

National Institute of Open Schooling
Senior Secondary Course: Military History
Lesson 9: Colonial Era and the Indian Sepoy
Worksheet – 9

1. India was a fragmented state, which allowed the British to exploit, and this was the only reason why they succeeded in enslaving the country. Discuss the socio-political scenario in India when the Europeans set foot here.
2. Do you know who came first and explored our India? It was the Portuguese. Discuss the advent of the Portuguese in India and their purpose.
3. Presidency means an office where the President sits and controls the area under him/her. Name the three Presidencies established by the British in India and their role.
4. The famous quote is that "the Sun never sets in British Empire." Discuss the above in light of British imperialism.
5. Having created the Presidencies, the East India Company made an organization, in each of these locations, to rule the areas, which were annexed by them. Briefly discuss the organization or structure of these Presidencies.
6. The British very cleverly and systematically overcame the French, Dutch and Portuguese to establish themselves to rule over India for almost 200 years. Describe the factors which helped the British in strengthening their control in India.
7. The British recruited heavily from what they called the 'martial races' for service in the colonial army. Explain the meaning of the above term with reference to the communities recruited by the British.
8. The term Sepoy was a designation given to the Indian soldier. They were from the local communities of the Bombay and Madras presidencies. Discuss the chain of command in the British Indian Army.
9. Give examples of Portuguese, Dutch and British possessions and colonies in India
10. Discuss the main motive behind European navigation and settlements in India.