

Selfstudy history
Sectional Test V
Modern India

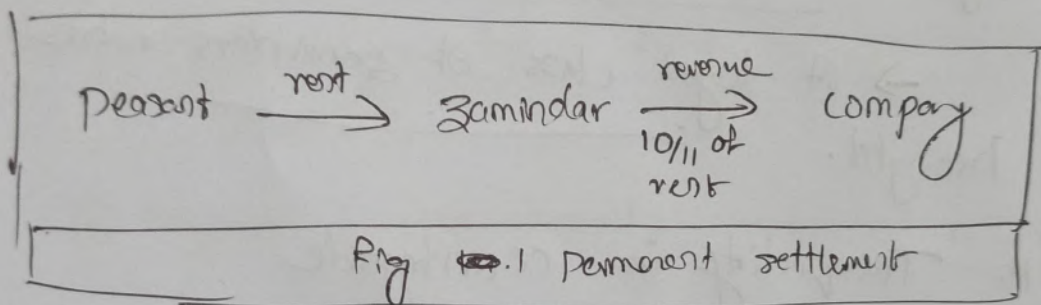
Name: NIDHIN R H

email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

ph: [REDACTED]

1 (a)

Permanent Settlement was brought by Cornwallis in 1793 in Bengal and it was later extended to some other regions like Malabar with some modifications.



Issues with settlement

- ① Revenue was fixed, hence no scope for future rise.
- ② Sunset clause made zamindars wary.
- ③ Land was made saleable and zamindars could now evict peasants.
- ④ Initial revenue fixation was at maximum.

which meant zamindars extorted more
which led to rural impoverishment

Settlement brought stability

I. Stability for government.

→ It freed company officials from
huge burden of revenue collection.

→ A loyal class of zamindars were
brought.

II. Tranquility in countryside

→ Zamindars controlled aspects of
rural governance by aiding company.

→ As zamindars were in direct
contact with peasants, this brought some
tranquility.

However, the long-term impact of settlement
was not favourable. It led to absentee
landlordism and landless labourers with
decline in productivity.

1 (b)

The third Anglo-Mysore war (1790-92) was ended with Treaty of Srirangapatna through which about half territories of Mysore was taken away by British, Hyderabad and Marathas on top of huge war indemnity.

① Mysore was heavily weakened militarily as well as economically

② Tipu had to send his son to British as security for war indemnity

③ Humiliating conditions were imposed on Mysore.

But, the real victor in the war was

British.

→ Territorial gains by Marathas and Hyderabad was limited while prosperous regions of Mysore including Malabar went to British.

→ With weakened Mysore, French were no longer in position of strength in any manner. Other powers like Marathas or Hyderabad could no longer ally with them in future.

→ No military or economic gain for British allies & name-worthy.

Thus, the third war ended up with Tipu in shade of his past glory. But, he was unwilling to yield and his attempt to bounce back led to the fourth Anglo-Mysore war and his death. Marathas and Hyderabad soon fell under British paramountcy.

1 (c)

Socio-religious reform movements in India were the result of contact with west, spread of western ideas and education and self-realisation by educated Indians.

Reform movements and women

Colonial critiques like James Mill highlighted the role of women as symbol of Indian backwardness. Thus, the issue was central in character

① Raja Rammohan Roy's efforts led to Sati abolition by William Bentinck

② Rammohan Roy explained how without widow remarriage and esp. to

Polygamy, sati abolishment is toothless.

③ Widow remarriage Act, 1856 and Age of consent Bill, 1891 were the result of reform activities

eg: Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Widow Remarriage Association

④ Spread of education among women

eg: Prarthana Samaj → girls schools

With efforts eventually women like Parulita Ramabai came forward in public space.

However, women were not entirely emancipated.

① In 1900 survey, over 10000 child widows below age 4 resided in Calcutta

② Orthodox elements shielded reform movements from rural side.

Lingering women issues like dowry, child marriage etc. are signs of incomplete women emancipation. But, reform movements were still relevant.

2(a)

British empire in India find its roots to Battle of Plassey (1757) while

Regulating Act (1773) when Warren Hastings was Governor General of Bengal brought an administrative structure under Parliament influence.

Clive as founder of British Empire

① Robert Clive rose through ranks of British army through Comatic wars in Peninsula.

① With the news of Siraj-ud-daula's attack on Calcutta, Robert Clive was

sent to deal with situation.

② Clive understood ground realities and conspired with the likes of Omichand, Jagat Seth, Mir Jaffar etc. (Plassey conspiracy) which led to British victory in Plassey.

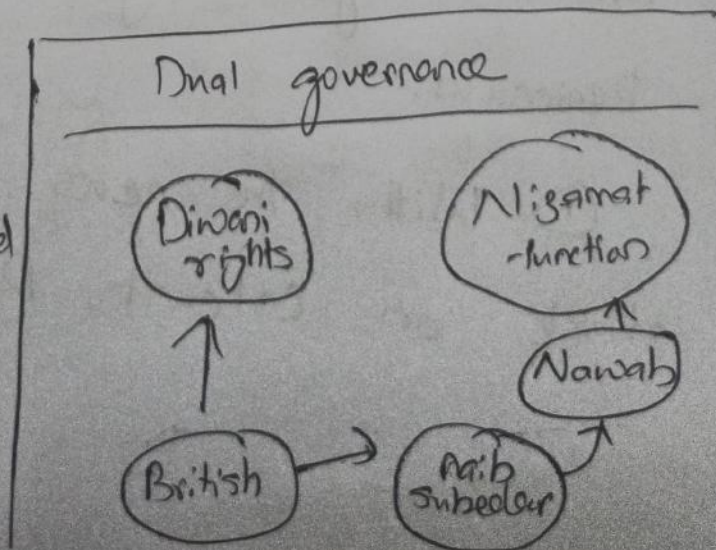
③ Plassey plunder that followed made British realise the merits of political dominance.

④ Plassey became the foundation upon which British power got established.

⑤ Dual ~~Double~~ governance in Bengal was set up by Clive post 1765. This became the first British political system in

India

Thus, Clive played crucial role in



founding British power.

→ However, it was only at Buxar that British won a real military victory over Indian powers (1765)

→ Even post Plassey Maratha threat was looming and French was vanquished only in 1759 (Battle of Wandiwash).

→ Dual governance led to administrative collapse, exploitation & lawlessness, ~~for~~

~~which~~
Thus, Warren Hastings was sent and Regulating Act passed to give an administrative structure.

Warren Hastings as administrative organiser

① Regulating Act brought limited control of Parliament over company and

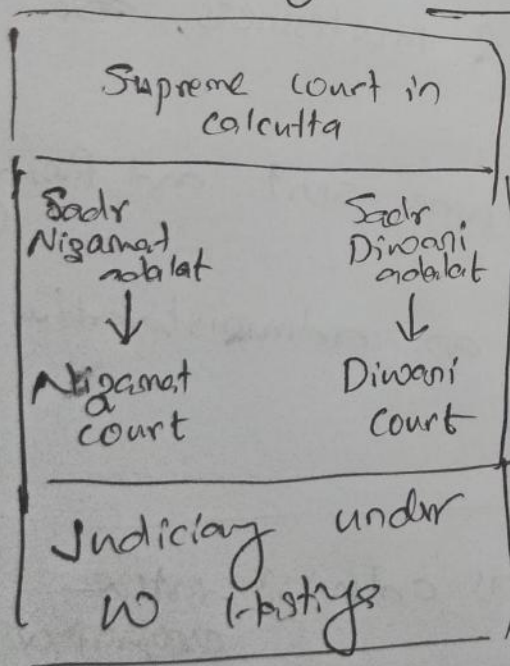
notion of centralisation established.

eg: Governor General of Bengal with power of foreign affairs over Bombay & Madras.

① He brought a system of judiciary and policing role was divested on Zaminars with oversight of English Magistrates.

③ Attempt to codify Indian laws for easy governance.

eg: 'Coutee laws' - N B Halhed



But, most of his reforms failed and it was under Cornwallis a proper structure evolved. W Hastings largely dependent on Mughal traditions and

native systems like Ijara dar for administration.

Thus, the roles of both Clive & Hastings were crucial, but cannot be over emphasized.

Q 6)

Moplah rebellions were a series of peasant rebellions in Malabar in the 19th century which culminated in the rebellion of the 1920s.

Why Moplahs revolted?

As calicut port was open port, numerous muslim settlements were established during medieval period. Gradually, Islam spread among peasants of region.

Tipu's arrival to Malabar saw

Numerous landlords escaping to Malabar and Moplahs now received relative freedom (including religious).

However, collapse of Tipu led to return of the janmi landlords, which the new British administration encouraged via their revenue settlement.

With unlimited power, these Hindu janmi's collected illegal dues, evicted peasants and resorted to other oppressions.

This resulted in a series of uprisings.

Nature of revolt & ideology

- ① It was violent in nature
- ② It was a peasant rebellion

③ It took communal colours as
Moplahs were muslims & Jannis
Hindus

④ They targeted all signs of oppression
- Jannis house, British institutions
etc.

Leadership was provided by muslim
clergies and ~~leaders~~ local leaders.

eg: Kunhammed Haji, Variyankunna

Later, post 1918, it aligned with
Khilafat cause.

→ Thus, ideology was against
colonial oppression and for peasant

Grievances, while muslim brotherhood spirit did contribute.

It was a peasant rebellion which unfortunately took communal colours.

2 (c)

Between 1818 and 1858, British system in India attempted to consolidate their possessions while attempting to expand, fuelled by ideologies like Utilitarianism, racism, evangelicalism etc.

① British policy post 1818 shifted to cautious and diplomatic one rather than aggression

eg: Non interference in Punjab till Ranjit Singh died.

② They justified their actions

whenever they interfered

eg: First Afghan war - preventing
Russian aggression over India

③ There was a visible decline in
imposition of subsidiary alliance;

④ They diplomatically isolated any rebelling
powers and annexed them

eg: annexation of Assam → Comolhan
Konwar's revolt

However, the interference never declined
as seen by Doctrine of Lapse by

Dalhousie. which annexed Satara, Nagpur etc.

Thus, the cautious approach was
for internal consolidation owing to
numerous rebellions and territorial annexation
continued to temper their policies.

3(a)

The decline of India's handicrafts contributed to de-industrialisation of India as per nationalist and Marxist historians. However, Cambridge & Imperialist historians argue it as a natural process when a superior industrial economy overcoming a traditional, backward economy.

[Was it a deliberate shattering?]

Early British policy was to make Indian artisans forcefully work under British for cheap rates. This was

Oppressive and many weavers cut their thumbs to escape.

① With industrial revolution in Britain strengthening, cheap machine made goods were dumped to Indian market.

② Destruction of native powers led to decline of patronage to Indian crafts.

③ British parliament aided this by regulating Indian goods in Britain

eg: Calico Act

④ Thus, an one-way free trade was established with huge tariffs for Indian exports.

⑤ Introduction of railways and expansion of roads led to deeper

penetration of British goods into Indian hinterlands.

⑥ Spread of western culture and British education aided the demand for British goods in India.

⑦ Britain did not invest in capital industries in India

eg: Very few British-led textile factories in India ~~before~~ till 1900s.

⑧ Modern ~~ind~~ industries developed as a result of Indian nationalism.

Thus, Britain became a major textile producer at the expense of India. With commercialisation of agriculture, India was

transformed as source of raw materials
& destination of British goods.

William Bantick summarised the
issue by saying that "the bones
of cotton weavers are bleaching the
plains of Bengal".

It was recognising this, Grandhi
made chocks a political tool.

symbolising colonialism.

2 (b)

James Mill's Utilitarianism advocated for the quality of pleasure to be maximised, for which law should be used as a weapon to eradicate social evils & backwardness of India. He identified many of India's problems in his "History of British India".

'Weapon of law' as social revolution

(1) Sati abolition by William Bentinck in 1830.

(2) 1833 Charter Act allowing ~~Anglican~~

Western education and sciences in India

③ Law Commission under Macaulay to codify Indian laws.

④ Britishers were allowed to own land in India, which would aid social progress via integration.

However, this was only one of many influences on policy framing as law as weapon had limitations like poor social acceptance.

Other considerations for policy adoption

① Evangelicalism: It advocated that for Indians to see 'light', they must be devoid of all superstitions &

for that suitable policy should be adopted.

eg: Charles Grant → 1813 Charter Act

② Free trade policy

eg: ^{Company} ~~British~~ monopoly of trade with India was ended in 1833

③ Reformation fervour was widespread

as seen from Parliamentary reforms, 1832

④ British feared Indian response on legal interference on social norms

→ They abolished Sati only post support of the likes of Raja Ram Mohan Roy was ensured.

→ Other reforms like widow remarriage

was not taken immediately as there was opposition from likes of Dharm Sabha.

③ Racism

eg: Macaulay minutes saw Indian education as inferior to western

→ "White man's burden" theory of Rudyard Kipling

~~④~~ Thus, there was a multitude of factors that influenced British policy in India. Indians were seen as inferior and it was felt as "civilising mission" to upgrade India by British.

3(c)

Battle of Buxar was fought between
(1765)
British and combined forces of Bengal,
Awadh and Mughals led by Mir Qasim,
Shuja-ud-daula & Shah Alam respectively.

Importance of Buxar

Buxar confirmed the result of Plassey
especially with Marathas weakness.

- ① It was a major military conflict
unlike conspiracy in Plassey
- ② British now took over Diwani

rights of Bengal and was poised to take up more political power.

③ Huge war indemnity following Treaty of Allahabad

④ Mughal emperor became pensioner of company, thus dialing its prestige

⑤ British paramountcy over Indian powers was established as no major powers could challenge British domination of Bengal.

However, Buxar did not immediately confirm British overlordship of India. They had to contest with Mysore & Marathas especially through 'darkest hours' in 1780s (Sumit Sarkar). But, Buxar did laid foundation for future expansion.