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Prelims & Mains

Bihar Public Service Commission

General Studies

Paper 1 – Volume 2

Modern History of India and Bihar

SIERRA INNOVATIONS

BPSC

G.S. PAPER – 1 VOLUME – 2

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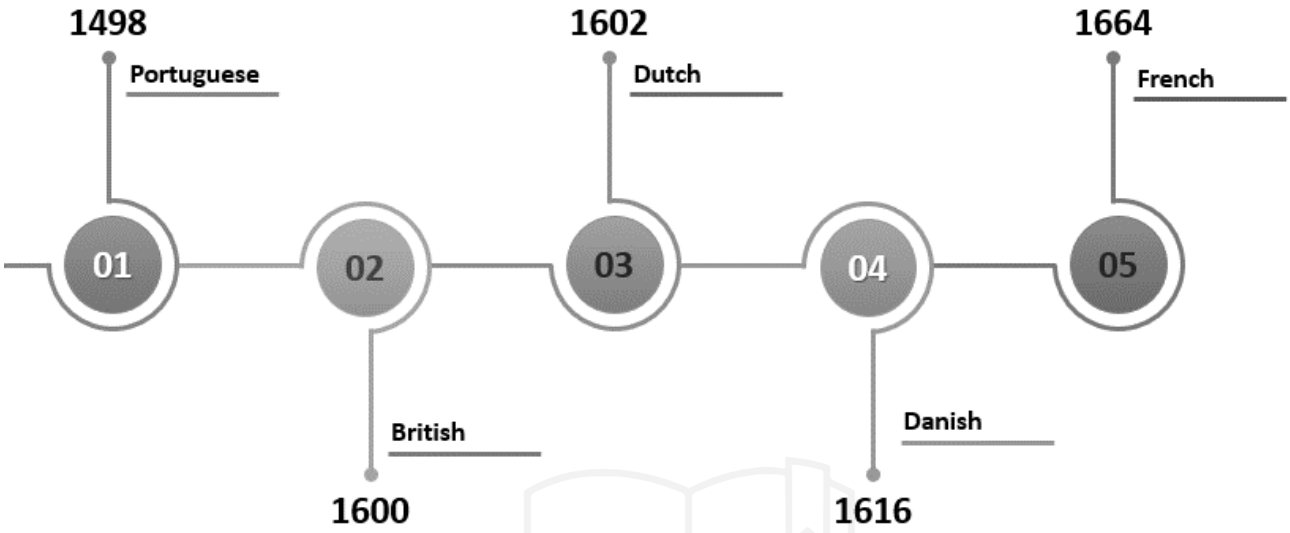
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1 CHAPTER

Arrival of European Powers in India

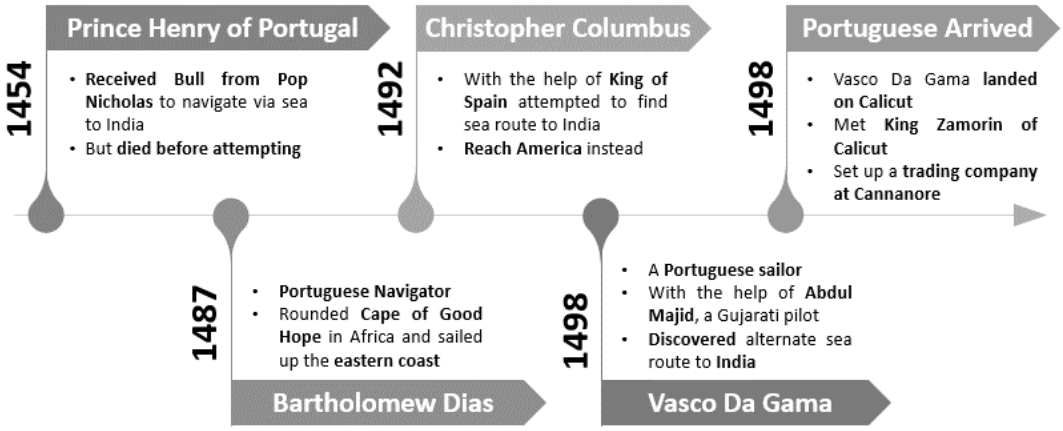


Factors led to the Advent of European

- **Weak rulers and fragmented regional powers:**
  - **Weak Mughal Powers** after Aurabgzeb in 1707
  - **Rise of regional powers**
- **Vast wealth of India:**
  - Europeans came to know about the **immense wealth of India** from the accounts of **Marco Polo and some other sources**.
- **Heavy demand for Indian commodities:** Heavy demand for Indian commodities like **spices, calicoes, silk, precious stones, porcelain, etc.**
- **Control of Arabs and Technological Advancement:**
  - Major land routes to India were under **Arab control**.
    - So **no direct route to trade**
- **Attempts:**
  - In the **15th century,** Europe saw great **advancement in shipbuilding and navigation**.
- **Quest of the expansion of the market:**
  - **Rapid Industrialization**
  - **Market expansion** to fulfill their capitalist desire.

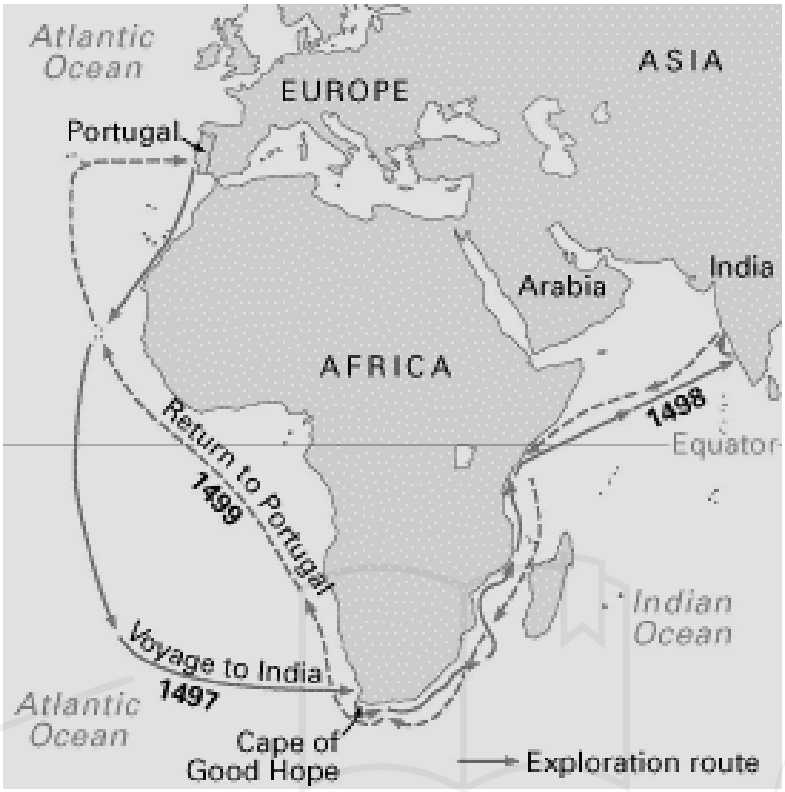
Discovery of a Sea Route to India

- **Need:**
  - **Decline of Roman Empire**
  - **domination of Arab** in Egypt and Persia
  - High **demand of Indian commodities** and reduced contacts
  - **Arab control over sea route** (Suez Canal route)
  - **Renaissance in Europe** and advancement in the art of shipbuilding and navigation.



Foreign Powers

Portuguese



Important Personalities

Vasco Da Gama	● Arrived at Calicut in May 1498 ● Received permission to establish business by **King Zamorin of Calicut** ● At **Cannanore**, he set up a **trading factory** .
Pedro Alvarez Cabral	● Established **first European factory in India in 1500 at Calicut** ● Successfully **retaliated Arab attack** on Portuguese ● **Bombarded Calicut** and made **advantageous treaties with** rulers of **Cochin and Cannanore**
Francisco De Almeida	● In 1505, **Francisco De Almeida** tried to consolidate the position of Portuguese in India. ● He built **fortresses at Anjadiva, Cochin, Cannanore and Kilwa.** . ● **Vision:** to make the Portuguese the master of the Indian Ocean. ● His policy was k/a the **Blue Water Policy and cartaze system.** **Blue water policy** ● **Fortification of the Indian Ocean**, not for the security but for the establishment of Portuguese business in the Indian ocean **Cartaz system** ● **naval trade license** issued by Portuguese in the Indian ocean in **16th century**. ● Similar **British System** = **navicert system** in the 20th century.
Alfonso de Albuquerque	● **Real founder of the Portuguese power in India.** ● Introduced a permit system for other ships. ● **Acquired Goa in 1510** and Goa became **"the first bit of Indian territory to be under the Europeans since the time of Alexander the Great**". ● Encouraged Portuguese men to take local wives and stressed the **abolition of sati**

 # Portuguese Establishments in India:

- Occupied **regions around the coast of Goa from Mumbai to Daman and Diu and then to Gujarat**, they controlled four important ports and towns and villages. .
- Established **military posts and settlements** on the east coast at **San Thome (in Chennai)** and **Nagapattinam (in Andhra).**
- **Imperial farman circa 1579** made them settle near **Satgaon in Bengal** for **trading activities**.

 # Portuguese Administration in India

- **Important Posts:**
  - **Viceroy: head of the administration**, serving for three years.
  - **Vedor da Fazenda**: **revenues and the cargoes** and dispatch of fleets.
  - **Captain:** incharge of **fortresses**, assisted by 'factors'.
- **Policies:**
  - **monopolised the manufacture of salt,**
  - built a **custom house** and started **levying a duty on tobacco**.
  - started **slave trade**, purchased Hindu and Muslim children and converted to Christianity.

 # Religious Policy of the Portuguese

- Zeal to **promote Christinaty**.
- **Intolerant toward muslim and hindu religion**.
- Attempted to **convert Akbar to Christanity:**
  - Jesuits **made a good impression at the court of Akbar**, due to his interest in theology.
  - **In September 1579, Jesuit fathers, Rodolfo Aquaviva and Antonio Monserrate** were sent to Akbar's court
    - Again in 1590 and 1595 missions were sent
  - **Jahangir,** on ascending throne, **assuaged the Muslims** and neglected Jesuit fathers.
    - 1606 he again renewed his favours to them.
- **Church and collegium at Lahore** was allowed to be retained by them

 # Decline of the Portuguese

- **local advantages** gained in India were **reduced** with immediate neighbours.
- **religious policies made Hindus resentful.**
- **Dishonest trade practices** met a strong reaction and gained notoriety as sea pirates.
- **Arrogance and violence** brought them the animosity of the rulers of India.
- **discovery of Brazil diverted colonising activities** of Portugal to the West.
- **Dutch and the English** also learnt the **skills of ocean navigation**.
- **Different trading communities from Europe** began a fierce rivalry among them.
  - **Dutch and the English** had greater resources to expand overseas, and they overcame the Portuguese resistance.
- **spice trade** came **under** the control of the **Dutch**, and Goa was superseded by Brazil as the economic centre of the overseas empire of Portugal.

 # Significance of the Portuguese

- **Military:**
  - **Military innovation** in the use of body armour, matchlock men, and guns
  - Contributed to the Mughal use of field guns, and the **'artillery of the stirrup'.**
  - system **of drilling groups of infantry, on the Spanish model**.
- **Naval Techniques:**
  - **Multi-decked ships** were heavily constructed, designed to ride out **Atlantic gales** rather than run before the regular monsoons
    - This permitted them to **carry heavier armament**.
  - use of **castled prow and stern**
  - **creation of royal arsenals** and **dockyards** and the maintenance of a **regular system of pilots and mapping** and pitting state forces against private merchant shipping
- **Cultural Work:**
  - art of **silversmith and goldsmith flourished at Goa**, and the place became a centre of **elaborate filigree work, fretted foliage work and metal work embedding jewels**.
  - **interior of churches** built by Portuguese have **woodwork, sculpture** and **painted ceilings; they** are generally simple in their **architectural plan**.

Dutch

- **In 1596, Cornelis de Houtman → first Dutchman to reach Sumatra and Bantam.**
- In **1602**, many trading companies amalgamated → **EIC of the Netherlands**.
- Company was **empowered to carry out war, conclude treaties, to take possession of territory and to erect fortresses**.

 # Dutch Settlements in India

- **first factory in Masulipatnam (in Andhra) in 1605.**
- In **1609** opened **a factory in Pulicat**, north of Madras.

- Other principal factories at **Surat (1616), Bimlipatam (1641), Karaikal (1645), Chinsurah (1653), Baranagar, Kasimbazar** (near Murshidabad)**, Balasore, Patna, Nagapatam (1658), Cochin (1663).**

 # Trade under Dutch in India

- **Manufactured:**
  - **Indigo:** the Yamuna valley and Central India,
  - **textiles and silk**: Bengal, Gujarat and the Coromandel,
  - **Saltpeter**: Bihar
  - **Opium and rice**: the Ganga valley.
- **monopolized trade in black pepper and spices**.

 # Decline of the Dutch

- got drawn into the **trade of the Malay Archipelago**.
- In the **third Anglo-Dutch War (1672-74)** English ships captured in Bay of Bengal by Dutch forces → retaliation by the English → defeat of the Dutch, in **battle of Hooghly** (1759).
- **Battle of Colachel (1741)** b/w Dutch and the **king of Travancore Marthanda Varma** leading to complete rout of Dutch power in Malabar region.
- **Anglo-Dutch Treaty (1814)**:
  - signed Dutch and English
  - facilitated **restoration of Dutch Coromandel and Dutch Bengal to Dutch rule**
    - **Anglo-Dutch Treaty (1824) returned** these places **to British**
      - ✓ Made it **binding on the Dutch** to ensure all **transfers of property** and establishments till/on March 1, 1825 AD.



English

- **Factors contributed:**
  - **Charter of Queen Elizabeth I→Francis Drake's** voyage the world in **1580**
  - **English victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588**
- In 1599, a group of English merchants a.k.a. **'Merchant Adventurers'** formed a company.
- **On December 31, 1600, Queen Elizabeth I** issued a charter with **rights of exclusive trading** to the company named the '**Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies'.**
- Initially, a **monopoly of 15 years** was granted, extended indefinitely **in May 1609**
- Shifting **Dutch focus to the East Indies**, the English turned to India for trade.

 # Expansion of the English Company

Expansion in West and South

1609	• **Captain Hawkins arrived at Jahangir court** to establish a factory at Surat but, didn't succeed • Faced **opposition from the Portuguese** • left Agra in November 1611.
1611	• Started trading at **Masulipatnam** and later established a factory in 1616.
1612	• **Captain Thomas Best** defeated the Portuguese in the sea off Surat; • received **permission from Jahangir** to establish **a factory at Surat under Thomas Aldworth in 1613.**
1615	• **Sir Thomas Roe,** an accredited ambassador of James I, came to the court of Jahangir, staying there till February 1619.
1632	• Received **'Golden Farman'** issued by the **Sultan of Golconda**
1662	• **Bombay had been gifted to King Charles II by the King of Portugal as dowry when Charles married the Portuguese princess Catherine**
1687	• Seat of the **Western Presidency** shifted **from Surat to Bombay**

 # Expansion in Bengal

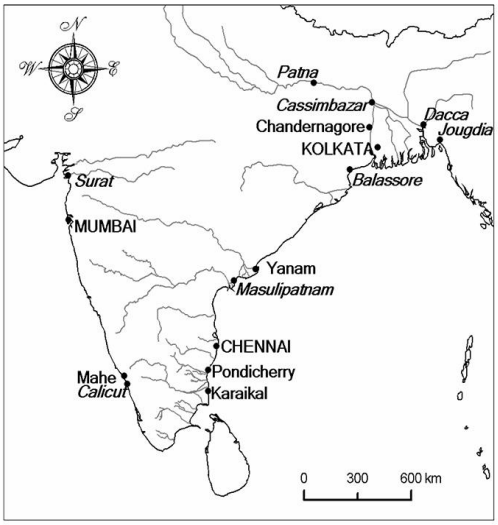
- **Shah Shuja, the subahdar of Bengal in 1651,** allowed the **English to trade in Bengal** in return for an annual payment of Rs 3,000, in lieu of all duties.

- **Factories in Bengal: Hooghly (1651)**, Kasimbazar, Patna and Rajmahal.
- **William Hedges**, the first governor of the Company in Bengal, **appealed to Shayista Khan**, the Mughal governor of Bengal **in August 1682, for redressal of the grievance**.
  - Resulted in **hostilities b/w the English and the Mughals**.
- The English captured the **imperial forts at Thana** (modern Garden Reach), **raided Hijli in east Midnapur** and the **Mughal fortifications at Balasore**.
- English bought the **zamindari of the three villages** of **Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikata (Kalighat)** from their owners on payment of Rs 1,200.
- Established **Fort William in 1700,**
  - **Seat of the eastern presidency** (Calcutta)
  - First President: **Sir Charles Eyre**

 # Farrukhsiyar's Farmans

- In 1715, **John Surman secured farmans** from **Farrukhsiyar** giving the Company **privileges in Bengal, Gujarat and Hyderabad**.
- **Magna Carta of the Company** and its important terms are:
  - **In Bengal:**
    - **imports and exports were exempted** from additional customs duties in Bengal accepting the annual payment of 3,000 rupees as settled earlier.
    - **permitted to issue dastaks** for the transportation of such goods.
    - **permitted to rent more lands** around Calcutta.
  - **In Hyderabad**, **privilege of freedom** from duties in trade
    - had to **pay** the prevailing **rent only for Madras**.
  - **In Surat,** for an annual payment of 10,000 rupees, **exempted from levy of all duties.**
  - coins of **Company minted at Bombay** to have currency throughout the Mughal empire.

French



 # Foundation of French Centers in India

- **Last Europeans to come to India with the purpose of trade.**
- **Louis XIV,** the king's famous minister Colbert laid the foundation of the **Compagnie des Indes Orientales (French EIC) in 1664**..
- granted a **50-year monopoly on French** trade in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- In **1667, Francois Caron** headed an expedition to India, setting up a **factory in Surat.**
- **Mercara**, a Persian who accompanied Caron, **founded another French factory in Masulipatnam in 1669** after obtaining a patent from the **Sultan of Golconda.**
- In **1673**, French obtained permission from **Shaista Khan,** Mughal Subahdar of Bengal, to establish a **township at Chandernagore near Calcutta**.

 # Pondicherry- Center of French Power in India

- In 1673, **Sher Khan Lodi**, the governor of Valikandapuram (under the Bijapur Sultan), granted **Francois Martin**, the director of the Masulipatnam factory, a site for a settlement.
- **In 1674, Pondicherry was founded** and **Francois Martin** became **French governor.**
- established its factories in coastal regions of India.
- Important trading Centers: **Mahe, Karaikal, Balasore and Qasim Bazar**

 # French EIC

- badly affected with the outbreak of **war b/w the Dutch and the French**.
- Bolstered by their alliance with the English since the Revolution of 1688, the **Dutch captured Pondicherry in 1693**.
- **the Treaty of Ryswick** concluded in **September 1697 restored Pondicherry** to the French
- **In 1720,** the French company was reorganized as the **'Perpetual Company of the Indies'** which revived its strength.

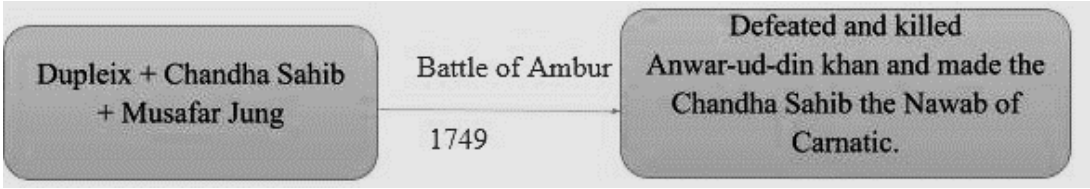
 # British French Rivalry

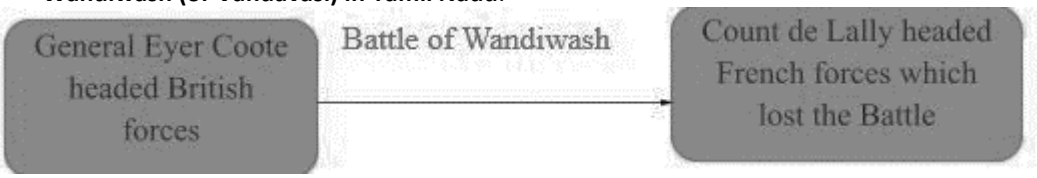
- **Anglo-French rivalry** in India reflected the **traditional rivalry of England and France** beginning with the outbreak of the **Austrian War of Succession** and ending with the conclusion of the **Seven Years War.**
- In 1740, the **political situation in south India was uncertain** and confused. **Nizam Asaf Jah of Hyderabad** was old and fully **engaged in battling the Marathas** in the western.
- **decline of Hyderabad** was the signal for the **end of Muslim expansionism** and the English adventurers got their plans ready.

The Danes (Denmark)

- **In 1616 the Danish EIC was founded.**
- In 1620, a factory at **Tranquebar** near Tanjore was established.
- Their principal settlement was at **Serampore near Calcutta.**
- **Danish factories** were **sold to British government** in 1845.
- Danes are better **known for** their **missionary activities** than for commerce.

Carnatic Wars

First Carnatic War (1740-48)	● **Extension of the Anglo-French War** in Europe, which was **caused by the Austrian War of Succession.** ○ **English navy under Barnet seized French ships** to provoke France. ○ **Admiral La Bourdonnais, French governor of Mauritius** retaliated by **seizing Madras** in 1746 with the help of the fleet from Mauritius. ● Ended in 1748 with **Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle** ○ **Madras handed back to English,** & French got territories in North America. ● Remembered for the **Battle of St. Thome (in Madras)** fought **b/w the French forces and the forces of Anwar-ud-din, the** Nawab of Carnatic, to whom the English appealed for help.
Second Carnatic War (1749-54)	● **Dupleix, the French governor** → sought to increase his power and French political influence in southern India ● **Hyderabad→**After the death of **Nizam-ul-Mulk**→civil war b/w **Nasir Jang**, (son) and **Muzaffar Jang** (grandson)  ● **Carnatic→ Anwar-ud-din Khan** vs **Chanda Sahib**.  ● **French supported Muzaffar Jang and Chanda Sahib** while **English sided Nasir Jang and Anwar-ud-din.**  ● Failed to provide effective assistance to **Muhammad Ali at Trichinopoly**, **Robert Clive** put forward the proposal for a **diversionary attack on the governor of Madras, Saunders**. ● Robert Clive attacked and captured **Arcot**. Mysore, Tanjore and the Maratha Chief, Morari Rao, came to aid of Trichinopoly, & of Clive & Stringer Lawrence. ● French faced **heavy financial losses due to Dupleix's policy;** recalled him in 1754. ● **Godeheu succeeded Dupleix** adopted a **policy of negotiations with English** and concluded a treaty with them. ● War ended with **the Treaty of Pondicherry** in 1754
Third Carnatic War (1758-63)	● In Europe, when **Austria wanted to recover Silesia** in 1756, the **Seven Years War (1756-63) started.** ● In 1758, the French army under **Count de Lally** captured the English forts of **St. David and**

	Vizianagaram in India in 1758. ● **Battle of Wandiwash-** decisive battle of **Third Carnatic War** → English (victorious) in 1760 at **Wandiwash (or Vandavasi) in Tamil Nadu**.  ● **Treaty of Peace of Paris (1763)**: **french allowed** to use their settlements for **commercial purposes only and banned fortification** ● **English became the supreme European power** in the Indian subcontinent, since the Dutch had already been defeated in the **Battle of Bidara in 1759**.

 # Causes of English Success against French

- **English company** was a **private enterprise** and had **less governmental control, which** created a sense of enthusiasm and **self-confidence** among the people.
- Whereas the **French company** was a **State concert** and was controlled and regulated by the **French government** and was hemmed in by government policies.
- The English navy was **superior** to the French navy.
- **English held Calcutta, Bombay and Madras** whereas **French** had only **Pondicherry.**
- **French** company was **short of funds** whereas the British had sound financial conditions, which helped them significantly in the wars against their rivals.

Reasons for English Success against Other European Power

Structure and Nature of the Trading Company	● **English EIC** controlled by a board of directors **elected annually**. ● **France and Portuguese companies: State owned** and **feudalistic.** ● **Monarch had >60% share in the French company** and its directors were **nominated by** the monarch from the shareholders. ● Shareholders took very little interest in promoting prosperity of the company. ● b/w 1725 & 1765 company was managed as a department of State.
Navy	● **Royal Navy of Britain**: largest and **most advanced** ● victory against **Spanish Armada** and against **French at Trafalgar** had put **Royal Navy** at **peak of European naval forces.** ● In India too, the **British defeated the Portuguese and the French** due to strong and fast movement of the naval ships.
Industrial Revolution	● In England resulted with the innovation of new machines like the **spinning Jenny, steam engine, the power loom →greatly improved production** in the fields of textile, metallurgy, steam power and agriculture.
Military Skill and Discipline	● The British had a **disciplined & well-trained** army. ● **Technological developments** equipped the military well.
Stable Government	● Britain had a **stable government** with **efficient monarchs**. ● France witnessed violent revolution in 1789 and **Napoleon's defeat** in 1815 weakened **France**'s government position. ● Dutch EIC, affected by **bankruptcy** in 1800 coupled with revolution in 1830.
Lesser Zeal for Religion	● Britain was **less zealous about religion** and less interested in spreading Christianity.
Use of Debt Market	● **World's first central bank**, **Bank of England** was established to sell government debt to the money markets. ● Britain was enabled to spend much more on its military than its rivals.

2 CHAPTER

Decline of the Mughal Empire

- **Aurangzeb's reign (1658-1707)** marked the beginning of the end of Mughal rule in India.
- **Reason:**
  - **Aurangzeb's misguided policies**
  - **weak successors** and reduced stability of the state.
  - Neglect of **northwestern borders**
  - **Nadir Shah,** the Persian emperor, **attacked India in 1738-39**, **conquered Lahore** and **defeated the Mughal** army at Karnal on February 13, 1739**.**

Foreign invasions

Nadir Shah's Invasion (1739)

- **Emperor of Iran/Persia**

 # Causes behind the invasion

- 1736, **Muhammad Shah Rangeela** broke **all diplomatic ties with Persian court**.
- **Nadir envoy was detained by Rangeela**, which probably infuriated him.
- **Rangeela gave shelter to some Afghan nobles** who had escaped from Nadir Shah when he had invaded Afghanistan.
- **Nizam-ul-Mulk and Saadat Khan s**ent special messages to Nadir Shah inviting him to invade India.

 # Course of Nadir Shah's Invasion

- He **captured Jalalabad, Peshawar**, and proceeded towards Lahore.
- **Zakariya Khan**, the governor of Lahore, surrendered without much of a fight.
- Nadir **struck a gold coin** and **read khutba in his name**.
- **Nadir and Muhammad Shah** fought at **Karnal** on c.1739 CE.

 # Outcome of the Invasion

- **Muhammad Shah was defeated** and agreed to pay an indemnity of Rs. 25 crore
- **Trans-Indus provinces** including Sindh, western Punjab, and Kabul were ceded to Nadir.
- Nadir Shah's took away the **famous Kohinoor Diamond**.

Ahmad Shah Abdali (or Ahmad Shah Durrani)

- **Successor of Nadir Shah** and invaded India several times b/w 1748 and 1767.
- In 1757, **captured Delhi** and placed an Afghan caretaker to watch over Mughal emperor.
- **Abdali had recognised Alamgir II** as the **Mughal emperor** and the Rohilla chief, **Najib-ud-Daula,** as **Mir Bakhshi** of the empire, **'supreme agent' of Abdali**.
- **In 1758, Najib-ud-Daula was expelled from Delhi** by the Maratha chief, **Raghunath Rao**, who also captured Punjab.
- In 1759, Ahmad Shah **Abdali returned to India** to take revenge on the Marathas.
- **In 1761, Abdali defeated the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat.**
- The last of Abdali's invasions came in 1767.

Third Battle of Panipat, 1761

- **Fought b/w: Marathas** under **Sadashiv Rao Bhau** vs Afghan forces under **Ahmed Shah Abdali** + **two Indian Muslim allies** (**Rohilla Afghans of the Doab**, and **Shuja-ud-Daula**, the Nawab of **Awadh**)
- **Military: French cavalry** support **Maratha** against heavy cavalry and mounted artillery **(zamburak and jezail) of Afghans**
- **Financial Support to Afghans** provided by **Shuja-ud-Daula**
- **Afghans** cut off the supplies of **Marathas** and weakened them
- **Result:** Marathas lost

Later Mughal

Bahadur Shah I (1709–March 1712)	• **eldest son of Aurangzeb** • Adopted a **pacific policy** with the Marathas, the Rajputs and the Jats. • Granted **sardeshmukhi** to maratha, but failed to grant them chauth. • Followed **a policy of compromise** towards the nobles, granting them appropriate territories

	and postings. ● **never abolished the jizya**
Jahandar Shah (March 1712 to Feb 1713)	● Jahandar Shah **abolished Jaziya.** ● Zulfikar Khan was appointed prime minister and introduced the izara system to improve the financial condition of the empire.
Farrukhsiyar (1713-1719)	● With the help of **Sayyid brothers—Abdulla Khan and Hussain Ali** (k/a **'King Makers'**), Farrukhsiyar became the emperor. ● Followed a **policy of religious tolerance** by abolishing Jizya and pilgrimage tax. ● **Banda Bahadur, the Sikh leader, was executed.** ● Friction b/w Farrukh Siyar and Sayyid brothers→Sayyid brothers + Maratha= killed Farrukh Siyar.
Rafi-ud-Darajat (February 28 to June 4 1719)	● Placed by Saiyyad brothers in place of Farrukh Siyar. ● **Died of consumption** (tuberculosis) within four months. ● During his reign **Nikusiyar (grandson of Aurangzeb) revolted** and **set himself as Emperor at Agra** with the help of **Mitrasen**. ● He ruled **for the shortest period** among the Mughals.
Rafi-ud-Daula (June to Sept 1719)	● Sayyid brothers placed **Rafi-ud-Daula (Shah Jahan II)** on the throne. ● He was an **opium addict.** ● Shortest reign; died very quickly suffered from tuberculosis.
Muhammad Shah (1719-48)	● Given the title of ***'Rangeela'*** due to his luxurious life-style. ● **He + Nizam-ul-Mulk Chin Qilich Khan**, killed the Sayyid Brothers. ● In 1724, Nizam-ul-Mulk became wazir and founded Hyderabad. ● In 1739, **Nadir Shah defeated the Mughals** in the **Battle of Karnal** and later **imprisoned Muhammad Shah**. ● **Autonomous states emerged under his reign:** ○ **Nizam-ul-Mulk – Deccan** ○ **Saadat Khan – Awadh** ○ **Murshid Quli Khan – Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.**
Ahmad Shah (1748-1754)	● **Incompetent ruler** left state affairs to **Udham Bai** (**'Queen Mother')** ● **Invaded Delhi** and **Punjab along with Multan** was ceded to him. ● his Wazir, **Imad-ul-Mulk**, imprisoned him at **Salimgarh.**
Alamgir II (1754-1758)	● Grandson of **Jahandar Shah.** ● **Battle of Plassey (c.1757 CE)** was fought during his tenure. ● murdered by his **Wazir Imad-ul-Mulk**.
Shahjehan III (1758-1759)	● aka **Muhi-ul-millat** ● placed on the throne in December 1759 with the help of Imad-ul-Mulk. ● He was later **deposed by Maratha chiefs.**
Ali Gauhar / Shah Alam II (1759-1806)	● In Persian his kingdom was called ''**Sultanat-e-Shah Alam, Az Dilli ta Palam**'', meaning, **"The kingdom of Shah Alam is from Delhi to Palam**". ● His reign saw two decisive battles—**the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) and the Battle of Buxar (1764).** ● He fought the **Battle of Buxar (1764)** along with the **combined armies of Mir Qasim**, the Nawab of **Bengal, and Shuja-ud- Daula**, the Nawab of Awadh, **against the British EIC**. ● Forced to sign the **Treaty of Allahabad** (August 1765 CE). ○ he was taken under the **EIC's protection & resided at Allahabad.**
Akbar II (1806-37)	● Introduction of the Hindu–Muslim unity festival **Phool Walon Ki Sair.** ● Gave the title of **Raja to Rammohan Rai**.

	● In 1835, coins bearing the names of Mughal emperors were stopped
Bahadur Shah II (1837-1857)	● **Last Mughal Emperor** and nominal head of India. ● **Urdu poet** pen name **'Zafar'** ● Participated in **revolt of 1857** & **deported to Rangoon** & died in 1862. ● In legal terms, the **Mughal Empire came to an end on November 1, 1858 with the declaration of Queen Victoria.**

Causes of Decline of Mughal Empire

 # Intolerant policies of Aurangzeb

- The **religious and Deccan policies of Aurangzeb** contributed to the empire's decline.
- His **hardheaded attitude towards the Marathas, Rajputs, and the Jats** turned away the loyal warriors, and he went on making more enemies without having strong alliances.
- His **religious policy alienated the Hindus**

 # Weak Successors

- None of Aurangzeb's successors could give any stability to the empire.
- absolutely inefficient and **puppets in the hands of powerful nobles**.
- **Wars of succession** plagued Delhi from 1707 to 1719 CE too weakened the empire.

 # Nobility Crises

- **Mutual rivalry, jealousy and contest for power** among the various groups reduced prestige of emperor, but also contributed to the decline of the empire.
- Nobels weakened the military by amassing income from the jagirs for themselves and cutting down the number of troops.

 # Ineffective Mughal Army, Neglect of Naval Power, and invasions

- Mughal army **became inefficient** and demotivated after losing many important battles.
- **Neglect of naval power** by the Mughals also cost them dearly.
- **External invasions** of **Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali** took a heavy toll on imperial treasury and laid open inefficiencies of the military and political administration.

 # Depleting Economic Resources

- **Increased number of amirs** and their ranks or mansabs left little land to be distributed
- **Aurangzeb tried to solve the problem of** acute shortage of jagirs or **bejagiri** by showing **enhanced income from the jagirs on record**. But amirs tried to recover the recorded income from their jagirs by pressurising the peasantry.
- So both the amirs and the **peasantry were antagonised** which resulted into wars, the **reduction in khalisa land,** all of which burdened the state.
- **Expenditure of the state exceeded its income.**
- The once flourishing trade did not enrich the empire's coffers even as the inroads by European traders grew along coastal India.
- These **economic and administrative problems** only multiplied following the death of Aurangzeb.

 # Weak Administration Machinery

- Government of the Mughals was a **personal despotism** and so its success depended on the character of the reigning ruler.
- The later Mughals were **worthless and neglected** the administration.
- The **degeneration of the rulers led** to the degeneration of the nobility, with factious quarrels and intrigues costing the empire heavily.
- The empire had **become too vast** and unwieldy to be efficiently governed under weak rulers, especially under the existing conditions of transport and communication.

 # Shifting Allegiance of Zamindars

- Two classes shared the power during the medieval period, **the zamindars and the nobles.**
- **Zamindars,** hereditary owners of land, k/a **rais, rajas, thakurs, khuts or deshmukhs.**
  - **helped in collection of revenue and in local administration**
- **Mughals had tried to curb the power of zamindars** and maintain direct contact with peasants**, but could not succeed.**
  - **zamindars helped the nobility to** carve out **independent kingdoms** for themselves.

 # Rise of Regional Aspirations

- Aurangzeb's reign itself witnessed powerful regional groups like the Jats, Sikhs and Marathas defying the authority in their bid to create kingdoms of their own.
- **Continuous struggle** against the empire for political ascendancy weakened the empire considerably.