

Emergence of Bangladesh (1971)



THE ADVENT OF THE BRITISH
EMPIRE IN THE INDIAN
SUBCONTINENT

European Powers & their trading companies



❖ EUROPEANS INTENT ON FINDING DIRECT
LINKS TO ASIA (SOUTH, SOUTHEAST, EAST)
AND TO THE CHINESE EMPIRE

❖ BYPASS INTERMEDIARIES

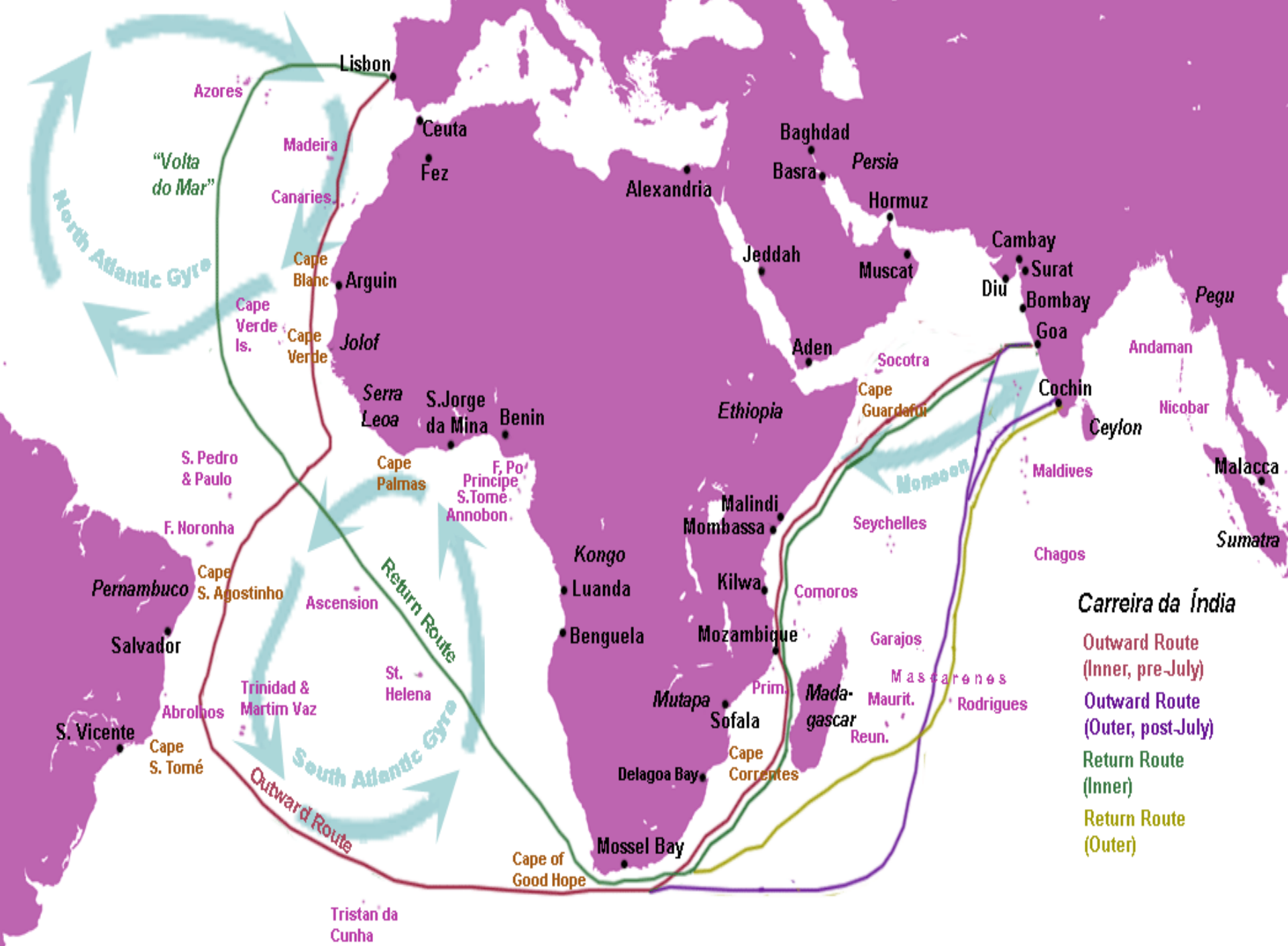
❖ PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH EMPIRES LEAD
THE WAY FOR THE EUROPEAN POWERS

❖ PORTUGUESE MAKE USE OF TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCES IN NAVAL SCIENCE: *COMPASS,*
ASTROLABE, SEXTANT

European Powers & their trading companies



- ❖ UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF WIND PATTERNS:
WESTERLY'S, TRADE WINDS
- ❖ GUNPOWDER, STERNPOST RUDDER, COMPASS
ARE CHINESE INVENTIONS
- ❖ LATEEN SAIL - WHICH ALLOWS A SHIP TO
SAIL AGAINST THE WIND - IS COPIED FROM
ARAB SAILORS
- ❖ THE CONQUEST OF THE TWO CONTINENTS OF
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFTER 1492 A.D.
DRAWS GOLD AND SILVER TO THE TREASURIES
OF THE EUROPEAN POWERS



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❖ THE PORTUGUESE ARRIVE OFF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT; AFTER DEVASTATING AND DESTROYING CITY-STATES AND PRINCIPALITIES OFF THE EAST AFRICAN COAST



❖ THE PORTUGUESE SEIZE GOA (1510 A.D.)

❖ ARRIVE OFF BENGAL IN 1534 A.D.

THE BRUTAL SACKING OF CHITTAGONG & ENSLAVEMENT OF LOCAL POPULATION

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❖ THE PORTUGUESE ESTABLISH A *FACTORY* AT
HOOGHLY (BENGAL) IN 1579-1580 A.D.

❖ WHAT IS A "FACTORY"?

THEIR REPUTATION AS MURDERERS, ENSLAVERS
ANGERS LOCALS AND EVENTUALLY THE MUGHAL
EMPEROR

SHAH JAHAN ORDERS THEIR FACTORY IN
BENGAL DESTROYED IN 1632 A.D.

European Powers & their trading companies



❖ OTHER EUROPEAN POWERS NOW BEGIN TO SEND
IN THEIR TRADING COMPANIES
THE DUTCH ARRIVE IN THE MID-SEVENTEENTH
CENTURY

1641 A.D.: SEIZURE OF MALACCA

1654 A.D.: CONQUEST OF CEYLON

1599 A.D.: ENGLISH (BRITISH AFTER 1707
A.D.) EAST INDIA COMPANY IS FORMED

1615: ENGLISH AMBASSADOR AT THE COURT OF
THE MUGHAL EMPEROR

European Powers & their trading companies



❖ 1650 A.D.: RECEIVE PERMISSION FROM
DELHI TO TRADE WITH BENGAL

❖ BENGALI HIGH-END COTTON PRODUCTS ARE
HIGHLY COVETED

❖ 80,000 WEAVERS ARE ENGAGED TO MEET
DEMAND FROM THE BRITISH AND OTHER
EUROPEAN POWERS

❖ PROBLEM: 'DRAIN' OF BRITISH AND
EUROPEAN WEALTH TO INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

The Independent *Nawabs* of Bengal, 1717 – 1757



- ❖ 1707 A.D.: EMPEROR AURANGZEB PASSES AWAY IN DELHI
- ❖ CENTRAL RULE; WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN STRONGER THAN DURING AURANGZEB'S RULE, NOW SUDDENLY COLLAPSES
- ❖ AURANGZEB'S HEIRS FIGHT FOR THE SUCCESSION
- ❖ AS SECURITY FOR THE EUROPEAN TRADING COMPANY FROM THE MUGHAL ARMIES EVAPORATES; THE EUROPEANS TAKE A FATEFUL STEP

The Independent *Nawabs* of Bengal, 1717 – 1757



❖ "SIPAH I" = "SOLDIER" = "SEPOY"

❖ *MERCENARY TROOPS*

❖ EUROPEANS CREATE SMALL, TRAINED & PAID
CORPS OF SUBCONTINENTAL MERCENARIES TO
PROTECT THEIR ECONOMIC ASSETS

❖ HOWEVER, INCREASINGLY THEY USE THESE
MERCENARIES TO INTERFERE IN THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SUBCONTINENTAL
KINGDOMS WHICH EMERGE/REMERGE AFTER THE
COLLAPSE OF CENTRAL RULE



Syayev.

Colonel-major in the Russian service at Bakhda.

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- ❖ THIS COINCIDED WITH THE EUROPEAN WARS OF GLOBAL SUPREMACY BEING WAGED BETWEEN BRITAIN AND FRANCE AND THEIR ALLIES IN EUROPE, THE AMERICAS AND AFRICA
- ❖ 1686 A.D.: ENGLISH HAD TRIED TO ATTACK THE MUGHAL EMPIRE AND HAD BEEN NEARLY DESTROYED AND KICKED OUT OF THE SUBCONTINENT
- ❖ POST – 1707: THEY ARE BECOMING STRONGER AT THE EXPENSE OF SUBCONTINENTAL KINGDOMS AND THE FRENCH EAST INDIA COMPANY

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❖ AFTER THE DEATH OF THE *NIZAM-UL-MULK* OF HYDERABAD IN 1748 A.D. A SERIES OF SUCCESSION WARS BREAK OUT IN THE *DECCAN* (SOUTHERN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT)

❖ CARNATIC WARS

❖ THE BRITISH AND FRENCH OPENLY SIDE WITH THE VARIOUS PRINCIPALITIES AND KINGDOMS; AND THUS INCREASINGLY IMPOSE THEMSELVES AS "PLAYERS" IN THE STRUGGLE





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- ❖ MOST SUBCONTINENTAL RULERS DO NOT
REALIZE THE DANGER POSED BY THE
ENGLISH-FRENCH RIVALRY
- ❖ BENGAL AND THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
CONTAIN INVALUABLE WEALTH AND RESOURCES
- ❖ BRITISH AND FRENCH WILL NOT TOLERATE
THE PRESENCE OF THE OTHER IN THIS PART
OF THE WORLD
- ❖ IT IS A STRUGGLE TO THE DEATH

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❖ 1710 A.D.: MURSHID QULI KHAN BECOMES
CHIEF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR OF BENGAL

❖ CAPABLE

❖ COMPLETELY REORGANIZES SYSTEM OF
GOVERNANCE

❖ BRINGS IN HINDU MERCHANTS AND
OFFICIALS TO RUN THE ADMINISTRATION

❖ FLOURISHING OF TRADE; INCLUDING WITH
EUROPEANS

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- ❖ 1717 A.D.: QUIETLY BREAKS AWAY FROM MUGHAL RULE, RE-ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT BENGAL
 - ❖ CAPITAL AT MURSHIDABAD
- ❖ BIHAR AND ODISHA ALSO PART OF KINGDOM
- ❖ BENGAL IS ONE OF THE RICHEST KINGDOMS IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
- ❖ 1717 A.D.: EMPEROR FARUKHSIYAR GRANTS A ROYAL *FIRMAN* OR "LICENSE" TO THE BRITISH TO TRADE WITH BENGAL
- ❖ PROBLEM: ONLY APPLIES TO COMPANY GOODS AND NOT OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICIALS

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❖ BENGAL REVENUE OFFICIALS FREQUENTLY
CLASH WITH BRITISH OFFICERS OF THE EAST
INDIA COMPANY

❖ AN ISSUE THAT WILL RETURN IN 1756

❖ MURSHID QULI KHAN DIES IN 1727 A.D.

❖ NEXT TWO NAWABS:

❖ 1727 A.D. – 1737 A.D.: SHUJA-UD-DIN

❖ 1737 A.D. – 1740 A.D.: SARFRAZ KHAN

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- ❖ IN 1740 A.D. ALIVARDI KHAN, ADVISER TO SHUJA-UD-DIN, IS *FALSELY* ACCUSED BY COURT FACTIONS OF TREASON
 - ❖ TAKES TO THE BATTLEFIELD AGAINST SARFRAZ KHAN
 - ❖ SARFRAZ IS KILLED
- ❖ ALIVARDI KHAN NOW BECOMES *NAWAB* OF BENGAL
- ❖ VETERAN ADMINISTRATOR & EXPERIENCED MILITARY COMMANDER

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❖ SIXTEEN-YEAR REIGN

- ❖ MARRED BY ATTACKS FROM NEIGHBORING MARATHA KINGDOMS (E.G. NAGPUR)
- ❖ MARATHAS CARRY OUT 10-YEAR REIGN OF TERROR AGAINST BENGAL
- ❖ 1742 A.D. & 1745 A.D. MARATHA RAIDING PARTIES REACH MURSHIDABAD
- ❖ 1751 A.D.: BENGAL PAYS HUGE INDEMNITY BUT MARATHA RULER OF POONA RENOUNCES
TREATY

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- ❖ DESPITE FINANCIAL LOSSES BENGAL
CONTINUES TO THRIVE
- ❖ EUROPEAN TRADE IS LUCRATIVE
- ❖ ALIVARDI IS VERY SHREWD DIPLOMAT
- ❖ DOES NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN
EUROPEAN CONFLICTS
- ❖ HIS ONLY CONDITION IS THAT BRITISH AND
FRENCH MUST NOT MILITARILY FORTIFY
THEIR TRADING BASES

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- ❖ 1756 A.D.: ALIVARDI PASSES AWAY OF NATURAL CAUSES AT EIGHTY-FOUR YEARS OF AGE
- ❖ HIS FAVOURITE GRANDSON BECOMES NAWAB WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS; UNUSUAL FOR THIS TIME IN THE SUBCONTINENT
- ❖ THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR (1756 – 1763) IS ABOUT TO START IN EUROPE BETWEEN BRITISH AND FRENCH EMPIRES
- ❖ FIRST 'WORLDWIDE WAR' IN WHICH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH FIGHT EACH OTHER IN THE AMERICAS, AFRICA AND ASIA



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❖ SIRAJ-UD-DAULLAH: THE LAST INDEPENDENT
RULER OF BENGAL

❖ FACES THREE ENEMIES

❖ PRETENDERS TO THE THRONE: SHAUKAT JANG
AND LADY GHASETI BEGUM

❖ THE BRITISH



❖ JUNE 1756: BRITISH REFUSE TO DISMANTLE
FORTIFICATIONS AT THEIR BASE AT
CALCUTTA

❖ SIRAJ LEADS THE BENGAL ARMY TO A MAJOR
VICTORY OVER THE BRITISH AT CALCUTTA

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❖ THE MYTH OF THE SO-CALLED "BLACK HOLE
OF CALCUTTA"

❖ JOHN HOLWELL

❖ OCTOBER 1756: LEADS THE BENGAL ARMY
AGAIN TO VICTORY AGAINST SHAUKAT JANG,
THE MAIN PRETENDER TO THE THRONE

❖ SIRAJ HAS SEEMINGLY SECURED HIS THRONE

❖ HOWEVER:

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❖ A NUMBER OF POWERFUL BENGALI MERCHANTS
RESENT SIRAJ'S HARDLINE STANCE AGAINST
BRITISH CORRUPTION

❖ JAGETH SETH & AMIR CHAND

❖ SECRETLY REACH OUT TO BRITISH
OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE INFAMOUS
COLONEL ROBERT CLIVE

❖ SIRAJ SUDDENLY BECOMES INCAPABLE OF
DECISIVE ACTION

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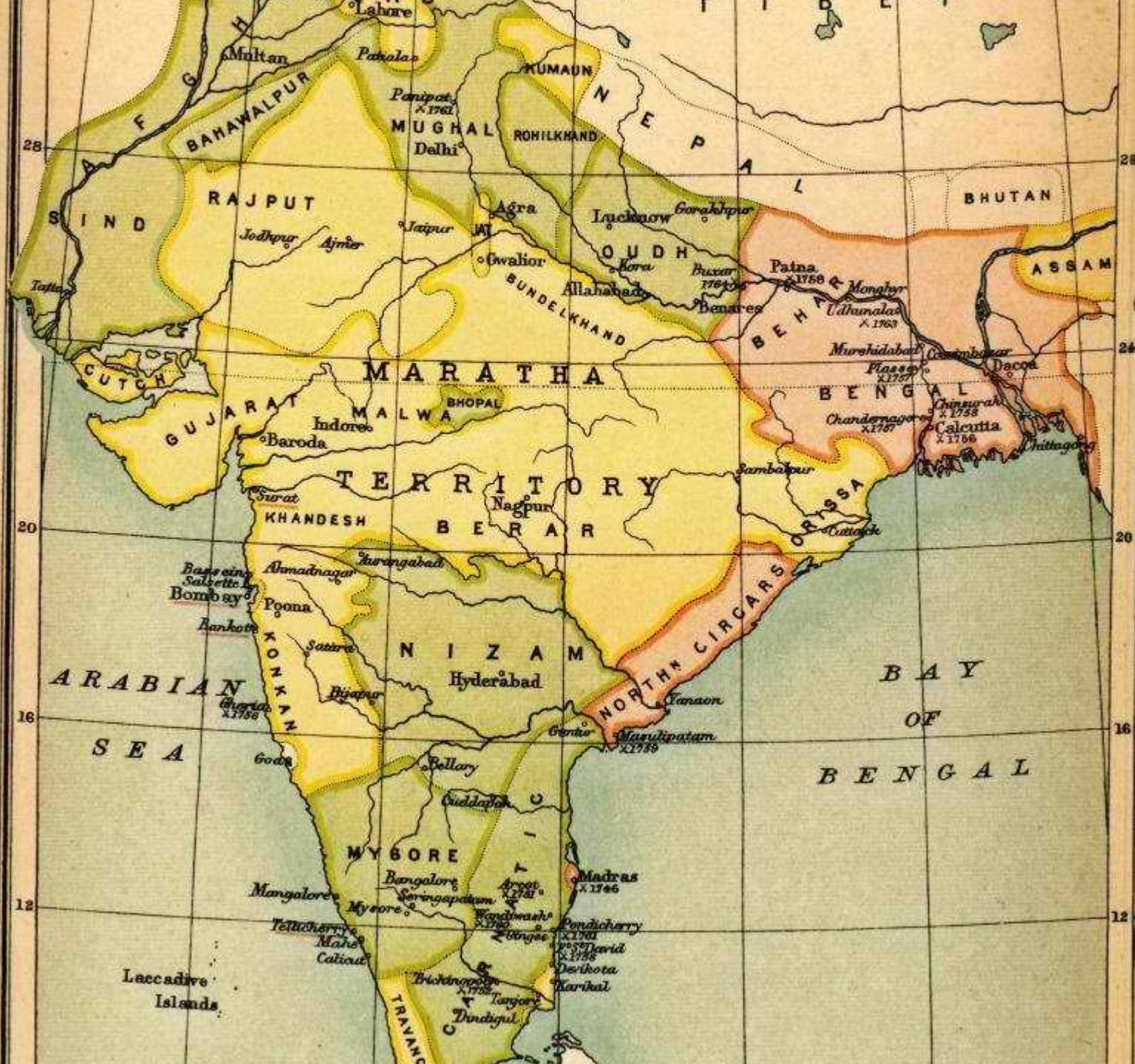
- ❖ FEBRUARY 1757: SIRAJ NEARLY CAPTURED DURING 'NEGOTIATIONS' WITH THE BRITISH
- ❖ MAY-JUNE: JAGETH SETH, AMIR CHAND, CLIVE AND THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE BENGAL ARMY, MIR JAFAR SIGN A TREATY TO OVERTHROW SIRAJ
- ❖ JAFAR WILL BE PLACED ON THE BENGAL THRONE IN THE EVENT OF VICTORY
- ❖ THE STAGE IS SET FOR THE MISNAMED 'BATTLE OF PLASSEY'

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- ❖ 23 JUNE, 1757 A.D.: THE BATTLE OF PLASSEY CHANGES THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD
- ❖ BY CONQUERING BENGAL, THE BRITISH EMPIRE NOW BEGINS THE PROCESS OF ASCENDING TO THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD-SYSTEM
- ❖ USING THE RESOURCES OF BENGAL TO GRADUALLY OVERTHROW THE REMAINING INDEPENDENT KINGDOMS OF THE SUBCONTINENT





INDIA IN 1765

Present International Boundaries ———

