

17 a)

Rangpur Dhing was the response of the peasants to the economic exploitation and agrarian discontent caused by British policies in Bengal.

Factors responsible for Rangpur rebellion are as follows:

- (i) High revenue demand by the British.
- (ii) The revenue farming system introduced by Hastings led to exploitation of peasants at the hands of ijardars.
example) Debi Singh.
- (iii) bullock means were used to extract revenue from impoverished peasants.

(iv) The immediate cause being the large scale dispossession of the lands of the peasants by the ijardar in Rangpur paraganas.

→ Significance of Rangpur Dhing

(i) They attacked not just the ijardars but also the British. Revealed that they had awareness of power relations.

(ii) It was a 'restorative revolt'. Elected their leader and called him Nawab.

(iii) Raised an army and forbid payment of tax to British.

These reveal that the rebellion was large scale and attempted to overthrow the British yoke within Rangpur Paraganas.

(b)

The Mercantilist State of Mysore harboured the same hegemonic ambitions as the British East India Company as noted by Munro and Elphinstone.

→ Circumstances that led to the War are as follows:

- Travancore encroached upon territory of Cochin and also bought territories from Dutch in Cochin.
- Tipu saw Cochin as his feudal state and Travancore's action was seen by Tipu as Transgression of his sovereignty.
- Tipu declared War on Travancore and British, ally of Travancore declared War on Mysore.

(1) → How far Cornwallis was responsible for war?

- o Some historians feel that British shouldn't have gotten involved in the dispute between Mysore and Travancore.
- o Cornwallis was the one ~~of~~ who declared war on Mysore and not the other way around.
- o While at the same time, Cornwallis had warned Tippu that British guarded the sovereignty of Travancore and attack on Travancore will be responded with force.

Thus it can be concluded that Cornwallis was partly responsible for the war ~~but~~ a war between Mysore and British was inevitable due to competing and conflicting interests in South India.

(C)

Christian Missionaries were able to get official okay to enter India for proselytizing and modernizing activities with the Charter Act of 1813.

The Role of Christian Missionaries in empowerment of women were many.

- o They setup schools for women.
Education of women was neglected throughout India in the 18th century
example) They set up society for juvenile female education.
- o They were in forefront of social reforms concerning women.
Criticized sati and child marriage.
Influenced the government to

pass legislations in that regard.

o They setup many Charity Institutions to take in exploited women of the society and gave them a decent standard of living.

o They trained many women to become teachers and nurses.

example) Mother Teresa.

Thus giving them gainful employment.

Thus the Christian Missionaries played an instrumental role in colonial India for the empowerment of women.

d)

Ecological Imperialism is imperialism in the realm of Environment and Ecology where these resources are exploited for the benefit of the mother country, from the colony.

(example) Timber export from India to England.

→ Ecological Imperialism and destruction of Ecology

o Rail laying with ecological understanding disturbed the natural sewage system.

This led to cholera epidemics in Bengal.

o Hunting of wildlife for game and trophies led to loss of biodiversity and ecological degradation.

(example) Extinction of Chettah from India.

→ This ecological imperialism also led to encroachment of rights of traditional forest dwellers.

- Regulated access to forest for Tribals. Couldn't collect forest produce.

- Land alienation of tribals through encroachments.

(example) Santal Rebellion.

- Banning of shifting cultivation in north-east which was the means of livelihood for tribal peasants.

Thus having found themselves lost of their home, livelihood and autonomy the tribals rose up in popular revolt, attempting to restore the previous social and economic order that existed.

e) The Indian Renaissance is used to refer to the phenomenon of socio-economic reforms that dominated the socio-economic plains of Bengal in particular in 19th century.

Its a misnomer

- Renaissance implies 'rebirth' in the European context, but in the Indian context, there was no 'rebirth'.
- Unlike in Europe, the religion and social beliefs were not overhauled, but rather slowly and gradually reformed.
- This was done while maintaining the core of the religion.
- The revivalist trend ran counter to the very idea of Renaissance.

At the same time, it may be called Renaissance in a broader perspective.

- There was questioning of dominance of priestly class.
- Attack on social evils like Sati which had 'religious sanctions'
- Attempted liberation of man from religion and superstition.
- spread of ideas of liberty, equality, reason.

Thus it may be called Renaissance in a broader view and within the Indian context and conditions prevalent in India.

2) a) The Charter Act of 1833 extended the privileges and role of East India Company in India for another 20 years and also brought along significant political and economic changes.

→ 'Rung down the curtain on company's trade'

- From the Charter Act of 1813, the EIC lost its trade monopoly in India.
- But it retained trade in tea and trade with China monopoly.
- But with the rising tide of 'Free trade' movement in England, it was only a matter of time when other privileges were lost as well.
- With the Charter Act of 1833 the EIC lost all its trade

monopoly privileges and was reduced to a mere administrative body in India.

o It lost all its commercial functions and now was functioning virtually like an arm of the British Govt.

→ The Charter Act of 1833 also introduced major changes in the political structure of the company in India.

o The Governor General of Bengal was made the Governor General of India.

William Bentick, thus became the first Governor-General of India.

o Attempted to centralize the administration by vesting vast amount of powers in the hands of Governor General.

- The Presidencies of Bombay and Madras lost their legislative powers.
 - They could only suggest legislations to the Governor-General.
 - The control of the Home Government was further tightened over the Company and its Indian territories.
- Thus the Charter Act of 1833 gradually eroded the autonomy of the Company while at the same time increased that of the Home Government and bringing centralization of administration to the peak in British India.

2b)

The French and the British were the last remaining European contenders to the trade and political crown of India.

→ The English EIC and the French EIC had some fundamental differences in their nature, that had contributed to the defeat of French EIC.

o Nature of company.

→ English EIC was a private company where shareholders played an important role in the affairs of the company.

→ French EIC had a major stake with the French monarch was least interested in managing the affairs of the company.

o → Being a private company, the British EIC never neglected their commercial and economic interests, thus had a strong financial base, to wage war.

→ The French EIC neglected its commercial and economic interests thus was not able to consolidate its rule and was against British.

o → The British EIC was devoided greater power in decision making thus was able to handle any new circumstances.

→ The French EIC had to always look upto the government for approval. This delayed decision making thus making the company inefficient.

o → ~~that~~ The EIC had support of the home government to meet any exigencies like financial constraint or in the form of provision of brown troops.

→ The French EIC didn't have much help from their home government and thus was mostly left to themselves to deal with any emergencies.

But at the same time there were factors too that ensured British victory like:

→ superior navy and ability to establish naval blockade.

→ Access to resources of Bengal to fund their war and finance their trade.

→ Able leaders were many in ^{British} EIC like Clive, Arthur Wellesley. Unlike for French EIC, Dupleix was the sole able man.

Thus failure of French in India against British can be partly explained due to the differences in nature of British and French EIC.

2) c)

The Treaty of Bassein was concluded between Baji Rao II, Peshwa of Maratha and the British during the Third Anglo-Maratha War.

→ Treaty of Bassein gave Empire of India to the Company:

o It led to stationing of British troops in Poona, which was of strategic importance.

o It led to the collapse of the Maratha Confederacy. Had it remained united, the British would face a major threat in India and in Deccan.

o Gave British territories in Deccan and a lump sum of money which helped strengthen British position in Deccan.

→ But at the same time, to say the Treaty gave the company, the Empire of India would be an exaggeration.

- o The British still had to defeat the other sardars of Marathas who were not party to the Treaty.
- o Territorial gains via. the treaty were meagre.
- o British had not firmly established its power in Deccan, to have claimed the Empire of India, yet.

Thus the Treaty of Bassein helped the British in their march towards an East-India empire but hadn't granted them that empire.

Q4) a)

The Ryotwari system was introduced by the British in Madras and parts of Deccan, as a more profitable revenue settlement which could help consolidate British rule at the same time as well.

→ Circumstances that led to adoption of Ryotwari system:

- o Disillusion with the Permanent Settlement introduced by the Lord Cornwallis in Bengal.
- o The British were not able to increase the revenue demand as it was fixed permanently.
- o All the surplus was taken away by the Zamindars.
- o Absence of a class of Zamindars in Madras, to be able to introduce Permanent Settlement.

o Influence of Scottish Enlightenment.

Alexander Keed and Thomas Munro were influenced by it, which cherished the 'yeoman farmer'.

o Acceptance from London for two reasons:

→ The government could raise revenue demand, in future.

→ Cutting down the intermediaries will give the state more revenue.

→ Will help in consolidating British rule.

o Failure of Permanent Settlement initially in parts of North India.

→ Features of Ryotwari system in Madras Presidency

o The proprietorship lay with the Ryot instead of a landlord.

o State would directly collect revenue from peasant.

o Revenue ^{demand} would be ascertained after proper scientific survey of the fields of farmer.

o The peasant will be offered the 'patta' if he accepts the revenue demand, else it will be left fallow.

o The peasant should be allowed to take as much or as little land as he wants.

Although initially some of the above provisions were not carried out accordingly like

o Unscientific survey and overassessment.

o Coercion in acceptance of patta.

o Cruel means of extortion

as revealed by Madras ~~Torture~~ Torture Commission report. But later on necessary changes were brought in that eventually reduced revenue demand on peasant and led to agricultural prosperity.

4)b)

Commercialization of Agriculture is the phenomenon where agrarian production is not to meet the subsistence demand of the present, but rather to meet demand of the market accompanied by profit motive.

→ Effect of Commercialization of Agriculture in rural India

o Land and fertile ones were diverted for cash crops, that led to shortage of food grains and famines.

→ A counter view in this regard suggested by historians is that not much land was diverted.

→ In the 1940s, almost 80% of cropped area was under food grain cultivation.

o. Increase in prosperity in agriculture sector and improvement in life of Peasants.

→ This view is countered by Jyotiba Phule who says that any profit was snatched by manufacturers and traders and the peasant benefited little.

o. Made the rural India susceptible to vagaries of global market conditions.

ex) Crash in cotton after end of American Civil War.

o. Tradition and customs were replaced by contracts and profit motive.

o. Helped Indian agriculture to transition from medievalism to beginnings of Capitalism.

o. Forced Commercialization of Agriculture led to revolts and rebellion.

example) Judhpo Rebellion in 1859-60

o Led to growing indebtedness among the small peasants.

→ Commercial agriculture required large capital due to extensive agriculture and expensive inputs.

→ When crops failed or market crashed, the peasant was at the mercy of the money-lender.

Thus the commercialization of Agriculture had a great impact on the rural scene, but the fruits of it was not shared equally and equitably amongst the sections of rural India.

4)c

The Young Bengal Movement was spearheaded by Henry Vivian Derozio, a college lecturer in Bengal and an Anglo-Indian.

→ The ~~Young~~ Young Bengal Movement was radical in nature.

- o It led to proposing radical reform ideas like abolition of caste system.
- o They also advocated for equal rights for women.
- o Attacked social evils like Child Marriage.

→ The Movement hardly left any impression in the social and political landscape of India.

- o Its complete acceptance of Western ideas, didn't win the social consent of majority.
- o They were not aware of the realities of the society and thus a gulf existed between their ideas and reality.
- o Didn't take up the cause of the masses.
for example: The peasants cause.

But at the same time, the movement inspired many future leaders who would then go on to spread social reforms and fight for India's Independent Independence.