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HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 1757-1857

B.H.I.C.-110

B.A. History (Hons.) - 4th Semester

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 1757-1857

B.H.I.C.-110

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. Attempt at least two questions from each Section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Discuss the nature of Regional Polities during the 18th century.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 2, 'The Emergence of Regional Polities'.

Q. 2. Give a detailed account of the British conquest of Bengal.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 30, 'The British Conquest of Bengal, 1757-65'.

Q. 3. Discuss the judicial system developed by the British in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 57, 'The Judicial System'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Rise of Industrial Capitalism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 11, 'Rise of Industrial Capitalism and the Company's Mercantile Policies'.

(b) Anglo-French Rivalry in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 4, 'Anglo-French Struggle in South India'.

(c) Indigenous education system in India

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 67, 'Indigenous Education'.

(d) Ryotwari Settlement

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 80, 'The Emergence of Alternative Systems'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. What was the impact of commercialization of Agriculture on Indian agriculture?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 92, 'The Effects of Commercialisation'.

Q. 6. Analyze various forms of social discrimination in Western and South India prior to the coming of the British.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 124, 'Regional Variations: South India', Page No. 125, 'Western India'.

Q. 7. Discuss the nature of popular movements before the Revolt of 1857.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 136, 'Nature of Popular Movements Before 1857'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Deindustrialization.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 100, 'What Do We Mean by Deindustrialization' and Page No. 102, 'De-Industrialization'.

(b) Development of Railways in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 115, 'Indian Railways and English Capital'.

(c) Changes in British policy after the revolt of 1857.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 144, 'Aftermath of The Revolt'.

(d) Life of Indentured Labour on the plantations.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 154, 'Work and Life on the Plantations'.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 1757-1857

B.H.I.C.-110

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. Attempt at least two questions from each Section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. "The history of Bengal from 1757-1765 is the history of gradual transfer of power from the Nawabs to the British." Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 30, 'The British Conquest of Bengal, 1757-65'.

Q. 2. Was East India Company a monopoly company? Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 10, 'East India Company's Monopoly' and 'Monopoly Versus Free Trade'.

Q. 3. Discuss the institutional framework of the judicial and administrative system of the British.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 57, 'Institutional Framework'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Utilitarians

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 44, 'The Utilitarians'.

(b) Mahalwari Settlement

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 82, 'The Other Alternative Settlement: The Mahalwari System'.

(c) Indigenous education under the British

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 67, 'Indigenous Education'.

(d) Weaknesses of regional polities.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 6, Q. 7.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Discuss the nature of commercialisation of agriculture under the British.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 90, 'Commercialisation Under The British'.

Q. 6. Analyze the nature of popular movements before 1857.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 136, 'Nature of Popular Movements Before 1857'.

Q. 7. Discuss the shift from slave labour to indentured labour in the colonial plantation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 153, 'Transition From Slavery'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Deindustrialization.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 100, 'What Do We Mean by Deindustrialization' and Page No. 102, 'De-Industrialization'.

(b) Hali-pratha in Gujarat.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 129, Q. 5.

(c) Suppression of the Revolt of 1857.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 150, Q. 11.

(d) Subordination of the native capital under the British.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 111, 'Subordination of 'Native' Capital'.

■ ■

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 1757-1857

Indian Polity, Society, and Economy in Mid 18th Century

1

INTRODUCTION

The first theme is the downfall of the Mughal Empire. During the Warren Hastings' era, the political system was reorganized. The decline of the empire was influenced by several circumstances, such as the economic crisis. Although the Mughal Empire did not last, its institutions and traditions were nevertheless practised in the British provinces and regional states. Mughal administrative procedures, particularly with regard to land tax were adopted. The successor states of Hyderabad, Awadh, and Bengal succeeded to become independent nations. The Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, and Afghans created the "new states," and in parts of these nations, popular peasant movements opposed to imperial demands played a significant role in this process. The independent kingdoms of Mysore, the Rajputs, and Kerala, which have been erroneously referred to as "Hindu Polities", fell into a third category. The East India Company's transformation from a trade company to a political force is the final theme covered.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

18TH CENTURY: A DARK AGE?

The British authors of the Cambridge History of India and their Indian followers fit to paint the 18th century black so that British rule appears gloating by comparison. The influence of the Mughal Empire was not as widespread or as far-reaching as it is believed to be. Much of India, especially the Northeast, and South, remains external, as do many social groups. The decline of the Mughals is therefore not an appropriate subject for a discussion of the changes that are taking place across India. Scholars have recently suggested that the establishment of regional politics may have been the dominant feature of the eighteenth century, rather than the rise and fall of the Indian Empire as a whole. Satish Chandra, a leading historian of medieval India, presents the 18th century as a single chronological whole, rather than dividing it into two centuries, Pre-British and British.

DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

In 1740, Nadir Shah destroyed Delhi. It was the Marathas, not the Mughals, who fought Abdali in 1761. In 1783, the Mughal emperor was a pensioner from England.

Internal Weaknesses: Struggle for Power

Aurangzeb's wrong policies weakened stable Mughal politics. But the two pillars on which the empire depended—the army and the administration—still existed in 1707. Succession wars and a weak ruler plagued Delhi from 1707 to 1719. Muhammad Shah's reign from 1719 to 1748 was long enough to revive the empire's fortunes, but the emperor's utter incompetence ruled out that possibility. In 1724, during the reign of Nizam-ul-Mulk, he resigned from the Wazir and established the independent state of Hyderabad. Bengal, Awadh and Punjab followed the same pattern, with the empire divided into successor states. The minor chiefs interpreted this as a sign of rebellion, and the Marathas raced to inherit the imperial mantle.

External Challenge

Nadir Shah raided India in 1738-1739. Lahore was quickly conquered and the Mughal army was defeated at Karnal on February 13, 1739. Abdali's invasion worsened the situation in Delhi, but by 1772 the city was revived. Rs 70 crore was raised from wealthy nobles' official coffers and safes. The Peacock Throne and the Kohinoor Diamond are two of the most expensive items of his loot. India is again vulnerable to attack from the northwest.

Ahmad Shah Abdali rose to prominence as Nadir Shah's commander and established his rule over Afghanistan after Nadir Shah's death. Between 1748 and 1767, he invaded North India several times. Best known for his victory over the Marathas in 1761, known as the Third Battle of Panipat.

Decline: Some Interpretations

Satish Chandra and Irfan Habib are right to point out the crisis of the Mughal economic system. Satish

Chandra pointed to the crisis of the *Jagirdari* system as the main reason for its demise due to the shortage of jagirs and excess of *jagirdars*. Ifran Habib shows that agricultural systems become more exploitative as pressure on finite resources increases. This led to peasant uprisings that destabilized the empire. The New Cambridge History of India takes the exact opposite position to Habib. The decline of the Mughal dynasty is seen as a result of the success of the Mughal system rather than its failure. For example, it has been argued that the zamindars who rebelled against the Mughals were rich peasants at the end of the empire, not poor people, who were supported by rich merchants. However, this view has yet to be confirmed by further evidence. The generally accepted view remains that the economy is in crisis.

Continuity of Mughal Traditions

The British and the Marathas fought over the personality of the emperor, hoping to gain legitimacy for their claim to the throne. Shah Alam II became a company pensioner after the Buxar battle but preferred Delhi's Maratha protection. The British occupied Delhi in 1803, bringing it back under British protection. The approach of the Mughal government was adopted by the local powers. Prosperous countries in the Mughal Empire naturally continued the old Mughal practices. Even the states like Maratha, which began as a popular reaction against imperial rule, emulated the Mughal methods of governance. Many officers with Mughal practical training found employment in many local kingdoms.

Continuity of Institutions Vs. Change in Structure: None of the new policies could be implemented on a national scale. The regional leaders, and subsequently the British, reintegrated some of the old institutions into new political systems. Under colonialism, the traditional Mughal institutions served completely different purposes. Land revenue processes may be the same as before, but the wealth accumulated was drained from India during colonialism. This distinction between form and purpose is muddled by imperialist historians with the intention of stressing the continuity of institutions to prove that the British were no different from their predecessors.

THE EMERGENCE OF REGIONAL POLITIES

There were three types of states that rose to prominence: states that broke away from the Mughal Empire, new nations established by rebels against the Mughal, and independent states.

Successor States

The outbreak in Delhi was carried out in stages, with individual uprisings followed by social groups,

and finally districts. The flight sparked Zamindari's uprisings in the provinces against imperial demands. Instead of central support, governors sought support from local elites.

Hyderabad: Nizam-ul-Mulk died in 1748, exposing Hyderabad to the machinations of Marathas and later foreign corporations. The Marathas invaded the state at will and imposed *Chauth* on the unarmed residents. Nizam-ul-Mulk's son Nasir Jang and his grandson Muzaffar Jang are embroiled in a bloody succession war. The French under Dupleix took the opportunity to pit one group against the other and back Muzaffar Jang, who rewarded them generously with money and territory.

Bengal: In 1756, Siraj-ud-daula became the Nawab of Bengal. The Nawabs were very independent and maintain tight control over foreign companies trading in their kingdom. The French and British factories of Chandernagar and Calcutta were rightfully not allowed to build fortifications, nor did the Nawabs bow to their privilege. The sovereignty of the rulers was preserved even in the face of the threat of the British East India Company to use force to achieve its goals.

Awadh: The main problem in Awadh was caused by zamindars who not only refused to pay land revenue but acted like autonomous leaders with forts and armies. Sadat Khan subdued them and introduced a new land settlement that protected the peasants from the zamindars. The *Jagirdari* system was reformed and *jagirdaris* were awarded to local nobles who were also given administrative and military positions. A 'regional ruling bloc' emerged, made up of Shaikhzadas, Afghans, and some Hindus.

The New States

The second group of regional states was the "new states" or rebel states established by rebels against the Mughals - the Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, and Afghans.

Marathas: The basic line of the Maratha state system dominated by Peshwas or chief ministers, evolved during the era of Balaji Vishwanath. During his tenure, the powers of Peshwa's office expanded rapidly. Balaji Vishwanath died in 1720 and his son Baji Rao in 1740. At this time, the Marathas were no longer a regional power, but controlled remote areas of the Mughal Empire. The greatest weakness, however, was that these conquests were instigated by Maratha chiefs who were unwilling to accept the supervision of the Peshwas. These leaders accepted Peshwa's authority because of the military and economic benefits brought by the association.

Later, Baji Rao rose and led military campaigns, acquiring prosperous regions such as Malwa and Gujarat. Unfortunately, he got involved in a conflict with Nizam-ul-Mulk, another major power in the Deccan. Maratha's power reached its peak during his reign. The south proved to be relatively easier to control. Hyderabad surrendered, and Mysore and other states paid tribute. In the east, they took Odisha in 1751 through several conquests of Bengal. In central India, the states of Malwa, Gujarat, and Bunderkhand, conquered by Baji Rao, were better integrated with the rest of the empire, and war between Mughals, Marathas, and Afghans. The Mughals in Delhi were under the influence of the Marathas, but the Afghans under Abdali repelled the Marathas.

The Third Battle of Panipat, 1761 : The third battle of Panipat started on January 14, 1761. The Marathas were not satisfied with their gains and looked forward to the Punjab controlled by the Abdali tributary. This is a big mistake. Abdali withdrew from India after taking everything he could. He left trusted supporters in charge of certain areas but decided to return to challenge the ambitious Maratha powers. The conflict inevitably became multifaceted, with major and minor North Indian powers involved.

The Maratha army is no match for the Afghans, despite its boast that its troops are trained along Western lines. 28,000 Marathas died on the battlefield along with army commander Peshwa, the minor son of Vishwas Rao, and his nephew Sadashiv Rao Bhau. Peshwa, Balaji Baji Rao survived not long after hearing the tragic news of the defeat.

After the third battle of Panipat, the beneficiaries were the British, not the Afghans. The British had a good opportunity to expand their influence in Bengal and India.

Nature of the Maratha State and Movement: The rise of the Marathas was both a manifestation of regional centralization against the Mughals and the upward mobility of certain classes and castes. Rural nobles and hereditary cultivators (*mirasdars*) formed the basis of society. Funds raised through *Chauth* to supplement Marathas income in poor and underdeveloped areas. The Marathas adopted parts of the Mughal administrative system but turned their attention to techniques for generating a surplus. In addition to these administrative and financial weaknesses, there is technological lag, especially in the military sphere. New developments at the time, artillery, small arms, especially flintlocks, and improved firearms were not adopted.

Sikhs : The strategically located province of Punjab saw the spread of a new democratic religion, Sikhism, in the late 15th century. For two centuries it was confined to the private sphere, but by the time of the tenth Guru Gobind Singh, political and military ambitions had transformed adherents of the faith into a cohesive community. Guru Gobind Singh's conflict with Aurangzeb is well known, as is Banda Bahadur's rebellion against Aurangzeb's successor. Twelve *Misls* or federations subsequently formed the province. Recent academic research has dismissed the notion that the Sikh political system is a theocracy and juxtaposed it with secular politics elsewhere in the country. The advent of Punjabi was not until the end of the century by Ranjit Singh.

Jats : Jats were a peasant caste inhabiting the Delhi-Agra belt. Their revolt against the Mughal rule in the second half of the 17th century destabilized the central Mughal Empire. Churaman and Badan Singh founded the Jat state in Bharatpur, but it was Suraj Mal who consolidated Jat's power during his reign from 1756 to 1763. In addition, they have strong administrative powers, especially in revenue and civil matters. However, his reign was short-lived and his death in 1763 marked the downfall of the Jat nation.

Farukhabad and Rohilkhand : In the mid-18th century, Afghans immigrated to India on a large scale due to the political and economic turmoil in Afghanistan. Ali Muhammad Khan took advantage of the collapse of authority in North India after Nadir Shah's invasion to establish a small kingdom of Rohilkhand. The state of Rohilkhand and the kingdom of Bangash Pathans are both by-products of Afghan immigration in the 17th century. The Rohias, as the people of Rohilkhand were called, suffered greatly at the hands of other powers in the region, the Jats and Awadh rulers and later the Marathas and the British. The Afghan Mohammad Khan Bangash established an independent kingdom in the Farrukhabad region east of Delhi.

Independent Kingdoms

The third kind of state is neither the result of the secession nor the uprising against Delhi. Mysore, the Rajput, and Kerala fall into this category.

Mysore: In the mid-18th century, Mysore became a large state in South India. Haidar Ali laid the power base in Mysore, consolidated by his able son Tipu Sultan. The boundaries of Mysore state widened to include the wealthy coastal regions of Kanara and Malabar. With a big heart, Haidar naturally met other powerhouses in the region, Marathas, Hyderabad, and newcomer Great Britain. In 1769, he severely damaged

the British army near Madras. After his death in 1782, his son Tipu became Sultan, further expanding his father's policies. However, Tip's rules are beyond the scope of this unit.

Rajputs: The Rajput rulers took advantage of the collapse of the Mughal Empire to quickly consolidate their position. They were involved in power struggles at the Delhi court and secured lucrative and influential governorships from the Mughal emperors. Rajput politics remained divisive in the post-Mughal period. All states follow a policy of constant expansion, absorbing weaker neighbors as much as possible. The most famous Rajput ruler, Jai Singh of Amber, ruled Jaipur from 1699 to 1743.

Kerala: Haidar Ali invaded Kerala in 1766 and annexed Malabar and Calicut. Travancore, the southernmost and by far the most important state, survived. Travancore became widely known after 1729, when its king, Martanda Verma, expanded the territory with the help of a powerful modern army trained on the Western lines and equipped with modern weapons. The Dutch were expelled from Kerala and the feudal chiefs were removed. His successor, Rama Verma, a man of creativity and learning, including Western knowledge, was responsible for making the capital, Trivandrum, a center of science and art.

Weaknesses of Regional Polities

These countries were powerful enough to destroy the power of the Mughals, but none of them were able to replace them with a stable regime at an all-India level. These countries were unable to reverse the general economic stagnation that plagued the Mughal economy. The *Jagirdari* crisis has intensified as farm income dwindles and the number of competitors vying for a share of the surplus grows. Domestic and foreign trade continued undisturbed and even flourished, but the rest of the economy stagnated.

Muzaffar Alam shows how the situation varies across regions, with some regions (Awadh) experiencing economic prosperity while others experiencing stagnation (Punjab). Politics remained regional as no native state system emerged with sufficient surplus to a pan-Indian system like the Mughal Empire.

THE RISE OF BRITISH POWER

The rise and expansion of British power in India heralded a new stage in Indian history.

From Trading Company to Political Power

The beginning of the empire is generally traced to 1757, when the British defeated the Nawab of Bengal at Plassey. For a century and a half, the British East India Company was a trading organization. The

expansion of European manufacturing and trade and the rise of aggressive nation-states in Europe were at the root of the expansion of European commerce into India starting in the 1730s. Increased tax revenue spurred her to build an empire. The purpose of the corporation's conquest of Bengal was to protect trade and control Bengal's income. The purpose is to return the excess income in Bangladesh as a tribute through the channel of investing in Bangladeshi real estate.

Anglo-French Struggle in South India

First Carnatic War: In 1745, the war spread to India, with the French and British East India Companies vying for commercial and political influence. The British attack on French shipping at Pondicherry was offset by the French occupation of Madras. The question of supremacy was ultimately not resolved, and from 1748 onwards a situation of conflict reappeared.

Second Carnatic War: The second war was the result of the diplomatic efforts of Dupleix, the French Governor-General in India. With the help of Chandra Sahib, the French won a territorial and financial victory in Hyderabad. The British avenged their defeat in 1750. Robert Clive ordered only 200 British soldiers and 300 Indians to be garrisoned at Arkot. The French government is corrupt and decadent. It cannot keep up with current developments and future visions. Dupleix was recalled after negotiations with the English Company in 1754. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 reduced the French company to a purely trading organization without any political privileges. Twenty years later, the superiority of the British over the French was clearly demonstrated.

Conquest of Bengal: Plassey to Buxar

Bengal was the first province over which the British established political control. Nawab, Siraj-ud-daula, was defeated at the Battle of Plassey in 1757. Mir Jafar awarded Zamindari of 24 Parganas in 1757, then Mir Kasim awarded Burdwan, Midanpore and Chittagong in 1760. Corporations have the opportunity to suppress Nawab officials and farmers. Trading privileges were also abused.

Dual Government: The Treaty of Bengal in 1765 ushered in a Dual Government in Bengal. Clive became the Viceroy and Company of Bengal, de facto ruler. Nawab is the only ruler in name, as his army has been disbanded. The administration is entrusted to Deputy Subedar who will act on behalf of Nawab but will be appointed through Deputy Diwan.

Reorganization of the Political System

The administrative abuse was so severe that the company ended its dual management in 1772. This was influenced by the Regulation Act of 1733.