



Chapter- 7

The Establishment of Company Power in India

NOTES:

Mercantilism and Trade Wars

- The Portuguese had the monopoly of the profitable Eastern trade for nearly a century.
- By 1616, the Dutch secured the monopoly of trade (mainly cotton goods) in Western India by establishing themselves at Surat.
- In 1599, an English trading company was formed to trade with the east.
- The English East India Company started its first voyage to India in 1601 and open its first factory at Surat in 1608.
- The French East India Company was founded in 1664. They established their Company at Chandernagore near Kolkata and Pondicherry in the east coast.
- The early part of the 18th Century was marked by intense rivalry between the British and the French.

Struggle to Territory and Wars with Indian Rulers

First Carnatic War (1740-1748) -

- The war broke out after French Governor- General occupied Madras (Chennai) in 1745.
- The British and the Nawab of Carnatic formed an alliance to restore Madras.
- The Nawab sent ten thousand soldiers against the French but was defeated.
- The war ended in 1748, when Madras was given back to the British.

Second Carnatic War (1749-1754) -

- The war broke out after tension arose in Carnatic and Hyderabad in 1748 over succession.
- The French formed an alliance with Chand Sahib in Carnatic and Muzzafar Jung in Hyderabad and defeated Anwar-u-Din in 1749.
- In 1750 Nasir Jung was assassinated and Muzzafar Jung was proclaimed as the Nizam of Hyderabad.
- The English led by Robert Clive attacked Arcot, the capital of Carnatic.
- The French came to help Chand Sahib.
- The war ended in 1755 after the British and the French agreed to stay away from the quarrels of the Indian princes.

Third Carnatic War (1756-1763) –

- The war broke out in 1756 between the British and the French in Europe.

- In 1757, British captured Chandernagore, the French settlement in Bengal after defeating Siraj-ud-Daulah.
- The French navy was driven out off Indian waters.
- After the Battle of Wandiwash in 1760, the British became firmly rooted in Carnatic by defeating the French.
- The war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

Conquest of Bengal – Beginning of the New Era

- In 1717, Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar issued an order allowing the British to carry out free trade in Bengal.
- In 1756, Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal, attacked the British factory at Kasimbazar.
- In January 1757, the British under Robert Clive conquered Kolkata.
- Siraj-ud-Daulah was captured and executed in June 1757, after his defeat in the Battle of Plassey.
- Mir Jafar was appointed as the new Nawab of Bengal.
- In the Battle of Buxar fought on 22nd October 1764, the combined force of Mir Qasim, the new Nawab of Bengal, Shuja-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Awadh and Shah Alam II, the Mughal Emperor was defeated by the British.
- Nizam-ud-Daulah was installed as the new Nawab of Bengal but he was forced to disband his army and make British govern Bengal through a nominee.

Taming the tiger of Mysore –

- Mysore rose into prominence in the beginning of the second half of the 18th Century.
- In 1761, Haider Ali usurped the throne of Mysore.
- Haider Ali captured Bellary, Gooty, Chitaldrug and the Maratha territory between the Krishna and the Tungabhadra after the death of Maratha's Peshwa Madhav Rao.
- In 1778 war broke out between Haider Ali and the British.
- Haider passed away in 1781 and was succeeded by his son Tipu Sultan.
- In 1784, Treaty of Mangalore was signed between Tipu and the British.
- In 1789, Tipu invaded Travancore but was defeated and forced to sign a Treaty at Seringapatnam in 1792.

Subsidiary Alliance

- Subsidiary alliance was introduced in 1798 by the then Governor- General of India Lord Wellesley.
- According to the Subsidiary Alliance, once a ruler entered into an alliance with British, he had to conduct his power according to the advice of the British.
- In 1799, a war popularly known as the Fourth Anglo Mysore War broke out between the British and Tipu Sultan when the latter refused to sign a subsidiary alliance.

Controlling the Maratha

- A war broke out after the death of the Peshwa Madhav Rao in 1772 for succession between Narayan Rao and Raghunath Rao.

- Narayan Rao was defeated by the joint alliance of the British and Raghunath Rao.
- In May 1782, the Treaty of Salbai was signed between the British and the Marathas.
- There were five important Maratha chiefs at the beginning of the 19th Century – the Peshwa, the Gaekwad, the Scindia, the Holkar and the Bhonsle.
- In 1804, a peace treaty was signed between the British and two Maratha Chiefs viz the Holkar and the Scindia.
- In 1817, the Peshwa, the Bhonsle and the Holkar took up arms against the British.

Overpowering the Sikhs

- In 1809, the British and Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab signed a treaty according to which River Sutlej was fixed as the boundary between the two.
- The Sikh and the British fought in December 1845, over the control of Punjab after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839.
- In March 1846, the Treaty of Lahore was signed according to which the British annexed Jalandhar Doab.
- In March 1849, Lord Dalhousie annexed the whole of Punjab after declaring a war against the Sikhs in 1848.

Dalhousie's Annexation

- Lord Dalhousie adopted many policies to annex the Indian territories out of which Doctrine of Lapse was the most potent.
 - **Doctrine of Lapse** –According to the Doctrine of Lapse, when the ruler of an Indian state, who had entered into a Subsidiary Alliance with the British, passed away without having any natural heir, his state could not be passed to the adopted son. Instead, it was to be annexed to the British dominion.
 - **Dalhousie's annexation policy and the states annexed by it –**
- | Policy | States Annexed |
|---------------------|--|
| • Doctrine of Lapse | Satara(1848), Udaipur(1850), Nagpur(1853) and Jhansi(1853) |
| • Title abolished | Nawab of Carnatic(1853), Raja of Tanjore(1855) |
| • Pension refused | Nana Saheb(1855) |
| • Misgovernance. | Awadh |

Civilian Administration

- The Act of 1773. designated the Governor of Kolkata as the Governor – General of Bengal.
- The Act of 1833, increased the Central Authority in Kolkata.
- From 1772, each district in India had two courts – a criminal court (faujdari adalat) and a civil court(Diwani adalat).
- In 1865, High Courts were established at Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai.

The Company Army –

- The army was one of the important pillars of the British regime in India.
 - In the early 19th Century, the British began to develop a uniform military culture, where soldiers were subjected to European-style training, drill and discipline.
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