Roots of Bangladesh up to 1757:
Major developments emphasizing exclusiveness of Bengal

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Ancient History of Bengal: Political Dynamics

- ❖ Shashanka was the first Independent ruler in Bengal.
- ❖ Pala dynasty was the first independent Buddhist dynasty of Bengal. Gopala was the first ruler. He came to power in 750 in Gaur by a democratic election.
- ❖ The Buddhist Pala dynasty lasted for four centuries (750-1159 AD)
- ❖ The Palas were followed by the Sena dynasty who brought Bengal under one ruler during the 12th century.
- ❖ Ballal Sena introduced caste system in Bengal and made Nabadwip the capital.

Reference:

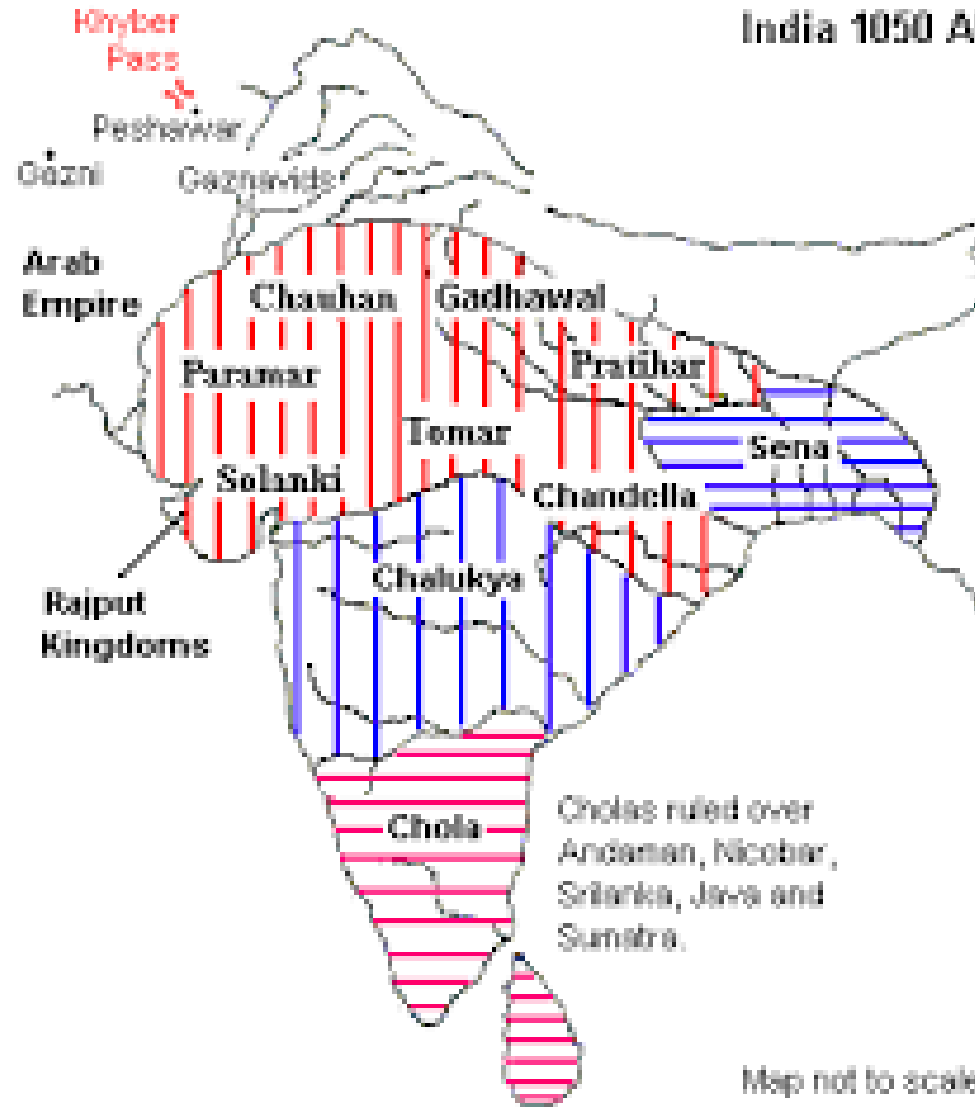1. Rahim et al. (2001). Bangladesher Itihash. Nawroze Kitabistan. Dhaka.

The Pala Dynasty, (750AD-1097AD)

- The long Buddhist rule of the Palas generated an environment of **'religious tolerance in Bengal and an atmosphere of Hindu-Buddhist amity and co-existence'**
- Their liberal patronage of Hindu gods and goddesses as well as Brahmans, who were employed in high state posts, clearly speak of the sagacious policy of the rulers.

Pala Period Buddhist Sculptures

India 1050 AD

Khyber Pass

Peshawar

Ghazni   Gaznavids

Arab
Empire

Chauhan   Gadhawal

Paramar   Pratihar

Tomar   Sena

Solanki   Chandella

Rajput
Kingdoms   Chalukya

Chola   Cholas ruled over
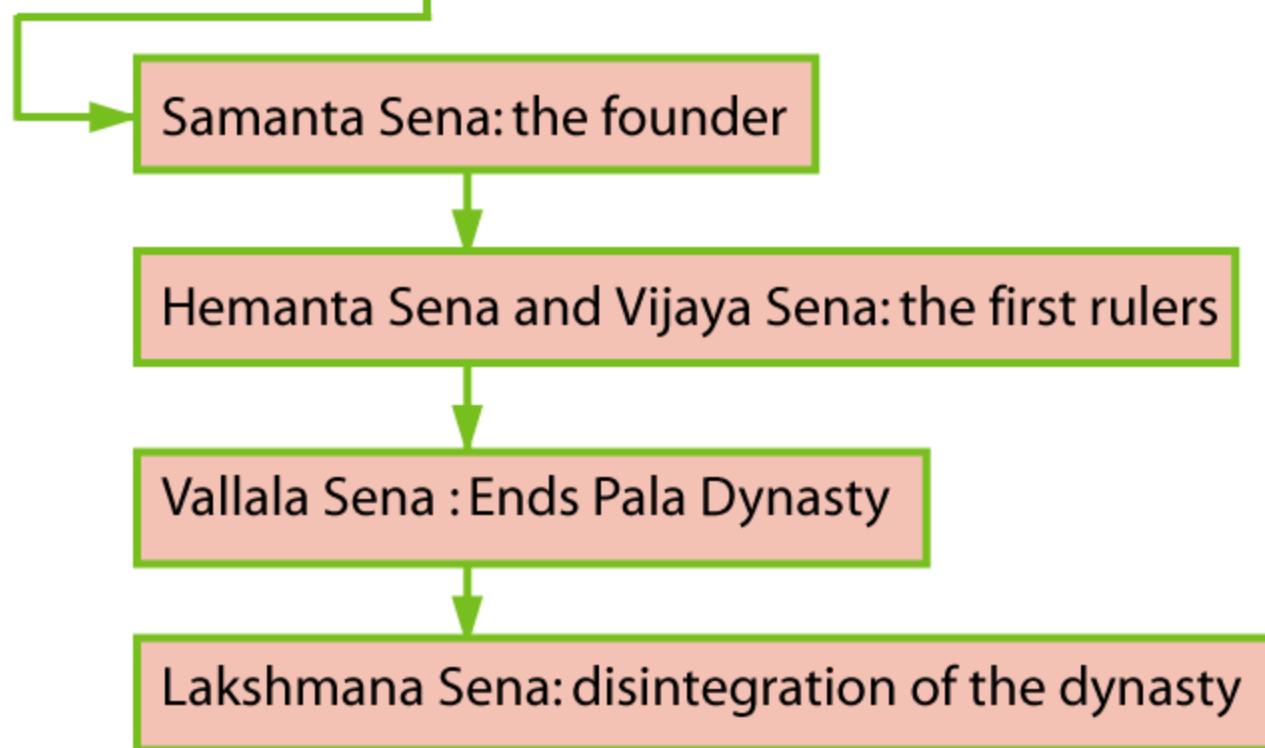Andaman, Nicobar,
Srilanka, Java and
Sumatra.

Map not to scale

The Sena Dynasty (1097 AD-1204 AD)

- Vijoy Sena founded the Sena empire.
- The Senas held sway over Bengal for more than a century (c1097-1223 AD) in which five generations of kings
- But it must be noted that the invasion of Bakhtiyar Khalji put an end to Sena rule in parts of western and northern Bengal (in 1204 AD) and Luxmanasena had to fall back on his possessions in southeastern Bengal where, after him, his two sons ruled for some time.
- **The period saw the development of Sanskrit literature in Bengal.**
- It was partly under the direct patronage of the Sena kings and partly due the environment created by them that literary activities in Sanskrit are distinctly visible in this period.
- Another arena of artistic achievements in the period was in the field of sculptural art. The Bengal school of sculptural art reached its high-water mark in the Sena period…

The Sena Dynasty

Samanta Sena: the founder

Hemanta Sena and Vijaya Sena: the first rulers

Vallala Sena : Ends Pala Dynasty

Lakshmana Sena: disintegration of the dynasty

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Medieval Bengal

Early Sultanate Period

- The Muslim rule in Bengal had its beginning in the opening years of the thirteenth century (1204 AD). **The process of Muslim expansion in Bengal began with the military exploits of Bakhtiyar Khalji.**

- *The Initial period* (1206-1227 AD): Bakhtiyar's death was too sudden to enable him to pay any attention to the question of succession.

- **Rule of the Independent Sultans in Bengal (1338-1538)**

Iliyas Shahi Period, 1342-1487

- The dynasty founded by ***Iliyas Shah*** ruled Bengal for nearly one hundred and fifty years (1342-1487 AD)

- The Independent Sultanate, inaugurated by Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah, was consolidated and witnessed **widespread expansion.**

- **The Muslim administration was given a distinct shape in this period.**

- **Arts and literature, particularly Bangla literature, flourished.**

- The Muslim rulers were obliged to take the local people into confidence and opened the door for their participation in the administration of the country.

- The process **of transformation of Alien Muslim rule into Bengali Muslim rule was started during this period.**

- **Significantly, the whole territory, which was hitherto known not by any unitary name but by its different regional names such as Vanga, Gauda etc, came to be designated as _Bangalah._**

Husain Shahi Rule, 1494-1538

- Husain Shahi rule was **characterized by territorial expansion, stabilisation of administration and significant developments in religion, literature, the arts and the economy.**

- In this period Bengal's political isolation from North India reached its culminating point, and this helped her to reinforce her cultural identity...(Distinct)

- ....The period saw the advent of the Europeans in Bengal. The period witnessed the initial signs of the new forces that were destined to shape the life of the country for centuries to come. In that sense the period represents a **'formative period' of Bengal history**.

Mughal period upto 1757

- Mughal rule was established in Bengal after the defeat of the Karrani Afghan Sultan Daud Khan in the battle of Rajmahal, 12 July 1576 at the hands of Khan Jahan.

- With Khan Jahan's victory over Daud Khan, the Mughals made determined and sustained efforts to establish their authority over Bengal, till ultimately in 1612, Islam Khan Chishti brought the whole of Bengal (except Chittagong) under the Mughal control.

TIMELINE of our Descent

Islam Enters Bengal:
Bakhtiar Khilji had first entered Bengal in 1204, taking Laksman Sen by surprise; and with him came the spread of Islam.

Bangalah:
Fakruddin Mukarak Shah inaugurated the Ilyas Shahi Dynasty. Hitherto the land encompassing Bengal was not known by any unitary name; only at this point did it earn itself a name and an acknowledgement - Bangalah.

Hussain Shahi Dynasty:
Although Islam played a dominant role in the lives of the people, other practices such as Vaisnavism, Tantricism, Nath and Dharma cults as well as Sufism were well in existence and tolerated.

Battle of Rajmahal:
The Afghan ruler, Daud Karrani was defeated in the decisive battle of Rajmahal in Bihar by the Mughal subhadar Khan Jahan, who was under the command of Emperor Akbar, the Great.

Mughal Power Established:
All resistences were eventually subdued by Mughal subhadar Islam Khan Chisti during the reign of Emperor Jahangir in 1612. That is when all of Bengal (except Chittagong) fell under Mughal control.

BC

AD

1150 1200 1250 1300 1350 1400 1450 1500 1550 1600 1650 1700 1750

Balgampur:
The rebellion against the Delhi Sultanate became so farfetched that some, trying to establish power, issued coins and had the Friday khutba prayers be read in their names. The land soon came to be known as Balgampur, meaning the city of rebellion.

Afghans take Control:
The Afghans long before entered Bengal and were not strangers in the land. It was just a matter of time before they usurped power.

Resistance:
The bara-bhuiyans were local territorial landholders who continued their revolt against the Mughal unitil crushed.

The Greed that Changed History:
In lieu of cash, Emperor Jahangir's grandson, Prince Mohammad Azimuddin first permitted the East India Company (EIC) to start their trading business in Bengal.

Treachery and EIC Dominion:
It took only about half a century for the EIC to establish their rule in Bengal during the deciding battle of Plassey in 1757.

at his death 1405 A.D.
1419-20 Embassy of Shahrukh from Herat to Peking,
1421-22 homeward journey
Cruises of the admirals Ma Pin (140 and Chêng Ho (1405-07, 1408-11, 1412-1417-19, 1421, 1424-25, 1430 A.D.) to t Indian Ocean
□ Seat of a Chinese guard-district

Scale 1:30000000
Miles
100 0 200 400 600
Kilometers
200 0 200 400 600 800 1000

Sha-chou
Hui-tung-ho-ti Han-tung Suchou
Nan Shan-na Han
An-ting Sari Uigur
Ch'ing-hai
90° Longitude East from Chü-hsien (from Irb Lhasa) Tangut

B. I R

Kergüd = Kirghiz
Kem R.
Saïangar R.
Kholing
Karakorum
Onon R.
Kerulen R.
ALTAI OF THE
SOLONS
Hei-lung-chiang
Yeh-jen
Nutkan

Hia-yen
Kai-p'ing Chahar Ekai-yüan Chien-chou Chien-chou the Left
Ta-ning Ting-liao Hai-hai
Ho JUCHEN
Peking CHAO-HSIEN
Khanbalik Ping-lu
Han-chêng
JIHPEN = WO-KWA

Erdene Tengiz
HORDE
Almalik
KHANATE OF TURFAN Ala sufi
Basikalik Ili
Kashgar Djulduz DJAGHATAI Karakhoja
Khoten
An-ting
Hami, Kamil Irb China 1403-1513
Sok chou Kamchou Kanchou
Sha-chou Embassy of Shahrukh
Chü-hsien
Tao-chou
Hsi-an-fu Sadinfur
Tung-sheng
Huang-ho
T'ai-yüan-fu
Chi-nan-fu
K'ai-fêng
Nan-chou
Nyang-chou

KASHMIR
Lahore
KINGDOM OF SAYID
Delhi
Agra Jumna
Putana
Chitor
Malva
Narmada R.
Bharoch
BAHMANI KINGDOM

MANSAROVAR
TIBET To-kam Do-Kham
Dbus
Gtsang Lhasa
NEPAL Chumyas
Ahoms Kamarup
BENGAL
Patna
Sonarkawan
Sadigam

Chêng-tu-fu
Chiang
Wu-ch'ang
Nen-chêng-fu
Yün-nan-fu
fu-chou
Cheng-chou
Kuang-chou-fu

CATHAY EMPIRE OF MING MAHACHING
Tai-wan

MIEN-TIEN AVA
Arakan Ava
Chih-ti-chiang
Sadkawan
Wu-tieh Orissa

PEGU
Chwa
Mueng
LAO-CHUA
LAOTIEN
Angkor
CHEN-LA KHMER
Loki
Tu-tu Kondor
K'un-lun-shan
CHAMPA
Vijaya, Chaban

HSIEN-LO SIAM
Karnal Ayuthia

Hai-nan Ainam
chih Lung-ching

VIJAYANAGAR
Hsu-wên-na Vijayanagar
Belapur
Chicür
Cochin
Sha-li-pa-tai Seringapatam
Kaulam
Sêng-ka-la, Hsi-Ian, Sailan
Yang-pu, Colombo
Gr. Buddha
Ya-li, Galle Adam's Peak

Nagabari Ys.
Andaman Is.
Tsui-Ian-sh
Sargal Is.
Hat I.

Kô-lan Kalah
Kelantan Pahang
Trengganu

MALACCA
San-fo-chi
Lambri Lide
Sumatra
JAVA MAJOR
chia-chiang Banka I.
Lingga Str.
Karimata
Bandjer-masin

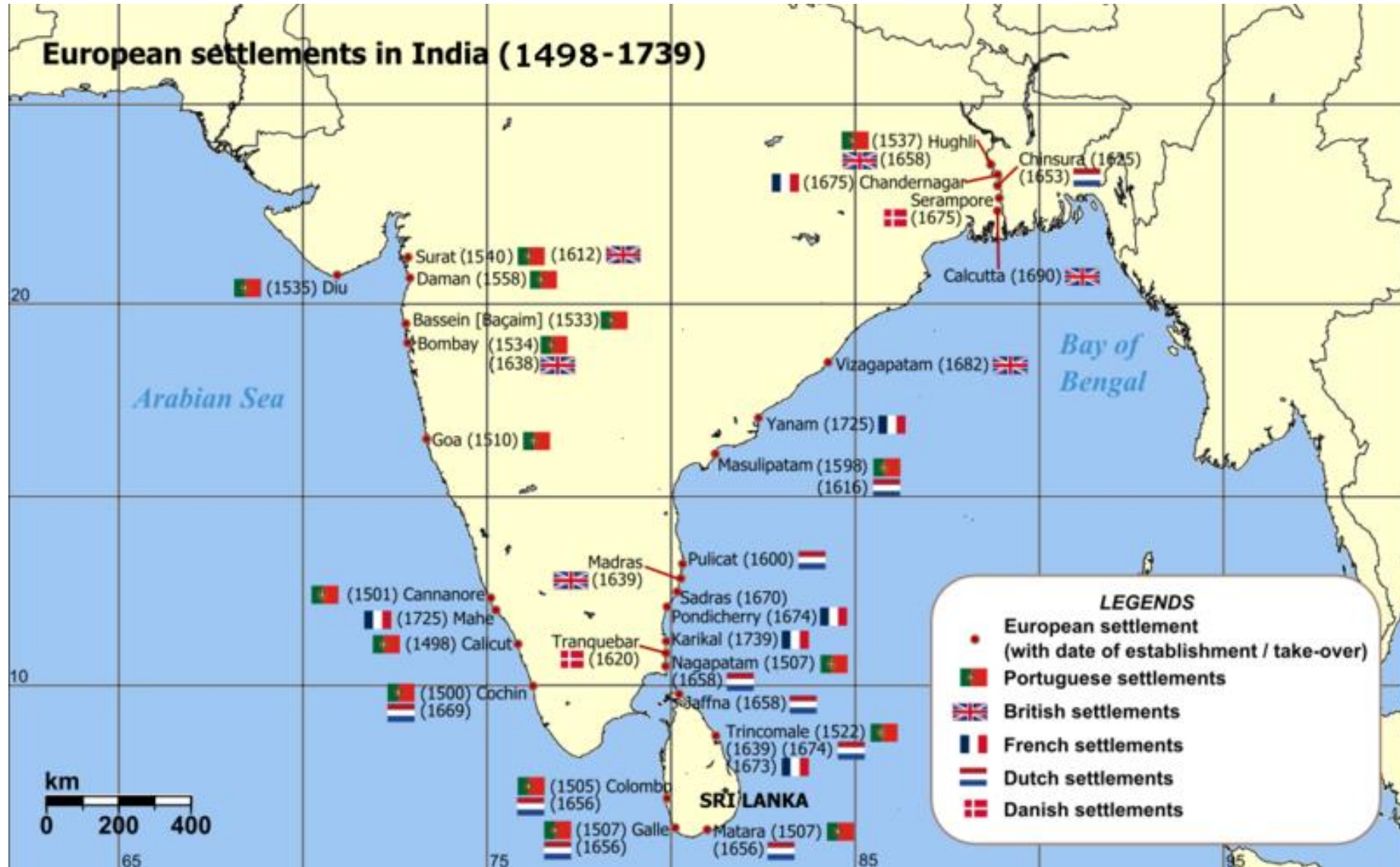Po-ni Bornu
Tu-hsiang-shan
Sulu Is.

MA

- **The Battle of Plassey 1757 in Bengal and the transition to Colonial Rule in the Sub-continent...**

Early history of European companies

- Most company charters dated back to Mughal times—the EIC received theirs from Jahangir, due to Portuguese pressures

- Several "companies" scattered throughout South Asia, most were simple trading posts

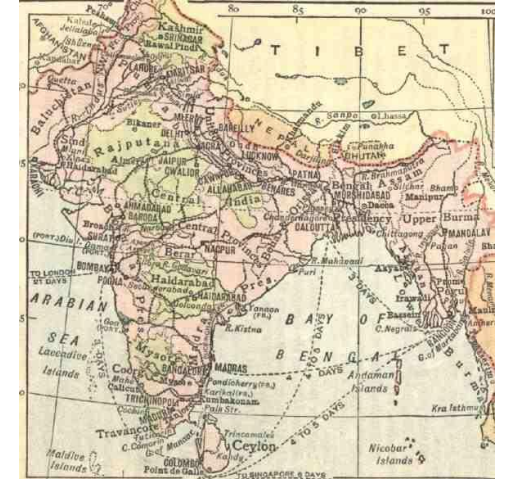- Intense competition in the trade of textiles, saltpeter, sugar, and indigo by 18th C

European settlements in India (1498-1739)

European settlements in India (1498-1739)

The East India Company

East India Company was the name of several historical European companies chartered with Asia, more specially with India.

- British East India Company, founden in 1600
- Danish East India Company, founded in 1616
- Dutch East India Company, founded in 1602
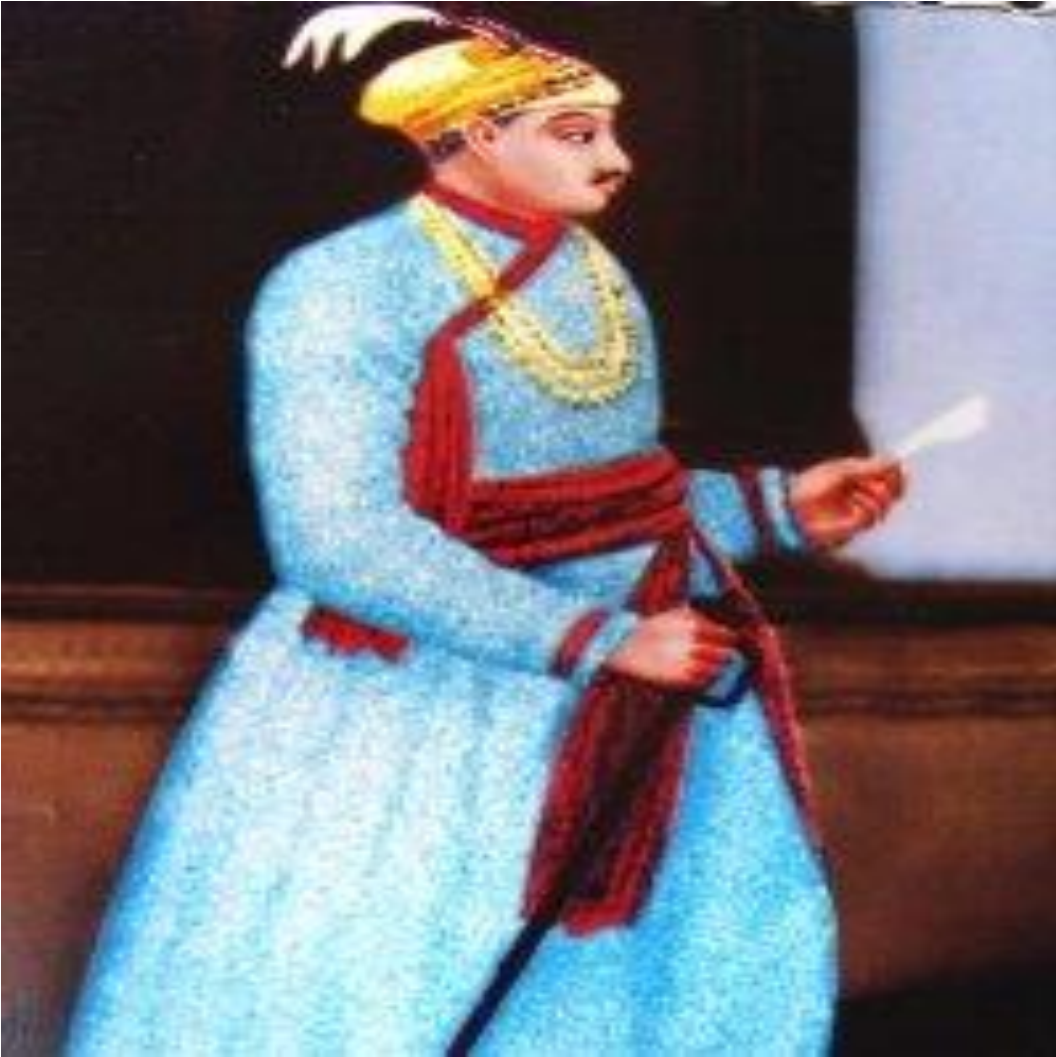- French East India Company, founded in 1664
- Swedish East India Company, founded in 1731
- Portuguese East India Company, founded in 1628

- First it was called Honorable East India Company (HEIC) or often "John Company". Based in London.
- An early joint-stock company, which was granted an English Royal Charter by Elisabeth I. on December 31, 1600.
- Queen Elisabeth granted the monopoly rights to bring goods from India.
- The Royal Charter gave the newly created HEIC a 21 monoply on all trade in the East Indies.
- The Company had 125 shareholders, and a capital of £72,000…

The **Battle of Plassey** was fought on 23 June 1757. It was fought between the Nawab of Bengal and the British East India Company in which the East India company emerged victorious. This battle led to the establishment of Company's rule in India and Bengal. The battle took place at Palashi, Bengal on the banks of the Bhagirathi river, near Murshidabad, then capital of the undivided Bengal. The two forces of were Siraj-ud-Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, and the British East India Company.

Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah

Colonel Robert Clive

Black Hole Incident

The Black Hole of Calcutta was a small dungeon in the old Fort William, at Calcutta, India, where troops of the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj ud-Daulah, held British prisoners of war after the capture of the Fort on June 19, 1756.

One of the prisoners, John Zephaniah Holwell, claimed that following the fall of the fort, British and Anglo-Indian soldiers and civilians were held overnight in conditions so cramped that many died from suffocation, heat exhaustion and crushing. He claimed that 123 prisoners died out of 146 prisoners held.

Significance…

- No military significance
- A decisive historic battle
- Beginning of the new era
- Economic gains of the English
- Helped in the defeat of the French

- Transformation in the nature of the east India Company
- The puppet government of Mir Jafar
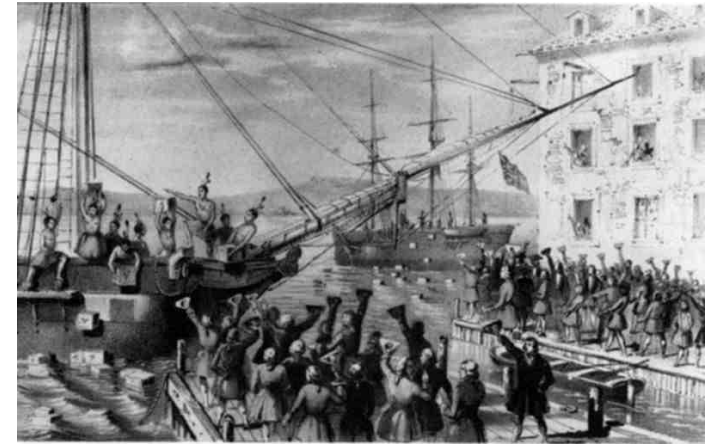

Mir Jafar Nawab of Bengal (1757-1760)

- Personal gains of Clive
- Weakness of Indian Political system exposed
- Opening way for new struggles
- Set back to the supremacy of Mughal Emperor
- Enhanced the prestige of the company.

Lord Clive meeting with Mir Jafar after the Battle of Plassey

Thwe Opium 'Monopoly'

• It was used as medicine and smoked with tobacco.

• England could grow opinum in India and the transport it home.

• In the 18th century, England had a huge trade deficit with Qing Dynasty China and so in 1773, the Company created a British monopoly of opium trading in Bengal

• As opium trade was illegal in China, Company ships could not carry opium to China

• The opium produced in Bengal was sold in Calcutta on condition that it be sent to China

The Opium Wars
BY ELLA BANFIELD 9Y

- Despite the Chinese ban on opium imports, reaffirmed in 1799, it was smuggled into China from Bengal by traffickers and agency houses averaging 900 tons a year
- Eventually this led to the The first Opium War (1839-42). Not only were the Chinese defeated but the British seizing Hong Kong and opening of the Chinese market to British drug traffickers.
- 1856: The second Opium War – France and the EIC won against China

First Opium War

1839 - 1842

Second Opuim War

1856 - 1860

Open Door Policy

1899

1842

Treaty of Nanjing

1850 - 1864

Taiping Rebellion

1899 - 1901

Boxer Rebellion