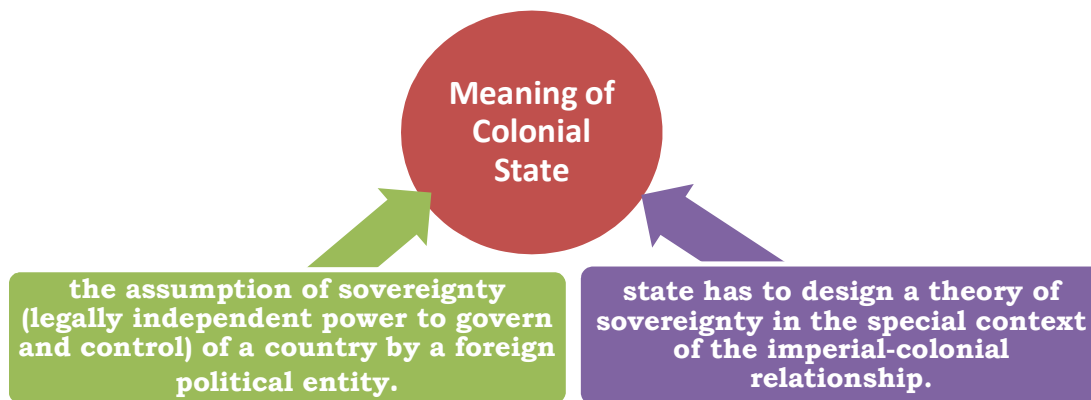


Lesson 32 A

The Colonial State

Summary

In the colonial state the sovereignty of a country is assumed by another country. The colonial country like India became a satellite to the imperial country. The colonial government assumes monopoly over the administration and army. The colonial state is established in the garb of developing the colonies. The imperial ideology believed that since the colonies were not competent to administer themselves, it was incumbent upon them to develop the colonies. The British colonialism was aimed mainly at making profits in India.



Nature of Colonial State

- The colonial government had a monopoly of force, a centralized administration for tax – collection, a centralized legal system, a professional staff of administrators and bureaucrats, and clearly defined territorial boundaries.

Colonial Objectives in India

- In India the governing ideology was:
 1. Indians were not capable of governing themselves.
 2. Britain had the duty to supply good government which would be based on the rule of law, without interfering in or attempting to manage Indian economy and society.
- The main responsibilities of imperial government were seen as:
 - a) Collecting land revenue and
 - b) Execution of legal administration.
- The colonial state was working with two aims (1) the complete subordination of the Indian colony to needs of British metropolis and (2) economic exploitation of the Indian colony
- During the first stage of British rule in India till 1813, British interests lay mainly in (i) the East India Company's monopoly of trade with India, and the elimination of other

- European competitors, (ii) the control over financial resources, through taxation.
- The interest of the British industrialists lay in using India as (a) a market for

their manufactured industrial goods, (b) a source of raw material like (jute, cotton etc.) for their industries and food grains, opium etc. for export.

FORMS OF LEGITIMACY

- By 1835 Persian remained the official language and name of the Mughal emperors kept on appearing on coins.
- The highest gun salute was reserved for the Mughal dynasty only till 1837.
- Withdrawal of these symbols of sovereignty was a symbolic act on the part of the British East India Company signifying that it had captured the sovereignty of India.
- The terminology of subordination included 'paramountcy', 'Protection', 'subsidiary alliance', 'indirect rule', 'collaboration', drawn mainly from British experience in India.

BEGINNING OF THE COLONIAL CONTROL

- During the Initial phase of colonial control, indigenous civil administrator was continued.
- Clive had operated a 'dual' system, i.e. Company power and a puppet Nawab.

BELIEF IDEOLOGY AND IDEOLOGUES OF COLONIALISM

- There was a strong streak of Benthamite radicalism in the East India Company administration.
- Malthus was professor of economics at Hailey bury, and the teaching there for future company officials was strongly influenced by Utilitarianism.
- The Utilitarians deliberately used India to try out experiments and ideas (e.g. competitive entry for the civil service) which they would have liked to apply in England.
- One of the most significant things the British did to Westernize India was to introduce a modified version of English education. Macaulay's 1835 Minute on Education had a decisive impact on British educational policy and is a classic example of a Western rationalist approach to Indian civilization.
- Macaulay was strongly opposed to this orientalism.

THE COLONIAL APPARATUS

In 1785, Cornwallis created a professional cadre of Company servants

•All high-level posts were reserved for the British, and Indians were excluded.

CHANGES UNDER COLONIAL STATE

- Replacement of wasteful warlord nobility by a bureaucratic-military establishment
- Efficiency in governance results in reduction in the fiscal burden
- Share of the national product was available for landlords, capitalists and the new professional classes.
- Government carried out productive investment in railways and irrigation
- New towns and urban amenities were created with segregated suburbs and housing for them.

Evaluate yourself

- Q. List the colonial objectives in India.
- Q. Explain the nature of the colonial state.
- Q. Explain the meaning of colonial state.