

# British Rule

- The British East India Company gained official control of Bengal following the Battle of Plassey in 1757.
- The BEIC made huge profits by operating a monopoly on trade, and
- The company merchants became accustomed to receiving personal gifts which increased their wealth.

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- While the British made huge profits in Bengal, the local people suffered.
- The consequence was the rapid decline of agriculture and manufacturing.
- Finally, the great famine of 1769-70, which destroyed one third of the total population of Bengal.

# Permanent Settlement

- Lord Cornwallis had been the Governor-General of India since 1786.
- His most notable reform was the introduction of Permanent Settlement in 1793.
- Under this system, the method of tax collection was reformed.

# The Partition of Bengal, 1905

- At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Bengal had a population of 85 million (54 millions Hindus and 31 millions Muslims)
- The province of Bengal was a huge area with a population three times the size of Britain at that time.
- The British found it too large to administer it efficiently, and

# **The Partition of Bengal, 1905**

- In 1905 Viceroy Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal by detaching East Bengal from the province.
- Dhaka, at that time, was the capital of East Bengal.
- This partition did not take into account Bengali sentiment and nationalist feelings.