

## CHAPTER 1

# History—When, Where and How



### The Big Idea

- British periodisation of Indian history
- colonisation of India
- major developments in India under colonial rule
- sources of modern Indian history

### History Maker

Dinabandhu Mitra (1829-1874) wrote the drama called *Nil Darpan*, which highlighted the exploitation of farmers who were forced to grow indigo instead of food crops under the Ryotwari System introduced by the British. This work sheds light on the reasons behind the Indigo Revolt that took place in 1859 in Bengal.

### At a Glance

#### Modern Indian History

##### Periodisation by James Mill

- Hindu
- Muslim
- British

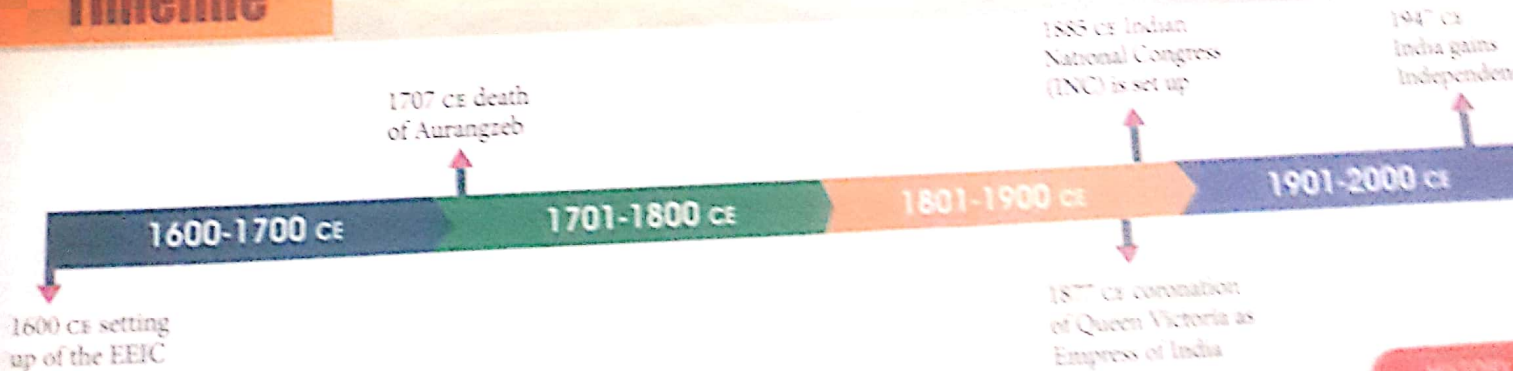
##### India under Colonial Rule

- political developments
- economic changes
- social changes
- rise of nationalism

##### Sources of Modern Indian History

- administrative
- non-administrative

### Timeline





In this book, we will read about the changes which the Indian subcontinent experienced from the 18th century onwards, following the arrival of the European traders, particularly the British. This period is called the Modern Period (Modern India), the British Period (British India) or more recently, the **colonial period**. Let us study it in detail.

## BRITISH PERIODISATION OF INDIAN HISTORY

In the 19th century, when British historians started writing the history of India, they showed little appreciation of Indian society, economy and politics.

- Ancient and medieval India, before the arrival of the British, was regarded as a period of little or no development, with the ordinary people suffering under cruel rulers.
- There were several social evils in the society such as *sati*, caste system and low status of women. Thus, in their view, the modern period of Indian history began with establishment of the British rule.
- The history of modern India, written by British historians, focused primarily on the rule of the British Governor-Generals. They completely ignored issues of the daily life of the people. They also did not explain how new ideas and movements spread, became popular and how socio-cultural transformations took place.

The British thinker and historian, James Mill, in his book *The History of British India* (1817), denounced the pre-British period and glorified the British rule in India. He divided Indian history into three periods—Hindu, Muslim and British.



◆ James Mill

- While the 'Hindu' and 'Muslim' periods were identified with everything that obstructed the growth of Indian society, the 'British' period was seen as the dawn of modern civilisation, characterised by **egalitarian**-progressive values.
- In the modern or British period, a number of changes such as urbanisation, development of faster means of transport and communication and new industrial techniques transformed the life of the people.
- The British also took credit for introducing a uniform and modern administrative structure throughout the country. Mill's view was supported by a dominant section of British administrators and historians called the **Anglicists**.

However, later historians questioned this periodisation of Indian history and pointed out the following drawbacks:

- It was based solely on the religion followed by the rulers. The historians pointed out how rulers of diverse faiths have co-existed in India at all times and have also ruled during the same period.
- It ignored significant historical developments in the Indian society, economy and culture.
- Moreover, such a periodisation suggests that the beliefs of the common people did not matter. The historians challenged Mill's periodisation. They pointed out that the British period was not all that **enlightened** because under British rule, people in India did not have freedom or liberty; many had no access to equality. According to them, even the benefits of economic growth made during the British period do not seem to have reached the common man. Hence, they referred to the British period of Indian history as the **colonial period**.

### Words to Know

**egalitarian**: characterised by belief in the equality of all

**enlightened**: having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook



## Class Discussion

Is Mill's periodisation of Indian history acceptable to you? Give reasons.



- ◆ a British family with its Indian servants in colonial India  
As per the idea of realism in Europe, the people in the painting look as 'real' as possible.

## COLONISATION OF INDIA

When one country is ruled by another, many political, economic, social and cultural changes take place in the colonised country. This process is called **colonisation**. The country which is ruled by another country is called its **colony**, while the country that rules is called the **imperialist country**. The imperialist country colonises in order to derive maximum benefit for itself by exploiting the economy of its colony.

Following the **Industrial Revolution**, England's industrial production increased within a short span of time. The need to control territories that would serve as markets for their products and also supply raw materials for their domestic industries resulted in the colonisation of many non-European countries by England. That was how India became a colony of England. Let us see how this happened.

### Words to Know

**Industrial Revolution:** a term used for the changes in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, transport and technology that affected the social, economic and cultural milieu of Europe, between the 18th and 19th centuries

**envoy:** ambassador or representative

**Farman:** royal decree or order



◆ East India House, London, c. 1800

In 1600 CE, a group of English traders founded the English East India Company (EEIC) in London. A Royal Charter was granted to it by Queen, Elizabeth I of England. Earlier, Thomas Roe, the **envoy** of King James I of England, got certain trading rights for the EEIC from the Mughal emperor, Jahangir. Later, the Mughal emperor, Farrukhsiyar, granted important trading rights to the English merchants through a royal **farman**.

## INDIA UNDER COLONIAL RULE: MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The major developments in India under colonial rule included political, economic, social and cultural changes. The period also witnessed the rise of Indian nationalism. Let us study these developments in detail.

### Political Developments

- The establishment of the British Indian Empire marked the most significant political change during the colonial period. In 1757, the Indian subcontinent was divided into several kingdoms and provinces. Over the next 190 years, the British established direct rule over large parts of India. They indirectly ruled over all other local kingdoms



or **princely states**. Till 1857, the EEIC ruled the conquered territories in the Indian subcontinent. Thereafter, the British Crown exercised direct control.

- Another important development was the rise of an organised opposition to British rule by Indians. Initially, it was led by local zamindars, peasants, **sepoys** and tribal people. Later, it became more organised under English-educated groups, collectively known as the **nationalists**.
- The establishment of a constitutional, administrative, legal, military and political structure through which the British ruled India was also an important political development during colonial period.

#### ANALYTICAL SKILLS

### Analysing Sources of History

Look at the photograph of sepoy of the English East India Company. Compare their appearance and uniform with a modern-day soldier of the Indian Army.



◆ an eighteenth-century painting of a woman wearing fine muslin clothes

- When India became a full-fledged colony, it exported raw materials such as jute and cotton to England for the British factories in Scotland and Manchester. The finished goods made at these factories were then sold back to Indians at prices much higher than

#### Words to Know

**princely states:** territories or principalities not under the direct control of the British and ruled by Indians

**sepoys:** Indian soldiers in the British army

**calico:** a plain-woven cotton textile

**bullion:** gold or silver in bulk before coining





- Widespread reform movements were led by social reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dayanand Saraswati and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

- Some significant **legislations** were passed by the British government, which:

- banned *sati*
- encouraged widow remarriage
- prevented child marriage
- regulated education of the girl child

- Another important change was an effort to integrate tribal people into mainstream society.

- Another set of changes affected the Indian educational system. The British required a large number of people to run different levels of administration. Therefore,

they overhauled the traditional system of education, leading to the birth of an English-educated middle class in India. This class not only produced bureaucrats to serve the British rulers, it gave rise to some outstanding leaders of the **Indian National Movement**.

## Indian Nationalism

- The term **nationalism** signifies a great love for one's motherland and a desire to liberate it from foreign rule. Western education (a generic term for English education) brought in ideas of democracy, equality, liberty and nationhood, which inspired educated Indians to question the British rule.

those at which the raw materials were bought from India. Overall, trade which had initially favoured India became unfavourable.

- Another change came about due to de-industrialisation. De-industrialisation led to the destruction of traditional industries like weaving, pottery, iron-smelting and brass works which often posed a challenge to British trade and manufacturing.

## Social Changes

Some important social changes took place during this period. They dealt with issues of the caste system, tribal societies and treatment meted out to women.

**Word to Know** **legislation:** law



- The educated Indians felt that it was the right of Indians to determine the manner in which they should be governed. So, the development of the concept of India as a nation and Indians as a people led to the struggle for freedom.

## SOURCES OF MODERN INDIAN HISTORY



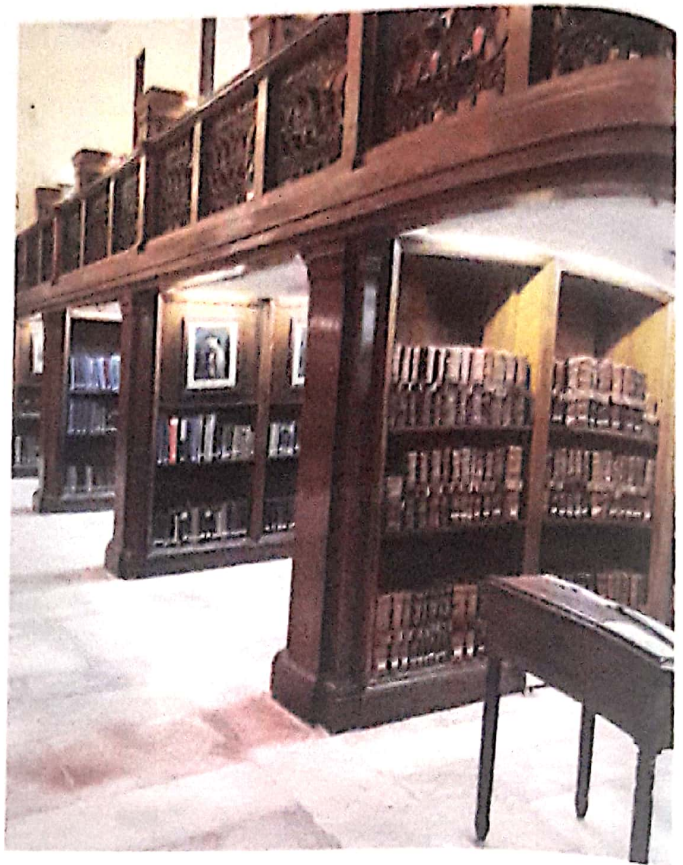
The modern period of Indian history can be reconstructed using a large number of sources including written records in English and regional languages. These include both administrative and non-administrative sources.

### Administrative Sources

Administrative sources are written records of the British in India prepared by administrators, officials and historians appointed by the colonial government. These are official records, surveys and mapping.

### Official Records

- Official records of the British administration are a very important source as the British believed that every instruction, plan policy and decision had to be written and recorded for clarity, and as ready reference for quoting in case of a dispute.
- There are about 300 collections and over 3,000 smaller deposits of private papers, relating mainly to the experiences of the British in India. The collection of such documents is called an **archive**. Record rooms attached to administrative institutions were set up by the British.
- Archives and museums also preserved records. Letters and memos that moved from one branch of the administration to another in early 19th century can still be read at the archives. Calligraphists carefully copied out these documents and with the spread of printing, several copies were printed and handed over to each government department.



◆ present-day National Archives of India

### Surveys and Mapping

- The British believed that a country had to be properly known before it could be effectively administered. So, they conducted surveys and made maps for various administrative purposes.
- The Survey of India was set up at Dehradun, which made detailed maps of towns, villages, mountains and coasts.
- The map of the Hyderabad region was made by Dr HW Voysey in 1821. It was the first proper geological map made in India.
- The maps of the colonial period help us know about the rural and urban patterns of settlements and how they have changed over a period of time.
- In villages, revenue surveys were conducted. From the end of the 19th century, census operations were held every ten years to prepare detailed records of the number of people in India.





- ◆ The British collected information about the flora and fauna of India, asking artists to make intricate sketches depicting them. (from left to right: green-winged macaw; flying squirrel; comb drake; black stork, c. 1780)

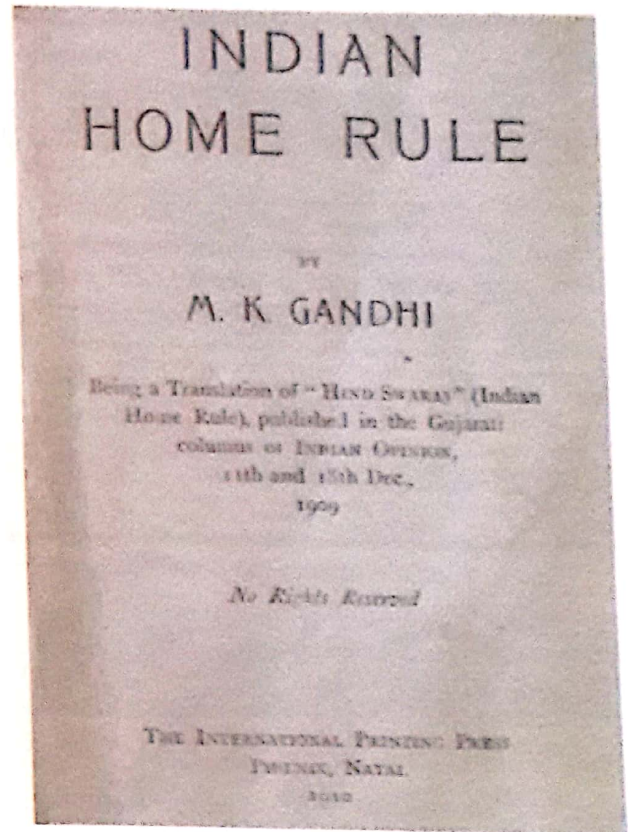
## Non-administrative Sources

The non-administrative sources are printed books, biographies and autobiographies, newspapers, magazines, letters, pamphlets, films, photographs, paintings, artefacts and historical buildings.

### Printed Books

With the introduction of the printing press, more books were produced and were easily available for the common people.

- The collections of speeches delivered by Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose, or the hundred volumes of Gandhiji's collected works, are extremely important as they place the past events in correct perspective.
- Dadabhai Naoroji's book *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*, attacked the British government's economic policies, and is an important source for the economic history of this period.
- Sarat Chandra Chatterji and Munshi Premchand wrote about the peasants and the downtrodden.
- These books helped in the spread of the nationalist spirit among the masses; government records, on the other hand, spoke only of the administrative measures taken during the period, suggesting what the British wished to preserve for posterity.



- ◆ the first edition of the English translation of *Hind Swaraj* by MK Gandhi

### Biographies and Autobiographies

- A number of biographies and autobiographies were written by people during this period.
- Among these writers, there were many talented women who criticised the social differences between men and women. One of the most important writers of this period was Tarabai Shinde who wrote *Stri Purush Tulana*.

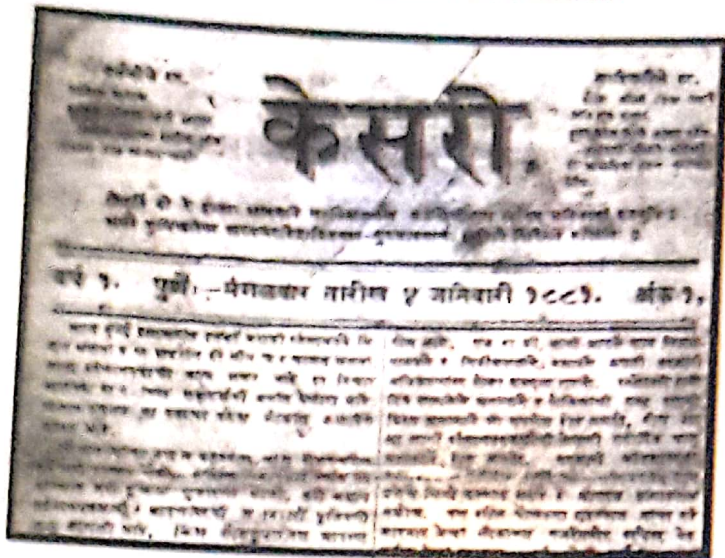
### Newspapers, Magazines, Letters and Pamphlets

- A large number of newspapers, magazines and pamphlets were also printed throughout India



in different languages. These are important sources because they include editorials, cartoons, news and letters which throw light on various perspectives of society.

- Among the earliest newspapers in India, *Mirat-ul-Akhbar*, in Persian, was published by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, and Bal Gangadhar Tilak printed the *Kesari* in Marathi.



◆ an old copy of the *Kesari*

## Films

Documentary and feature films help in the study of this period. Watching these films leaves a lasting impression, as though we are seeing these events with our own eyes.

- Sir Richard Attenborough's film *Gandhi* includes an actual news reel of Gandhiji's visit to Manchester.
- Another film *Achhut Kanya*, a love story of an untouchable girl and a Brahmin boy, was a commercial success.
- Films like *Pather Panchali* by Satyajit Ray present a realistic picture of Bengal's famine and rural life during the colonial period.

Many such films are stored with the Films Division, a unit under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

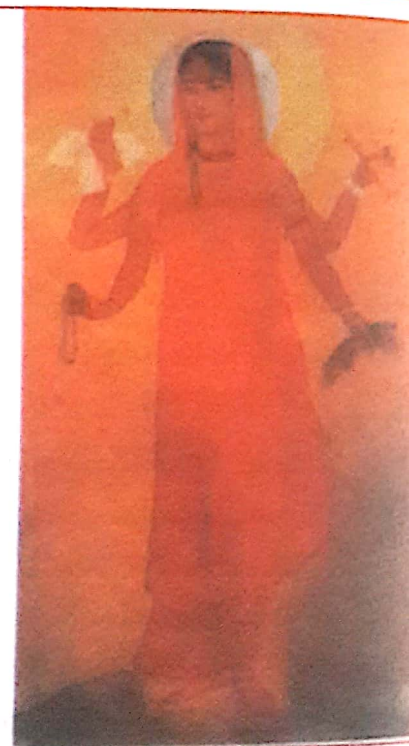
## Photographs, Paintings and Artefacts

- Photography, a new and valuable medium of art, captures historical moments for posterity and facilitates a near-perfect historical representation.
- Various statues, rare paintings, coins and artefacts throw light on various aspects of society, culture and economy. They show national leaders and great historical personalities. For example, paintings of *Bharat Mata* in different styles reflect the progressive attitude of the Indian nationalists.



- ◆ a poster of the film, *Achhut Kanya*; This movie was produced by the studio, Bombay Talkies, that came into existence in 1934.

- ◆ *Bharat Mata* by Abanindranath Tagore, one of the painters who established the Bengal School of Art; This school rejected the European style of painting and took inspiration from various indigenous art styles of India.





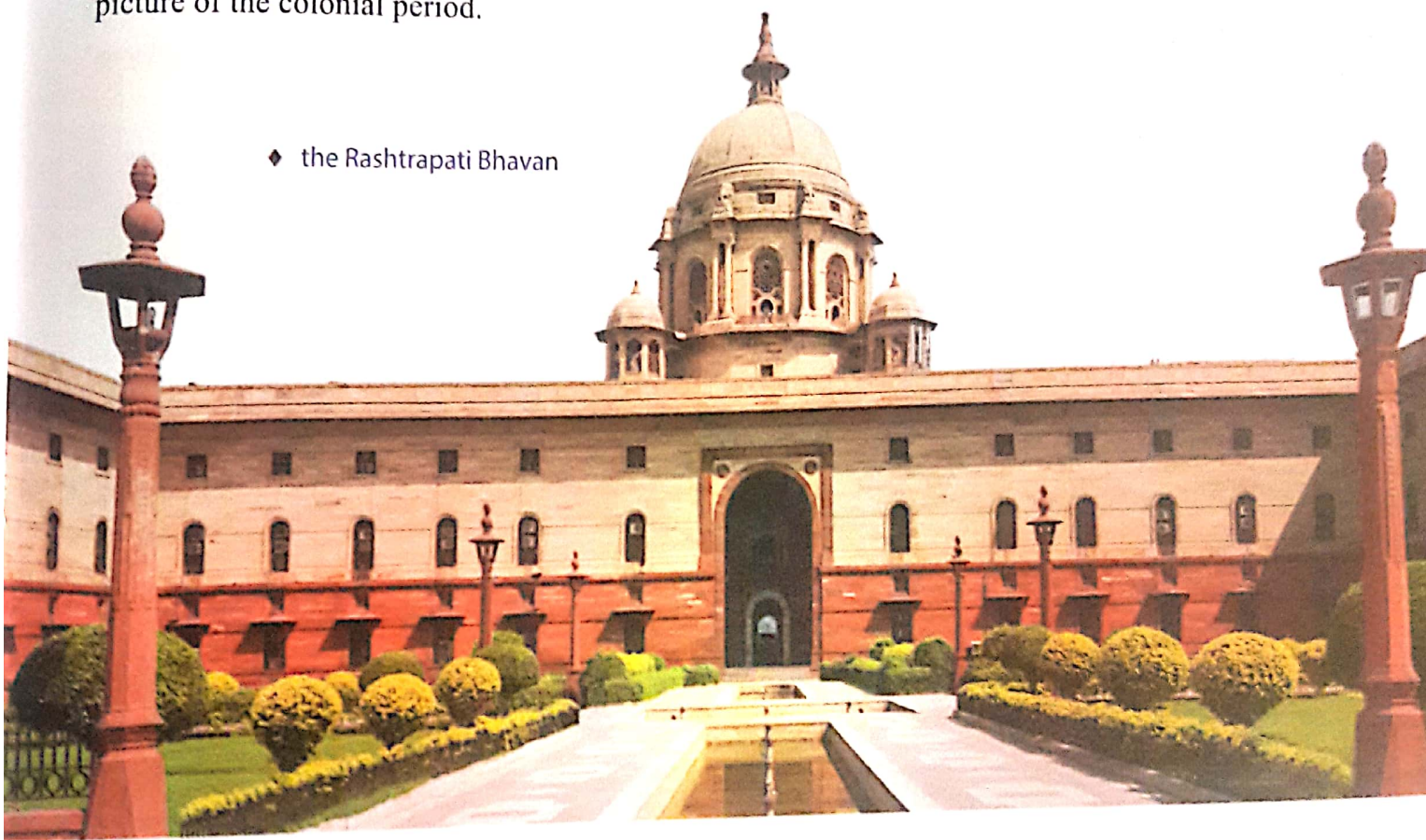
## Historical Buildings

- Many buildings of this period are still standing throughout the country. India Gate, Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhavan and Birla House in Delhi, where Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, are some famous examples.
- These buildings bear testimony to some of the important political developments of the modern period.
- They also echo major trends in architecture. For example, Lutyens' Delhi, an area named after its British architect, Edwin Lutyens, is the best example of colonial architecture. Lutyens designed a number of famous buildings during this period.

## Oral History

Stories told to us by our elders, who witnessed the freedom movement first-hand, also give us a true picture of the colonial period.

◆ the Rashtrapati Bhavan



## What Was Happening Elsewhere

GLOBAL CONNECT/COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

- The United States of America (USA) achieved independence from British rule. Modern-day **United States of America** came into being in 1783, with George Washington as its first President.
- Based on modern democratic principles of equality, liberty and fraternity, the **French Revolution** took place in 1789. It brought to an end the rule of the French emperor, Louis XVI.
- The **Industrial Revolution** (late 1700s to the mid-1800s) began in Britain with the textile industry. New manufacturing processes came in and production started taking place in large factories. With the Industrial Revolution, a new economic system called **capitalism** arose. In this system, individuals and not the government owned the means of production (such as capital, land, etc.) and they used the same to amass maximum profit for themselves.



## Chapter Checklist

Tick (✓) the concepts you have understood.

British periodisation of Indian history into Hindu, Muslim and British periods had serious drawbacks.

With the British colonisation of India widespread political, economic, social and cultural changes took place in India.

The history of the British period can be reconstructed relying on administrative and non-administrative records. The former consists of official written records, surveys and mapping, while the non-administrative records are in the form of printed books, biographies/autobiographies, newspapers, magazines, letters/pamphlets, photographs, paintings and artefacts, historical buildings, and films.

## Let's Recall

### I. Check your understanding by unscrambling the answers given in brackets.



1. the British thinker and historian who divided Indian history into three periods (MEJAS LLIM)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. a country which rules another country for its own economic benefit ( PIMREILSTAI) \_\_\_\_\_
3. deep love for one's motherland (LNIMSATAION) \_\_\_\_\_
4. a collection of official documents relating to British experiences (RHCSAVIE) \_\_\_\_\_
5. founder of India's earliest newspaper (AARJ MAR OHNMA OYR) \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Give one reason for each of the following statements.

1. James Mill's periodisation of Indian history was flawed.
2. Britain needed to colonise vast territories.
3. The British introduced English-based education in India.
4. British administrators kept records attached to all administrative institutions.
5. Photographs are an invaluable source for studying modern Indian history.

### III. Answer the following in one sentence.



1. Which groups of people came to India as traders in the beginning of the 18th century?
2. Who supported James Mill's periodisation of Indian history?
3. Give the full form of EEIC.
4. Which raw materials did India sell to the British after it became a full-fledged British colony?
5. What was the name of the book written by Tarabai Shinde.

### IV. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. What is the relation between a colony and the imperialist country?
2. Explain how British traders became the rulers of India.
3. How did India become de-industrialised during this period?
4. Give brief details of the social legislations introduced by the British.
5. Write a note on the films made on the modern period of Indian history.

### V. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. How did James Mill divide Indian history? Explain.



# From Trade to Territory



## The Big Idea

- rise of mercantilism and expansion of European trade
- European trading companies in India
- English East India Company's early years in India
- expansion of the British Empire
- administrative structures under the British

## History Maker

**Captain William Hawkins** commanded an English East India Company (EEIC) ship and reached Surat (a Mughal port) in 1608. Representing the king of England, James I, Hawkins succeeded in obtaining certain trade concessions from the Mughal emperor, Jahangir. As a result, a trading post was established in Surat by the EEIC in 1609.

## At a Glance

### Mercantilism and Expansion of European Trade

#### English East India Company's Struggle for Power

#### Carnatic Wars

#### conquest of Bengal

#### territorial expansion

First Carnatic War

Second Carnatic War

Third Carnatic War

Subsidiary Alliance

direct military conquest

Doctrine of Lapse

Battle of Plassey

Battle of Buxar

establishment of dyarchy

## Timeline

1609 CE *farman* obtained by EEIC to set up a factory at Surat

1615-1619 CE Sir Thomas Roe received more *farmans* which allowed setting up of more factories in India

1757 CE Battle of Plassey

1767-1799 CE Anglo-Mysore Wars

1817-1819 CE Third Anglo-Maratha War

1600-1700 CE

1701-1800 CE

1801-1900 CE

1746-1763 CE Carnatic Wars

1764 CE Battle of Buxar



In this chapter, you will unravel how the English East India Company (EEIC), which came as a trading company, eventually, became the supreme political power in India. You will study how they consolidated their rule.

## MERCANTILISM AND THE EXPANSION OF EUROPEAN TRADE

The origin of the EEIC and its powers lay in the economic theory of **mercantilism** popular in Europe at that time. According to this theory, the prosperity of a country depends on its capability to produce more than it consumes and export more than it imports in order to maintain a positive balance of trade.

Overseas trade, which was almost wholly carried out by sea routes, was important in the practice of mercantilism. In 1498, the Portuguese navigator and explorer, Vasco da Gama discovered a rather long sea route to India from Europe. Traders who chose this route had to sail down the coast of West Africa to the tip of South Africa and then sail up again to Calicut (modern-day Kozhikode in Kerala). However, for the European traders, this route became necessary because the Ottoman Empire in Turkey and West Asia had disrupted traditional land routes. Following this discovery, the first Europeans to establish their trading and administrative centres in India were the Portuguese.

## EUROPEAN TRADING COMPANIES IN INDIA

After the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco da Gama, the Portuguese were followed by the Dutch, French and English merchants, who came to India to trade in spices and textiles. They established their trading centres in India. Let us study about these traders in detail.

### The Portuguese

- The Portuguese were the first European traders to reach India.



◆ Calicut (c. 1572)

- Though they landed in Calicut, their important colonial settlements were Goa, Daman and Diu. They were only able to retain their possessions in western India.
- Goa remained with the Portuguese till 1961, after which it became a part of India.

### The Dutch

- By the early 17th century, the Dutch established their trading centres at Surat, Ahmedabad, Broach, Karaikal, Pulicat, Balasore, Nagapattinam and Masulipatnam.
- Eventually, they shifted their attention to the **Far East** and established a colonial empire in Java and Indonesia.

### The French

- The French East India Company, established in 1664, sought to expand its base in India.
- It posed a challenge to the EEIC.
- The early French settlements in India were Pondicherry (now Puducherry), Chandernagore, Mahe and Karaikal.

## THE EEIC: EARLY YEARS

- The EEIC set up its first trading post in Surat in 1609. In 1615, Sir Thomas Roe arrived in India as the English ambassador to the court of Jahangir. He stayed till 1619 and received a royal *farman* which allowed the EEIC to



**FACTORIES AND AGENCIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMPANIES IN INDIA - 1705**



- eastern India—Balasore, Orissa (now Odisha) (1633) and Hugli, Bengal (1651)
- fortified operational bases in Madras (now Chennai), Bombay (now Mumbai) and Calcutta (now Kolkata)

• Bombay, a group of islands, was under the control of the Portuguese. In May 1661, when the British prince Charles II married the Portuguese princess Catherine of Braganza, he got Bombay as Catherine's dowry from her father, King John IV of Portugal. Subsequently, the islands of Bombay were given to the EEIC on lease for a sum of £ 10 per annum.

**THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER**

The establishment of the trading companies by various European powers in India resulted in fierce competition and rivalry. All of them wanted to earn maximum profits and attain a monopoly

up more factories. Thus, apart from Surat, the English established factories and bases at many other places:

- western India—Broach (modern-day Bharuch) and Ahmedabad
- south India—Masulipatnam (1611)

**Class Discussion**

Why did the British set up their first factories on the western coast?

over trade. However, this was possible only when they were able to:

- eliminate other rival companies
- have control over the political power of the countries with which they had trade relations

Thus, a struggle for greater colonial possessions started. By the 18th century, the British and the French arose as the two major powers. The Portuguese lost their monopoly over Indian trade while the Dutch were defeated and turned

**Words to Know**

- factories:** (here) places where goods for trade were stocked
- rivalry:** competition for the same goal or for getting ahead in something
- monopoly:** (here) exclusive control over trade
- eliminate:** completely remove or get rid of (something)



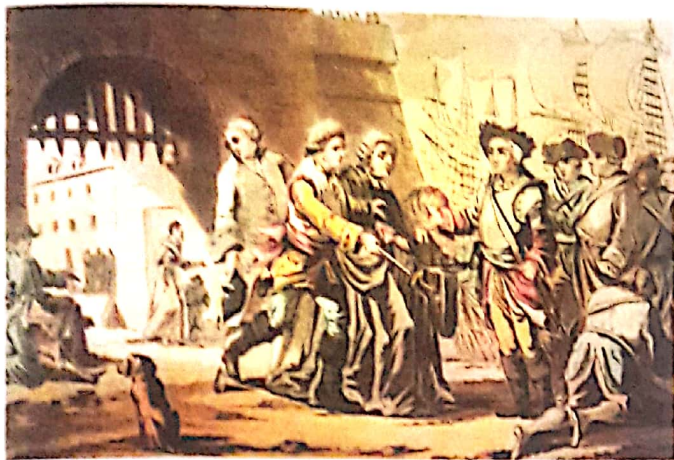
towards the spice trade in the Indonesian islands. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, England and France, traditional rivals in Europe, fought several wars in India whenever their political and economic ambitions **clashed**. Finally, by the middle of the 18th century, the English were victorious, having **ousted** the other European powers from the Indian trade market.

## THE CARNATIC WARS

The Carnatic Wars, fought between 1746 and 1763, manifested the diplomatic and military struggle between the French East India Company and the EEIC. The coastal Carnatic region, a **dependency** of Hyderabad, became the battleground of this struggle.

### The First Carnatic War (1746–48)

The First Carnatic War had its origins in Europe, when a war broke out, in 1742, between England and France. When the British, supported by the Nawab of Carnatic, captured some French ships, the French captured Fort St George.



◆ the British surrender Madras to the French, 1746

The **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748)** ended the First Carnatic War. The French got the Louisburg region in North America, while the English got back Madras.

### The Second Carnatic War (1749–54)

With the death of the rulers of Carnatic and

Hyderabad, a war of succession broke out; the British and the French sided with opposite groups. In the Carnatic, the two contenders were Chanda Sahib (supported by the French) and Muhammad Ali (supported by the British). In Hyderabad, the British supported Nasir Jung while the French sided with Muzaffar Jung.



◆ a portrait of the Nawab of Carnatic by the Scottish painter George Willison; Many Indian nawabs commissioned visiting British artists to make imposing oil portraits of themselves to display their power and status.

Initially, in 1749, the French succeeded in placing their supporters in both of these kingdoms. In 1751, however, the British troops under Robert Clive captured Arcot (Tamil Nadu). Clive's success led to additional victories for the British and their allies.

The Second Carnatic War ended with the **Treaty of Pondicherry**, signed in 1754. As per the treaty, the French had to return all territories captured by them.

#### Words to Know

**clashed:** came into violent conflict

**ousted:** driven out from a position or place

**dependency:** a territory controlled by another, more powerful territory



## The Third Carnatic War (1756–63)

The outbreak of the Seven Years' War (1756–63) in Europe resulted in renewed conflict between French and British forces in India, leading to the Third Carnatic War. The British forces captured the French settlement of Chandernagore (now Chandannagar) in 1757. The British commander Eyre Coote **decisively** defeated the French under Comte de Lally at the **Battle of Wandiwash** in 1760.

The Third Carnatic War concluded with the signing of the **Treaty of Paris** in 1763. As per the terms of this treaty, Chandernagore and Pondicherry were returned to France, and the French were allowed to have factories in India but they were stopped from fortifying them. The French agreed to accept British protection in India.

## THE BRITISH CONQUEST OF BENGAL

By the middle of the 18th century, the Mughal Empire disintegrated into numerous independent kingdoms across the Indian subcontinent. These kingdoms were blinded by opportunism and tended to promote their own interests. More importantly, their internal conflicts encouraged the European colonial powers to take advantage and establish their territorial rule in India.

**Bengal** was one of the richest provinces on the Indian subcontinent. The EEIC had been allowed duty-free trade by the Mughal emperor in 1717. This right was grossly misused by Company officials who traded privately, without paying duty. The Company made huge profits by buying cheap goods and selling them at higher prices, thereby eliminating competitors. The state, under Nawab Alivardi Khan, faced huge revenue losses.

When the last powerful Nawab of Bengal, Alivardi Khan, was succeeded by his grandson, **Siraj-ud-Daulah**, the British began to fortify Fort William, Calcutta.

- Siraj-ud-Daulah asked the British to immediately stop fortifying and pay revenue.
- He wanted to check the gross misuse of free passes or **dastaks** that **exempted** Company's goods from taxes.
- He refused to give further trade concessions and privileges to the EEIC, which it had been demanding.

Siraj-ud-Daulah marched with an army of 30,000 soldiers and laid siege to Calcutta. He captured the Company's officials, disarmed its soldiers and blocked its ships. Then, he placed Calcutta under the charge of Manik Chand and returned to Murshidabad.

## The Battle of Plassey (1757)

Robert Clive was sent from the Madras Presidency to recapture Calcutta. He conspired with **Mir Jafar**, the commander-in-chief of Siraj-ud-Daulah. The EEIC officials managed to win over important members of Siraj-ud-Daulah's court such as Jagat Seth (banker) and Omi Chand (a rich merchant). With their support, the British forces defeated the Nawab in the Battle of Plassey, 1757.

The following were the results of the Battle of Plassey:

- Siraj-ud-Daulah was captured and killed.
- As the EEIC officials had promised, Mir Jafar became the **puppet** Nawab of Bengal. He granted them the zamindari of 24 districts of Bengal; all of the French settlements in Bengal were also surrendered to the English. The rich resources of Bengal made them financially stable to further their political designs.

### Words to Know

**decisively:** in a way that shows the ability to make decisions quickly and effectively

**exempted:** freed from an obligation

**puppet:** a person who is controlled by someone else



- With this victory, the EEIC exercised real power in Bengal. They monopolised trade in Bengal and gradually ousted the French and Dutch.



- ◆ the meeting between Robert Clive and Mir Jafar after the Battle of Plassey

The Company continued to make heavy monetary demands, which the Nawab (Mir Jafar) was unable to meet. When he refused to grant more trade privileges, the English deposed him. In his place, they installed his son-in-law, **Mir Qasim**.

### The Battle of Buxar (1764)

Mir Qasim, the new Nawab of Bengal, soon realised that he was dependent on the EEIC. He tried to consolidate his power to free himself. To begin with—

- He dismissed all of Mir Jafar's officials who were close to the Company.
- He invited European **mercenaries** to train his soldiers in the new methods of warfare.
- He abolished taxes on internal trade to provide equal opportunities to the English and the Indians.
- He also tried to check the misuse of trade privileges of the British.

The British were surprised, as well as alarmed,

by these moves. Therefore, they decided to get rid of Mir Qasim. He was defeated by the British and forced to flee to Awadh. There, he formed an alliance, with **Shuja-ud-Daula**, the Nawab of Awadh and **Shah Alam II**, the Mughal emperor, for expelling the English from Bengal. In 1764, their combined armies met the English forces.

The results of the Battle of Buxar were as follows:

- Mir Qasim and his allies—Nawab of Awadh Shuja-ud-Daula and the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II—were defeated and the EEIC became the real master of Bengal.
- Mir Qasim was expelled from Bengal and Mir Jafar was reinstalled.

In 1765, Shuja-ud-Daula signed the **Treaty of Allahabad** with the EEIC. The Mughal emperor granted the Diwani (or right to collect revenue from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa) to the Company. In return, he was given an annual **tribute** of 26 lakhs

The Nawab of Awadh had to pay a war **indemnity** of 50 lakhs but his kingdom was restored to him as a British **protectorate**.



- ◆ Shah Alam II granting Robert Clive the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa

#### Words to Know

**mercenaries:** professional soldiers hired to serve in a foreign army

**tribute:** payment made periodically by one state or ruler to another, especially as a sign of dependence

**indemnity:** compensation

**protectorate:** a state controlled and protected by another



The Diwani allowed the Company to use the revenue resources of Bengal to purchase cotton and silk textiles, maintain the Company's troops and meet the cost of building the Company's forts and offices at Calcutta. The Battle of Buxar clearly displayed the superior military power of the English.

### Connect to History

After the Battle of Plassey, the actual Nawabs of Bengal were forced to give land and vast sums of money as personal gifts to EEIC officials. In this manner, the officials of the Company amassed huge wealth and began to copy the lavish lifestyles of Indian princes. In England, they were often mockingly referred to as 'nabobs.'



◆ an Englishman in Indian attire in the 1820s

### Dual Administration

Robert Clive introduced the system of **Dual Government** or **dyarchy** in Bengal. Under this system:

- The Nawab had powers of military and criminal jurisdiction, while the Company exercised control over revenue.
- The Company had all power but no responsibility, while the Nawab had all responsibilities but no administrative power or resources.
- Under this system, Bengal suffered tremendously. Finally, Warren Hastings ended the Dual Government in 1772 and

brought Bengal under the direct control of the Company's administration.

### EXPANSION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Having achieved control over Bengal, the EEIC embarked upon a policy of territorial expansion in India, through wars and alliances.

#### Annexation through Subsidiary Alliance

Subsidiary Alliance was introduced by Marquess Wellesley, Governor-General of India, from 1798 to 1805. Its purpose was to gain control over large tracts of India, without direct wars or spending money on maintaining troops. Its main principles were:

- The Indian rulers accepting Subsidiary Alliance had to disband their army and keep British forces within their territory.
- They paid for the maintenance of the troops and these forces were supposed to protect them from external and internal dangers.
- In case the Indian rulers failed to make payments, either the whole or a part of their territory was ceded to the British as penalty.
- The Indian rulers were also forced to keep a British official, or **Resident**, at their court.
- They had to expel all non-English foreigners from their states.
- Besides, the rulers had to surrender control of foreign affairs to the British and agree to abide by the decisions of the EEIC.

The **advantages** that the British gained from the Subsidiary Alliance were:

- On the pretext of protecting a state, the Company could maintain a large standing army at the expense of the Indian princes.
- It gave the Company a chance to expand its territories further because the British had gathered influence and power.

The **disadvantages** of the Subsidiary Alliance for the Indian states were:



- The Indian rulers were deprived of opportunities to join hands against the Company.
- They lost their right of decision making and had to face interference of the British residents in their everyday affairs.
- Indian rulers lost their administrative as well as financial independence.

The Nizam of Hyderabad, in 1798, was the first to accept the Subsidiary Alliance. He gave the British the territories of Bellari and Cuddapah. The Nawab of Awadh accepted in 1801, and ceded Rohilkhand, Gorakhpur and the territories between the Ganga and Yamuna. Peshwa Baji Rao II accepted the Subsidiary Alliance in 1802 and agreed to pay 26 lakh a year.



◆ a British Resident in a court of a Nawab

## Expansion through Direct Military Confrontation

The expansion of power of the Company through direct military confrontation included a series of wars—Anglo-Mysore, Anglo-Maratha, Anglo-Sikh and Anglo-Afghan wars.

### Mysore

The Company did not follow the system of Subsidiary Alliance with all Indian states. It resorted to direct war when its political and economic interests were threatened. For example, the rise and expansion of Mysore under Hyder Ali alarmed the Company, resulting in four wars between 1767 to 1799 CE.

### *The First Anglo-Mysore War*

The First Anglo-Mysore War happened because Mysore controlled the trade on the Malabar Coast. Since this spice trade was very lucrative for the EEIC, they formed an alliance with the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Marathas and the Nawab of Carnatic, to attack Mysore. Hyder Ali, in turn, brought the Nizam and the Marathas to his side by promising territorial gains. He attacked Arcot and reached Madras.

At the end of the First Anglo-Mysore War, Hyder Ali forced the EEIC to sign the **Treaty of Madras** (1769) by which the British and Hyder Ali agreed to help each other in case of attack by a third party.

### *The Second Anglo-Mysore War*

The British violated the treaty of 1769 and did not help Hyder when the Marathas attacked Mysore in 1771. The English also attempted to capture Mabe, which was under Hyder's jurisdiction. Hyder died during this war but his son, Tipu, continued it.

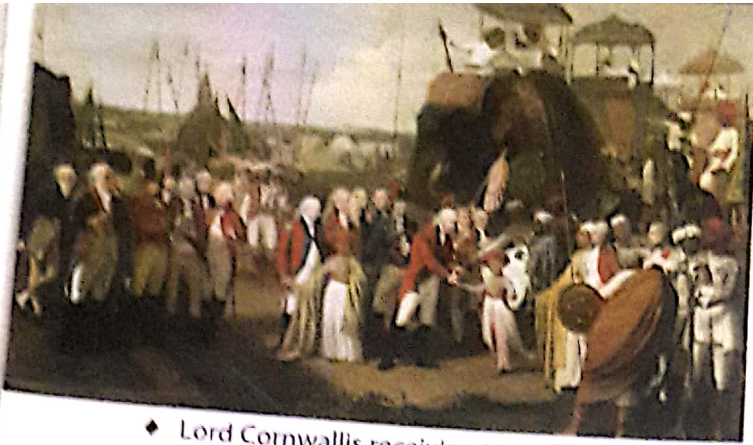
The Second Anglo-Mysore War finally ended with the **Treaty of Mangalore** (1784), with the British and Mysore agreeing to respect each other's territories.

### *The Third Anglo-Mysore War*

Under Tipu, Mysore controlled the profitable trade of the Malabar Coast where the Company purchased pepper and cardamom. In 1785, Tipu stopped the export of sandalwood, pepper and cardamom, and disallowed local merchants to trade with the Company. He established a close relationship with the French in India and modernised his army with their help. The British got furious and decided to control Tipu Sultan.

In the Third Anglo-Mysore War, Tipu was defeated and under the **Treaty of Seringapatam** (1792) had to give away a large part of his kingdom. He also had to pay a huge fine and send two of his sons as hostages to the British.

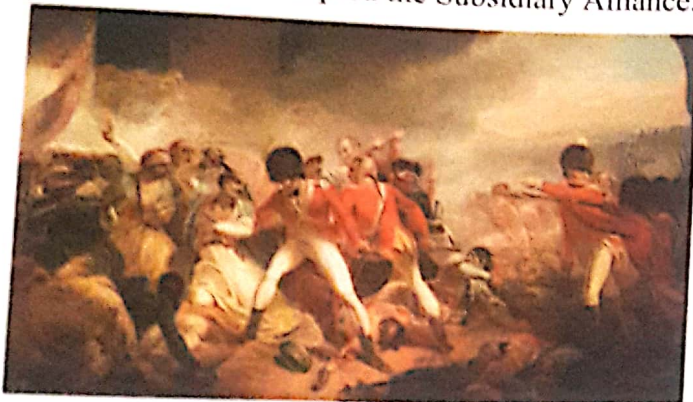




◆ Lord Cornwallis receiving two of Tipu Sultan's sons as hostages

### *The Fourth Anglo-Mysore War*

Lord Wellesley, the British Governor-General, asked Tipu to accept a Subsidiary Alliance. When he refused, a war was declared in 1798. Tipu died fighting at Seringapatam and the British annexed most of his conquests and handed them over to the Nizam of Hyderabad. The remaining kingdom was placed under the heir of an old ruling family, the Wodeyars, who accepted the Subsidiary Alliance.



◆ the fall of Tipu Sultan

### **Marathas**

From the late 18th century, the Company also tried to curb the power of the Marathas. The Marathas, recovering from the Third Battle of Panipat (1761), emerged as a possible alternative to the Mughals in north India. The five Maratha chiefs—the Peshwas, the Gaekwads, the Holkars, the Bhonsles and the Scindias, had internal differences. The British took advantage of these differences to interfere in their internal affairs, leading to three Anglo-Maratha Wars (1775–1819).

### *The First Anglo-Maratha War*

After the death of the fifth Peshwa, his uncle Raghunath Rao wanted to ascend the throne. In order to do this, he joined hands with the English. This was opposed by the Marathas. Consequently, a war took place, ending with the **Treaty of Salbai** (1782). They mutually restituted each other's territories. Raghunath Rao was installed as Peshwa.

### *The Second Anglo-Maratha War*

Peshwa Baji Rao II, the son of Raghunath Rao, lived under the shadow of his father. He was hated by the Maratha chiefs and regarded a traitor. In the Battle of Poona, October 1802, he was defeated by Yashwant Rao Holkar, the Maratha ruler of Indore.

The Peshwa fled to the British for protection and signed the **Treaty of Bassein**. He ceded territory for the maintenance of a subsidiary force and agreed to cooperate with no other power.

The Scindias and Bhonsles were also defeated by the British. In 1803, Raghoji Bhonsle II of Nagpur and Daulat Rao Scindia of Gwalior signed a treaty with the British. Thus, the British became masters of Cuttack, the Ganga-Yamuna doab, Delhi-Agra region and parts of Bundelkhand.

### *The Third Anglo-Maratha War*

It started in 1817 with the invasion of Maratha territory by British troops. The stated purpose of this attack was to take action against the Pindaris, a band of robbers from central India.

The Peshwa, supported by the Bhonsle and Holkar rulers, rose up against the British. A series of defeats broke up the Maratha Empire and ended Maratha independence. The Peshwa was defeated and forced to flee. Once captured, he was placed on a small estate with a pension and most of his territory was annexed to the Bombay Presidency.

Other powerful Maratha chiefs like the Holkars of Indore, the Scindias of Gwalior and the Bhonsles of Nagpur were also subjugated. The Maratha kingdoms of Nagpur and Indore became a part



of the British Empire. After the end of the third Anglo-Maratha war (1819), Maratha power ended and the Company controlled the entire area south of the Vindhyas. Poona was no longer the seat of power of the Peshwa. In fact, the title of Peshwa, the traditional head of the Marathas, was abolished. Peshwa Baji Rao's territories were annexed to the British Empire. The other Maratha chiefs had to sign the Subsidiary Alliance treaty.

### The Anglo-Sikh Wars

The death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab (1839) was followed by a period of instability, of which the British took advantage.

The First **Anglo-Sikh War** broke out when the Sikh army tried to cross the Satlej to occupy Lahore, the British defeated them.

The **Treaty of Lahore** was signed, and it recognised Duleep Singh, the son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, as the ruler, and his mother, Rani Jindan, as Regent.

The Sikhs had to pay a huge war indemnity and give away parts of their territories. When the British accused Rani Jindan of anti-British activities and removed her from power, the entire Sikh state revolted. Lord Dalhousie declared war on the Sikhs. In 1849, they were defeated and the British annexed Punjab.

### Sind and Afghanistan

In 1809, a treaty was signed with the Amirs (rulers)

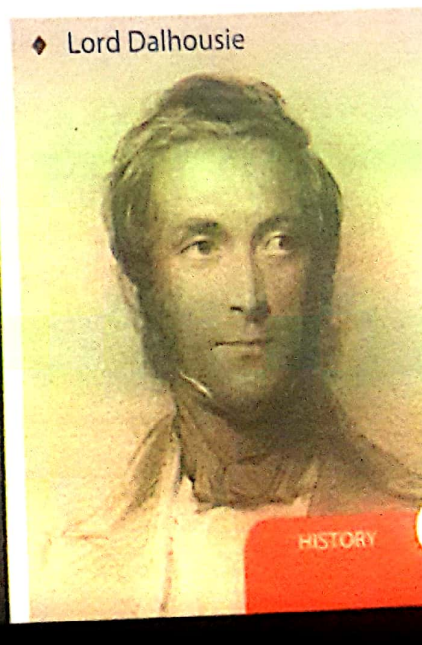
of Sind, who promised not to let the French pass through their territories, if the British promised not to transport arms through Sind. However, in 1839, during the First Anglo-Afghan War, British armed forces moved to Afghanistan via Sind; in 1843, Sind was annexed. In the early 1840s, the EEIC fought a prolonged war with Afghanistan and established indirect rule there.

### Expansion through the Doctrine of Lapse

The **Doctrine of Lapse** was an annexation policy devised by Lord Dalhousie, the Governor-General of India between 1848 and 1856.

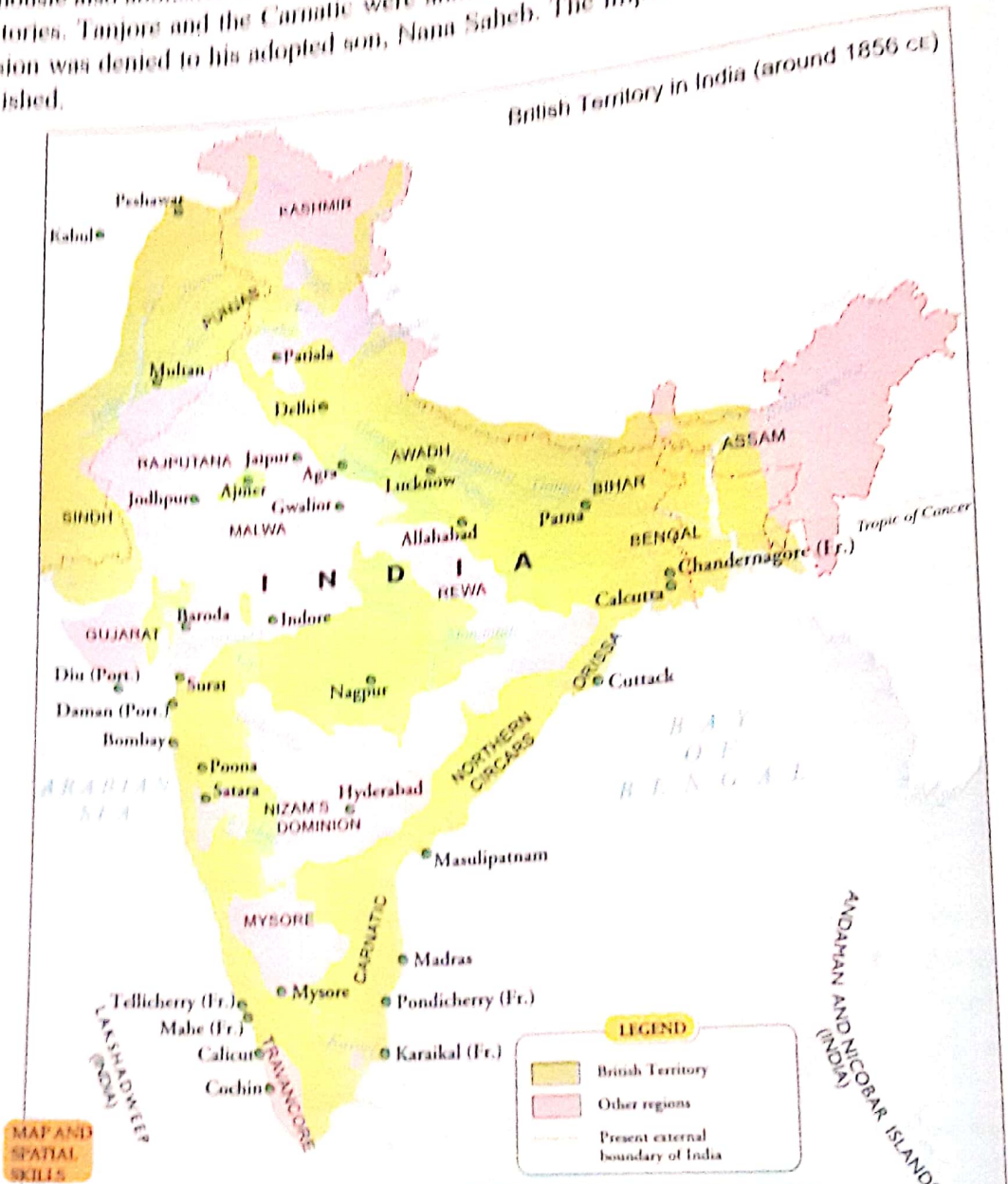
According to this Doctrine:

- The rulers of Indian princely states, territories under Subsidiary Alliance with the British and those without a natural heir to the throne, had to take permission from the British to adopt an heir.
- The British had the right to sanction, or refuse to recognise, such an adoption.
- The territories of rulers, who were without a male heir, were annexed if the adoption was not sanctioned.
- This took away the long-established right of an Indian ruler, without an heir, to choose or adopt a successor. The Company annexed the princely states of Satara (1848), Jaitpur, Sambalpur (1849), Nagpur, Jhansi (1854) and Awadh (Oudh) (1856) using this doctrine.





- Dalhousie also abolished titles and pensions of the heirs of childless Indian rulers, and annexed their territories. Tanjore and the Carnatic were annexed in this manner. When Peshwa Baji Rao II died, pension was denied to his adopted son, Nana Saheb. The imperial title of the Mughal Emperor was abolished.



**MAP AND SPATIAL SKILLS**

**GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER:** Interpreting Maps

- Which territories were annexed by the British under the policy of Doctrine of Lapse?
- Which territories were conquered through direct military confrontation?

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE UNDER THE BRITISH

In order to administer its newly acquired territories, the British evolved an efficient system of administration. The British territories were divided into three Presidencies—Bombay, Bengal and Madras. The Governor-General was to be the supreme head of administration.

The British Parliament passed various administrative Acts such as the Regulating Act of 1773, the India Act (1784) and a series of Charter Acts, up their administrative machinery.

### Civil Administration

The need to set up a civil administration when the EEIC started acquiring vast territories in India. Lord Cornwallis, regarded as the first



Indian Civil Administration, set up an independent civil service.

- He stopped the practice of private trade, replaced corrupt officials with well-educated, loyal civil servants, whose salaries he raised.
- In 1800, in Calcutta, Wellesley established Fort William College to train civil servants in local languages and customs. In 1806, a similar college, the Haileybury College, was established in England.
- From 1853, all recruits had to pass a competitive exam in order to qualify for the civil services. The **ICS Act of 1861** established the Indian Civil Service.

For administrative convenience, British India was divided into districts. In each district, there was a **Collector** to collect revenue, a **Magistrate** to maintain law and order, and a **Judge** to administer justice.

### Did You Know?

In 1863, Satyendranath Tagore, the elder brother of Rabindranath Tagore, became the first Indian to successfully qualify the ICS exam.

## The Judicial System

Prior to British rule, the administration of justice was based on traditional systems of law. In the case of Hindus, the *Shastras*, and in the case of Muslims, the *Shariat*, was the basis of justice. Warren Hastings and Cornwallis took steps to set up a new judicial structure.

- By 1772, each district was to have two courts—a **civil court**, presided over by EEIC Collectors and a **criminal court**, in

the hands of the **qazi** and **mufti**, who worked under the Collectors.

- Under the Regulating Act of 1773, the Supreme Court was established in Calcutta with Elijah Impey as its Chief Justice. By the **Act of 1781**, it was decided that the English law would be strictly applied only in the cases involving British citizens, while the Indians would be tried under their traditional law.
- In 1793, the famous **Cornwallis Code** was compiled for the guidance of the officers of the new judicial service.
- In 1833, a **graded structure of courts** came into being. In 1865, high courts were established at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.
- The codification of laws was meant to establish judicial equality in the laws which applied to both the rulers and the ruled. This was the principle of the **Rule of Law**. However, even though the judicial system professed equality before law, the Europeans were tried in special courts by British judges.
- **Independence of judiciary** was another important aspect which the colonial rule introduced in India. This meant that the judiciary was free from the influence of the political and civil administration.

## The Army

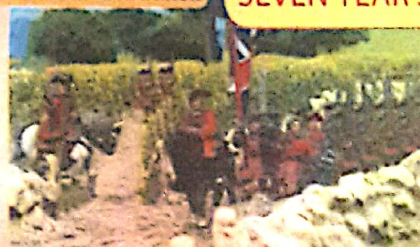
The bulk of the Company's army consisted of Indian soldiers or sepoys, while its officers were exclusively British. The highest position held by an Indian soldier was that of a Subedar. In the early 19th century, the British developed a uniform military culture. All soldiers were subjected to a European style of training irrespective of caste and community.

## What Was Happening Elsewhere

GLOBAL CONNECT/COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

### SEVEN YEAR'S WAR

The **Seven Years' War** took place in Europe between 1756 and 1763. It was a large-scale military war involving most of the great powers of the time. In this war, France and England fought against each other. It affected Europe, North America, Central America, the West African coast, India, and the Philippines.



◆ a painting of the Seven Years' War in Europe



#### IV. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. Which European trading company came to India, but later on established itself in the Far East? Describe its journey.
2. Define mercantilism. What is it based on?
3. How did the Treaty of Paris establish the supremacy of the British?
4. What were the benefits of the Diwani rights secured by the British after the Battle of Buxar?
5. How did the British structure their army in India?

#### V. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. Describe the struggle between the British and the French for gaining supremacy in India.
2. Which factors helped the British conquer Bengal?
3. How did the Subsidiary Alliance help the British but hinder the Indian rulers?
4. What was the Doctrine of Lapse? Explain its impact.
5. Give the main features of the civil administration and judicial system developed by the British for their Indian territories.

### Critical Thinking

## My History Corner

### Think Like a Historian

**Cause and Effect:** What were the reasons for the defeat of Indian rulers and princes in the hands of the British? How did this affect the socio-political milieu of the Indian subcontinent?

**Change and Continuity:** Which administrative practices introduced by the British are still prevalent? How have they changed to suit the needs of post-colonial India?

### Map Skills:

- On an outline map of India, locate the region where the three Carnatic wars were fought between the British and the French forces.
- On an outline map of the world, locate the major trading settlements under the French, Dutch, Portuguese and British.

**Group Activity:** Collect some legends of Tipu Sultan, Mir Qasim and Ranjit Singh. Discuss these in your class and find out what led to the downfall of these rulers.

### Writing Skills:

- Imagine that you are a soldier in the Army of Siraj-ud-Daulah and that you are loyal to him. You witness the defeat at Plassey. Write a letter to your wife describing your emotions at the end of the day.
- Imagine that you are a lawyer and you have to defend Robert Clive in his trial. Make a list of Clive's achievements and write down arguments in his defence.

**Creative Skills:** Imagine that you are the adopted son of a ruler of one of the Indian states and you have been deprived of inheriting the crown as well as property under the policy of Doctrine of Lapse. How will you react to and what will you do to inherit the crown?

### HOTS

- Why did the Ottoman rulers stop European traders from using traditional land routes?
- Many priceless treasures from India's past are in British museums, private homes and collections. Do you think that they should be returned to India?