

History Part – 28.1

28.1] Rule Of The English East India Company

Notes

(A.D.1772-A.D.1857)

LORD WARREN HASTINGS (1772-1785)

Warren Hastings became the Governor of Bengal in 1772. Later he was raised to the position of Governor General of Bengal.

To regulate the affairs of the East India Company in 1773 the British Parliament passed the Regulating Act in 1773. This was the first landmark Act in the Constitutional development of India.

The Regulating Act - 1773 Provisions

- Appointment of a Governor General in Calcutta who was superior to the Governors of Bombay and Madras.
- Provision was made to set up a Supreme Court in Calcutta with a chief justice and three judges. Sir Elijah Impey was the first Chief Justice.
- An Executive Council consisting of four members was set up to assist Governor General.

Provisions of the Pitts India Act

- In order to remove the defects of the Regulating Act, the British Prime Minister William Pitt, the Younger, passed the Pitts India Act in 1784.
- The Governor General was to be appointed with the approval of the British Crown.
- The number of members in Governor General's Council was reduced from four to three.
- For administrative purposes, a Board of Control consisting of six members was established in Britain to monitor the affairs in India.
- The Governor General was made the Commander-in-Chief of the British troops in India and was given total control over the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras.

Reforms of Warren Hastings

Administrative Reforms

- He put an end to the Dual Government introduced in Bengal by Robert Clive.
- The treasury was shifted from Murshidabad to Calcutta.

Judicial Reforms

- Two courts of Appeal namely the Sadar Diwani Adalat (Civil) and the Sadar Nizamat Adalat (Criminal) were established at Calcutta.

- Civil and criminal courts were set up in each district.
- A digest of Hindu and Muslim law was compiled.

Commercial Reforms

- A Board of Trade was set up to buy quality goods for the company.
- In order to encourage Indian trade, many of the customs houses were abolished and he set up only five customs houses at Calcutta, Dacca, Hooghly, Patna, and Murshidabad.

Educational Reforms

- Warren Hastings was also a great patron of learning. In 1781 he founded the Calcutta Madrasa for the promotion of Islamic studies.

The Rohilla War (A.D. 1774)

- The Rohillas were Afghans and were frequently attacked by the Marathas. They sought the help of the Nawab Oudh to subdue the Marathas.
- The Nawab demanded Rs.40 lakhs and the Rohillas accepted the demand. When the Marathas appeared in Rohilkhand in 1773, they saw the forces of Nawab of Oudh behind the Rohillas, so the Marathas retreated without fighting Shuja-ud-daulah.

- The Nawab of Oudh demanded the promised 40 lakhs from the Rohillas.
The Rohilla Chief refused to pay the money.
- The Nawab of Oudh approached the English for help. He even agreed to pay 40 lakhs to the British.
- So Warren Hastings sent an army against the Rohillas. Rohillas were defeated and their territory was annexed to Oudh.

The Anglo-Mysore Wars were a series of four wars between the British and the Kingdom of Mysore in the latter half of the 18th century in Southern India.

Hyder Ali (1721 – 1782)

- Started his career as a soldier in the Mysore Army.
- Soon rose to prominence in the army owing to his military skills.
- He was made the Dalavayi (commander-in-chief), and later the Chief Minister of the Mysore state under Krishnaraja Wodeyar II, ruler of Mysore.
- Through his administrative prowess and military skills, he became the de-facto ruler of Mysore with the real king reduced to a titular head only.
- He set up a modern army and trained them along European lines.

First Anglo-Mysore War (1767 – 1769)

Causes of the war:

- Hyder Ali built a strong army and annexed many regions in the South including Bidnur, Canara, Sera, Malabar and Sunda.
- He also took French support in training his army.
- This alarmed the British.

Course of the war:

- The British, along with the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad declared war on Mysore.
- Hyder Ali was able to bring the Marathas and the Nizam to his side with skilful diplomacy.
- But the British under General Smith defeated Ali in 1767.
- Hyder Ali's son Tipu Sultan advanced towards Madras against the English.

Result of the war:

- Treaty of Madras was signed in 1769 which brought an end to the war.
- The conquered territories were restored to each other.
- It was also agreed upon that they would help each other in case of a foreign attack.

Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780 – 1784)

Causes of the war:

- The Marathas attacked Mysore in 1771. But the British refused to honour the Treaty of Madras and did not give support to Hyder Ali.
- As a result, Hyder Ali's territories were taken by the Marathas. He had to buy peace with the Marathas for a sum of Rs.36 lakh and another annual tribute.
- This angered Hyder Ali who started hating the British.
- When the English attacked Mahe, a French possession under Hyder Ali's dominion, he declared war on the English in 1780.

Course of the war:

- Hyder Ali forged an alliance with the Nizam and the Marathas and defeated the British forces in Arcot.
- Hyder Ali died in 1782 and the war was continued by his son Tipu Sultan.
- Sir Eyre Coote, who had earlier defeated Hyder Ali many times, ended the war inconclusively with the Treaty of Mangalore.

Result of the war:

As per the Treaty of Mangalore, both parties agreed to return the captured territories and prisoners to each other. Third Anglo-Mysore War (1786 – 1792)

Causes of the war:

- The British started improving their relationship with the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas.
- Tipu Sultan, who assumed control of Mysore after Hyder Ali's death, had French help in bettering his military resources.
- He also refused to free the English prisoners taken during the second Anglo-Mysore war as per the Treaty of Mangalore.

Course of the war:

- Tipu declared war on Travancore in 1789. Travancore was a friendly state of the British.
- In 1790, the Governor-General of Bengal, Lord Cornwallis declared war on Tipu.
- Tipu was defeated in the first phase of the war and his forces had to retreat.
- Later the English advanced towards Tipu's capital of Seringapatam and Tipu had to bargain for peace.

Result of the war:

- The war ended with the Treaty of Seringapatam in 1792.
- As per the treaty, Tipu had to cede half of his kingdom to the English including the areas of Malabar, Dindigul, Coorg and Baramahal.

- He also had to pay Rs.3 Crore as war indemnity to the British.
- Tipu also had to surrender two of his sons as surety to the British till he paid his due.

Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)

Cause of the war

- The Treaty of Seringapatam failed to bring peace between Tipu and the English.
- Tipu also refused to accept the Subsidiary Alliance of Lord Wellesley.
- Tipu aligned with the French which the British saw as a threat.

Course of the war

- Mysore was attacked from all four sides.
- The Marathas and the Nizam invaded from the North.
- Tipu's troops were outnumbered 4:1.
- The British secured a decisive victory at the Battle of Seringapatam in 1799.
- Tipu died while defending the city.
- Tipu's territories were divided between the British and the Nizam of Hyderabad.

Result of the war

- The core area around Seringapatam and Mysore was restored to the Wodeyar dynasty who had been ruling Mysore before Hyder Ali became the de-facto ruler.
- Mysore entered into a Subsidiary Alliance with the British and a British resident was placed at the Mysore Court.
- The Kingdom of Mysore remained a princely state not directly under the British until 1947 when it chose to join the Indian Union.

There were three Anglo-Maratha wars (or Maratha Wars) fought between the late 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century between the British and the Marathas. At the end, the Maratha power was destroyed and British supremacy established.

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775 – 1782)

Background and course

- The third Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao died in 1761 due to shock after his defeat at the Third Battle of Panipat.
- His son Madhavrao succeeded him. Madhavrao was able to recover some of the Maratha power and territories which they had lost in the Battle of Panipat.

- The English were aware of the growing Maratha power.
- When Madhavrao died, there was a tussle for power in the Maratha camp.
- His brother Narayanrao became the Peshwa but his uncle Raghunathrao wanted to become the Peshwa.
- For this, he sought the help of the English.
- So, the Treaty of Surat in 1775 was signed according to which Raghunathrao ceded Salsette and Bassein to the English and in return he was given 2500 soldiers.
- The British and army of Raghunathrao attacked the Peshwa and won.
- The British Calcutta Council under Warren Hastings annulled this treaty and a new treaty, the Treaty of Purandhar was signed in 1776 between the Calcutta Council and Nana Phadnavis, a Maratha minister.
- Accordingly, Raghunathrao was given a pension only and Salsette was retained by the British.
- But the British establishment at Bombay violated this treaty and sheltered Raghunathrao.
- In 1777, Nana Phadnavis went against his treaty with the Calcutta Council and granted a port on the west coast to the French.

- This led the British to advance a force towards Pune. There was a battle at Wadgaon near Pune in which the Marathas under Mahadji Shinde secured a decisive victory over the English.
- The English were forced to sign the Treaty of Wadgaon in 1779.
- There was a series of battles at the end of which the Treaty of Salbai was signed in 1782. This ended the first Anglo-Maratha war.

Results

- The East India Company retained Salsette and Broach.
- It also obtained a guarantee from the Marathas that they would retake their possessions in the Deccan from Hyder Ali of Mysore.
- The Marathas also promised that they would not grant any more territories to the French.
- Raghunathrao was to receive a pension of Rs.3 lakh every year.
- All territories taken by the British after the Treaty of Purandhar were ceded back to the Marathas.
- The English accepted Madhavrao II (son of Narayanrao) as the Peshwa.

Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803 – 1805)

Background and course

- After Tipu Sultan's Mysore was captured by the British in 1799, the Marathas were the only major Indian power left outside of British domination.
- At that time, the Maratha Confederacy consisted of five major chiefs, the Peshwas at Pune, the Gaekwads at Baroda, the Holkars at Indore, the Scindias at Gwalior and the Bhonsles at Nagpur.
- There were internal squabbles among themselves.
- Baji Rao II (son of Raghunathrao) was installed as the Peshwa after the death of Madhavrao II.
- In the Battle of Poona in 1802, Yashwantrao Holkar, the chief of the Holkars of Indore defeated the Peshwas and the Scindias.
- Baji Rao II sought British protection and signed the Treaty of Bassein with them.
- As per this treaty, he ceded territory to the British and agreed to the maintenance of British troops there.
- The Scindias and the Bhonsles did not accept this treaty and this caused the second Anglo-Maratha war in central India in 1803.
- The Holkars also joined the battle against the English at a later stage.

Results

- All the Maratha forces were defeated by the British in these battles.

- The Scindias signed the Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon in 1803 through which the British got the territories of Rohtak, Ganga-Yamuna Doab, Gurgaon, Delhi Agra region, Broach, some districts in Gujarat, parts of Bundelkhand and Ahmadnagar fort.
- The Bhonsles signed the Treaty of Deogaon in 1803 as per which the English acquired Cuttack, Balasore and area west of Wardha River.
- The Holkars signed the Treaty of Rajghat in 1805 according to which they gave up Tonk, Bundi and Rampura to the British.
- As a result of the war, large parts of central India came under British control.

Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817 – 1818)

Background and course

- After the second Anglo-Maratha war, the Marathas made one last attempt to rebuild their old prestige.
- They wanted to retake all their old possessions from the English.
- They were also unhappy with the British residents' interference in their internal matters.
- The chief reason for this war was the British conflict with the Pindaris whom the British suspected were being protected by the Marathas.

- The Maratha chiefs Peshwa Bajirao II, Malharrao Holkar and Mudhoji II Bhonsle forged a united front against the English.
- Daulatrao Shinde, the fourth major Maratha chief was pressured diplomatically to stay away.
- But the British victory was swift.

Results

- The Treaty of Gwalior was signed in 1817 between Shinde and the British, even though he had not been involved in the war. As per this treaty, Shinde gave up Rajasthan to the British. The Rajas of Rajputana remained Princely States till 1947 after accepting British sovereignty.
- The Treaty of Mandasor was signed between the British and the Holkar chief in 1818. An infant was placed on the throne under British guardianship.
- The Peshwa surrendered in 1818. He was dethroned and pensioned off to a small estate in Bithur (near Kanpur). Most parts of his territory became part of the Bombay Presidency.
- His adopted son, Nana Saheb became one of the leaders of the Revolt of 1857 at Kanpur.
- The territories annexed from the Pindaris became the Central Provinces under British India.

- This war led to the end of the Maratha Empire. All the Maratha powers surrendered to the British.
- An obscure descendent of Chhatrapati Shivaji was placed as the ceremonial head of the Maratha Confederacy at Satara.
- This was the last major war fought and won by the British. With this, the British controlled most parts India directly or indirectly.

Reasons for Maratha Loss

- Lack of unity among the Maratha chiefs themselves.
- Lack of good relations with other Indian princes and ruling dynasties.
- Failure to understand the British political and diplomatic strengths.

