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HISTORY

GS PRELIMS & MAINS



Babur



Humayun



Akbar the Great



Jahangir



Shah Jahan



Aurangzeb



SAIMA KHAN
AIR 165
UPSC CSE 2023

“

Success has three mantras. Hard work, self-belief and trust in your mentors. I would like to thank all the mentors for having faith in me and guiding me throughout. The disciplined and competitive environment at Educrat has helped me to crack Civil Services from Kolkata without going to Delhi.

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1. Decline of Mughal Empire (1707-1857)

Sandwiched between the two empires, the Mughal and the British, the mid-18th century India is often depicted as 'a **dark age**' or '**an age of chaos**'. But was it really so?

- It is only appropriate that we refrain from such view and rather look at the mid-18th century Indian polity as a chronological whole, comprising the following three broad themes

Theme 1: Decline of the Mughal Empire (First half of the 18th century)

- The **reign of Aurangzeb (1658-1707)** marked the beginning of this process of decline which was further hastened by the **invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739**.
- Though the Mughal Empire did not survive, its institutions and traditions continued in the regional states as well as in British provinces, especially in respect of **land revenue administration**.

Theme 2: Rise of Autonomous States (Middle decades of the 18th century)

- The successor states were the erstwhile provinces of Mughal Empire namely **Hyderabad, Awadh and Bengal**.
- The new states were the creations of the **Marathas, the Sikhs, the Jats and the Afghans**.
- The independent kingdoms were those of **Mysore, Kerala and the Rajputs**.

Theme 3: Rise of British Supremacy (second half of the 18th Century)

- The weakening of the Mughal Empire also provided an opportunity to EIC

Decline of Mughal Empire

- Era of the Great Mughals that had begun in **1526 with Babur's accession** to the throne (**over Lodhi Sultan**), started declining with the death of Aurangzeb in 1707.
- When Aurangzeb died, the empire of the Mughals was the largest in India; yet it only represented an inflated balloon.
- The empire had expanded beyond manageable limits and its vastness only tended to weaken the centre.
- By **1739** Delhi had been invaded by **Nadir Shah**.
- By **1761 (when Abdali invaded)** The Mughals had been replaced by the Marathas as the defenders of India, and by 1765 the Mughal emperor had been reduced to a pensioner of the British.
- ❖ In the 150 years' period between **1707 and 1857** (when the last of the Mughals Bahadur Shah Zafar was deposed by the British) there emerged as many as **12 Mughal emperors, known as the Later Mughals**.
- ❖ Two of the longest surviving of these, **Muhammad Shah (1719-48)** and **Shah Alam (1759-1806)**, witnessed devastating attacks by **Nadir Shah (1739)** and **Ahmad Shah Abdali**, who attacked India seven times during 1748-67.

Later Mughals (1707-1857)

Aurangzeb's death in **1707** (at the age of 89) signalled a war of succession among his three sons. The eldest brother, **Prince Muazzam**, defeated and killed the other two (**Muhammad Azam at Jajau and Kam Bakhsh**



near Hyderabad), emerged victorious and ascended to the throne of Delhi assuming the title of **Bahadur Shah I**.

Bahadur Shah Or Muazzam Shah Alam I (1707-12)

- Bahadur Shah I (1707-12), was also known as **Shah Alam I**.
- An elderly man of 65, was learned and reversed some of the narrow-minded policies of **Aurangzeb**.
- Adopted a more **tolerant attitude towards the Hindus** and there was **also no destruction** of temples during his reign.



With respect to various regional powers:

- **Marathas:** Bahadur Shah allowed the Maratha prince **Shahu**, held as Mughal captive since 1689, to go back to Maharashtra.
- **Rajputs:** He made peace with the **Rajput** chiefs and confirmed them in their states.
- **Jats and Bundelas:** He made peace with the **Jat chief Churaman** and **Bundela chief Chhatrasal** who had joined him in the campaign against Banda Bahadur.
- **Sikhs:** Bahadur Shah tried to make peace with the rebellious Sikhs by giving **Guru Gobind Singh a high Mansab**. But after the death of the Guru, the Sikhs once again raised a revolt under the leadership of **Banda Bahadur**. This time the emperor decided to be strict and he himself led a campaign against the rebels. He defeated **Banda Bahadur** at **Lohgarh**, a fort built by **Guru Govind Singh** in the foothills of the **Himalayas**. Yet, the Sikhs could not be crushed and they later recovered the fort in 1712. Called **Shahi-Bekhabar** (headless King) By **Khafi Khan**, died in 1712.

Jahandar Shah (1712-13)

- With the help of **Zulfikar Khan** (Most powerful noble- Irani Party) he became the emperor.
- Was the first **puppet ruler** of the Mughal dynasty, having been placed on the throne by powerful noble Zulfikar Khan.
- **Zulfikar Khan** was appointed as wazir or Prime-Minister.



Zulfikar believed that it was important to establish friendly relations with the Rajput rajas and the Maratha sardars. Therefore, he rapidly reversed the policies of Aurangzeb.

- **Marathas:** Zulfikar Khan confirmed the agreement reached between his deputy of **taid Al Deccan, Daud Khan Panni, and Shahu** in 1711, whereby the Marathas were granted the **chauth** and **sardeshmukhi** of the Deccan on the condition that these collections would be made by Mughal officials and then handed over to the Marathas.
- **Rajputs:** **Jai Singh** of Amber was appointed **Governor of Malwa** while **Ajit Singh of Marwar** was appointed **Governor of Gujarat**.
- **Jats, Bundelas, Sikhs:** **Zulfikar Khan** continued to pacify Churaman Jat and **Chhatrasal Bundela**. He also continued to suppress the Sikhs.
 - He also abolished the hated **jeziah**.(a religious tax)
 - **Jahandar Shah** was soon defeated by his nephew **Farrukhsiyar at Agra**, thus bringing an end to the reign of Jahandar Shah. Zulfikar Khan was also executed.



Farrukhsiyar (1713-19)

- Farrukhsiyar came to power with the help of Sayyid brothers-**Abdullah Khan and Hussain Ali Khan Barahow**-who came to be known as the **kingmakers**.
- Farrukhsiyar appointed **Abdullah Khan** as his **wazir** and Hussain Ali Khan as the **Mir Bakshi (head of the military administration in the Mughal Empire)**.
- **In 1717**, he gave **farman** to the british. (**Dastak rights**)
- He was incapable, cowardly and allowed himself to be influenced by worthless flatterers.
- In 1719, the sayyid brothers with help of **Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath**, dethroned **Farrukhsiyar**.
- Was the **1st time** when an emperor was killed by the noble.
- Sayyid brothers acquired dominant control over the the affairs of the state.
- They followed a policy of religious tolerance by abolishing **jizya and pilgrimage tax**.



After the execution of Farrukhsiyar, the Sayyid Brothers raised to the throne in quick succession two young princes, **Rafi-ud-Darajat and Rafi-ud-Daula**, who died of consumption.

- **Rafi-ud-Darajat**: He ruled for the shortest period and died of tuberculosis.
- **Rafi-ud-Daula or Shah Jahan II**: He took the title of Shah Jahan II. He was an opium addict and died of dysentery.
- The kingmakers now made the 18-year-old Roshan Akhtar, better known as **Muhammad Shah** the emperor of India.
- All the three successors of Farrukhsiyar were mere puppets in the hands of the Sayyids.



Rafi-ud-Darajat



Rafi-ud-Daulah

Muhammad Shah or Roshan Akhtar Bahadur (1719-48)

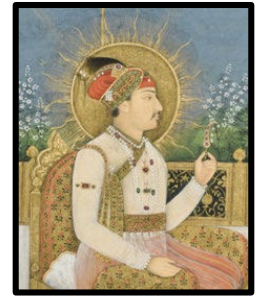
- Muhammad Shah with help of **Nizam-ul-mulk** (Mir Qamar, better known as **Asaf Jah** or **the first Nizam of Hyderabad**, was given the title of **Nizam-ul-Mulk** when he was made the Viceroy of Deccan by **Farrukhsiyar** in 1712.) killed **Sayid Brothers**.
- Nizam became the **wazir** and founded independent state of **Hyderabad**.
- Was weak minded and frivolous, and came to be known as Muhammad shah '**Rangeela**' because of his fondness of wine and women.
- Fell into the clutches of a dancing **Girl Koki Jiu** and the eunuch Hafiz **Khidmatgar Khan**.
- The Marathas began their northern expansion and in 1737 **Baji Rao 1** raided Delhi.
- In 1739, **Nadir Shah** invaded India, Defeated the Mughal in the **Battle of Karnal** and annexed west of the **Indus** (Including Kabul) to the **Persian Empire**.
- Between 1748 and 1767, Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded and plundered the Mughal Empire **seven** times.
- Last Mughal Emperor to sit on The **Peacock throne**.





Ahmad Shah Bahadur (1748-54)

- Mohammad Shah's successor **Ahmad Shah** was born of **Udham Bai**.
- During Ahmad Shah's reign, **Ahmad Shah Abdali** invaded India **twice**: in **1749** and again in **1752**.
- **Feroz Jung III** made alliance with **the Maratha chief Sadashiv** blinded and deposed **Ahmad Shah** in 1754 and raised **Alamgir II** (puppet ruler).



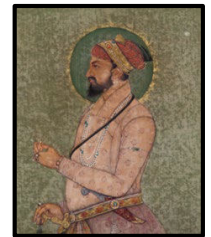
Alamgir II or Aziz -ud-din (1754-1759)

- He was a son of **Emperor Jahandar Shah**.
- Imad-ul-Mulk now raised **Aziz-ud-din** to the throne.
- Imad-ul-Mulk now became the **new wazir and king maker**.
- In 1756, **Ahmad Shah Durrani** invaded India once again and captured **Delhi** and plundered **Mathura**
- During his reign, the **Battle of Plassey** was fought in June 1757.
- **In 1759, Wazir Imad-ul-Mulk got the emperor murdered and raised to throne his puppet Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan III.**



Shah Jahan III (1759-60)

- He was the son of **Muhi us-Sunnat**, the eldest son of **Muhammad Kam Bakhsh** who was the youngest son of Aurangzeb.
- Latter deposed through Maratha intervention.



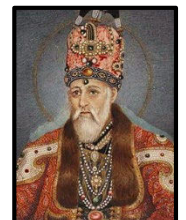
Shah Alam II or Ali Gauhar (1760- 1806)

- During 1759-60, Northern India was swept by the **Marathas**, led by **Sadashivrao Bhau**, who deposed **Shah Jahan III** and installed Ali Gauhar, the son of **Alamgir II** as the rightful emperor under the Maratha suzerainty.
- His reign saw two decisive battles: **the Third Battle of Panipat (1761)** and the **Battle of Buxar (1764)**.
- In 1761, after the battle of Panipat and before leaving Delhi (20th March 1761), Ahmed Shah Abdali named **Shah Alam II** as emperor and **Najib-ud-Daulah** as **Mir Bakshi (head of the military administration in the Mughal Empire)**. Abdali last invaded India in **1767**.
- The Emperor Shah Alam II was not allowed to enter Delhi for 12 years.
- **Treaty of Allahabad (1765)** was signed after the Battle of Buxar in which following terms were imposed: He issued a **farman** granting rights of **Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa** to the English and He was taken under English protection, and he got a **pension** by the English.



Akbar Shah II (1806-1837)

- He gave the title of '**Raja**' to Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- In **1835**, the East India Company discontinued calling itself subject of the **Mughal emperor**, and stopped issuing coins in the name of the Mughal emperor.



Bahadur Shah II or Bahadur Shah Zafar (1837-57)



- **Was fond of poetry and was known by the title of 'Zafar'.**
- **He was declared as the 'Emperor of India' during the Revolt of 1857.**
- **After the revolt, he was captured and deported to Rangoon where he died in 1862.**
- Bahadur Shah Zafar's father, **Akbar II**, had been imprisoned by the British and he **was not** his father's preferred choice as his successor. One of Akbar Shah's queens pressured him to declare her son, **Mirza Jahangir**, as his successor. However, the East India Company **exiled Jahangir** after he attacked their resident in the **Red Fort**, paving the way for **Bahadur Shah** to assume the throne.





2. Advent of Europeans

2.1. The Portuguese

The **Portuguese were the first ones to come**, but it was the British who were able to capture vast Indian territories and make themselves the leading power of the industrial age.

They had come to seek spices especially pepper as well as to destroy the monopoly of **Arabs and Italians** over trade with the East.

They also wished to spread **Christianity in ASIA and AFRICA** and restrict the increasing influence of Arabs and Turks.

Why did The Portuguese Become The First To Reach India?

- Portugal had assumed leadership of Christendom in its resistance against Islam, thus they wanted to expand their domination across geographies.
- **Prince Henry of Portugal**, also known as the ‘Navigator’ was given a bull by **Pope Nicholas V** in 1454, conferring on him the right to explore the oriental shores as far as India.
- In 1497, pursuant to the **Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)**, Portugal and Spain divided the non-Christian world by an imaginary line in the Atlantic, 1,300 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands. Portugal was granted the right to claim and occupy territories to the east of the line, while Spain could do so for territories to the west. This division set the stage for Portuguese ventures into the waters around India.
- In **1487, Bartholomew Dias** rounded the **Cape of Good Hope** and sailed up the eastern coast of Africa, mistaking it to be India. However, it was in **May 1498, that the Portuguese finally landed in India.**

Vasco da Gama (First Portuguese India Armada, 1498):

- Piloted by a **Gujarati named Abdul Majid**, Vasco da Gama sailed from the Cape of Good Hope and continued to India, reaching **Calicut (Kozhikode) in 1498.**
- He thus discovered a new sea route from Europe to India and became the **first European** to reach India by sea!
- Vasco da Gama led two Portuguese India **Armadas** (or fleet of warships), the first and the fourth, sent under the patronage of **King Manuel I** of Portugal and was well received by the **Zamorin (ruler) of Calicut, Manna Vikrama.**
- Vasco da Gama returned with a cargo which sold for **60 times** the cost of his voyage!

Vasco Da Gama visited India **three times - 1498, 1501 and 1524.** He **died in Cochin in 1524**, three months after his arrival.

Pedro Alvarez Cabral (1500):

- In 1500, Pedro Alvarez Cabral led the **Second India Armada** (Portuguese mission) with the aim of making a treaty with the **Zamorin of Calicut** and setting up a Portuguese factory.
- Cabral came into a conflict with the **local Arab Merchants** who then attacked the Portuguese factory at **Calicut**, killing more than 50 Portuguese.
- Cabral captured **10 Arab merchants ships.**



Soon, **Calicut, Cochin, Cannanore and Quilon** (Kollam) became important trading centres of the Portuguese. The Portuguese trading points or factories on land were called **Feitorias**-these were unfortified trading outposts which also served as bases for naval fleet called armadas.

Chronology of Important Portuguese Figures in India

Francisco De Almeida:- (1505-09)

- **Almeida** was appointed as the **first Portuguese Viceroy** of India for a term of three years.
- He adopted the '**Blue Water Policy**' aimed at establishing naval supremacy of the Portuguese in the Indian Ocean, rather than over land.
- He is credited with the construction of **Fort Anjediva on Anjediva Island** lying at the border of **Muslim Bijapur** and Hindu **Vijayanagar states**.
- In 1508, Portuguese fleet was attacked by joint **Muslim naval force (Gujarat Sultanate and Mameluk Egyptian fleet)** at **Chaul and Dabul**, with Almeida's son losing his life in the **battle of Chaul**.
- **Almeida**, however, defeated the joint force in the **Battle of Diu (1509)**, thus establishing Portuguese supremacy over Indian Ocean.

Alfonso de Albuquerque: (1509-15)

- He was the **greatest Portuguese Viceroy** in India and is also called as the **real founder** of Portuguese power in India. He set up his **headquarter** at **Cochin**.
- In 1509, Albuquerque **conquered Diu** and in 1510 he conquered Goa from the **Sultan of Bijapur**.
- With the victory of Goa, regional kingdom of the Portuguese in India was established and Goa became '**the first bit of Indian territory** to be under the **Europeans** since the time of **Alexander**
- Albuquerque **abolished sati** and **encouraged** Portuguese men to **marry locals**.
- Portuguese settlers in **Goa** and the North Province became landlords, introducing new crops and infrastructure.
- **Introduced a 'permit system' for other ships.**

Nino de Cunha (1529-38)

- He was the next major Portuguese **Governor** after Albuquerque.
- In 1530, he transferred the govt. head office from **Cochin to Goa**.
- Thus, **Goa became the official capital of the Portuguese in India**.
- **Bahadur Shah of Gujarat** sought help from the Portuguese during his conflict with Humayun in 1534.
- He **ceded the island of Bassein** with its dependencies and promised a base in Diu to the Portuguese.
- Relations soured when Humayun withdrew from **Gujarat in 1536**. Conflict arose as inhabitants of the town fought with the Portuguese.
- **Bahadur Shah** aimed to raise a partition wall, leading to negotiations with the Portuguese.
- In 1537, during the negotiations, the ruler of **Gujarat** was invited to a Portuguese ship and killed.

Reasons for Decline of the Portuguese

- After Albuquerque, the Portuguese administration in India became **inefficient** because his successors were **weak & inefficient**.
- The Portuguese society was **dominated by the aristocracy** and merchants did not enjoy the social influence necessary to mould state policy according to their interests, making it difficult for Portugal to maintain its **maritime empire**.



- The Portuguese officials were **neglected** by the home government. Their salaries were low which encouraged them to indulge in corruption and malpractice.
- The Portuguese proved to be intolerant and fanatic in matters of religion. They resorted to forcible conversions to the Christian faith which made the natives hostile.
- The Portuguese drew a very thin line between trade and piracy, which also aroused the hostility of the natives.
- In 1580 Portugal was merged with **Spain** which dragged Portugal into Spain's wars with **England** and **Holland**, badly neglecting the Portuguese interest in India.
- Portuguese discovered **Brazil** which diverted their imperial interests away from India.
- Lastly and most importantly, the Portuguese power declined in the face of stiff competition from other Europeans powers who came behind them. The Dutch gained control over **Indonesia** and the British over India, **Sri Lanka** and **Malaya**.

The Impact of Portuguese

The Portuguese control of the Indian Ocean had significant **socio-political, religious and economic consequences**:

- The Portuguese began to propagate **Christianity** in the **Malabar** and the **Konkan** coast. Missionaries like **St. Francis Xavier, Father Rudolf & Father Monserette** played a leading role in propagating the Christian faith. In 1540, all temples of **Goa** were destroyed.
- The Missionaries started schools and colleges along the west coast, where education was imparted in the native language.
- The missionaries undertook research on Indian history and culture. **Fa Heras** has made a deep study on the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- The Portuguese brought the printing press to India. The Bible came to be printed in the **Kannada** and **Malayalam** language.
- The Portuguese introduced into India several types of crops, fruits & vegetables which they had obtained from different countries. These included-**potato, sweet potato, tobacco, corn, lady's finger, chilly, pineapple, papaya, sapota, leechi, orange, black pepper, groundnuts, cashew, almonds**, etc.
- Portuguese influence also established the significance of navy in sea trade.

2.2. The Dutch (Netherland/Holland)

As Portuguese power wavered in the aftermath of the Spanish union, the Dutch took over from them. The Dutch came to India for trade. They were innovative people in business as well as in shipping techniques.

Cornelius de Houtman (1596)- In 1596, he was the first Dutch man Traveler to reach India.

Dutch Factories:

- In 1606, the first **Dutch factory** was established at **Masulipatnam** in Andhra.
- The second factory was set up at **Pettipoli** (Nizampatam).
- In 1610, the Dutch signed a treaty with the **king of Chandragiri** and established their Evert headquarters at **Pulicat**. Here they minted their gold coins called **pagodas**.
- They soon established trading depots at **Surat, Broach, Cambay and Ahmedabad** in Gujarat, **Cochin in Kerala, Nagapatam (or Nagapattinam) in Madras, Masulipatam in Andhra, Chinsura (Gustavus fort) and Peepli in Bengal, Mahe on the Malabar Coast, Agra in Uttar Pradesh and Patna in Bihar.**



- Dutch factories were also established at **Kasimbazaar, Karaikal, Balasore, Baranagore and Golconda.**
- In 1690, the Dutch headquarters were transferred from **Pulicat to Nagapattinam.**

Anglo-Dutch Rivalry:- In 1623, Amboyna massacre took place in Indonesia where the Dutch killed 10 Englishmen and 9 Japanese. After this massacre, the Dutch began to restrict themselves to Malay Archipelago and the English to India.

In 1759, the Dutch were defeated by the English in the decisive **Battle of Bedara (Bengal), ending the Dutch power in India.**

2.3. The English

In 1600, The East India Company was granted a royal charter by Queen Elizabeth giving it the exclusive privilege of trading east of the Cape of Good Hope for a period of 15 years.

Queen Elizabeth I issued a charter with rights of exclusive trading to the company named the '**Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies**' with exclusive trading rights in the East Indies on **31 December 1600**, which was later indefinitely extended.

Captain Hawkins (1608):

- In **1608, Captain William Hawkins** was sent as a representative of the English Company to the **Court of Jahangir** to obtain permission to open a factory at Surat.
- **Hawkins was the first Englishman to set foot on Indian soil** (Surat, 24 August 1608).
- He could speak Turkish language and he came in a ship named '**Hector**'.
- He arrived at Surat and from there he went to the court of Jahangir at Agra in 1609.
- In 1611, the English began trading at **Masulipatnam** and established a **factory there in 1616.**
- **Captain Thomas Best** defeated the Portuguese in 1612 off the coast of Surat, leading to Jahangir granting permission to the English to establish a factory at **Surat in 1613.**

Early Factories:

- In **1611**, the English opened their first factory in the south at **Masulipatnam (Machilipatnam)**. In 1611 itself, the English defeated the Portuguese in the **Battle of Swally Hole** near Surat.
- This convinced Jahangir and, the English were allowed to set up a permanent factory at **Surat in 1613.**
- In 1615, taking the policy of expansion further, **Sir Thomas Roe** was sent by **King James I** as an ambassador to the court of Jahangir. Roe was successful in obtaining **royal farman** permitting the British to trade and establish factories in all parts of the Mughal Empire. Roe secured several privileges, including the permission to set up factories at **Agra, Ahmedabad, and Broach. [UPSC 2021]**
- The English began to feel insecure in the absence of fortified settlements and made an attempt to **fortify Surat** (in 1625) but the Mughals frustrated the attempt and imprisoned the English.
- The English then decided to shift their focus to South India to avoid direct confrontation with the Mughals.
- Conditions in South India were more favourable to the English as **they did not have to face a strong Indian government there.** The great **Vijayanagara kingdom** had been overthrown in 1565 and its place had taken up by relatively smaller and weaker states.

Madras

- In 1632, Sultan of Golconda issued a **Golden Farman** in favour of the English, permitting them to trade freely from the ports of **Golconda** on annual payment of **500 pagodas.**



- In 1639, Francis Day was able to obtain Madras on lease from **the Raja of Chandragiri** and shifted the centre of their activity to **Madras**. The Raja allowed the English to fortify Madras, to administer it and to coin the money on the condition that the English will pay him half the customs revenue of the port. Thus the English set up a factory and built a small fort around it called **Fort St. George**.
- In 1690, the British bought the **Fort Devanampatnam, near Madras**, and renamed it as **Fort St David**.

Bengal

- In 1651, at Hugli, the first English factory in Bengal was set up upon receiving permission from **Sultan Shuja (second son of Emperor Shah Jahan)**, the Subahdar of Bengal.
- In 1658, all establishments of the Company in **Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Coromandel Coast** were brought under the control of **Fort St. George**.
- In **1690 Job Charnock** established a factory at **Sutanuti** which was fortified in **1696** and called **Fort William**.
- In 1698 the English Company obtained from Subahdar of **Bengal Azim-us-Shan**, the zamindari (i.e. right to collect revenue) of the villages of **Sutanuti, Kalikata and Gobindapur** on payment of 1,200 to the previous proprietors. In 1700, the Bengal factories were placed under Fort William. Soon the villages grew into a city **known as Calcutta**.

Bombay

In 1662, **King Charles-II** of England received **Bombay** as dowry on marrying a **Portuguese princess**.

- In 1668, the Crown transferred it to the Company on an annual rent of ten ponds and it was soon fortified in the wake of threats from the rising Maratha power.
- Bombay quickly replaced Surat as the principal depot of the Company on the West coast.

English and the Mughals

Aurangzeb:- In 1688, hostilities between the English and the Mughal Authorities first broke out when the **English captured Hugli** and declared war on **Emperor Aurangzeb**. The English had misjudged the situation and underestimated Mughal strength; soon they were defeated and driven out of the factories in Bengal.

Aurangzeb too readily pardoned the English for their mistake as he saw that foreign trade benefitted Indian artisans and merchants and enriched the state treasury. He therefore permitted them to resume trade on payment of **₹1.5 lakh** as compensation.

Farrukhsiyar

- In 1717, The East India Company succeeded in securing valuable privileges under a royal farman, Farman of **1717**, by the **Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar**.
- It is also described as the **Magna Carta of the Company**.

Provisions of the Farman

The farman confirmed the privileges granted in 1691 and extended them to Gujarat. It contained following provisions:

- The British were allowed **duty-free trade in Bengal** in lieu of an **annual payment of ₹30,000**.
- Exemption from payment of all dues at **Surat** in lieu of one-time settlement of **₹10,000**.
- The Company retained its old **privilege of exemption from payment of all dues at Hyderabad and for Madras was required to pay only the existing rent**.



- The Company was allowed to rent more territory around Calcutta.
- The Company was allowed to use their **own currency (minted at Bombay) throughout India.**

THE DANES

The Danes came from **Denmark** and they were a minor colonial power to set foot in Indian soil. The Danish East India Company was established in 1616 and they set up trading outposts in **1620 at Tranquebar near Tanjore (Tamil Nadu)**. In 1755, they founded a colony called **Fredricknagore near Serampore in Bengal**. Occupied twice by the English, the Danish colony failed as a commercial venture. In 1777, the Danish company went bankrupt and **Serampore was transferred to the Danish Crown**. However, Serampore became a safe haven for missionaries in India and earned immense fame for the cultural and educational activities of the missionaries. In 1845, Denmark ceded **Serampore to Britain**, thus ending nearly 150 years of Danish presence in Bengal.

2.4. THE FRENCH

The French were the **last Europeans to arrive in India** with the purpose of trade.

The French Trading Company (1664)

In 1664, Colbert formed the **Companie des Indes Orientales**. The French trading company (under the governorship of Colbert) was granted a license by **King Louis IV** to trade with India and the East Indies. The company got a **50 year monopoly** on French trade in Indian & Pacific oceans as well as other concessions

- **First French Factory** in India was established by **Francois Caron in Surat in 1667**.
- Founded another **French factory in Masulipatnam in 1669**.
- In 1672, Caron was replaced by **Francois Martin** who received a village as grant from the King of **Bijapur Sher Khan Lodhi** and founded it as **Pondicherry**.
- Pondicherry later emerged as the **French capital** in India.
- In 1674, the French also received a site near Calcutta from the ruler of Bengal where they built the town of **Chandernagore (1690-92)**.
- In 1693, the Dutch snatched Pondicherry but it was restored to the French under the **Treaty of Reswick**. In this way, the French East India Company established its firm base in **Chandernagore and Pondicherry**.
- The French also acquired control over Islands of Mauritius and Reunion in the Indian Ocean.
- Between **1697 and 1739**, the French further consolidated their position by adding several bases including **Mahe, Karaikal, Balasore and Kasimbazar**.



3. Rise of British Supremacy: Carnatic, Plassey, and Buxar

After the death of Aurangzeb, the Mughal Empire witnessed **decline and decentralisation of power** evident in the emergence of several autonomous states. **The English and the French companies began to see political future in India.** By the early 18th century, the English and the French companies had already settled down with a profitable trade. The two had already become rivals in **Europe and North America.** The stage was therefore set for **Anglo-French rivalry in India** which began in the 1740s and ended in an eventual victory of the English and then began the conquest of India beginning with Bengal from the **Battle of Plassey in 1757.** In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, '**darkness settled on the face of the land and the weighing scales in the merchant's hand changed into the imperial scepter**'.

3.1. Anglo – French Struggle For Supremacy: The Carnatic Wars

First Carnatic War (1740-48)

Austrian War of Succession (1740)

The immediate context for conflict between two European rivals in India was provided by the **War of Austrian Succession in Europe** which broke out in Europe in **1740 between Austria and Prussia.** In this war, Britain and France joined opposite camps. Perhaps conscious of their relatively weaker position, the French tried hard to prevent the extension of war to India and **Dupleix** advised his English counterpart to maintain neutrality. But the English did not agree, instead deliberately adopted aggressive stand and seized some French ships off the south-eastern coast of India. The French had no fleet in India, hence Dupleix (the French Governor General) messaged La Bourdonnais (the French Governor of Mauritius) for reinforcements. **La Bourdonnais** immediately left with a squadron of 3,000 men towards the Coromandel Coast. As soon as the help arrived, the French attacked the English and captured the British possessions in **Fort St George, Madras** and other nearby areas (21 September 1746). Included among the prisoners of war was Robert Clive. **The First Carnatic War had begun.**



The English Seek Protection from the Nawab of Carnatic,

Nawab Anwaruddin Anwaruddin, the Nawab of **Carnatic**, disapproved of hostilities in his kingdom. Thus, when the English appealed to him for protection, the Nawab asked the French to quit Madras. But the French were now in no mood to retreat and neglected the advice just as the English had done earlier.

Battle of St. Thomas (or St. Thome, 1746)

- The Nawab now sent a large army to fight against the French. A large Indian army of **10,000 under Mahfuz Khan** met a small French army consisting of 230 Europeans and 700 Indian soldiers under **Capt. Paradise** on the banks of **River Adyar at Mylapore near St. Thomas in 1746.**
- But to everyone's surprise, a handful of properly trained soldiers of the French army routed Anwaruddin's vast army.
- **This amply demonstrated the superiority of the European troops and exposed the military weakness of the Indian rulers.** Dupleix learnt the lesson that in any quarrel between Indian princes, his disciplined army would be very useful.
- In this way, it was Dupleix who first showed the way of intervening in disputes of the Indian rulers and thereby acquiring political control-a technique which was later perfected by the English Company.



Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748)

Even as the French continued the siege, the War of Austrian Succession came to an end by the **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748)** on the basis of mutual restitution of conquests. This brought an end to the first round of Anglo-French conflict in India as well.

Madras was restored to the English and the French got Louisburg in North America. The first round of conflict had ended in a draw.

Second Carnatic War (1749-54)

- **Dupleix**, the French Governor who was successful in the **First Carnatic War**, tried to increase French influence in South India.
- The war was caused by the succession struggles after the death of **Nizam-ul-Mulk** (founder of an independent kingdom of Hyderabad), wherein, **The French supported** the claims of **Muzaffar Jang** and **Chanda Sahib** in the Deccan and Carnatic, respectively, while the **English** sided with **Nasir Jang** and **Anwaruddin**.
- **Battle of Ambur (1749)**: In 1749, Muzaffar Jang, Chanda Sahib, and the French defeated Anwaruddin at the **Battle of Ambur**. Muzaffar Jang became the subahdar of Deccan, and Dupleix was appointed governor of Mughal territories south of the River Krishna.
- **Robert Clive**, an English company agent, **captured Arcot in 1751** to relieve pressure on **Trichinopoly**. Despite a 53-day siege, Chanda Sahib failed to retake Arcot. In 1752, **Muhammad Ali executed Chanda Sahib**. Dupleix was recalled in 1754 due to financial losses, and **Godeheu** succeeded him.

The treaty of Pondicherry, 1755- The English and French agreed not to interfere in native disputes and retained their occupied territories.

Third Carnatic War (1756-63)

In 1756 A.D. the Seven years 'War' broke out in Europe.

Arrival of Count de Lally (April 1758)

This time the French Government made a determined effort to oust the English from India. For this purpose, the French sent an impressive French army headed by **Count de Lally**, who reached India after a long voyage of 12 months in April 1758. By this time, the English had already won the **Battle of Plassey** and they returned to India with fresh reinforcements of men and material.

Battle of Wandiwash (1760): The decisive battle of the Third Carnatic War was won by the English on January 22, 1760, at **Wandiwash (or Vandavasi) in Tamil Nadu**.

General Eyre Coote of the English totally routed the French army under **Count Thomas Arthur de Lally** and took **Bussy** as a prisoner.

The English soon laid siege to Pondicherry as well, forcing Lally to ask for help from **Nawab Hyder Ali of Mysore**.

The **French capital of Pondicherry finally surrendered on 16 January 1761**. The fall of Pondicherry sounded the death knell of French dominions in India.

Peace of Paris, 1763: - The **Third Carnatic War ended officially in 1763 with the conclusion of the Peace of Paris, at the end of the Seven Years' War**. As per the treaty, Pondicherry and some other French



settlements were no doubt returned to France, but these were never to be fortified again and could only function as mere trading centres.

Lally was detained as a prisoner of war for two years, after which he was allowed to return to his home country, where, far from receiving any kind treatment, he was first imprisoned and then executed.

Why did The French Lose Out To The British?

- The English company was a **private enterprise** with less government control, whereas the **French company was a state concern** and was constrained by delays, and government policies.
- The superiority of the English **navy** helped them cut off the sea link between France and its possessions in India.
- The **British** never neglected their commercial interests during expansion, thus they **always had funds** to fight the wars. On the other hand, **The French company was financially strapped** as a result of the subordination of their commercial interest to territorial ambition.
- The **British** always had superior **military commanders**, such as **Sir Eyre Coote**, and **Robert Clive**, whereas the French only had Dupleix as a sound military strategist.

Reasons Behind The English Success as Against Other European Powers

- English East India Company was a **private company** controlled by a Board of Directors, unlike competitors, which were state-owned and feudalistic.
- The **Naval Superiority** of the British helped them defeat the Portuguese as well as limit the expansion of other competitors in the Indian Ocean.
- **The Industrial Revolution** in England enhanced **productivity** through machines like the **steam engine**, and the **power loom** and helped England maintain its hegemony.
- **British soldiers were well trained** and served under **able leadership**, which helped the English defeat bigger armies in battle.
- Political stability in Britain supported its commerce, whereas other countries like France were mired in revolutions and violence.
- The **Bank of England**, the world's first Central bank, helped the English make **use of the debt market to get money**. Thus, the Company always had the money to defeat its rivals. In comparison, the French eventually went bankrupt trying to compete with Britain financially.

3.2. British Conquest of Bengal – Plassey to Buxar (1757- 65)

Background:

Since the 17th century, Bengal had emerged as a happy hunting ground of the Dutch, the English and the French Companies who were attracted to Bengal mainly owing to its rich resources.

- In **1651**, at Hugli, **the first English factory** was set up upon receiving permission from **Sultan Shuja** (second son of Emperor Shah Jahan), the **subahdar** of Bengal.
- In 1651 itself, **Shuja** also granted the English East India Company the privilege of free trade in **Bengal, Bihar and Orissa** in return for lump sum payment of **3,000** (350 pounds) at a time when the Company's exports from Bengal were worth more than 50,000 pounds a year. This was because **Sultan Shuja** was pleased by the services of one **Mr. Boughton**, who had successfully cured a royal lady of a disease. Thereafter, English factories sprang up at **Kasimbazar, Patna** and other places.



- In 1698, the English Company obtained the zamindari of the villages of **Sutanuti, Kalikata and Gobindapur** from Subahdar Azim-us-Shan, on payment of ₹1,200 to the previous proprietors.
- In 1717, Emperor **Farrukhsiyar** confirmed the trade privileges granted to the Company by earlier Subahdars. By early 18th century, exports from Bengal consisted of nearly 60% of the English Company's exports from Asia.
- In 1717 itself, Farrukhsiyar appointed **Murshid Quli Khan, the Diwan of Bengal**, as **Subahdar or Governor (Nizam or Nazim) of Bengal**, thus holding the post of Subahdar and Diwan at the same time.
- Taking advantage of his position, **Murshid Quli** now declared himself as the **Nawab of Bengal** and became the first independent Nawab of Bengal.
- In 1740, **Alivardi Khan, the Deputy Governor of Bihar**, deposed and **killed Nawab Sarfaraz Khan grandson of Murshid Quli**.
- Alivardi Khan rightly did not allow fortifications of French and English factories at **Chandernagore and Calcutta**.
- In 1756, Alivardi died, nominating his grandson **Siraj-ud-Daulah as his successor**.

Battle of Plassey (23rd June 1757)

▪ **Siraj-ud-Daulah (April 1756-June 1757)**

Siraj's succession was challenged by two other contenders for the throne, **Shaukat Jung (Faujdar of Purnea) and Ghaseti Begum (Alivardi's daughter)**.

- This resulted in intense court factionalism and support was offered to different warring groups by a dominant group in the Nawab's court comprising **Jagat Seth, Umichand (or Amir Chand), Raj Ballabh, Rai Durlabh, Mir Jafar, zamindars** and others who were also opposed to Siraj.
- This seriously destabilised the administration of Bengal and the advantage was taken by English East India Company.



Main reasons for Conflict between the Nawab of Bengal and the English

⇒ **Farman of 1717**

⇒ **Shelter to Krishna Das** – The English Company had given shelter to Krishna Das, son of Raj Ballabh, who fled with immense treasures against the Nawab's will.

⇒ **Support to Ghaseti Begum**

⇒ **Immediate Cause** – the anglo began to strengthen the fortifications of Fort William and mounted guns on its wall.

Black Hole Tragedy:- On **15 June 1756**, **Siraj-ud-Daulah** surrounded **Fort William** and the siege lasted for five days. During this while, **Governor Roger Drake** and some of his men escaped through the back door down the Hooghly River, took refuge at **Fulta** near the sea and waited for help from Madras. They left behind **146 persons**, including some women and children, under the command of **John Zepahnaih Holwell**. After the fort fell on 20 June, the Nawab renamed Calcutta as **Alinagar**, placed it under the charge of Manik Chand, and himself returned to **Murshidabad**.

Holwell and others were imprisoned in a small room of the fort popularly known as **Black Hole (18 feet long and 14 feet 10 inches wide)** in conditions of excessive heat and crowding owing to summer solstice. It is believed that out of **146 persons imprisoned in that room, only 26 survived the next morning**, the rest were



probably trampled down by the others for places near the window. The incident came to be known as the '**Black Hole Tragedy**'.

Treaty of Alinagar (February 1757)

- **Nawab's weak position:** In spite of Siraj ud Daula's easy takeover of Calcutta, his position was much weaker than it appeared.
- **The Afghan threat:** The nawab was also facing the threat of the Afghans under Ahmad Shah Abdali who had already caused havoc in the Northern territories of the weak Mughal Empire.
- **Attack by Robert Clive:** A surprise attack by the Company forces under Robert Clive defeated the Nawab's forces outside Calcutta in early 1757.
- In February 1757, the Nawab had to make peace with the English and sign the humiliating **Treaty of Alinagar**.
- As per the treaty, the Nawab had to restore to the English their former privileges of trade, grant permission to fortify Calcutta and even pay **compensation amount** for the losses suffered by the English.
- In this way, Clive had regained Calcutta and even forced the Nawab to concede to all English demands. Still, the English were not satisfied. They had decided to replace the **Nawab with Mir Jafar**.

Clive organised a web of intrigue with the leaders in the Nawab's court. **Chief among these were:**

- **Mir Jafar:** the Mir Bakshi (Commander-in-Chief of the Nawab's army)
- **Manik Chand:** the Officer in charge of Calcutta
- **Amir Chand:** a rich merchant
- **Jagat Seth:** the biggest banker of Bengal
- **Khadim Khan:** commanded a large number of the Nawab's troops

The Battle (23rd June 1757)

On **23 June 1757, both armies met at Plassey, 30 km south of Murshidabad**. The English force comprised of 950 European infantry and 2100 Indian sepoy, while that of the Nawab comprised of 50,000 commanded by the **treacherous Mir Jafar**. Only a small group of Nawab's soldiers fought bravely. They were led by **Mir Madan and Mohan Lal**. After Mir Madan was killed by a stray shot from the English side, Mir Jafar played upon the fears of the Nawab and advised him to retire from the battlefield, leaving the command in the hands of his generals. The Nawab retired with **2,000 horsemen**, a large part of the Nawab's army led by **Mir Jafar** and **Rai Durlabh** merely looked on, as Clive routed the rest of Nawab's forces. As a result, the Nawab had to flee but was captured and put to death by an assassin, **Mohammad Ali Beg, on the orders of Mir Jafar's son, Miran**.

Consequences of Battle of Plassey

- Mir Jafar was proclaimed as **Nawab of Bengal** (he was promised the Nawabship by Clive even before the Battle of Plassey).
- Robert Clive was confirmed as the **Governor of Bengal** (Clive's' First Governorship: 1757- 60)
- The Company was granted undisputed right to free trade in **Bengal, Bihar and Orissa**.
- The Company received the zamindari of **24-Parganas near Calcutta**.
- Mir Jafar paid out a sum of **50 lakh** as gift or bribe to the Company's officials, besides a large amount as personal present to Clive and compensation for the Company's losses.
- All the **French settlements** in Bengal were surrendered to the English.



The British emerged as kingmakers in Bengal:

- The British now appointed their man, **Mir Jafar, as the new Nawab**. Jafar was completely dependent on the English for maintenance of his position in Bengal.
- Hence, an English force of 6,000 troops was stationed in Bengal for Nawab's protection with the natural consequence that all real power passed into the Company's hands.

Mir Jafar (June 1757-October 1760)

Immediately after his succession, **Mir Jafar began to face some serious problems-**

- Some zamindars like **Raja Ram Sinha of Midnapore** and **Hizir Ali Khan of Purnea** refused to accept Mir Jafar as their ruler.
- Mir Jafar also suspected the loyalty of some of his soldiers, who had not been receiving their regular salary, as well as that of his officials like **Rai Durlabh**.
- There was also an attempt by the Mughal Emperor's son, who later on became Shah Alam, to capture the throne of Bengal.
- Mir Jafar's growing dependence on the Company for military support was used by the deus Company to demand more finances and other privileges from the Nawab. But the Nawab failed to meet the growing demands of the Company which brought about his ruin.

- ⇒ **Mir Jafar, who had played the role of 'Clive's Jackal'**, soon began to repent the deal he had struck and in order to shed off the British yoke, Jafar began intriguing with the Dutch against the British.
- ⇒ The Nawab was unable to pay the stipulated payments and **by 1760**, he was in debt to the Company to the tune of **25 lakh**. The Company had lost its confidence on **Mir Jafar**.
- ⇒ Mir Jafar's son, Miran, died and once again conflict over succession followed. The conflict was between Miran's son and Mir Qasim, the son-in-law of Mir Jafar.
- ⇒ Mir Qasim secretly promised **Vansittart** (who had succeeded Clive as the Governor of Bengal in 1760) the necessary funds if the English Company agreed to support his claims to the **Nawabship**.
- ⇒ Vansittart decided to take the side of Mir Qasim and in **October 1760**, Mir Jafar was ultimately forced to abdicate in favour of his **son-in-law, Mir Qasim**.

Mir Qasim or Itmad -ud-Daulah (Oct 1760-63)

Mir Qasim rewarded his benefactors by granting the Company the zamindari of **Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong**. He also heavily bribed his kingmakers namely, **Vansittart, Holwell** and other English officials with handsome presents totalling **29 lakh rupees**.

The first few months of Mir Qasim's reign went very well but embittered due to many reasons

- He shifted the capital from **Murshidabad to Munger in Bihar**, away from the influence of the Company at Calcutta and court intrigues of Murshidabad.
- He also majorly overhauled the **bureaucracy by men** of his choice and sought to improve the finances of the state.
- He sought to modernise his army along European lines and preparations were made for the manufacture of **guns at Munger**.
- The Company's servants were not paying any duty on their goods, whereas the local merchants had to pay duty with the following consequences:
 - The Nawab lost tax revenue



- The local merchants faced unequal competition
- The Company's servants were not even content with duty free trade and used coercive methods to get things at cheaper rate.

Battle of Buxar (22nd Oct 1764)

Immediate Cause: The abuse of dastaks (**duty free trade permits**) by the Company's servants for their private trade became the immediate cause of the war of 1764.

T

he Battle

The three allies clashed with the Company's army at the battlefield of **Buxar on 22 October 1764**. The allies' forces stood at nearly **40,000 to 60,000**, whereas the English forces stood at nearly **7,000** commanded by so **Major Munro**.

Consequences of Battle of Buxar

- **Buxar sealed the fate of the Bengal Nawabs** and, for all practical purposes, power was transferred into the hands of the **English Company**.
- Mir Jafar was brought back to the throne of Bengal, this time on much harsher terms.
- Mir Jafar agreed to hand over the districts of **Midnapore, Burdwan and Chittagong** to the English and permitted them duty free trade in Bengal (with the exception of 2% duty on salt)
- He and his successors had to **pay 5 lakh per month** to the English Company, allow Company's intervention in matters of appointments and reduce military establishments.
- Mir Jafar died shortly thereafter and his minor son, **Najim-ud-Daulah** was appointed as Nawab.

Settlement with Nawab of Awadh:

Clive went to Awadh, met **Shuja-ud-Daula at Allahabad** and concluded with him the **First Treaty of Allahabad (16 August 1765)**.

As per the treaty,

The Nawab of Awadh was made to pay a war indemnity of **50 lakh to the Company**. The Nawab was made to surrender **Allahabad and Kora to Emperor Shah Alam** and confirm Balwant Singh, the zamindar of Banaras, to his estate.

The Nawab was made to enter an offensive and defensive treaty (subsidiary Alliance) with the Company. Clive converted Awadh into a **friendly buffer state** between the British territories in **Bengal and the Maratha possessions**.

Settlement with Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam II

Clive concluded the **Second Treaty of Allahabad (August 1765)** with the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.

As per the treaty:

- The Emperor was taken into Company's protection and given the districts of Kora and Allahabad ceded by Awadh.
- The Emperor issued a farman dated 12 August 1765 granting to the Company the **Diwani** (right to collect revenue) of **Bengal, Bihar and Orissa** in return for the Company making an annual payment of **₹26 lakh** to him and providing for the expenses of the **Nizamat of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa** which was fixed at ₹53 lakh.



Settlement with Nawab of Bengal:

After the death of Mir Jafar, **Najm-ud-Daulah** was allowed to succeed his father (February 1765) on the following conditions:

- The Nawab would surrender **Defence and Foreign Affairs** (both were nizamats functions) into the hands of the Company and civil administration into the hands of a **Naib-Subahdar** nominated by the Company and not removable without their consent.
- (Clearly, the Company gained Diwani from the emperor and nizamats functions from the Nawab of Bengal. In this way, the **infamous dual system was 'dual' only in theory; while in practice the Company acquired all real power in Bengal.** The Nawab lost all independent military or financial power and became a mere figurehead).

Now the British had power without responsibility. Thus, began the drain of wealth from Bengal. The Company stopped sending money from **England** to buy Indian goods. These goods were now purchased from the revenues of **Bengal** and sold abroad.



4. British Expansion in South India (Conquest of Mysore and the Marathas, 1767-1818)

Mysore Before The British

- The Wodeyar Dynasty ruled Mysore after the breakdown of the **Vijayanagara** empire due to its loss in the **Battle of Talikota (1565)**.
- Later, **Haidar Ali** usurped royal authority and became **de-facto ruler of Mysore in 1761** and took measures to strengthen the army to protect Mysore.
- **Haidar Ali established an arms factory in Dindigul**, which is now in Tamil Nadu, with the assistance of the French, and he also introduced Western-style army training.

Reasons for British intervention in Mysore and the Maratha states were primarily commercial. These are given as follows:

- Hyder and Tipu's control over the rich trade of the Malabar Coast was seen as a threat to the English Company's trade in pepper and cardamom. In 1785, Tipu declared an embargo on export of **pepper and cardamom** through the ports within his kingdom. In 1788, he clearly forbade dealings with English traders.
- Mysore was also seen as a threat to English control over Madras.
 - The French alliance **with Mysore** was seen as a threat to English dominance.
 - The Marathas were seen as a threat to the English trade from **Bombay**
- The development in infantry and gunnery in both these states caused great uneasiness in the Company.

4.1. ANGLO-MYSORE WARS (DURING 1767-99)

- The rise of Mysore under **Hyder Ali** was viewed as a threat by the neighbouring states-the Marathas, the Nawab of Carnatic and the Nizam of Hyderabad.
- The Marathas and the Nizam formed an alliance against Mysore and also co-operated with the English Company to curb Mysore.
- In all, there took place **four Anglo-Mysore wars. Except the first war, the British emerged victorious in all of them.** The English Company was mainly represented by the Madras Presidency.
- The Marathas, the Nawab of Carnatic and the Nizam of Hyderabad aligned with the English from time to time to subdue the Mysore ruler.
- After the victory in the fourth war, the British disintegrated the Mysore state and gave one part of the kingdom to the minor prince of **Wadiyar dynasty**.

First Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69)

- Hyder Ali's friendship with the French is considered as one reason for the **Anglo-Mysore war**.
- Another important reason was the Mysore border dispute between the Madras government and the **Nawab of Carnatic**.
- Robert Clive demanded access to this area from the Nizam of Hyderabad which the Nizam initially rejected
- In 1766, the English Company began expanding in the **Northern Circars** and the Nizam objected and considered going to war with the English, but later signed a treaty with the Company in view of his poor financial condition.
- As per this treaty, the Company got the **Northern Circars** and in return promised to give military support to the Nizam in his endeavours against Hyder Ali.



- At the same time, the Nizam had formed an alliance with **the Marathas** as both felt threatened by the expansionist attitude of Hyder.
- Hyder himself was annoyed with the English as they had up a fortified **outpost at Vellore**.

In this way, the Marathas, the Nizam and the English entered into a **tripartite treaty** against Hyder Ali and attacked Mysore in 1766.

- Hyder successfully persuaded the Nizam and the Marathas to join hands with him against the English.
- He then launched an attack against the Company and reached up to the gates of Madras and forced the Madras Council to sign peace on his terms in **1769**, known as the **Treaty of Madras (both the powers agreed to help each other in case of an attack by a third party)**.

Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84)

- Haidar Ali's friendship with the French caused the English concern, and they tried to capture **Mahe**, which Haidar Ali considered to be under his protection.
- Haidar formed an **alliance with the Marathas and the Nizam** against the English. He attacked the Carnatic, capturing Arcot and defeating the English army led by **Colonel Baillie** in 1781.
- The **English, under Sir Eyre Coote**, managed to detach the Marathas and the Nizam from Haidar's alliance. Haidar faced the English again and suffered a defeat at **Porto Novo in November 1781**.
- In **1782, Haidar Ali succumbed to cancer**, leading his son, **Tipu Sultan**, to carry on the war for another year with no decisive outcome. Faced with the prolonged and inconclusive conflict, both parties opted for peace. **The Treaty of Mangalore, signed in March 1784**, facilitated the return of territories taken by each side during the hostilities.

Third Anglo-Mysore War (1792)

- **Lord Cornwallis** had become the **Governor-General** in 1786 and through his diplomacy he brought the **Marathas** and the **Nizam** to the English side.
- Convinced of the inevitability of war, Tipu also sought help from the **Turks** and the **French** by sending embassies to Constantinople and France during **1784-87**.
- However, Tipu's attack on Travancore became the immediate cause of the **third Anglo-Mysore war**.
- The Raja of Travancore had purchased **Jaikottai** and **Cranganore** from the Dutch in Cochin and since Cochin was a tributary state of Mysore, Tipu considered this as a **violation** of his sovereign rights. Thus, in April 1790, Tipu attacked **Travancore**. The English were already itching for a war and decided to side with the ruler of **Travancore**.
- The war started in 1790, supported by the Maratha and the Nizam's troops, Cornwallis himself headed a large army and approached Seringapatam.
- Tipu suffered a serious setback and showed initiative for peace.
- Thus, **Treaty of Seringapatam** was signed in 1792 and Tipu had to surrender half of his territory to the Company and its allies.
- The Company acquired **Baramahal, Dindigul** and **Malabar**, the Marathas gained territory on the Tungabhadra side and the Nizam acquired territories from the Krishna to beyond the Pennar.
- Tipu also had to pay war indemnity of **₹3 crore**, but as he was unable to pay this sum immediately.
- His two sons were kept as **prisoners** with **Cornwallis**.

Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)



- Tipu declared himself Sultan once the Hindu ruler of the **Wodeyar dynasty** died and sought to avenge his humiliation by the British.
- **Lord Wellesley**, the new Governor General, was concerned about Tipu's friendship with the French and sought to punish him.
- The war between Tipu Sultan and the English commenced on **April 17, 1799**, concluding on May 4, 1799, with the capture of **Seringapatam**.
- Tipu faced defeats at the hands of English **Generals Stuart and Harris**. **Arthur Wellesley**, Lord Wellesley's brother, also participated in the conflict.
- **The English received support from the Marathas and the Nizam**, with promises of territorial gains for their assistance.
- A boy from the previous Hindu royal family of Mysore was appointed as the new maharaja, subjected to the subsidiary alliance system imposed by the English.

Post Tipu Mysore

- The new state of Mysore was **handed over to the old Hindu dynasty (Wodeyars)** under a minor ruler **Krishnaraja III**, who **accepted the subsidiary alliance**.
- **In 1831, William Bentinck claimed misgovernance in Mysore and took control. Later, in 1881, Lord Ripon restored the kingdom to its ruler.**

Tipu Sultan

- He was also known as the '**Tiger of Mysore**'.
- He organized his army on the **European model** and took help from the French to train his soldiers.
- In 1796, he set up a **Board of Admiralty** and planned for a fleet of 22 battleships and 20 large frigates.
- Three **dockyards** were established at **Mangalore, Wajedabad, and Molidabad**.
- He is known as a **patron of science** wherein he pioneered **rocket technology** in India.
- Introduced **Sericulture** in Mysore. Tipu allowed the French to set up a **Jacobin Club** in Mysore, and became a member.
- He allowed himself to be called '**Citizen Tipu**'.

4.2. Anglo-Maratha War (During 1777-1818)

The first, second, and third Anglo-Maratha wars were fought between the army of the English East India Company, which after 1757 was de facto ruler of Bengal, and the Maratha Empire, in the south of India.

The Maratha Empire comprised of five major chiefs-

- The Peshwa at Poona
- Bhonsle at Nagpur
- Scindia at Gwalior
- Holkar at Indore
- Gaekwad at Baroda

Peshwa was the **nominal** head of this Maratha confederacy and there existed bitter mutual rivalry among all of them, particularly **Scindia** and **Holkar**.

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-82)



The first Maratha war was a result of the **excessive ambition of the English, accentuated by the internal strife of the Marathas**. While the Bengal and Madras governments had increased their influence over Awadh and Carnatic respectively, the Bombay government had no such political achievement to its credit due to the presence of the powerful Maratha confederacy in the area and it had begun to feel somewhat belittled. It now cast its longing eyes upon the Maratha territories, particularly the ports of **Salsette and Bassein** and hoped to gain political influence at the **Poona Court**. The dispute over succession to the **Peshwaship** after the death of the **Fourth Peshwa Madhav Rao** gave the English the much-needed opportunity to intervene in the Maratha affairs.

Thus, out of frustration, **Raghunath Rao went over to the British and tried to capture power with their help. This was the immediate background of the first Anglo-Maratha war**. The war began with the **Treaty of Surat** and ended with the **Treaty of Salbai**. In Raghunath Rao, the Bombay government saw a plain tool and hoped to set up in Maharashtra the type of dual government as Clive had done in Bengal.

Treaty Of Surat (7th March 1775)

- Signed between **Raghunath Rao (Raghoba)** and the **British Government at Bombay on 7 March 1775**.
- There were 16 conditions in all in the treaty.
- As per the treaty it was decided that the British would help **Raghunath Rao** in becoming the Peshwa by sending **2500 soldiers**.
- In return, Raghoba would cede territories of **Salsette and Bassein** and revenues from **Surat and Bharuch** to the British.
- In accordance with the Treaty of Surat, a British army reached Surat led by **Colonel Keating**. On 18 May 1775, at **Adas (Battle of Adas)** there took place a terrible battle between the English and the Maratha armies. In this battle, though the Marathas were defeated, they retained control over Poona.

Treaty of Purandar (1 March 1776)

- When a copy of the Treaty of Surat reached the superior **British Government in Bengal**, i.e. the **Calcutta Council**, it condemned the treaty as unjust and **unauthorised**.
- Warren Hastings sent **Colonel Upton to Poona Darbar** and signed the treaty of **Purandar**.
- The Treaty of Purandar was signed between the British Government at Calcutta and Poona Court (Poona Darbar) and it stated the following:
 - The Treaty of Surat was annulled.
 - The British left the side of **Raghoba** and it was decided that Raghoba will be given a monthly pension of **₹25,000** by Peshwa government and he will go to Gujarat and reside pressthere in **Kopar village**.

However, **this treaty of Purandar was not implemented due to sudden turn of events**. The American War of Independence broke out in 1775 and in 1778 France joined on the American Side against England. In the same time French adventurer, **Chevalier de St.Lubin**, reached Poona. This alarmed Hastings and he immediately scrapped the treaty and sent a large force to reinforce the Bombay Govt. and sanctioned operations against the Marathas.

The English and the Maratha armies met on the outskirts of **Poona**. The Maratha army was led by the brilliant General **Mahadji Shinde**. He lured the English army into valleys of the Western Ghats near Talegaon (**Battle of Talegaon, 9 January 1779**) and trapped them from all sides. The Marathas also used the '**scorched earth policy**', burning farmlands and poisoning wells. English were forced to retreat to a village named **Wadgaon**.



By mid-January 1779, the English surrendered and the Bombay Government was forced to sign a humiliating treaty with Poona Darbar called the Treaty of **Wadgaon**.

Treaty of Wadgaon (1779)

- The Bombay Government would return all territory conquered by it after 1773 and the **Scindias** will get a part of the revenue from **Bharoch**.
- Hastings **refused to accept** this humiliating Treaty of Wadgaon.
- Sent an army from Bengal led by **Colonel Goddard** which soon captured **Ahmedabad** and **Vasai** and this army was defeated by the Marathas in Poona.
- Hastings sent another detachment from Bengal led by **Colonel Popham** which captured Gwalior on 3 August 1781 and defeated Scindia in **the Battle of Sipri** (modern day Shivpur).
- Finally, the **Treaty of Salbai** was signed between the British and the Poona Government.

Treaty of Salbai (Gwalior District, 1782)

This treaty was signed between the **British and the Poona Government** with the mediation of Mahadji Scindia. **The main provisions of this treaty were:**

- Madhav Narayan Rao will be accepted as **Peshwa**.
- British will give up the cause of **Raghoba** and he be given yearly pension of **3.5 lacs**.
- The Company gave up Bassein and other territories captured since the **Treaty of Purandar**, but retained **Salsette** and the **Elephanta Island**.
- Scindia got back the entire territory on the **west of Yamuna**.

Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05)

Lord Wellesley came to India in 1798 and aggressively followed his policy of subsidiary alliance. The Marathas earlier refused all offers to accept subsidiary alliance; however, their internal differences ultimately drove them into Wellesley's trap.

Treaty of Bassein (Subsidiary Alliance, 31 December 1802)

Signed between **Peshwa Bajirao II** and the English Company. It was a treaty of Subsidiary Alliance.

Main provisions of the treaty were as follows.

- Peshwa accepted the Company's protection and had to pay a large annual subsidy.
- Peshwa accepted that an English army will be stationed at Poona and no European enemy of the English will be kept in the Maratha army.
- Peshwa accepted that his foreign relations with other states will go under British control.

Daulat Rao Scindia and **Raghuji Bhonsle** immediately formed an alliance against the English. They tried to include **Yashwant Rao Holkar** but could not succeed. Gaekwad remained neutral. In this way, even in time of national danger, the Maratha chiefs did not unite.

The English decided to attack all Maratha regions. The war was fought in two main centres-in Deccan under **Arthur Wellesley** and in north India under **General Lake**. It was also fought in three sub-centres namely- **Gujarat, Bundelkhand and Orissa**.

- In the Deccan, **Wellesley** defeated the combined armies of **Scindia and Bhonsle** in the **Battle of Assaye** (near Aurangabad, September 1803) and the **Battle of Argaon** (near Burhanpur, November 1803).
- In the north, **Lord Lake** defeated **Daulat Rao Scindia** in the **Battle of Delhi** (September 1803) and the combined armies of **Scindia and Bhonsle** in the **Battle of Laswari** (near Alwar, November 1803).



- General Lake captured Aligarh, Delhi and Agra. It is noteworthy that now the control of Delhi passed from the Marathas into British hands and once again the blind Mughal ruler, Shah Alam II, became a pensioner of the Company (He had first become a pensioner of the Company after his defeat in the **Battle of Buxar** in 1764).

Treaty of Deogaon (17 December 1803)

This treaty of subsidiary alliance was signed between **Raghuji Bhonsle** and the Company. Bhonsle lost to the English Company the territories of **Balasore, Cuttack and entire kingdom west to the Wardha River**. Bhonsle agreed to keep a British Resident in Nagpur. **M Elphinstone** was sent for this post.

Treaty of Surji-Arjangaon (30 December 1803)

This treaty was signed between **Scindia and the Company**. As per this treaty, he gave the Company a large part of his kingdom including the territory between the **Ganga and the Yamuna**. He agreed to keep a British Resident Sir John Malcolm in his court.

As per another Treaty (**treaty of Burhanpur** – 27th Feb 1804, Scindia entered subsidiary alliance with the company.

War with Yashwant Rao Holkar

Until now Holkar had kept himself away from the war, but in April 1804, war between him and the British began. Holkar defeated Colonel Monson near Kota and advanced towards Delhi. But Delhi was successfully defended by local resident there, **Lt. Colonel Octor Loni**.

One detachment of Holkar's army was defeated in the **Battle of Ding**, while another detachment which was being led by Holkar himself was defeated by **General Lake**.

Holkar fled to Amritsar and asked the Sikhs for help. But the Sikhs refused. Now he began considering peace with the British. Thus Wellesley was recalled and Sir George Barlow was sent to India who made peace with Holkar. In this way, expansion under Wellesley was checked just before the end, yet the Company had now emerged as the supreme power in India.

Treaty of Rajpurghat (24 December 1805)

This treaty was signed between **Yashwant Rao Holkar and the English Company**. As per this treaty, Holkar agreed to renounce all claims to the **north of the River Chambal and the Bundi hills** (Bundelkhand) but at the same time, he got back the major part of his lost kingdom. The English also promised not to disturb Holkar's possessions in Mewar and Malwa. The **Treaty of Rajpurghat marked the end of the second Anglo-Maratha War**.

Third Anglo-Maratha (1817-18)

Started with the arrival of **British Governor General Lord Hastings**. Hastings' main objective now was to **destroy the independence of the three Maratha rulers-the Bhonsle, the Scindia and the Holkar**. The Bhonsle Raja of Berar proved to be the weakest link of the three Maratha chiefs. After the death of **Raghuji Bhonsle** on 22 March 1816, his son **Parsoji's succession** to the gaddi was challenged by **Parsoji's cousin, Appa Sahib** also known as **Mudhoji II Bhonsle**.

Treaty of Nagpur (Subsidiary Alliance, 27 May 1816)

Signed between Appa Sahib and the English Company and subsidiary force was stationed at Nagpur.

Peshwa Baji Rao II had earlier signed the Treaty of Bassein (December 1802) but with time, he had begun to feel strangled and began to show signs of independence. He began to reassert his authority over **the**



Gaekwad of Baroda, a feudatory of the English, and laid claim over the tribute of **Kathiawar and Baroda**. The Baroda sent its **Chief Minister Gangadhar Shastri** to negotiate with the Peshwa but the negotiations failed and Shastri was killed on his way back at Nasik at the instance of **Trimbakji, the Chief Minister of Peshwa**. The British Resident Elphinstone demanded the surrender of Trimbakji. While the Peshwa vacillated, the English Company prepared for war and its troops surrounded Poona. The Peshwa reluctantly surrendered and accepted the new **treaty of Poona**.

Treaty of Poona (Subsidiary Alliance, 13 June 1817) As per this treaty, among other things, the **Peshwa accepted the dissolution of the Maratha Confederacy, a milestone in the establishment of British Paramountcy in India**. He also gave up some important forts to the Company including Konkan and ceded Bundelkhand, Malwa and Hindustan.

Daulat Rao Scindia was asked by Lord Hastings, who had arrived with a big force in September 1817, to either surrender or face war. Scindia surrendered and accepted subsidiary alliance, yet it was a treaty of '**amity and friendship**' and Scindia continued to remain independent in many ways.

Treaty of Gwalior (Subsidiary Alliance, 5 November 1817) Daulat Rao Scindia was also forced by the English to sign the Treaty of Gwalior. he pledged to help the Company in suppressing the **Pindaris**, the irregular forces of the Marathas.

Holkar and the Treaty of Mandsaur (Subsidiary Alliance, 6 January 1818) Malhar Rao Holkar III of Indore was forced to sign the **Treaty of Mandsaur** and now a British Resident was placed in Indore. Holkar had to surrender all his territories south of the **Narmada** including **Khandesh**. He also renounced his claim over the Rajput states. Holkar was only 11 years old, **Tantia Jog** was appointed as the **Chief Minister**. In this way, Holkar became the last Maratha chief to sign a subsidiary alliance with the British.

After the defeat at **Khadki**, Peshwa fought two more battles with the British-**Battle of Koregaon (1 January 1818) and the Battle of Ashti (20 February 1818)**. He was defeated in both the battles and finally surrendered in front of **Sir John Malcolm**.



5. Rise of Autonomous State

By 1761, the Mughal Empire was an empire only in name. Its **weaknesses had enabled regional powers to assert their independence**. Yet the new states did not directly challenge the authority of the Mughal emperor, as he continued to be seen as the source of political legitimacy. These states also continued the Mughal institutions in many areas of governance. Thus, **the emergence of these states in the 18th century, therefore, represented a transformation rather than collapse of the polity**. It signified a decentralisation of power and not a power vacuum or political chaos.

Broadly three kinds of states arose:

- 1. The Successor States:** They broke away from Mughal Empire and arose as a result of assertion of autonomy by governors of Mughal provinces. These were **Hyderabad, Carnatic, Bengal and Awadh**.
- 2. The New States:** They arose as a result of rebellion by local chiefs against Mughal authority. These were the states set up by the rebellious **Marathas, Sikhs, Jats and Afghans**.
- 3. The Independent States:** They had been only nominally a part of Mughal Empire and now in the 18th century became completely independent. These were the regions on the south-west and south-east coast of India, i.e. **Mysore, Kerala and the Rajputs**.

The successor states- Hyderabad , Carnatic, Bengal and Awadh

5.1. Hyderabad and the Nizams

Nizam – ul – Mulk Asaf Jah (1724-48)

- The state of Hyderabad was founded in 1724 by a powerful noble of the Turani group at the imperial court, **Qamar-ud-din Siddiqi**.
- He is also known by his titles **Chin Qilich Khan** (awarded by Emperor Aurangzeb in 1690-91), **Nizam-ul-Mulk** (awarded by Farrukhsiyar in 1713) and **Asaf Jah** (awarded by Muhammad Shah in 1725).

As Viceroy of Deccan (1713-22): The **idea of an independent state in Deccan was first conceived by Zulfiqar Khan**, who had obtained the viceroyalty of Deccan in 1708. After his death in 1713, he became the Viceroy.

Later, Farrukhsiyar called upon Nizam-ul-Mulk to fight off the Sayyid Brothers (leaders of Hindustani group). The Sayyids proved to be too clever for Emperor Farrukhsiyar who was soon blinded and killed by the brothers with the help of **Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath**. In 1720 **Nizam-ul-Mulk** successfully assisted Mohammed Shah in killing the Sayyid brothers. He was then rewarded with the post of wazir in the court of Mohammad Shah.

Establishment of Hyderabad State (1724)

In 1724, Nizam-ul-Mulk resigned from his post and set off to Deccan only to find that Mubariz Khan, the then Viceroy of Deccan, refused to vacate his post. Nizam-ul-Mulk defeated and killed Mubariz in the Battle of Shahr-Kheda (1724). The Emperor then bestowed upon him the title of Asaf Jah.

Asaf Jah never openly declared his independence, but in practice he acted like an independent ruler and founded the Asaf Jah Dynasty.

The Carnatic

Nawab Saadatullah Khan (1710-32) and Dost Ali (1732-40)



- In the 18th century, the **Mughal subah (province) of Carnatic came under the authority of Governor of Deccan (Nizam of Hyderabad).**
- The Governor of Deccan had freed himself from the control of the Mughal Emperor, the Deputy Governor or the Nawab of Carnatic, had also established his independent authority.
- The Nawab Saadatullah Khan of Carnatic, headquartered at Arcot, appointed his nephew Dost Ali as his successor, without the prior approval of his superior, the Nizam.
- In 1740, the Marathas invaded the Carnatic, killed Nawab Dost Ali and took his son-in-law Chanda Sahib as prisoner to Satara.

5.2. Bengal and the Nawab Nazims

Bengal in 18th Century: Under the Mughals

Bengal Provincial Administration

- Bengal in 18th century comprised of **Bengal, Bihar and Orrisa. The main officials in the subah or province were**
 - **Diwan-** Head of revenue administration.
 - **Nazim-** Executive head of others matters of civil and military administration.
 - **Bakshi-** Military pay master of the subah.
 - **Kotwal-** head of police department.
 - **Qazi-** dispensed justice
 - **Waqai navis-** Collection of news bearing political significance.
- A subah was divided into Sarkars (headed by Faujdars), Sarkars were further divided into Parganas. At local level, zamindars had maximum control over local people and administration.

Bengal in 18th Century : Towards Autonomy (The Nawab Nazims)

Murshid Quli Khan (1717-27): The independent state of Bengal was founded in 1717 by **Murshid Quli Khan**, also known as Mohammad Hadi. Murshid Quli's trust with Bengal began in 1700, when Aurangzeb sent him to Bengal as Diwan where he proved to be a successful revenue administrator.

As Diwan and Subahdar of Bengal: In 1717, Farrukhsiyar appointed him as Subahdar or Governor (Nizam or Nazim) of Bengal, thus holding the post of Subahdar and Diwan at the same time. Was given the unprecedented privilege of holding two offices of **Nazim** and **Diwan**. Declared himself as the nawab of Bengal.



As Nawab of Bengal: **Murshid Quli became the first independent Nawab of Bengal. He shifted the capital from Dhaka to Murshidabad,** proved to be a capable ruler and made Bengal a prosperous state.

Rationalisation of Land Revenue System: The main challenge faced was the whole province had been allotted to the officers as jagirs in lieu of their salary.

- He adopted two measures. Firstly, he **resumed all the jagirs and converted them into khalisa lands** (state lands).
- Secondly, he replaced the Mughal jagirdari system with the system of revenue farming or **ijara or malzamini system.**

Rise of new powerful elite classes under Murshid Quli



- Under Murshid Quli, the old hereditary zamindars were largely extinguished and a new official capitalist class emerged.
- He created a new class of landed aristocracy in Bengal whose position was later confirmed by Permanent Settlement in 1793.
- The system of revenue farming also increased pressure on zamindars and peasants.
- The relentless pressure on zamindars to pay their obligations in full opened up opportunities for financiers.
- This period saw the emergence of the **House of the Jagat Seths** who not only acted as guarantor of the larger zamindars but also assumed full responsibility of the remittance of the Bengal revenue to Delhi.
- He was indeed the **last governor of Bengal appointed by the Mughal emperor.**

Shuja-ud-din Muhammad Khan (1727-39)

- Murshid Quli named his daughter's son Sarfaraz Khan his successor.
- Sarfaraz was ousted by his father Shuja-ud-Din Muhammad Khan, who took control of the two provinces of Bengal and Orissa in 1727.

Sarfaraz Khan (1739-40)

- After death of Shuja-ud-din's death in 1739, his son Sarfaraz Khan became the Nawab.
- He was soon deposed and killed by Alivardi Khan, the Deputy governor of Bihar, in the battle of Gheria (10th April 1740)

Alivardi Khan (1740-56)

- After the victory in the Battle of Gheria, he made himself the Nawab with the help of the banking family **Jagat Seth and a few powerful zamindars.**
- Payment of annual tribute to the emperor and appointment of higher provincial officials by the emperor were not visible during Alivardi's reign.

External Threats faced by Alivardi Khan:

- Alivardi faced two strong external threats during his regime-**one from the Marathas and the other for the Afghan rebels.**
- Driven by the dream of a Maratha Empire and the desire for wealth, the Marathas attacked Bengal three to four times during 1742 to 1751.
- In 1751, Alivardi finally signed peace with the Marathas; he agreed to pay annual chauth and parted with Orissa on the condition that the Marathas will not enter Alivardi's territory in future.
- Alivardi faced another formidable challenge from the Afghan General, Mustafa Khan.
- In 1756, Alivardi died, nominating his grandson Siraj-ud-Daulah as his successor.

Bengal in 18th Century: Towards Political Subjection

Siraj ud-Daulah (1756-57): Siraj's succession was challenged by two other contenders for the throne, Shaukat Jung (Faujdar of Purnea) and Ghaseti Begum (Alivardi's daughter). This resulted in intense court factionalism and support was offered to different warring groups by a dominant group in the Nawab's court comprising of Jagat Seth, Umichand (or Amir Chand), Raj Ballabh, Rai Durlabh, Mir Jafar, zamindars and others who were also opposed to Siraj.



Conflict with East India Company: Though the Farman of 1717 had become a perpetual source of conflict between the Company and the Bengal Nawabs, the breaking point came when the English Company, anticipating another round of Anglo-French struggle, began to strengthen the fortifications of Fort William and mounted guns on its walls.

The disaffected nobles of Siraj's court, particularly the Jagat Seths, Rai Durlabh, Amir Chand (or Umichand) joined hands with the English to oust Siraj and install their protégé, leading to the Plassey Conspiracy of 1757.

5.3. Awadh:

The subah of Awadh was strategically situated between the north bank of the Ganges and the Himalayas. It extended from Kannauj district in the west to the river Karmnasa in the East. It comprised Benaras and some districts near Allahabad.

Its proximity to Delhi added to its importance. The rise of Awadh as an autonomous state was the result of political pursuit by the Irani and Shiite family of **Burhan-ul-Mulk Saadat Khan**.

Saadat Khan (1722-39)

Saadat Khan was the founder of independent kingdom of Awadh. He was a very bold and intelligent person. In 1722, he was appointed Governor of Awadh by the Mughal Emperor.

He was given the difficult charge of subduing rebellions zamindars who had sprung up everywhere in the province. They had refused to pay land tax and behaved like autonomous chiefs with their forts and armies. He was successful in this task within a year and in appreciation, the Emperor Muhammad Shah conferred on him the **title of Burhan-ul-Mulk**.



- He decided to build up a power base in Awadh, and 1st thing he got his nephew and son-in-law Safdar Jung recognised by the emperor as his deputy governor.
- In 1723, by his new land revenue settlement improved the lot of the peasants by levying equitable land revenue.
- He did not discriminate between the Hindus and the Muslims.
- By 1735, Saadat Khan extended his influence to the adjoining regions of **Kora, Jahanabad, Banaras, Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Chunargarh**.
- In 1739, Saadat Khan was called to Delhi to assist the Mughal Empire in fighting against the invader, Nadir Shah. However, he was taken prisoner in the Battle of Karnal.
- He felt further frustrated when the position of Mir Bakshi went to the Nizam despite his support during the invasion.
- He considered this a betrayal and in vengeance changed sides and joined Nadir Shah.
- His dirty game recoiled on him when the invader demanded a sum of **20 crore** promised to him.
- In sheer frustration, Saadat Khan poisoned himself to death, thus committing suicide the day after the occupation of Delhi.

Safdar Jung (1739-54)



Nadir Shah remained the emperor of India for just two months. He recognised Safdar Jung as the successor in Awadh by accepting **2 crore as peshkash**. Jung's opportunity really came when both Muhammad Shah and Nizam-ul-Mulk died in **1748** and he was appointed wazir by the new emperor Ahmad Shah.

He and his successors popularly came to be known as Nawab Wazirs. He was also granted the province of Allahabad.

- He also suppressed rebellious zamindars and made an alliance with the Maratha.
- He set up an equitable justice system. He did not discriminate on religious grounds.
- The highest post in his government was held by a **Hindu-Maharaja Nawab Rai**.



Shuja – ud- Daula (1754-75)

After Safdar Jung's death his son Shuja-ud-Daula was appointed the Governor of Awadh.

Role in the third Battle of Panipat (1761)

- When Afghan invader Ahmad Shah Abdali arrived again in India in 1761 and fought the Battle of Panipat against the Marathas, Shuja joined the Afghan invader to see his opponents, the Marathas, humbled and weakened.
- Within his own domain of Awadh and Allahabad his autonomy and power remained unchallenged till his encounter with the English East India Company in the Battle of Buxar.



Role in the Battle of Buxar (1764):

- In the Battle of Buxar, the combined forces of the **Nawab of Bengal, Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh) and the Mughal Emperor were defeated by the English Company** and Awadh was brought into the British dragnet by the **Treaty of Allahabad (16th Aug 1765)**.
- As per the treaty, Shuja was required to pay war indemnity of RS 50 lakh.

Asaf-ud-daula (1775-97)

- After the death of Shuja-ud-Daulah in 1775, his son **Asaf-ud-Daula became the Nawab**.
- In 1775 itself, he shifted the capital from **Faizabad to Lucknow**.
- Despite English threat, he concentrated his energies in cultural pursuits and built up around Lucknow court a vibrant cultural arena, giving rise to a distinct Lucknow culture.
- Lucknow soon rivalled Delhi in its patronage of arts and literature.
- It became a second home for sensitive men of letters who had left Delhi and lamented for the world they had lost.
- These luminaries and poets included **Mirza Rafi Sauda** and **Mir Ghulam Hasan**.
- Built the famous monument **Bara Imambara**.
- The Nawab also earned a lot of fame for his generosity and gave rise to a well-known saying in Lucknow, 'he who does not receive from the Lord, will receive it from **Asaf-ud-Daula**' (**Jisko na de Moula, usko de Asaf-ud-Daula**).



The New States – the Marathas, the Sikhs, the Jats and the Afghans

5.4. The Maratha

In the 18th century it became the nucleus of the much wider Maratha swarajya. **The Marathas were the most significant of all the regional powers.**

Relationship with the Mughals

- Marathas had a long history of Suppression by the Mughals, particularly during the **27 year war started by Aurangzeb in 1681.**
- In 1689 Aurangzeb defeated and killed Shivaji's son and successor Sambhaji and captured his son Shahu.
- Aurangzeb had treated Shahu and his mother with great dignity hoping to arrive at a political agreement with Shahu.
- The whole Maratha nation rose in arms against the Mughals in what was to become a people's war.
- The younger son of Shivaji, Raja Ram carried on the struggle till his death in 1700 and thereafter the struggle was carried on further by his wife Tarabai, acting as a regent for his minor son Shivaji II.
- In 1707 after Aurangzeb's death, his successors released Shivaji's grandson Shahu in the hope of throwing an apple of discord in Maharashtra.
- Shahu's release divided the Marathas into two rival camps-one led by **Tarabai at Kolhapur** and the other led by **Shahu at Satara.**
- The consequence was a long civil war in which Shahu ultimately emerged victorious mainly with the help of a group of new independent sardars and an able Chitpavan Brahmin from Konkan, **Balaji Vishwanath.**

First Peshwa – Balaji Vishwanath (1713-20)

- King Shahu appointed him as the Peshwa or Prime Minister in **November 1713.**
- By virtue of his diplomacy and statesmanship, Balaji Vishwanath turned the office of the Peshwa as the functional head of the Maratha Empire while Raja Shahu became a mere figurehead.

Help to Sayyid Brothers: In 1719, Balaji helped the sayyid brothers remove Farrukhsiyar from the Mughal throne and place a puppet emperor in Delhi.

Mughal Sanad of 1719: As per the Sanad, the Marathas were allowed to collect **chauth (literally: one-fourth of revenues) and sardeshmukhi (an additional 10% of revenues) from the entire Deccan** (Aurangabad, Berar, Bidar, Bijapur, Hyderabad and Khandesh) and Karnataka.

In return for the above privileges, the **Marathas were to place at the Emperor's disposal a contingent of 15,000 troops, maintain peace and order** in the Deccan and pay an annual tribute of 10 lakh to the emperor. In this way, the Maratha king became the sardeshmukh of the entire Deccan and Karnataka. The sanad is also known in history as '**the Magna Carta of the Maratha dominion**'.

Balaji Vishwanath has been rightly called '**the second founder of the Maratha State**'. After his death in April 1720, he was succeeded by his 20-year-old son Baji Rao I.

Second Peshwa Baji Rao 1 (1720-40)



Balaji Vishwanath was succeeded by his eldest son, Baji Rao I as the Peshwa in April 1720. In spite of his youth, he was a bold commander and a wise statesman and has been called '**the greatest exponent of guerilla tactics after Shivaji**'.

- Formulated a new policy of Maratha imperialism which aimed at expanding the Maratha kingdom beyond the Narmada.
- Proposed his policy of conquest of the North in the following words: Lets strike at the trunk of the withering tree (Mughal Empire) and the branches will fall off themselves.
- He preached the ideal of '**Hindu Pad Padshahi**' i.e. **Hindu Empire**.
- All the 20 years of the Peshwa Baji Rao kept marching and winning battles.
- Under the leadership, the Marathas won control over Malwa, Gujrat and Parts of Bundelkhand.
- He is remembered as the **fighting Peshwa**.
- Baji Rao faced severe challenge from the **Nizam-ul-Mulk** in the Deccan. Twice the two met in the battlefield and both times the Nizam was defeated and compelled to grant the Marathas the **chauth and sardeshmukhi** of the six Mughal provinces in the Deccan.
- In 1733, Baji Rao launched a campaign against the **Sidis of Janjira** Island and in the end Eexpelled them from the mainland. Simultaneously, he also started a campaign against the Portuguese. In the end, **Salsette and Bassein** were captured.

Third Peshwa Balaji Bajirao (1740-61)

- Bajirao's 18-year-old son Balaji Bajirao also known as Nana Sahib, was the Peshwa from 1740 to 1761
- Shahu's successor Raja Ram executed a document known as the **Sangola Agreement** (also known as constitutional revolution of 1750) which transferred the supreme power from the Chhatrapati to the Peshwa.
- The **Peshwa became the de facto ruler of the Maratha State**, and as a symbol of this fact, shifted the government to Poona, his headquarters.

Maratha Expansion under Balaji Bajirao

- The Maratha power achieved its territorial zenith during the rule of Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao, extending from **Cuttack to Attock**.
- In the east, Marathas under **Raghuji Bhonsle** regularly raided Bengal, Bihar and Orissa (then ruled by Alivardi Khan). The raids were stopped after a treaty in 1751, under which Alivardi surrendered Orissa and agreed to pay **₹1,20,000 as annual chauth** for the three provinces.
- In south, the states including the state of Mysore were forced to pay tribute.
- In the north, the Maratha bands regularly raided the Rajput kingdoms of **Jaipur, Udaipur, Bundi, Kotah, etc.** Soon they also became the power behind the Mughal throne.

Conflict with Abdali: The Marathas were not content with their victories in the north and looked greedily at Punjab, which was ruled by an agent of Abdali.

Third Battle of Panipat (14 January 1761): The forces of Abdali and the Marathas met at **Panipat on 14 January 1761**. The Maratha army was completely routed, causing about 50,000 casualties. **This marked the beginning of the decline of the Maratha glory**. Both Vishwas Rao and Sadashiv Rao Bhau perished along with many other Maratha commanders and 28,000 soldiers. Those who fled were chased by the Afghan cavalry and robbed by the **Jats, Ahirs and Gujars** of Panipat region. The Peshwa got the news while he was on his



way to the north to help his cousin. Shocked by the tragic news, he met with an early death in June 1761. In this way, Ahmad Shah gave a death blow to the Maratha glory. Neither the Marathas nor the Afghans benefitted from this battle. The beneficiaries were the British who grasped this opportunity to expand influence in Bengal. In reality, the Third Battle of Panipat did **not decide who would rule India, but rather who would not.**

Fourth Peshwa-Madhav Rao (1761-72)

The 17-year-old Madhav Rao became the Peshwa in 1761. He was a talented statesman and within a short period of 11 years, he restored **the lost fortunes of the Maratha Empire, a phenomenon known as Maratha Resurrection**, with the help of his able minister, **Nana Phadnavis**. Nana Phadnis played a **pivotal role** in holding the Maratha Confederacy together in the midst of internal dissension and the growing power of the English Company.

Madhav Rao successfully subdued the old enemies, the **Rohillas, the Rajputs and the Jat Chiefs** in the north and **Mysore and Hyderabad in the south**. In 1771, the Marathas brought back Emperor **Shah Alam to Delhi**, who now became their pensioner. Thus it appeared as if Maratha ascendancy in the north had been recovered. However, **Madhav Rao died of tuberculosis** in 1772.

Fifth Peshwa-Narayan Rao (1772-73)

After the death of Madhav Rao, the Maratha Empire was thrown into a state of confusion. At Poona there was a struggle for power between **Raghunath Rao (younger brother of Balaji Bajirao) and Narayan Rao (younger brother of Madhav Rao)**. Narayan Rao succumbed to the intrigues of his uncle Raghunath Rao in 1773.

Sixth Peshwa-Raghunath Rao (1773-74)

He became the Peshwa of the Maratha Empire for a brief period from **1773 to 1774**. He was deposed by Nana Phadnis and 11 other administrators (Baarbhais) in what is known as '**the Baarbhais Conspiracy**'. The Baarbhais included influential Maratha sardars like Mahadji Shinde (or Scindia) and Tukojirao Holkar.

Seventh Peshwa-Sawai Madhav Rao or Madhav Rao II (1774-95)

The Baarbhais installed Narayan Rao's posthumous son, Madhav Rao II, as the Peshwa with themselves, led by Nana Phadnavis, as the Regents (known as Baarbhais Council). Madhav Rao II was made Peshwa when he was barely 40 days; his time in power was dominated by the political intrigues of Nana Phadnis. The succession of **Sawai Madhav Rao (Sawai means 'One and a Quarter')** gravely frustrated Raghunath Rao's ambitions and he turned to the British and tried to capture power with their help, resulting in the **First Anglo-Maratha war**.

The Peshwa's power now gradually waned. **Poona became the seat of constant intrigues** between the supporters of Sawai Madhav Rao, headed by Nana Phadnis and the supporters of Raghunath Rao. Taking advantage of the weakening of central authority, the **big Maratha sardars or chiefs carved out semi-independent states in the north. These were the-Holkar (Indore), Scindia (Gwalior), Gaekwad (Baroda) and Bhonsle (Nagpur)**. They possessed their own armies and their allegiance to the Peshwas became more and more nominal. **Among the Maratha sardars in the north, Mahadji Shinde was the most important**. He organised a powerful European style army with the help of French and Portuguese officers, consisting equally of Hindu and Muslim soldiers. Sawai Madhav Rao **committed suicide** in 1795 probably because of the **highhandedness of Nana Phadnis**. The powerful chief, Daulat Rao Scindia, and minister, Nana Phadnis, installed Baji Rao II, son of Raghunath Rao, as a puppet Peshwa.



Eighth and Ninth Peshwa-Baji Rao II (1796-1818)

Baji Rao II was the last Peshwa of the Maratha Empire. By now, the British had decided to put an end to the Maratha challenge. The British divided the warring sardars through clever diplomacy and then defeated them in separate battles in the Second Maratha War (1803-05) and Third Maratha War (1817-18). The seat of the Peshwa was extinguished while the Maratha states were allowed to exist as subsidiary states.

First Reign (1796-1802): His first reign saw the **Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05)**. After the death of Nana Phadnavis (March 1800), the Poona court once again fell victim to various court conspiracies. In the struggle for power in Maratha polity, **Peshwa Baji Rao II, Daulat Rao Scindia and Yashwant Rao Holkar emerged as the main Maratha leaders.** Peshwa and Scindia formed an alliance against Holkar and tried to insult him. In 1801, Peshwa brutally killed **Holkar's brother Vithoji Rao Holkar.** This made Holkar attack Poona (battle of Poona), who then defeated the combined armies of Peshwa and Scindia near Hadapsar and captured Poona. Peshwa fled, took refuge in Bassein and approached Wellesley for help. This provided the British an ideal opportunity to intervene in the Maratha affairs. Baji Rao II accepted subsidiary alliance and signed the **Treaty of Bassein in 1802.** This affected the patriotic feelings of other Maratha chiefs and provoked the **Second Anglo-Maratha War** that began the breakup of the Maratha confederacy.

Second Reign (1803-18): During his second reign began the **Third Anglo-Maratha War.** On 3 June 1818, Peshwa surrendered before the British. He was dethroned and pensioned off and ordered to spend his last days in Bithoor near Kanpur.

5.5. The Sikhs

The development in the Punjab, former Mughal province of Lahore, was somewhat different as compared to other Mughal provinces. In other Mughal provinces, it was some Mughal provincial governor who established an autonomous state. But in the case of Punjab, it was a group of local people, the Sikhs.

Relationship with the Mughals

The last four gurus were persecuted by the Mughals, **Guru Arjan and Guru Teg Bahadur were tortured and brutally killed for refusing to convert to Islam.** Subsequently, Sikhism militarised to oppose Mughal dominance. Aurangzeb was initially not very hostile to the Sikhs; but as the community grew in size and challenged the central authority of the Mughals, the emperor turned against them. **Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi in 1675.**

Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)

He was installed as the Sikh guru at **age nine**, after his father, **Guru Teg Bahadur, was beheaded by the Mughals** for refusing to convert to Islam. Four of his sons were also killed during his lifetime, falling victim to Mughal-Sikh conflict.

Guru Gobind Singh, **the tenth and last guru of the Sikhs** transformed the Sikhs into a military force by establishing the body of **Khalsa in 1699.** Members were initiated into the body by the guru himself, who were obliged to show their allegiance by five signs including **kesh (uncut hair) and kirpan (short sword).** Perhaps the guru was now convinced about **the need of armed for the defence of the panth.**

Guru Gobind Singh's conflict with Aurangzeb is well known. From about 1696, Guru Gobind had tried to carve out an autonomous domain in and around Anandpur. In **1704, Anandpur was captured by the Mughals**



and the guru was compelled to leave. Guru Gobind was murdered in a conspiracy in 1708 and the leadership of Sikhs passed to his disciple, Banda Bahadur.

Banda Bahadur (1708-15)

- Banda Singh or Banda Bairagi, more widely known as **Banda Bahadur**, waged a relentless though unequal struggle against Aurangzeb's successors for eight years.
- The Mughals tried to suppress the rebellion ruthlessly as Punjab was strategically crucial. In the course of time, the position of **Banda Bahadur had weakened due to dissension within the Sikh community.**
- Some of the Jat zamindars and Khatri revenue farmers went to the Mughal side (for instance, Churaman Jat of Agra). Banda Bahadur was captured and was put to death in 1715.
- Even this could not suppress the Sikhs who finally succeeded in establishing their political power in the Punjab.

Farrukhsiyar defeated **Banda Bahadur** in 1715 and executed him in 1716. Now, Sikhs were left leaderless and got divided into two groups i.e. **Bandai** (liberal) and **Tat Khalsa** (orthodox). **Bhai Mani Singh** was able to end the rift and unite the two factions in 1721.

Later, in 1784, **Kapur Singh Faizullapuria** established the **Dal Khalsa**, an organization that brought Sikhs together politically, culturally, and economically. The entire Khalsa population was divided into two factions: **Taruna Dal**, or the army of the youth, and **Budha Dal**, or the army of the veterans.

Ranjit Singh and The English

- There were **twelve significant misls** when Ranjit Singh was born on November 2, 1780. **Gurumatta Sangh** served as the foundation for the central government of a misl; it was essentially a political, social, and economic system. The leader of Sukarchakia misl, **Mahan Singh**, was the father of Ranjit Singh.
- Ranjit Singh developed a brutal “**blood and iron**” policy, carving out a kingdom for himself in central Punjab.
- Afghanistan’s ruler Zaman Shah appointed Ranjit Singh as the province’s governor of Lahore in 1799.
- Following his acquisition of Jammu and Amritsar in 1805, Ranjit Singh became the ruler of Punjab’s political capital, Lahore, and religious capital, Amritsar.
- He also maintained good relations with the **Dogras and the Nepalese** and enlisted them in his army.
- **The Treaty of Amritsar** (1809) denied Ranjit Singh’s long-held desire to expand his authority over the whole Sikh population by acknowledging the Sutlej River as the border between his domain and the Company’s.
- Political pressure forced Ranjit Singh to sign the **Tripartite Treaty** with the English in June 1838, but he refused to allow the British army to pass through his territory in order to attack the **Afghan Amir, Dost Mohammad.**
- After the death of **Ranjit Singh**, his younger son **Daleep Singh** was anointed as the Maharaja, **Hira Singh Dogra** as wazir and **Rani Jindan** as regent. **Later Hira Singh was murdered and Lal Singh, a lover of Rani Jindan became the Wazir.**

First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46)

Causes of War are as follows

- It had been attributed to the action of the Sikh army crossing the River Sutlej on **December 11, 1845.**



- The chaos that followed **Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death in the Lahore kingdom**, which led to a struggle for dominance between the Lahore court and the ever-stronger and more local army.
- There were misgivings within the Sikh army following the English military operations in Afghanistan in 1842 and Gwalior and Sindh's annexation in 1841.
- The rise in the quantity of English soldiers stationed close to the kingdom of Lahore's border.
- **About the War and its Aftermath-** The British were able to engineer treachery from within, which led to consecutive defeats of Sikhs across various battles. Eventually, Lahore fell to the British without a fight in 1846.
- **Treaty of Lahore (1846)** was a humiliating treaty for the Sikhs wherein a British resident was to be established at Lahore, Jalandhar doab was annexed by the Company, and the strength of the Sikh Army was reduced. Also, **Daleep Singh** was recognised as the ruler under **Rani Jindan** as regent.
- Later, Sikhs were unable to pay the entire war indemnity and thus Kashmir was sold to Gulab Singh. This led to anger and resentment among the Sikhs, and they rebelled again.
- **The Treaty of Bhairawal** was signed in December 1846. A council of regency for Punjab was established, and Rani Jindan was removed from his position as regent in accordance with the terms of this treaty. **Henry Lawrence**, the English resident, presided over the eight Sikh sardars that made up the council.

Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-49)

Causes of War are as follows

- For the Sikhs, the terms of the treaties of **Lahore** and **Bhairawal**, as well as their defeat in the first Anglo-Sikh War, were extremely insulting.
- Sikh resentment was heightened by the inhumane treatment of Rani Jindan, who became a pensioner who was transferred to Benares.
- Multan's Governor Mulraj rebelled over being replaced and murdered two English officers. About the War and its aftermath
- **Lord Dalhousie** got the pretext to annex Punjab completely. He marched onto Punjab and made the British win in the battles of **Ramnagar** (led by Sir Hugh Gough), **Chillhanwala**, **Gujarat** (a small town on the banks of River Jhelum). Eventually, the Sikh army surrendered at Rawalpindi. Dalhousie completed his objective of annexation of Punjab and set up a three-member board to govern Punjab, comprising the **Lawrence brothers** (Henry and John) and **Charles Mansel**.
- For his services, the Earl of Dalhousie was given the thanks of the British Parliament and a promotion in the peerage, as Marquess.
- Later, in 1853, the board was nullified, and **John Lawrence** became the **first chief commissioner of Punjab**.



6. EXTENSION OF BRITISH PARAMOUNTCY THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

The Policy of Ring Fence

- **Warren Hastings** devised this policy with an aim to create **buffer zones** to defend the Company's frontiers.
- In order to protect their own territory, they adopted a **policy of defending the borders of their neighbors**.
- Warren Hasting's war against the Marathas and Mysore reflected this policy.
- The states included in the ring-fence system were **guaranteed military support against outside aggression, albeit at their own cost**. Stated differently, the leaders of these states were to pay the officers of the Company, who were to organize, equip, and command these subsidiary forces that these allies were required to maintain.

Subsidiary Alliance

- **Lord Wellesley** used the subsidiary alliance system, an **extension of the Ring Fence policy**, to build an empire in India between 1798-1805.
- One of the objectives was to keep the French from reviving and expanding their influence in India. Around this time, the **fear of Napoleon's expedition** towards the East was very real for the British.
- However, it was **Dupleix who first used the system** of Subsidiary alliance, and this was later followed by most British Governor Generals.

The key provisions are as follows:

- The ruler of the allying Indian state was required by the system to consent to the **permanent stationing of a British force on his territory** and to provide a **maintenance fee**. The posting of a British resident in his court required the consent of the Indian ruler.
- The Indian emperor was **not allowed to hire any European workers without first consulting the Company**. He also had to confer with the governor general before engaging in combat or negotiations with any other Indian ruler.
- In exchange for all of this, the **British would protect the ruler from his adversaries** and take up a **non-interference policy** with the allied state's internal affairs.
- By purchasing security, the Indian emperors **forfeited their independence**. The British Resident continued to meddle in their affairs. They paid for the British troops with a large portion of their **lost revenue**.
- Additionally, because of the alliance, the oppressive rulers in India became weaker and more careless; the subjects were exploited, and because the British provided them with protection, it was nearly impossible to overthrow them.

States under Subsidiary Alliance

- **Awadh was the first Indian state** to fall victim to this protection trap, which predated the subsidiary alliance system. **Awadh signed a treaty in 1765** under which the Company agreed to defend Awadh's borders, provided the Nawab paid for that defence.
- The Nizam of **Hyderabad** (September 1798 and 1800), the rulers of **Mysore** (1799), **Tanjore** (October 1799), the Nawab of **Awadh** (November 1801), the **Peshwa** (December 1801), the **Bhonsle Raja of Berar** (December 1803), the **Scindia** (February 1804), the **Rajput states of Jodhpur, Jaipur, Macheri, and**



Bundi, and the ruler of **Bharatpur** (1818) were among the Indian princes who embraced the subsidiary system.

- In 1818, the **Holkars** emerged as the final Maratha confederation to ratify the Subsidiary Alliance.

Doctrine of Lapse

Lord Dalhousie used this policy with zeal and was able to annex multiple states, unlike other Governor Generals who did not prefer annexation as long as it could be avoided. Earlier, even Ranjit Singh had annexed a few principalities on the account of ‘lapse’.

The doctrine, to put it simply, said that **the adopted son might inherit his foster father’s private property but not the state**; the decision to grant the adopted son the state or annex it belonged to the paramount power, the British. The theory was claimed to be founded on Indian customs and Hindu law, but Hindu law didn’t seem to be very clear on this issue, and it wasn’t very common for an Indian sovereign to annex a vassal state due to “lapse” (i.e., leaving no issue as heir).

States that were subjected to the Doctrine of Lapse:

- **Satara** (1848), **Nagpur** and **Jhansi** (1854), and The other small states were **Baghat** (Himachal Pradesh), **Sambhalpur** (Orissa), and **Jaitpur** (Bundelkhand).
- **Nawab Wajid Ali Shah** was overthrown by Lord Dalhousie in 1856 on the grounds of misgovernance, and **Awadh** was seized.



7. RELATION OF BRITISH INDIA WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

7.1. Anglo-Bhutanese Relations

The British and the mountain nation of Bhutan became close after the **British took over Assam** in 1826. This led to frequent raids by Bhutanese into neighbouring territories in Bengal and Assam.

Along with the above, it was due to the **harsh treatment Elgin's envoy** received in **1863–1864**, and the treaty imposed on him forcing the British to cede the passes leading to Assam that led to the British annexing these passes.

The Bhutanese were made to give up the passes in 1865 in exchange for an annual subsidy.

The Anglo-Nepal War (1814-16)

Historical Context

In **1768**, the **Gorkhas** (hardy people belonging to the hill town of 'Gorkha') wrested the control of Kathmandu from the successors of **Ranjit Malla of Bhatgaon**. In their attempt to expand beyond the mountains, they were checked by the Chinese in the north. Hence, **they pushed towards the frontiers of Bengal and Awadh**, coming in contact and clash with the English in India.

In 1801, **Governor-General Wellesley**, in pursuance of his scheme of Subsidiary Alliance to consolidate Company's territories in India and create outposts against Tibet or China, forced the **Hindu Gorkha Kingdom of Nepal to sign the treaty and accept a British Resident at Kathmandu**. However, in 1803, the Resident left owing to Nepalese hostility. The following decade saw numerous problems all along the 1,100-km long border shared between Nepal and India.

Causes

- Pursuance of British foreign and frontier policy- British did not want to solely depend on the Himalayas to provide India protection from the North. They looked at **Nepal as a stable buffer state between India and Tibet or China**.
- The ensuing border disputes.
- **Expansionist policy** followed by both the English and the Gorkhas.

The War

In May 1814, the Gorkhas attacked three police stations of **Butwal**, then under the English East India Company's authority. **Governor-General Hastings** took it as a challenge to Company's authority and decided to launch an offensive along the whole frontier, from the **Sutlej to the Kosi**.

In October 1814, Governor-General Hastings launched the **Nepal War**. The hill people put up a strong resistance and engaged the British in military conflict for over a year. **Battles of Butwal, Almora, Malaon and Makwanpur** were the important battles fought; **all went in favour of the English**. **The Nepalese were finally defeated and forced to sign the Treaty of Sugauli (March 1816)**.

As per the treaty,

- The British gained the districts of **Garhwal and Kumaon** (comprising a great portion of the rich Terai forests) and a resident was placed at Kathmandu.



- **The north-west frontier** of the Company was pushed up to the mountains as English also gained the entire area of the Sutlej hills comprising hill stations of **Simla, Mussoorie, Ranikhet, Landour and Nainital**.
- After the **Treaty of Sugauli**, the British used a great deal of tact in their dealings with the rulers of Nepal.
- Nepal also maintained neutrality during the Revolt of 1857, while the British enlisted a large number of Gorkhas as mercenaries in their army.
- About 5,000 Nepali men entered British service in 1815, most of whom were not 'real' Gorkhas but **Kumaonis, Garhwalis and other Himalayan hill men**. These groups, eventually lumped together under the term **Gurkha**, and became the **backbone of British** Indian forces.

7.2. Anglo-Burmese Relations

Three Anglo-Burmese Wars and Burma's eventual **annexation into British India in 1885** were the result of the British Empire's expansionist desires, which were stoked by the allure of Burma's forest resources, the need to check French ambitions in Burma and the rest of South-East Asia, and the market for British manufactures in Burma.

First Burma War (1824-26)

- It was fought as tensions along the **ill-defined border between Bengal and Burma** increased due to the Burmese occupation of **Arakan and Manipur**, their westward expansion, and their threat to Assam and the Brahmaputra Valley.
- Eventually, the British **occupied Rangoon** and other areas. Then, the **Treaty of Yandabo** was signed in **1826**, which imposed certain conditions on the Government of Burma.
- Pay one crore rupees as war compensation, The provisions of the treaty made Burma cede its coastal provinces of **Arakan & Tenasserim**,
- Abandon its claims on **Assam, Cachar and Jaintia**, Recognise **Manipur** as an independent state and negotiate a commercial treaty with the British along with accepting a British resident at its capital Ava.

Second Burma War (1852)

- **Lord Dalhousie's** imperialist policies and British commercial needs led to the second world war. The British traders were eager to acquire access to upper Burma's **timber resources** and pursued deeper penetration into the **Burmese market**.
- The British now occupied **Pegu**, the only remaining coastal province of Burma, and established complete control of lower Burma.

Third Burma War (1885)

- Burmese King **Bhindan's son Thibaw** ascended to the throne following his death. Thibaw was antagonistic toward the British from the start and was negotiating commercial treaties with their rivals such as France, Germany and Italy.
- **Lord Dufferin** ordered the final annexation of Upper Burma in 1885, and complete control was established after fighting a strong guerrilla uprising.
- Later, Burma was **separated from India in 1935** to divide the nationalist movement.

Anglo-Tibetan Relations



The Russian influence in **Lhasa** was growing, and the Chinese suzerainty over Tibet was ineffectual. There had been rumours of Russian weapons and ammo entering Tibet. Alarmed, **Curzon** dispatched a small Gorkha contingent to Tibet on a special mission led by **Colonel Younghusband** with the intention of pressuring the Tibetans into reaching a settlement.

The Tibetans proposed non-violent resistance and declined to engage in dialogue. The **Dalai Lama** fled as **Younghusband** forced his way into Lhasa in August of 1904.

Treaty of Lhasa (1904) was signed wherein **Younghusband dictated terms to Tibet**.

Tibet would pay an **indemnity of 75 lakh rupees** at the rate of one lakh rupees per annum, Tibet was to pay a war indemnity, and the British would occupy **Chumbi Valley** as security for payment.

Tibet was to respect the **frontier of Sikkim** and ensure that it would not grant any concessions to any other foreign power.

In the end, only China benefited from the entire situation because the **Anglo-Russian convention of 1907** stipulated that the two powers would only engage in negotiations with Tibet through the Chinese government's intermediary role. Curzon's strategy, however, defeated every Russian plan in Tibet.

7.3. Anglo-Afghan Relations

Forward Policy of Auckland (1836) implied that the Company was to take initiatives to protect the boundary of British India from a probable Russian attack using either treaties or complete annexation.

A **tripartite treaty (1838)** was entered into by **the British, the Sikhs and Shah Shuja**, wherein Shah Shuja was to be enthroned and conduct foreign affairs with the advice of the British. It also helped maintain peace between the Sikhs and the Afghans.

The First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-42) was a result of the above-mentioned forward policy, wherein the British intention was to establish a permanent barrier against aggression from the north-west. While the English were able to march into Kabul and make Shah Shuja the Amir of Afghanistan, the Afghans did not accept Shah Shuja and rose up in rebellion. Thus, the British agreed to evacuate Afghanistan and restored the earlier ruler Dost Mohammed.

John Lawrence started the Policy of Masterly Inactivity in response to the disaster of the First Afghan War. He did not interfere in the war of succession when Dost Mohammed died. The key conditions behind this policy were that peace at the frontier was not disturbed, and no candidate in civil war had sought foreign help.

Lytton devised the Policy of Proud Reserve which aimed at having scientific frontiers and safeguarding 'spheres of influence'. Lytton wanted to bring clarity to the ambiguous situation in Afghanistan.

Second Anglo-Afghan War (1870-80): Amir wanted to remain friends with both Russia and British India. Later, Sher Ali (the Amir) refused to keep a British Envoy, whereas earlier Russians were granted the same privilege. **Lytton** decided to invade, and **Sher Ali** fled Afghanistan.



Treaty of Gandamak (1879) was signed between the British and **Yakub Khan**, the eldest son of Sher Ali. It provided that the Amir shall conduct his foreign policy on the advice of the British, a permanent British resident was to be stationed at Kabul, and the Government of India was to provide Amir with all support against foreign aggression.

Later, instability returned to Afghanistan, and Lytton was unsuccessful in dismembering Afghanistan. Eventually, **Lord Ripon** abandoned this plan and decided to keep Afghanistan as a buffer state. **Durand Line** was devised as a boundary line between the Afghan and the British territories. However, it could not keep the peace for long.

Curzon (1899-1905) followed a **policy of withdrawal and concentration** wherein he trained the tribals and brought the **North-West Frontier Province (NWFP)** under the direct control of the Government of India. Following World War I and the 1917 Russian Revolution, the Afghans sought complete independence. Following the death of Habibullah in 1919, **Amamullah**, the new ruler, declared an open war on the British. Habibullah had succeeded Abdur Rahman in 1901. Peace came in 1921 when Afghanistan recovered independence in foreign affairs.



8. People's Resistance Against The British before 1857

Major Causes

- Changes in economy, administration and land revenue system.
- Erstwhile Zamindars and Poligars were angered due to the loss of their lands and wanted to take revenge from government officials, money lenders etc.
- The disappearance of traditional patrons like princes, zamindars and colonial industrial policies led to the ruin of artisans and handicrafts. Priests, pandits and maulvis lost their traditional patrons.
- British rulers were always seen as alien to the land. They treated common people with disdain.

Sanyasi Revolt (1763-1800) [Bihar & Bengal]

It was a revolt by the **Sannyasis and Sadhus in Bengal**.

They were joined by a large number of dispossessed small zamindars, disbanded soldiers, and rural poor. It was characterised by **equal participation** of Hindus and Muslims. It is also known as the **Fakir Rebellion**. They **raided Company factories and the treasuries** and fought the Company's forces.

Causes: The 1770 Bengal famine and harsh British economic policies.

Leaders: Majnum Shah, Chirag Ali, Musa Shah, Bhawani Pathak, Debi Chaudharani.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote the books **Anandamath (1882)** and **Devi Chaudharani (1884)** based on the Sanyasi Revolt.

Warren Hastings played an important role in suppressing this movement.

The song, **Vande Mataram** was used in the novel **Anandamath**.

Revolt of Moamarias (1769-99) [Assam]

- Moamarias were low-caste peasants who followed the teachings of **Aniruddhadeva**, rose up against the Ahom Kings of Assam and weakened their hold on power.
- The Moamarias made **Bhatiapar** their headquarters.
- In 1792, the King of Darrang (**Krishnanarayan**), assisted by his band of **Burkandazes** (the demobilised soldiers of the Muslim armies and zamindars), revolted against the weak Ahom kingdom.
- Ahom Kings had to **request help from the British** to fight the rebellion but fell to the Burmese invasion and finally came under British rule.

Poligars's Revolt (1795–1805) [Tamil Nadu]

- The Poligars revolted when the **Nawab of Arcot gave the management and control of Tinneveli and the Carnatic Provinces to the East India Company**. This led to resentment among the poligars who had, for long, considered themselves independent sovereign authorities within their respective territories.
- The poligars of North Arcot rose in rebellion when they were deprived of their right to collect the kaval fees. (Kaval or 'watch' was a hereditary village police office in Tamil Nadu).
- The movement occurred in two Phases:
- The first phase was led by **Kattaboman Nayakan**.
- The Second phase was more violent and was led by **Oomanthurai**.

Paika Rebellion (1817) [Odisha]



Paikas were the **hereditary traditional landed militia (foot soldiers) of Odisha** who rendered martial services and policing functions in return for **rent-free land (Nishkar Jagirs)**. It was also known as the **Khurda Rebellion** (the dethronement of the Raja of Khurda had greatly reduced the power and prestige of the Paikas).

Causes

- **Walter Ewer Commission** recommended that the rent-free lands of Paikas be taken over by the British. This led to Paikas taking up arms in support of zamindars and peasants.
- Rise in the price of salt, abolition of **Cowrie currency**, payment of taxes in silver and extortionist land revenue policies.
- Leaders: **Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar**, Mukunda Deva, and Dinabandhu Santra.
- Used **Guerrilla Warfare** to fight the British.
- The rebellion was **brutally repressed** by 1818. Priests at the Puri temple who had sheltered Jagabandhu were caught and hanged.
- The Paika Rebellion **succeeded** in getting large remissions of arrears, reductions in assessments, a new settlement on fixed tenure etc.

Ahom Revolt (1828)[Assam]

- The British **did not withdraw from Assam** after the First Burma War (1824-26), and tried to incorporate Ahom territories, causing resentment among people, which led to a rebellion.
- The Britishers followed a **conciliatory policy**, and upper Assam was handed over to Maharaja Purandar Singh (Ahom King).
- Leaders: **Gomdhar Konwar (Ahom Prince)**, Maharaja Purandhar Singh, Narendra Gadadhar Singh, among others.

Wahabi Movement (1830–61) [Bihar, Bengal, North West Frontier Province, Punjab]

- It was an Islamist **revivalist movement** that advocated complete adherence to Sharia.
- This movement was led by **Syed Ahmed of Rai**
- **Bareilly**, who was inspired by the teachings of **Abdul Wahab** (Saudi Arabia) and **Shah Walilullah** (Delhi).
- **Titu Mir** led the movement in the Bengal region.
- Syed Ahmed condemned the Western influence on Islam and advocated a return to pure Islam and society.
- **Sithana** (north-western tribal belt) was chosen as a base for operations. **Patna** was an important centre, with missions across **Hyderabad, Madras, Bengal, the United Provinces, and Bombay**.
- A jihad was declared against the Sikh kingdom of Punjab. Following its annexation by the East India Company in **1849**, the Wahabis directed their attacks solely against the English rule in India.

Kuka Movement (1840–72) [Punjab]

- The Kuka Movement was founded in 1840 by **Bhagat Jawahar Mal** (also called Sian Saheb) in western Punjab as a Socio-religious movement working against caste discrimination, promoting inter-marriage, widow remarriages etc.
- After the British took Punjab, the movement **transformed** from a **religious purification campaign** to a **political campaign**.



- Kukas wanted to remove the British and restore Sikh rule over Punjab. They advocated the boycott of English laws, education and products. So, the **concepts of Swadeshi and non-cooperation were propagated by the Kukas much earlier.**
- The British **crushed the movement** between 1863 and 1872. **Baba Ram Singh**, founder of the Namdhari Sect and a major **leader** of the movement, was deported to Rangoon in 1872.

OTHER CIVIL UPRISINGS

Revolt In Midnapore and Dhalbhum (1766-74) [Bengal]

- **Leaders: Damodar Singh and Jagannath Dhal.**
- The New Land Revenue system of 1772 led to the Zamindars siding with ryots, and against English officials.

Civil Uprisings In Gorakhpur, Basti And Bahraich (1781) [Uttar Pradesh]

- **Warren Hastings** employed English officers as **Izaradars** (revenue farmers) in Awadh to raise money for wars against the Marathas and Mysore.
- **Alexander Hannay's** (a British officer appointed to collect the Izaras) excessive demands of revenue from zamindars and cultivators led to the uprising.
- Hannay's subordinates were either killed or besieged by **Zamindar's guerilla forces**. Although the rebellion was suppressed, Hannay was dismissed and his **Izara forcibly removed**.

Revolt of Raja of Vizianagaram (1794) [Andhra Pradesh]

- In 1758, a treaty was made between the **British** and **Ananda Gajapatiraju** (raja of Vizianagaram) to jointly oust the French from the Northern Circars. The British went back on the treaty of 1758 and asked
- **Raja Chinna Vizayaramaraju** (successor of **Ananda Gajapatiraju**) to pay tribute and disband his army. Raja, supported by his subject, rose to rebellion.
- He was captured in 1793 and died in battle at **Padmanabham** (in modern Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh) in 1794. Vizianagaram eventually came under company rule.

Revolt of Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja (1797-1805) [Kerala]

- Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja, also known as the "**Kerala Simham**" or '**Pyche raja**', was the de facto head of **Kottayam** in the Malabar region.
- He actively resisted the forces of **Hyder Ali**, **Tipu Sultan**, and the **British** between 1793 and 1805.
- The **Third Anglo-Mysore War** resulted in British control over Kottayam. The British appointed **Vira Varma** as the Raja, who imposed exorbitant taxes, leading to mass peasant resistance, led by **Pyche Raja** in 1793.
- Despite a peace treaty in 1797, a conflict over Wayanad in 1800 reignited hostilities, prompting Pazhassi Raja to **organize a diverse force, including Nairs, Mappilas and Pathans**.
- In November **1805**, he **died** in a gunfight.

Revolt of Diwan Velu Thampi (1808–09)[Travancore]

- Harsh conditions in **Travancore** following a **subsidiary alliance** agreement (1805) with **Wellesley** led to resentment in the region.

- The high-handed attitude of the Company led **Prime Minister Velu Thampi** to rebel against them, with support from Nair troops. He openly called for armed resistance against the British in the **Kundara Proclamation**, sparking widespread rebellion.
- A large-scale military operation was necessary to restore peace as the Maharaja of Travancore defected to the Company's side. **Velu Thampi**, facing capture, chose to end his own life. The rebellion eventually dwindled out.

Movement	Location	Main Causes and Events
Uprisings in Haryana (1803 onward)	Haryana	British East India Company acquired Haryana and other territories through the Surji-Arjungaon treaty in 1803 .
Disturbances in Bundelkhand (1808–12)	Bundelkhand	Disturbances leading to the British policy of binding down hereditary chieftains through contractual obligations known as Ikarnamahs
Rising at Bareilly (1816)	Uttar Pradesh	Triggered by the imposition of the police tax.
Surat Salt Agitations (1844)	Gujarat	Agitation against the government's decision to increase salt duty, later withdrawn.
Gadkari Revolt (1844)	Kolhapur of Maharashtra	Revolt by the Gadakarīs , the hereditary military class, due to unemployment and agrarian grievances.
Revolt of Savantavadi (1844–59)	North Konkan Coast	Revolt in Savantavadi region .

Other rebellions: **Civil Rebellion of Awadh** (1799)[Eastern Uttar Pradesh]; **Uprising in Ganjam And Gumsur** (1800, 1935–37)[Eastern Orissa]; Uprisings in Palamau (1800–02)[Chhotanagpur of Jharkhand]; **Parlakimedi Outbreak** (1813–34)[Odisha]; Kutch Rebellion (1819)[Gujarat]; Waghera Rising (1818–20)[Baroda, Gujarat].

Important Peasant Movements

Narkelberia Uprising (1782-1831) [Bengal]

- **Mir Nithar Ali**, also known as **Titu Mir**, inspired the Muslim tenants to rise against **landlords**, (primarily Hindu, who imposed a beard tax on the Faraizis), and **British indigo planters**.
- It is often considered the first **armed peasant uprising** against the British.
- The revolt evolved into a religious conflict and **merged** into the **Wahabi Movement**, which had broader religious and socio-political objectives.

Pagal Panthis (1825-1835) [North East India]

- It was a semi-religious group in the Mymensingh district, primarily consisting of the Hajong and Garo tribes. It was founded by **Karam Shah**.
- Tribal peasants, led by Karam Shah's son Tipu, organized to resist zamindar oppression. They **refused to pay rent beyond a specified limit** and actively **attacked the houses of zamindars**.
- The government introduced an equitable arrangement to protect the rights of the tribal peasants, but it was **violently suppressed**.



Moplah Uprisings (1836-1854)

- Twenty-two rebellions took place during these years.
- Causes included **high revenue demand, reduction of field size and oppression by the British officials.**

Note: The Second Moplah uprising occurred in 1921.

TRIBAL REVOLTS

The tribal movements can be divided into **mainland tribal revolts** and **frontier tribal revolts** based on their point of occurrence.

Pahariyas Rebellion (1778) [Raj Mahal Hills]

- The Pahariyas, **hill dwellers near Rajmahal hills**, subsisted through forest produce and shifting cultivation, maintaining independence due to geographical isolation.
- Before British influence, they raided plains for subsistence, receiving tributes from zamindars and traders for peace.
- Conflict escalated in the late 18th century with **British-promoted settled agriculture**, leading to intensified Pahariya raids.
- In the 1770s, the British **violently attacked Pahariyas**, prompting a rebellion in **1778** led by **Raja Jagganath**. In the 1780s, British pacification included annual allowances to Pahariya chiefs for ensuring proper conduct.

Revolt of Tilka Manjhi [Santhal Pargana]

- **Tilka Manjhi (Jabra Pahariya)**, led a revolt in the Pargana against British policies, particularly opposing the divide-and-rule strategy.
- Operating around **Sultanganj**, Tilka targeted East India Company boats along the Ganga, looting the British treasury and sharing the spoils with the poor.
- He organized **guerrilla warfare**, also involving Santhal women. In 1778, Tilka, along with Pahariya Sardars, captured the Ramgarh Camp, and in 1784, he led an attack on Bhagalpur, allegedly shooting the British magistrate **Augustus Cleveland**.
- The British retaliated, capturing and hanging Tilka in 1785. Tilka is revered as the **first Adivasi** leader to take up arms against the British.

Jungle Mahal Revolt or Chuar Uprisings (1776) [Chota Nagpur]

- The initial rebellion erupted in response to a **hike in revenue** imposed on jungle zamindars, aggravated by British instructions to demolish mud forts in 1767.
- Affected areas: Between Chota Nagpur and the plains of Bengal (Parganas in **Birbhum, Bankura, and Midnapore**).
- In 1768, Ghatsila's zamindar, **Jagannath Singh**, and thousands of Chuar followers rebelled, leading to the capitulation of the Company government. In 1771, Chuar sardars **Shyam Ganjan, Subla Singh, and Dubraj** rose in rebellion, but it was subsequently suppressed.
- The most significant Chuar uprising occurred in 1798 under **Durjan Singh**, prompted by discontent with East India Company policies, including the Permanent Settlement and changes in police regulations.
- The rebellion involved **Paiks, ordinary Chuars, and jungle zamindars**. The revolt, centred around Raipur, was violently suppressed in 1799. Notable leaders included **Madhab Singh, Raja Mohan Singh, and Lachman Singh**.



Santhal Rebellion (1855-56) [Bihar]

- Santhals moved into the Rajmahal area in the late 1770s and early 1780s to live a settled life.
- Santhal and Paharia feud (It has been called a battle between the hoe and the plough: the hoe symbolising the Paharias who used the tool in shifting cultivation and the plough standing for the Santhals who used it for settled agriculture) was settled by the formation of **Daman-i-Koh** (a Persian term meaning outside edges of the hills). A portion of land at the foothills was declared to be that of the Santhals.
- The taxes levied by the Company government under the **Permanent Settlement Act of 1793** on their land were heavy and money had to be borrowed to pay off debts. But the diku (outsiders) moneylenders charged very high rates of interest and, when debts remain unpaid, took possession of the land. Slowly, zamindars were taking over the **Damin** tracts.
- The rebellion soon turned into a movement against the British colonial state. The Santhals called the rebellion ‘**hul**’, meaning a movement **for liberation**.
- Led by **Sidhu** and **Kanhu Murmu** to end Company Rule and carve out an autonomous territory
- Started against Zamindars and moneylenders **but later acquired an anti-British character** .
- **The use of Guerrilla Warfare tactics was particularly successful, and eventually, it made the British become conciliatory.**
- **Post the revolt, the Santhal Pargana was created out of the districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum with special laws for tribals. [UPSC 2018]**

Khond Uprisings (1837-56)

It was led by **Chakra Bisnoi** in a hilly region spanning from Orissa to Andhra Pradesh. It was joined by the Ghumsar, Kalahandi, and other tribals to **oppose the suppression of human sacrifice, new taxes, and the entry of zamindars into their areas.**

Tana Bhagat Movement (1914-15)

[Chotanagpur Region]

- **Jatra Oraon** of Ranchi declared himself divinely ordained in April 1914 to become a king. This proclamation led to the formation of the Tana Bhagat movement in Jharkhand.
- The movement emerged as a response to agrarian discontent, opposing forced labour (begar) and unjust rent increases imposed by colonial authorities, zamindars, and intermediary tenure-holders.
- They were **against both moneylenders and missionaries.**
- Tana Bhagat Movement was primarily religious and nonviolent.
- The movement engaged in **satyagraha even before Mahatma Gandhi's satyagraha movement.**
- In 1921, during the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Tana Bhagats aligned themselves with the Congress, participating in the broader struggle for independence.

Birsa Munda Revolt (1890s-1901) [Singbhum & Ranchi]

- Also known as ‘**The Ulgulan**’ (Great Tumult) [UPSC 2020]
- Aim was to establish an independent **Munda Raj** with religious and political independence.
- The British introduction of the zamindari system led to the imposition of rent on tribal land, causing eviction for non-payment and increased dependence on usurious moneylenders. So, the movement started with anger against moneylenders and outsiders (‘**dikus**’), including Christian Missionaries.
- Later, the Government took measures like the abolishment of compulsory begar, and passage of the Tenancy Act of 1903, which recognised Mundas’
- **Khuntkatti system.** The **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was passed in 1908.**



Khuntkatti system is joint ownership of land by tribal lineage. Under the system, Munda tribals usually clear the forests and make the land fit for cultivation. The cultivable land is then owned by the whole clan and not a particular individual.

Movement	Region	Main Causes and Events	Leaders
Kol Uprisings (1831)	Chotanagpur	Large-scale transfers of land, British policies affecting Kol headmen. Led by Buddho Bhagat.	Buddho Bhagat
Ho & Munda Uprisings (1820-37)	Jharkhand	Against new farming revenue policy and occupation of Singhbhum. Led by Raja Parahat (1827).	Raja Parahat
Khonda Dora Campaign (1900)	Dabur Region, Visakhapatnam	Led by Korra Mallaya, mobilizing Khonda Doras.	Korra Mallaya
Bhil Revolts (1817-19, 1913)	Western Ghats Region	Govind Guru helped Bhils organize for a 'Bhil Raj'.	Govind Guru
Rampa Revolt (1916, 1922-24)	Andhra Pradesh	Led by Alluri Sitarama Raju against British interference. Captured and executed in 1924.	Alluri Sitarama Raju
Forest Satyagrahas (1920s, 1930s)	Guntur region (AP) and Palamau, Bihar	Tribes protesting against increasing British control over their lands.	Chenchus (Guntur), Karwars (Palamau)
Ramosi Uprisings	Western Ghats	Resentment over British annexation of Maratha territories. Leaders like Chittur Singh, Umaji Naik.	Chittur Singh, Umaji Naik

Other movements

Naikada Movement (1860s)[Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat]: Revolt against British and caste Hindus.

Kharwar Rebellion (1870s)[Bihar]: Rose against revenue settlement activities.

Koya Revolts Eastern Godavari region (AP); **Bhuyan And Juang Rebellions** (Odisha); **Bokta Rising (1858-1895)** [Chotanagpur]; **Tamar Revolt (1798)** [Chotanagpur Region]; **Bastar Revolt (1910)** [Jagdalpur]: Against new feudal and forest levies.; **Gond Uprising (1940s)**: Aimed at bringing believers of Gond Dharma together.

Tribal Movements of the North East

Other Movements: Syntengs of Jaintia Hills in 1860–62; Phulaguri peasants rebellion in 1861, Revolt of the Saflas in 1872–73; Uprising of the Kacha Nagas of Cachhar in 1882; Khampti rebellion in Assam between 1839 and 1842; and Lushais revolt in 1842 and 1844, when they attacked villages in Manipur.



Movement	Location	Leaders	Main Causes and Events
Khasi Uprising (Up to 1833)	Garo & Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya	Tirath Singh	Organized resistance by Khasis, Garos, Khamptis, and Singphos against outsiders (Englishmen, Bengalis, and plains labourers). Suppressed by 1833.
Singphos Rebellion (1830 Onwards)	Assam	Nirang Phidu	Uprising in 1839 led to the death of the British political agent. Another significant revolt in 1843 with an attack on the British garrison.
Kukis Revolt (1917-1919)	Manipur	-	Caused by the British policy of labour recruitment during the First World War
Zeliangsong Movement (1920s)	Manipur	Zemi, Liangmei, Rongmei tribes	Led by Zemi, Liangmei, and Rongmei tribes against British failure to protect them during the Kuki revolt in 1917-19.
Naga Movement (1905-1931)	Manipur	Jadonang	Jadonang led the Nagas against the British, aiming to establish a 'Naga Raj.'
Heraka Cult (1930s)	Manipur	Rani Gaidinlu	Rani Gaidinlu led the Heraka movement. Suppressed, but led to the formation of the Kabui Naga Association in 1946.