



MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

FOR UPSC CSE & STATE PCS EXAMS

From the Founder's Desk

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This book was created keeping in mind, the concerns and challenges that students face during their Civil services preparation. Students are frequently confused about what to study, how much to study, the depth of knowledge required for any topic, and the type of questions asked by the commission. Above all, the absence of consolidated study material and the information silo from multiple sources hinder our student's preparations.

This book is an honest attempt to tackle these problems and improve students' knowledge base, saving their precious time during their preparation and eliminating many academic misunderstandings that they encounter.

Special Features of This Book:

This book aims to make your preparation focused and relevant based on UPSC's current trends and pattern, revision-friendly, and up-to-date.

- The requirements of the UPSC Civil Services Examination are the exclusive focus of this book.
- We have taken great care to ensure that the materials are written in a clear and easy-to-understand, so that students may learn and recall the concepts to their advantage.
- Wherever necessary, we've incorporated relevant examples, landmark events and maps to help students grasp the fundamental concepts.
- We have incorporated the relevant previous year's questions at the end of each chapter so that the students can test their knowledge while understanding the trend of the question.

With all sincerity and humility, the Study IQ team wishes you the best in your preparation, and we are hopeful that this book will help you in your journey.

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Co-Founder, Study IQ Education
Mentoring UPSC CSE Aspirants for past 7 years

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SAMPLE PAGES

The British East India Company, which came to India for trade in the early 17th C, gained footing in India in 1612 after Mughal emperor Jahangir granted the rights to establish a factory (a trading post) in Surat. However, the formal British rule in India had commenced only after the Battle of Plassey in 1757 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.

CONQUEST OF BENGAL

The British conquest consolidation in India started with the subjugation of Bengal to the British imperialist system.

RISE OF BRITISHERS IN BENGAL

Bengal, the richest province of the Mughal Empire, constituted the **present-day Bangladesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha**. The economic significance of Bengal was due to its renowned textiles, silk, and salt. Bengal's exports to Europe included salt, rice, indigo, pepper, sugar, silk, cotton textiles, and various handicrafts. The English East India Company had vital commercial interests in Bengal, as nearly sixty percent of British imports from Asia were Bengali goods.

- In 1651, the **first English factory in Bengal** was founded in Hugli with permission from **Sultan Shuja**, the second son of **Emperor Shahjehan and Subahdar of Bengal**. In the same year, for a nominal lump sum payment of Rs. 3,000 (350 pounds), the Subahdar granted the Company the privilege of **free trade throughout Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa**. Soon after that, factories were established in **Kasimbazar, Patna**, and other areas of the province.
- In 1698, the English purchased from Subahdar Azim-us-Shan, for Rs. 1,200, the zamindari of the villages of **Sutanuti, Kalikata, and Govindapur**, the present location of **Calcutta**.
- In 1717 **Emperor Farrukhsiyar** confirmed the trade privileges granted by earlier Subahdars

of Bengal, besides permission to the Company to rent additional territory around Calcutta. The company's total exports from Bengal amounted to over £50,000 per annum.

FALL OF BENGAL

Conflict between the Company and the Nawab

The farman, given by emperor Farruksiyar, became a source of conflict between the Company and Murshid Quli Khan, the new autonomous ruler of Bengal. The farman meant loss of revenue to the Bengal government and the power to issue the dastaks for the company's good was misused by Company's servants to evade taxes on their private trade. The company had been compelled to accept the authority of the Nawabs in the matter. But the servants had taken every opportunity to evade and defy the authority of Nawabs. The conflict between the Bengal nawab and the English Company had thus started developing right from 1717.

Hostilities between the English and the French

The outbreak of the Austrian Succession War in Europe in 1740 brought in hostilities between the English and the French Companies to India. In Bengal the new nawab Alivardi Khan kept both of them under control and forbade them from getting involved in any open hostilities. But French victories in south India made the English apprehensive in Bengal as they had very little trust in the power of the nawab to protect them against any French onslaught.

Tussle with Siraj-ud-daula

Alivardi Khan died on 9 April 1756 and was succeeded by his grandson, Siraj-ud-daula. The conflict assumed critical dimensions when Siraj-ud-daula threatened the lucrative English private trade by stopping all **misuse of dastaks**. Instead of agreeing to pay taxes on their goods to the Nawab, they levied heavy duties on Indian goods entering Calcutta which was under their control. All this angered the Nawab. Nawab also suspected that the company was hostile to him and was favoring his rivals for the throne of Bengal.

Cause and result of the War



Burmese King Mindon was **succeeded by King Thibaw**. The British interfered in the internal matters of Burma under the grab of preventing the alleged cruelties of King Thibaw. The British claimed that they wanted to protect the citizens of upper Burma from their own king. Thibaw had been negotiating commercial treaties with the rival powers of British i.e. **France, Germany and Italy**. This was not liked by the British. The French also planned to lay a rail link from Mandalay to the French territory at a time when the British were in conflict

with the French in Niger, Egypt and Madagascar. The French **had also seized Annam (Central Vietnam) in 1883**, laying the groundwork for their Indo-China colony. They were actively pursuing North Vietnam, which they conquered between 1885 and 1889, as well as Thailand and Burma in the west. The British chambers of commerce and British merchants in Rangoon pressed the willing British government to annex upper Burma immediately. The Burmese government accused **the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation** of bribing local officials. Huge fine was imposed on a British timber company by Thibaw. On November 13, 1885, a British invasion was launched.

On November 28, 1885, **King Thibaw surrendered**, and his kingdom was quickly annexed by the Indian Empire under Dufferin. In later years, there was a nationalist movement in Burma during **the First World War**. The **Burmese joined hands with the Indian National Congress**. To weaken their alliance, the **British separated Burma from India in 1935**. Independence movement during the **Second World War intensified** and under the **leadership of U Aung San**, the Burmese people got their **independence in 1948**.

ANGLO-NEPALESE RELATIONSHIP

Background

The British desire to extend their Indian Empire to its natural geographical frontier brought them into conflict with the **northern kingdom of Nepal**. The Nepal valley had been conquered in 1768 by the Gurkhas (**western Himalayan Tribe**). **From the Nepal Terai**, Gurkhas now began to push southward. In the meanwhile, **the British conquered Gorakhpur in 1801**. This brought the two expanding powers (British and Gurkhas) face to face across an ill-defined border between India and Nepal.

Also in 1801, the British sought to obtain a treaty from Nepal (signed in October 1801) in which the Nepalese agreed to allow an English Resident at Kathmandu. The Resident was under order to investigate the economy. But **due to the hostility**

- **Style of politics and leadership:** South Africa provided Gandhiji with an opportunity for **evolving his own style of politics and leadership**, for trying out new techniques of struggle, on a limited scale. **He evolved the movement from its 'Moderate' phase into its "Gandhian" phase.** He already knew the strengths and the weaknesses of the Gandhian method and he was convinced that it was the best method around. It now remained for him to introduce it into India.

GANDHI'S RETURN TO INDIA

Gandhiji returned to India, on 9th January 1915 (**Major reason why it is celebrated as Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in India currently**). He was warmly welcomed. His work in South Africa was well-known to Indian masses. Gandhi was advised by his **mentor Gopalkrishna Gokhale** to tour India for a year before embarking upon any political work.

Gandhi then **spent one entire year touring the country and studying all the situations with great care.** During this year, **he organised his ashram in Ahmedabad wherein he and his followers from S. Africa would lead a community life.** The next year as well, he continued to maintain his distance from

political affairs, including the Home Rule Movement that was gathering momentum at this time.

Gandhi's own **political understanding did not coincide with any of the political currents** that were active in India then. Over the span of two years, Gandhiji came to a conclusion that the only best way to tackle the colonial problem in India was Satyagraha. He didn't subscribe to the ideas of the Home Rule movement since he didn't find it quite right to revolt against the British especially when they were in difficulty because of the First World War. Also, **his faith in 'Moderate' means of struggle was totally eroded. The Gandhian era is also known as the era of struggle.**

Gandhi's reasons for not joining the existing political organizations just after his arrival in India can be explained **in his own words:** "At my time of life and with views firmly formed on several matters, I could only join an organization to affect its policy and not be affected by it. This does not mean that I would not now have an open mind to receive new light. I simply wish to emphasize the fact that the new light will have to be especially dazzling in order to entrance me."

In other words, **Gandhiji could only join an organization or a movement that adopted non-violent Satyagraha as its method of struggle.**



Gandhi and Gokhale together

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**NON-COOPERATION
MOVEMENT AND
KHILAFAT ANDOLAN
(1919-22)**