

FROM TRADE TO TERRITORY

The Company Establishes Power

Q1. How did English East India Company expanded its trading control over ~~India~~^{Bengal}?

In 1600, the East India Company acquired a charter from Queen Elizabeth I granting it the sole right to trade with the east. This meant that no other trading group in England could compete with the East India Company. The Company did not have to fear competition from other English trading companies. Then (by defeating the nawabs of Bengal at Plassey and Buxar and by getting the right to diwani helped the company expand its rule over Bengal.)

Q2. What is mercantile?

A business enterprise that makes profit primarily through trade, buying goods cheap and selling them at higher prices.

Q3. What helped British East India Company to establish trade monopoly over the east?

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Q1. Define farman.

Farman is a royal edict, a royal order, here provided by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb by granting the company the right to trade duty free.

Q5. What led to the Battle of Plassey?

On hearing the ^{news of} fall of Calcutta, company officials in Madras sent forces under the command of Robert Clive, reinforced by naval fleets. Prolonged negotiation with the Nawab followed. Finally, in 1757, Robert Clive led the company's army against Sirajudullah at Plassey. The battle of Plassey was famous because it was the first major victory of the Company in India.

Q6. Who were Nabobs?

Nabobs were those British officials who earned a huge amount of money from Bengal and after returning to their own country led a luxurious life.

Q7. Who were residents?

Residents were political or commercial agents and their job was to serve and further the interests of the company. They were appointed after the Battle of Buxar (1764) in Indian states.

Q2. What were the causes for conflict between Tipu Sultan and British East India Company?

Mysore had grown in strength under the leadership of powerful rulers like Haider Ali (ruled from 1761 to 1782) and his famous son Tipu Sultan (ruled from 1782 to 1799). Mysore controlled the profitable trade of the Malabar coast where the company purchased pepper and cardamom. In 1786, Tipu stopped the export of sandalwood, pepper and cardamom through the ports of his kingdom and disallowed local merchants from trading with the company.

He also established a close relationship with the French in India and modernized his army with their help.

The British were furious. They saw Haider & Tipu as ambitious arrogant and dangerous - rulers who had to be controlled and crushed.

Q9. Write about the policy initiated by Lord Dalhousie.

Lord Dalhousie - the ~~1st~~ Governor General from 1848 to 1856 devised a policy that came to be known as the doctrine of Lapse. The doctrine stated that if an Indian ruler died without a male heir his kingdom would 'lapse' i.e. become part of Company territory. One kingdom after another was annexed simply by applying this doctrine: Satara (1848), Sambhalpur (1849), Udaipur (1852), Nagpur (1853) and Jhansi (1854).

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Q10. English East India Company tried to give an uniformity to the administration and judiciary. How did they do so?

✓ Before the arrival of British East India Company, there was no unity among the Indian rulers. None was there to administrate the country properly - which helped British to conquer the subcontinent.

- Warren Hastings (1773-1785) was one of the many important figures who played a significant role in the expansion of company power.
- British territories were broadly divided into administrative units called Presidencies: Bengal, Madras and Bombay.
- Each was ruled by a Governor.
- The supreme head of the administration was the Governor General.
- Warren Hastings the first Governor-General, introduced several administrative reforms, notably in the sphere of justice.

✓ Warren Hastings took initiative to improve the laws and order by providing a proper judicial system

- From 1772 a new system of justice was established. Each district was to have two courts - a criminal court and a civil court. Maulvis and Hindu pandits interpreted Indian laws for the European district collectors who presided over civil courts.
- The criminal courts were still under a qazi and a mufti but under the supervision of the collectors.

• Under the regulating act of 1773, a new Supreme Court was established while a court of appeal - the Sadar Nizamat Adalat was set up in Calcutta.

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Q11. What attracted European trading companies to India?

The fine qualities of cotton and silk produced in India had a big market in Europe. Pepper, cloves, cardamom and cinnamon too were in great demand. This attracted European trading companies to India.

Q12. What were the areas of conflict between the Bengal Nawabs and East India company?

- a. The Bengal Nawabs asserted their power and autonomy as the other regional powers were doing at that time.
- b. Nawabs refused to grant the company concessions.
- c. They demanded large tribute for the company's right to trade.
- d. They denied the company to mint any coins.
- e. They stopped the company from extending its fortification.
- f. Accusing the company of deceit, they claimed that the company was declining depriving the Bengal govt. of huge amounts of revenue and undermining the authority of the Nawabs.

These were the areas of conflict - The conflict led to confrontations and finally culminated to the Battle of Plassey.

13. How did the assumption of Diwani benefit the East India company?
(Ex)

In 1765, the Mughal Emperor appointed the Company as the Diwan of the provinces of Bengal. The Diwani allowed the company to use the vast revenue resources of Bengal. This solved a major problem that the company had earlier faced. It had to buy most of the goods in India with gold and silver imported from Britain. This was because, at this time, Britain had no goods to sell in India. The outflow of gold from Britain slowed after the Battle of Plassey and entirely stopped after the assumption of Diwani. Now, revenues from India could finance company expenses.

14. Explain the system of "subsidiary alliance."
(Ex)

- According to the terms of subsidiary alliance, Indian rulers were not allowed to have their independent armed forces.
- They were to be protected by the Company, but had to pay for the "subsidiary forces" that the company was supposed to maintain for the purpose of this protection.
- If the Indian rulers failed to make the payment, then part of their territory was taken away as penalty.

15. Describe the changes that occurred in the composition of the Company's army.

- The East India Company adopted the same method as some Mughal successors adopted when it began recruitment for its own army, which came to be known as the sepoy army.
- As warfare technology changed from the 1820s, the cavalry requirements of the Company's army declined.
- The soldiers of the Company's army had to keep pace with changing military requirements and its infantry regiments now became more important.
- In the early 19th century, the British began to develop a uniform military culture. Soldiers were increasingly subjected to European style training, drill and discipline that regulated their life far more than before.