

Colonialism

Colonialism is an ideology which believes that the interest of a colony is subordinate to the interest of its mother country. It means, a mother country exploits its colony in order to serve the interest of its own economy. While studying colonialism, we must take following points into the consideration-

1. Colonialism should be studied as a structure and not as a policy, that is, the policy changes with the change in officers, but the structure remains the same. Therefore, whether it was Warren Hastings or William Bentinck or Lytton or Ripon, they could not bring about any change in the structure on the basis of their policies.
2. Colonialism should be studied as a series of contradictions, such as 'backwardness versus development'.

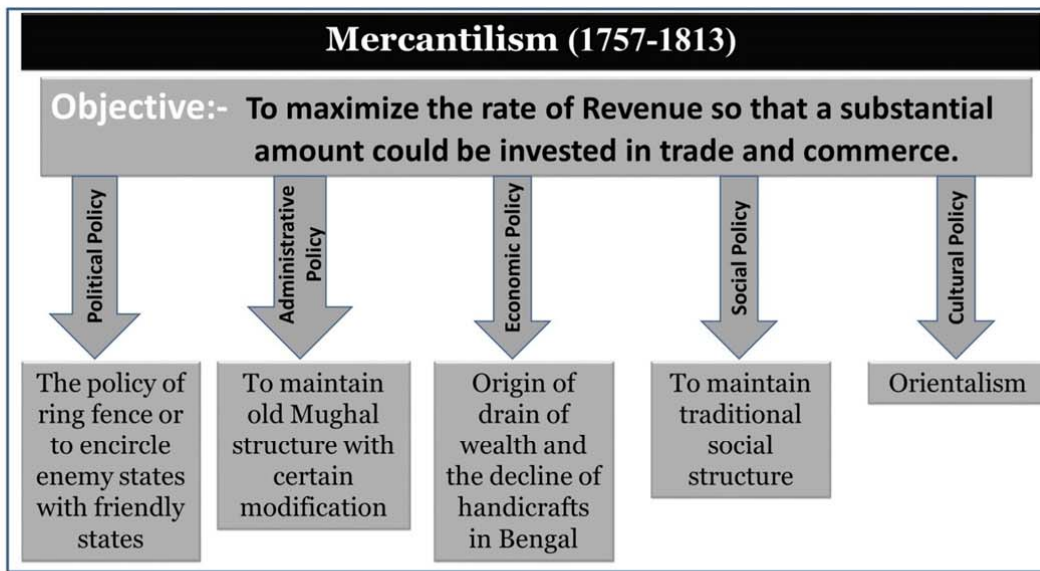
In other words, poverty and backwardness were the natural consequences of colonialism, whereas development of any kind was an unintended consequence. For instance, the economic burden on the masses, the spread of illiteracy among the masses and also the collapse of traditional education system, were the immediate negative impact of the construction of railways and introduction of modern education (English) in India, but at the same time, the railways and English education played a significant role in promotion of nationalist consciousness in India.

3. Though colonialism was basically an economic relation but it affected the political, social and cultural structures as well. The relationship between India and Britain reflected the elements of colonialism. In fact, the British capitalism led to the colonialism in India. The economic policy of British towards India changed with the change in interest of British Capitalism and the same even guided the political, social and cultural policies of Britain.

We can divide colonialism into three phases-

1. Mercantile Phase of Colonialism (1757-1813)
2. Industrial Phase of Colonialism (1813-1858)
3. Financial Phase of Colonialism (1858 and onwards)

Mercantile Phase of Colonialism (1757-1813 AD)



The policy of British Company towards India was to maximise its revenue collection in India and invest a major part of it to finance the Indian trade, so that the profit of the Company increases and the shareholders get benefitted.

We know that, initially the British Company, in order to finance the Indian trade, had to bring large quantities of precious metals in the form of gold and silver (bullion) from Britain. Moreover, when the Company started maintaining its army, construction of forts and purchasing arms and ammunitions, it required huge amount of additional monetary resource. Although the Company used to get some revenue by levying duties in cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, but it was not sufficient to fulfil the rising needs of the Company. However, after the battles of Plassey and Buxar, the Company got the Diwani of Bengal, thus it started financing Indian trade with the revenue it collected from Bengal.

Thus, the main emphasis of the Company during this period was on maximizing the collection of revenue as well as savings, so that a maximum amount could be invested in trade. Thus, the British company intended to keep its responsibilities minimum, because more responsibility created the problem of additional expenditure, less savings and less investment. Therefore, all the political, social, cultural and economic policies of Britain during this phase were guided primarily with the objective to serve the interest of British commercial capitalism.

Political Policy

The policy of the British Company towards the Indian states during this phase was largely guided by the interests of British commercial capitalism and it aimed at promoting the mercantile interests of the Company. Although during this period, the British Company fought some wars and even annexed some regions, but by and large, official British policy sought to avoid wars as far as possible. For example, the British captured the region of Malabar during the course of war against Mysore and it even captured the cotton-producing

west coast from Marathas. Infact, the policy adopted by the British company during this period is called 'the policy of Ring Fence', in other words, to surround enemy states with friendly states. In fact, even the Subsidiary Alliance, introduced by Lord Wellesley, was an extension of this policy, which helped the British create a large army on the expenditure borne mostly by the Indian states.

Governors :-

- **Robert Clive (1765-67 AD)**

After victory in the Battle of Buxar in 1764 AD, for the second time, Clive was appointed as the Governor-General of India. Then, he signed two separate treaties with Mughal emperor Shah Alam II and Nawab of Awadh, Shuja-ud-Daulah in 1765 AD. It was known as the Treaty of Allahabad and on the basis of this treaty, the Company received the Diwani of Bengal from the Mughal emperor. On the other hand, Avadh was converted into a buffer state.

- **Lord Verelst (1767-69 AD)**

First Anglo-Mysore War

The Kingdom of Mysore initially served as a feudatory under the Vijayanagara Empire. It was ruled by a Hindu ruler Chikka Rajakrishnadeva. Hyder Ali served as a capable military commander in Mysore administration. In future, he built an armoury at Dindigul in 1755 AD and thus by strengthening his position, he captured the throne of Mysore.



Causes behind the conflict between Mysore State and the British Company:-

1. Hyder Ali captured the spice producing region of Malabar and the Company was eager to snatch it from Hyder Ali.
2. The proximity of Mysore with the French company, a big rival to the British, also created suspicion in the British mind.
3. The British considered the presence of a powerful state like Mysore close to the Madras Presidency, as a major threat to their security.

Course of the War :-

On one hand, Hyder Ali and Tipu were trying to establish effective relations with the French Company and France, while on the other hand the British were trying to form a tripartite alliance including Marathas and the Nizam. In fact, the company was in need of large amount of money to consolidate its military power. Thus, they were determined to conquer Mysore at any cost. Therefore, the British Company incited the Marathas and Nizam against

Hyder Ali, but Hyder Ali purchased their neutrality in his favour and then attacked the British. Finally, the British Company succumbed under the pressure created by Hyder Ali and thus was forced to sign the Treaty of Madras in 1769 AD.

Governor General: -

- **Cartier (1769-1772 AD):** - After Verelst, no important war occurred during the tenure of Cartier, however a new era of struggle began during the regime of Warren Hastings.
- **Warren Hastings (1772-85 AD) :-**
Warren Hastings was the last Governor of Bengal and the first Governor-General. In fact, after the Regulating Act of 1773 AD, the nomenclature of the post of the Governor of Bengal was changed to the Governor-General. On one hand, Warren Hastings adopted a defensive approach and invented the policy of 'Ring Fence', while on the other, he fought two important wars with an objective to establish the British Company as a strong political power in India.

The Policy of 'Ring Fence': Warren Hastings, in order to define the relationship of Company with the Indian Princely states, adopted the policy of Ring Fence. The ultimate objective of this policy was defence of the British territory in India. Under this policy, the Company while adopting a defensive approach established a buffer state between its conquered territory and enemy state and even took the responsibility of defence of the buffer state. For instance, the Company created Awadh as a buffer state to give protection to the state of Bengal from regular Afghan and Maratha invasions and also created Hyderabad as a buffer state in its defence during the Mysore War.

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-82 AD):-

Causes :-

1. British attempted to capture the cotton producing region of Maharashtra.
2. The Company intervened into internal matter of succession in Poona court.

Course of the War:

In fact, while taking advantage of the untimely death of Peshwa Madhavrao I in 1772, his uncle Raghunath Rao became desperate for the post of Peshwa. As a result, there started a war of succession in the court of Marathas. Even though Raghunath Rao was successful in assassinating the newly appointed Peshwa Narayan Rao, but still he could not establish himself as Peshwa, because Nana Fadnavis and other Maratha chieftains installed the posthumous son of Narayan Rao, as the new Peshwa and kept him under protection.

Then, frustrated Raghunath Rao went to the British camp. There, Raghunath Rao offered to cede crucial maritime region near Bombay to the Company. Thus, the British concluded the Treaty of Surat with Raghunath Rao in 1775 AD. However, Governor-General Warren Hastings sensed the political threat involved in this treaty, thus the Governor-General mediated and concluded the Treaty of Purandar in 1776 between the British officials at Bombay and the Marathas. However, this treaty could not ensure peace for long and thus the war resumed. As it was feared by the Governor General, the Marathas gave a crushing defeat to the Bombay officials in the Battle of Telgaon and compelled them to sign the Treaty of Wadgaon in 1779 AD. But Warren Hastings refused to accept the terms of this

treaty and continued with the war. Finally, the Marathas were forced to conclude the Treaty of Salbai with the Company in 1782 AD.

As per this treaty, the British Company received the territories of Salsette and Elephanta Island and also, a 20 years long peace prevailed between the Marathas and the Company. This peace ultimately benefitted the Company, as during this time, the Company could eliminate its other rivals including Mysore and Nizam of Hyderabad.

Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-1784 AD):-

Causes : -

In 1779 AD, the British company invaded the French territory Mahe to capture it, while Hyder Ali considered Mahe to be under his protection. Thus, Hyder Ali considered it as a direct challenge to his sovereignty.

Course of the War-

The leadership to this war, between 1780 and 1782, was provided by Hyder Ali. Firstly, with his diplomatic acumen, Hyder Ali won over the Marathas and Nizam on his side. Then he attacked Arcot in July 1780 and captured it. However, when Hyder Ali died in 1782 AD, then Tipu Sultan took over the command of the war. He achieved immense success in his war efforts against the British. Finally, the Treaty of Mangalore was signed between the British and Tipu in 1784 AD and the war was concluded. It was an honourable treaty for Tipu, because he signed this treaty at par with the British, as there was no provision for war compensation in it.

- **Lord Cornwallis (1786-93 AD):-**

Third Anglo Mysore War (1790-92) :-

Causes:-

In 1789, Tipu Sultan invaded the state of Travancore, while the British Company considered it as its protectorate state. During this time, Lord Cornwallis was the Governor-General.

Course of the War:

Tipu invaded the region of Travancore because the Maharaja had transferred the region of Jaikottai and Cranganore located in the princely state of Cochin, which Tipu considered as a part of his territory, to the Dutch. Then, Cornwallis in order to protect the Maharaja of Travancore along with Marathas and Nizam as his allies, waged a war against Mysore. Finally, Tipu Sultan was defeated in 1792 AD and was compelled to sign the humiliating treaty of Srirangapatnam. As per the terms of this treaty, Tipu had to surrender half of his territory to the British. Apart from that, he had to give 3 crore 30 lakh rupees as war compensation. Then the British Company itself occupied important areas like Malabar, Dindigul, Baramahal, while a small part of the territory was also shared with its other allies, Marathas and Nizam.

John Shore (1793-98) : -

Lord Wellesley (1798-1805) :- Lord Wellesley came India to put a check over the French expansion. This was the time when it was feared that Napoleon Bonaparte, after invading Egypt, would move towards India. He adopted two fold strategies to achieve his objective –

1. The method of war.
2. Subsidiary Alliance System.

The Method of War:

Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799 AD): -

Tipu Sultan was not going to accept his defeat so easily and thus by enlisting French support, he tried to establish new military armoury. Apart from that, Tipu Sultan, by sending his ambassadors to Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Mauritius and France, also made efforts to create a global joint front against the British.

Thus, while getting insecure with the proximity of Tipu and the French Company, Wellesley decided to target him first. In fact, to legitimise the cause of his war, Wellesley accused Tipu of conspiring against the British Company along with its enemies Marathas, Nizam and other anti-British states. Then in 1799, Major Stuart and Arthur Wellesley were sent against him. During course of the war, Tipu Sultan was killed in the fort of Srirangapatna, but he never surrendered to the British. Once the war ended, the British installed a prince of the Wodeyar dynasty as the ruler of a much truncated territory and the rest of the state of Mysore was merged with Madras. Thus the Madras Presidency (1801 AD) was established.

Second Anglo-Maratha war: -

Causes:

The earlier generation of Maratha rulers had been highly capable, but none of them was alive by the end of the 18th century. However, later generation of the Marathas lacked that political vision and foresight. Thus, the Maratha leaders including Peshwa Bajirao II, Daulatrao Scindia and Yashwant Rao Holkar were involved in conflicts against each other. During the course of these conflicts, Yashwant Rao Holkar defeated Peshwa Bajirao II and establish his rule over Poona. Thus, the Peshwa moved to the British camp and on December 31, 1802, he signed the Treaty of Bassein with Lord Wellesley.

As per the terms of this treaty, the Peshwa agreed to maintain a subsidiary army as well as a British Resident at the court of Poona. He also agreed to not allow any European enemy of the British in his court and assured to regulate his foreign policy in consultation with the Company. This policy of the British enraged other Maratha chiefs, as they considered it as an intervention of British into the internal matters of the Marathas. Thus, there was a reaction from these chiefs.

Course of the war: -

During this war, Scindia and Bhonsle joined their hands to form a united front against the British, while Yashwant Rao Holkar formed a separate front, whereas Gaikwad remained neutral. Even during this time of crisis, the Marathas were not able to show the strength of their unity as they largely remained divided. Consequently, they could not adopt an

effective strategy against the British. On the contrary, Wellesley formed two commands against the Marathas –

1. Northern Command - under the leadership of Lord Lake.
2. Southern Command- under the leadership of Arthur Wellesley

The war started in 1803 and continued till 1805. In the south, both Scindia and Bhonsle were defeated by Arthur Wellesley and then in 1803 the Company signed the 'Treaty of Deogaon' with Bhonsle and the 'Treaty of Surji- Anjangaon' with Scindia. On the other hand, in the north, Lord Lake defeated the army of Scindia and captured Delhi and Agra in 1803. This event symbolically established the British control over the Mughals while displacing the control of Marathas. However, Yashwant Rao Holkar, along with the Jat ruler, continued his war efforts against the British. Finally, fed up with the costly war, the Court of Directors recalled Wellesley to London. In his place, George Barlow, a senior member of the Council, was appointed as the Governor-General, who concluded the Treaty of Rajpur ghat with Yashwant Rao Holkar in 1805. Thus the second Anglo-Maratha war ended.

The Subsidiary Alliance System and its major provisions:

Subsidiary Alliance was a system in which the process of peaceful merger of new territories could be expedited while protecting maximum resources of the British Company. Even though, the rudimentary elements of this system could also be traced in early policies of Dupleix, Robert Clive and Cornwallis, but the credit for its formal beginning is given to Lord Wellesley.

In fact, when Wellesley became the Governor General of India, his main objective was to establish the Company as the supreme power in India. This was the time when British colonialism was getting insecure of Napoleon's advancement towards India. Moreover, this was also the time when the success of Industrial Revolution was visible in Britain. In fact, the Industrial Revolution made it necessary for the British to create a large and a stable market for the British goods. In this background, Lord Wellesley decided to create a unique political system which could secure British interest and could also facilitate the trade and consumption of the British goods. He sought to achieve his objective by maintaining friendly relations with major states. Therefore, with the above mentioned plans and objective in mind, Wellesley started the system of Subsidiary Alliance.

It had the following provisions:-

1. A British regiment was to be stationed in the concerned state
2. Its expenses were borne by the concerned state.
3. A British Resident (political advisor) was to be placed in the state concerned, who would be consulted for conduct of foreign policy of the concerned state. Under this provision, any state with subsidiary alliance could neither start a war against any state nor could it declare peace.
4. The concerned state was not free to take any European other than British into service of the state without the Company's permission.
5. Even though the terms of this treaty did not allow the Company to intervene into the internal matters of a concerned state, but in practice it was hardly followed.

The Subsidiary Alliance of Lord Wellesley proved to be highly successful for the British. As a consequence of this policy, many major Indian states depended for their protection on the Company and even their external relations were controlled by the Company.

The British Company had following advantages-

1. Subsidiary alliance system weakened the military capability of the Indian states and they lost their control over foreign relations.
2. As a result of this system, the Company managed to create a large army without undue burden on its exchequer, which was used to suppress internal rebellions in India and protect its mercantile interests against other powers.
3. Subsidiary Alliance brought an end to any competition against the Company and thus the Company continued to carry out arbitrary export of the Indian goods.
4. The increasing discontentment among the masses due to British policies could be channelized towards Indian states, because through Subsidiary Alliance Indian states were dependent on the British.

Practice Question: 'The Subsidiary Alliance System established the supremacy of the British Company in India.' Examine this statement.

■ **Earl of Minto (1870-13)**

No major war took place during his tenure, but the Treaty of Amritsar was signed with the Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh in 1809 AD. This treaty was signed between Charles Metcalf and Ranjit Singh. As per the terms of this treaty, river Sutlej was declared to constitute the border between state of Punjab and the British territory. Besides, an army was stationed at Ludhiana under a British resident.

Question: 'Among all the British conquests, none was so sudden and involuntary as was the British conquest of India.' Do you agree with the statement?

Answer : - The above statement reflects the British imperialist approach of history writing. Here, the British Imperialists scholars try to establish that the British conquered India in a fit of absent mindedness. However, on close examination of the above statement we reach to another conclusion.

Although it is true that when the East India Company was formed in London and when it got the charter for the eastern trade, it neither had plans to conquer India nor the circumstance were such that it could conquer India, because of political dominance of Mughal Empire. But the following factors gave rise to the political ambitions of the British Company and then it decided to go for the military conquest.

1. Political vacuum was created after disintegration of the Mughal Empire.
2. The Company wanted to substitute the influx of precious metals with the Indian resources, so that Indian money could be used to purchase the Indian goods.

Moreover, after the Battle of Plassey and Buxar, the Company got the Diwani of Bengal and thus the political ambitions of the Company increased further. Thus, by 19th century,

the British Empire was established, as the Company continuously expanded through the Policy of Ring Fence and through the method of war and annexation.

From the arguments given, it is difficult to believe that the British Conquest of India was done in a fit of absent mindedness.

Administrative Policy

What was unique about the administrative policy of British during this phase?

During this phase, the British Company, in order to keep its responsibilities to the minimum, did not intend to cause any major change in the administrative structure. Thus, the Company continued with the Mughal administrative structure with few modifications. Even if the Company was interested in any administrative reforms, then those were linked to the revenue system and judicial system, primarily because, the civil justice was linked to the revenue justice.

The background or the causes behind the Regulating Act of 1773

1. The influential class of Britain were protesting against the trade monopoly of the Company, as it also wanted benefit from the Indian trade.
2. The supporters of the policy of free trade also opposed the trade monopoly of the Company.
3. The politics in Britain was influenced by the drained wealth from India, as it gave rise to the problem of horse-trading within the British Parliament.
4. **Immediate cause:** Due to increase in losses of the Company, it applied for huge loans from the British government. In fact, it was a shock for the British Parliamentarians that, if the Company reported heavy losses, then how did the Company officials become so rich?

Important Provisions:

1. Through this Act, the British Parliament for the first time intervened into the internal matters of the Company. In fact, the Company had to annually report its economic, financial as well as military expenses to the British Parliament.
2. The number of Directors in London were increased from 18 to 24.
3. The Governor of Bengal was made the Governor General i.e. he was given the authority to supervise the British officials at Bombay and Madras presidencies as well.
4. A four member executive council was created to assist the Governor General whereby all the major decisions were taken by a majority vote, however in case there is no majority then Governor General had the casting vote.
5. It provided for establishment of a Supreme Court at Calcutta and jurisdiction of this court was limited to Calcutta.

Pitt's India Act, 1784:

Objective (Causes):

1. Its objective was to rectify the defects of the Regulating Act of 1773 and create an effective control of the British Parliament over the activities of the Company.
2. Based on the Treaty of Paris, Britain lost its old Empire (America). Thus, this Act was intended to create a new empire for Britain in India.

Important Provisions:

1. A system of double government i.e. the Court of Directors and the Board of Control, was established in India. The Board of Control was a 6 member council, which was representative of the British Parliament.
2. The membership of the Governor General's Council was reduced from 4 to 3, so that the power of Governor General vis-à-vis his other member of the Council increased. In fact, now the Governor General was able to get his resolutions passed even with the support of a single member of the Council.
3. The powers of the Governor General were defined more clearly with respect to the Bombay and Madras presidencies. In fact, the Governor General was made superior to the Governors of Bombay and Madras in the military, diplomatic and financial matters.

Significance:

1. Pitt's India Act established a real control over the activities of the Company through the Board of Control.
2. In a way, the Board of Control became the precursor to the post of British Secretary of State of India.
3. The powers of Bengal in relation to the Bombay and Madras were crystalized further.

The period of Governors

Robert Clive, Verelst and Cartier:

- **What was the system of Dual government in Bengal and what was its impact?**

During this period, the Company avoided to take the responsibility of administration into its own hand, because neither the Company had enough trained officers nor the Court of Directors were interested. Thus, the Company in order to fulfil its objective enforced a system of government in Bengal which came to be called as system of Dual Government.

The Dual Government means dual role of company in the administration of Bengal. In other words, the Company had its direct control over the Diwani of Bengal and indirect control over the Nizamat (administration). In fact, the Company created a post of Deputy-Nizam and transferred the power from Nawab to the Deputy-Nizam. But any appointment to this post was done only after the recommendation of the Company. Therefore, the real power was transferred to the Company.

In reality, the power without responsibilities proved disastrous for Bengal. It led to rampant corruption, which resulted into severe famine of 1770s, in which almost 1/3rd of the population of Bengal perished. This system of Clive even caused disruptions in the agricultural activities, which had its direct impact on the trade of Bengal as well as on the shareholders of the Company. Even the Court of Directors were unhappy with the administrative set up.

Warren Hastings:

Land Revenue Reforms:

- Warren Hastings introduced the Farming Method or the 'Izaredari System' for reforms in the revenue arrangement. Under this system, the highest bidder used to get the right of revenue collection.
- Initially, there was a five year settlement of land revenue and thus it was also known as the Quinquennial Settlement. Then, Warren Hastings made conscious efforts to keep the Zamindars out of this system so that most of the agricultural surplus can be secured for the Company. However, in 1776 Warren Hastings discontinued with the Quinquennial settlement and started a system of annual settlement. Moreover, Hastings learnt that the Zamindars were the experts of the land revenue matters and also they had a very strong hold in the countryside, therefore any land revenue settlement could never be made successful without their participation. Thus in his system of annual settlement, Zamindars were given the preference.
- This method of bidding caused much exploitation of the peasants and also the agricultural economy was badly affected. Moreover revenue of the Company became unstable, as it changed annually.

Judicial Reforms:

- **The Diwani Adalat (the Civil Court) and the District Faujdari Adalat:**

The British judicial system in India was established during the tenure of Warren Hastings. He founded two separate courts for civil and criminal cases, the Diwani Adalat and the Fauzadari Adalat respectively, and made the Mughal system as the basis of judicial reforms. The Muslim laws were followed in the Faujdari Adalat, while separate laws for Hindus and Muslims based on respective codes were maintained. Warren Hastings codified laws under titles of 'the Code of Gentoo Laws', 'the Colebeooke's Digest of Hindu Laws' etc. Then Sadr Diwani Adalat in Calcutta and Sadr Faujdari Adalat in Murshidabad were established. Also, Warren Hastings codified the Hindu and Muslim laws.

Question: To what extent can it be justified that, if Robert Clive was the founder of the British Empire in India, then Hastings should be credited for organizing the British administration?

Answer: Often Robert Clive and Warren Hastings both are credited for the establishment and organization of British rule in India, but on close observation we realize that, though Robert Clive was the founder of British rule in India, but Warren Hastings had played a significant role in organizing the British administration of India.

Robert Clive, after getting victorious in the Carnatic War, the Battle of Plassey and by obtaining the Diwani of Bengal, founded the British rule in India, but did not dare to take the responsibility of British administration. Rather he introduced the system of Dual Government in Bengal. On the other hand, Warren Hastings played the role of an initial consolidator in the following way-

1. In 1772, he abolished the system of Dual Government and took the responsibility of administration into his own hands.
2. He organized and standardised revenue collection as a part of revenue reforms.

In the same way, in order to bring the judicial reforms, he established the District and Sadr courts for civil and criminal matters and also codified the laws

Lord Cornwallis

- Many administrative reforms were carried out during the tenure of Lord Cornwallis (1786-1793), however the basic structure was not disturbed. During this time, the British had already lost their important colony America and thus, were trying to establish their control over India. The main objective of his reforms was to provide a stable financial system to the Company.

Lord Cornwallis is known for which reforms in India?

- **Land Revenue Reforms:** The main responsibility of Cornwallis was to develop a satisfactory model of land revenue administration. Thus, Cornwallis developed the Permanent Settlement, an organized model of revenue administration. In fact, the settlement reached between Cornwallis and the Zamindars of Bengal was known as the Permanent Settlement. It had following feature-
- The Zamindars were made the owners of land, consequently the peasants were converted into tenants at will.
- The land revenue to be paid by the Zamindars was fixed permanently by the government.
- According to the sunset clause, if any Zamindar failed to pay his due before sunset of designated date, then District Collector would seize his Zamindari rights and auction it off.
- If tenants failed to pay their land revenue on time, then their property, both movable and immovable, was seized by the Zamindar and was auctioned off.
- The community land was placed under the control of Zamindar.

The Objective of Permanent Settlement:

1. In fact, the Company was intended to increase its revenue collection so that it could invest in trade and could also meet its military expenditure, whereas the revenue of the Company under the Izaredari System of Warren Hastings was highly unstable. Thus, the major objective of Lord Cornwallis was to stabilize the revenue collection.
2. The Permanent Settlement was also introduced to make collection of land revenue easy and corruption free. In fact, it was easier for the Company to collect land

revenue from few hundreds of Zamindar than to collect it from lakhs of peasants. In this way, the Company would also be relieved from a huge administrative burden. Apart from that, collection of land revenue from few hundreds of Zamindars would also reduce the scope of corruption.

3. Cornwallis even believed that, if the payment of land revenue to the Company was fixed permanently, then Zamindars would be motivated to invest in agriculture, as any increase in surplus was going to benefit them directly. Consequently, agricultural production would increase which would increase trade of the Company, as agricultural products constituted major portion of the export of the Company.
4. Yet another objective of the Permanent Settlement was to create Zamindars as a friendly class to the British, which could perpetuate the British rule in India.

An Analysis:

Cornwallis achieved only partial success in his objective. Although, it is true that the Company received a stable income without much fluctuations, but it is also true that the Company was deprived of any future increase in agricultural production. Thus, the Permanent Settlement was never introduced again by the government. Moreover, the Zamindars were not progressive in their approach and they were least interested in investment in agriculture. Although, the Zamindars emerged as friendly class to the Company, but their exploitative policies created intense peasant unrest, which the Company had to deal with.

Impact of the Permanent Settlement:

1. This system encouraged feudalism at the upper level and agricultural slavery at the lower level of the Indian society. In fact, the Zamindars became the feudal lords and peasants were reduced to the status of tenants.
2. The peasants lost their customary occupancy rights and were reduced to the status of tenants.
3. The peasants even lost their ancestral rights over the community land. Whereas, earlier peasants used to collectively exploit community land.
4. Before 1859, the peasants were not protected. However, in 1859 and 1885 there were tenancy legislations which to some extent protected occupancy rights of peasants. But the real beneficiary of these legislations were the rich Jotedars.
5. The purchasing power of the peasants was reduced significantly.
6. Under pressure of high rates of land revenue, the peasants moved ahead with the cash crops. Consequently, the production of coarse grains declined. Thus, the instances of starvation intensified in rural areas.

Police Reforms:

It was Cornwallis, who for the first time introduced an organised Police structure in British India. In fact, he modernized the system of police stations (Thana). He divided each district into different regions and established one station in every region. He made Daroga the in-charge of these stations. At the district level, he created the post of Policing Superintendent. At the village level, he gave the police powers to watchmen (Chowkidars). In this way, modern police system was institutionalised in British India.

Judicial Reforms:

- A hierarchy in Civil and Criminal courts was provided by reforms under Lord Cornwallis. In fact, reforms affected by Warren Hastings were not sufficient, thus large scale judicial reforms were carried out under the reign of Lord Cornwallis. His biggest achievement was the concept of 'separation of power', which he also introduced in the judicial system. In fact, he separated the Land Revenue System from the Judicial System. It was the Cornwallis Code of 1793, which took away the administration of civil justice from the Collector and left him with only the responsibility of revenue collection.
- He reconstituted the Civil and Criminal courts. For Civil cases, the court of Munsif was at the lowest level, above that there was the court of Registrar and above that the District Court was present. Above District courts, there were four Provincial Courts which were established in Calcutta, Murshidabad, Dhaka and Patna. At the apex of the Civil Justice system, existed the Sadr-Diwani Adalat which was under jurisdiction of the Governor General and his council. The council dealt only with matters involving the sum of more than 5000 rupees. Similarly, he created a stratified and integrated system even within the Criminal Justice system. Then, the District Faujdari Adalats were presided over by four circuit courts, which toured the districts twice a year. Then, at the apex level the Nizamat Adalat was present.

Civil Court:

- King-in-Council
- Sadr Diwani Adalat
- Provincial Courts
- District Courts
- Registrar Courts
- Munsif Courts

Criminal Court:

- Sadr-Nizamat Adalat
- Circuit Court
- District Court

Civil Services:

- Cornwallis is considered as the father of Civil Services in India. Its function was to implement government policies. Thus, the Civil Services was considered to be the Steel Frame of British India. Cornwallis, on the basis of the Code of 1793, took away the judicial powers of District Collector, while maintaining his powers related to revenue collection. He even increased salary and other facilities of District Collector.
- During this period, the appointment of Civil Servant was under the jurisdiction of the Court of Directors. While making any appointment, the Court of Directors also obliged to the recommendation tendered by the Board of Control. However, even after strong opposition by the Court of Directors, their appointment power was curtailed through the

Charter Act of 1853 and thus, an open competitive exam was conducted to appoint Civil Servants in India, but the Indians were not allowed to participate.

Question: Explain the system of Permanent Settlement and also highlight its impact?

Answer: Permanent Settlement had the following important features-

1. Lord Cornwallis made zamindars as the proprietor of land, and reduced the status of independent peasant to tenants.
2. The sale and purchase of land was allowed.
3. The zamindars were given proprietorship rights even over community land.
4. According to the Sunset Clause of 1793, if a zamindar was not able to pay his due before the sunset of the decided date, then the auction of his zamindari rights was conducted.
5. On the other hand, the zamindars, in case of non-payment of revenue, were granted the right to seize all movable and immovable property of peasant.

Impact:

Its worst impact was on the peasants of Bengal. In a way, Cornwallis perpetuated feudal tendencies on the peasants.

Question: Was the Permanent settlement of Bengal guided by the interest of the British Commercial Capitalism?

Answer: Though there were many factors responsible for introduction of the Permanent Settlement, but definitely it was guided by the interest Commercial Capitalism. In fact, there were two important needs of British Commercial Capitalism in Bengal-

1. A large amount of money was needed to invest in trade.
2. A large quantity of goods be made available so that, trade of the Company could expand.

The Permanent Settlement was intended to achieve both the above mentioned objectives. It had the provision of a fixed stable annual income for the British Company. Moreover, the zamindars were expected to invest in agriculture as it was going to benefit them directly. As a result availability of tradable goods would increase. However, these objectives of the Company could not be achieved, but the objective behind introduction of the Permanent Settlement was to serve the interest of the British Commercial Capitalism.

The Economic Policy

- During this period, Indian economy was reduced to a colonial economy and thus the Drain of Wealth started from India to Britain.

What does the Drain of Wealth imply in the context of colonialism in India?

Drain of wealth means the transfer of surplus money out of India, through reducing its influx and increasing its export. In other words, earlier the Company purchased Indian goods with

the imported precious metals from Britain, but after the Company received the Diwani of Bengal, it financed the Indian trade with the revenue collected from the Bengal, thus any influx of precious metals from Britain nearly stopped. It meant that, the goods and money both were collected from India itself.

The Decline of Handicraft Industry in Bengal:

When the Company rule was established over Bengal, it created a strict control over the artisans of Bengal. In fact, the artisans were sold raw materials at higher prices, whereas the finished goods were purchased at lower costs. Consequently, the artisans of Bengal were impoverished.

The Social Policy

- The main emphasis of the Company during this phase was to avoid any intervention into the social fabric of India. In fact, the British had no interest in social reforms, because any intervention in the social aspect would mean additional responsibility and reactions from the masses. Thus, the British Company did not make any efforts to abolish even a social evil like that of Sati. In fact, the objective of the Company during this phase was limited to maximize the collection of revenue. Therefore, the Company chose not to take any measures for social reforms.

The Cultural Policy

- The mercantile phase required the Company, not to disturb the traditional social and cultural fabric of India. Thus, during this phase orientalist ideology was promoted.
- Orientalism glorified the Indian past and culture and emphasised that, even though the Indian culture was different from the western culture, but it was not inferior to it. Then, to make a thorough study of Indian culture i.e. the Oriental studies, William Jones established the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784.
- The British government believed that, India should be ruled according to the cultural traditions of India. Thus, during this phase there was codification of Hindu and Muslim laws in the name of the 'Code of Gentoo Laws', the 'Colebrooke Digest' etc. Warren Hastings even promoted the children of Muslim clergies into the government service and thus, he established the 'Calcutta Madarsa' in 1781. Then a Sanskrit college was also established in Banaras by Jonathan Duncan in 1791.
