



MPSC

State Civil Services

**Maharashtra Public Service Commission
(Preliminary & Main)**

General Studies

Paper I – Volume 4

**History of Modern India &
Maharashtra**



MPSC

HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA & MAHARASHTRA

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MODERN INDIA OVERVIEW

Q. Revolt of 1857 marked landmark (water shed) in forming British policies in India.
(2016 mains)

Background



Emerging circumstances



Impact Analysis

Modern India (1707-1947)

1. Decline of Mughal Empire (1707-1757)
 2. Rise of India states (1720-1800)
 3. British Ascendancy in India (1757-1818)
 - Events
 - Economic Policies
 - Political Policies
 4. Socio Religious Movement in India (19th and 20th century)
 5. The Revolt of 1857.
 6. Beginning of India Nationalism
 7. Freedom Movement.(1885-1947)
 8. **Misc:-**
 - Education policy of British.
 - Famine policy of British
 - Tribal peasant and caste Movement.
 - Role of women in India freedom Movement and in Social Reformation.
- Q.** “Acceptance of the cause of Khilafat Movement had diluted secular credentials of MG” comment.
- Q.** (p) – Govt. of India Act. 1909 had the original intention
- (a) To give communal electorate to Muslims.
 - (b) To weaken India Nationalism.
 - (c) To full the demand of congress.
 - (d) None of the above.

Decline of Mughal Empire: (1707-57)



- After the death of Aurangzeb Mughal Empire continued.

Aurangzeb -

- * Deccan Policy → Highly wasted economy
- * Interference with Indian States
- **Nature of Mughal Political Empire :**
Akbar → Basic Foundation

Principal of Suzerain

- Central power does not interfere in the internal matters of states / Regional powers
- But Aurangzeb undone Suzerain and transformed into Sovereignty.
- Central power has all rights to interfere in internal matters of Regional power.
- Sovereign power brought many Rebellious from regional powers.
- Army then was mustered from “from Jagirs” which now were revolting there existed crisis.

How far Aurangzeb Responsible for Decline:

- Beginning of decline of a grand reign can be traced to one of its last able ruler – Aurangzeb
- Firstly , He inherited a larger empire but followed the policy of extending it further .His aim to bring country under Mughal reign was good only in theory. His futile but arrows campaign against Marathas drained heavily the resources.
- In the meanwhile had generated conflict with raj puts whose military support farmed an essential pillar of Mughal Kingdom.
- He also has tension in the immediate vicinity from Jats, Sikhs and Bundala’s.
- Moreover, adding to misery was religious orthodoxy pursued by him. He impose Jizya, destroyed few Hindu temples and certain other restrictions upon Non-Muslims.
- Mughal Foundation was essentially laid on secular theory. However, his (theocratic) or orthodox should not be over stresses because it stared in later stage of his reign and was immediately undone by his successors.
- Furthermore, the policy of sovereignty over state which he pursued sidelining suzerainty aroused more rebellion amongst local chieftains.
- In the end it can be asserted that though Aurangzeb’s policy was responsible instigating decline of Mughals. He was not a degenerated man or that of low

morals. He was an able and effected king. The decline started not because of his personality rather his short sightedness. And some inherent eathess.

Mansabdari



Jagir-dari crisis

Causes Behind the decline of Mughal empire:-

1. Adm. Structure crisis:

- Mughal Administration was based upon Mansab system wherein the pay was in form of land K/a Jagirs.
- Jagirdars – were free to reunite soldiers from their lands or territory and then soldiers were more loyal to their jagirdar than to emperor
- In this system the strength of emperor values to keep control upon decentralized tendency that would have weakened. The strength of army. After Aurangzeb weak successors who ascended the throne. Became unable in keeping control over jagirdars. This provided an opportunity for jagirdars to declare thero selves Autonomous (virtually India) K/a jagirdari crisis, emerged in the beginning of 18th century went on to weaken the total administration. Structure for power lost eventually invited foreign powers to intervene in the internal matters of Indian states.

2. Decline in morality of emperors:

- Jehangir onward emperors became less moral and had allowed degraded practices to be continued. Aurangzeb though had high morality. Yet his religious policy resulted into social disharmony as he was not accepted as a moral ruler by one of the larger section of India.

3. Decline in economy :

- Shahjahan's central Asia and kandhar expedition alongwith deccan policy of Aurangzeb, Mughal's extraordinary expenses on different Architecture and monuments increases in competition by presence of foreign traders especially resulted into sharp decline into mughal economy.
- Continue of rule needed the flow of economy otherwise the several inherent structural problem were expected to emerge.
- Here the institutionalized economy particularly deficit management was absent.

4. Emergence of factions in nobles:-

- After Aurangzeb, Mughal political Adm. Divided into 2 large factions Indian Muslims and Foreign Muslims. Both aspired to have the control and influence upon the king led the continuous conflict between those two factions.
- Indian Muslims took the support of Marathas while the letters went to Nadir shah and Ahmed shah Abdali. Consequently led to attacks of both upon India. This unwanted events had exposed the weakness of Mughal Adm. And dis-unit amongst Indian powers.
- Both made foreigners like Britain and France make political consolidation of India leading to British victory.

Probable Ques.

Q. Analyses the factors that enabled British to win over India.

- In the war of succession after death of Aurangzeb 65 years old Bahadur shah-1 became victorious. He ruled from 1707-1712. He was also k/a shah alam -1 or shah-e-Bekhabar. → Bahadur Shah-1 k/a shah-e-Bekhabar.
- He released sahu s/o sambahaji and given him rights to collect sardesh mukhi.
- Shahu had a Brother called Rajaram. After death of Rajaram his wife tara Bai continued to rule Maratha.
- After release shahu was not recognized the ruler Maratha by Mughal.
- In the civil war that broke between sahu and Tara Bai shahu emerged victorious by 1713.
- Sahu ested. Martha Empire at satara.
- Furthermore, Bahadur shah-1 concealed with sikh guru gobind singh but follower revolted was Banda Bahadur.
- Bahadur shah-1 entered into friendship with all other states. This led to, loss of control over states.
- Meanwhile he died of zulfikar khan one of minister of bahadur shah mase jahandar shah to ascend the throne.
- Faruksiyar revolted against jamadar with help to two “More chaos during bahadur shah-1”.
- The grand Mughal empire saw a poor demise after Aurangzeb such able and efficient ruler came to throne.

- Capital city of Delhi itself was occupied by British in 1803 and the once emperors were reduced to mere pensioners till the eventual subjugation of country.
- The war of succession that broke out post Aurangzeb death saw Bahadur Shah as victor. He followed the policy of compromise and conciliation.
- There were attempts to revert some narrow minded policies of Aurangzeb. There was no destruction of Temples during his reign.
- He also made an attempt to garrison the city of Amber and Jodhpur which met with firm resistance.
- His policy towards Marathas was that of half-hearted conciliation granted them Sardeshmukhi but not Chauth.
- He tried to conciliate with Sikhs and gave Mansab Rank to Guru Gobind Singh but after the death of latter Sikhs once again evaluated under Banda Bahadur and they went on to recover Fort of Lohgarh.
- Bahadur Shah consulted with Jat chief Churma and Charsal of Bundelkhand against Banda Bahadur. He also added in decaying finance by reckless grant of jagirs and promotions. During his reign remain of around Rs. 13 crores of royal treasure was exhausted.

Syed brother

- Abdullah Khan
- Hussain Ali Khan
- Killed Jahandar and Farnek came to throne.
- Syed brother also killed Zulfikar Khan.
- Farruk Siyar executed Banda Bahadur after this Sikh revolt ended.
- He also gave charter of 1737 to British for free trade without tax.
- Meanwhile Farukh came in conflict with Syed brother but before he could do anything Syed brother made treaty with Maratha (Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath) and eliminated Farrukh.

Post this Marathas got Independent state.

- Outcome of this treaty became highly favorable for other Indian power as Maratha intervention in Delhi politics started without political reason. Different factions at Delhi became motivated to counter the Delhi. Delhi became motivated by

assuring the support from outside. Despite of posing political unity the inherent conflict of power exposed dis-unit.

- After Farrukhsiyar was killed in the meanwhile two Rafi-ud-darajat for 3 months and Rafi-ud-daula for 6 months.
- Were made kings by Syed brothers but they passed away sooner. They 4th king called Md. Shah ever brought to throne. Both brothers are kingmakers.
- Md. Shah is deemed to be the lost king to save India from passing under foreign rule. However Md. Shah killed Syed brother.
- Nizam-ul-mulk made the wazir of the empire.
- Mubaris Khan was appointed as governor Hyderabad Nizam took the support of Maratha Peshwa Bajirao-1 and killed Mubaris in the battle of Sakarkherda (1724).
- Nizam left Delhi and declared independent ruler of Hyderabad AND ESTABLISHED Asaf Jahi dynasty.
- Another minister Murshid Quli Khan estd himself as autonomous ruler at Bengal and named Murshidabad.
- Sadat Khan founded Awadh.
- Rise of autonomous state during the period of Md. Shah Conflict within Indian states started Md. Shah.
- Shahuji appointed 1st Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath (1713-1720) at Pune Balaji was succeeded by Bajirao -1 (1720-1740)

Conflicts with Nizam:

- Without winning over Nizam Marathas could not have been ruler of south India.
- 1728 battle of Palkhed Bajirao 1 v/s Nizam Bajirao
- 1731 battle of Bhopal Bajirao 1 defeated Nizam decisively.
- After this battle Marathas became supreme power in south India.
- Bengal:-
- Under the general Ragunath Rao Marathas defeated ruler Bengal Alivardi Khan who agreed to pay Rs 12 lakh p.a. to Marathas.
- Was also dominated by Marathas. But on 13th Feb 1739 an attack from Nadir Shah proved too total for Maratha upsurge Nadir Shah was ruler from Persia to support Irani minister at Delhi

- During that time none of Regional power came to support of Md. Shah at Delhi Nadir attacked and plundered Delhi and also took away peacock throne as → peacock throne belonged to shah jahan well as Kohinoor.
- Political nationalism to unite India was absent in all Indian states.
- Bajirao 1 created different Maratha sardars and given them different states of administer.

Sadar

Gaekwad

Scindia

Holkar

Peshwa

Bhonsle

Sates

Baroda

Gwalior

Indore

Pune

Nagpur

This division was expressing the character of confederacy



Weak bonding for unity

Bajirao-1 attacked and surrounded Delhi in 1740 but after few months went back.

Attack of nadir shah and BajiRao 1 clearly expressed

- 1) Military weakness of Mughal empire
- 2) Political Disunity amongst Indian power
- 3) In 1740 itself Bajirao 1 died due to some disease

Baji Rao 1

- Balaji Baji Rao peshwac (1740-1761)
- Raghunath Rao (Raghoba)

Sahuji died in 1748.

- Balaji BaiRao with treaty of sangola achieved supremacy over Maratha confederacy that reduced the position of king (Chatrapati).
- In the meanwhile Md. Shah died in 1748.
- Foreign power which already was eyeing and had known about the weakness of Indian states were more than grab the power. Deaths of these leaders created a political vacuum in India.

Shah Alam -2nd (on throne)

- Mir qasim of Bengal denied to accept him as All-India emperor apprehending that British would intervene in political sphere of Nawab.
- Mir Qasim made the trade free for all traders which resulted in loss to British (Britisher hitherto had Dastak power).
- Shah Alam-2 was at Awadh then “Nawab Shuja-ud-daulah” (1763) by the time British had already eliminated France from India Mughal emperor had already weakened Mir Qasim had no revenue to maintain big army.
Britisher opened war with Qasim the latter sought help of Shuja-ud-daulah.
- Battle of Buxar (Oct 1764) Mir Qasim + Shuja + Emperor v/s Gov. Lord Munro
- Till 1857 Mughals were de jure ruler of Pan India.
- In battle of Buxar British defeated India power decisively after fighting actual war.
- Symbolically the defeat of emperor given them the superior power upon legal power India.
- The treaty signed was known as Treaty of Allahabad between East India Co. and Shah –Alam -2.
- British got Diwani rights of Bengal both de jure and de facto
- Emperor was reduced to a status of pensioner and had to promise non-engagement in any conspiracy against British.
- With this treaty for the 1st time British became legally ascertained power in Bengal and had all jurisdiction of civil power.
- Still British avoided assuming direct political control as their policy was primarily to extract revenue.
- Dual govt was established in Bengal during (1765-1772)
- Diwani under British, Nizamat under Nawab
- This system was established by Clive in Bengal.
- Illusions during 7 years were drained out of Bengal.
- Economic exploitation brought
- Resultant of all agricultural burdens increase.
- All these led to the beginning of smaller revolts stated. But as British were not in direct power they were dealt with by Nawab.
- In the meanwhile British parliament had cognizance of corruption among officials and thence in 1772 decided to have parliamentary control over B.E.I.C and to est. administrative structure and 1st of them was the Regulating Act of 1773.
- 1773-1857 = k/a company rule controlled by B. purlieus
- Post 1857 India was subjected to subordination of British crown.
- Queen was Victoria and so India is termed Victorian India.

- Now that's post Buxar only two important Indian state was Impending British conquest of political paramountcy in India. Those were Marathas and Mysore a combined effort of both would have ousted British easily.
- But cunning them used a policy to befriend one and counter and then eliminated first as well.



Expansion of British Empire in India



Anglo Mysore war 1767-1799.

- 4 wars fought between British and Mysore in India.
- Mysore was ruled by the Wodeyar Dynasty. Hyder-Ali, one of the ministers in the Wodeyar dynasty, rose to power owing to the inefficacy of the later king of the Wodeyar around 1760.



1st war (1767-1769)

Cause: Increasing power of Mysore threatened the Nizam, who was later supported by the British.

- In this war, Hyder Ali defeated the British and captured Madras.
- No conclusion came and status quo.

2nd war (1780-1784)

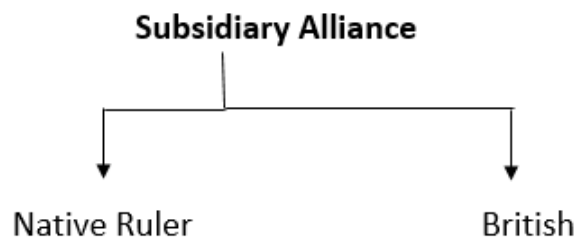
- Nizam + Haider + Maratha v/s British
- The British tasted a ugly defeat under the hands of Tipu Sultan.
- Governor General Warren Hastings applied tactics to break unity and separated the Nizam and Marathas from Haider.
- The Marathas signed the Treaty of Salbai in 1782 and accordingly 20 years of peace were promised from both sides.
- The Nizam was given assurance of independence and control over several territories.
- Hastings then sent Gen. Eyre Coote, who defeated Haider and later died because of some disease.
- Tipu Sultan then continued war against the British.
- Treaty of Mangalore between Tipu and Hastings to maintain status quo.

3rd war 1790-1792:

- Cause : Tipu garnering world wide support against British
- Governor General Cornwallis defeated Tipu Sultan.
- Treaty of Seringapatnam signed between Cornwallis and Tipu.

4th war May 1799:

- Lord Wellesley defeated and Tipu Sultan was killed to end the Mysore resistance.



Agreement

Native Ruler:

- To be paramounted under company
- Troops to be stationed and paid maintaince by the ruler himself.
- Native ruler would not negotiate with other before consulting governor gen.
- Not employ British in his court without approval.

British:

- Defend the territory of the ruler.
- Would not interfere in internal matters.

Analysis

British:

- Could now maintain a larger army at others cost. Fight wars away from their bases could Annex easily now.

India:

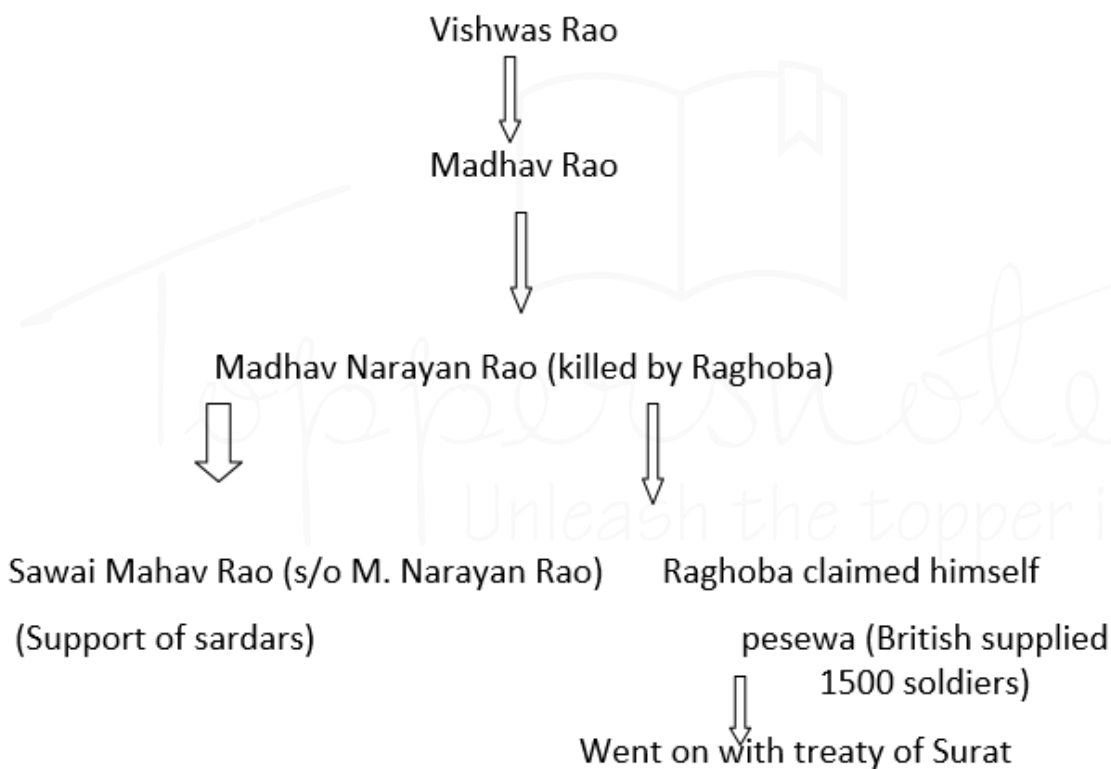
- Signed away their independence in foreign relation and soveriesty.

MARATHA UPSURGE AND DEMISE



In 1756 ahmed shah abdali visited India.

- He made Imad-ud-daula as his wazir
- Taimur khan was placed there as governor.
- In the Meanwhile Marathas intervened under their general Malhar Rao Holkar and Raghoba.
- They displaced Taimur khan.
- 1761 3rd battle of panipat viswas Rao was minor yet, Balaji Baji Rao was killed in the battle and consequently balaji also died.
- A vacuum of leadership created among Marathas.
- This battle had assisted British by highlighting the structural weakness of Marathas.



Anglo-Maratho war

- First Anglo-Maratho war (1775-82) later on British entered treaty of Salbai and ended support to Raghoba.
- Maratha power was at constant wane. Big sardar were carving out independent kingdom.

Maratha Chieftains

Gaekwad → Baroda
 Scindia → Gwalior
 Holkar → Indore
 Bhonsle → Nagpur
 Peshwa → Poona

- Q. Critically analyze the circumstances that enabled political plays of British in the context of Maratha during the 2nd half 18th century
- Q. Analyze the factors that assisted rise of British in Bengal?
- Q. Battle of Plassey gave certain verdict was confirmed by battle of Buxar comment?
- Q. Analyze the 1st phase of economic policy of British in India?

Their allegiance to peshwa were merely nominal .Among these Mahadji Scandia was most important:

- Estd. Ordinace poctonyat agra.
- Control over shah alam.

Final Strike:

- Sawi madhav Rao died in 1775 and was succeeded by utterly worthless Baji Rao 2
- Britisher thought to have enough and prepared to eliminate Maratha challenge well.
- First they divided mutually warring Maratha sardars and then eliminated them a
- 2nd Maratha war(1803-05)
- 3rd Maratha war (1816-19)
- Others were permitted as subsidiary states.

Weakness of Marathas:

- Thereby Maratha dream to take over Mughal empire met a fruitless end primarily on account of same decadent social order as Mughals and same weakness as them.
- Marathas saranjami system equaled that of Mughal's jagirdari and sardar acted as later novels of Mughals.
- The Maratha regime can be assessed as cooperation against common enemy Mughals and was united in a loose union as far as the enemy existed.
- Nor did Maratha sardars tried to develop new economy nor encouraged science and tech and not even trade and commerce for that matter.

Annexation Policy of Dalhousie:

- Gov- Gen in 1848.
- Declared that "extinction of all Indian native states were just a question of time".

Doctrine of Lapse:

When a ruler of any protected state died without a biological heir the state would not pass to adopted son rather to British, unless such adoption was previously approved by British authorities.

- Satara 1848
- Nagpur & Jhansi 1854
- Refused to pay pension to Nana sahib adopted son of Baji Rao -2
- Annexed Awadh on ground of Nawab Ajid Alishan having mis-governed.

Establishment of British rule in India:

British established in India by the process of gradual evolution in different phases from the middle of 18th to the middle of 19th century. There after their aim to exploit India economically was established beyond doubt.

Contextual to the establishment of British ruler it is said by the colonial historians that. They established a political empire in India without planning or any design. In the book of expansion of England published in 1883, it is maintained that British expansion in India was in a fit of absent mindedness.

This largely explains that expansion was circumstantial and consequential. This Theory has been given to reduce the political guilt of British.

However Indian Nationalist Historians have other indeed antagonistic views about the same.

In their words British expansion was planned and out of set motive. It was an essence of colonialism which inherently leads political control of colonies to fulfill the resources needs of powerful nations.

Location between these two views and the circumstances reveals that the British victory upon India can be adjusted between these two views as between (1608-1746). It seems to be unplanned and lacking design and political motivation.

British entered India as traders, Established factories in different parts of india and were subjected to the laws and regulations of Indian emperors. Several times they purchased land by paying a demanded amount to erect their settlement in order to get security for better trade.

Between 1608-1746 they requested for trade concession trade permits and security from the rulers like Jahangir, Shasuja and Farrukhsiyar.

More or less this phase of British existence pre occupied with getting trade privilege from the Mughal rulers to fulfill trade interest. They participate in the political military problem of India during this period that assert their lack of design or plans to create political empire.

British from (1746-1813) had cautiously entered into political military problems in India while their priority in this period was still trade. They entered into the 2nd Anglo-French war to safeguard their interest as France was trying to overpower Indian rulers by supporting one faction against the other. France was based in Pondicherry and Madras and was eyeing to win India by strengthening this base. The engagements of the British became much clear on the basis of checking the expansion of France in India.

Simultaneously British won the Bengal in two Battles of Plassey and Buxar were largely consequential. After these battles they devised a plan to create political influences upon Bengal.

The control of Bengal and the education in Maratha might in 1761 combined provide much coveted opportunity to defeat other Indian power including Maratha as well.

The combination of circumstance and planning affects the British political expansion during this period as it was also not supported by crown in England. After the American war of Independence anticipating reaction from Indian states standard.

Thereafter appointment of Lord Hastings's Governor General of Bengal 1813-1823 had reoriented the political policy of British in India. The well planned political vision was laid down by aggressive territorial expansion and to end the opposition from any Indian state.

He emphasized the British paramountcy in India and British as only political sovereign within India. His reorientation of British policy in India clearly explains the political maturity of rule, inherently adopted by the subsequent Gov. Gen. In this context maximum Indian states were forced to accept the British sovereignty and Lord Ellenborough occupied Sindh (1843).

Lord Dalhousie shaped the policy of doctrine of lapse to occupy the remaining Indian state.