt's India Act made the governor general a very powerful colonial official and centralized the Company's colonial government, though centralization was not always possible in practice.

The significance of the Pitt's India Act lies in the fact, that, hereafter, the East India Company became an organ of the broader British national interest. India was to play a subservient role in the interest of the British ruling class.

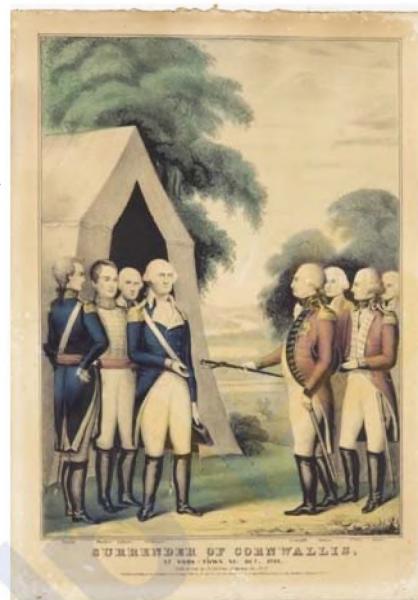
The general framework of the Government of India, laid down by the Pitt's India Act remained unaltered till 1858, though certain minor changes were implemented from time to time.

### (3) Lord Cornwallis

The appointment of Cornwallis as Governor-General in 1786 was the direct result of the controversies aroused by the acts of Clive and the rule of Hastings. Certain broad principles of the relationship of India with Britain were worked out.

- British had already lost America -> So, they tried to strengthen its rule in India through various reforms of Cornwallis.
- Cornwallis was guided by a sense of racial superiority of the British.

He gave social and political stability to Bengal at the price of neglecting the rights of the lesser landholders and undertenants and of excluding Indians from any responsible share in the administration.



#### Cornwallis Code (1793)

Cornwallis was the real architect of the modern Indian judicial system. The general regulations for the administration of justice by Warren Hastings had marked the beginning of a system, peculiarly English. This early stage of Company's law making came to a climax with the Cornwallis-Code (1793) which was to provide a new legal framework conducive to trade and investment. It contained a series of Regulations regarding governing, policing, judiciary and civil administration that remained in force till 1833.

**(A)** The code of written law prepared by Cornwallis signalled the coming of Rule of Law into India.

- The Rule of Law was to ensure a uniform system of justice based on the principle of equality before law.
- By introducing codified law, Cornwallis ended the experimentation of the first phase of British Government in India. The law administered was Hindu and Muslim personal law and a modified Muslim criminal code. He took some prevailing Muslim criminal laws as barbarous and so he tried to make them a bit humane. It was clearly laid down that in all district courts were to administer fixed forms of law. The procedure in these courts was to follow roughly the existing procedure in the British courts.
  - o Now, the witness could be from any caste.
  - o Intention, rather than type of weapon, was more emphasized.
  - o Open trials were to be conducted.
- Separation of powers: executive power (revenue collection) and judicial power (civil justice) of district collectors.
  - o Civil justice -> district judge
  - o District collector -> revenue collection

**Rate of Revenue:** Tax fixed based on taxes collected in 1790-92 as the base year. (Which was equal to Rs. 2.68 crore)

- o 10/11 part to the Company, 1/11 share to the Zamindars.
- o Govt share was fixed permanently. All future increase in total income (either through extension or through revenue increase) would go to the zamindar.

**The expectation** was that the security of property and unchanging land revenue demand would transform a zamindar into improving **landlord** similar to those in England of the **same period**.

#### **The outcome:**

- Absolute land property created a land market in Bengal. The new class of landlords, which emerged because of the Permanent Settlement, had **commercial interests**.
- Many of them were **residents of Calcutta** who decided to invest their capital in the purchase of land in the countryside.
- As the landlords were contract-bound to remit the **revenue** within a short time, they raised rent to an **unprecedented degree**.
- There developed a complex rent collecting structure with various grades of **intermediary** tenure-holders.
- As a result of the **ruthless appropriation** of the rural **surplus**, the peasants were adversely affected.
- As taxes had then to be paid in **cash**, the peasants were **compelled** to have **recourse** to **moneylenders** or **mahajans**.
- In the process, a class of landless **sharecroppers** and **agricultural labourers** emerged in Bengal.
- The condition of the peasant became even more **miserable** as the Permanent Settlement, the new rule of property was backed up by a 'Rule of Law' or the new **judiciary** and the **police** introduced by Lord Cornwallis. The **police** and the **judiciary** responded to the interest of the wealthier **classes** alone. The peasants were invariably **denied justice**.

Thus, the introduction of the Permanent Settlement led to the evolution of a new set of **agrarian** relations that was extremely **regressive**. The misery inflicted by the British on the Indians was of a different kind which they had never experienced before. It reduced the peasants to extreme **poverty** and ushered in a period of **chronic famine**, **starvation** and **hunger**.

By the 1820s, it was clear that the permanent settlement had **failed** to meet its original expectations.

### Drain of Wealth (DoW)

- Meaning
  - In 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> c Europe, DoW meant negative BoT and outflow of precious metal (bullionism)
  - In colonized India, it meant excess export, unilateral transfer of surplus from India to Britain.
- Context - "investment"
  - EIC was struggling to finance one-sided Indian trade, compelled to bring precious metal from Britain.
  - After Diwani of Bengal, it invested the plunder and revenue, and profit gained from inter-regional trade into trading activities. Indian goods were now purchased through Indian money while company curtailed the import of silver from Britain - unilateral transfer of surplus.



### Decline of Handicraft

- Earlier
  - Various European companies purchased Indian handicraft products.
  - Dadni system (putting-out system) for clothes.
- Under British: Dadni system → Agency System (complete control over artisans and production)
  - British eliminated other rivals from this race. Once that was achieved, British put severe pressure on the artisans of Bengal.
  - Dual pressure by Gumastas (agents):
    - Company developed monopoly over the raw material supplies and started to provide it to the artisans at higher cost.
    - Simultaneously, the Company compelled the artisans to sell the product cheap (with legal backing)

#### Worst exploitation of artisans in Bengal

- Murshidabad & Dhaka became desolate. Dhaka (Lancashire of India), a great supplier of cotton and Muslin (Malmal) now lost its position.
- Unemployed artisans moved to already crowded agriculture: impoverishment.

Weavers also, upon their inability to perform such agreements as have been forced from them by the Company's agents... have had their goods seized, and sold on the spot, to make good the deficiency: and the winders of raw silk, called Nagaads, have been treated also with such injustice, that instances have been known of their cutting off their thumbs, to prevent their being forced to wind silk. - William Bolts (1772)

The bones of the cotton weavers are bleaching the plains of India - William Bentick (1834)

## Indian Opium - Chinese Tea Triangular trade

In 1773, the then British Governor-General, Lord Warren Hastings brought the whole of the opium trade under the control of the Government.



Brunswick Dockyard in London - the busiest one, built specially for East Indian trade

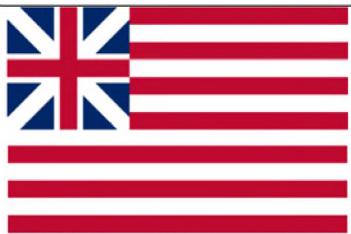


Total of around 400 such clippers were built every year to move tea and opium around the globe at the East India Brunswick dockyard in London.

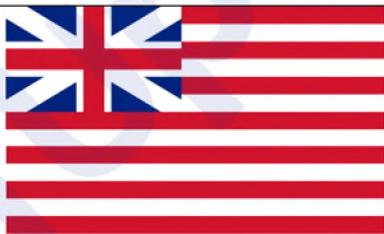
### Fun Fact:

Boston Tea Party (1773) happened with tea bags purchased from China with Indian opium.

American Flag is based on the Flag of the East India Company



American Flag in 1770s



Flag of East India Company

## (C) Social Policies

Limited objective

- o Focus on trade - maximize revenue to finance Indian trade.

No inclination for social reforms - better to maintain traditional structure.

- o To avoid responsibilities and expenditure
- o Not to antagonise the popular consciousness in Bengal
- o Not economically beneficial for the company



The first formal British ban on Sati was imposed in 1798, in the city of Calcutta only. The practice continued in surrounding regions.

## (D) Cultural Policy: Orientalism

### **White Mughals**

By the time Company starts colonizing India, many of the Company people start getting colonized by India because of its attractive culture and lifestyle.

	<p><b>David Ochterlony</b> smoking Hookah. He was a military officer of the EIC and a British resident at Delhi in 1805. He adopted and thoroughly embraced Indo-Persian culture of Mughals.</p>
	<p><b>William Fraser</b>, British civil servant.  In 1805, having just passed out of Fort William College. He topped his class in Persian, Hindustani &amp; Bengali. He still has his Scottish hat on but is already wearing Mughal dress and holding Persian calligraphy pens.</p>
	<p><b>James Achilles Kirkpatrick</b>, English Resident at Hyderabad in 1790s.</p>
	<p><b>Captain James Tod</b> riding an elephant (by Chokhla, Mewar, 1817)</p>

British had decided not to interfere in the history and culture of people they had conquered. However, under the leadership of Warren Hastings and his friends, they embarked on an intellectual project to learn more about the country they were ruling. This project was in consonance with the needs of governance.

In Hastings' own words, "*Every accumulation of knowledge and especially such as is obtained by social communication with people over whom we exercise a dominion founded on the right of conquest is useful to the state... it attracts and conciliates distant affections; it lessens the weight of the chain by which the native are held in subjection and it imprints on the hearts of our countrymen the sense and obligations of benevolence.*"

This ideology which prevailed at this time is called **Orientalism**. This intellectual project was institutionalized by the establishment of **Asiatic Society of Bengal** in 1784 CE by **William Jones**. Here, many scholars took specific interest in exploring Indian past and culture. This society became the centre of learning of Indian culture (**oriental learning**). Most of the British officers posted in India during this time were guided by this approach.

- **Meaning:**

- Sensitive and sympathetic approach towards Indian past and culture.
- Though Indian culture is different from European, it is not inferior to it.
- Orientalists appreciated the rich heritage of Indian past.

- **Examples:**

- Many Sanskrit texts were **translated**.
  - William Jones - Shakuntala, Geet Govindam, Manusmriti
  - Henry Colebrooke - Sanskrit Grammar, Samkhya Karika, Essay on Vedas (1805)
  - Charles Wilkins - Bhagvad Geeta, Hitopadesha, Sanskrit Grammar
  - William Carey - Ramayana

- **Codification** of Indian laws

- Henry Colebrooke - Digest of Hindu Laws (unfinished by William Jones), Law of Inheritance (both Mitakshara and Dayabhaga)
- Nathaniel Brassey Halhed - Code of Gentoo Laws
- Emphasis on indigenous **education system**
  - **Calcutta Madrasa** by Warren Hastings



Asiatic Society, Bengal  
(1784)



Fort William College,  
Calcutta (1800)



Sanskrit College,  
Banaras (1791)



Calcutta Madrasa  
(1781)



Indian Museum,  
Calcutta (1814)



Asiatic Society,  
Bombay (1804) by Sir  
James Mackintosh

- **Sanskrit College** at Benares by Jonathan Duncan (Resident)

- o Training of **Civil Servants**

- Most of the **British officers** stationed in India were guided by Orientalism when they were trained in the **Fort William College** founded by Lord Wellesley.

- o Antiquarianism

- **Indian Museum** in Calcutta (1814)

These establishments between 1780-1800 completed the early phase of Kolkata's emergence as an intellectual centre.

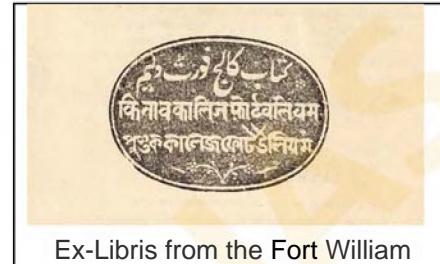
	
Sir William Jones sitting under a banana tree taking notes from Hindu pundits explicating ancient texts.	Warren Hastings with Mullah and a Brahman (Victoria Memorial)

Interest in understanding India's past, her mineral and natural wealth began at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century for the purpose of trade and commerce. Later on, it became more serious research and the documentation of India's history, the study of birds, animals, trees and plants.

### Fort William College, Calcutta (1800)

Initial attempt by Lord Wellesley to give professional training to the European Civil Servants so that they can perform their administrative functions efficiently. He designed a three-year course of study for fresh recruits (between 16-18 years old upon arrival in India)

- **The idea:** To teach the British rookies understand the Oriental Culture, tradition, law and administration.
  - Teaching of Asian languages: Arabic, Urdu, Persian, Sanskrit, Bengali. Later, Marathi and even Chinese.
  - Islamic and Hindu Law
- **Notable scholars associated:**
  - European
    - John Gilchrist-scholar of Hindustani languages
    - William Carrey
      - Henry Colebrooke
      - John Baillie
  - The college employed a large number of Indians (munshis, pandits, maulvis) who were experts in their respective languages and had mastery over legal and/or sacred texts.
    - La Hu Lal - author of Prem Sagar, first modern work in Hindi
    - Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar - head Pundit of Fort William College
  - Thousands of books translated from Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Bengali, Hindi, and Urdu into English. The college was instrumental in publishing dictionaries, grammar textbooks, and translations.



Ex-Libris from the Fort William College Library

#### Trajectory

- Since Wellesley had not obtained proper authorization of the court of directors for setting up the institution, it was not accorded official recognition as a centre for training probationers. Also, CoD were never in favour of a training college in Calcutta -> lack of funds for running the college.
- East India Company College at Haileybury (England), was established in 1807. Yet, Fort William College continued to be a center of learning languages.
- Bentinck's educational policy of public instruction in English in 1835 clipped the wings of Fort William College. Dalhousie administration formally dissolved the institution in 1854.)

**GS Foundation 2024: Modern India**  
**Handout 9: Afghanistan, Sindh, Punjab**  
**Nikhil Sheth**

### Industrial Capitalism (1813-58)

- **Objective:** To convert India as a market for British manufactured goods and the supplier of raw materials
- **Political Policy** – bring maximum number of states under direct control. (Paramountcy and Annexationism)
- **Administrative Policy** – Substantial changes in the administrative structure
- **Economic Policy** – Commercialization of Agri, Deindustrialization, Free Trade, Drain of Wealth
- **Social Policy** – Reforms through English Education and Law (civilizing mission)
- **Cultural Policy** – Liberals, Utilitarians, Evangelism



There was a significant change in the nature of British imperialism in the early part of the 19th century. The British became more aggressive particularly after the Marathas were vanquished in 1818. At one level they became more interfering, at another level aggressive.

- One can trace the beginning from the time of **Wellesley**, but he was discouraged by the authorities in London.
- However, from 1820s onwards, we can also see a change in the policy of the British authorities in London. They were now becoming more supportive and in 1813 came governor-general **Hastings of Moira** (1813-23) who spelt it out with a certain notion of paramountcy.
  - It aimed to assert British supremacy over all Indian native states. The policy asserted the Governor General's right to intervene in the internal affairs of the Indian princely states, and to supersede their authority if necessary. This was in contrast to the previous policy of non-interference. The policy of paramountcy was justified because the Indian princely states were not capable of governing themselves effectively, and that British intervention was necessary to maintain order and stability.
- This trend climaxed in the 1840s. During 1848 when governor-general **Dalhousie** embarked on a **systematic policy of annexation** of the territories of many of the more prominent princely states including **Awadh** (annexed in 1856). So, the annexation of Punjab forms a very important chapter in this history of a new kind of imperialism that began to surface its head from the early part of the 19th century.

Afghan Wars, Annexation of Sindh and Punjab, Conquest of Burma, defeat of Nepal etc must be located has to be situated in this larger historical backdrop of a new kind of imperialism which was becoming more aggressive, more interfering, more conscious about the security of the empire.

### **Political Policy: Conquests and Annexations**

- Lord Hastings (1813-23): Anglo-Nepal War, Third Anglo Maratha War
- Lord Amherst (1823-28): Assam, First Anglo-Burmese War
- Lord William Bentick (1828-35): Policy of annexation – regions of Mysore, Central/Northern Cachar and Jaintia etc
- Lord Auckland (1836-42): First Anglo-Afghan War
- Lord Ellenborough (1842-44): Annexation of Sindh
- Lord Hardinge (1844-48): First Anglo-Sikh War
- Lord Dalhousie (1848-56): Second Anglo-Sikh War, Doctrine of Lapse, Misgovernance

## Great Game

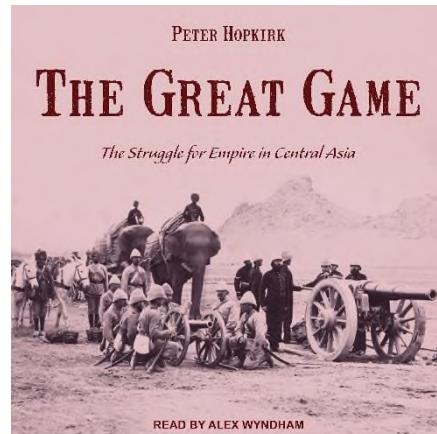
- The Great Game was a rivalry between the 19th century British and Russian Empires over influence in Asia, primarily in Afghanistan, Persia, and later Tibet.
- Britain feared Russia's southward expansion would threaten India, while Russia feared the expansion of British interests into Central Asia. As a result, Britain made it a high priority to protect all approaches to India, while Russia continued its military conquest of Central Asia.
- To protect India, Britain aimed to create a protectorate in Afghanistan, and support the Ottoman Empire, Persia, Khiva, and Bukhara as buffer states against Russian expansion. This would protect India and key British sea trade routes by blocking Russia from gaining a port on the Persian Gulf or the Indian Ocean.

### **North-western Policy:**

As part of its long-term objective of bringing under **imperial control the north-western** Indian subcontinent, the East India Company tried to extend its empire to Afghanistan by launching a war against the kingdom in 1839. This **First Afghan War** was in fact a much larger affair; it encompassed **Punjab**, **Sindh**, and **Baluchistan** as well, culminating in the subjugation of all these regions by the end of the 1840s.

### **Indian context:**

- First Anglo-Afghan War of 1838
- Annexation of Sindh in 1843
- First Anglo-Sikh War of 1845
- Second Anglo-Sikh War of 1848
- Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878



## Afghanistan

### The Graveyard of Imperial powers

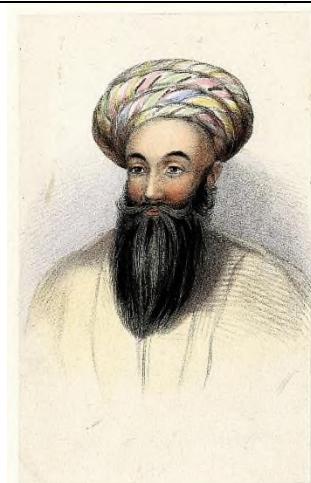
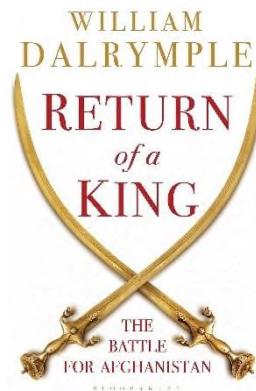
- Causes
  - To check Russian expansionist policy.
  - Trade route – economic importance.

- Dost Muhammad vs Shah Shuja:

- Dost Mohammad came to power in **1826**.
- Shah Shuja mobilized support for a campaign to dislodge Dost Mohammad and regain power. In **1833**, he launched an **invasion** of Afghanistan. He was supported by **Ranjit Singh** and had obtained the 'best wishes' of the **British**. However, in the middle of 1834 **Shuja was defeated** by Dost Mohammad at Kandahar.

- Auckland's Afghanistan Policy

- There was **sustained propaganda** in India and Britain suggesting that **Russia**, which was then penetrating Central Asia, might become a threat to the British Indian empire. This policy was vigorously pursued by **George Eden**, also known as the **Earl of Auckland** (governor general, 1836-42).
- A servant of the Company named **Alexander Burnes**, was **deputed to Kabul in 1837** on a so-called commercial mission. Burnes was unsuccessful in diplomatic negotiations with Dost Mohammad relating to Peshawar.
- It was now decided that **Shah Shuja be actively helped to overthrow Dost Mohammad**. Over the next few years, he committed themselves more seriously to the cause of Shah Shuja, making him an instrument of their policy of expansion in Afghanistan. As a prelude to the implementation of this scheme a treaty was signed between **Shah Shuja, Ranjit Singh, and the British (Tripartite Treaty of 1838)**.
- According to the original plan, Ranjit Singh was to render military support to Shah Shuja to enable him to acquire control over Afghanistan. In return, Shuja was to renounce claims over those territories of Afghanistan which had been acquired by the Punjab kingdom, particularly Peshawar.
- In December 1838, Ranjit Singh fell seriously ill, and never fully recovered. He passed away on 27 June 1839. The removal of Ranjit Singh from the scene, and the uncertainties of succession in the Punjab kingdom, made Shuja even more dependent on the British. Eventually, it was decided that British troops would accompany Shuja on his march to Kabul.



Shah Shuja Mulk



Dost Muhammad

## The First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-42)

- The Punjab army was to march from Peshawar to Kabul via the Khyber Pass. But it couldn't move beyond Peshawar.
- The Company's contingents, which now constituted the main force – **Army of the Indus** – was to take a southerly route through Sind and Baluchistan and proceed to Kabul through the Bolan Pass in 1839.

- **Initial British Victory (1839)**

- The Army of the Indus was able to occupy Kandahar and Ghazni on its way to Kabul.
- Dost Mohammad retreated from Kabul as the British army approached Kabul; and Shah Shuja was proclaimed as the ruler.
- Soon, they became complacent without noticing Afghan discontent.



Kabul during the First Anglo-Afghan War

- **British stuck in Kabul**

- It soon became apparent that the new ruler could not maintain his position without continuing British presence. Thus, it was decided that the British force would stay on for some time.
- Two worries:
  - It was clear that a large armed force stationed at a considerable distance from the borders of the Indian empire was an **expensive proposition**.
  - Another cause of worry was that **Punjab was unwilling to allow the British army to march** through its territory.

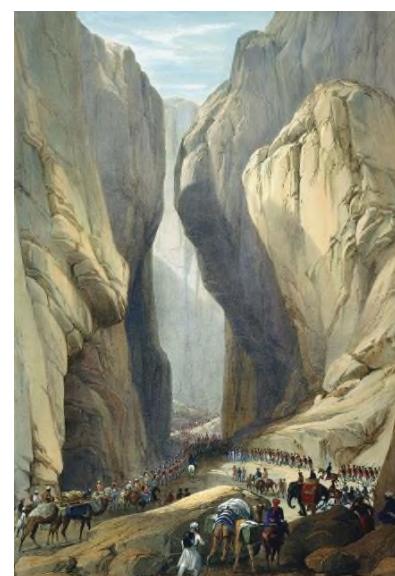
- **Dost Mohammad decided to negotiate** with them since his forces were too small for a sustained offensive.

- The British authorities agreed to his **voluntary exile in India**. He was placed under virtual house arrest in **Mussoorie**. He was to return a few years later as ruler of Afghanistan.

- The situation continued to deteriorate despite the exile of Dost Mohammad.

- **Retreat of the British Army (1842)**

- **The Army of the Indus commenced its retreat** in January 1842.
- It met with **stiff opposition from local tribal communities** on the route linking Kabul with Jalalabad.



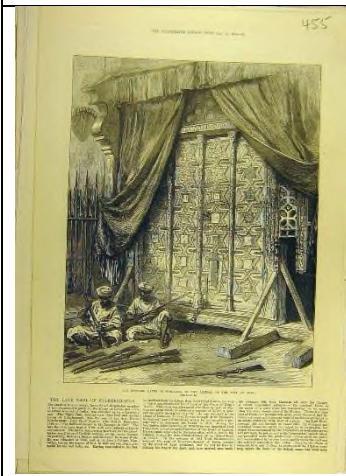
- Almost the entire British force (which consisted of a large number of Indian sipahis fighting a colonial war), of nearly 16,000 men, was wiped out much before Jalalabad.
- The First Afghan War was the **most comprehensive defeat the British faced** in their colonial wars during the nineteenth century, and one in which they suffered huge losses. British prestige was heavily damaged.
- **Auckland → Ellenborough**
  - In February 1842, Auckland had been succeeded by **Lord Ellenborough** as governor general (1842-44).
  - Shah Shuja → Dost Muhammad
    - The **final catastrophe** for the British cause was the **assassination of Shah Shuja** in April 1842, it was decided that Dost Mohammad be released so that he could return to power in Afghanistan. Upon his return to Kabul, Dost Mohammad once again became the ruler of Afghanistan and reigned till his death in 1863.
  - Army of Retribution
    - In order to salvage British prestige, and avenge the humiliation of the Afghan debacle, Ellenborough formed a so-called **Army of Retribution**, which indulged in senseless violence in Afghanistan and then returned to India. This allowed Ellenborough to claim that the British army was victorious and therefore invincible!



**Lord Auckland**  
**(1836-42)**



**Lord Ellenborough**  
**(1842-44)**



**The supposed Gates of Somnath**

## Sindh

The Afghan War had created conditions for the conquest of Sind. The process which finally led to the annexation of the region was set in motion just as British forces retreated from Afghanistan.

### Causes behind Sindh's annexation:

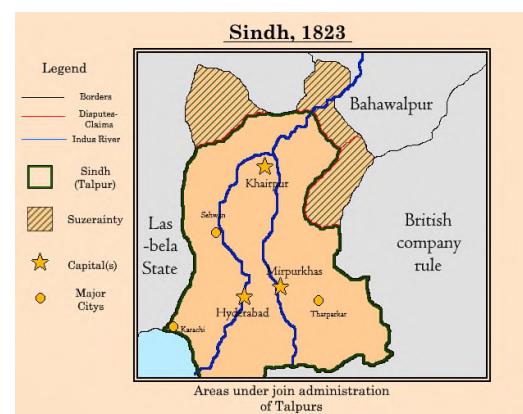
- Russophobia:
  - To counter Russian expansion in NW of India
  - Sind was passing through a phase of internal crisis it could have easily target for Russians.
- Tail of Afghan War:
  - After the defeat in the First Afghan War, the Company lost influence in Afghanistan. It was thus necessary for the company to strengthen its defence on Afghanistan-Sind border by annexing Sind.
  - Afghan expedition was a blow to British prestige. They wanted to restore it by annexing Sindh.

### Evolution of Sindh Policy:

In the early nineteenth century Sind was ruled by **chiefs/amirs of the Talpur clan**.

### The colonial penetration of Sind:

Sind was an independent state and the John Company had friendly relations with Sind. The Company repeatedly promised to protect unity and integrity of Sind.



- For the 1st time the English company came into contact with Sind in 1775 when it set up 1st factory at Thatta. This factory was abandoned in 1792 due to commercial reasons.
- **French Menace and Early Treaties**
  - During the Napoleonic Wars, a **treaty (1809)** was signed with the amirs under which they agreed **not to allow the French** into the region.
  - This was followed up by another **treaty in 1820** intended to **exclude all Europeans** (and Americans) from Sind.
- **Commercial Explorations and Treaty of 1832**
  - Alexander Burnes's brother **James** visited Hyderabad in the late 1820s and published an account of his stay at the court of Hyderabad.
  - It was in the early 1830s that the British began to systematically gather information about Sind. **Alexander Burnes**'s espionage mission of 1831 was the first major attempt to explore the lower Indus.

- Treaty of 1832 – A more substantial treaty was concluded in **1832** which compelled the amirs to **open their territories, the river Indus particularly**, to commerce. This marked the beginning of regular British intervention in the affairs of the Sind.

- **Punjab politics and a Treaty of 1832**

- The **southward expansion** of the **Ranjit Singh** in the direction of Shikarpur in northern Sind lent urgency to British manoeuvres.
- At this point, the British intervened and offered their '**protection**' to the amirs, forcing **another treaty (1838)** on them.
  - It was this treaty that led to the appointment of a **resident** at Hyderabad. **Henry Pottinger** played a prominent role in the 1830s in undermining the authority of the Sind amirs.



Alexander Burns

He traveled in 1831 up the Indus River from Sind, delivering gifts to the local rulers, exploring the regions he visited, and eventually reaching Lahore.

- **Afghan Expedition and Treaty of 1839**

- During Kabul expedition, **Karachi** was occupied in **1839**, following which another treaty was signed with the amirs under which they were forced to accept a **subsidiary force** and pay Rs 3 lakhs per annum towards its expenses.

- **Ellenborough sends Charles Napier → another treaty and interference.**

- Shortly after Ellenborough took over as governor general, Charles Napier, a senior British military officer, was appointed the Company's supreme military commander and Resident in Sind and given wide-ranging political authority.
- Premeditated Plan
  - *"We have no right to seize Sindh, yet we shall do so and a very advantageous, useful and inhumane piece of rascality, it will be."* – Charles Napier.
- **False allegations**
  - He alleged that during the Afghan War the amirs had conspired against the British. This became the **pretext for imposing a new treaty** on them. The conditions were so **unreasonable** that the amirs were unwilling to comply. The terms included **virtual surrender of sovereignty, demands for territory, resources, and money**.
- **Interference in Khairpur Factionalism**
  - At the same time the British made use of a factional tussle at Khairpur, where they assisted Amir **Rustam Ali**'s half-brother **Ali Murad**, in dislodging him. Then British promptly accorded recognition to Ali Murad.



- The course of war
  - As news of what had happened at Khairpur spread, there was a **spontaneous mobilization** for resistance against the British. A major objective of this mobilization was the *reinstatement of Rustam Ali*.
  - Troops loyal to the amirs gathered at **Hyderabad**. On 17 February 1843, a battle took place between the two armies at **Miani**, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, and the **Sind forces were defeated**. The chief of **Mirpur** still held out. He finally retreated to Afghanistan where he lived in voluntary exile until his death.
- Outcome
  - Ali Murad was rewarded for his support by being acknowledged ruler of the principality of Khairpur.
  - The rest of Sind was annexed by the British. Napier was made governor of the province, a position he held till 1847.

#### Foreign Affairs.

It is a common idea that the most laconic military despatch ever issued was that sent by CÆSAR to the Horse-Guards at Rome, containing the three memorable words “*Veni, vidi, vici*,” and, perhaps, until our own day, no like instance of brevity has been found. The despatch of Sir CHARLES NAPIER, after the capture of Scinde, to LORD ELLENBOROUGH, both for brevity and truth, is, however, far beyond it. The despatch consisted of one emphatic word—“*Peccavi*,” “I have Scinde,” (*sinned*).

Aggressive policy of paramountcy, and Russophobia as security challenge to the British Empire came face to face with a situation in Punjab after the collapse of Ranjit Singh's Kingdom. British intervention in this region in 1840s, was provoked by the fear of a troubled frontier.

### Punjab in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

- Sikh movement was basically a bhakti movement with agrarian base. It spread among the Jats and other castes of the Punjab. Originally, it was a peaceful religious sect, but it soon was militarized due to the prolonged wars with the Mughals. Sikhs soon emerged as a martial community and became well known for their fighting spirit by the reign of Aurangzeb.

- **Banda Singh Bahadur (r. 1708-16)**

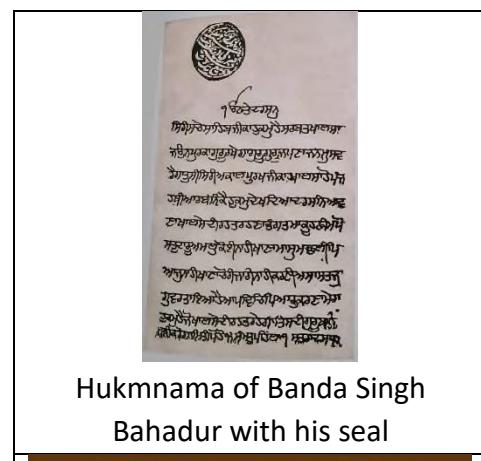
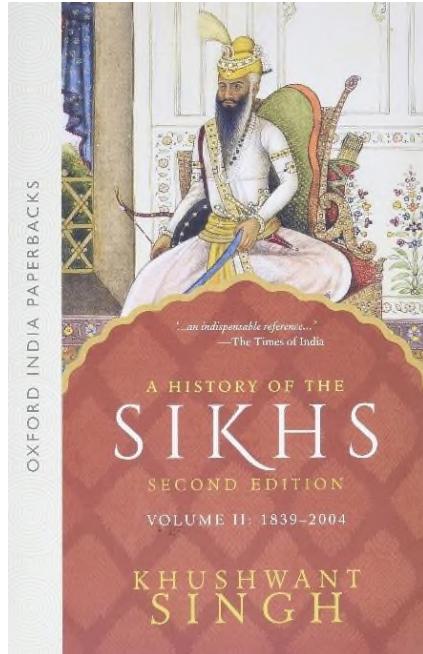
- Short lived Sikh rule in Punjab with social and economic reforms.
- He carried the Sikhs revolt against the Mughals, but a Mughal noble, Hussain Ali, defeated and killed Banda Bahadur at the fort of Lohagarh. Hence this rebellion subsided for some time.

- **Era of foreign invasions:**

- There were frequent invasions from the northwest. Nadir Shah came to India via that route. Later, Ahmad Shah Abdali, who was firmly anchored in Afghanistan in Kabul, made Punjab his target and certain regions of Punjab were occupied by Abdali.

- **Formation of Sikh Confederacy**

- In this situation, many of these Sikh leaders managed to establish their little kingdoms in the latter half of the 18th century to create a kind of a centrifugal Sikh polity. These kingdoms came up in the region of **Doabs**.
- Here various locally powerful sardars created certain institutions like **Rakhi**, whereby they promised protection for a certain amount of resource that the peasants were obliged to pay.

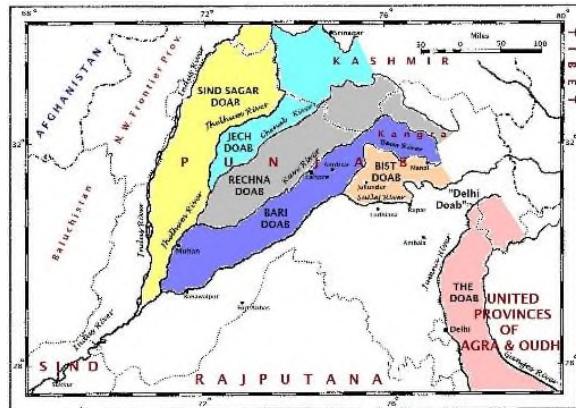


Hukmnama of Banda Singh Bahadur with his seal



First Sikh Coins – Banda Singh Bahadur (1712)

- Those who are capable of offering such protection were able to create **misl**, local military communities. (eg Bhangi, Sukerchakia, Ahluwalia etc)
- These misls together tried to create the kind of **Sikh polity** based on **Dal Khalsa** (military wing) on the one hand and **Gurmat** on the other.



## Sikhism Mislas and Their Founders

S. No.	Sikhism Mislas	Founders
1.	Faizalpuria Misla (Singhpuria Misla)	Nawab Kapoor Singh
2.	Ahluvalia Misla	Jassa Singh Ahluvalia
3.	Bhangi Misla	Sardar Hari Singh
4.	Ramgarhia Misla	Jassa Singh Ichchhagilia
5.	Kanhiyan Misla	Jai Singh
6.	Sukar Chakia Misla	Charata Singh
7.	Fulkiya Misla	Chaudhary Phool
8.	Dalleveshia Misla	Gulab Singh
9.	Nishanvalia Misla	Sangat Singh, Mahar Singh
10.	Karorsindhia or Panchagarhia Misla	Baghel Singh
11.	Saheed Misla or Nihang Misla	Baba Deep Singh
12.	Nakkai Misla	Sardar Hira Singh

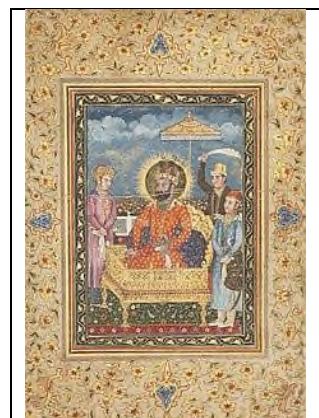
### 19<sup>th</sup> century: Rise of Ranjit Singh (Punjab Kesari)

This Sikh polity had the memory of anti-Mughal resistance as in ideology and faced the military compulsion of containing the Afghans. This demanded the emergence of a more organized and more powerful leadership.

It was Ranjit Singh of the **Sukarchakia** misl, who, by dint of his leadership, competency and muscle power, fused the various Sikh misls into a powerful state.

Born in 1780, assumed the leadership of the **sukarchakia** misl at the age of 12 after the premature death of his father.

- His main source of strength for was his **army**. He modelled it on European style, on East India Company's army. It became the second largest army in Asia.



Zaman Shah Durrani

- He also introduced the **system of vassalage** – all these great Sikh sardars in other places were enticed to be his vassals. But this vassalage was only a step towards final subjugation of these Sikh leaders by Ranjit Singh.

There was a period of **expansion**.

- Initially, Ranjit Singh was firmly established in **Lahore in 1799** then **Amritsar** came under his control in **1805**. The control over the holy city of Amritsar gave him a certain advantage. Thus, both the political and religious capital of Sikhism was under him.
- Shortly thereafter, he forced **all the Sikh chiefs west of the river Sutlej** to acknowledge him as the King of Punjab and thus **created a unified state**.
- With his control established in the doab, he began to move further **westwards and northwards**, bringing under his control the **hill chiefs in Jammu, Kashmir and Kangra (1819)**, and containing the **Afghans**. The Afghan strongholds at **Multan (1818)** and **Peshawar (1834)** fell one after another.



This powerful Kingdom was capable of generating a measure of **prosperity** as well.

- It was natural for Ranjit Singh to look after **irrigation** facilities for the peasants because ultimately rural peasantry (esp. Jat Sikhs) was the main support base.
- At the same time, Ranjit Singh brought **order and security** to the region which was beleaguered by invasions and instability for a long time. There began the **trade revival** which brought more prosperity, greater income and propelled the **artisanal industry**.

So, this is how the basis of a **powerful kingdom** was created. It was not just a kind of a **military** state. It could draw on **huge economic resources** (agriculture, trade revival, handicraft revival) which gave Ranjit Singh the kind of power that he was able to exert over the entire region.

### **Treaty of Amritsar (1809)**

- When Ranjit Singh tried to capture **cis-Sutlej**, the states here appalled British for help.
- The English, who had been so far watching Ranjit Singh's expansionist policy with a deep sense of concern, **responded instantly**. They now found a pretext to poke their nose into the Punjab. The Punjab had become particularly important from the British point of view as at that time they **apprehended Napoleonic invasion** into India through Afghanistan.
  - British officer at Ludhiana, **David Ochterlony**, declared the states under British **patronage** and provided **protection**. It was an open warning to Ranjit Singh to control his ambition by threat with open conflict.
- Ranjit Singh finally entered into the **Treaty of Amritsar with EIC not to invade the cis-Sutlej region**. By this treaty:
  - Ranjit Singh was forced to give up all his claims on the Cis-Sutlej states which were to be henceforth under the protection of the British. (British sphere of influence)

- In return, the British too, acknowledged Ranjit Singh's sovereign authority on the western side of Sutlej.

### **Causes of the Anglo-Sikh war: Both Strategic and Economic**

Though Ranjit Singh could not permanently eradicate the possibility of foreign aggression, he could give a stable and strong administration to the people of the Punjab. So far as Ranjit Singh was alive, he checked the ambitions of local nobles and controlled the army. Once he was dead, **internal turmoil and conspiracies** started in the Court. Thus, Ranjit Singh's death in 1839 was followed by a **period of political uncertainty, family rivalry and factionalism**.

- A series of **weak rulers** sat on throne one after another.
- Sikh court was divided into **two factions** – who wanted to be kingmakers.
- Maharaja Ranjit Singh had created 2nd biggest **army** in entire Asia but after his death in 1839, a situation of internal **disorder** developed. There was also a division between **civil authority and military authority**.

The internal political turmoil was watched by the British. In fact, they had been throwing their greedy glances on the western bank of Sutlej since the days of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The time was now ripe for them. This situation of relative instability made for an important change in British policy. This was a departure from the position that the British had taken in 1809 in the Treaty of Amritsar.

- British were still **apprehensive of a Russian invasion**.
- First half of the 19th c **neo-Victorian Imperialism under the influence of Industrial Revolution**: Objective to exploit the resources of the colonies.

After 1839, it was very troublesome time for Punjab.

Sikh Emperors		
Till1839	Maharaja Ranjit Singh	
1839	Kharak Singh (eldest son)	He one of Ranajit Singh's sons and became the ruler as per the desire of Ranajit Singh himself. However, Kharak Singh didn't have a long life.
1839–1840	Nau Nihal Singh	Kharak Singh died on 5 November 1840; Nau Nihal Singh (his own son) died on the same day when a gateway, likely accidentally, fell on him.
1841–1843	Sher Singh	Sher Singh became the new ruler in 1841 with the support of Dhyan Singh. He in turn was assassinated in 1843, and Dhyan Singh too was killed.
1843–1849	Duleep Singh (youngest son)	The army now supported the claim of Dalip Singh the youngest son of Ranjit Singh, to be the maharaja. Dalip Singh was a minor, barely five years old at this time. <b>Rani Jindan</b> became regent for the minor maharaja. The strong support of the army ensured the ascendancy

		of Rani Jindan in the years between the accession of Dalip Singh and the First Punjab War.
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### **The First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-1846) – Lord Hardinge (1844-1848)**

Certain factors made the military friction between the English and the Sikhs inevitable.

- Major Broadfoot, was appointed as the British agent in 1844. He provoked the khalsa army by repeatedly insulting and alienating the Sikh sardars and army officials.
- This was a premeditated war. The British mobilized their army on the other side of Sutlej. Sikhs too started preparations to counter a possible British attack. By this time, the Khalsa/Sikh army become somewhat independent of the control of the palace or of the control of the rulers.
- Rani Jindan, under the influence of a section of the Sikh chiefs ordered the army to strike at the British. The governor general, Henry Hardinge, who had succeeded Ellenborough in 1844, declared war on 13 December 1845. Sikh Army crossed the river, and the wars were fought. The First Punjab War dragged on for nearly two months. Eventually the Sikh Army lost out.
- Then in **1846**, the Sikh court had to sign the **Treaty of Lahore**.
  - Subsidiary Alliance Treaty
  - The size of the Khalsa army was reduced to 20,000 infantry and 12,000 cavalry
  - The **British Army** was stationed at Lahore for some time.
  - A **British resident** was appointed in the Sikh court.
  - British were to be **indemnified** with Rs 1.5 crores for the expenses of the war
  - British took possession of the **fertile Jullundhar Doab** (between Sutlej and Beas)
  - Sikhs had to lose a large area including **Kashmir**. Kashmir was sold to a Dogra Sardar **Gulab Singh** for 50 Lakh rupees.

Tensions soon surfaced between the resident at Lahore, Henry Lawrence, and the regent, Rani Jindan. **A new treaty was signed** in December 1846 to strengthen the position of the resident and simultaneously marginalize Rani Jindan.

- A council of regency was constituted, comprising eight Punjab chiefs. The council was to function under the supervision of the resident.
- British troops were to remain in Punjab, for whose maintenance Rs 22 lakhs had to be paid annually.
- This arrangement would continue till 1854 when Dalip Singh came of age.

Rani Jindan, as might have been expected, continued to be very hostile to the Company's officials. In August 1847, Rani Jindan was compelled to leave Lahore so as to curtail her influence.

Thus, the British control over domestic policy and foreign policy was established in a Sikh state. Sikhs lost their autonomy. Virtually, the British control was established by 1847. **British resident** was practically running the Sikh state after the first war. Duleep Singh was just a nominal ruler. Still, the Punjab was a kind of a princely state with a British resident. Between 1846 Treaty and annexation in 1849, it was a small step.

## The Second Anglo-Sikh War (1849) – Lord Dalhousie (1848-56)

The Treaty of Lahore could not satisfy the British imperialist appetite. On the other hand, the freedom loving Sikhs were not happy with the Treaty of Lahore. What really worried the Sikhs was the presence of the British army in the Punjab. The British army which had penetrated the Punjab was never withdrawn by the British. The Punjab army had not yet reconciled to British presence in the kingdom. So, another conflict was inevitable.

**Dalhousie** came to India in 1848 and started his aggressive imperial policy. He undertook the annexation of Punjab in 1849.

Such a prominent presence of the British the resident trying to control the government, to undermine the Council of Regency, to pension of Rani Jindan; all this created a certain kind of grievance in the Punjab and there was resistance against it. It led to the Sikh revolt in 1848. There ensued a **series of rebellions in Multan and Lahore led by Mulraj and Chattar Singh** respectively. Once the preparations for the invasion were completed, British forces under Gough crossed into Punjab in November 1848. This marked the beginning of the war, even though no formal declaration of war was made.

The decisive war: battle of Gujarat (battle of guns). Sikhs were finally defeated and Dalhousie annexed Punjab in 1849. The Khalsa militia was disbanded. British forced Dileep Singh, the infant ruler, to sign the document of annexation. Dileep was sent out to England, and he lived the rest of his life in England as an exile. Thus, the last major autonomous Indian state became a part of the British Indian Empire.



#AmritMahotsav

### *Battle of Chillianwala*

13<sup>th</sup> January, 1849

Remembering the historic day in the fight for Indian Independence.

Battle of Chillianwala was fought during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anglo-Sikh war and the sikh army was led by Sher Singh while the British army was led by Commander in Chief, Hugh Gough.

[MIB\\_India](#) [MIB\\_Hindi](#) [FCI\\_Covery\\_MH](#) [mib.gov.in](#) [mib\\_ministry](#) [mib\\_research](#) [mib\\_research](#) [mib\\_research](#) [mib\\_research](#)

Both armies held their positions at the end of the battle and both sides claimed victory. The battle was a strategic check to immediate British ambitions in India and a shock to British military prestige. It dealt a blow to British morale and is testament to the tenacity and martial skill of the Sikh army.

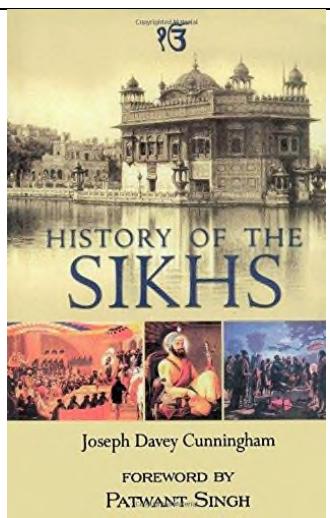
the roots of collapse of shikh state can been seen in reign of ranjeet singh

1) despite its big size and military strength shikh state was in medieval in nature it did not evolve its own modern institutions. even Thoe Ranjeet singh united shikh under the banner of national monarchy he actively aided the process of feudalities as he did not have enough resources to pay Hugh army, he started Distributing jagir in leave of salary it created class of feudal military aristocrats how are tight to land and not to the state.

2) so long as there existed powerful monarch like Ranjeet singh ,shikh against the common enemy British however the under the week successor of ranjeet singh there was mutual rivalry in the family and shikh court to factualism fail pray factionalism

3) the jagir system also weekend the army and contributed to undiscipline character ranjeets singh turn the khalsa army to heroic fighting force but British were superior in army and ammunition and resources.

4) ranjeet singh was powerless to Havert future brish dangerous he protected the panjab from british expansion temporally but effectively he pass the matter onto his successor



**Joseph Cunningham**, brother of Alexander Cunningham, was a soldier-scholar in the Company army. He wrote the History of the Sikhs in 1849.

**GS Foundation 2024: Modern India**  
**Handout 10: Doctrine of Lapse**  
**Nikhil Sheth**

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**The Expansionist Policy of Lord Dalhousie (1848-56)**  
**Greatest Imperialist of the Victorian Era**

In 1848, Dalhousie arrived in India as the Governor-General. He followed a policy of expansion with great vigour. The annexation of the Punjab in 1849 was one of the first acts of Governor-General Lord Dalhousie (1848–56), and it was a portent. Over the next seven years Dalhousie enormously increased the area of British India and, with the exception of the Second Burma War in 1852, he did it with paperwork, as part of the relentless logic of paramountcy. As a result, the British imperialistic design reached its zenith and the British Indian Empire reached its greatest extent within a short span of time.

- Industrial capitalism
- Neo-Victorian imperialism
- Utilitarian ideas – better and efficient government

Lord Dalhousie was greatest imperialist in the history of British India and he used every method and opportunity to carry out the territorial expansion of British East India possessions.

**Three-fold Policy of Dalhousie:**

- Continued the British policy of conquest – Vast Territorial Expansion
  - Second Anglo-Sikh War (1849) – Annexation of Punjab
  - Sikkim fell into the clutches of Dalhousie's imperialist policy (1850)
  - Second Burmese war (1852) – pushed the eastern frontier to the Salween river.
  - Snatched Berar from the Nizam (1853)
- Dalhousie invented the policy of **Doctrine of Lapse**
  - This doctrine was enunciated with the objective of justifying the formal annexation of the territories of several princely states in the late 1840s and early 1850s. It was earlier vaguely used by Auckland in the past, but Dalhousie gave it a concrete shape.
  - Under this, the British claimed that they had the prerogative of taking over a state in the event of an unsatisfactory succession. If the ruler did not have a natural heir, his kingdom could be annexed by the British authorities (unless the adopted son was specifically approved by the British earlier). Thus, no succession was considered valid without the recognition of the Company.

Type of State	Doctrine of Lapse	
Independent and Friendly States	Not Applicable	Free to choose successors without any British intervention
States earlier subordinated by Mughals or Marathas	Not Applicable	In the matter of succession, these states had to seek British approval, which was easily granted

States created by the Company	Applicable	If there was <u>no legal heir</u> to the throne, the ruler was not permitted to adopt for <u>succession</u> purpose. As per the British, it <u>amounted to the delegated power</u> .
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- The Doctrine paid rich dividends to the Company. On this basis, Dalhousie annexed **seven states**: Satara (1848), Jaitpur and Sambhalpur (1849), Baghat (1850), Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853) and Nagpur (1854)
- This infamous doctrine is often considered to be one of the major factors responsible for the revolt of 1857.

- **Doctrine of Mis-governance**

- **Awadh** had a great economic and strategic importance, but the doctrine of lapse was not applicable to it. So, Dalhousie invented another doctrine of mis-governance in context of Awadh – Company could annex any state based on mis-governance caused by an incompetent ruler. Thus, Nawab Wajid Ali of Awadh was removed from power on this pretext and Awadh was annexed in 1856 CE.
- It is interesting however, that the British actually bred political uncertainty in the native states with their intervention.

Within 8 years of his tenure, Dalhousie increased the territories of British India by almost 50%. Since most of his annexation were carried out through peaceful methods in a very swift manner, it is said that the territorial expansion of Dalhousie could have not been matched by a military campaign.

The policies pursued from the late 1840s till the outbreak of the revolt had to be urgently reconsidered in 1858.

- Considering that a large number of princely rulers had actively assisted the British in the suppression of the revolt, it was felt that their support was vital for stabilizing the Indian empire on a long- term basis.
- Moreover, given that that most of the princely rulers and the ruling classes of princely states were politically and socially conservative, they were unlikely to encourage elements that might disturb the status quo. They would therefore be useful in keeping discontent in check.

For this reason, when the crown directly assumed control over the Indian empire in 1858, Queen Victoria issued a Proclamation (1 November 1858) guaranteeing to the princely rulers their autonomy and assuring them that they would not be divested of their territories. This amounted to **publicly disowning the policy of annexation** which had been so vigorously implemented during Dalhousie's term as governor general.

Balaghat and Udaipur were returned by Canning to the Indian rulers.
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## GS Foundation 2024: Modern India

### Handout 11: Industrial Phase: Charter Acts

Nikhil Sheth

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As the Company's domains expanded and its responsibilities diversified, a series of new questions had to be faced. What type of government should be set up in the new territories? What kind of political institutions would fit most suitably with Indian social structures? And what of the 'pacified' Indians? Should they be educated, or even converted to more acceptable forms of religion? Was the EIC really a fit organ of government? Should its monopoly be maintained? Distinct approaches to these questions emerged, each with its partisan advocates.

#### Industrial Capitalism

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the EIC faced domestic opposition due to the fears of pernicious influence of corrupt nabobs on English society and politic leading to the Acts of 1773, 1784 and attempts at professionalization of its bureaucracy. Still, the EIC remained powerful and entrenched in parliamentary politics and never lost its trade monopoly. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, the scale of opposition to it changed after industrial capitalists became powerful.

#### Growing Opposition to the Company in London

- Conflict between the old mercantile interests and the new industrial interests
  - By the late 18th century, there was growing opposition to the East India Company's (EIC) monopoly over commerce with India and China. Private traders wanted to share in the profits. With 'free trade' becoming the dominant economic doctrine in Britain, it was difficult for the government to resist demands for the termination of the Company's monopoly.
  - **Industrial capitalists** wanted open overseas Indian market for industrial products of Lancashire and Manchester and procure raw materials from India (indigo, opium, long staple cotton). The EIC's interests conflicted with those of the manufacturers since the Company mainly imported Asian commodities into Britain, rather than selling British manufactured products in Asia.
- The East India Company's expanded activities, including political, administrative, military, commercial, and technical pursuits, required the cooperation of various groups in British society. By the early 19th century, the Company's Indian empire was no longer solely the concern of a small number of merchant capitalists.

Thus, a loose free trade pressure group had been operating in British politics for some time and had tried, unsuccessfully, to have the Company's monopoly withdrawn in 1793. With renewal of the charter due in 1813, this alliance of manufacturers and exporters reinvigorated its efforts. These industrial capitalists successfully bribed/pressurized the government to abolish trade monopoly by Charter Act of 1813 partially and 1833 fully.

### The Charter of 1793

- The Charter Act of 1793 **renewed the charter** of the Company for **twenty years**, giving it possession of all territories in India during that period.
- Only a **modest concession to the free-traders** in face of resistance from the London merchants
  - The Company was empowered to give **licences to individuals** as well as the Company's employees to trade in India. These licences, known as 'privilege' or 'country trade', paved the way for shipments of opium to China. It allowed for a part of the Company's fleet to be used by the private merchants. Private merchants complained of high freight rates and didn't want to be tied to the Company's warehouses.
- The **Home Government** members were to be **paid out of Indian revenues** which continued up to 1919.
- The **royal approval was mandated for the appointment** of the governor-general, the governors, and the commander-in-chief.
- In Indian administration, the **governor general's power** over the council was extended and the Governors of Bombay and Madras were brought more decisively under his control.
- It introduced in India the **concept of a civil law**, enacted by a secular human agency, and applied universally.
  - The regulation applied to all rights, person and property of the Indian people and it bound the courts to regulate their decisions by the rules and directives contained therein. All laws were to be printed with translations in Indian languages, so that people could know of their rights, privileges, and immunities.

### The Charter Act of 1813

The Company fiercely contested the proposal to abolish its Indian monopoly when its charter came up for renewal in 1813. Parliament was, on the other hand, unconvinced of the Company's arguments and the Charter Act of 1813 put an end to its monopoly over India.

#### **Provisions:**

- Renewal of charter for 20 years.
- Partial abolition of trade monopoly: Except for trade in tea and trade with China.
  - While abolishing the Company's monopoly of trade, it **imposed restrictions on long-term residence** by private British individuals (private merchants, free traders) in India. A licence had to be obtained from the Company for residing in India.
- The act also allowed Christian missionaries to enter India and propagate their religion.
- Rs. 1 lakh per annum for promotion of Indian languages, literature, and scientific education in India.

The Charter Act of 1813 was thus an important benchmark in the **push towards westernisation** of India. At pace with the altered conditions, Company rule in India now had to act as an accessory, an instrument to ensure 'the necessary conditions of law and order' to make the vast Indian market captive for British goods.

### The Charter Act of 1833

When the time came to renew the Charter in 1833, there was **increased pressure** in Britain for the government to take over the Indian administration directly and abolish the Company. **The Reform Act of 1832** had recently been passed, which fuelled a general desire for reform in Britain. A parliamentary inquiry was conducted, and the resulting Act of 1833 became a significant moment in the constitutional history of India.

This Act became a landmark in the constitutional history of India and had a larger significance. Most of its provisions pertained to arrangements for governing the Indian empire. The framework evolved in 1833 was to continue almost unchanged down to 1858, and some elements were retained in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

#### **Provisions:**

- The charter gave to the Company the authority to govern the Indian empire for **another twenty years, till 1854**, when the charter was to come up for renewal (the 1833 Act came in force in 1834).
  - All its business activities were wound up. Henceforth, it was to be **only a political-administrative body**. And here too the Indian possessions of the Company were to be held in trust for the British Crown.
  - This did not amount to a loss for its shareholders who were guaranteed an annual dividend of 10.5 per cent by the British government.
- The Charter Act of 1833 further **strengthened the authority of the board of control** and gave more powers to the president of the board of control.
  - The President of the Board of Control now became the **Minister for Indian Affairs**, while the board was empowered to superintend all administrative affairs in India.
- The governor general was henceforth to be known as the '**governor general of India**'. (Lord Bentinck). He would, in consultation with his council, control all civil, military and revenue matters in the whole of India.
- The Act **removed licensing restrictions on British settlement** in India. Also, British settlers could henceforth acquire land in India.
- The Charter Act of 1833 also introduced some **administrative changes**.
  - Formation of a fourth presidency (**Agra Presidency**) by splitting the Bengal Presidency into two.
  - **Indians to be recruited** in jobs and no discrimination based on race.
    - The Company's services in India were thrown open to the natives; but there was no provision for their being nominated to the covenanted services.
    - Although the reality was different, this declaration formed the sheet-anchor of political agitation in India.
  - It enjoined the Company's government **to abolish slavery** in India. (Slavery was finally abolished in 1843.)
- Some crucial changes were made in the composition and functioning of the governor general's council. It made a distinction between the executive and legislative duties of the

Governor-General and provided for the election of a fourth member who could participate only when legislation was being decided.

- With the extension of territories and influx of British settlers into India, there was need for uniform laws. The governor general in council was, therefore, **empowered to legislate** for the **whole of British territories in India** and these laws were to be applicable to **all persons, British or Indian**. The Act **centralized the process** of framing laws, giving to the laws and regulations framed by the governor general's council the **force of statutes**.
  - The council thus became the main legislative body in India. Presidency governments could submit drafts of legislation to the council for consideration.
- Since the making of laws required legal expertise, a provision was made for adding a 'law member' to the council.
  - The law member became the fourth member and his presence was supposed to be essential when the council was deliberating upon any legislation. This **two-fold function of the council, executive and legislative**, had significant implications for subsequent constitutional developments.
  - **Thomas Macaulay** was the first law member to be appointed to the governor general's council. Macaulay had played an important role in drafting the 1833 charter.
- In order to do away with the multiplicity of laws, the process of **codification** and **systemization** of law was initiated by the Act. A **law commission** was set up for the purpose; the four-member commission was **headed by Macaulay**.

### The Charter Act of 1853

In 1853, during the renewal of the Company's charter, the parliament asserted its right to decide how India was to be governed more strongly than before. The free traders' demand to end the Company's mechanism of governing India, which had already won a significant victory with the **repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846**, could not be ignored much longer. Yet the Company could still muster sufficient political support to be able to continue with its hold over the Indian empire, even though this hold was considerably weakened by the 1853 Act.

#### **Provisions:**

- The Charter Act of 1853 subjected the EIC's empire in India to much **tighter control** by the British government. A decisive measure was the provision for **reconstituting the court of directors**.
  - The strength of the court of directors was brought down from the existing twenty-four to eighteen: six members of the court were henceforth to be nominees of the government.
- The charter of 1833 was renewed in 1853, but this time not for another twenty- years. It did not specify the duration for which it would be valid.
  - The Company was allowed to retain the Indian possessions "in trust for Her Majesty, her heirs and successors until Parliament shall otherwise provide", thus keeping the door ajar for a future takeover.
- The **selection of covenanted civil servants** was now to be on the basis of an **open competition**.
  - After 1833, competitive examinations were introduced, though directors' nominees could still be recruited on a nod and a wink. After 1853, selection was entirely examination-based, and thrown open to all white Britons. Members of the court of directors were deprived of the privilege of nominating candidates for appointment to superior posts in the civil service.
  - A committee was constituted by the board of control to work out the modalities of the competition. **Public examinations commenced in 1855**.
- It substantially modified the composition of the governor general's council when it met for **legislative purposes**.
  - The 1833 Act had, it was felt, led to excessive legislative centralization. The provinces no longer had any authority to enact laws or regulations. To have adequate inputs from the several presidencies and provinces, as well as from the judiciary, **six more members were added to the council when it met to deliberate upon legislative matters**.
    - These additional members were the chief justice and a judge of the Supreme Court of Calcutta; and one member each from the three presidencies of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, and from the North-Western Provinces.
  - The **law member** (added in 1833) was now made a **full member** of the council.
    - Earlier he could only attend meetings of the council when legislative matters were on the agenda.

- The **idea of a distinct 'legislative council'**, which was already conceptually present in the Charter Act of 1833, was now developed further. This was now a body of **twelve members** comprising the
  - Governor general
  - Four 'ordinary members' (including the law member)
  - The commander-in-chief
  - Six 'additional members'. (Did not sit when the council met to discuss executive matters)
- The Act also provided for the appointment of a **separate governor** for the **Bengal Presidency**.
  - In 1854, a lieutenant governor was appointed for Bengal, instead of a full-fledged governor.

**GS Foundation 2024: Modern India**  
**Handout 12: Industrial Phase: Administrative Policies**  
Nikhil Sheth

*The robber-ruler synthesis eventually gave way to what would become classical colonialism, with the recognition of the need for law and order and a modicum of reasonable governance.* – Amartya Sen

**Major overhauling of administrative structure:**

Factors	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Material Compulsion</u>: Need of Industrial Capitalism of London</li><li>• <u>Ideological Factor</u>: Liberalism and Utilitarianism advocating administrative reforms to pull out of <u>backwardness</u> and <u>stagnation</u>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better law and order</li><li>• <u>Judicial reforms, Contract Law</u></li><li>• New land revenue settlements</li><li>• Reforms in <u>civil service, police, and army</u></li></ul>

**(1) Law and Order**

Improvement in the law-and-order condition was essential if India had to develop as a market for the British manufactured goods. That's why during this phase, several Governor Generals took steps for improvement in the law-and-order situation.

**Suppression of Pindaris and Pathans**

- Pindaris plunderers created law and order problems in parts of India. Earlier they were auxiliary forces to the Maratha army. But when Maratha declined, they turned into freelance marauders, involved in loot and plunder.
- GG Hastings decided to suppress the Pindari menace. He dispatched a big army under the command of General Thomas Hislop. Hislop started to encircle Pindaris from three sides. Most important Pindari leaders like Heeru, Buran and Wasir Md. Chitu were killed. Only Karim Khan surrendered before the army. He was offered a Jagir near Jaipur after he promised to lead a peaceful life.



Villagers burning themselves after a Pindari raid.

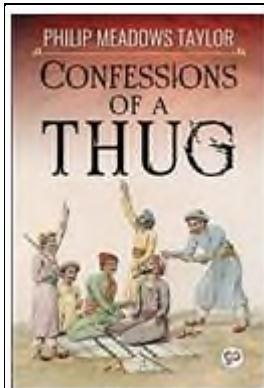


Thugs stabbing the eyes of murdered traveler before throwing the body into a well.

- **Pathans** were also a threat to law and order. Hasting started a military offence against the Pathans. Pathan leader Aamir Khan surrendered and promised to lead a peaceful life. He was afforded Jagir of Gauspur.

### **Suppression of Thugee**

- Thugs were the criminals, who were mainly linked with road robbery, ritualized murder and mutilation on highways. Poverty and unemployment created by British rule that gave a new fodder to this profession.
- Bentinck decided to suppress Thugee.
  - Thuggee and Dacoity Department 1830.
  - Colonel William Sleeman headed it from 1835-39 to eliminate the problem. Sleeman developed elaborate profiling and intelligence techniques that pre-dated similar methods in Europe and the US by decades.



Sensational Ethno-graphic Thriller (1839) and bestseller in 19th century Victorian England. It was the most influential novel about India prior to Rudyard Kipling's Kim (1901). Its popularity established the word "thug" in the English language.

### **(2) Judicial Reforms**

During this period, the judicial reforms were being implemented under the influence of utilitarian ideas. Utilitarian ideas were deeply associated with the rise of industrial capitalism in Britain. Jeremy Bentham was a critic of the Indian Judicial system, and he underlined following weaknesses in it.

- The absence of Habeas Corpus
- Lack of codification and uniformity in legal system
- Some Indian laws were cruel and inhuman.

Therefore, under Benthamite influence, following steps were undertaken:



Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) - first person to be an aggressive advocate for the codification of all the common law into a coherent set of statutes, first to use 'codify' as a verb.

<b>Codification of Laws</b>	<b>Uniformity of Laws</b>
<u>Charter Act of 1833</u> provided for a law member in the Governor General's council. <u>Lord Macaulay</u> was appointed as the first law member to start codification and a Law Commission was established.	Earlier, a <u>duality</u> existed in the <u>Indian Judicial System</u> . On the one hand, the courts like <u>Sadar Diwani Adalat</u> and <u>Sadar Nizamat Adalat</u> existed in Calcutta, in which Indian laws were prevailing. On the other hand, there was a <u>Supreme Court in Calcutta</u> , where English laws were invoked. This <u>duality</u> was

Later, it became the basis for IPC 1860, CrPC 1872, CPC 1908 etc.

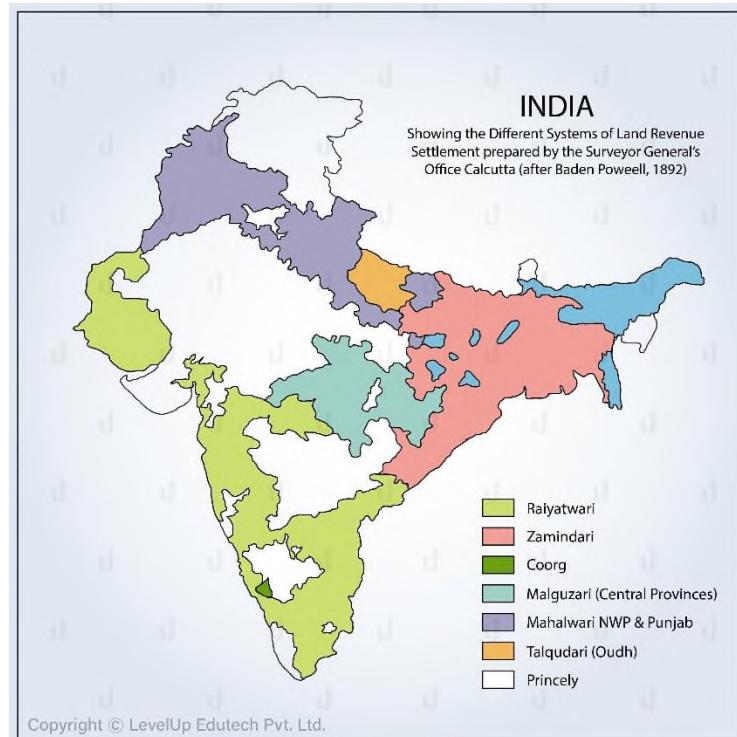
abolished. The Sadar Diwani Adalat, Sadar Nizamat Adalat and the Supreme Court were abolished, and the High Courts were established at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay on the basis of High Court Act of 1861.

In the era of William Bentinck, English and regional languages replaced Persian as the court language (1835).

### **(3) Revenue Reforms**

Earlier, the Permanent Settlement was guided by mercantilist interest. But, in the early decades of the 19th century, India was being developed as a British commodity market. While on the one hand, British capitalists wanted to reduce land revenue to increase purchasing power of peasants, there was increasing cost due to infrastructure development (roadways, canals and rail), and imperial military cost of expansion which put the company in financial stress. So, the company was not ready to reduce the amount of land revenue. As a solution, finally, intermediaries/zamindars were targeted and deprived of agricultural surpluses.

Thus, new revenue arrangements viz. Ryotwari and Mahalwari systems were developed during this period to suit the changed requirements of the British government. Permanent settlement was not expanded to other areas. The nature of land revenue settlements in these parts of India varied. The British adjusted their revenue-strategy according to the special characteristics of the agrarian structure in each region. The fixing-up of the revenue arrangements depended, to a very great extent, on their understanding of the agrarian system which appeared to be strange and complex from the point of view of the British.



#### **(A) Ryotwari System**

The Europeans thought that in south and south-western India there were no zamindars holding big estates with whom revenue settlement could be struck. It was also felt that the super-imposition of the zamindari settlement would completely disrupt the existing order there. Many English civilians like Reed and Munro, who had first hand knowledge about the region recommended that the arrangement should be made directly with the actual cultivators or the ryots.

### **Ryotwari System: Madras Presidency**

- Ryotwari was first implemented in Barahmahal region by Colonel Alexander Reed in 1792 when the region was taken from Tipu Sultan. Soon, Thomas Munro elaborated and implemented it in some districts (combined several villages as revenue unit and collected revenue directly) in 1810, in the areas of Malabar, Canara, Coimbatore, Dindigul.
- In Madras province, there was usually no purchase of land by moneylenders from the peasants till 1854, because even moneylenders were afraid to invest money due to high revenue rate. However a Ryotwari Commission setup in 1854 introduced certain reforms, and non-agricultural classes like moneylenders started to purchase lands from peasants.

### **Ryotwari System: Bombay Presidency**

The British took away the land of western India from the Marathas and there needed the management of land revenue. Elphinstone, a disciple of Munro, attempted to implement the Ryotwari system in Bombay but the land revenue was too high upto 1836. In 1836, certain reforms were brought in after the survey conducted by Wingate and Goldsmith, and based on this land revenue rate was reduced.

### **Ryotwari: Characteristics**

- Unlike the Zamindari system, every registered raiyat was considered as the owner of the land, and the agreement of land revenue was made with him.
- The land was made salable. The ryots were given right of transaction of land.
- The land revenue was temporarily fixed for 30-40 years. Thus, a temporary agreement (not permanent) was done with the ryots and the revenue could be increased periodically.
- Land revenue to be paid was very high, sometimes even 50-55% of the total produce.
- Community land was owned by the government.

This system was introduced in Madras Presidency, Bombay Presidency, Assam and some other portions covering 51% area of British India.

### **Ryotwari: Evaluation**

The Ryotwari system had two objectives: to Increase in state income (success); and to protect tenants (not successful)

- In reality, under the Ryotwari Settlement the state became the virtual zamindar.
- Not only the revenue rate was very high, the peasants were also not allowed any exemption in case of bad harvests or natural calamities.
- No uniformity in the determination of land revenue. Privileged farmers had to pay relatively less revenue.
- Gradually, due to over-assessment, the land shifted from the poor peasants to rich peasants. Therefore, a landlord class established (like zamindar), which began crop-sharing.
- It encouraged the Money-lending later, thus rural-indebtedness became a big problem in the Ryotwari region.

## **(B) Mahalwari System**

Here, the revenue settlement was made mahal-wise or estate-wise. The name mahalwari has been derived from the word mahal or village. Here the deal was struck with the village headman or with the leading families of the village collectively.

It was implemented by Holt McKenzie first time in 1822. He is regarded as the father of Mahalwari settlement. Later, in the era of Bentinck, Thomson and Martin Bird played a role in its evolution.

During the era of William Bentinck and Dalhousie, this system was introduced over a large area of North India. First it came into force in North (central region of the Mughal Empire – UP, Punjab, MP), and later implemented in NW, Awadh etc. In these regions, stretching from Punjab to Awadh and CP, panchayat system was quite active.

### **Mahalwari features**

- Community Ownership
  - In this system, a village or mahal as a whole, was held responsible for realizing revenue and members of the Mahal paid their revenues collectively. Thus, the concept of community ownership on the land was accepted. Land revenue would be collected through the head of the village (Muqaddam)
  - However, the private responsibility of the farmers remained. The community had to pay the revenue on behalf of the members who failed to pay the land revenue, but the community would acquire the property of that farmer and distribute it among other co-sharers.
- Rate and duration
  - Very exorbitant rate. (Normally 65%, going up to 95% of surplus)
  - Unlike zamindari, it was fixed temporarily.

### **Mahalwari Impact**

- In this arrangement too, the oppression of the cultivators by the leaders of the village was inevitable. The headmen of the village misused their power and swindled the poor peasants.
- In the Mahalwari assessment area, especially in Awadh, the taluqdars (big landlords) were uprooted who opposed Mahalwari.
- Exorbitant rates of the land revenue put tremendous pressure. Thus, in Mahalwari region, there was intense peasant rebellion in 1857.

Zamindari	Ryotwari	Mahalwari

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**Handout 13: Industrial Phase: Colonial Economy**  
Nikhil Sheth

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**Commercialization of Agriculture**

It means cultivation of cash crops in place of food crops. The food crops like wheat, barley and rice were replaced with cash crops like tea, indigo, sugarcane, tobacco, opium and coffee etc. this change in the character of Indian agriculture was the outcome of circumstances created by British colonial rule.

**Objective:**

1. To make the collection of the increased land revenue easier.
2. To secure raw-material for the British industries
3. To facilitate export of food grains from India to Britain
4. To maintain balance of trade globally (Tea-Opium Triangle)

Introduction of contract system in agriculture facilitated commercialization. The Charter Act 1833 allowed European to purchase immovable property in India. As a result of this tea plantation, coffee, and jute plantation emerged contract farming was practiced by European in plantations.

- Cotton – Encouraged in western India
- Indigo – For dying of clothes in north and east India
- Opium – Warren Hastings made opium production a company monopoly first in 1773. It was exported to China.
- Tea – encouraged in northeast, mainly based on British capital. It gave rise to the problem of indentured labour.
- Coffee – encouraged in south India
- Jute – encouraged in eastern India
- Sugarcane – it was encouraged after 1830s in various parts, especially in north India.

**Pattern:**

- It was a forced process for the majority of peasants. It was not adopted by them under free will.
- Only those crops which were required by British industries or were having market in Europe were cultivated such as indigo, cotton and sugarcane.
- It was carried out by using the traditional old tools and no modern technology was introduced.
- The use of small farms for cultivation of cash crops was another typical feature.
- Different kinds of practices were used by Europeans to cultivate cash crops in India.
  - Teenkathiya (3/20) used in Champaran district of Bengal for Indigo cultivation.

- It was exploitative in nature. The peasants suffered immensely due to cultivation of cash crops.

**Effects:**

- 1) it facilitated the drain of wealth from the Indian because Commerical easy sold in the European market it beneficiated only European it failed to benefit Indian peasant in any significant manner cultivation of cash crop another instrument used by British to exploited Indian resources.
- 2) the easier self-sufficient economy was now connected to world the peasant force crop which are greater dement in global market.
- 3) it helps in the emergent subservient economy in Indian because Indian economic fulfil British economy.
- 4) it led to monetization of agriculture.
- 5) it led to village in datedness
- 6) it resulted in rural instability because prices of commercial crop fluted accordance to ability in international market. this instability trigger crises in decan rights.
- 7)in 1870 cultivation of the cash crop reduce the production of food grain. as result of this hunger and famine become regulator phenomenon in Indian economy.
- 8) cultivation of cash crop adverse affected the soil fertility biodiversity and overall economy which in the long run ruined the agriculture.



## Deindustrialization

### **Decline of Handicraft (de-industrialization)**

In overall economy, if there is increase in the contribution of primary sector and decrease in that of secondary sector, it is called as de-industrialization.

India held the title of the world's largest manufacturing nation until the mid-18th century. European countries, in particular, had a high demand for Indian products. The British during colonial rule systematically dismantled India's handicraft industry, and by the mid-19th century, it was almost decimated.

#### **Causes for the decline of urban industry:**

- Indian handicrafts industries were dragged into an uneven competition.
  - British capitalist class pressurized from the very beginning to open the Indian markets for British finished goods. The Company was forced to import British finished goods worth the value of 3.8 lakh pounds in 1769 to India.
  - A condition was imposed upon EIC whereby it was mandatory to carry British goods of around 3000 tons free of cost to India in 1793.
  - The monopoly of the EIC for trade with India was abolished by the Charter Act of 1813 which opened India completely for the British goods.
- Market abroad lost
  - British market was closed for India products. Heavy duties were imposed on the Indian handicraft products in Britain.
    - Import duty of 67.5% on Indian cotton clothe and 37.5% on Indian muslin in 1824.
    - For Indian sugar, the import duty was 3 times the cost of production.
    - On some Indian goods, the duty went upto 400%.
- Indian handicraft industries lost the home market also.
  - Loss of patronage: British annexed Indian states which were a big purchaser of handicraft products.
  - Through railways even remote areas of India were penetrated with British industrial goods.
  - British cultural policy encouraged the sale of British products in India. (English education produced a class)

#### **Causes for the decline of village handicraft industry:**

- The exploitative policy of the Company after 1757.
- Appointment of intermediaries for exploitation of artisans
- Competition with the finished goods from British factories
- Decline of village economy
- Introduction of railways

#### **Destruction of Cotton Textile Industry**

- Extremely important role in the Indian economy as well as culture. Throughout the history, Alexander's fellow historians, Chinese traveler, Marco polo, all referred to it.
- India's cotton textiles and muslin were unparalleled in the world.
  - Taken by Arab merchants to Basra (Iraq) where Europeans became familiar with it and named it Muslin (Malmal). Portuguese named it Calico (brought from Calicut).
  - Important centres: Dhaka, Qasim Bazar, Murshidabad
  - Western India important for cotton goods production
- The traditional Indian cotton industry had a pre-modern technology. Indian cotton piecegoods were manufactured by the handicraftsmen. It was, indeed a rural craft. In pre-colonial times there was a perfect union between agriculture and domestic industry in the countryside. The cotton industry had been an integral part of India's village economy. Millions of cotton weavers and spinners had been engaged in this rural craft since time immemorial.

#### **Causes:**

*The oppression practised by the merchants of the English East India Company during the second half of the eighteenth century broke the backbone of this great industry initially. Later on, the fatal blow came from the Lancashire manufacturers after the advent of free trade capitalism.*

- Initial oppression by the Company
  - Exploitation of artisans and craftsmen played an important role in the decline of Indian handicrafts.
  - The weavers were forced to accept dadan or advance from the English merchants. They were subject to a penalty of 35% on the advance if they defaulted together with repayment of the advance received.
  - The East India Company's policy as reflected in its regulations in the last quarter of the eighteenth century had made the weavers sink into the position of indentured workers. Indian craftsmen were made to work for company at a very low wage and at times without any wage at all. These craftsmen were forced to sell their goods to company at cheap rate and by company's raw material from company's merchants at high prices. Many of craftsmen cut their thumb to escape this exploitation.
- Industrial development – The foreign machine-made products were superior in quality and cheaper in price. The primitive technology of Indian handicrafts could not compete with the modern technology of an industrial economy.
- Lancashire and Manchester exports flooded Indian markets
- The fate of the Indian cotton industry was sealed with the arrival of railroad.
- Export of raw materials made them dear for Indian artisans and made their products uncompetitive.
- Indian cotton products were banned in Britain (protectionism)

- The policy of one-way free trade of British ruined Indian handicraft high tariff barrier were enacted to prohibit the entry of Indian goods in Britain and duty free goods were allowed in India. This was an unnatural competition.
- British also ousted Indian products from other markets (West Asia, Africa etc)
- Diminishing local markets
  - With the gradual decline of the Indian states and their courts, who were the chief patrons of Indian weavers and spinners, there was no chance for the Indian cotton industry to survive.
  - Policy of westernization changed demand by Indian middle class too.

Thus, Indian cotton industry went down in the face of foreign competition. India had been an exporter of cotton textiles to the international market in the past. But, now, India was transformed into a market for the cotton goods produced in England. In the interest of British economy, she was now converted into a supplier of raw materials.

#### **Destruction of other Industries**

- Jute Industry (handicraft in Bengal): Collapsed due to the competition with the products of modern factory system at Dundee (Scotland).
- Silk Industry: Indian silk industry flourished in various regions. In Kashmir, it employed nearly 45,000 workers. Competition from industrial silk products of Paisley (Scotland) decimated it.
- Iron Industry (world famous wootz): Indian industries could not produce low quality steel, thereby eliminating a huge chunk of market from them.
- Ship building industries at Surat, Malabar and Bengal were crushed. In 1814, another law was passed under which Indian built ships were refused to be considered 'British-registered vessels' which could trade with America and the European continent.

#### **Impact of De-industrialization:**

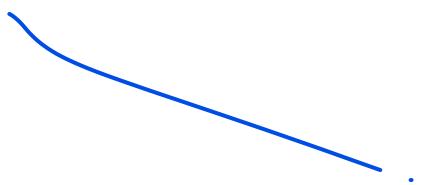
1) it ruin Indian prosperity resulted in wild spread impoverishments it led to excusive unemployment for ex weaver cotton groover, thinner dresser emborders. it has been extradited that around 10 lack people thought a out of employment instantly the disaster heighted by the fact that declined by the fact that by the rise of modern industries in India

3) deurbanization the destruction of Indian cotton industry mirror in the decline of town which were famous for there manufacturing city like Dhaka ,Murshad Surat become depopulated the connection between the agriculture and industry was snap.

increase burdened in agriculture. The weaver are over thrown no over option to turn to agriculture for survival. thousands of them become sharecropper for agriculture labors they added to general pressure on the land and feather contributed general empowerment of agriculture.

fragmentation of land holding converts many of them to land less labors.

4 ) reduction in the per capita income increase in the rural poverty and hunger.



Charles Elliot, a member of the Council wrote, "I do not hesitate to say that half the agricultural population do not know from one year's end to another what it is to have a full meal."



**GS Foundation 2024: Modern India**  
**Handout 14: Industrial and Financial Phase: Economic Policy**  
**(Dalhousie, Railways, Famine, Drain of Wealth)**  
Nikhil Sheth

**Dalhousie's Reform and modernization: (1848-1856)**  
**(Modern Transportation and Communication System)**

Efficient transportation and communication required to develop India as a market for the British manufactured goods and as a supplier of raw materials,



• **Roads, Bridges and Canals:**

- Separated public works from military department and establishment of **Public Works Department (PWD)** for construction of roads, canals, bridges, and government buildings. The chief Engineer and other highly trained engineers were brought from England to supervise the work of construction. Irrigational works were undertaken on an extensive scale.
- Calcutta-Peshawar **GT Road** was renovated.
- Construction of **Ganga canal** and Bari doab canals in Punjab
- Started engineering colleges to assist in construction work:
- **Light houses** were developed in the harbours of Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi to increase the foreign trade from the ports. Soon, the sea-trade was captured by English traders.

• **Postal Department:**

- Dalhousie established the postal department by passing a separate Post Office Act in 1854 which started the modern correspondence system. A new post of DG (Post) was created.
- The postage stamps were issued, and the letter could be sent to any region of India by posting a ½, 1, 2, 4 anna stamps.
- As a result of these reforms the post offices became the sources of revenue of the government. The people benefited from the modern postal system.

• **Telegraph Department:**

- A separate department was created.
- William O'Shaughnessy was the chairman of the department.
- The first electric telegraph line was established between Calcutta and Agra in 1852. By 1856, it was extended to Lahore and Peshawar.

• **Construction of Railways:**

- In 1831, the idea of railways first came in Madras. In 1834, the Court of Directors decided to introduce the steam engine.
- In 1853, the first railway line was established between Mumbai and Thane. In 1854, the second line between Calcutta and Raniganj was operated.

## Trivia



The Ganga canal was the brainchild of Sir Proby Cautley; construction began in 1840, and it was inaugurated by Governor-General Lord Dalhousie in 1854.



### Sir Arthur Cotton

He constructed works on the Kaveri (Cauvery), Kollidam (Coleroon), and Godavari rivers. His dams on the Kollidam (1836) and the Godavari (1847–52) rivers irrigated wide areas. Cotton worked on the Kaveri River to and made these areas prosperous part of Madras state.



Trigonometric Survey of India (1802-52) - Surveyor **Radhanath Sikdar** measured **Mount Everest** in 1852 and named after Sir George Everest who was the Surveyor General of India from 1830-43.

## Other significant works of Dalhousie

- **Charter on Indian Forests, 1855**
  - Beginning of systematic forest policy in India
  - He reversed previous laissez-faire policy to establish the India Forest Department and annex large areas of sparsely populated lands.
  - He suggested that teak timber should be retained as state property and its trade strictly regulated.
- **Education**
  - Dalhousie oversaw the **implementation of Wood's Dispatch**. He established the **Department of Public Instruction** to implement the recommendations of the Dispatch, and he encouraged the establishment of schools and colleges across India.
  - In 1857, the first three modern **universities** – Calcutta, Bombay and Madras – were established.
  - **Colleges**
    - St. Xavier's College, Calcutta – It was founded in 1860, but it was Lord Dalhousie who gave permission to the Jesuits.
    - Elphinstone College, Bombay – It was founded in 1856, during Lord Dalhousie's tenure.

## Railways Construction

British claimed that they made railway for the benefits of Indian empire in India, but this notion is debunked by nationalist historians. The motives of the British behind railway construction were not benign.

- Lord Hardinge in 1843 memo – “Railways would be beneficial for the commerce, government and military control of the country.”
- Lord Dalhousie in 1853 – “The important role that India could play as a market for British goods and as a source for agricultural raw materials for Britain would be facilitated by the railways.”



From the very top and from the very beginning, it was clear that the British wanted to build the railways for their purposes.

### **Objectives**

- Economic
  - To carry the British manufactured goods from the port to the interior region.
  - To carry the Indian raw material from the interior region to the ports.
  - To provide a better market for the British iron and steel companies.
  - To create an outlet for investment of the British capital.
- Strategic
  - The Railways could provide an added mobility to the British army. (Proved useful in sending troops during 1857 to quell popular unrest)
  - Construction of ‘frontier lines’ to meet army movement.

### **Construction cost:**

Shashi Tharoor in the Era of Darkness called building of the Railways as “gigantic colonial scam.” The railways were built by the British at the expense of Indians. Indian taxpayers paid for the entire construction of the Indian Railways, but the profits were all made by the English. And even the construction costs were extortionist.

- Minimum guaranteed 5% profits on investment in East Indian Railway Company and Great India Peninsular Company.
- 99 years lease
- Wasteful expenditure:
  - Railways didn't try hard to earn profits.
  - One mile of railway in India cost 18,000 pounds (US: 2,000 pounds)

Private profit at public risk: the private profit was made by the Englishmen who were investing the public risk was borne by the Indians. MG Ranade pointed out that Railway construction was an important part of Drain of Wealth and refused to believe that it brought any

development in India. (In 1901-2, one-third or more of the annual Home Charges. (Fiscal burden)

### Consequences:

<u>Long term unintended Positive Contribution</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
Geographical integration of India (rise of modern nationalism)	Proved useful in controlling India, e.g. in 1857
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the long run, it prepared the way for the rise of modern factory system in future.</li> </ul>	Unlike the west, industrialization (iron, steel, transport, mining, engineering etc) didn't follow the construction of railways in India. Till 1910, all rail-tracks and till 1940, all railway engines were imported from England. There was no technology transfer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian market was integrated.</li> <li>This also resulted in uniformity in the price of goods and controlled inflation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instead of connecting Indian centres to each other, the lines connected ports to hinterland for import of British goods and mineral areas and agrarian hinterland with export centres.</li> <li>British traders paid one of the lowest freight rates in the world.</li> <li>Led to the destruction of traditional Indian industries. (deindustrialization)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also helped in the reduction of famines. (eg famine lines)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rather than transporting grain surplus to grain scarce area as a purported solution to famine, it exported grains from India to Britain even during the time of scarcity. It rather encouraged commercialization of agriculture and intensified the conditions of famine and hunger.</li> <li>Due to excessive focus on railway, other sectors like irrigation were starved of capital and neglected. Till 1902-03, only 75 crore rupees were spent on irrigation while about 359 crore on railway construction.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoted social mobility through weakening the social evils like untouchability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racism in Railway operation. Right upto the first world war, British insisted on hiring white people for all jobs except menial jobs.</li> <li>Third-class travellers paid among the highest passenger fares in the world travelling in sub-human conditions.</li> </ul>

**Marx**

- “The railway-system will therefore become, in India, truly the forerunner of modern industry.” (1853). Initially, Karl Marx was enthusiastic about the positive impact of railways on India. He made a prophecy that the railways would industrialize and modernize India.
- Just before his death in 1883, Marx was frustrated with the performance of Indian railways and declared that the railways were 'useless to Hindus'.

**Identify the iconic still:**



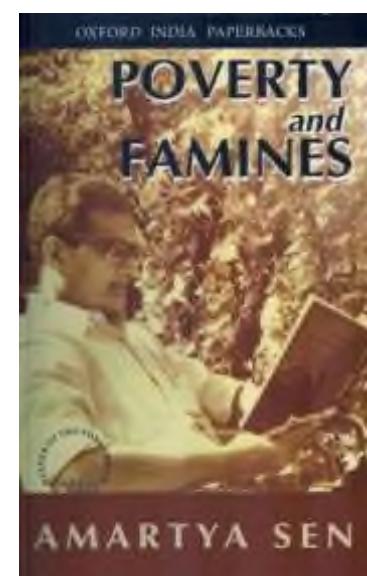
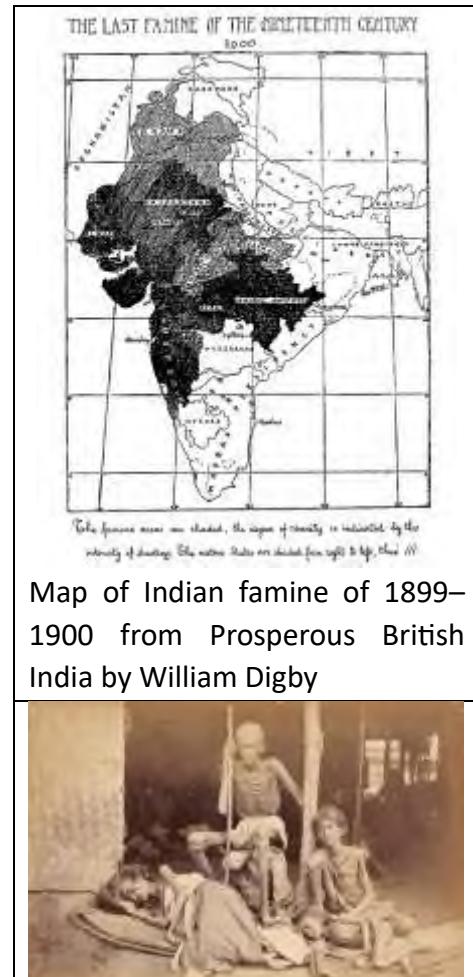
## Famine (1770 to 1943)

### The impact of British economic policy on rural life

- Incident of famines exposed the true character of British rule in India. The incidents of famine were not new in Indian history, but under the British rule the incidents of famine multiplied in number.
  - 12 major famines in India under the Company's rule.
  - 10 severe famines under the rule of the British crown.
- Where climatic and environmental factors were responsible in most of the earlier incidents, but under British rule British policy was responsible to a large extent.

#### Causes of Famine

- The famines were a product both of uneven rainfall and British economic and administrative policies.
- FAD (food availability decline)
  - Monsoon failure, draught, epidemic etc
  - Land revenue settlements destroyed agriculture.
  - Commercialisation of agriculture → Decline in production of coarse grains
  - Railway construction → Easier to transport grains to port
  - Export of grains to Britain in large quantities even during shortage
  - Black marketing and hoarding
- FEE (failure of exchange entitlements)
  - Heavy land revenue + collapse of handicraft → Drain of wealth → Decline in purchasing power
- The main cause that worsened the famine conditions was the lack of ameliorative measures to be taken by the colonial government as was customary.





### Examples of Famines:

Year	Region	Death Toll
1769	Bengal	1/3rd population died
1833	Guntur famine	40% population wiped out
1866-67	Odisha	13 lakh people died
1876-77	Madras	50 lakh people died
1896-97	Deccan, All India	50 lakh people died
1899-1900	All India	10 lakh people died
1943	Bengal	15 lakh people died

### Famine Relief Steps

During the period of the Company's rule, no effort was ever made to understand the causes of famine and to help the people. Indians continued to die without any help of government.

However, factors such as growing awareness of the scale of the problem, public awareness and pressure, Indian activism, humanitarian concerns, economic considerations, and technological advances led to a change in approach, with the British government eventually recognizing their responsibility to provide relief to those affected by famine and establishing a framework for government intervention. Still, the efforts largely remained theoretical till the end.

Famine	Commission and Steps
Delhi and Agra (1860-61)	Inquiry commission under Colonel Smith for the first time. But despite some inquiry there was no significant outcome.
Orissa famine (1865-66)	George Campbell committee for famine relief. It recommended that government should undertake relief measure to help famine affected people, steps must also be taken for employment generation. This commission blamed the official system for reoccurring famines.
Central India and Deccan (1877-78)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Studied opposition by Justice Ranade.</li> <li>Thus, Strachey Commission considered the causes of famine. It suggested irrigation development, revenue remission, relief operations, and creation of famine fund, apart from Famine Code formulation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Famine Code (1883):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If 75% crop destroyed due to famine, waive-off the land revenue.</li> <li>• The establishment of a system for the continuous flow of information from every local area to the provincial Government.</li> <li>• Nature of the relief works to be constructed on famine/scarcity.</li> <li>• The classification of relief labour and the scale of wages to be paid.</li> <li>• The organisation of free relief and the establishment of a system of village inspection.</li> <li>• Suspension of land revenue</li> <li>• Grants of Taccavi loans.</li> <li>• Relaxation in forest laws for the duration of famine</li> <li>• Protection of cattle.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Deccan famine (1898-99)	In 1897, James Lyall committee was appointed but before it could recommend anything another famine struck India in 1899–1900.
1900 famine	<p><b>McDonald Committee by Curzon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge moral responsibility, launch relief measures</li> <li>• Appoint Famine Relief Commissioner</li> <li>• Revise famine code</li> <li>• No delay in providing food grains and other assistance</li> <li>• Develop Irrigation facilities</li> <li>• Agriculture bank to be established</li> <li>• Develop transport facilities</li> <li>• Advance for purchase of seeds and other material.</li> </ul>
1943 Bengal famine	<p><b>Woodhead Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of food and agriculture should be merged.</li> <li>• All India food council should be established.</li> <li>• Steps should be taken for the production of food grains.</li> </ul>

The British Indian government's famine policies and relief initiatives failed to help Indians significantly. Sufferings of Indians persisted as millions continued to die.

### **Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)**

- Considered as the founder of modern nursing, she made efforts to educate British subjects about India's famines through her writing.
- She identified two types of famine: grain famine and a "money famine". She pointed out that the famines in British India were not caused by the lack of food in a particular geographical area. They were instead caused by inadequate transportation of food, which in turn was caused due to the absence of a political and social structure.



## Drain of wealth

The term Drain of Wealth refers to unilateral outflow of a part of Indian resources to Britain for which Indian received nothing in return. Drain of Wealth was carried out by British by misusing their political authority. Every section of Indian population was exploited to drain out maximum possible amount of wealth from India.

### **Changing nature of Drain of Wealth:**

**In the mercantile phase**, apart from loot and plunder, it was the Indian handicraft products were exported to Britain after being purchased through Indian revenues. (Investment, after Diwani rights)

**In the industrial phase**, raw materials and agricultural products were exported from India to Britain while British industrial goods were sold in India.

The Charter of 1813 abolished the trade monopoly with India. The Charter of 1833 finally abolished Chinese trade and tea monopoly. Thus, in order to continue earning profit:

- More commodities: Certain items including agrarian products as well as exclusive items like indigo, cotton and opium continued to be exported from India. Then other items were also added to the list of exportable items, such as tea, coffee, cereals, sugar, etc.
- Coercion: As the products were procured through coercive means, India could not get any return against these products.
- Triangular Trade: The company had already controlled the production of opium, now it started exporting opium to China massively and in return, silk and tea were purchased from China and exported to Britain. Thus developed a triangular trading system.

**In the financial phase**, a substantial amount from India was regularly transferred to Britain in the form of home charges.

### **Home charge**

- The term home charges refer to expenditure carried out by company (upto 1858) and by British Indian government (after 1858) in London on behalf of India. It was the amount that the British Indian government was liable to pay to the British government and the private British capitalist.
- It consisted of many items such as the
  - Dividend: paid by the company to the shareholders (before 1858)
  - Administrative expenditure:
    - Salary of the official working in London for India (eg Secretary of Office charges)
    - Excessive employment of European was another cause of drain because their salary and other allowances were very high when compared with Indians.
    - Pension to the retired British officers etc.

- **Investment:** paid on loans raised abroad. E.g. Guaranteed profit of railways (major one), shipping, plantations etc.
- **Loan:** Interest on government loans
- Military expenditure
  - Amount which was spent in Britain for **military purchase** for the Indian army and its use outside India. Indian army working for British colonial interests outside India but was paid by India. eg Persian Gulf Aden Port, in Africa Zanzibar – two important naval bases both paid by India
  - The wars and battles fought by Indian soldiers for the benefit of Britain also incurred huge expenditure. Afghan wars, Burma wars and WW1 and 2 fought by Indian soldiers were financial out of Indian revenue.
- The home charge constituted about 13% of total Indian revenue upto 1857 and increased upto 24% during 1897-1907 (Data calculated by R C Dutt). By 1927, it became 40%. In 1901-02, almost 40% of the total home charges was the only guaranteed interest on the railways.

### European finance capital

- As the result of industrial revolution there was huge accumulation of **capital in Britain**.
- The Charter Act of 1833 paved the way for the entry of European **capital in India**. It also allowed to Europeans to purchase movable as well immovable properties in India. Thus, there was a huge influx of the foreign capital in India.
- European capital was invested in the development of **infrastructure, shipping, mining, insurance, and plantation industries**.
- The investors had shares in multiple businesses and all of these were used to ensure the **maximum possible profit for European investors**.
- All these business ventures were controlled by Europeans by interlocking **managing agencies**. Indian businessmen were kept out of business activities involving Europeans. The European banks, shipping and ports etc **denied services to Indians to keep them out** and provided **services to Europeans**.

### Effects of the Drain

economical wealth: drain of wealth of India economical hollowness because substantial portion of resources is not available to Indian for consumption.

data bai Naoroji concede drain of wealth is real cause of Indian poverty all other causes are secondary to this cause.

3) another nationalist leader also argued the drain was not only wealth but also capital. drain cause loss employment and income. had it been it spend here instated of in England it would have generated income here too. drain was responsible for slow growth modern industry in India.

Indian had limited capital to invest on the contrary the accumulated thanks to drain from India help in the rapid industrialization there.

4) It played important role decline handicraft in Indian the raw material exported from indian led to rise input cost for handicraft there was no captical to upgrade the technology british industrial good now readily to ruin indian industries. thus drain of wealth also deindustrialization of india  
5) It affected pleasant directly the high land revaue rate due to drain. the frequent occurrences of famine and food shorttes was also because of drain.

6) it resulted in the greater british economical control over indian economic because wealth thus drain out of indian return as european capital later. which was used for railway construction and other bussiness activity.

political effects:

1) the early nationalist like dada bai naoroji , RC dutt, mg randande. put forward analysis of the drain their critics expose the true colonial test of British rule

2) the nationalist leader through paper books newspapers highlighted the drain theory and clarified in the simple terms for common people to grasp. drain theory thus created awareness amongst common people anti British discontent.

3) though drain theory the nationalist leader brought the inherent pollical conflict between Indian and England to the surface they high listed that economical remedies would resolve other economic problem the drain requires the pollical solution.

when the congress party adopted the resolution of swaraj in 1905 at Calcutta presided by the dada bai Naoroji. It was long term outcome of drain theory.

