

Key Notes

Chapter-12

Colonial Cities

- Sources:
 - (I) Records of the East India company.
 - (II) Census reports
 - (III) Municipal reports.
- The urban population increased from about 10 % to 13 % during the period 1900-1940.
- During the end of the 18th century Madras, Bombay and Calcutta had developed into important ports.
- The ruling elite built racially exclusive clubs, race courses and theatres.
- The development of new modes of transportation such as horse drawn carriages, trams, buses etc. facilitated peoples to live at distant place from the places of their work.
- The rulers everywhere try to express their power through buildings. Many Indian adopted European styles of architecture as symbols of modernity and civilisation.
- The settlement of the local peoples was named "Black Town". A fortification was built around the "White Town" to separate it from the "Black Town".
- Difficulties in collecting datas:
 - (i) Peoples were unwilling to give correct information's.
 - (ii) Figure of mortality and diseases were difficult to collect.
- Ports: Madras, Bombay and Calcutta
- Forts: St. George in Madras and Fort William in Calcutta.

TOWNS AND CITIES IN PRE- COLONIAL TIMES

What gave towns their character?

- Towns were defined in opposition to rural areas.
- Towns represented specific forms of economic activities and cultures.
- The people lived by cultivating land, foraging in the forest, or rearing animals.
- Towns by contrast were peopled with artisans, traders, administrators and rulers.
- Towns dominated over the rural population
- Towns and cities were often fortified by walls which symbolized their separation from the countryside.
- When towns were attacked, people often sought shelter in the countryside.
- Traders and pedlars took goods from the towns to sell in the villages.
- There was a revenue flow of humans and goods from towns to villages
- The towns build by the Mughals were famous for their concentration of populations, their monumental buildings and their imperial grandeur and wealth.
- Agra, Delhi and Lahore were important centres of imperial administration and control.
- Artisans produced exclusive handicrafts for the households of nobles.

Key Notes

- Grains from the countryside were brought into urban markets for the town dwellers and the army.
- The treasury was also located in the imperial capital.
- Within these towns were gardens, mosques, temples, tombs, colleges, bazzars and caravanserais.
- The focus of the town was oriented towards the palace and the principal mosque.

Towns in south India

- In the towns of south India such as Madurai and Kanchipuram the principal focus was the temple.
- These temples were the important commercial centres.
- Religious festivals often coincided with fairs, linking pilgrimage with trade.
- The ruler was the highest authority and the principal patron of religious institutions.
- The relationship that he had with other groups and classes determined their place in society and in the town.

Changes in the Eighteenth century

- The old towns went into decline and new towns developed in the 18th century.
- The growth of new regional powers was reflected in the increasing importance of regional capitals- Lucknow, Hyderabad, Seringapatam, Poona, Nagpur, Baroda, and Tanjore.
- Trade, administrators, artisans and others migrated from the old Mughal centres to these new capitals in search of work and patronage.
- In some places there was renewed economic activity, in other places war, plunder and political uncertainty led to economic decline.
- The European Commercial Companies had set up base in different places early during the Mughal era: the Portuguese in Panaji in 1510, the Dutch in Masulipatam in 1605, the British in Madras in 1639 and the French in Pondicherry in 1673.
- By the end of 18th century the land based empire in Asia were replaced by the powerful sea based European empires.
- Forces of international trade, mercantilism and capitalism now came to decline the nature of society.
- Commercial centres such as Surat, Masulipatam and Dhaka which had grown in the 17th century had declined when trade shifted to other places.
- Maras, Bombay, Calcutta rapidly emerged as a new economic capitals and colonial administration and political power.
- New buildings, occupations, institutions developed.

FINDING OUT ABOUT COLONIAL CITIES

Colonial record and urban history

Key Notes

- Colonial rule based on the production of enormous amount of data
- The British kept detailed record of their trading activities in order to regulate their commercial affair.
- They carried out regular survey, gathered statistical data, and published various official report.
- The ton map gives information regarding the location of hill, river and vegetation, all important for planning structure for defense purpose.
- They ho the location of ghats, density and quality of house and alignment of roads, used to gauge commercial possibilities and plan strategies of taxation.
- The municipal corporation with some popular representative were meant to administer essential services such as water supply, sewerage, road buildings and public health

Problem faced while collecting the Census

- The first all- India census was attempted in 1872. From 1881 decennial (conducted every ten years) censuses became a regular feature.
- The people often refused to cooperate or gave evasive answers to the census officials.
- The people were suspicious of census operation and believed that enquiries were being conducted to impose new taxes.
- Upper caste people were also unwilling to give any information regarding the women of their household.
- Women were supposed to remain secluded within the interior of the household and not subjected to public gaze or public enquiry.
- Census officials also found that the people were claiming identities that they associated with higher status.
- The figures of mortality and disease were difficult to collect for all deaths were not registered and illness was not always reported, nor treated by licensed doctors.
- Historians have to use sources like census with great caution, keeping in mind their possible biases, recalculating figures and understanding what the figures do not tell.

Trends of change

- The smaller towns had little opportunity to grow economically.
- Calcutta, Bombay and Madras on the other hand grew rapidly and soon became sprawling cities.
- The introduction of railways in 1853 meant a change in the fortunes of towns.
- Economic activities gradually shifted away from traditional towns which were located along old routes and rivers.
- Every railway station became a collection depot for raw materials and distribution point for important goods.
- Railway towns like Jamalpur, Waltair and Bareilly developed as a trading center.

Key Notes

What were the new towns like?

Ports, forts and centers for services

- Madras, Calcutta and Bombay had become important ports
- The English East India Company build its factories because of competition among the Europeans companies, fortified the settlement for protection.
- In madras, Fort St. George, in Calcutta Fort William and in Bombay the ort marked out the areas of British settlement.
- There were separate quarters for Europeans and Indian, which came to be labeled in contemporary writings as the “White Town” and “Black Town”.
- Two Industrial cities, Kanpur specializing in leather, woolen and cotton textiles and Jamshedpur, specialize in steel.
- India never became a modern industrialized country as discriminatory colonial policies limited the levels of Industrial development.
- Madras, Calcutta Bombay grew into a large city but did not signify any dramatic economic growth.

A new urban milieu

- Colonial cities reflected the mercantile culture of the new rule.
- Political power and patronage shifted from Indian rulers to the merchants of the East India Company.
- Indians who worked as interpreters, middlemen, traders and suppliers of goods also had an important place in these new cities.
- Economic activities near the river of the sea led to the development of docks and Ghats.
- Around the periphery of the fort, Europeans merchants and agents built garden houses, racially exclusive clubs, racecourse and theatres for the ruling elite.

The first hill stations

- The hill stations were a distinctive feature of colonial urban development.
- The hill stations were initially connected with the needs of the British army.
- Hill station became strategic places for billeting troops, guarding frontiers and launching campaigns against enemy rulers.
- The temperate and cool climate of the Indian hills was seen as an advantage.
- British associated hot weather with epidemics, Cholera and malaria and attempts were made to protect the army from these diseases
- Hill stations were also developed as sanitariums i.e. Place where soldiers could be sent foe rest and recover from illness.

Settlement and segregation in Madras

Key Notes

- In 1639 they constructed a trading post in Madraspatam and the settlement known as chenapattanam.
- The company had purchased the right of settlement from local Telugu lords, the Nayaks of Kalahasti.
- Rivalry with French East India Company led the British to fortify Madras.
- Chintadripet area meant for weavers, Washermanpet colony of dyers, Royapuram was settlement for christain boatmen.
- Dubashes were Indians who could speak two languages the local language and English.
- Triplicane Hindu religious centres.
- San Thome with cathedral was the centre Roman catholics.

White Town Fort St. George

- Fort St. George became the nucleus of the White Town where most of the Europeans lived.
- Colour and religion determined who was allowed to live within the fort III. The Company did not permit any marriages with Indians.
- Other than English, the Dutch and Portuguese were allowed to stay because they were European and Christian.

Black Town

- The Black Town developed outside the Fort.
- It was laid out in straight lines, and housed weavers, artisans, Middlemen and interpreters who played a vital role in the company trade.