

2

From Traders to Rulers



After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the Mughal Empire gradually declined. New regional powers emerged and by the mid-18th century Mughal rule continued only in the regions around Delhi.

At this time the English East India Company emerged as the chief contender for political supremacy in India. "The East India Company wanted only facilities to carry out trade profitably; but its agents in India saw that it was impossible to have these facilities without a prince friendly to them; he had to be given military protection to remain on the throne and this could not be given without some control over him." (Nirad Chaudhuri in, *Clive of India*). How then did they come to be masters of a vast empire? In this chapter you will see how this came about.

THE ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY

In 1600, Queen Elizabeth I granted the East India Company the monopoly to trade with India through a charter. This meant that no other trading group in England could compete with the East India Company. With the help of this charter, the Company could venture across the seas looking for new lands from where it could buy goods at a cheap price and carry them back to Europe to sell at higher prices.

But, other European Natives had already entered India and the Royal Charter had no power against them. The Portuguese had already reached India in 1498, even before Babur came here and much before the East India Company was granted a charter. They had established their settlements in Goa, Daman and Diu. The



Queen Elizabeth-I

Portuguese were able to control the seas because of their high navigational skills. But they were ousted from their possessions because of competition from the Dutch and the British. The Dutch had established their trading centres at Surat, Broach, Nagapatam and Chinsura in Bengal. But they were more interested in the Spice Islands. After an agreement with the British, they gave up all claims on India to concentrate on the Spice Islands. Soon the French traders arrived on the scene. They established their trade settlements at Pondicherry (now Puducherry), Mahe, Chandernagore and Karaikal. Dupleix, the Governor-general at Pondicherry, played a major role in the expansion of French power in India.



A Dutch settlement in India

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, there was a stiff competition for control over maritime trade. The rulers of these countries framed economic policies to protect their overseas trade interests against foreign competitions. This policy was called **mercantilism**. The English allowed goods to be imported into England only in English ships. This enabled the English to regulate the type of goods entering England.

Mercantilism led to intense rivalry among countries. It resulted in wars on land and seas. In the 17th century, England, Holland and France were trade rivals in Europe. In India, they competed with the Portuguese. The English finally emerged victorious due to their supremacy at sea.

The reason for rivalry was that all the companies wanted to buy the same commodities. The cotton and silk produced in India had a big market in Europe. Similarly, spices such as pepper, cloves, cardamoms and cinnamon too were in great demand. The only way the trading companies could flourish was by reducing competition. This urge to secure markets led to fierce battles between the trading companies. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, they sank each others ships, blockaded the sea routes and prevented the rival ships from moving with supplies. Trade was now carried on with arms and trading ports were fortified. This effort to carry on trade with arms gave rise to conflict with local rulers. The companies found it very difficult to separate trade from local politics. Let us see how this was finally resolved.

English Trading Settlements in India

The first English factory in Bengal was established at Hugli in 1651 with the permission from Sultan Shuja, then the Subedar of Bengal. Soon after, English factories sprang up at Kasimbazaar, Patna and other places in the province. These English settlements were called **factories** not because anything was manufactured there but because the officials of the Company were called **factors**. These factories consisted of offices and warehouses and indulged in trade. These and other locations in India became centres of international trade in spices, cotton, sugar, raw silk, calico and indigo.

In 1662, the Company got the island of Bombay from King Charles II. Soon they established factories

in Ahmedabad, Agra, Masulipatnam, Dacca and Balasore. In 1698, they acquired the zamindari of three villages – Sutanati, Kalikata and Govindpur. The villages soon grew into a city which came to be known as Calcutta. The Company fortified settlements at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. The objective behind this was safety, security and to maintain a monopoly. For this, they used force against the Indian rulers and their foreign rivals. Indian exports were increasing and, therefore, the Indian rulers encouraged the East India Company's factories in India.

The Company now dreamt of establishing political power in India. This would enable it to compel the Mughals to allow it a free hand in trade, to force the Indians to sell its goods at cheap rates and to keep the rival European traders out. Political power would also make it possible to appropriate Indian revenues and to conquer the country with its own resources.

In 1686, hostilities between the English and the Mughal emperor broke out after the former had sacked Hugli and declared war on the Emperor. The Mughal empire under Aurangzeb was more than a match for the petty forces of the East India Company. The war ended disastrously for them. They were deprived of their factories in Bengal. Their factories at Surat, Masulipatnam were seized and their fort at Bombay besieged.

Having discovered that they were still not strong enough to fight the Mughal power, they expressed their willingness to trade under the protection of the Indian rulers. The Mughal authorities readily pardoned the English folly as they recognised that foreign trade carried on by the Company benefited Indian artisans and merchants and thereby enriched the state treasury. Aurangzeb permitted them to resume trade on payment of Rs. 150,000 as compensation.

In 1717, the Company secured from Emperor Farrukhsiyar a **farman** confirming the privileges granted in 1691 and extending them to Gujarat and the Deccan. This farman granted the company the freedom to export and import their goods in Bengal without paying duty or taxes. This also gave the right to issue passes or **dastaks** for movement of such goods. But during the first half of the 18th century, Bengal was ruled by strong nawabs such as Murshid

Quli Khan and Alivardi Khan. They exercised strict control over the English traders and prevented them from misusing their privileges. Neither did they allow them to strengthen fortifications at Calcutta or to rule the city independently. Then the East India Company remained a mere zamindar of the nawab.

BRITISH CONQUEST OF BENGAL

Bengal was the richest and the most fertile of India's provinces. Its industries and commerce were well developed. The East India Company had highly profitable trading interests in the province. The farman granted the Company the freedom to export and import their goods in Bengal without paying taxes. The Company's servants were also permitted to trade but were not covered by this farman. They were required to pay the same taxes as Indian merchants. This farman was a regular source of conflict between the Company and the nawabs of Bengal. Matters came to a head when the young and rash Siraj-ud-daulah became the nawab in 1756. He demanded that the English trade on the same basis as in the time of Murshid Quli Khan. The English refused to comply as they felt strong after their victory over the French in South India. Instead of agreeing to pay taxes on their goods, they levied heavy duties on Indian goods entering Calcutta which was under their control. All this angered the young nawab who suspected that the Company was hostile to him and was favouring his rivals for the throne of Bengal. The breaking-point came when, without taking the nawab's permission, the Company began to fortify Calcutta in expectation of the coming struggle with the French stationed at Chandernagore. Siraj-ud-daulah ordered both the English and the French to demolish their fortifications and to desist from fighting each other. While the French company obeyed his order, the English company refused to do so. It was determined to remain in Bengal against the wishes of the nawab and to trade there on its own terms. This was a direct challenge to the nawab's sovereignty.

The Battle of Plassey (1757)

Acting with undue haste and inadequate preparation, Siraj-ud-daulah seized the English factory at Kasimbazaar, marched on to Calcutta and occupied Fort William on 20 June, 1756. From

Madras came a strong rival and military force under Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive. Clive reconquered Calcutta in 1757, and compelled the nawab to concede all the demands of the English. The English however, were not satisfied. They had decided to place Mir Jafar on the throne of Bengal. So they presented the young nawab with an impossible set of demands. Both sides realised that war was inevitable. The two met for battle on the field of Plassey on 23 June, 1757. In the battle that followed only a small force of the nawab participated. Mir Jafar took no part in the fighting. The nawab fled but was chased and put to death. Mir Jafar was proclaimed the new nawab. He gave the British undisputed right to trade without taxes. He paid a huge sum as war compensations. The East India Company's servants collected gift worth 30 million rupees from the nawab and the Bengal treasury. It also received the zamindari of the 24 Parganas near Calcutta.

Did you know?

Did you know how Plassey got its name? Plassey is the anglicised pronunciation of Palashi and the place derived its name from the palash tree known for its beautiful red flowers that yield gulal, the powder used in the festival of Holi. There was a big forest of Palash tree close to the area where this battle was fought in 1757.

The Battle of Plassey paved the way for the English conquest of Bengal and eventually the whole of India. It transformed a mere trading company to a political power and a major contender for the Indian empire. The rich revenues of Bengal enabled them to organise a strong army and meet the cost of the conquest of the rest of the country. The Company no longer wanted to merely trade with India, it was to use its control over the nawab of Bengal to drain the wealth of the province.

Mir Jafar soon realised that it was impossible to meet the increasing demands of the Company and its officials. On their part they began to criticise the nawab for his incapacity to fulfil their expectations.

So in October 1760, they forced him to abdicate in favour of his son-in-law, Mir Qasim. Mir Qasim rewarded his beneficiaries by granting the Company the zamindari of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong



Lord Clive meeting Mir Jafar, after the battle of Plassey

and by giving them handsome presents. Soon Mir Qasim emerged as a threat to the Company. He was an able, efficient and strong ruler. He realised that a full treasury and an efficient army were essential to maintain his independence. All this was not liked by the English. Most of all, they disliked the nawab's attempts to check the misuse of the farman of 1717 by the Company's servants who demanded that their goods whether imported or exported should be free of duties. This offended the Indian merchants as they had to pay taxes from which the foreigners got complete exemption. Mir Qasim took the bold step of abolishing taxes on internal trade for all. Now the Indian merchants were also able to enjoy the concession which only the English had enjoyed so far. The East India Company could not tolerate this.

Battle of Buxar (1764)

After the Battle of Plassey there was a battle between Mir Qasim and his allies— the nawab of Oudh, Shuja-ud-daulah, and Shah Alam II on the one side and the British on the other side. The allies, along with Mir Qasim were defeated by the Company forces at Buxar. It was one of the most decisive battles in Indian history. It made the East India Company the real masters of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Mir Jafar was reinstated. On his death, they placed his second son, Nizam-ud-daulah on the throne. He was made to sign a new treaty on 20 February, 1765. By this treaty, the nawab was to disband most of his army and to administer Bengal. Buxar confirmed the decisions of Plassey. The new Nawab of Bengal was their stooge, the Nawab of Oudh, a subordinate ally, and the Emperor their pensioner. Never after Buxar did the Nawabs of Bengal or Oudh ever challenge the position of the Company. If the Battle of Plassey had made the English a powerful factor in the politics of Bengal,

the victory of Buxar made them a great power in northern India and a contender for supremacy in the whole country.

The Diwani Rights

The right to collect **Diwani** or land revenues in the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were handed over to the British by the Mughal emperor, Shah Alam II, who was still the titular head of the Mughal Empire. Thus, its hold over Bengal was legalised and the revenues of this rich province placed at its command. In return, the Company agreed to pay Rs 26 lakhs annually to him and secured from him the diwani of Kara and Allahabad. For six years, the Emperor resided in the fort of Allahabad as a virtual prisoner of the Company.

The nawab of Oudh was made to pay a war indemnity of five million rupees to the Company. The two signed an alliance by which the Company promised to support the nawab from any outside attack, thus making him totally dependent on them.

Dual System of Administration (1765-1772)

After the victory of the English in Buxar, Robert Clive was appointed the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the English possessions in Bengal. In order to settle the problem of administering Bengal, he introduced the Dual System. According to this system, the real power of jurisdiction lay with the Company while the responsibility of administration was of the nawab of Bengal.

The Company collected the revenues as diwani. It controlled the nizam through Reza Khan, their appointee. This system proved a failure. Neither the nawab nor the Company cared for the people. It led to the breakdown of the administrative machinery. Law and order broke down. There was economic disorder with the collection of revenue, adding to the misery of the people. Agricultural depression affected trade and commerce with the Company's servants monopolising the internal trade of Bengal, thus, adding to their personal wealth. The cottage industries of Bengal suffered as they



Robert Clive

were discouraged. The servants of the Company increased the price of raw materials. The artisans, who now found their occupation unprofitable, left it. The Company's servants amassed huge wealth. In three years £5.7 million was drained from Bengal. In 1770, a terrible famine struck Bengal which wiped out one-third of the population. Although the famine was due to lack of rains, its effects were heightened by the policies of the Company. And the East India Company did nothing to provide relief to the people.

In 1772, Warren Hastings became the Governor of Bengal. He ended the system of dual government and brought Bengal under the direct control of the Company.

Company Officials Termed 'Nabobs'

The Company's servants had the whole of Bengal to themselves. The oppression of the people increased greatly. In the words of Clive: "Such a scene of anarchy, confusion, bribery, corruption and extortion was never seen or heard of in any country but Bengal; nor such and so many fortunes acquired in so unjust and rapacious a manner. The three provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa have been under the absolute management of the Company's servants, ever since Mir Jafar's restoration to the subahship; and they have, both civil and military, exacted and levied contributions from every man of power and consequence, from the nawab down to the lowest zamindar."

The Company's authorities stopped sending money from England to purchase Indian goods. Instead, they purchased these goods from the revenues extracted from Bengal and sold them abroad. These were known as the Company's investment and formed a part of its profits. Above all, the British government wanted its share of the rich prize. Thus in 1767, it ordered the Company to pay it £ 400,000 per year.

However, not all officials succeeded in making money like Clive. Clive had come to India in 1743 at the age of 18. When he left India in 1767, his fortune was £ 401,102. When Clive was appointed the Governor of Bengal in 1764, he was asked to remove corruption but he himself was impeached by British parliament in 1772. Though he was acquitted, he committed suicide in 1774. Many English officials died an early death due to disease and war. They had come to India to earn and return to England to lead a comfortable life. Those

who amassed great wealth were called 'nabobs'. The term nabob was an anglicised version of the Indian word nawab.

EXPANSION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

After the Battle of Buxar (1764), the Company appointed **Residents** in Indian states. They were political or commercial agents and their job was to serve the interests of the company. Through the Residents, the Company officials began interfering in the internal affairs of Indian states.

The expansion of the British rule in India occurred during the Governor-Generalship of Lord Wellesley. Lord Wellesley thought that the time was ripe to bring as many Indian states as possible under British control. To achieve his political aims, Wellesley relied on the system of 'Subsidiary Alliances'. Under the Subsidiary Alliance system, the ruler of the allying Indian state was compelled to accept the permanent stationing of a British force within his territory and to pay a subsidy for its maintenance. All this was done for his protection but in fact it was a form which forced the Indian rulers to pay tribute to the Company. Sometimes the ruler ceded part of his territory, instead of paying an annual subsidy. The 'Subsidiary Treaty' provided that the Indian ruler would agree to the posting at his court of a British Resident, and that he would not employ any European in his service without the approval of the British. He would not negotiate with any other Indian ruler without consulting the Governor-General. In return, the British would undertake to defend the ruler from his enemies. They also promised non-interference in the internal affairs of the allied state but this was a promise they seldom kept.

In reality, by signing a Subsidiary Alliance, an Indian state virtually signed away its independence. In fact, the Indian ruler lost his sovereignty in external matters and became increasingly subservient to the British Resident who interfered in the day-to-day administration of the state.

Lord Wellesley signed the subsidiary treaties with the Nizam of Hyderabad in 1798 and 1800. In lieu of cash payment for the subsidiary forces, the Nizam ceded part of his territories to the Company. The Nawab of Oudh was also forced to sign a subsidiary treaty in 1801. In return the nawab was made to surrender to the British nearly half of his kingdom consisting of Rohilkhand and the territories lying between the Ganga and the Yamuna.

Tipu Sultan (Tiger of Mysore)

Tipu Sultan was the ruler of the kingdom of Mysore. He is better known as the 'Tiger of Mysore.' Tipu ascended the throne after his father, Haider Ali's death in 1782. Tipu Sultan was a courageous and powerful leader, whose constant valiant efforts against the British resulted in his name being etched in the annals of Indian history.

Mysore controlled the trade of the Malabar coast where the company bought spices for trade. In 1785, Tipu Sultan banned the export of sandalwood and spices through the ports of his kingdom and disallowed local traders from doing business with the Company. He also made friendly overtures to the French in India, and sought their cooperation in modernisation of his army. All this made the Company furious.



Tipu Sultan

Tipu and his father, Haider Ali, proved successful in defeating the British in the First Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69) and in the Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84), thus negotiating the treaty of Mangalore with them. While the British became aware of Tipu's growing strength, they made alliances with the neighbouring Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas, leading to the Third Anglo-Mysore war (1790-92). The French, however, deserted Tipu and the combined forces proved immense for Tipu. He was defeated in this war at his capital of Seringapatam, thus forcing him to sign a treaty in 1792 that witnessed half of his kingdom being confiscated along with a huge war indemnity. After the British broke allegiance with the nawab, they once again sought to attack Mysore, leading to the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War in 1799. Tipu was prepared this time with his successful military tactic of rocket artillery in war and a better army to thwart his adversaries. Fighting with all his

The Tiger of Mysore

It is said the Tipu Sultan was once hunting in the forest with a French friend. He came face to face with a tiger. His gun did not work and his dagger fell on the ground. As the tiger jumped on him, he initially fought unarmed, then reached for the dagger, picked it up, and killed the tiger with it.

That earned him the title 'Tiger of Mysore'.

The point is to analyse how any man, however, courageous, could actually physically kill an animal like the tiger which is among the strongest and the most savage of all land mammals.



Tipu's Toy Tiger

Tipu possessed a big mechanical toy tiger which is shown mauling a European soldier. When it was put on, the tiger roared and the soldier shrieked.

valour, Tipu Sultan was killed defending his capital Seringapatam on 4th May, 1799. Thus, only in the last battle - the Battle of Serignapatam - did the company win a victory against Tipu.

Nearly half of Tipu's dominions were divided between the British and their ally, the Nizam. The reduced kingdom of Mysore was restored to the descendants of the original rajas, the Wodeyars, from



Lord Cornwallis receiving Tipu Sultan's sons as hostages

whom Haider Ali had seized power. A special treaty of Subsidiary Alliance was imposed on the new raja by which the Governor-General was authorised to take over the administration of the state in case of necessity. Mysore was made a complete dependency of the Company.

In 1801, Lord Wellesley forced a new treaty upon the puppet nawab of Carnatic, compelling him to cede his kingdom to the Company in return for a pension.

Fact File

- Haidar Ali ruled from 1761-1782.
- Tipu Sultan ruled from 1782-1799.
- The First Anglo-Mysore war 1767-1769.
- The Second Anglo-Mysore 1780-1784. Hyder Ali died during the war.
- The Third Anglo-Mysore war 1790-1792.
- The Fourth Anglo-Mysore war 1799. Tipu was killed during this battle.

The Marathas

The Marathas were the only major power left outside the sphere of British control. Lord Wellesley now turned his attention towards them and began interfering in their internal affairs.

The Maratha empire consisted of a confederacy of five big chiefs (Sardars), namely the Peshwas, the Gaekwads, the Sindhias, the Holkars and the Bhonsles. The Peshwa was military and administrative head of the confederacy based in Pune. But all of them were engaged in a bitter fratricidal strife, unaware of the real danger lying ahead.

Wellesley had offered a subsidiary alliance to the Peshwa and Sindhia. But the farsighted Nana Phadnavis had refused to fall into the trap. However, on 25th October 1802, Holkar defeated the combined armies of the Peshwa and Sindhia. Peshwa Baji Rao II rushed into the arms of the English and in 1802 signed the subsidiary treaty of Bassein.

The victory had been a little too easy. Even in this moment of their peril, the Marathas would not unite against their common enemy.



Baji Rao II

When Sindhia and Bhonsle fought the British, Holkar stood on the sidelines and Gaekwad gave help to the British. When Holkar took up arms, Bhonsle and Sindhia nursed their wounds.

In the south, the British armies defeated the combined armies of Sindhia and Bhonsle at Assaye in September 1803 and at Argaon in November. In the north, Lord Lake routed Sindhia's army at Laswari and occupied Aligarh, Delhi and Agra. The Maratha allies had to sue for peace. Both Sindhia and Bhonsle became subsidiary allies of the Company. They ceded part of their territories to the British, admitted British residents to their courts and promised not to employ any Europeans without British approval. The British gained control over Orissa and the territories between the Ganga and the Yamuna. The Peshwa was a disgruntled puppet in their hands.

Fact File

The Anglo-Maratha Wars

First War (1782) - no clear victor, treaty of Salbai signed.

Second War (1803-1805) fought at different fronts. Gains for the British. Acquired territories north of the Yamuna river, Agra, Delhi and Orissa.

Third War (1817-1819) crushed Maratha power. Peshwa pensioned off, sent to Bithur. The company gained absolute control over areas south of the Vindhyas.

Wellesley now turned his attention towards Holkar. But Yashwant Rao Holkar proved more than a match for the British. Holkar's ally, the Raja of Bharatpur inflicted heavy losses on Lake who unsuccessfully attempted to storm his fort. On the other hand, Sindhia began to think of joining hands with Holkar. Moreover, the East India Company discovered that the policy of expansion through war was proving costly and was reducing their profits. The directors of the Company felt that time had come to check further expansion, to put an end to expenditure and to consolidate Britain's gains in India.

Wellesley was recalled from India and the Company made peace with Holkar in January 1806, by the treaty of Raighat, giving back to Holkar the greater part of his territories.

Expansion under Lord Hastings

The Second Anglo-Maratha war had shattered the power of the Maratha chiefs. But they made a desperate attempt to regain their independence in 1817. The Peshwa attacked the British Residency at Poona in November 1817. Appa Sahib attacked the residency at Nagpur and Madhav Rao Holkar made preparations for the war. The Governor-General, Lord Hastings, compelled Sindhia to accept British suzerainty and defeated the armies of the Peshwa, Bhonsle and Holkar. The Peshwa was dethroned and pensioned off to Bithur near Kanpur. Holkar and Bhonsle accepted Subsidiary Alliance.

The Rajputana states had been dominated by Sindhia and Holkar for several decades. After the downfall of the Marathas, they lacked the energy to reassert their independence and accepted British supremacy.

Thus by 1818, the entire Indian subcontinent except Punjab and Sindh had been brought under British control. Part of it was ruled directly by the British and the rest by Indian rulers over whom the British exercised paramount power. These states had no armed forces of their own. They paid heavily for the British forces stationed in their territories to control them.

Under Lord Hastings (1813 - 23) a new policy of 'Paramountcy' was begun. The company claimed that its authority was paramount or supreme in India. The company was henceforth justified in annexing or threatening to conquer any Indian kingdom. This policy became the guiding principle of British rule in the following period.

The Conquest of Sindh

The conquest of Sindh occurred because of the growing Anglo-Russian rivalry in Europe and Asia. The British feared that Russia might attack India through Afghanistan or Persia. To counter Russia, it thought to increase its influence in Afghanistan and Persia. It also felt that this policy could be successfully pursued only if Sindh was brought under British control.

The roads of Sindh were opened for the British trade by a treaty in 1832 and the chiefs of Sindh called **Amirs** were made to sign a subsidiary treaty in 1839.

In spite of assurances that its territorial integrity would be respected, Sindh was annexed in 1843 by Sir Charles Napier.

The Conquest of Punjab

The death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in June 1839 was followed by political instability in the Punjab. This led the British to look across the Sutlej even though they had signed a treaty of perpetual friendship with Ranjit Singh in 1809.



Ranjit Singh

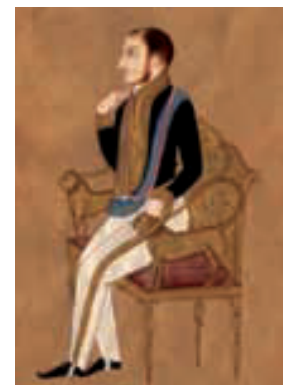
The First Anglo-Sikh War broke out when, under some provocation, the Sikh army crossed the Sutlej. The British defeated the Sikhs, occupied Lahore and signed a treaty. The treaty recognised Dalip Singh, a son of Ranjit Singh, as king and his mother Rani Jindan as Regent. Besides paying a huge war indemnity, the Sikhs had to cede many of their territories including Kashmir.

The British soon accused Rani Jindan of anti-British activities and sent her into exile. The entire Sikh state rose in revolt under Mulraj, the governor of Multan.

The Second Anglo-Sikh War broke out when Governor-General Lord Dalhousie declared war on the Sikhs. The Sikhs were defeated and Punjab was annexed by the British in 1849. Dalip Singh was pensioned off and sent to England.

Doctrine of Lapse

Lord Dalhousie came to India as the Governor-General in 1848. He was determined to extend direct British rule over as large an area as possible. The chief instrument through which Lord Dalhousie implemented his policy of annexation was the 'Doctrine of Lapse'. Under this doctrine, when



Lord Dalhousie

the ruler of a protected state died without a natural heir, his state was not to pass on to an adopted heir as sanctioned by the age-old tradition of the country. Instead, it was to be annexed to British India, unless the adoption had been clearly approved by the British authorities. Many states were annexed through this doctrine - Satara (1848), Sambalpur (1850), Udaipur (1852), Nagpur (1853) and Jhansi (1854).

Lord Dalhousie was keen on annexing the kingdom of Oudh. But the task presented certain difficulties. The Nawab of Oudh had many heirs and could not be covered by the Doctrine of Lapse. Finally, Lord Dalhousie hit upon the idea of 'obliged by duty to protect the people of Awadh.' Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was accused of having 'misgoverned' his state and of refusing to introduce reforms. His state was, therefore, annexed in 1856. Enraged by the humiliating way in which the Nawab was deposed, the people of Awadh joined the great revolt in 1857.

NEW ADMINISTRATION

Warren Hastings came to office at a time when the Company had acquired power not only in Bengal but also in Bombay and Madras. During 1773-1785 he was the Governor-General of Bengal. As the first Governor-General, he introduced several administrative reforms.

During this period, British territories were divided into three administrative units called Presidencies. There were three presidencies - Bombay, Bengal and Madras. Each Presidency was ruled by a Governor. The supreme head of the administration was the Governor-General.

From 1772 a new judicial system was established. Each district had two courts - a civil court (Diwani Adalat) and a criminal court (Faujdari Adalat). European district collectors presided over civil courts. They were assisted by Maulvis and Hindu pandits who interpreted Indian laws. The criminal courts were still under a **qazi** and a **mufti** but under overall supervision of collectors.

To bring about uniformity eleven pandits were asked to compile a digest of Hindu laws in 1775. N.B. Halhed translated this digest into English. By 1778 a code of Muslim laws was also compiled. Under the Regulating Act of 1773, a new Supreme Court was set up. A court of appeal called the Sadar Nizamat Adalat, was also established at Calcutta.

The most important figure in an Indian district was the Collector. His main job was to collect revenue and taxes and maintain law and order in his district. To help him in maintaining law and order, he took help of judges, police officers and Darogas. His office - the collectorate, became the centre of power and patronage that replaced previous holders of authority.

The Company Army

The British army fulfilled four important functions :

1. It was the instrument through which the Indian powers were conquered.
2. It defended the British empire from foreign rivals.
3. It safeguarded British supremacy from the threat of internal revolt.
4. It was the chief instrument for extending and defending the British empire in Asia and Africa.

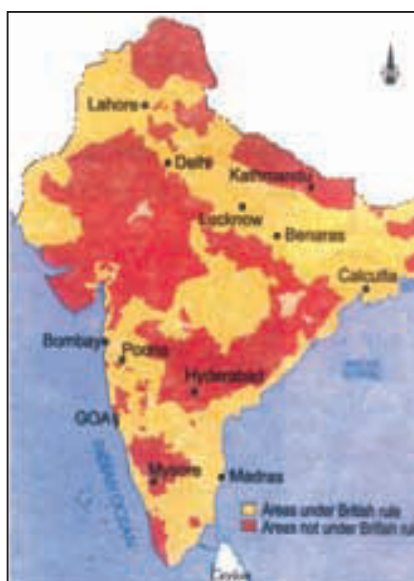
The bulk of the Company's army consisted of Indian soldiers. In 1857, the strength of army in India was 311,400 of whom 265,900 were Indians. In 1856, only three Indians in the army received a salary of Rs 300/- per month. The highest Indian officer was a **Subedar**. A large number of Indian troops were employed as British troops were far too expensive. Moreover, the population of Britain was far too small to provide the large soldiery needed for the conquest of India. As a counter measure the army was officered entirely by British officials and a certain number of British troops were maintained to keep the Indian soldiers under control.

The army helped the Company to protect its trade, defend the empire, to extend its territory and to put down internal rebellions. The army consisted of British officers and Indian sepoy. The Indian sepoy remained loyal to the master who paid him well. The army was well-equipped and trained. That is why such a small number of British soldiers could conquer and hold on to India for so long.

In the 1820s, warfare technology changed. The reason was that the British empire was busy in fighting in Burma, Afghanistan and Egypt where soldiers were armed with muskets and matchlocks. The soldiers had to keep pace with the changing military requirement.



India in 1797



India in 1857

Expansion of British territorial power in India

In the nineteenth century, the British began to develop a uniform military code. The soldiers were subjected to European style training, drill and discipline which created problems since caste and community feelings were ignored in building a force of professional soldiers.

The East India Company became a virtual ruler of India. The arrival of the new steam engine in the early nineteenth century encouraged this process. Now, steam ships reduced the journey time thus enabling Britishers and their families to come to a far-off country like India.

Points to Remember

- After Aurangzeb's death, the Mughal empire gradually declined.
- At this time, the English East India Company emerged as the chief contender for political supremacy in India.
- The first English factory in Bengal was established at Hugli in 1651. Soon after, English factories sprang up at Kasimbazaar, Patna and other places in the province.
- In 1686, hostilities between the English and the Mughal emperor broke out.
- In 1717, the Company secured from Emperor Farrukhsiyar a farman confirming the privileges granted in 1691.
- The right to collect diwani in the region of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were handed over to the British by the Mughal emperor, Shah Alam II.
- The expansion of British rule in India occurred during the Governor-Generalship of Lord Wellesley.
- To achieve his political aims, Wellesley relied on the system of Subsidiary Alliance.
- Lord Dalhousie came to India as Governor-General in 1848. His policy of annexation was implemented by the 'Doctrine of Lapse'.
- By 1857, the Company came to exercise direct control over about 63 per cent of the territory.

Glossary

- DASTAKS** : Passes.
- DEPRIVED** : To take something away from someone.
- FRATRICIDAL** : One that murders or kills his or her own brother.

- HOSTILITIES** : Conflict, opposition.
INTRIGUE : A secret scheme.
MONOPOLISE : Assume complete possession of.

TIME TO LEARN

TASKS FOR SA

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

- The East India Company secured a farman in 1717 granting duty-free trade from which Mughal emperor?
 (a) Aurangzeb (b) Farrukhsiyar (c) Jahangir (d) Bahadur Shah
- When was the Battle of Plassey fought?
 (a) 1756 (b) 1757 (c) 1758 (d) 1759
- Who was installed as the Nawab of Bengal soon after the Battle of Plassey?
 (a) Mir Jafar (b) Mir Qasim (c) Manik Chand (d) Jagat Seth
- Who fought against the British in the battle of Buxar (1764)?
 (a) Mir Jafar, Shuja-ud-daulah, Shah Alam II (b) Mir Qasim, Siraj-ud-daulah, Shah Alam II
 (c) Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-daulah, Shah Alam II (d) Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-daulah, Shah Alam I
- Tipu Sultan was finally defeated and killed by the British in the year
 (a) 1798 (b) 1799 (c) 1800 (d) 1801
- Which was the chief instrument through which Lord Dalhousie implemented his policy of annexation?
 (a) Doctrine of Lapse (b) Doctrine of Misgovernance (c) Subsidiary Alliance (d) None of these
- The most important figure in district administration during the British Raj was
 (a) Daroga (b) Collector (c) Subedar (d) Qazi

B. Match the following

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Tipu Sultan | (a) Doctrine of Lapse |
| 2. Lord Wellesley | (b) June 1839 |
| 3. Death of Ranjit Singh | (c) In 1756 |
| 4. Siraj-ud-daulah crowned king | (d) Subsidiary System |
| 5. Lord Dalhousie | (e) Tiger of Mysore |

C. State whether the following statements are True or False.

- The Dutch had established their settlements in Goa, Daman and Diu. ■
- Mercantilism led to intense rivalry among countries. ■
- In 1651, the Company got the island of Bombay from King Charles II. ■
- Bengal was the richest and the most fertile of India's provinces. ■
- The Battle of Buxar made the East India Company the real master of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. ■

D. Fill in the blanks with the words given below :

Mercantilism Seringapatam Collectorate Dutch Charter

- Queen Elizabeth I granted the East India Company the monopoly to trade with India through a _____.
- The _____ were more interested in the Spice Islands.
- _____ led to intense rivalry among countries.

4. Tipu Sultan died in _____, defending his capital on 4 May, 1799.
5. The Collector's office was called the _____.

E. Short answer type questions.

1. When was the Battle of Plassey fought? What effect did it have on the East India Company?
2. What were the terms of Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance?
3. Why was the Battle of Buxar fought? What was its impact on Bengal?
4. What was the Dual System of Government? Who introduced it?
5. Describe the events leading to the annexation of Punjab.

F. Long answer type questions.

1. Describe the reasons for the defeat of the Marathas by the British.
2. Describe the four Anglo-Mysore wars briefly.
3. 'Was Mir Jafar justified in supporting the British against Siraj-ud-daulah?' Describe the conflicts of values involved in the circumstances leading to the Battle of Plassey. **[Value Based Question]**
4. Examine the policies of Lord Dalhousie aimed at annexation of Indian states. How far his annexationist policies were responsible for the Great Uprising? **[HOTS]**

TIME TO DO

TASKS FOR FA

G. Source Based Analysis

"Consider the situation in which the victory at Plassey had placed me! A great prince was dependent on my pleasure; an opulent city lay at my mercy; its richest bankers bid against each other for my smiles; I walked through vaults which were thrown open to me alone, piled on either hand with gold and jewels! Mr. Chairman, at this moment I stand astonished at my moderation."

- Who spoke these words?
- What was the occasion?
- Highlight the relevance of this revelation in the context of plunder of Bengal after Plassey.

H. Assignment

Imagine you are a newspaper correspondent reporting on the Battle of Seringapatam and the death of Tipu Sultan. Write an article on the event.

I. Activity

Collect stories, poems, folk tales and pictures concerning any two of the following historical figures:
Tipu Sultan, Rani of Jhansi, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Mahadji Sindhia

LIFE SKILLS

Be responsible, take responsibility for your actions and behaviour.

A responsible person has the following qualities:

- Confidence
- Motivation
- Initiative
- Perseverance
- Determination
- High self-esteem
- Respect for elders
- Affection for youngsters

Now check, how responsible you are.