

# UPSC Mains – GS Paper 1

## Chapter 1: *Transition of the Eighteenth Century*

*Based on **From Plassey to Partition** by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay*

**Q.1 [Mughal Decline and Regional Powers].** "The decline of the Mughal Empire did not result in a political vacuum, but in the rise of regional powers with their own legitimacy." Discuss with examples.

**Q.2 [Historiography of the 18th Century].** Critically analyze the nature of the eighteenth century in India: was it a period of decay or transformation?

**Q.3 [Economic Resilience].** How did the economic structure of India sustain itself despite political fragmentation after Aurangzeb?

**Q.4 [Role of the Marathas].** Evaluate the role of the Marathas in shaping the political landscape of eighteenth-century India.

**Q.5 [Agrarian Structure and Revenue].** How did the weakening of Mughal central authority impact agrarian society and revenue collection?

**Q.6 [Battle of Plassey].** "The Battle of Plassey was less a battle and more a betrayal." Examine in the context of the East India Company's rise.

**Q.7 [European Trading Companies].** Discuss the impact of European trading companies on Indian politics during the first half of the 18th century.

**Q.8 [Successor States].** What were the key features of successor states like Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad? How did they maintain autonomy?

**Q.9 [Dark Age Debate].** Was the eighteenth century truly a "dark age" in Indian history? Discuss with reference to recent historiography.

**Q.10 [Urban Economy].** Describe the socio-economic profile of urban centres like Murshidabad, Surat, and Delhi in the 18th century.

**Q.11 [Company's Political Rise].** Examine the transformation of the East India Company from a trading body to a political power in the 18th century.

**Q.12 [Regionalism and Colonial Resistance].** How did regional politics in the 18th century affect India's resistance to colonialism?

**Q.13 [Succession Policies].** To what extent did the failure of succession policies under the Mughals contribute to the decline of imperial control?

**Q.14 [Carnatic Wars].** Assess the nature and significance of the Carnatic Wars in the context of Anglo-French rivalry in India.

**Q.15 [Forces of Political Transformation].** Examine how internal and external forces together contributed to the transformation of Indian polity in the 18th century.

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## Chapter 2: *British Empire in India*

*Based on **From Plassey to Partition** by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay*

**Q.1 [Imperial Ideology].** How did the British justify their rule in India? Critically examine the ideological foundations of the British Empire.

**Q.2 [Role of Parliament and the Company].** Discuss the evolution of British parliamentary control over the East India Company's administration in India.

**Q.3 [Permanent Settlement].** Evaluate the economic and social impact of the Permanent Settlement on Indian society.

**Q.4 [Revenue Systems].** Compare and contrast the major land revenue systems introduced by the British in India.

**Q.5 [Administrative Structure].** How did the British administrative apparatus evolve between 1765 and 1857?

**Q.6 [British Policy and Indian Peasantry].** Discuss the impact of British land revenue policies on the Indian peasantry in the 18th and early 19th century.

**Q.7 [Doctrine of Lapse and Subsidiary Alliances].** Analyze the role of Doctrine of Lapse and Subsidiary Alliances in the expansion of British territory.

**Q.8 [Colonial Economy].** To what extent did British economic policies transform India into a colonial economy?

**Q.9 [Impact on Artisans and Trade].** How did the British rule affect India's traditional industries and artisan classes?

**Q.10 [Judicial and Legal Reforms].** Discuss the nature and consequences of the British introduction of Western legal and judicial institutions in India.

**Q.11 [Education Policy].** How did the early British education policy serve colonial interests? Was it merely a tool of cultural imperialism?

**Q.12 [Ideological Hegemony].** Explain how the British established ideological hegemony in India using law, education, and institutions.

**Q.13 [Colonial Knowledge Systems].** Discuss how the British production of knowledge (gazetteers, surveys, censuses) contributed to imperial control.

**Q.14 [Company to Crown].** Trace the administrative and institutional changes between 1757 and 1858 that enabled the transition from Company rule to Crown rule.

**Q.15 [Fiscal Drain].** Critically evaluate the theory of “economic drain” under British rule and its implications for Indian development.