



6. How were urban centres transformed during the eighteenth century?

Ans:

(i) The disintegration of the Mughal empire after the death of Aurangzeb paved the way for emergence of powerful regional powers. The capital cities of these regional kingdoms like Lucknow, Poona, Nagpur and Barda now became important. Taking the advantage of this opportunity many nobles and officials created new urban settlements such as the qasbah and ganj.

(ii) The European companies too had set up their bases in different parts of India during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. For example the Portuguese (in Panaji in 1570) and the British in Madras in 1639. With the expansion in commercial activity, towns began to emerge as trading centres.

(iii) From the mid-eighteenth century trading centres like Surat and Dhaka which had grown in the seventeenth century now began to decline as trade shifted to other places. When the British acquired Bengal and the East India Company's trade hereafter expanded the colonial port cities like Madras and Calcutta. These new port cities began to emerge as the new economic capitals.

(iv) In these newly developed cities many new buildings were built and new occupations developed. People flocked to these cities in large numbers. By the nineteenth century these newly developed cities became the biggest cities in India.

7. What were the new kinds of public places that emerged in the colonial city? What functions did they serve?

Ans: The Indians found the new colonial cities as bewildering. They were surprised by the new transport facilities available here. The means of transport facilities which included horse-drawn carriages, tram and buses. Enabled the people to live at far away places from the city centre. Now they lived at some other places and served at some other places.

Emergence of new public places: The new colonial cities far away place witnessed new public places such as the theatres, cinema-halls, gardens, public parks, etc. Besides these were clubs and Garden Houses.

Functions: These newly created public places were very exciting. They were an important source of entertainment and helped increasing social interaction. The people were able to express their opinions on society and government. They could also question the practice of social customs.

8. What were the concerns that influenced town planning in the nineteenth century?

Ans:

(i) Two concerns which influenced the town planning in the nineteenth century were defence and health.

(ii) In many towns British built forts to protect their factories. Around the fort a vast open space was left open. This vast space was known as the Maidan.

(iii) It was done so that there would be no obstructions to a straight line of fire from the Fort against an advancing enemy.

(iv) Attempts were also made to improve the sanitation and cleanliness by creating open spaces in the city.

(v) For this purpose, in Calcutta many bazaars, ghats and burial grounds were cleared.

9. To what extent were social relations transformed in the new cities?

Ans:

(i) There was a big contrast between extreme wealth and poverty in the new cities. New means of transport facilities such as horse-drawn carriages, trams, buses, etc. made travelling from home to work an interesting experience.

(ii) Creation of public places like theatres public parks and cinema halls provided new forms of entertainment and social interaction.

(iii) New social groups were formed people of all classes started to migrate to the cities. With an increased demand for lawyers and engineers the “middle class” increased. Debate and discussion became popular and established social norms and practices were questioned.

(iv) Cities also offered new opportunities for women. They chose new professions in the city as factory workers, teachers, film actresses, etc. for a long time so women remained objects of social censure.

10. On an outline map of India, trace the major rivers and hill ranges. Plot ten cities mentioned in the chapter, including Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and prepare a brief note on why the importance of any two cities that you have marked (one colonial and one pre-colonial) changed in the nineteenth century.

Ans: Rivers are Ravi, Satluj, Ganga, Yamuna, Beas, Kosi, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri. Major Hill ranges are the Himalayas, Aravali, Vindhyachal, Satpura, Karakoram.

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