

FROM TRADE TO TERRITORY

Questions to be done in CW

Answer in one or two sentence:

1. Who were 'nabobs'?
2. What was the British policy of paramountcy?
3. What was the Doctrine of Lapse?

Answer the following:

1. Examine the cause of conflict between Tipu Sultan and the East India Company.
2. Explain the importance of the charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I to the East India Company.
3. How did the British triumph over Nawab Sirajuddaulah?
4. 'From the later 18th century the Company sought to curb and eventually destroy Maratha power.' Explain.

ANSWERS

1. Examine the cause of conflict between Tipu Sultan and the East India Company.

ANS: Mysore controlled the profitable trade of the Malabar coast where the Company purchased pepper and cardamom. In 1785 Tipu Sultan stopped the export of sandalwood, pepper and cardamom through the ports of his kingdom, and disallowed local merchants from trading with the Company.

He also established a close relationship with the French in India, and modernised his army with their help.

The British were furious. They saw Haidar and Tipu as ambitious, arrogant and dangerous – rulers who had to be controlled and crushed. This resulted in four Anglo-Mysore wars.

2. Explain the importance of the charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I to the East India Company.

ANS: In 1600, the East India Company acquired a charter from the ruler of England, Queen Elizabeth I, granting it the sole right to trade with the East.

This meant that no other trading group in England could compete with the East India Company. With this charter the Company could venture across the oceans, looking for new

lands from which it could buy goods at a cheap price, and carry them back to Europe to sell at higher prices.

The Company did not have to fear competition from other English trading companies.

3. How did the British triumph over Nawab Sirajuddaulah?

ANS: In 1757, Robert Clive led the Company's army against Sirajuddaulah at Plassey. One of the main reasons for the defeat of the Nawab was that the forces led by Mir Jafar, one of Sirajuddaulah's commanders, never fought the battle. Clive had managed to secure his support by promising to make him nawab after crushing Sirajuddaulah.

4. 'From the later 18th century the Company sought to curb and eventually destroy Maratha power.' Explain.

ANS: The Marathas were divided into many states under different chiefs - Sindhia, Holkar, Gaikwad and Bhonsle. The Marathas were subdued in a series of wars.

In the first war that ended in 1782 with the Treaty of Salbai, there was no clear victor. The Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05) was fought on different fronts, resulting in the British gaining Orissa and the territories north of the Yamuna river, including Agra and Delhi.

Finally, the Third Anglo-Maratha War of 1817-19 crushed Maratha power. The Peshwa was removed and sent away to Bithur near Kanpur with a pension. The Company now had complete control over the territories south of the Vindhya.
