

Timeline: British East India Company Takes over Bengal =>

- ⑪ 1615 → First trading outpost at Surat in Gujarat
- ⑫ 1694 → Established the head quarters of the company's business by building fort St. George at Madras
- ⑬ 1696 → Purchased 3 villages (Calcutta, Govindapur, Sutanuti) and established Fort William in Calcutta
- ⑭ 1756 → Nawab Sirajuddaula came to power after the death of his grandfather Alivardi Khan and found himself surrounded by a group of palace conspirators.
- ⑮ 1600 → British East India Company was established with a royal charter of Queen Elizabeth I.
- ⑯ 1633 → Expanded to Bengal in 1633 through establishing a factory at Harsikarpur in Bihar.
- ⑰ 1651 → Received permission from Subedhara Shah Suja to trade in Bengal without any customs duties in lieu of a lump sum of Rs. 3000 only.
- ⑱ 1717 → Murshid Quli Khan became the first Nawab of Bengal replacing Subehdari system in 1717.
- ⑲ 1757 → Battle of Plassey and the conquest of British.

## Aftermath of the Battle of Plassey

- Nawab Sirajuddaula was defeated and killed.
- Mir Jafar became the puppet Nawab.
- Company became the king maker.
- Colonial rule started which lasted for 190 years.

## # Battle of Buxar

The battle of Buxar was fought on 23 October 1764 between the forces under the command of the British East India Company and the combined army of Mir Kasim, the Nawab of Bengal; Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Awadh and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.

## # Aftermath of the battle of Buxar

Immediately after the battle, Shah Alam II granted the Diwani right over Bengal to the East India Company in 1765, allowing it to collect revenue.

General effect that didn't go unnoticed by Awadh.

Engaged in about million of rupees was paid to the British.

## Aspirations for an Empire

After the battle of Buxar, Clive wrote to England: "We have at last arrived at that critical juncture, which I have long foreseen", he wrote to the chairman of the EIC. "I mean that conjuncture which renders it necessary for us to determine whether we can, or shall, take the whole [Mughal Empire] to ourselves."

### # The Great Bengal Famine of 1770: Chiyatturer Monnambur

- Clive became Diwan (the head of revenue and finance) which initiated dual system in Bengal.
- Land tax was increased fivefold.
- Resources of Bengal was drained to England through economic exploitation.
- Back to back <sup>natural</sup> calamities which resulted in shortfall in crops in 1769.
- Unchecked profiteering by British East India Company and its corrupt officials.
- The famine killed an estimated 10 million people in Bengal, approximately one third of the total population.

### Regulating Act of 1773

- To overhaul the management of the East India Company's rule in India, the parliament of Great Britain passed the Regulating Act of 1773.
- It was to control the company and consolidate British Empire in India.
- It prohibited the servants of company from engaging in any private trade or accepting presents or bribes from the locals.
- Warren Hastings was appointed as the first Governor General.

### Permanent Settlement Act, 1793

- Known as the 'Sunset Law'
- Zamindars were given the permanent ownership of the land instead of 1, 5 or 10 years. In return, they had to pay a fixed amount of tax before the end of the Bengali year.

## Objectives of Permanent Settlement Act

- Agricultural development.
- Creating a loyal elite class.
- Providing opportunity for collecting higher taxes.
- Rise of sub-infeudation.
- Impoverishment of the peasantry.

## Impact of the Permanent Settlement Act

- Taxes were doubled. Zamindars often failed to pay high taxes and lost their land.
- New land lords started growing from intermediaries and business elites.

⇒ Increase in the number of zamindars in Bengal:

1772

Slightly more than  
100

1872

1,59,200

## Impact of the Permanent Settlement Act

- Cash cropping for global markets
- Linkages to the global economy.
- Bengal exposed to the instability of the global markets.
- Regional specialization
- New institutions of rule.
- The rise of Calcutta and the Decay of Dhaka.

## Impact of British Rule

- Permanent Settlement Act changed the socio-economic structure of Bengal.
- British rule influenced the education and culture.
- Led social changes and reforms.
- Developed modern transport and communication.

## Nature of Colonial Policy

- \* Some reforms helped Indian society to grow positively and some had negative impacts.
- \* Core objectives of most reforms were to serve British administration.
- \* British claimed reforms were to civilize the Indians. This was truly reflected in the following statement of Thomas B. Macaulay (the law member of the Bentinck's council):  
"The aim of western education was to form a class who may be interpreters between us and the millions who we govern; a class of persons Indian in blood and colour but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and in intellect."

- The main idea was profit-maximizing and resource drain
  - As Robert Clive wrote to the board of directors:
 

"After maintaining all the expenditure (such as pension for Nawab and Emperor), the net profit of the company (1765-1766) was worthy as 12 crore and 50 lakh rupees."
- Estimated Revenue of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Present value</u>	<u>Pension of the Emperor</u>
1765-66	2-3 million	210 - 315 million pound	20 lakh rupees (26 million pound today)

- \*Revenue Policy was not peasant friendly
- \*Revenue was increased amid the great Bengal famine in 1770, which perished one-third of the total population.

—x—

### # Other Impacts of British Rule:

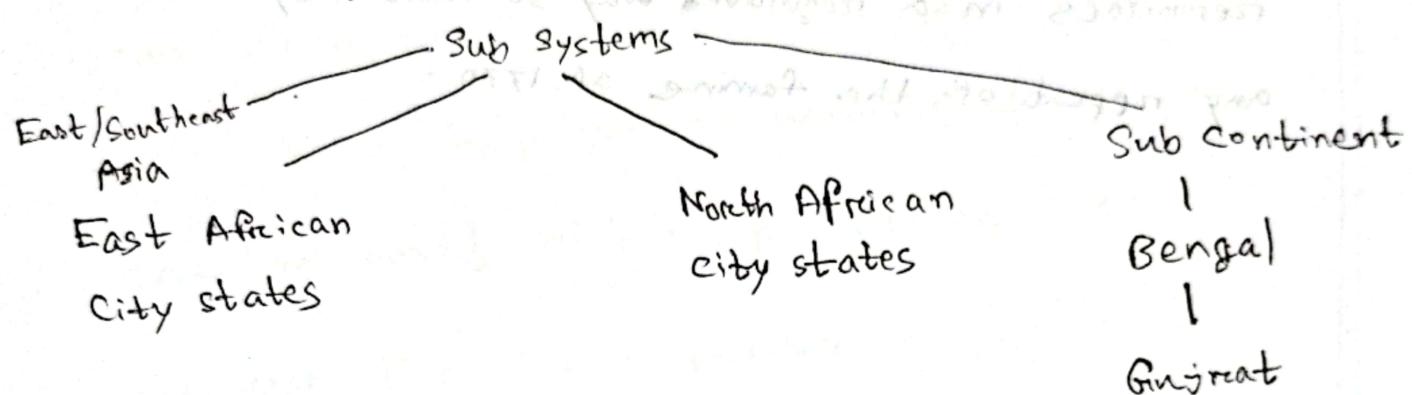
- Impoverishment of the peasantry and frequency of famine.
- Plethora of anti-British movements due to oppressive rule.
- Nationalism and identity-politics started
- Communal politics.
- Hindu-Muslim rivalry and riots
- The birth of India and Pakistan in 1947

Serfdom: A form of slavery.

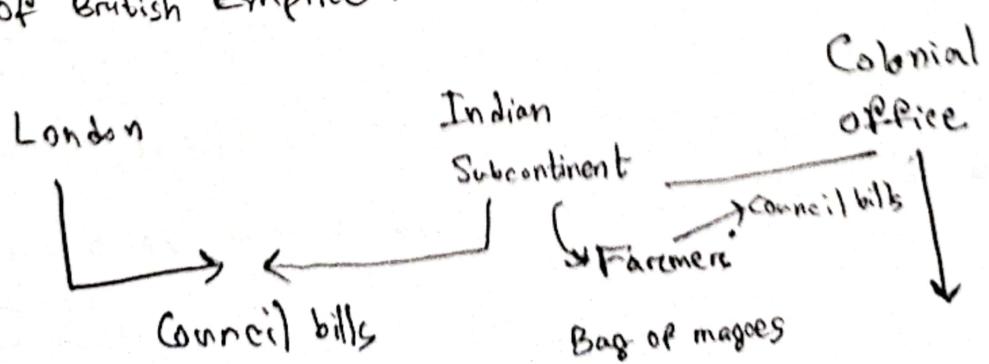
Serf: A serf is a farmer who is tied to a piece of land.

Sub System:

Sub-system is a system that is not integrated with the whole world and the sub-systems interacted with each other in various fields.



- Subhas Chandra Bose made the British mercenary army to disintegrate to an extent.
- The mercenary army was paid by the money of their own people.
- Council bill: a bill of transaction.
- Council bill was a instrument for closed economic zone in the colonies of British Empire.



## \* The Flawed Zamindari System:

- Zamindars collect taxes but also can be thrown out of the land.

# British Colonial Empire also brought some reforms in the sub-continent such as -

- Child Marriage
- SATI
- Female Infanticide
- Slavery
- Remarriage for widows.

\* The collapse of Awad (1856) triggered the Sepoy rebellion in 1857.

Awad — Present day 'Uttar Pradesh'.

1757 - 1915 + who was it? why he took that action? Impacts -----

Take home  
Assignment

## Communalism:

A system where people are discriminated based on their religion.

### # The rise of Religious Communalism in British India:

- Advent of British rule exacerbates and inflames religious tensions.
- Revolution of 1857, perceived as muslims Restorationist campaign.
- In reality, Hindus and Muslims fought together under the last Moghul emperor Shah Zafar II.
- Muslims received the brunt of British Savagery and anger.
- British made the Zamindari system by - getting Hindu overlords over muslim peasants, creating mindsets of sectarian violence in Indian Subcontinent.
- This exacerbates communalism in the British India.

### Summary of class-3

#### British India (1797-1857)

- \* Dual System and its plunders provoked Fakir-Sannyasi resistance.
- \* British brought many reforms within the Indian Sub-continent. It impacted positively to some extent but the core objectives of the most of the reforms were to serve British administration or to rationalize their rule.
- \* Early resistance movements had impacts on the later movements against the British.

#### Fakir-Sannyasi Resistance Movement:

One of the earliest movements is Fakir-Sannyasi movement. Reasons behind and the result of this movement were deep rooted in the then society of Bengal, geographically located at the Eastern India.

Consulted by the Zamindars, British government, in an ill-advised move, banned the collection of alms, treating them as looters.

This agitated the Fakires and Sannyasis, the Muslim and Hindu Religious Men, against the British government. Thus the first notable movement waved in the country.

This movement exerted the dormant determination of the people to fight for their community rights against alien rulers.

## # Tariqah-i-Muhammadiyah Movement:

- Leader: Meerz Nisar Ali, popularly known as Titu Mir.
- Titu Mir's puritanical movement turned to be the expression of the grievances of the peasants against British rule and their local agent Zamindars.
- Although the resistance uprising was crushed by powerful BEIC with support from local Zamindars like the previous one, it inspired later movements.

## # Farazi Movement:

- Leader: Haji Sharifullah
- Peasant centered movement.
- His Farazi movement emerged out as a peasant rebellion against the local Zamindars, Indigo & planters and their British masters.
- An agrarian agrarian revolt.
- After the death of Haji Sharifullah, his son Dudu Miyar took the leadership of the movement.
- Under Dudu Miyar, the movement got a more organised shape.

- The one most important result is that Faraiizi Movement worked as a forerunner of Muslim Nationalism in India.

## # Indigo resistance movement:

- Also known as Blue Mutiny.
- Only reason why small peasants cultivated indigo was the money came in advance.
- Huge demand for indigo cultivation highly profitable at that time.
- But the indigo market was volatile.
- Cultivators faced brutal oppression and exploitation by both Europeans and Zamindars.
- This rebellion (1859-60), supported by the middle class, overthrew the system of exploitation by a large rebellion.
- Result: The British government formed Indigo Commission in 1860 and made indigo cultivation flexible.

## #Santhal Rebellion (holi)

- Tribal based early resistance movement.
- Most famous tribal revolt (1855-56) ~~not taken by British~~
- Led by tribal leaders Sidu and Kanhu in Jharkhand.
- Reason: After British government destroyed forest lands for cultivation, Santhals got that opportunity on these lands.

But under the permanent settlement act, those lands were also given to the Zamindars.

The British and Indian money lenders were considered by Santhals as diku (foreigners) who grabbed the tribal lands.

Powerful English rulers with the help of the local feudal chiefs suppressed the rebellion.

This rebellion also left behind a legacy of peasant resistance.

## # Sepoy Rebellion / Sepoy Mutiny:

- The Indians considered it as the first war of Independence against the British.
- Began with a military mutiny started by a Sepoy named Mangal Pandey.
- Both Hindu and Muslim soldiers participated.
- North India was the epicentre.
- The revolutionaries took control of Delhi and reinstated the Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar as the absolute authority.
- The British government brutally crushed the rebellion.
- Exiled the Mughal emperor to Burma (Myanmar).
- Although crushed, it triggered Indian Nationalism.
- Aftermath:

✓ BEIC rule was abolished and British crown took over the rule of colonial India in 1858.

\* It seems the power handed over from a monster to a bigger one.

✓ The switch of power meant that instead of Governor General, India would be ruled under a Crown's Viceroy.

## Swadeshi Movement:

- Had a deep rooted impact on the Bengal society.
- Main objective was to establish self rule of India.

India

- Popular tactics of the movement were —

- ✓ Boycotting British products/goods.

- ✓ Civil Disobedience

- ✓ Political Assassination

## Noteable Revolutionaries:

- Khudiram Basu

- Bagha Jatin

- Binoy, Badal, Dinesh

- Pratilota Waddedar

- Surendra Sen

## Tebhaga movement:

- Occurred in North Bengal to establish the right to own two-third of crops of sharecroppers or Bongachasis against the landlords or Jotedars in September, 1946.

- Leaders: Rani Ma, Ila Mitra

## # Bengal Renaissance:

- Development of literature can be known by the emergence of Rabindranath Tagore, Micheal Madhusudan Dutt, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Begum Rokeya....
- Modernization of Bengali as a language took place by developing grammar of Bengali language and translations.
- In the field of Technology Bengali people started to set their footholds . People like Jagadish Chandra Bose, one of the fathers of Radio Science and Satyendra Nath Bose, a famous physicist are clear evidence of the development of this field.

## Communalism (continued):

- As jobs and economic activities open up under the raja; Hindus are welcomed and undertake opportunities.
- Muslims, for the most part withdraw from this exchange.
- Situation is more pronounced in places such as Bengal than in the Northwestern areas of the Indian Subcontinent.
- In fact; there is a perception by mid 19th century that Bengali muslims are a small percentage of population of Bengal.
- An official raj census in 1872 however reveals that Bengali muslims are a large minority; with a majority in Eastern Bengal.
- Bengali Hindus are increasingly demanding more rights; including political rights. (Mainly Upper class/caste Hindus)
- Therefore, a calculation is made to count Bengali Muslims.
- This creates a middle class bengali Hindu population. But the muslims remain backwards.

### • Religious Revitalism:

Revitalism is to bring something back.

- Because the upper caste Hindus were becoming more prone to British cultural practices, religious revitalism arises to bring back people back to traditional lifestyle ~~under~~ on the spectrum of Religion.

\* Ganapati festival was celebrating chief Shivaji Bhonsle.

\* Meant to communicate both Maratha pride and Anti-British expressions but eventually takes Anti-Muslim slant/sentiment.

\* Because of the Myth of Shivaji.

This gives rise to communal tensions.

- Cow Protection societies:  
↳ Informed Govt. not to permit  
The controversy of cow meat
- Historical context:  
↳ Historian D.N. JHA found beef was actually accepted by the upper caste Hindus in Ancient times.  
But the cow protection societies opposed and this revitalist org. make this a issue which didn't exist before.
- 1888: Imperial court in North western portion made beef is not sacred.  
↳ Triggers the first of communal riots between Hindus and Muslims.  
↳ Galvanizes well off muslims to also take the field.

## # The Partition of Bengal

- Why partition?

→ considered too unwieldy for administrative purposes.

The Raj is increasingly concerned that Bengali middle-classes are asserting themselves politically.

- Fearful of a Bengali Nationalism that can challenge the British Empire
- George Curzon, Raj & Governor of Bengal suggests breaking Bengal.
  - If break Bengal, you can break the power of Bengali middle class politically.
  - Win support of Muslims with the creation of their own province.
  - Curzon burns eastern Bengal.
  - Bengal united considered as a power and divided was an opportunity for the British.

## # The Swadeshi Movement:

\* Initial phase

\* Moderate phase / Constructive phase:

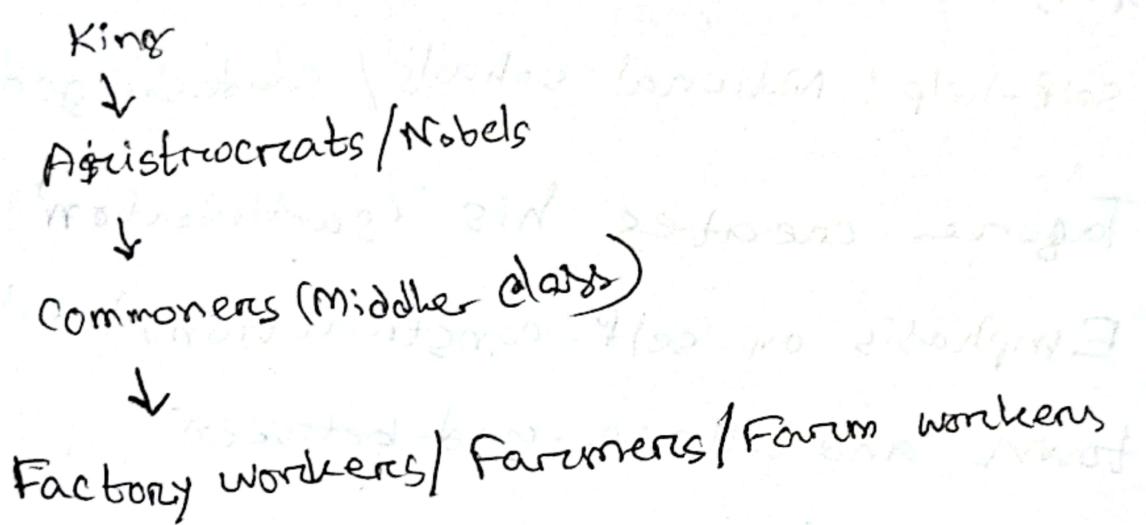
it  
Splits into two movements

- self-help: National schools / swadeshi goods / village councils
- Tagore creates his 'santiniketan' school.
- Emphasis on self-construction, building links between town and village.

## # Extreme phase:

- British repression on the Swadeshi activists.
- Tagore backs away from the movement.
- Radical minded people come into play. People like Arbind Ghosh.
- No longer content with the reversal of partition.
- Wants the outright independence.
- Creation of samitis (Societies)
- These orgs. train the revolutionaries.
- Use religious imagery; off putting Bengalee muslims.

- During the Industrial revolution (18<sup>th</sup> century), Karl Marx observed societies within the context of class struggle.



### Magna Carta:

Transfer of some of the powers from the king to the nobels / representatives.

### # French Revolution: (1789)

- Karl Marx believed the historical events enfold the way the world shapes. So, the industrial revolution is going to create the historical agents of change in sort of a revolutionary way.
- But 1857 Indian revolution changes Marx's opinion. Because everyone from all classes rise against the British empire.

### # Russian Revolution (1917):

- Proved wrong the Marx's idea of the leadership of revolution, at the industrial labour towards the peasants.
- Established the Soviet Union (Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics)

## Swadeshi movement (cont.):

- Unable to reach industry & workers and consequently boycott fails in the end.
- Leads to the rise of the 'New Era' groups.
- Aurobindo Ghose authorizes his younger brother Barin Ghose to create a secret revolutionary group, known as New Era group.
- In 1908: Khudiram Bose throws bomb at carriage carrying British personnel.
- 1908-1938: The new era and other allied revolutionary terrorist groups remain committed to attacks on symbols of British empire.

## Indian National Congress: (1885)

## All India Muslim League (1906)

- In 1911, ~~reversed~~ the partition of Bengal.

British Cabinet → Secretary of State  
for India



Imperial Viceroy (Governor General)



- 1909 — British empire brought some reforms.
- Principle of election. But separate electorates.  
Meaning muslims voting for muslims, hindus voting  
for hindus etc. creating separatist mindset,  
curiously destroying a united resistance against  
the British.

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