

# **Dynamics of colonial expansion--1**

**Subject: History**

**Unit: Expansion and Consolidation of Colonial Power**

**Lesson: Dynamics of Colonial Expansion--1**

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# Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

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## 2.2.1: The dynamics of expansion in the 18th century

### Background and salient features

The death of Emperor Aurangzeb in 1707 was followed by a rapid disintegration of the Mughal Empire in the first half of the 18th century. The second half of the 18th century witnessed the rise of British power in India. The 18th century was also marked by the rise of several regional powers in south Asia like the Marathas, Durrani, Sikhs, Mysore, Hyderabad, Awadh and Bengal. Close to the crumbling centre of the Empire were the Jats based in Bharatpur and Deeg, and the major Rajasthan states. Another important regional power was Rohilkhand founded by the Pathan warrior Ali Muhammad Khan after the invasion of Nadir Shah left Mughal control over the area in tatters. Some of these states, like Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad were successor states of the Mughal empire founded by Mughal **subedars** (provincial governors) who became practically independent. The Marathas, Sikhs and Jats are examples of regional polities created by large scale rebellions and protracted wars against the Mughals. Haider Ali, an extremely talented and ambitious soldier, on the other hand, overthrew the Wodeyar Raja and became the sovereign of Mysore.

#### Value addition: did you know?

#### Ahmad Shah Abdali vs Sadashiv Rao Bhau

Ahmad Shah Abdali was the most capable commander of Nadir Shah, the ruler of Iran who plundered north India and Delhi in 1739. By 1761 Abdali was a veteran of many campaigns in Afghanistan and North-West India and had founded the Durrani Kingdom. In comparison, Sadashiv Rao Bhau, the commander of the ponderous Maratha army at Panipat was barely thirty one years old in 1761 and had no experience of warfare in the north. His victory over the Nizam at the Battle of Udgir in 1760 had, most evidently, inflated his ego to the point of rudeness against his allies like the Jats.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad\\_Shah\\_Durrani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad_Shah_Durrani)

The Indian states of the 18th century fought frequent wars of expansion against each other. Sometimes they formed temporary alliances against common enemies. For example the **Nizam** and the Marathas competed for control over the Deccan with each other but often stood together against Mysore. Similarly the nawabs of Awadh and Rohilkhand formed an alliance with the Afghans against the Marathas to check their growing power in the revenue rich north Indian plains. This alliance proved fatal to the Marathas at the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761. These mutually exhausting wars gave the Europeans the opportunity to interfere in Indian political and military affairs. In the process the European trading

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companies extracted significant economic concessions from these states. Thus the decline of the Mughal Empire paved the way for the rise of British power in India.

Another important feature of the 18th century was the elimination of French influence in India following the Battle of Wandiwash in 1760. In a series of international conflicts and the Carnatic Wars fought in south India, Britain defeated France and became the dominant colonial power in Asia. It is worth remembering here that the Portuguese at this time were confined to their coastal possessions like Goa, Daman and Diu and posed no threat to the growing clout of the English East India Company in Indian affairs. In sum, the period from the mid 18th to the mid nineteenth century (1757-1857) was characterized by the rise and simultaneous consolidation of British colonial power in India. This power is called *colonial* simply because during this phase of Indian history India was converted from a collection of independent kingdoms into first a mercantile and later an industrial colony of Great Britain. India's economy, polity, society and culture were made subservient to the interests of Great Britain. During this century for the first time south Asia came to be ruled by a European power. Moreover Britain was also the first modern industrial capitalist country. These facts were of profound significance as far as the development of British colonial rule in India was concerned. The aim of this lesson is to see how the British accomplished this task. Our purpose is also to examine the factors which favored the rise of British power in India. The next lesson will concentrate on the British conquest of some regions of India.

### **Value addition: common misconceptions**

#### **The Maratha Army 'met' the Afghans at Panipat in 1761**

It is commonly believed that the Marathas marched to Panipat and confronted the Afghans who came from the north west. In fact, Abdali was in the Ganga-Jamuna doab with his allies Najibkhan of Rohilkhand and Shuj-ud-Daulah of Awadh when the Maratha army occupied Delhi and marched towards the pilgrimage centre of Thanesar. Indeed one of the places where Abdali camped for some time while the Marathas were in Delhi in 1760 was Patparganj – a major residential area in East Delhi today ! Once the main body of the Maratha forces had moved some distance to the north-west of Delhi with the aim of collecting tribute and subduing minor Afghan garrisons, Abdali re-crossed the Jamuna with his main force, by passed Delhi and cut off a possible Maratha retreat on the Delhi road. This left the Marathas no option but to fortify themselves in Panipat and wait for events to unfold. Ultimately it was a besieged and starving Maratha army which fought one of the most famous battles of India on 14 January, 1761.

**Source: Gordon, S. 1993. *The Marathas, 1600-1818: The New Cambridge History of India, II.4*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.**

## **The main characteristics of the colonial wars of expansion**

### **Territorial and commercial ambitions of the Company**

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On the whole these wars reflected the territorial and commercial ambitions of the English East India Company (hereafter Company). From the late 17th century onwards the Company had followed an aggressive mercantilist policy in India against its European competitors and the Indian powers. The main aim of the Company's policies was to find a solution to its payments problem. This problem itself resulted from the fact that the Company could export a wide range of commodities from India but could give India virtually nothing in return. This trade imbalance was a continuous threat to the Company's solvency. Plunder and territorial acquisition hence emerged over time as the means by which the payments problem of the Company could be addressed. The Company had, in fact, declared war on Aurangzeb in the late 17th century but was defeated and pardoned by the Emperor. On the West coast of India the Company fought local powers like the Angres of Colaba well into the 18th century. On the whole the aggressive nature of mercantilist trade was evident in the systematic use of force by the Company in the 17th century itself. The Portuguese and Dutch had set good examples of using systematic force to augment their commercial enterprise. The desire to control local resources, obtain supplies of cheap goods and exclude competitors from trade pushed the Company towards territorial conquest and war. In the light of these facts it is impossible to believe that the Company acquired an empire in India by a quirk of circumstances. It was not by accident but by a design which grew strong over time that the British rose to prominence in India.

## Growing boldness of the Company

Due to the decline of Mughal power the Company became bold enough to confront weaker rulers. The history of Company officials flouting rules and misusing the special favours granted to them by Indian rulers is quite old. The case of Bengal where the Company misused the privileges granted to it by the Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar was typical of such behaviour. Obviously the decline of the Mughal Empire had created an atmosphere of political uncertainty in most parts of India and the Company benefited from this. The fact that the Company officials and traders were not afraid of flouting state regulations should not be underestimated in any study of the British conquest of India.

## The disunity of the Indian powers

The Indian powers of the 18th century made matters worse for themselves. In the absence of an economic transformation of the country the indigenous powers fought unending wars of expansion. This was done with the intention of acquiring more land which, in turn, would yield more revenue. These wars and the struggle for power within the courts of these kingdoms gave the Europeans the opportunity to interfere in Indian affairs. For example the First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-82) was started by Raghunath Rao 'Raghoba' with English support. Raghoba had wanted to become the **Peshwa** since the days of Balaji Baji Rao. Similarly the Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05) broke out after Peshwa Baji Rao II got Jaswant Holkar's younger brother murdered in Pune. When Holkar retaliated by attacking and occupying Pune, the coward Peshwa fled to Bassein. There he signed the Subsidiary Alliance Treaty. In the same way after Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death in 1839 some factions

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of the Sikh court and army began to conspire with the Company against other factions at the Sikh court.



Figure 2.2.1.1: Portrait of Warren Hastings

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren\\_Hastings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_Hastings)

### Exceptional moments of unity among the Indian powers

However, the wars of the 18th century clearly demonstrate that even as late as the 1770s the Company could not decisively defeat a strong enough combination of Indian powers. For example, during the First Anglo-Maratha war a stalemate occurred because the Maratha Sardars stood united behind Nana Phadnavis. This led to the defeat of the combined forces of Raghoba and the Company at the Battle of Wadgaon in 1779 and to the Treaty of Wadgaon. The war came to an end with the Treaty of Salbai (1782) which restored the status quo ante. Further, during the Second Anglo-Mysore war Haider Ali was successful in securing Maratha neutrality. With his rear thus secure, Haider went on to inflict a series of defeats upon the British. Unfortunately for the indigenous powers such cooperation was an exception and not the rule. Thus, when the English attacked Mysore in 1798-99 the Nizam provided them valuable military and logistical support despite the entreaties of Tipu Sultan.

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## **The Company's superior alliance diplomacy**

Most of the Company victories in India resulted from its superior alliance diplomacy. In diplomacy no Indian power was a match for the English. For example, on the Western Coast the Company first forged alliances with the Portuguese and later the Peshwa (1756) to defeat the enemy Angre faction led by Tulajee Angre based in Vijaydurg. This secured Bombay and several other Company possessions on the west coast. In Bengal the Company officers successfully isolated Siraj-ud-daula by buying out his rivals and generals. The Company also successfully involved the Nizam of Hyderabad in the war against Tipu Sultan. In general, the Company leaders proved skillful diplomats. They made sure that a lasting alliance of Indian powers against the British never materialized. Means such as intrigue, bribes and efficient espionage were used rather efficiently by the Company in its pursuit of commercial and political ambitions.

## **The resources of Bengal**

Bengal had been the richest province of India since the late Mughal period. Undoubtedly its trade was contested for between the various European Companies active in India. The English, French and Dutch all had well established factories in Bengal. The conquest of Bengal (1757-65) provided the English Company the money, men and material needed to conquer other regions of India. In addition the Company also exercised a naval supremacy on the Indian seas. The conquest of Bengal also gave the Company easy access to the large military labour market situated in present day Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The availability of professional soldiers in large numbers combined with the revenues of Bengal created the famous Bengal Army. This proved to be the most powerful army in India which helped the British conquer south and west India. Its battalions were active and effective in the Mysore, Maratha, Sikh and Afghan wars.

## **Vision, cohesion and discipline**

On the whole the well trained and drilled Company troops were regularly paid in cash and were better disciplined. They were led by men of vision like General Arthur Wellesley (the victor of Waterloo and future Duke of Wellington) and his elder brother Richard Wellesley, the unabashedly imperialist Governor General. During campaigns and battles the Company commanders usually displayed superior tactical coordination in comparison with their enemies. Company officers, in general, were all English and this seemed to create social cohesion under pressure. In comparison with the indigenous powers, with the possible exception of Tipu Sultan, the Company had a long term vision. It represented a mercantile capitalist system which was fundamentally different from the feudal Indian kingdoms. Wars were taken seriously by the British because experience taught them that their hold over many parts of India could easily be challenged by rivals. Hence, the Company forces fought with a desperation unknown to the native armies. The only possible exception here was Tipu Sultan who understood what the Company stood for but his appeal to his neighbours fell on deaf ears.

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## Insufficient modernization and institutional weaknesses of the Indian powers

Impressed by European military technology and training methods, several Indian states in the 18<sup>th</sup> century modernized their armies by hiring European military experts. Consequently, in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century almost all Indian powers had contingents of infantry, cavalry and artillery trained and led by European mercenaries at their service. However, these modernization attempts had several noticeable weaknesses. First, the Indian states generally failed to evolve a system of military finance like the Company did. This meant their troops were often paid late or not paid at all for a long time. Second, the Indian states like the Shinde state of Gwalior raised powerful battalions led by English, European and Anglo-Indian officers who were paid in the **jayedad** system. This meant that revenue of a particular area was marked as payment to these foreign officers. In the Shinde domain the French officers were the chief beneficiaries of these jayedads and this made the Maratha sardars serving Gwalior jealous. The regular employment of European generals and commanders increased the factionalism among the Marathas. Third, the excessive reliance on European mercenaries proved fatal in certain cases. For example, before the Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05) all the European officers of Daulat Rao Shinde defected to the Company under pressure from Lord Wellesley. After all, no European wanted to be buried in India. All of them wanted to leave India with their fortunes from ports possessed by the Company. In fact many of them had investments in the Company trade and hence opposed the idea of fighting the British. The wholesale discharge of European officers left the main body of the Maratha armies virtually leaderless during the ensuing battles. Fourth, the native rulers could not develop a corps of Indian officers because they trusted their European commanders more than their own relatives due to the constant court intrigue they faced. A combination of these factors translated into tactical superiority for the Company forces on the battlefield. On the whole the modernized infantry and artillery battalions of the Marathas and the Sikhs fought well but could not prevent the Company victories.

## The alienation of the masses from the Indian rulers

Indian states fell to the advancing Company one by one during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries due to the causes listed above. Those who were not totally wiped out became part of Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance treaty system. These nominally independent states later evolved into the Princely States of the British period and were integrated either into India or Pakistan after 1947. Here it must be mentioned that none of the Indian states tried to convert their resistance to the Company into mass resistance. This could not happen simply because the Indian peasants did not sympathize with their rulers. The outcome of these wars made no immediate difference to their lives. Most Indian states of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with the exception of Tipu's Mysore, did not do much to improve the conditions of their subjects. The Marathas, and the **Pindaris** which usually accompanied their armies as scouts and raiders, did not endear themselves to the people in many parts of India. Indeed the practice of the Maratha **Bargis** collecting tribute by armed force ensured for them a lasting place in the folklore of Bengal. Hence the Indian peasant watched impassively as contending

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armies marched across the country. There was little to distinguish and choose between the Maratha battalions and the Company forces for him.

## Main wars to remember

To place the British conquests in India in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century in proper chronological context we must mention the dates and regions of the decisive wars of the period:

Anglo-French Rivalry in India, 1740 – 1763 (The Carnatic Wars).

These wars were fought in the Carnatic – Coromandel region of the Indian peninsula (Today's Tamil Nadu).

First Anglo-French War, 1744 – 1748

Second Anglo-French War, 1751- 1755

Third Anglo-French War, 1758 – 1763

The Mysore Wars, 1767 – 1799

These wars were fought in south India in the Karnataka region of today.

First Mysore War, 1767 – 1769

Second Mysore War, 1776 – 1784

Third Mysore War, 1790 – 1792

Fourth Mysore War, 1798 - 1799

Anglo- Maratha Rivalry, 1775 – 1818

These wars were fought in the Deccan region and around Delhi and Agra.

First Anglo-Maratha War, 1775 – 1782

Second Anglo-Maratha War, 1803 – 1805

Third Anglo-Maratha War, 1817- 1818

The Anglo-Sikh Rivalry 1845 - 1849

The Sikh Wars were fought in the Punjab

First Anglo-Sikh War, 1845 – 1846

Second Anglo-Sikh War, 1848 – 1849

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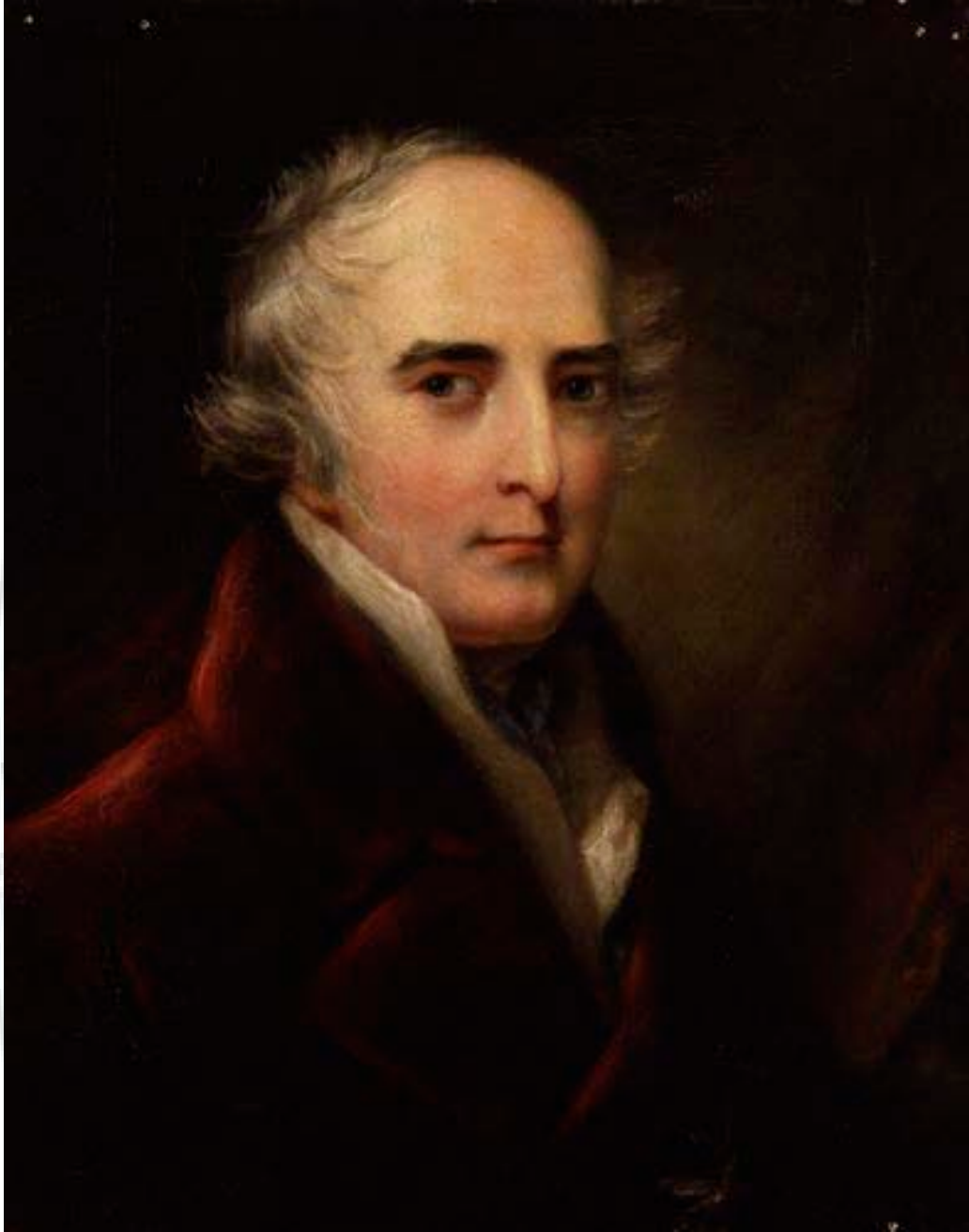


Figure 2.2.1.2: Richard Wellesley

Source:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Richard\\_Colley\\_Wellesley,\\_Marquess\\_Wellesley\\_by\\_John\\_Philip\\_Davis\\_\(%27Pope%27\\_Davis\).jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Richard_Colley_Wellesley,_Marquess_Wellesley_by_John_Philip_Davis_(%27Pope%27_Davis).jpg)

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### Major British annexations, 1757-1857

Dates	Territory Annexed	Area in 1000 sq. miles.	Percentage Indian land mass.
1757 - 65	Bengal and Bihar	15	
1765	Carnatic	04	
1766	Northern Sircars	02	
1775	Benaras	01	
1792 - 1799	Dindigul, Malabar, Canara etc.	04	
1801	'Ceded Districts'	07	
1803 - 1818	Maratha Territories	19	
1825 - 1842	North-East and Burma	15	
1843	Sindh	05	
1848	Satara	01	
1849	Punjab	10	
1853	Jhansi, Nagpur and Hyderabad assigned	13	
1856	Awadh	02	
Total Annexation		98	62
Indian States Remaining		59	38
India		157	100

Source: Roy, Tirthankar. 2000. *The Economic History of India 1857 – 1947*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

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## The Subsidiary Alliance treaty system of Richard Wellesley, Governor General of India, 1798-1805

Wellesley and Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger had similar views on forming a British Empire in India. Britain had recently lost her American colonies and both these ambitious men wanted to compensate this with an Empire in India. Wellesley came to India determined to extinguish French influence in the sub-continent and destroy the power of Tipu Sultan and the Marathas. He considered himself an expert in Oriental affairs and was bent upon following a policy of British expansion in India. The Subsidiary Alliance treaty system was devised by Wellesley to subjugate the Indian powers and make the English paramount in India. Under this system, which all Indian princely states followed till 1947, the Indian kings signed a treaty of Subsidiary Alliance the provisions of which are briefly described below. By signing this treaty a native power became a subsidiary of the British and lost its sovereignty. The Peshwa signed it in 1802, the Nizam in 1798 and again in 1800, Tanjore in 1799, Mysore in 1799, Awadh in 1801 and Gwalior in 1803. Once the major powers had thus been reduced, the smaller and less significant states were left with little choice in the matter and quickly followed suit. The alternative to signing the treaty was annihilation which no Indian state was willing to risk ! Generally Wellesley is credited with having formulated the Subsidiary Alliance treaty system but treaties on similar lines had been used by Warren Hastings, the first Governor General of Bengal, to strengthen the English defense against the Marathas who threatened Bengal from central India during the 1770s. However, while Hastings, who had great respect for Indian traditions, had urged caution in exercising British intervention in the domestic affairs of the friendly Indian states, Wellesley's main aim was the building of a paramount British empire in India.

### Provisions of the Subsidiary Alliance

1. The Indian state would have a British Resident or a Political Agent in its capital. This Resident would command a strong Subsidiary force comprising British and Indian troops stationed in the capital. The expenses of the Resident and his force would be borne by the revenues of the concerned state.
2. The Indian king / prince could not take any major foreign affairs or military decision without the approval of the Resident.
3. The Resident, his officials and the Subsidiary force were to be held almost immune to local laws. No action against any of their personnel could be initiated without the permission of the Resident.
4. The Indian king / prince would not employ foreigners, except the British, without the consent of the Resident.

The consequences of this treaty system were grave for the Indian states. They lost their sovereignty and the real power in their capital shifted to the British residency. Their armies were disbanded and they began to maintain troops generally for ceremonial and internal

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policing duties only. The Subsidiary force consumed large sums of money and its expenses tended to grow over time. The 'protection' offered by the British made most of the Indian princes careless in governance. Most of them neglected the welfare of their subjects and, actively encouraged by the British, took to a life of ease and debauchery. Much of their time was spent socializing with the English, traveling abroad under British surveillance, looking after large harems which included European women and acquiring the latest goodies from Britain, Europe and America. Some of the Indian states declined due to these developments and this gave the British the excuse to annex them in the future, as was done during the tenure of Lord Dalhousie (1848-56). Dalhousie used the 'Doctrine of Lapse' and the charge of maladministration to annex some Indian states like Awadh (1856), Jhansi and Nagpur (1854) and Satara (1848). However, the Great Revolt of 1857 was caused partly by the annexation of Awadh which was difficult for Dalhousie to justify. Following this widespread rebellion, the fear of a mass upheaval brought the policy of outright annexation to an end in 1857.

### Conclusion

The Mughal Empire gave way to the rise of various regional powers in 18th century India. In the beginning the Company was also like a regional power based in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. But the political, economic and institutional system it represented was very different from the monarchical systems of the Indian regional powers. This difference was understood and its implications were appreciated by very few Indians like Tipu Sultan. From the late 18th century onwards the Company seized the political initiative in India and embarked on a conquest of South Asia. In this process it defeated almost all the Indian regional states because of the dynamics of expansion studied above. Although the Company was only a trading representative of Britain, it proved politically and militarily superior to almost all its competitors in India. Nonetheless, the defeat of the regional Indian states at the hands of the Company should not lead us to conclude that these states did not achieve anything. The works of Satish Chandra, Muzaffar Alam and Christopher Bayly, for example, speak against a generalized picture of regional stagnation and decline in the 18th century. Randolph Cooper's recent research on the second Anglo-Maratha war (1803-05) describes the military modernization achieved by the Shindes of Gwalior in glowing terms. The hard fought battles of Assaye and Laswari (1803) were a testimony to this modernization. It is also true that many regions, including Mysore and Kerala in the far south, recorded various degrees of prosperity and social change under their Indian rulers. Hence the growth of Indian history writing since the 1960s tells us a new story of the 18th century. The well known historical narrative highlighting only the chaos, stagnation and decline in the 18th century has thus been corrected to some extent. The regional Indian states of that century were strong enough to destroy the Mughal empire but none of them was capable of replacing it because of the reasons mentioned in this lecture. The 'modernization' attempted by some of them retained their characteristic weaknesses. Their military strength could not hide their political disunity and court intrigues and their adoption of European military methods was combined with crucial institutional drawbacks. In the ultimate analysis, these powers were generally led by an inward looking, tribute collecting and short-sighted feudal elite and therefore fell to the advancing Company one by one. In contrast the English were led by resolute men of vision who were inspired by notions of empire and civilization.

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## 2.2.1 Summary

- The decline and disintegration of the Mughal Empire in the 18th century led to the rise of several regional powers in India. Some of these were successor states of the Mughal empire and some were created by rebels like the Marathas and Sikhs.
- Although these states emerged during the early modern period of Indian history almost all of them were monarchies which were more feudal than early modern in orientation. With the possible exception of Mysore, none of them evolved a system capable of resisting the advancing English East India Company.
- Most of these states were similar in terms of their leadership and state organization. Many of them inherited the late Mughal military and administrative systems which were clearly pre-modern.
- These regional polities spent a considerable amount of their resources in raising and maintaining armies, often trained by European mercenaries, and waging war among themselves. Some historians call this phenomenon 'military fiscalism' although 'feudalism' is an equally good descriptive term for these states.
- The greater involvement of European mercenaries in the internal affairs of these states and their internecine conflicts created the grounds for the rise of European power in India.
- Ultimately the shortsightedness of the Indian elites ruling these states, insufficient modernization of the Indian state and military apparatus, inherent institutional weaknesses, Indian political disunity and economic weaknesses paved the way for the rise of British power in India.
- In the rise of British power in India the policies of two Governor Generals played a crucial role. The first was Lord Richard Wellesley the architect of the openly imperialist Subsidiary Alliance treaty system. The second was Lord Dalhousie who annexed Awadh on grounds of maladministration and used the infamous 'doctrine of lapse' to annex smaller Indian kingdoms.
- Finally British annexations in India created conditions of widespread social and political unrest. Hence the Great Revolt of 1857 was most probably a culmination of a process of conquest, consolidation and displacement of some elites set in motion by the Company towards the end of the 18th century.

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## 2.2.1: Exercises

### Essay questions

- 1) Why and how did the decline of the Mughal Empire cause the rise of various regional powers in 18th century India?
- 2) Do you consider 'feudalism' a concept sufficient to characterize the Indian polities of the 18th century?
- 3) In what way was the English East India Company different from its Indian and European rivals?
- 4) Enumerate the causes of the insufficient military modernization initiated by the Indian states in the 18th century?
- 5) Would you agree with the assertion that the Company represented a system which was totally different from the one represented by the Marathas, Sikhs and the Nizam?
- 6) Would it be correct to say that the successor states of the Mughals merely replicated the systemic errors of the late Mughal period?
- 7) How was the Indian states' excessive reliance on European mercenaries suicidal in the long run?
- 8) Would it be right to say that the Subsidiary Alliance Treaty System was a diplomatic masterpiece?

### Objective questions

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
1	True or False	1

#### Question

The Mughal Empire declined in the 19th century.

<b>Correct Answer / Option(s)</b>	False
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## *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

The decline of the Mughal empire began during the long reign of Aurangzeb in the late 17th century. The empire was destabilized and financially drained by the rebellions launched by the Marathas in the Deccan and the Sikhs in the Punjab. After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the empire declined rapidly under a succession of incompetent rulers. Beset by court factionalism and a rising tide of rebellions led by dominant peasant groups like the Jats near Agra and Delhi the Mughal empire disintegrated under the impact of the Afghan invasions from the north-west and the Maratha raids from the south in the middle of the 18th century.

## *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
2	True or False	1

## **Question**

During the 18th century the French emerged as the most powerful force in India.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

## *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

French influence grew in many parts of India during the first half of the 18th century. However, in a series of wars called the Carnatic wars the English defeated the French. In the latter half of the 18th century the French presence in India was reduced to small enclaves like Pondicherry which survived because the English chose not to extinguish French presence altogether.

## *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

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Question Number	Type of question	LOD
3	True or False	1

### Question

The resources of Bengal played a minor role in the British conquest of India.

### Correct Answer / Option(s)

False

### Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer

Since Mughal times Bengal was known as one of India's richest provinces. The acquisition of its revenues by the English East India Company proved crucial to the outcome of their wars of conquest in India. In addition to money, the establishment of English power in Bengal gave the Company access to the largest military labour market in India situated in the bordering Gangetic plains.

### Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
4	True or False	1

### Question

The Marathas did not try to modernize their army during the latter half of the 18th century.

### Correct Answer / Option(s)

False

### Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer

The Marathas, led by the Sindhias of Gwalior, initiated several steps to modernize their infantry and artillery along European lines following the defeat of the Marathas at the Third Battle of Panipat (1761). Many of these measures were quite impressive and helped the Marathas fight hard during the Second Anglo-

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Maratha War (1803-05). However, the over-dependence of the Marathas on European mercenaries, chiefly French and English, proved unproductive in the long-run.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
5	True or False	1

### **Question**

There was no difference between the European Companies and the Indian states of the 18th century.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

Although it is tempting to say that the Company was no different from the Indian powers of the 18th century, saying so would be simplistic. There were significant differences between the Company and the Indian powers of the day. First, the Company was, as such, a joint stock company run from London. Most of its powerful shareholders were rich English merchants. Second, from the 1770s Company affairs were increasingly influenced by the British Parliament. Third, the Company, unlike the majority of its Indian competitors, was primarily a commercial organization. Finally, the affairs of the Company were run by racially white Europeans influenced by European thoughts and practices. This was unique in Indian history.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

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Question Number	Type of question	LOD
6	True or False	1

### Question

Most of the Indian rulers of the 18th century had ties of affection with their subjects.
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<b>Correct Answer / Option(s)</b>	False
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### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

The Indian rulers of the 18th century comprised a tribute collecting feudal elite connected to the masses through a class of zamindar intermediaries. Most of them, barring a few exceptions, did not derive legitimacy for their rule from popular consent and hence could not organize the peasantry against the encroaching Company.
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### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

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Reviewer's Comment:

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Question Number	Type of question	LOD
7	True or False	1

### Question

The outcome of the wars between the Company and the Indian states of the 18th century made no immediate difference to the people of India.
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<b>Correct Answer / Option(s)</b>	True
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# Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

## *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

In general this assertion is true although in areas like Bengal the establishment of Company rule in the 1760s and 70s had a devastating impact on the regional economy. In the long run, however, the establishment of colonial rule changed India in many important ways.

## *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
8	True or false	1

## **Question**

The Company troops were not paid regularly in cash.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

## *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

One of the reasons why the Company troops fought well in an era devoid of national loyalties was regular cash salaries and incentives. The second Anglo-Maratha war, for instance, revealed that some of the Sindhia's important garrisons had not been paid in months. In contrast, rulers like Tipu Sultan were punctilious in paying their troops and thereby commanded their loyalty till the very end.

## *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
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## Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

9	True or false	1
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### Question

Arthur Wellesley was the Governor General of India during the Second Anglo Maratha War (1803-05).

### Correct Answer / Option(s)

False

### Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer

The Governor General of India during the Second Anglo Maratha war was Richard Wellesley, the elder brother of Arthur Wellesley.

### Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
10	True or False	1

### Question

Tipu Sultan was an unpopular ruler of Mysore.

### Correct Answer / Option(s)

False

### Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer

Of all the Indian rulers of late 18th century India Tipu Sultan was, arguably, the most popular among his subjects. This enabled him to wage a personally led war against the combined forces of the Company and the Nizam in 1798-99. The difficult siege of Seringapatnam (1799) and the manner in which Tipu died clearly shows his popularity.

### Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer

## Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
11	True or False	1

### Question

The largest military labour market in India in the 18th century was situated in Bengal.

Correct Answer /  
Option(s)

False

### Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer

The largest military labour market in India was situated in the plains of present Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and comprised the upper caste, Brahman, Rajput and Bhumihaar, sections of the peasantry. The bulk of the Bengal Army was formed of these men and not of the Bengalis as the name tends to suggest.

### Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
12	True or False	1

## Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

### Question

The pindaris were disliked in most parts of India.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

True

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

The pindaris were bands of irregular troops loosely attached to almost *all armies* operating in India during the latter half of the 18th century. They acted as mercenary advance guards, scouts and looters. Often their payments comprised what they could collect systematically from the battlefields. In general, there was no reason why such freebooters would be liked by the people.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

**Reviewer's Comment:**

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
13	True or False	1

### Question

In 1756 the Peshwa forged an alliance with the Angres against the British.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

In 1756 Peshwa Nana Saheb (Balaji Baji Rao) signed a treaty with the British against Tulajee Angre, who, like his father Kanhoji Angre, had emerged as a strong independent ruler on the Konkan Coast during the first half of the 18th century.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

## Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
14	True or False	1

### Question

The Nizam assisted the British against Tipu Sultan.

**Correct Answer /  
Option(s)**

True

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

The Nizam of Hyderabad always considered Mysore as a rival power in the Deccan. Disregarding the offer of alliance made by Tipu Sultan, the Nizam actively assisted the British in 1798-99. In fact the artillery and logistic support provided by the Nizam played a crucial role in deciding the issue with Tipu in 1799.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
15	True or False	1

### Question

Nana Phadnavis could not unite the Marathas against the British.

## Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

The First Anglo Maratha War (1775-82) was caused by the ambition of Raghunath Rao who wanted to become the Peshwa after the death of his brother Nana Saheb in 1761. During this war the Maratha sardars remained united under the leadership of a Regency led by the astute Nana Phadnavis. As a consequence of this unity the Marathas defeated the forces of Raghunath Rao and the British near Pune at the Battle of Wadgaon. The war ended with the Treaty of Salbai which restored the status quo between the Marathas and the British.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

**Reviewer's Comment:**

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
16	True or False	1

### **Question**

In the late 17th century the Company had defeated the army of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

In fact it was Aurangzeb who defeated the Company and later pardoned it. This defeat made it quite clear to the Directors of the Company that the Mughal State, even in decline, was too powerful for the Company forces to handle.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

**Reviewer's Comment:**

## Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

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Question Number	Type of question	LOD
17	True or False	1

### Question

The Company forces were overconfident and hence fought casually in the battles against the Indian powers.

### Correct Answer / Option(s)

False

### Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer

In fact the Company forces fought with great desperation because the officials of the Company knew that a major defeat could easily mean the end of Company influence in India during the formative years of British colonialism in India. In contrast the Indian powers generally failed to understand the true character of the Company and often approached the battlefield in a different manner.

### Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer

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Reviewer's Comment:

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Question Number	Type of question	LOD
18	True or False	1

### Question

Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas alone at the Third Battle of Panipat in

## Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

1761.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

Abdali was assisted by his allies the Nawab of Awadh and Rohilkhand who disliked the Maratha presence in north India. Thus it was an Indo-Afghan alliance which routed the Marathas at Panipat in 1761.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

**Reviewer's Comment:**

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
19	True or False	1

### **Question**

The European mercenaries employed by the Indian states were professional but their loyalty could not be taken for granted.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

True

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

This is true because most of the French mercenaries in the service of the Marathas had invested a substantial portion of their income in the shares of the East India Company! They also knew that the English controlled the major ports of India. This meant that their return to Europe with the riches gathered in India depended upon English goodwill. Hence when the time came to fight the English almost all of them betrayed their Indian paymasters.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

# Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

Reviewer's Comment:

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Question Number	Type of question	LOD
20	True or False	1

## Question

Warren Hastings had a low opinion of Indian traditions.
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<b>Correct Answer / Option(s)</b>	False
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## *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

Warren Hastings, in fact, had a high opinion of Indian traditions and learning. He promoted early Orientalism and wanted to rule India in accordance with its extant traditions. Since the main aim of Warren Hastings was the consolidation of British gains in Bengal his policies were not as expansionist as those of later Governor Generals like Wellesley and Dahousie.
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## *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

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Reviewer's Comment:

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Question Number	Type of question	LOD
21	True or False	1

## Question

The doctrine of lapse was used by William Bentinck to annex Indian states.
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<b>Correct Answer / Option(s)</b>	False
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# Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

## *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

The Doctrine of Lapse was used by Lord Dalhousie and not William Bentinck.

## *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
22	True or False	1

## Question

The Subsidiary force proved to be a mounting drain on the resources of the princely states.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

True

## *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

The expenses of the Subsidiary force tended to grow over time and hence ultimately it became a drain on the resources of its host.

## *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

Reviewer's Comment:

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
23	True or False	1

## Question

The Battle of Wandiwash was fought between the Marathas and the British.

## Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

The Battle of Wandiwash (1760) was fought between the English and the French as part of the Third Carnatic War (1758-1763). The French were defeated and driven behind the walls of Pondicherry which also capitulated to the English after some months. The Third Carnatic War ended in a resounding defeat of the French in south India. After this, French presence in India became non-military and the French were forbidden to fortify their settlements in India.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

**Reviewer's Comment:**

Question Number	Type of question	LOD
24	True or False	1

### **Question**

The Company forces were defeated at the Battle of Laswari.

**Correct Answer / Option(s)**

False

### *Justification/ Feedback for the correct answer*

Laswari is a place near Agra where a major battle between the Company forces led by General Lake and a Maratha force of Sindhia took place in 1803 as part of the Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05). By the time this battle occurred the Marathas had been deserted by their European officers. Nonetheless the Battle of Laswari was hard fought and paved the way for the expansion of Company power into north India.

### *Resource/Hints/Feedback for the wrong answer*

# Dynamics of colonial expansion--1

Reviewer's Comment:

## 2.2.1 Glossary

**Bargi:** An extremely mobile Maratha horseman usually armed with light weapons

**Jayedad:** An assignment of land yielding revenues which were given to European officers serving the Shindes for their upkeep etc

**Nizam:** The *Shia* ruler of a large state in the Deccan with its capital at Hyderabad

**Peshwa:** Prime minister of the Maratha kingdom

**Pindaris:** Irregular bands of troops acting as scouts, raiders and advance guard attached to almost all early modern armies operating in India

**Subedar:** Literally head of a *Subah* – province; a provincial governor under the Mughals

## 2.2.1 Further readings

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