

AUGUST-16 - MODERN INDIA

Q) "On 23rd June 1757, the middle ages of India ended and here modern age began". Comment (20 Marks).

Ans) On 23rd June, 1757, one of the most decisive events in the history of India happened, which started the dawn of Modern age across the country and subcontinent. It was the day of Battle of Plassey, fought between Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula of Bengal, against the East India Company of Britain's forces led by Robert Clive.

The war a mere sham-of-a war, but its long term consequences were very much remarkable. The result of the war was decided by corrupt and treacherous means, which resulted in providing some privileges to Britain in Bengal. It ultimately resulted in control of whole of Bengal's wealth in Britain's hand, which played a crucial role in the establishment of British empire in India.

The arrival of Modernity from the Medieval ages with the result of this battle can be studied in the long term as:

- Uniform Administration: Britishers introduced uniform system of administration over whole of India which established rule of law over country. Earlier, the country's civil and criminal system of

punishment was based on caste, religion, gender aspect of society. The modern means of administration ended this societal discrimination.

don't give sweeping statement. ended to a large extent

- Political unification: Britishers gradual gained control over whole of subcontinent and established their paramountcy over other regional kingdoms. It established a sense of unity among people, as their loyalty transferred from earlier tribes, ~~caste~~ kingdoms etc. towards the whole nation.

- Modern Means of Communication: The arrival of Telegraph, Railways, Roads etc. reduced the physical barriers in the country and people could move from one place to another easily.

- Press: The newspapers and viewpapers and brought an intellectual revolution in country. It played a crucial role in the development of a sense of nationalism among people leading to rise of a modern nation state.

- Western Education: It made the middle class of India aware about the politico-economic and societal conditions of the country and they could make efforts to address the backwardness of the country.

- World Contact: The new enlightenment ideas, unifications of Italy and Germany, Russo-Japanese war of 1904, made people aware of their self-determination and they started to see themselves as part of a bigger nation.

However, still these are the long term results of the Battle of Plassey and in the short term, the battle was not able to make a significant impact:

- Company only got some privileges in Bengal, by which they were able to defeat France, but other regional kingdoms took more efforts to be subjugated.

- Several peculiar conditions of Britain such as technological backwardness, internal rivalries, naval supremacy of Britain played role in establishment of British empire.

write down negative impact of British rule which were not confirming to the modernity..like ruin of handicraft industry drain of wealth which brought poverty. also write that it is not always right to say that peene Irish india was absolutely backward and living in medieval era.

Thus, it was not just the Battle of Plassey, but several other factors as well which resulted in the rise of Modern age in the country.