

History

Lesson 2

A. Multiple choice questions:

Answers-

1. A. Calcutta
2. A. 1668
3. B. Robert Clive
4. D. Treaty of Allahabad
5. D. 1602
6. B. Peshwa Baji Rao II

B. Match the following-

1. D. Lord Cornwallis
2. A. Ended dual government in Bengal in 1772
3. E. 1803-05
4. C. A post in the police system of British India
5. B. First Indian to qualify for ICS

C. Short answers:

1. Mir Qasim became unpopular with the British as he tried to break free from their political domination. He wanted to modernise the army and improve the finances of Bengal. He tried to check the misuse of trade privileges of the British and abolished taxes on internal trade. Eventually, he forged an alliance with the Mughal Emperor and Nawab of Awadh to fight the British.
2. Diwani was the right to collect revenue Or taxes from the subjects of a territory. Through this right, the East India Company exercised control over revenue collection, extorting as much as possible and driving the poor peasants to misery and starvation.
3. The Codifying of Indian laws in 1833 by the Law Commission led to the introduction of the rule of law. According to this code, the law was the same for all irrespective of their position, caste, religion or economic status. However, Europeans had special courts and were tried by British judges.
4. The Cornwallis code refers to the regulations instituted by Lord Cornwallis who separated the commercial and revenue branches of administration in order to govern better. In 1793, the Cornwallis Code was introduced to cover civil, criminal and commercial cases, besides those pertaining to land revenue and police system.
5. Three wars were fought between the English and the French to gain domination over the coastal Strip of present day Tamilnadu, which was then called the Carnatic. The Second Carnatic war (1749-54) was fought because the British and the French support different candidates as successors to the throne on Hyderabad and Carnatic.

D. Long answers:

1. The Battle of Plassey paved the way for British conquest of Bengal and eventually, all of India. The British installed Mir Jafar as the puppet nawab. He granted the East India Company the right to collect revenue and the right to free trade. When Mir Jafar started resenting the British, they replaced him with his son-in-law Mir Qasim. However, Mir Qasim soon became unpopular with the British. Eventually he tried to fight them in alliance with the Mughal emperor and Nawab of Awadh. The British victory in the resultant Battle of Buxar led to the Company becoming the real masters of Bengal.

2. The European trading companies were initially interested in India because of its vast wealth in spices and other natural resources. They then realised the India could both provide cheap raw material and labour for their industries, and a captive market for exporting the goods made. Trading was never the only motive. Greed for commercial profits and envy of the opulence of existing rulers led the Europeans to settle in India where they proceeded to exploit the country as much as they could.

3. The Dual Government in Bengal was introduced by Robert Clive in 1765 and demolished by Warren Hastings in 1772. Under this system, the puppet ruler on the throne was handed over the powers of military and criminal jurisdiction (nizamat), while the company exercised control over revenue collection (diwani). The system of dual government made the company the virtual ruler of Bengal wherein they enjoyed all powers, but had no responsibilities, while the Nawab had all the responsibilities, but no power or economic resources to run the administration.

4. There was no uniform code of law in India since the sovereign states or empires each had their own judicial system. The British introduced a uniform code of law under which civil, criminal and commercial cases were covered, as well as those pertaining to land revenue and police systems. The importance of 'Rule of law' was that according to it the law was the same for all irrespective of their position, caste, religion or economic status. However, this only applied to Indians since Europeans had special courts and were tried by British judges.

5. Lord Dalhousie was an imperialist to the core, and the doctrine of lapse that he conceived was instrumental to the expansion of British territories in India. According to this, a dependent/subsidiary state would pass into British hands if the ruler died without a natural heir. The right to adopt children was not accepted. Satara, Sambhalpur, Jhansi and Nagpur were annexed under this. He also annexed the states of Punjab, Sikkim and Awadh under pretexts of misgovernance or being anti-British.

Links related to the chapter:

1. <https://youtu.be/8HEI9E70SxU>

2. <https://youtu.be/vT4Vd8jh2NU>

3. https://youtu.be/g_5guJ5EOJg

4. <https://youtu.be/wc2ErbLu2kA>