

Lesson 16

ESTABLISHMENT OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA TILL 1857

Summary

The British rule in India formally started in 1757 after the battle of Plassey. The Britishers secured certain rights from the Diwan of Bengal. The East India Company now became a political entity and no longer remained a commercial trading venture. From Bengal they spread to other areas of India and adopted various mechanisms like the subsidiary alliances, the doctrine of lapse etc. to consolidate their hold over Indian provinces. The company's rule lasted for about 100 years and in 1858 it was replaced by the British government.

A NEW PHASE IN EUROPEAN EASTERN TRADE WITH ASIA-British adopted three methods to expand the British Empire.



ANGLO-FRENCH STRUGGLE IN SOUTH INDIA

•In order to establish their supremacy, it was necessary for the English East India Company to eliminate the French from this region.

•The Anglo- French rivalry, taking the form of three Carnatic Wars constituted landmarks in the history of British conquest of south India in the eighteenth century.

In the third Carnatic war, the British East India Company defeated the French forces at the battle of Wandiwash ending almost a century of conflict over supremacy in India.

BRITISH OCCUPATION OF BENGAL: PLASSEY TOBUXAR (1757-1765)

- The first major conflict of the British against an Indian power was in Bengal
- The history of Bengal from 1757 to 1765 is the history of gradual transfer of the power from the nawabs to the British.
- English victory in the battle of Plassey (23 June, 1757) was pre-decided.
- Mir Jafar, who was made nawab after the battle of Plassey, was deposed in 1760.
- Mir Qasim was placed on the throne by the British in the hope that he would be able to meet their financial demands.
- But Mir Qasim came into conflict with the British in Bengal on the

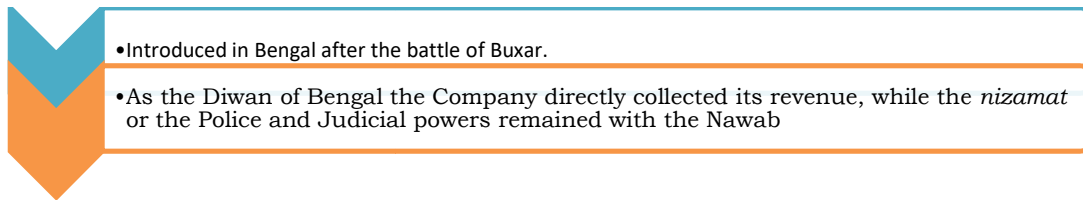
question of a privilege i.e. duty free private trade of the Company.

- In June 1763 under Major Adams British army defeated Mir Qasim the Nawab of Bengal.
- Mir Qasim fled to Patna and took help from Emperor Shah Alam II and Shujaud-Daula
- Matters came to a head when the chief of the Company's factory at Patna, tried to seize the city. This precipitated war. When Mir Qasim was forced to withdraw to Awadh,

the Nawab Wazir and emperor Shah Alam II decided to come to the defence of the eastern subas of the empire.

- The confederates advanced to Patna, and a battle was fought at Buxar on October 22, 1764. With a decisive victory at Buxar, the British army overran Awadh.
- The Nawab Wazir fled to the Rohilla country, but Shah Alam II came to terms with the British.

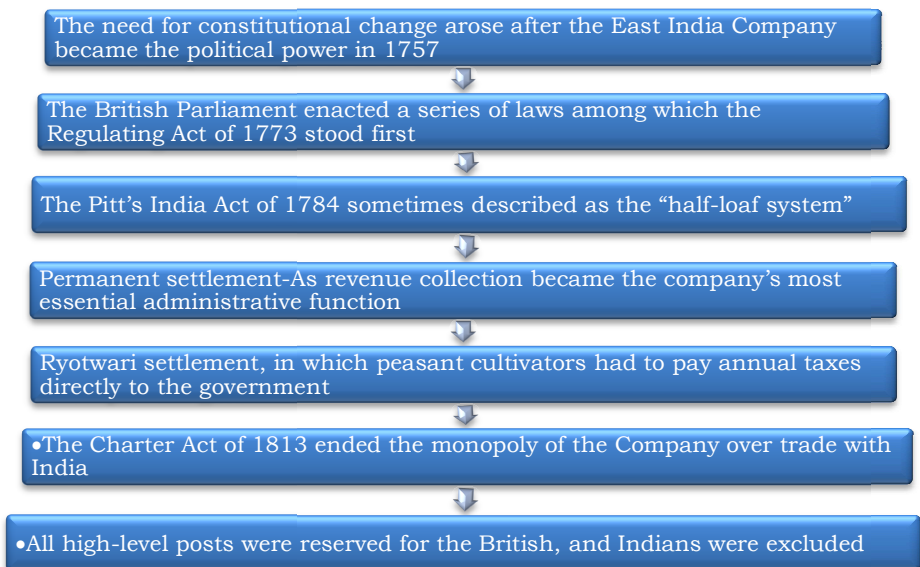
THE DUAL SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL



IDEOLOGY OF EXPANSION: TOOLS AND METHODS



GROWTH OF COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS



JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

- By the mid- eighteenth century, the British had a political presence in the three presidency towns of Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta which also saw the emergence of British judicial system in India.
- The Mayor's Court was established in 1727 for civil litigation in Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras.
- In 1772 an elaborate judicial system, known as adalat, established civil and criminal jurisdictions.
- The two main theoretical principles underlying the entire British judicial system in India were the notions of the Rule of Law and Equality before law; thus as per theory no one was above the law (certain rules which defined the rights, privileges and obligations of the people) and all the citizens irrespective of their caste, class and other status, were now equal before law.

Evaluate Yourself

- Q. Differentiate between Zamindari and Ryotwari System.
- Q. Describe British administrative and Judicial Organization in India before 1858.
- Q. Differentiate between Subsidiary Alliance and Doctrine of Lapse System.