

EFFECTS OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA

We learn about the following in this chapter:

- *Uniform system of administration*
- *Economic influence*
- *Industries*
- *Land tax system*
- *Transport and communication*

The British, after establishing their colony and expanding it, systematically started their rule. During their rule, there were serious effects on various fields in India.

Uniform system of administration

The British, by their 'Divide and Rule' policy, Doctrine of Lapse and Doctrine of Subsidiary Alliance, were able to effectively exercise their control over India. A single uniform system of administration came into effect. Although there were numerous provincial kingdoms existing in India, the British were able to exercise their control over them. By this, they were successful in bringing uniformity in administration and in maintenance of law and order. Consequently, India witnessed equality and a single type of administrative system.

Economic influence

The Industrial Revolution of England in the 18th century had serious effects on industries in India. As a result, the European market witnessed serious discrepancy and imbalance. Normally the export of finished goods was more than import at any time. Due to Industrial Revolution, India had to face a situation where they were forced to export only raw materials. The British brought finished goods from England to India and started to sell them at a very cheap rate. Indian manually-produced materials were no match for the goods which were produced by machinery at a low cost of production. Consequently, the domestic industries started losing very heavily and industries became sick. Employees lost their jobs. This situation had a serious repercussion on the Indian economy.

Land revenue system :

The primary intention of the British was to gain profit more than bringing in administrative reforms. Thus, they introduced many new practices in relation to land tax system.

Zamindari system : During the period of rule by kings, the kings had the right to collect taxes. As the empire got expanded, from the view point of ease of administration, the Moghuls brought the system of auctioning the right to collect

Activity : Visit a village accountant and collect information from him about who collects the tax now, and in what manner.

taxes. The tax was being fixed on the quantity of agricultural produce. After the auction system, the village took the responsibility of collecting the tax fixed by the auction. The ownership rights remained with the village. With the introduction of British rule, the new system of collection of tax was enforced and the right to land ownership was taken away from the farmers. Land tax was fixed based on the area of land instead of the quantity of produce. This rule was brought in by the zamindari system implemented by Lord Cornwallis.

Lord Cornwallis introduced this system in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. According to this rule, the landlords had to collect a fixed amount from the farmers and pay it to the government. Through this system, the Government treasury started getting sufficient money. The landlords used to collect more and pay the government only the fixed amount. Due to this, the landlords could lead a luxurious life. The farmers suffered due to exploitation.

The Ryotwari : This system was introduced in Madras, Mumbai, Sindh, Bihar and Assam areas. It was introduced by Alexander Reid and continued by Thomas Munroe. According to this system, the farmers acquired rights to ownership of the land and had to pay tax based on the area of the land. When the farmers failed to pay the tax, they lost the rights to the land. In such eventualities, the government had the authority to sell the land. Another feature

of this rule was that all disputes related to the land were to be settled in courts instead of at the village panchayat.

The Mahalwari system: This system was introduced in the Ganges valley, North-Western provinces, Central provinces and Punjab. It was introduced by R.M.Baird and James Thompson. Mahal means Taluk. Instead of landlords, mahaldars were appointed to collect the tax. The mahaldars were expected to collect the tax based on the land area and pay it to the government. Here again, the mahaldars acted like agents of the landlords and made huge money, resulting in exploitation of farmers.

Activity :
Make a list of officers working in Land Revenue system from Block level to Village level.

Though the terms zamindari system, peasantry system and mahalvari system sound different, the objective of all of these was the same- exploitation of farmers and amassing wealth. In different areas, the system had different names, but the effect of all the systems was the same and this led to misery of farmers.

Industries

Foreign investment and ownership increased in the Indian industrial sector. As a consequence of Industrial Revolution and development of technology in England, cotton textiles, jute, paper industries, coffee plantations and industries grew slowly. In major cities of the country, industries with modern technology and machines came into being. Later, their importance grew tremendously.

Education

Religious education was limited to a small section as a result of traditional schools and madrasas. The British, to retain their identity, had to impart western education. As a result, awareness about western thinking and practices (experiments) developed. East India Company introduced systematic education. Lord William Bentinck laid the foundation for English education as recommended by Lord Macaulay's report. This enabled rational thinking and study of western literature.

The East India Company started the teaching of western literature, humanities and science in the Hindu college of Bengal. Universities came up in Calcutta, Madras and Mumbai. An engineering college was started in Roorkee. Charleswood suggested that priority should be given to primary education by establishing public education department. Development of education in the field of education inspired the freedom struggle. Western thoughts led to the awareness of nationalism. Leadership qualities gained momentum. The English language gained importance as a tool of communication and enabled unity of the people. Literature progressed in English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada and other provincial languages. Lord Curzon worked for the progress in the educational field.

Transport and Communication

The British developed transport and communication wherever they went to promote self-interest. They created links to reach every nook and corner of the country. The first train link started between Mumbai and Thane in the year 1853. Initially this facility was only meant for the transport of raw material, finished goods and the army. Indirectly, this facility helped to organize the people and enable them to exchange their views and problems. This helped in the national integrity by bringing the people together.

Journalism

In India, the origin and role of journalism is almost synonymous with the freedom struggle. The role of newspapers in the creation of national awareness is tremendous. In India, newspapers in various languages started from 1818. A monthly called 'Digdarshan' and a weekly called 'Samachara Darpan' were started in Bengali. Raja Ram Mohan Roy started a weekly magazine called 'Samvada Kaumudi'. This was the first newspaper started in India by Indians.

Do you know this?

The first Indian newspaper is 'The Bengal Gazette'. This newspaper was started by James August Haiki in the year 1780. It was started after getting the prior approval of the government. It was also called the 'Calcutta General Advertiser'. It was a political and trade newspaper not influenced by anybody. It incurred the wrath of the Governor General, judges and English officials. In the year 1782, Warren Hastings slapped a defamation suit against Haiki and stopped the paper after sending the editor to prison.

The newspapers questioned the functioning of the government and, as such, incurred the wrath of the government. The English newspaper 'Calcutta Journal' was severely criticized by the government. The editor, Buckingham was ostracized from India. As a result, a rule was framed against the newspapers. As per this Act, a newspaper could be published only with the prior approval of the Governor General. Most newspapers in India progressed in spite of such hindrances and obstacles. The Indian newspapers reflected the thinking of the people. One such newspaper was 'Hindu Patriot'. For many years, this was the collective voice of the people. It played a major role in the struggle of indigo farmers of Bengal.

'Somaprakash' a Bengali newspaper started by Eshwarchandra Vidyasagar, advocated a nationalistic attitude. It supported the interests of Bengali farmers during the indigo

Activity : Make a list of the present newspapers in Kannada and English. Understand which column appeals to you in different newspapers. Write similar articles and discuss with your teacher.

farmers' revolt in 1860. Other nationalistic newspapers were 'Amrita Bazar Patrika', Surendranath Bannerjee's 'The Bengali' and 'The Tribune'. Surendranath Bannerjee was sent to prison for two months for his article in 'The Bengali'. This newspaper had a moderate attitude towards the government. Balagangadhara Tilak who was prominent among the extremists, started the weekly magazines 'Kesari' in Marathi and 'Maratha' in English. 'The Indian Social Reformer' a weekly magazine publicised social reforms.

'Mangalore Samachar' was the first Kannada publication. It was started by the Moegling Missionary. 'Mysore Recorder' and 'Karnataka Prakashita' are other Kannada newspapers.

Do you know this?

Some English daily newspapers:

	Place	Year
1. Times of India	Mumbai	1861
2. The Pioneer	Allahabad	1865
3. The Madras Mail	Madras	1875
4. The Statesman	Calcutta	1875
5. The Civil and Military Gazette	Lahore	1876

EXERCISES

I Discuss the following in groups and write the answers:

1. How did the uniform system of administration of the British help in developing patriotism among the Indians?
2. What are the changes that took place in India due to Industrial Revolution?
3. What is 'mahalwari system'?
4. What are the reforms brought about by the British in the educational field?
5. Developments in Transport and Communication led to the Independence struggle. Discuss.

II Activities:

1. With the help of your teacher, collect information about the administration of the educational system at the taluk and district levels.

III Project:

1. With the help of the internet, prepare a report on the measures taken by the Karnataka government for the development of transport sector.

