

Q "The relations of the Native States, however conducted are essentially relations with the British Crown & not with the Indian Government". Comment.

The year 1858 saw the assumption of direct responsibility by the crown. Because of the state's loyalty during the 1857 revolt the policy of annexation was abandoned.

However, the crown stood forth as the unquestioned ruler & the ruler of native states inherited the gaddi not as a matter of right but as a gift from the paramount power.

In 1927, Butler Commission was set up to examine the nature of relationship between the states & government.

According to the recommendations of the Commission, the paramountcy of the British crown over the native states must remain supreme. Secondly, it recommended that states should not be handed over to an Indian govt without the consent of states.

The Government of India Act, 1935 proposed an all-India federation with an assembly having representatives from the Princely States as well as from the Indian provinces under the British. But such a federation never came into existence.

During the Second World War, the native states tried various schemes to forge a union of their own, so that they can make themselves a third force in the Indian political scene. But the June 3rd plan made it clear that the native states were free to join any of the two dominions but were refused to have a sovereign status.

The political conditions in the states of British India were quite different. As the national movement grew in strength, the Princes were increasingly called upon to play the role of 'bulwarks of reaction'. This was one of the reasons why the movement in British India merged so late with the Princely States. Thus, this shows that relations of the native states, however conducted are essentially relations with the British crown & not with the Indian govt.