

## MODERN INDIA

### EUROPEANS IN INDIA

- Indian exposure to *the Europeans* was a result of *the discovery of a sea route to India*.
- Old trade routes existed since the ancient times. The invasion of *Alexander* boosted trade contacts outside India.
- Opening of new trade routes, through Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Caspian Sea till the Black sea also favoured European entry into India.
- Another trade route was through Persia and Syria till Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt.
- The route through the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and the Red Sea was the most convenient of all. Through these routes goods from India went to Europe and back.
- The rise of *the Arabs* witnessed a block of the trade *in the 7th century*. Besides this the *Turks* were *gaining grounds* over the Arabs.
- The shortage in the supply of Asian goods caused a rise of price of these commodities in Europe. This forced the European countries to seek new sea routes to India.

#### 1)The Portuguese

- Owing to the favorable position of Portugal with regards to access to sea and its experiences in sea-faring, a new sea route to India, *west of Africa* was discovered.
- Encouragement *by Prince Henry of Portugal* who loved navigation and exploration also further boosted the thrill to seek newer lands. By 1481 Bartholomew *Diaz reach the cape of Good Hope* in Southern Africa. *In 1497 Vasco de Gama* another *Portuguese* navigator sailed along the Atlantic coast of Africa rounded the cape of Good Hope and reached *Mozambique in the Indian Ocean*.  
On April, 1498 he reached the western coast of India at *Calicut in the south Indian state of Kerala*.
- He was received by the Zamorin ruler of Calicut who permitted establishment of trading centres at *Calicut, Cochin and Cannanore*.
- Fuelled by the instigation of the Arabs the Zamorins attacked the Portuguese but was defeated. The *Portuguese thus became supreme in the west coast*.
- *Almeida was the first Portuguese Governor in India*. He was determined to make Portugal powerful at sea. From *1509 to 1515 Albuquerque* became the *second* governor of the Indian territory held by Portugal.
- He aimed at occupying places for trade, developing a group of intermixed population who would rightfully claim possession of the Portuguese territory in India. *Building of forts was another effort of his to consolidate the Portuguese position in*
- India. In *1510* he conquered *Goa from the sultan of Bijapur*.
- He established a factory *at Colombo in Ceylon and fort at Cochin*. With his able administration he increased the Portuguese influence in India.
- In 1534 the Portuguese occupied Bassein and in 1538 Daman too. In the same year the Portuguese started constructing a factory near *Hugli*.
- After a century the Portuguese power began to decline owing to factors like incompetent successors of Albuquerque, defective administration, religious intolerance, resistance from the Mughals, lack of financial support from home, conditions arising of the union of Portugal with Spain under Philip II in 1580.
- Besides this the inefficient trading methods, discovery of Brazil and above all the emergence of strong European competitions especially the Dutch English also hastened the Portuguese decline.

## 2)The Dutch

- After the Portuguese, the Dutch rose to power in the South East Asia.
- Their contact with India was through settlements *at Nagapatnam and Cinsura in Bengal.*
- The Dutch East India Company declined under the pressure from the English.
- The British navy was much superior to the Dutch and finally the English controlled the Dutch possessions in India.

## 3)ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY

- In *the sixteenth century* the English started trade with the east.
- The English had to pay high prices for goods bought from the east. Lured by the Portuguese profits the English too wished to have their share of wealth and profits.
- Attaining power in this area would result in getting goods at prices they decide. Besides this the defeat of the Spanish Armada had made England the mistress of the seas.
- In 1500 a group of merchants under the Chairmanship of Lord Mayor formed an association in London to trade with India.
- *In 1600 Queen Elizabeth* granted a charter to the governor of a company of merchants to trade freely with the countries of the east.
- Voyages were made to South East Asia to trade in spices. Attention towards India was diverted due to the Dutch influence in the Spice islands and getting raw materials for the English.
- The vast Indian mainland could be a market for the finished goods.
- *The voyage to India was led by Captain Hawkins.* He landed at the west coast of Surat and succeeded to get some trade concession for the company from Emperor Jahangir.
- He also secured permission to set up a factory at Surat. The Portuguese influence in the Mughal Court proved an obstacle to the English trade.
- In 1612 Captain Best defeated the Portuguese fleet near Surat thus reducing their influence. He secured permission for building of a factory at Surat.
- In 1615 King James I of England sent Sir Thomas Roe as his ambassador to the court of Jahangir, and secured permission for the company to set up factories. Thus factories were set up at *Ahmedabad, Broach and Agra.* rose in Orissa and Bengal.
- In 1633, in the Mahanadi delta of Hariharpur at Balasore in Orissa, factories were set up. In 1650 Gabriel Boughton an employee of the Company obtained a license for trade in Bengal.
- *An English factory was set up in 1651 at Hugli.*
- Various factors besides the lack of a political authority in India encouraged the company to unleash a vigorous policy of trade. The disintegrating Mughal empire had excited the English.
- At a petty pretext during the rule of Aurangzeb, the British brought a fleet from England and attacked Hugli. Aurangzeb attacked the English settlements and, captured their settlements at Patna, Cassim Bazar, Masaulipatam and Vizagapatnam.
- The superior English navy avoided the progress of the Mughals and found it wise to conclude peace on the conditions imposed by Aurangzeb.

- In 1690 Job Charnock established a factory. In 1698 the factory was fortified and called Fort William. The villages of Sutanati, Kalikata and Gobindpore were developed into a single area called Calcutta.
- In 1717 Emperor Farukhiyar permitted duty free trade. In Gujarat and Madras too they secured concessions. The company at Bombay minted rupees to be circulated in India.
- Owing to the economic factors at England and the discredited submission to the terms of Aurangzeb, a rival trading company was established called General Society. A compromise between the two companies on common trade saved the East India Company in 1702.

### 3) **FRENCH EAST INDIA COMPANY**

- At a period when Europe witnessed an upsurge in discoveries and colonization, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English were on their mission for contacts with India .
- France who competed with England in many respects also took to installing trade contacts with India and the east. *In 1611 Louis XII granted monopoly to a company to pursue their quest*, but did not achieve any progress.
- In 1664 Louis XIV granted another permission to start trade with India.
- The trade with India was a matter of prestige as the European politics was dominated by rivalries in the eighteenth century.
- In India *Anglo French* conflict started with the *Austrian war* of succession which ended in the seven years war. *Pondicherry was the hub of French settlements*.
- Other French factories and settlements were at Masulipatanam, Karikal, Mahi, Surat and Chandernagore. The struggle for establishing supremacy in trade resulted in wars between the English and the French in the Deccan. The first Carnatic war was fought between 1746-48.
- The second Carnatic war was fought between 1748-54 and the third Carnatic war was between 1758-63. This was the war that sealed the fate of the French possessions in India.
- Owing to Commercial superiority and better financial position, private ownership of the English company and support by the British government, the East India Company flourished in India. Superiority of the English officers, besides this the French continental preoccupations, the superior English navy and the impact of English domination in Bengal, the recall of Duplex and the blunders of Count de Lally contributed to the French failure in India.
- Thus the struggle for colonial supremacy resulted the English having overcome the European obstacle. Little did then one realize that this was the beginning of a diplomatic policy that would reign supreme in India for the next two centuries.

### **PIASSEY: THE BATTLE OF BREACH QUEST OF BENGAL**

- The east India company secured valuable privileges under a royal firman of 1717, given by Mughal emperor Farrukhsiyar, which had granted the company the freedom to export and import their goods in Bengal without paying taxes and the right to use passes or Dastaks for the movement of such goods.
- The company servants were also permitted to trade but were not covered by this firman, they were required to pay the same taxes as Indian Merchants.
- Conflict began when Sirajuddaulah came to the throne of Bengal. The new emperor faced serious challenges from his rivals Ghasiti Begum of Dacca and Shaukat Jung of Purnia and was also suspicious of the English.

- He was strictly against the misuse of Dastaks.
- Problem arose when the English began to fortify Calcutta as part of preparation of war with French without the permission of the Nawab. Sirajuddaulah asked both the English and the French to pull down their fortifications. The French complied but the English refused to obey. Sirajuddaulah
  - responded by seizing the English factory at Qasim Bazaar and subsequently Fort William was captured in 1756. It was during this 'occupation of Calcutta' the so-called Blackhole episode of Holwell happened.
  - Leaving Calcutta at the hands of Manikchand, Siraj returned to celebrate his victory letting the English escape to Fulda.
  - A strong naval and military force arrived from Madras under Colonel Clive and Admiral Watson. Hoogli was plundered and Calcutta reoccupied in the beginning of 1757. The Nawab was forced to sign the Treaty of Aligarh in February 1757 wherein all the demands of the English were conceded.
  - By this time the English had decided to remove Siraj and place a puppet in his place. They conspired with the leading men of the Nawab's court such as Manikchand, Amirchand, Jagat Seth, Mir Jaffer and Rai Durlabh. The rival met each other in the battle field off Plassey. The fateful battle was a battle only in name. The major part of Nawab's army was led by traitors. Sirajuddaulah was put to death by Mir Jaffer's son Miran.
  - The English proclaimed Mir Jaffer the Nawab. The company was granted undisputed right to free trade in Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. It also received the zamindari of 24 Parganas.
  - Besides Jaffer also paid huge sums of bribe to officials of the company.
  - Mir Jaffer's treasury was soon emptied with the demand of the company. When Mir Jaffer hesitated to fulfil all their expectations, they replaced him by his son-in-law Mir Qasim.
  - Mir Qasim rewarded his benefactors by granting the company the zamindari of the districts Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong.
  - Mir Qasim was an efficient and strong ruler determined to improve the affairs of the state.
  - He also checked the misuse of the firman of 1717 by the company officials to evade internal custom duties. He therefore took the extreme step of abolishing all duties on internal trade and benefitting his own subjects by giving them the concession that the English had forcefully snatched.
  - The war between the company and Mir Qasim began in 1763 and in a series of encounters the Nawab was defeated.
  - He fled to Awadh and formed an alliance with Shuja-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Awadh and the fugitive Mughal emperor Shah Alam-II in a final attempt to oust the English from Bengal.
  - The three allies clashed with the company at Buxar on 22nd October, 1764 and were completely defeated. It was the most decisive battle in the history of India. It established the British firmly in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and placed Awadh at their mercy. Mir Jaffer was restored as the Nawab of Bengal and after his death Nizam-ud-Daulah was placed on the throne. Nizam-ud-Daulah signed the Treaty of Allahabad in 1765 by which most of Nawab's army was disbanded and the administration of Bengal was placed in the hands of a deputy Subahdar who was to be nominated by the company. Thus the company gained complete control over the administration of Bengal.

- The company got the Diwani of Bihar, Bengal and Orissa from the mughal emperor. It legalised their claim to collect its revenue as the Diwan and through the right to nominate the deputy subahdar, it controlled the Nizamat or the police and judicial powers.
- This system is known in history as the 'dual government'. Clive introduced the dual government in Bengal by which the company acquired the real power while the responsibility for administration rested on the shoulders of the nawab of Bengal. Warren Hastings

### **THE CARNATIC WARS**

- For 20 years from 1744 to 1763 the French and the English were to have three wars for the control over the trade, wealth and territory of India. These Anglo-French conflicts in India are generally known as Carnatic wars in Indian history.
- The first Carnatic war (1744-48): In 1742 war broke out in Europe between France and England. One of the major causes of the war was rivalry over colonies in America; The war of Europe spread to India. The second cause of war between English and French was their rivalry in trade.
- Dupleix, the French governor general of French East India Company was very ambitious to establish a French state in India. In 1748, the general war between England and France ended. As a part of peace settlement Madras was restored to the English by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.
- The second Carnatic war (1748-54): Only a few months had elapsed since the end of the first Carnatic war when the English and the French had to get themselves involved in another war in 1748.
- The establishment of Chanda Sahib, the ally of French, on the throne of Carnatic was bound to have adverse effect on English trade since the hinterland of Madras would be in the hands of their enemies. In the war of succession Dupleix supported Muzaffar Jang for the throne but Eyre Coot captured Pondicherry and French lost all their possessions to the English.
- With the treaty of Paris in 1763, peace was secured and the lost territories were returned to the French. Subahdarship of Deccan and Chandah Sahib for the Carnatic, whereas the English supported the opponents Nasir Jung for Deccan (Hydrabad) and Nawab Anwaruddin for Carnatic.
- The parties supported by the French won the ensuing battles and secured the throne.
- Robert Clive in the meanwhile made a surprise attack at Arcot, the capital of Carnatic in order to divert attention from Trichinopoly. Chandah Sahib rushed to save his capital; The English easily captured Arcot. This proved the success of the English and sealed the fate of Dupleix who was recalled in 1754.
- The new governor Godheu ended the warfare and signed the treaty of Pondicherry in 1754.
- According to this treaty both the parties promised that they would not interfere in the internal affairs of the Indian rulers, both the parties returned the conquered parts of each other. The English and the French also agreed to give up all the posts and privileges granted to them by Indian rulers.
- Third Carnatic war (1758-63): The peace between the English and the French in India proved short lived.
- In 1756, there broke out the well known seven years war in Europe and before long the two nations began to fight in India also. Thus the third Carnatic war was a mere echo of the seven years war.
- When there ensued a war between the English and the French in Europe, the French government sent a powerful army under the command of Count de Lally to mitigate the influence of British in India. As soon as he came to India in 1758, he captured Fort St. George and decided to attack Madras, but by this time the English had won name and fame by
  - winning the battle of Plassey. At the battle of Wandiwash Eyre Coot defeated Lally in 1760.
  - Eyre Coot captured Pondicherry and French lost all their possessions to the English.
  - With the treaty of Paris in 1763, peace was secured and the lost territories were returned to the French.

- The French factories were restored but they could no longer be fortified and even garrisoned with troops. They could serve only as centres of trade.

## CONQUEST OF MYSORE

- Haider Ali conquered shera, Bidnur and Sonda. He was defeated by Madhav Rao in 1764 and 1769.
- The Nizam of Hyderabad did not act alone but preferred to act in league with the British which resulted in the first Anglo-Mysore war.
- **First Anglo-Mysore war (1766-69):** The first Anglo-Mysore war ended with the defeat of the British., Haider Ali forced the Madras council to sign peace on his terms. Both sides restored each others conquest and promised mutual help in case of an attack by a third party. But English went back on their promise when Marathas attacked Haider Ali in 1771. Verelst was the English governor.
- **Second Anglo-Mysore war (1780-84):** English seized the French settlement of Mahe, a port which was useful to Haider Ali for the entry of supplies. Haider Ali joined a strong coalition formed by Nizam in 1779 against the English. Thus the second Anglo-Mysore war was started. Luckily for English Haider Ali died in 1782. He was succeeded by Tipu Sultan who carried on the war. The governor of Madras MacCartney sued for peace and the treaty of Mangalore was signed.

This second Anglo-Mysore war was fought during the period of Warren Hastings.

- **Third Anglo-Mysore war (1790- 92):** Tipu conquered Travancore. The attack on Travancore incensed the British. Cornwallis made an alliance with the Marathas and Nizam. In 1791 Cornwallis captured Bangalore and Tipu was compelled to sign the treaty of Seringapatnam on 19th March 1792. Tipu had lost half of his territory. With the help of Nizam and Marathas, Wellesley declared war on Tipu. Fourth Anglo-Mysore war (1799); Tipu formed an alliance with the French, Zaman Shah, the ruler of Kabul and the kings of Arabia and Turkey. In 1799 British captured Seringapatnam and Tipu died.  
The Bombay government made the treaty of Surat with Raghunath Rao.
- The Calcutta council rejected this treaty and treaty of Purandhar was made in 1775

## WAR WITH MARATHAS

- **First Anglo-Maratha-war ((1775-82):**
- The primary cause of the first Anglo-Maratha war was the interference of the English government of Bombay in the internal affairs of the Marathas.
- Madhav Rao was succeeded by his brother Narain Rao but his uncle Raghuriath Rao wanted to become Peshwa and got him murdered. The great Maratha chiefs took up the cause of Madhav "Rao Narain, the posthumous son of Narain Rao. Raghunath Rao felt weak: and approached the Bombay government for help.
- The Bombay government made the treaty of Surat with Raghunath Rao. The Calcutta council rejected this treaty and treaty of Purandhar was made in 1775.
- In 1780, the fortress of Gwalior was taken over by Major Popham. Scindhia wanted to make peace with English. At this time the English were also fighting with Haider Ali of Mysore: Therefore Hastings signed the treaty of Salbai in 1782 which gave British 20 years, of peace.

### **The second Anglo-Maratha war (1803- 05):**

The treaty of Bassein was signed between the last peshwa of the Marathas Baji Rao-II and the English in 1802. By this treaty the paramount British influence was established at Poona.

- For the marathas treaty Of Bassein was nothing short of surrender of National honour.
- Scindhi and Bhonsle were, asked by the british to withdraw their troops north of the Narmada river but they refused. It led to war and defeat of combined force of Schindia and Bhonsle.
- Wellesleys effort to control the Holkar failed. He was therefore recalled-from India and company made peace with Holkar in 1806 by the treaty of, Rajghat

### **The third Anglo-Maratha war (1817- 18):**

- The Marathas made a desperate last attempt to regain their independence' in 18,17. The war began when Lord Hastings moved against the pindaris.
- By careful moves the English forced humiliating treaties on the Raja of Nagpur, the Peshwa and Sehindia.
- Daulat Rao Schindia, Appa Sahib and Malhar Rad Holkar-II raised their arms. But they were defeated by the British. The maratha confederacy was completely destroyed.
- To satisfy the Maratha pride a small kingdom of satara was created. Thus, the work of Lord Hastings was accomplished in 1818. Now the British became the supreme and paramount authority in India

### **ANGLO-SIKH WAR**

- The death of Ranjeet Singh in 1839 was followed by political instability and rapid change of government in the Punjab. Selfish and corrupt leaders came to the front.
- The first battle between-the Sikhs and the english was fought at Muduks in 1845. The Sikhs were defeated. The english again won the battle of Ferozpur.
- The sikhs under Ranjeet Singh Majithia defeated the english at Buddwal in 1846. But the Sikhs were again defeated at Aliwal. The decisive battle was fought at Sabraon on February 10, 1846 and sikhs were routed. This battle is known as the 'battle of guns'. The english captured Lahore. Lord Hardinge didnot annex the sikh empire.
- The war came to an end by the treaty of Lahore in March 1846. A second treaty known as the 'second treaty of Lahore'
- or 'treaty of Bhairawal' was signed in December 1846.
- The sikhs considered their defeat in the first sikh war, a great humiliation. The second Anglo-Sikh war was fought in 1848-49. In a series of battles the sikhs were defeated by the british at several places. Lord Dalhousie on his own responsibility annexed Punjab in 1849. Sir John Lawrence was appointed as the first commissioner of Punjab in 1853

## ANNEXATION OF SIND

- There were three important causes to annex Sind to the British empire (i) commercial possibilities of the Indus; (ii) British fear of expansion of Russian empire to the east and; (iii) British desire to increase its influence in Persia and Afghanistan.
- Lord Minto sent an ambassador to the Amirs in 1809 and concluded a friendship treaty with them. Lord Bentick made a treaty with them in 1832 by which the roads and rivers of Sind were opened to English trade.
- Lord Auckland forced the amirs to sign the subsidiary treaty in 1839. Lord Alenborough unnecessarily provoked the Amirs of Sind into a war.
- After defeating the Baluchis and expulsion of Sher Mohammad (Amir of Mirpur) by Napier, Sind was annexed to the British empire in 1843. After occupying Sind Napier is said to have fought the decisive battle between the English & Sikhs at Sabraon on February 10, 1846 & Sikhs were routed. This battle is known as the 'battle of guns'. Sent a telegram to the governor general saying 'I have Sin(ne)d'. Napier was appointed as the first governor of Sind.
- The Company's annexations following its final military victory over Mysore state in 1799, led to direct confrontations with the Marathas in a series of wars with the various Maratha rulers (1803-05, 1817-19). Each sequential Maratha defeat resulted in a substantial annexation by the Company in central India (totaling some 180,000 square miles 466,000 square kilometers).
- The Company's territorial acquisitions under Wellesley resulting from the last Mysore War (1799), the cession of the Ganga-Yamuna doab from Awadh (1801), and the consequences of the Maratha wars (1803-05) totaled around 135,000 square miles, The Subsidiary Alliance System.
- The Subsidiary Alliance System was used by Wellesley to bring Indian states within the orbit of British political power.
- The system served the double purpose of asserting British supremacy in India and at the same time of saving India from the menace of Napoleon. The system played a very important part in the expansion of the Company's dominions and many new territories were added to the Company's possessions.
- In Indian wars : In the first stage, the Company undertook to lend its troops to friendly prince to assist him in his wars as for instance, the Treaty with the Nizam the Nizam (1768).
- In the second stage, the Company's troops took the field on their own account with the assistance of an Indian ally who made common cause with them.
- The next stage was reached when the Indian ally was not to supply men but money. The Company undertook to raise, train and equip an army under English officers and render available to the ally fixed number of troops on receiving a sum of money towards the cost of these troops, as for instance in the Treaty with Hyderabad (1798).
- Fourth stage: The Company undertook to defend the territories of an Indian ally and for that purpose stationed a subsidiary force in the territory of the state. The Indian ally was asked not to pay money but surrender territory from the revenues of which the expenses of the subsidiary force were to be met, as for instance the Treaty with the Nizam (1800)
- Dupleix was perhaps the first who had lent European troops to Indian princes at the expense of the latter. The English also adopted the system. Ever since the governorship of Clive the system had been supplied with more or less insight by almost every Governor and Governor-General of India.
- Wellesley's special contribution was in the case of almost every Indian state. The earliest subsidiary treaty negotiated by the Company was with the Nawab of Oudh in 1765 by which the Company undertook to defend the territory of Oudh on the condition that the Nawab defrayed the expenses of self-defence. A British Resident was also stationed at Lucknow.



- The first time the Company insisted that the subsidiary state should have no foreign relations was in the treaty with the Nawab of Company concluded by Cornwallis in February 1787. Later Sir Johan Shore the treaty with the Nawab was not to hold communications with the Nawab of Oudh (21 January 1798) insisted the Nawab was not to hold communications with or admit into the service other European nationals.
- Wellesley made it a general rule to negotiate for the surrender of territory in full 'sovereignty' for the upkeep of the subsidiary force. A typical Subsidiary Treaty was negotiated on the following terms and conditions viz. The Indian state was to surrender its external relations to the care of the Company and was to make no wars. It was to conduct negotiations with other states through the Company.
- Hastings' official policy became 'paramountcy': the company's authority as paramount power superseded that of the Indian rulers.
- A bigger state was to maintain an army within its territories commanded by British officers for the 'preservation of public peace' and the ruler was to cede territory in full sovereignty for the upkeep of that force; a smaller state was required to pay tribute in to the Company; The state was to accept a British Resident at its headquarters; The state was not to employ Europeans in it's a force without the consultation of the Company; The Company was not to interfere in the internal affairs of the state; The Company was to protect the Indian state against foreign enemies of 'every sort of kind' \* Under Lord Hastings ( 1814-1823), the Company a number of wars : the Nepal War'(1818-16), Pindari War (1817-19), and Third Maratha War (1817-19). Hastings' official policy became 'paramountcy': the company's authority as paramount power super.