

Q. What were the reasons for the conflicts between the English and the French in India in the 18th century?

Ans. There were many causes of conflict between the English and the French in India in the 18th century. The chief among them are the following:

1. Both the English and the French had trade rivalries in India.
2. As a result of the industrial revolution, both these powers wanted to sell their manufactured goods in India, as such, they wanted to capture the Indian market.
3. Moreover, when they found that India could also be exploited as a source of raw materials for their factories in Europe, their rivalries got sharpened.
4. Soon both the English and the French found that it would be far better to conquer as many territories as possible. So their political interests also added fuel to the fire.
5. At the same time, there existed bitter rivalry between the two in Europe also. As a result, there ensued a struggle between the two and they fought three wars known as the Carnatic wars in the history of India.

Q. Why was Siraj-ud-daula so easily defeated by the English?

Ans. Siraj-ud-daula was so easily defeated by the English because of following causes:-

1. Siraj-ud-daula had no absolute right on the throne of Bengal.
2. The English succeeded in winning over prominent Hindu merchants and bankers against the Nawab.
3. Calcutta, after its capture from the English, was put under weak and corrupt officers like Manik Chand.
4. Mir Jafar, the commander of Nawab's army entered into a conspiracy with the English which proved quite disastrous.
5. The naval power and superior strategy of the British also proved fatal for him.
6. Last, Siraj-ud-daula lacked confidence and lost courage in the face of difficulties.

Q. What was the role of the house of Jagat Seths in the conflict between the English East India company and the Nawab of Bengal?

Ans. Jagat Seth's family was very rich and influential business family of Calcutta, who controlled almost entire finance of Bengal. They had business connections with the British, who controlled entire foreign trade of Calcutta. Jagat Seth's families were desirous of having more business with the company. The Jagat Seths entered into conspiracy with British and not only crippled the financial resources of the new Nawab, but also encouraged Mir Jafar to conspire against him. Thus the Jagat Seths played a great part in the conflict between the East India company and the Nawab of Bengal.

Q. The English company had installed Mir Qasim as the Nawab of Bengal. Why did they turn against him?

Ans. After the Battle of Palasy, the English became the real rulers of Bengal. Firstly Mir Jafar and then Mir Qasim was made the Nawab of Bengal. He was an able, efficient and strong ruler and determined to free himself from the foreign control. So he improved both the financial conditions of the kingdom and administration and raised a modern and disciplined army. He also established an arms factory there. He abolished all the duties and deprived the English of the illegal profit. This enraged the company and they turned against him.

Q. What were the consequences of Battle of Buxar?

Ans. The consequences of Battle of Buxar were:-

1. The Nawab of Avadh was made to pay a sum of 50 lakhs to the company and cede the districts of Kara and Allahabad.
2. Shah Alam was forced to grant the right to collect revenue of Bengal, Bihar and Orrisa to the company. This is called Grant of Diwani.
3. Mir Jafar was again made the Nawab of Bengal. After his death, his son, Nizam-ud-Daula was allowed to ascend the throne.
4. The Nawab of Avadh was now a vassal and the Mughal Emperor a pensioner.
5. The British became masters of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and used Avadh later on as a buffer state between their possessions and the Marathas.

This battle made the English company a sovereign power in India.

Q. What did the policy of non-intervention in India mean? Why did the British occasionally follow this policy?

Ans. After the defeat of British in North America, English people criticized the policies of the company in India. So the British government decided not to interfere in the disputes of India rulers. The Board of control laid down that English nation had no wish to extend their domination in India and no scheme of conquest. This is called the policy of Non-intervention. Lord Cornwallis from (1786-93) and John Shore from (1793-98) tried to follow this policy of non-intervention. Thus, this period of 12 years is generally called the period of non-intervention.

The Britishers, however, followed this policy only when it suited their interest. For example, the policy wasn't followed in the case of Mysore when Tipu Sultan attacked Coorg and Travancore whose ruler was an ally of English. But they flatly refused Nizam when the Marathas attacked him. So, in short the British followed this policy only when it suited them.

Q. What were the main changes in the political history of Punjab from the end of 18th century to 1849?

Ans. At the end of the 18th century Punjab was the major independent power of India under the leadership of Ranjit Singh, the chief of the Sukarchakia Misil. He organized Sikh Misls into a united state and all Misls accepted him as his leader. He continued his policy of expansion and brought Multan, Kangra and other neighbouring states under him. In 1809, Maharaja Ranjit Singh signed the treaty of Amritsar by which he was obliged to accept the Sutlej as the eastern boundary of his kingdom. Because of his strength, he was respected by Britishers, who signed a peace treaty with him. But situation of Punjab soon changed after his death in 1839. Khalsa assumed supremacy and group rivalries started. Three sons of Ranjit Singh were killed and Dalip Singh, the youngest one was put on throne. But state was actually ruled by his mother Rani Jindan. In first Anglo-Sikh war (1845) Sikh army was defeated and Punjab was placed under the British protection. In second Anglo-sikh war (1848) Sikh army was again defeated and Punjab was annexed by the British.

Q. Explain the different methods by which the British established and expanded their empire in India?

Ans. The British adopted the following methods for expansion of their empire in India:

1. **By conquest:-** The British saw that Indian rulers had inefficient armies. So they would try to find out some pretext for war. Once war was declared, they were able to defeat the rulers and annex their territories. This happened in case of Mysore, Marathas, Sind, Punjab and Burma.
2. **By Subsidiary Alliance:-** It was introduced by Lord Wellesley. In this method British controlled the affairs of the state by entering into the alliance without actually annexing them. The rulers who accepted this system were outwardly assured of protection. The Nizam of Hyderabad surrendered Belari and Cuddapah and the Nawab of Avadh surrendered Rohilkhand and Kara.
3. **Doctrine of Lapse:-** This method was introduced by Lord Dalhousie. In this system the ruler when died issueless, his territories were annexed to the British Empire. Salara, Jhansi, Udaipur, Nagpur were annexed on this ground.
4. **Mis government:-** this was also a noble method of usurping states. In this method the Britishers used to annex the states on the pretext of mis-government. Avadh was usurped in this way.