

FOR BASIC STUDY

Class VIII NCERT Book

- The NCERT books provide concise yet standard knowledge on important subjects in the social sciences.
- New NCERT books are based on guidelines of the National Curriculum Framework, 2005.
- The NCF, 2005 attempts to discourage rote learning and encourages the ability to think among students. It also seeks to encourage an interdisciplinary approach by demolishing boundaries or barriers between different subjects along with between textual and experiential learning.
- The NCERT books are therefore not merely a source of knowledge but also a means to inculcate analytical thinking ability among students.

How, When and Where?

- Why are dates important in history?
- What should be the basis of periodization of Indian history? What are the drawbacks in James Mill's periodization?
- What does the 'colonialism' mean?
- Why is the word 'Our Pasts' used instead of 'Our Past' on the book cover page?
- Why did the British want to preserve the official records? Can the history of common people be written on the basis of these records?

From Trade to Territory: The Company Establishes Power

- Under what circumstances did the British East India Company establish its monopoly over Eastern trade? Why did it start competing with other European companies?
- Why did the Company expand its trade in Bengal and how did it fall in conflict with the Nawab?
- How did the Diwani rights benefit the East India Company?
- What were the reasons behind the conflict between The British Company and Tipu Sultan of Mysore? Could Tipu respond to the British challenge?
- What was the concept of 'British Paramountcy' during early the 19th century? How did it evolved under reigns of subsequent Governor Generals?
- In what way was the administration of the Company different from that of Indian rulers?

Ruling the Countryside:

- After becoming the Diwan of Bengal, what steps were taken by the Company for land reforms?
- What were the ideological underpinnings behind different revenue settlements negotiated by the British?
- How was the Mahalwari system different from the Permanent Settlement?
- Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo and what were the circumstances which led to the eventual collapse of indigo production in Bengal?

Tribals, Dikus and the Vision of a Golden Age

- What were the different modes of subsistence practices by the tribal groups?
- What changes did the British rule bring in the lives of tribal people?
- What was the reaction of the tribals against the British rule?
- How did Birsa organize the tribal people?

When People Rebel: 1857 and After

- Which social classes participated in the Great Revolt of 1857 and what were the reasons for their discontentment against the British rule?
- How did the revolt spread to other parts of India?
- In what ways did the British change their policies as a result of the rebellion of 1857?

Colonialism and City

- What does the term 'de-urbanization' imply under the British rule?
- How did the British administration impact Delhi?

Weavers, Iron Smelters and Factory Owners

- What was the relationship between British Industrialization, British conquest on India and colonization of India?
- Why did the wool and silk manufacturer in England protest against the import of Indian textiles in the early eighteenth century?
- How did the development of cotton industries in Britain affect textile producers in India?
- What were the problems faced by the Indian textile factories established during the colonial rule?
- Why did the Indian iron smelting industry decline in the nineteenth century?
- What was the impact of the First World War on Indian industries?
- How was industrialization of Japan different from the industrialization of India?

Civilising the "Native", Educating the Nation

- Why did Orientalists feel the need to study Indian history, philosophy and law?
- What differences are visible between the approach of the Liberal and Utilitarian British officials and that of Orientalist officials in the early 19th century?
- What was Wood's Dispatch?
- What was the state of native education during the colonial rule?
- What were the views of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore on education? What similarities and differences existed between them?

Women, Caste and Reform

- What were the characteristics of 19th century society?
- What caused the change in the tone of debates and discussions related to social traditions, customs and values in the early 19th century?

- What steps were taken by the Indian social reformers to address the plight and condition of women and with reference to education and widow remarriage?
- How did Indian intellectuals deal with the 'caste' issue? What were the different modes of criticism adopted- 'moderate', 'radical', and special focus on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- Why did B.R. Ambedkar start the temple entry movement?
- Why did Jyotiba Phule and Ramaswami Naicker criticize the national movement? What was the impact of their criticism on the national movement?

Changing World of Visual Arts

- What changes did the European painters bring in Indian painting style?
- Which of the Indian states patronized artists at court during the colonial rule?
- Describe the new folk arts prevalent in the Indian cities during 19th century?
- Explain the relationship established between nationalism and art during late 19th century?

The Making of the National Movement: 1870s--1947

- Throw light on the role of political organizations in the genesis of nationalism in India.
- What was the role of British policies in shaping nationalism in India?
- Why was first 20 years of the Congress considered as the 'Moderate' phase? What were the issues raised by the Congress during these years?
- How was the politics of the Radicals within the Congress different from that of the Moderates?
- What was the impact of the partition of Bengal on the national movement?
- What economic impact did the First World War have on India?
- Discuss the role of women in the national movement.
- Discuss those developments of the 1937-47 period that led to the creation of Pakistan.
- Discuss the role of Mahatma Gandhi in the national movement.
- Why was Gandhi referred to as the Mahatma of the people?
- Discuss the role of Subhash Chandra Bose in the national movement.
- Discuss the contribution of Bhagat Singh in the national movement with respect to 'revolutionary nationalism'

India After Independence

- What were the challenges present before India after getting independence on 15 August 1947?
- Explain the salient features of the Indian Constitution prepared by the Constituent Assembly.
- Why was the adoption of universal adult franchise in India considered to be a revolutionary step?
- Why was the clause of reservation added to the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly?
- Why English continued to be used in India after Independence?

- Why did the Congress party, which supported the formation of provinces on linguistic basis before independence, show its reluctance to divide the country on linguistic lines after independence?
- How was the economic development of India visualised in the early decades after Independence?
- To what extent have we realized the ideals set by the Constitution since independence?
- Non-Alignment- Describe its genesis and foreign policy implications.
- How did the formation of Indian states on linguistic lines proved beneficial for the unity and integrity of India? Discuss it in the context of Sri Lanka.