



ESTABLISHMENT OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA TILL 1857

Before the beginning of the formal rule of the Britishers in India, there was a background of Indo-European economic relationship. The British East India Company sometimes referred to as “John Company”, was a Joint- Stock Company established in 1600, as The Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East Indies. During this time, other trading companies, established by the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and Danish were similarly expanding in the region. The British Company gained footing in India in 1612 after Mughal emperor Jahangir granted the rights to establish a factory (a trading post) in Surat to Sir Thomas Roe, a representative diplomat of Queen Elizabeth I of England. The formal British rule in India is understood to have commenced in 1757, after the Battle of Plassey, when the Nawab of Bengal surrendered his dominions to the British East India Company. Henceforth the British Company transformed from a commercial trading venture to a political entity which virtually ruled India. Now it acquired auxiliary governmental and military functions, until its dissolution in 1858 when, consequent to the Government of India Act 1858, the British government assumed the task of directly administering India.



OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- learn the European commercial and political stakes in India.
- the reasons for the conflicts between the English and the French in India in the 18th Century.
- know the growth of British power in Bengal.
- understand the expansion of British Power in India.
- gain knowledge about the Subsidiary Alliances concluded by Lord Wellesley.
- know how the Policy of Doctrine of Lapse, introduced by Lord Dalhousie, led to the expansion of British power in India.

16.1 A NEW PHASE IN EUROPEAN EASTERN TRADE WITH ASIA

Even after securing the control over the trade routes during sixteenth-seventeenth centuries, the Europeans did not solve the basic pattern which had long dominated trade between India and the West. Indian goods were in far greater demand in



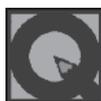
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Europe than were European goods in India. Merchants might profit handsomely through the sale of Indian goods, which were of both better quality and lesser price than similar European products. The result was both a drain of bullion from Europe to India, as well as stiff competition for European producers who were unable to match either the price or quality of Indian goods.

In fact the British East India Company, in the first 50 years of its existence, had no interest in the development of colonies, preferring to engage in trade only, following the pattern set by the Portuguese. This pattern was changed by 1650 when the power of the old guard British royalist merchants was broken, and a new class of merchants wrested control of the Company. They followed the pattern set by the colonial merchants in American colonies and the West Indies, and sought to establish a network of colonies linking England, Africa and India in a complicated network of exchange relationships.

The Mughal Empire declined in the first half of the eighteenth century. The political vacuum was filled by the rise of regional states like Bengal, Hyderabad, Awadh, Punjab and Maratha Kingdoms. But these regional powers could not provide lasting political stability resulting into a lustful chance for the British East India Company to establish a territorial empire in India. Now a set of institutions and regulations were required to rule India through colonial mechanism. They adopted three methods to expand the British Empire. They were: **1. Wars and conquests, 2. Subsidiary Alliance System, and 3. annexation of territories through the adaptation of doctrine of lapse.** Initial method was outright military conquest or direct annexation of territories; it was these areas that were properly called British India. Latter on to consolidate its position diplomatic efforts through treaties and agreements with indigenous rulers were also made.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.1

1. Discuss the methods the British used to establish their rule in India.

2. Name the Indian regional states in the first half of the eighteenth century.

16.2 ANGLO-FRENCH STRUGGLE IN SOUTH INDIA

By the beginning of the eighteenth century only two European trading companies of the British and the French were left in India competing for the Indian resources. The Anglo- French rivalry, taking the form of three Carnatic Wars constituted landmarks in the history of British conquest of south India in the eighteenth century. In order to establish their supremacy, it was necessary for the English East India Company to eliminate the French from this region. As a result of Seven Years' War (1756–1763) in Europe, the French and English settlements in India also became involved in open hostilities. In the third Carnatic war, the British East India Company defeated the French forces at the battle of Wandiwash ending almost a century of conflict over supremacy in India. This

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battle gave the British trading company a far superior position in India compared to the other Europeans. The French were defeated by Sir Eyre Coote at Wandiwash in January, 1760, and Pondicherry capitulated a year later. The work of Dupleix and Bussy in the South was thus destroyed in 1760–1761; the French possessions in India were, however, restored by the treaty of Paris (1763). This conflict was resolved in the English East India Company's favour because of its strong navy in India, its progressively increasing military strength and good leadership, the support they received from the Government in England, and the larger resources at its command in Bengal. A part of the fallout of the events in the Carnatic cycle of wars that the weakness of the Indian regional powers (in particular their inability to make naval interventions and the ineffectiveness of large armies of some of their powers against smaller European forces) became manifest and this had grave implications in the political history of the rest of the eighteenth century.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.2**

1. Which battle during third Carnatic war ended almost a century of conflict over supremacy between the French and British powers in India?

2. Discuss the effects of the Carnatic wars?

3. What were the causes of the British success in Carnatic wars?

16.3 BRITISH OCCUPATION OF BENGAL: PLASSEY TO BUXAR (1757–1765)

The first major conflict of the British against an Indian power was in Bengal. The history of Bengal from 1757 to 1765 is the history of gradual transfer of the power from the nawabs to the British. During this short period of eight years three nawabs, Siraj-ud- Daula, Mir Jafar and Mir Qasim ruled over Bengal but they failed to uphold the sovereignty of the nawab and ultimately the reign of control passed into the hands of the British. The British, unable to compete with the Asian merchants in business, resorted to force, taking control of Bengal in 1757 under the pretext of the "Plassey revolt". The result was that the British achieved victory in Bengal, for their use of force led to the decline of the very trade they so longed to control. By the time Siraj-ud- Daula succeeded Ali Vardi Khan as nawab of Bengal in 1756 trade privileges and their misuse by the Company and its officers had already become an issue of conflict. There was a privilege which had been granted to the Company for its export and import trade by the Mughal emperor Farrukhsiyar. According to this Imperial *farman*, the Company had to pay Rs. 3000 a year and in return could carry on trade duty-free in Bengal. The Company's servants extended this privilege to their own coastal trade, inter- Asian trade and finally the inland trade. This was an obvious usurpation. Certain other factors like the fortification around Calcutta without the permission of the



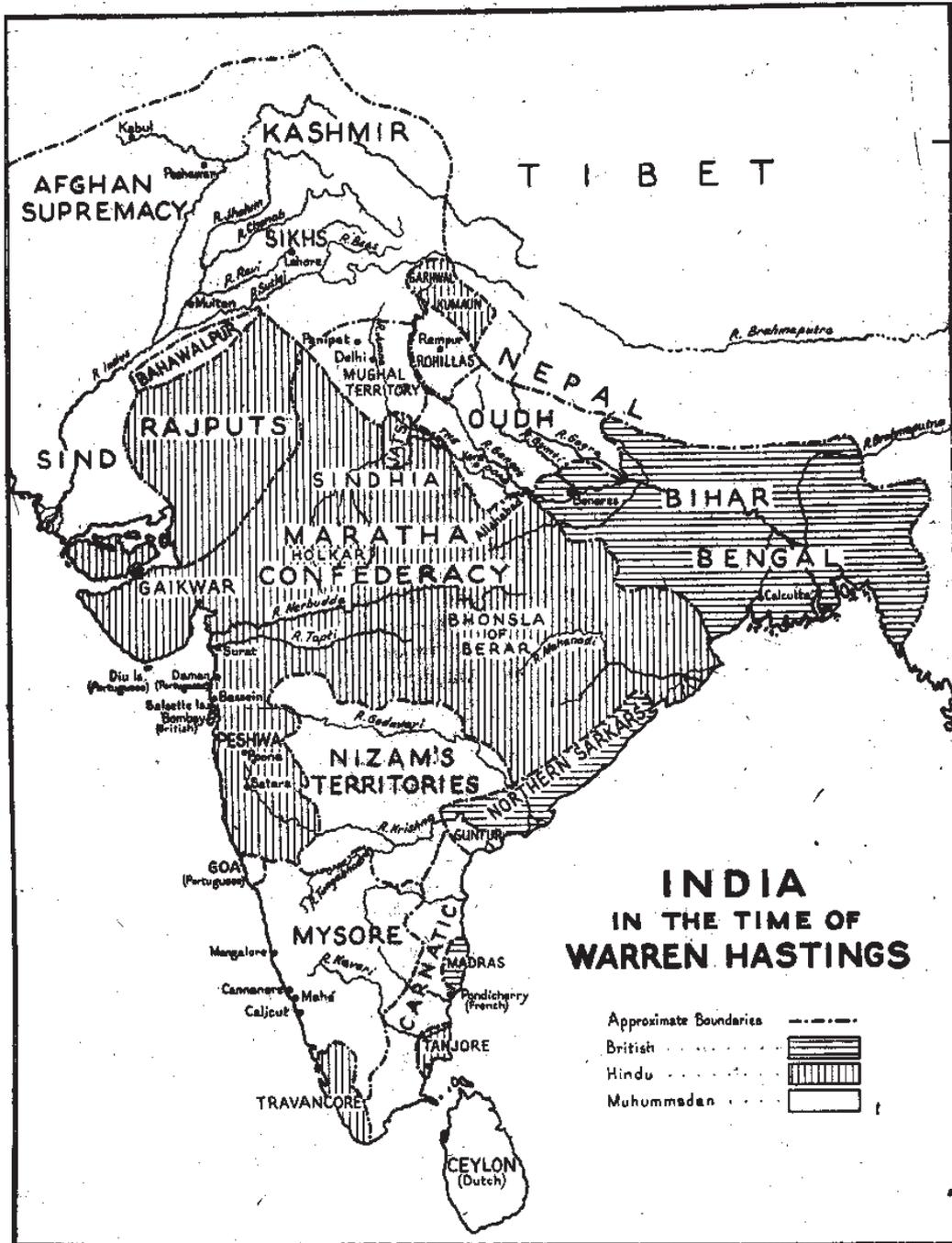
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nawab and repeated defiance of the nawab's authority along with sheltering the offenders of the nawab were the acts on the part of the English Company which provoked the nawab. The Company officials also suspected that nawab was going to have an alliance with the French in Bengal. Siraj-ud-Daula's attack on Calcutta precipitated an open conflict. The British retaliation started with hatching a conspiracy against the nawab in alliance with his officers like Rai Durlabh, Ami Chand, Mir Jafar and Jagat Seth. So English victory in the battle of Plassey (23 June, 1757) was pre-decided. It was not the superiority of the military power but the conspiracy that helped the English in winning the battle. Mir Jafar, The commander-in-chief of the Nawab was awarded the Nawabship by Clive for his support to the English. Mir Jafar responded by paying a sum of Rs. One Crore and Seventy Seven lakhs (17,700,000) to the Company and large sums to the Company officers as bribe. But Mir Jafar could not support the ever increasing demands of the English who were also suspicious about his collaboration with the Dutch Trading Company. Mir Jafar, who was made nawab after the battle of Plassey, was deposed in 1760. Mir Qasim was placed on the throne by the British in the hope that he would be able to meet their financial demands. The new Nawab assigned to them the district of Burdawan, Midnapore and Chittagong for the expenses of the British army which was to help him. This alliance was of great help to the British in their campaign against the French in 1760–1761; the money paid by Mir Qasim helped the Calcutta Council to finance their war in South. The Nawab succeeded in establishing a better system of administration. But he came into conflict with the British in Bengal on the question of a privilege i.e. duty free private trade of the Company. Mir Qasim's proposed plan about equal trade duties for British and Indian traders was turned down by the British council at Calcutta. Mir Qasim, in the circumstances, remitted all duties on Indians and the British alike for two years. This measure deprived the British private traders of the privileged position they had created for themselves, they could not compete with Indian traders on equal terms. The Nawab's attempts to reorganize the army and shifting of capital from Murshidabad to Monghyr were also taken as unforgivable offences by the Company.

In June 1763 under Major Adams British army defeated Mir Qasim the Nawab of Bengal. Mir Qasim fled to Patna and took help from Emperor Shah Alam II and Shuja-ud-Daula (Who was Nawab of Awadh and also the Wazir of the Mughal empire). Matters came to a head when the chief of the Company's factory at Patna, tried to seize the city. This precipitated war. Mir Qasim, an excellent civil administrator, was no military leader. His army was defeated. When he was forced to withdraw to Awadh, the Nawab Wazir and emperor Shah Alam II decided to come to the defence of the eastern *subas* of the empire. The confederates advanced to Patna, and a battle was fought at Buxar on October 22, 1764. With a decisive victory at Buxar, the British army overran Awadh. The Nawab Wazir fled to the Rohilla country, but Shah Alam II came to terms with the British. Lord Clive, then British Governor in Calcutta, also concluded treaty of Allahabad with the Shuja-ud-Daula Nawab Wazir of Awadh, who was to pay fifty lakhs of rupees for the expenses of the war and was given back his dominions. He entered into defensive alliance with the Company. Awadh became for the British a buffer state. Shah Alam II was now a fugitive- Delhi had now fallen into the hands of the Rohilla chief Najib-ud-daulah. The British gave emperor Shah Alam II possession of Kara and Allahabad, while he granted them the *Diwani* of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa in return for a regular annual payment of twenty- six lakhs of rupees.



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Map 16.1 INDIA IN 1783



INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.3

1. The ruler of Bengal in 1757 was:
 - a. Shuja-ud-daulah
 - b. Siraj-ud-daulah
 - c. Mir Qasim
 - d. Mir Jafar



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2. The battle of Plassey was fought in:

a. 1757	b. 1764
c. 1765	d. 1771
3. What were the causes for the battle of Plassey?

4. Who replaced Mir Jafer as Nawab of Bengal in 1760?

5. Mention the causes for the battle of Buxar.

16.4 THE DUAL SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL

The early mechanism of the establishment of Company rule in Bengal followed the administrative system under the Mughals. The Mughal provincial administration had two main heads - *nizamat* and *diwani*. Broadly speaking, *nizamat* meant administration of law and order and criminal justice; while *diwani* was the revenue administration and civil justice. The provincial *Subadar* was in charge of *nizamat* (he was also called *nazim*) and the *diwan* was in charge of revenue administration. After the treaty of Allahabad the English East India Company was made the Diwan of Bengal but Lord Clive choose not to take over the administration of Bengal directly; this responsibility was left to the Nawab's *Naib Diwan* and *Naib Nazim* Muhammad Raza Khan. As naib nazim he was to represent the nawab and as naib diwan he was to represent the Company. Thus the Nawab had to handle the entire responsibility for the civil and criminal justice administration. However, he had to function through Muhammad Raza Khan who was placed under the superintendence, direction and control of the British Company. As the Diwan, the Company directly collected its revenue, while through the right to nominate the *Deputy Nazim*, it controlled the *nizamat* or the Police or Judicial powers. This arrangement is known as '*Dual or Double Government*'. Under this system British had power and resources without responsibility while the Nawab had the responsibility of the administration without power to discharge it. Thus the Nawab had to take all responsibility for bad governance. The revenue remained the sole earning of the Company in lieu of a meager annual payment to the Mughal emperor.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.4

1. Explain the terms *nizamat* and *diwani*.

2. What do you mean by *Dual or Double Government*?

3. Why did Lord Clive introduce system of *Dual or Double Government*?



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16.5 IDEOLOGY OF EXPANSION: TOOLS AND METHODS

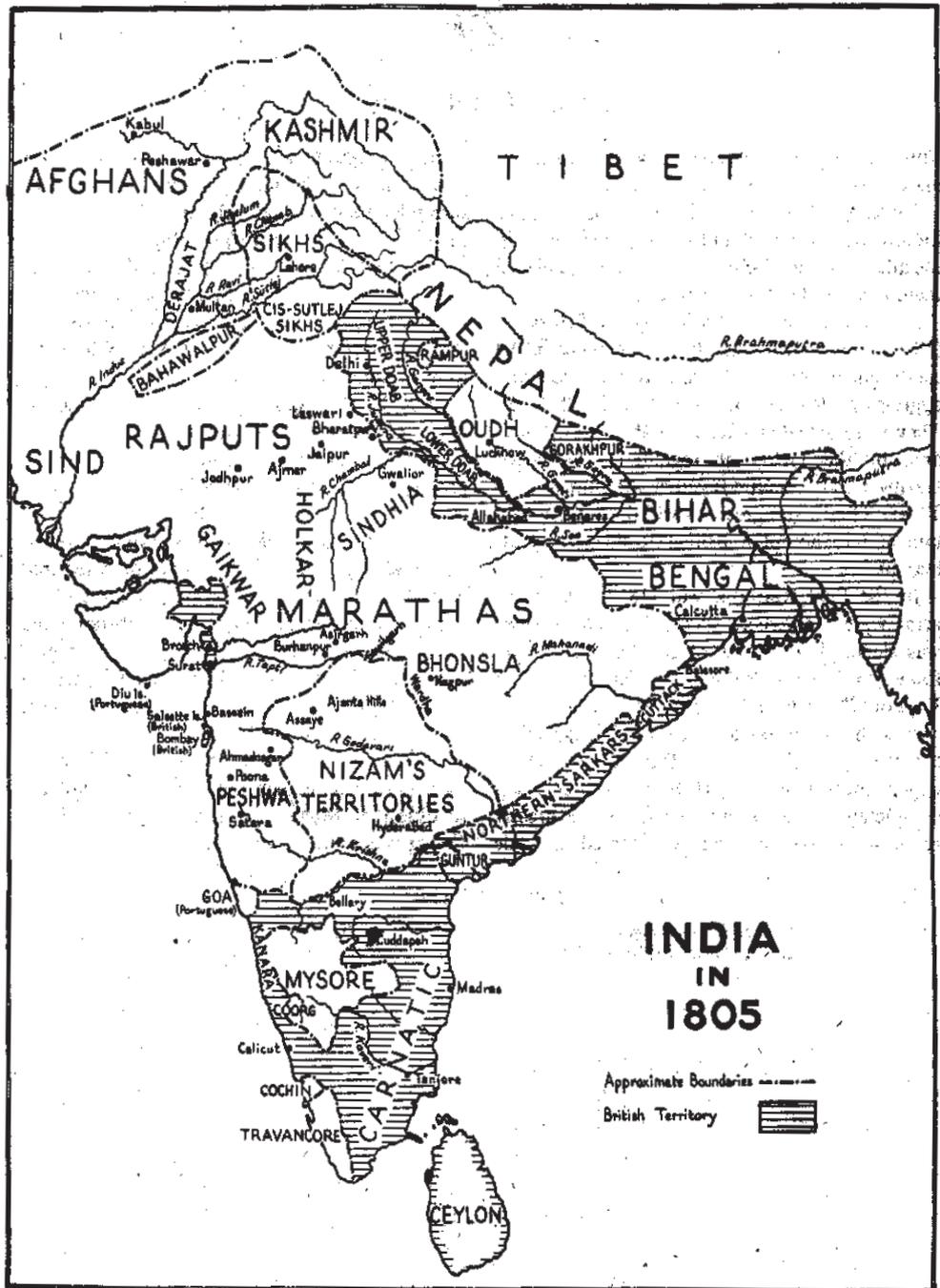
Shifting its role from a trading corporation, the English East India Company gradually became supreme political power in India. There were other regional kingdoms which were conquered by the British. Haidar Ali and his son Tipu Sultan the legendary rulers of Mysore (in Carnatic, modern day Indian state of Karnataka), gave a tough time to the British forces in the second half of the eighteenth century. Haidar Ali was in command of the army in Mysore from 1749; he became the ruler of the state in 1761. Until his defeat by Sir Eyre Coote in 1781 Haidar Ali continued his struggle against the Company. Mysore finally fell to the Company forces in 1799, with the slaying of Tipu Sultan in 1799. With the gradual weakening of the Maratha Empire in the aftermath of the three Anglo-Maratha wars fought during 1772-1818, the British also secured the Maratha territories. It was during these campaigns, both against Mysore and the Marathas, that under the command of Arthur Wellesley, the British had secured the entire region of Southern India (with the exception of small enclaves of French and local rulers), Western India and Eastern India.

The second method was the use of subsidiary agreements (*sanad*) between the British and the local rulers. This development created what came to be called the Native States, or Princely States. The Subsidiary Alliances system was also introduced by Lord Wellesley in and after 1798. The British, under the subsidiary alliance system, agreed to protect the Indian rulers against external threats and internal disorder but, in return, the Indian rulers who accepted the Subsidiary Alliance system were to agree to the stationing of British contingent for whose maintenance they would pay a subsidy to the British. The ruler under the system of alliance could neither enter into alliance with any other power nor fight a war without prior permission from the British. A British resident was stationed at these ruling states that had the authority to interfere in state politics. This system was suited best to the advantage of the British as, without even spending a single penny the British were able to maintain large forces. Moreover this system enabled the English to weed out the foreign influence from the Indian courts. The Nizam of Hyderabad was first to enter into a subsidiary alliance with the English in 1798. He was forced to replace the French officers from his court and put English officers in their place. He also granted the territories of Bellari and Cudappah to British for the maintenance of the army. The subsidiary alliances created the Princely States (or *Native States*) of the Maharajas and the Nawabs, prominent among which were: Cochin (1791), Jaipur (1794), Travancore (1795), Hyderabad (1798) and Mysore (1799). The annexed regions included the *North Western Provinces* (comprising Rohilkhand, Gorakhpur, and the Doab) (1801), Delhi (1803), and Sindh (1843). Punjab, Northwest Frontier Province, and Kashmir, were annexed after the Anglo-Sikh Wars in 1849. Kashmir was sold under the Treaty of Amritsar (1850) to the Dogra Dynasty of Jammu, and thereby became a princely state. In 1854 Berar was annexed, and the state of Oudh two years later. The Main purpose of the subsidiary alliance system was to expand the British Empire in India by bringing new territories under its control and to decrease the French influence so that The British could become the paramount power in India.

Punjab remained the last Indian state to be conquered by the British in 1849. It was under the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who had united the various Sikh *misls* into one state. He had established a modern administrative system. His army was the



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Map 16.2 INDIA DURING 1797-1805

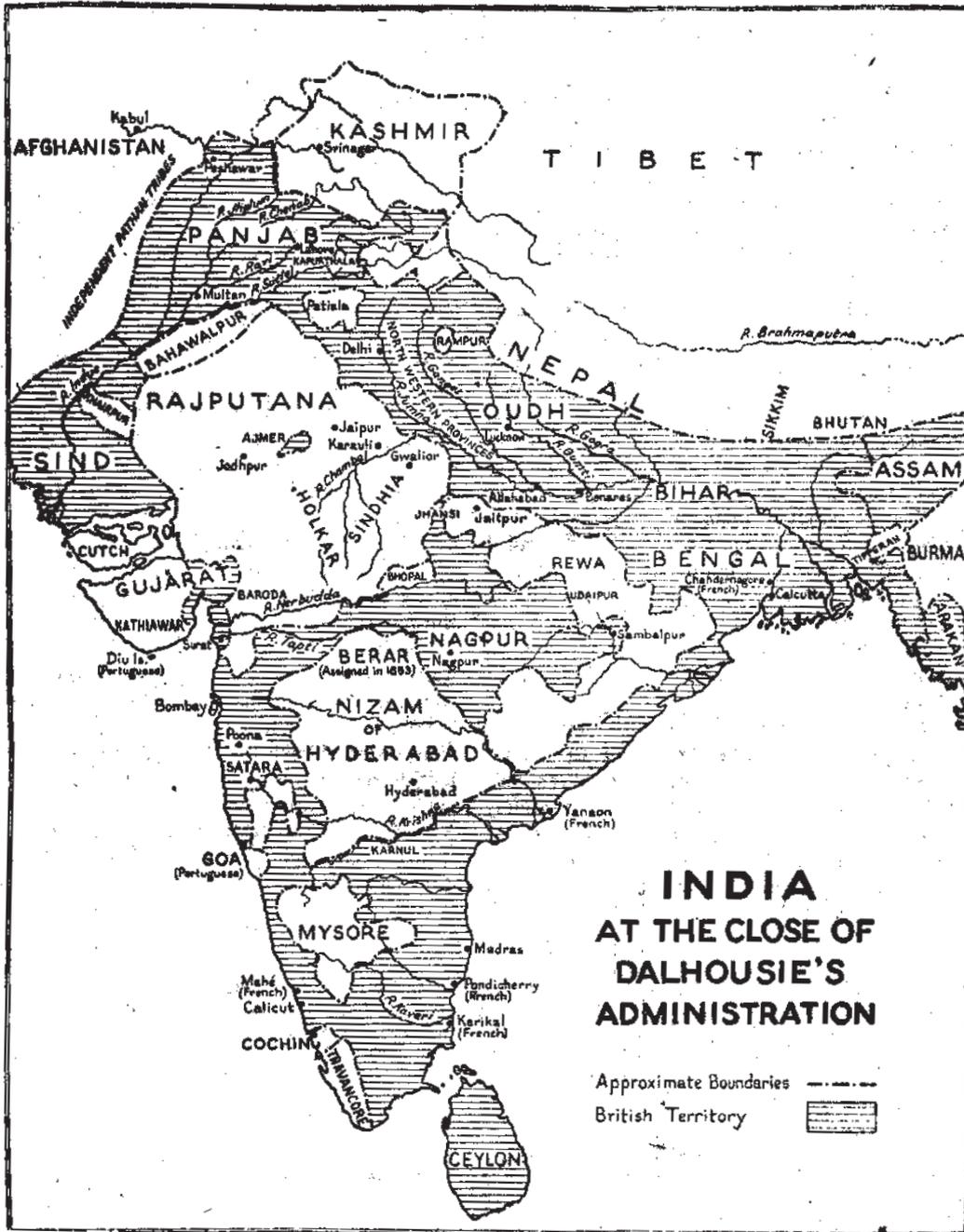
second largest modernized regular army in Asia after the British army. The East India Company maintained friendly relations with Ranjit Singh. But just within one decade of his death in 1839, two Anglo-Sikh wars were fought and in 1849 Punjab also became part of the British India.

The *Doctrine of Lapse* was an annexation policy devised by Lord Dalhousie, who was the Governor General of India between 1848 and 1856. There was a widespread



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custom of adoption among the Indian kings to secure an heir in the absence of a natural successor i.e. son. But as per the doctrine of lapse any Indian state created by or under the direct influence (paramount) of the British East India Company, as a vassal state under the British Subsidiary System, would automatically “lapse” or annexed by the British if the ruler was either incompetent or died without a natural male heir. Thus not only the long-established right of the Indian sovereigns without an heir to choose successor was taken over, but the British also took over the authority of



Map 16.3 INDIA IN 1857

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deciding the competence of the Indian rulers. With the introduction of this policy of lapse, the Company could establish absolute, imperial administrative control over many regions spread over the subcontinent. The Company took over the princely states of Satara, Jaitpur, Sambalpur, Nagpur and Jhansi using this Doctrine. Often the annexation, such as that of Awadh [Oudh] in 1856, was justified on the grounds that the native prince was of evil disposition, indifferent to the welfare of his subjects.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.5**

1. What were the measures adopted by Lord Wellesley to expand the British power in India?

2. What do you mean by the subsidiary alliance system?

3. Explain the Doctrine of Lapse?

16.6 GROWTH OF COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS

The need for constitutional change arose after the East India Company became the political power in 1757. The British Government was no longer willing to allow the Company's affairs to continue unsupervised. Pressure from merchants and manufacturers to end the monopoly of the Company mounted. Public opinion was critical of corruption in the Government in Bengal. Free enterprise was a major demand. The British Parliament enacted a series of laws among which the Regulating Act of 1773 stood first, to curb the Company traders' unrestrained commercial activities and to bring about some order in territories under the Company control. Limiting the Company charter to periods of twenty years, subject to review upon renewal, this act gave the British government supervisory rights over the Bengal, Bombay, and Madras presidencies. The Regulating Act also created a unified administration for India, uniting the three presidencies under the authority of the Bengal's governor, who was elevated to the new position of governor-general. Warren Hastings was the first incumbent governor-general (1773–1785). The Pitt's India Act of 1784 sometimes described as the "half-loaf system", as it sought to mediate between Parliament and the company directors, enhanced Parliament's control by establishing the Board of Control, whose members were selected from the British cabinet. As governor-general from 1786 to 1793, Lord Cornwallis, professionalized, bureaucratized, and Europeanized the company's administration. He also outlawed private trade by company employees, separated the commercial and administrative functions, and enhanced the salaries of company's servants.

As revenue collection became the company's most essential administrative function, Lord Cornwallis granted legal ownership of land to the zamindars in Bengal. In return, zamindars had to pay the government fixed revenue by a certain particular date. This arrangement was to last for ever; hence the title "permanent settlement" was given. This system was also known as the zamindari sys-

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tem. The immediate consequence was that as now zamindar became the owner of the land, the peasant was reduced to the status of the tenant on his own land. Moreover now land became a negotiable property and the state was excluded from agricultural expansion and development, which came under the purview of the zamindars. In Madras and Bombay, however, the *ryotwari* (peasant) settlement system was set in motion, in which peasant cultivators had to pay annual taxes directly to the government.

The Charter Act of 1813 ended the monopoly of the Company over trade with India. The Company's control over revenue, administration and appointments remained untouched. The Charter Act of 1833 abolished the Company's monopoly of the China trade. The Act also deprived the presidencies of the power to make laws, concentrating legislative power with the Governor-General and his council.

With such expansion of the British territories and the increasing administrative responsibilities, a bureaucracy was also required to control British possessions. In 1785, Lord Cornwallis created a professional cadre of Company servants who had generous salaries, had no private trading or production interests in India, enjoyed the prospect of regular promotion and were entitled to pensions. All high-level posts were reserved for the British, and Indians were excluded. Cornwallis appointed British judges, and established British officials as revenue collectors and magistrates in each district of Bengal. From 1806 the Company trained its young recruits in Haileybury College near London. Appointments were still organized on a system of patronage. In 1829 the system was strengthened by establishing districts throughout British India small enough to be effectively controlled by an individual British official who henceforth exercised a completely autocratic power, acting as revenue collector, judge and chief of police. After 1833 the Company selected amongst its nominated candidates by competitive examination. After 1853, selection was entirely on merit and the examination was thrown open to any British candidate. The Indian civil service (i) was very highly paid; (ii) it enjoyed political power which no bureaucrat could have had in England.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.6**

1. Which was the first Act enacted by the British Parliament to control the East India Company's activities in India?

2. Who was the first governor-general of Bengal?

3. What was the main feature of the Charter Act of 1833?

4. Name the college established in London to train the Company servants ?

16.7 JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

By the mid- eighteenth century, the British had a political presence in the three *presidency* towns of Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta which also saw the



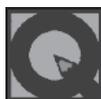
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emergence of British judicial system in India. The Mayor’s Court was established in 1727 for civil litigation in Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. In 1772 an elaborate judicial system, known as *adalat*, established civil and criminal jurisdictions. Both Hindu *pandits* and Muslim *qazis* (Sharia court judges) were recruited to aid the presiding judges in interpreting their customary laws, but in general, British common and statutory laws became applicable. The two main theoretical principles underlying the entire British judicial system in India were the notions of the *Rule of Law* and *Equality before law*; thus as per theory no one was above the law (certain rules which defined the rights, privileges and obligations of the people) and all the citizens irrespective of their caste, class and other status, were now equal before law. The principle of habeas corpus provided that no person could be arrested or kept in prison without a written order from the local executive or the judicial authority. Even the Government servant, if the acts done in their official capacity could be sued in the court of Law. The natural upshot of the Rule of Law was the Equality before the Law, which subsequently followed the Rule of Law. The Equality before the Law appeared as a novel feature in the caste-ridden Indian society.

Under the *Regulating Act* of 1773 the King-in-Council created a Supreme Court in the *Presidency town* of Calcutta. Under the charter, the Supreme Court also had the authority to exercise all types of jurisdiction in the region of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, with the only caveat that in situations where the disputed amount was in excess of Rs. 4,000, their judgment could be appealed to the Privy Council at London. The Supreme Courts in Madras and Bombay were finally established in 1801 and 1823, respectively.

Lord Cornwallis separated the executive and judicial duties at district level. For the civil cases *Sadar Diwani Adalat* was the highest appealing body followed by the four Provincial Courts of Civil Appeal at Calcutta, Dacca, Murshidabad and Patna. Then at local levels District Courts, Registrars’ Courts and a number of Subordinate Courts were making the hierarchy. A large number of magistrates were active to deal with criminal cases, above them were four Courts of Circuit at Calcutta, Dacca, Murshidabad and Patna which were governed by *Sadar Nizamat Adalat* at Calcutta. In 1831 William Bentinck abolished the four Provincial civil and criminal courts and redistributed their work to Commissioners and District Collectors.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.7

1. Explain the terms *Rule of Law* and *Equality before law*?

2. In which town The Supreme Court was established for the First time under the *Regulating Act* of 1773?

So to conclude the British rule over India changed the course of history in India. The British came to India in the beginning of the seventeenth century. The British East India Company was established with the aim of having monopoly over Asian trade. In the process of gaining trading rights in India, the British annexed many

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Indian princely states and formed laws and policies of their own. Slowly but rapidly the entire Indian sub continent came under the British rule. However its policies were disliked by Indians and together they revolted against the company in 1857. This led to the downfall of the company and the administration of India went directly under the Queen. By the Government of India Act of 1858 the direct rule of the British Crown was finally established in place of the Company's rule.

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT**

You have learnt about the establishment of rule or dominion of the British East India Company on the Indian subcontinent. You have seen how British rule commenced in 1757, after the Battle of Plassey, when the Nawab of Bengal surrendered his dominions to the Company, in 1765, when the Company was granted the *diwani*, or the right to collect revenue, in Bengal and Bihar, or in 1772, when the Company established a capital in Calcutta, appointed its first Governor-General, Warren Hastings, and became directly involved in governance. This process continued in the other parts of India as well. The establishment and expansion of British Power used the mechanism of the Subsidiary Alliance system, and the expansion policy of Dalhousie through the doctrine of lapse. This lesson narrates the British administrative and Judicial Organization in India before 1858. The East India Company's rule lasted until 1858, when, consequent to the Government of India Act 1858, the British government assumed the task of directly administering India.

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. How did the English attain supremacy in India?
2. How did Lord Wellesley expand the British power in India? Explain the merits and demerits of the Subsidiary Alliance system.
3. Describe the policy adopted by Dalhousie to expand the British Empire in India.
4. Describe the British Judicial organization in India.

**ANSWERS TO IN TEXT QUESTIONS****16.1**

1. The British adopted 1. Wars and conquests, 2. Subsidiary Alliance System and 3. annexation of territories through the adaptation of doctrine of lapse, to expand the British Empire.
2. Bengal, Mysore, Hyderabad, Awadh, Punjab and Maratha Kingdom.

16.2

1. Battle of Wandiwash in Jan 1760
2. The British supremacy was established and the weakness of the Indian regional powers in particular their inability to make naval interventions and the



ineffectiveness of large armies of some of their powers against smaller European forces became manifest.

3. Their Strong Naval power in India, progressively increasing military strength and good leadership, the support the Company received from the Government in England, and the larger resources at its command in Bengal were some of the reasons for the British success in Carnatic wars.

16.3

1. Siraj-ud-daulah.
2. (a) 1757.
3. Sirajuddaulah's earlier attack and capture of Fort William, Calcutta during June, 1756, the illegal use of Mughal Imperial export trade permits (dastaks) granted to the British in 1717 for engaging in internal trade within India, British interference in the Nawab's court, additional fortifications with mounted guns had been placed on Fort William without the consent of the Nawab.
4. Mir Qasim.
5. Equal trade duties for British and Indian traders, the Nawab's attempts to reorganize the army and shifting of capital from Murshidabad to Monghyr were the causes for the removal of Mir Qasim which ultimately led to the Battle of Buxar.

16.4

1. *Nizamat* meant administration of law and order and criminal justice; *Diwani* was the revenue administration and civil justice.
2. As the Diwan the Company directly collected its revenue, while through the right to nominate the *Deputy Nazim* for the Nawab it controlled the *nizamat* or the Police or Judicial powers.
3. The Company did not want to take direct responsibility of the administration of Bengal and was interested in earning revenue.

16.5

1. Military Conquests and Subsidiary Alliances system.
2. Under this system, Indian rulers under British protection would maintain British troops within their states and would pay for these troops. They surrendered control of their foreign affairs to the British. In return, the East India Company would protect them from the attacks of their rivals.
3. The *Doctrine of Lapse* was an annexation policy devised by Lord Dalhousie. Any Indian state created by or under the direct influence (paramount) of the British East India Company, as a vassal state under the British Subsidiary System, would automatically "lapse" or annexed by the British if the ruler was either incompetent or died without a natural male heir.

16.6

1. The Regulating Act of 1773.
2. Warren Hastings.



Notes

3. The Charter Act of 1833 abolished the Company's monopoly of the China trade.
4. Haileybury College.

16.7

1. *Rule of Law* and *Equality before law* meant that no one was above the law (certain rules which defined the rights, privileges and obligations of the people) and all the citizens irrespective of their caste, class and other status, were now equal before law.
2. *Presidency town* of Calcutta.

HINTS TO TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. See sub-unit 1.2 .
2. See sub-unit 1.5, paras 1 and 2.
3. See sub-unit 1.5, para 4.
4. See sub-unit 1.7.

GLOSSARY

1. **East India Company:** The Company was a Joint- Stock Company established in 1600, as The Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East Indies. Initially involved in trading with India, it remained ruling power in India till 1858.
2. **Dual or Double Government:** This system was introduced in Bengal after the battle of Buxar. As the Diwan of Bengal the Company directly collected its revenue, while the *nizamat* or the Police and Judicial powers remained with the Nawab.
3. **Subsidiary Alliance system:** The Subsidiary Alliance System was used by lord Wellesley to bring the Indian states within the boundary of the British political power. Under this doctrine, Indian rulers under British protection suspended their native armies, instead maintaining British troops within their states. They surrendered control of their foreign affairs to the British. In return, the East India Company would protect them from the attacks of their rivals.
4. **Doctrine of Lapse:** It was an annexation policy by the British East India Company, introduced by lord Dalhousie Governor -general of India. Under the doctrine princely territory under the direct rule of the East India Company would automatically be annexed if the ruler was either incompetent or died without a direct heir.
5. **Charter Acts:** The Charter Acts were passed by the British Parliament to govern the activities of the East India Company, endowed it with enormous Commercial privileges and granted them the powers to rule India up to 1858. The Charter Acts issued enabled the East India Company, commercial privileges in several series, for twenty years each. The first Charter Act was granted in 1793, granting the company provision of 20 years. Later the Charter Act was renewed in the year 1813, 1833 and 1853 respectively.
6. **Rule of Law:** also called supremacy of law, means that the law is above everyone and it applies to everyone. Whether governor or governed, rulers or ruled, no

**Notes**

one is above the law, no one is exempted from the law, and no one can grant exemption to the application of the law.

7. **Equality before the law:** equality under the law or legal egalitarianism is the principle under which each individual is subject to the same laws, with no individual or group having special legal privileges. Legal egalitarianism admits no class structures entail separate legal practices.