

Syllabus Essentials



English

Weekly Compilation
[23rd-29th March, 2025]

Ryotwari System (1820s)

Introduction: Developed by Thomas Munro in Madras Presidency to collect land revenue directly from peasants.

Revenue System: Peasants (ryots) paid tax directly, ranging from 45% to 55% of the estimated land produce.

Features:

- Ryots had ownership and occupancy rights but were heavily taxed.
- Tax assessment was arbitrary, often leading to over-taxation.
- Revenue could be raised during good harvests; settlement was not permanent.
- Land could be confiscated for non-payment, leading to widespread poverty and coercion.
- The system was extended to Gujarat, Berar, Assam, and Coorg.



Mahalwari System (1819)

Introduction:

- Proposed by **Holt Mackenzie** in 1819 and formalized in 1822.
- Designed for Northern India, with revenue assessment based on villages or groups of villages (mahal).

Revenue System: The state's share was initially 66% of rental value, later reduced to 50%.

Features:

- Tax assessed based on land produce within a mahal (village/group of villages).
- Village community owned the land, with individual cultivators holding ownership rights.
- Tax collection was managed by village headmen (lambardar) or local leaders.
- The system included periodic revisions of land revenue.
- A dual system with both community and individual landlord settlements.



British Social and Cultural Policy in India

Pre-1813: British policy was non-interference in India's social, religious, and cultural life.

Post-1813: British began efforts to transform Indian society due to emerging interests in Britain, influenced by:

- **Industrial Revolution:** Sought to make India a market for goods, pushing for partial modernization.
- **Intellectual Revolution:** New ideas on morals, manners, and social attitudes.
- **French Revolution:** Inspired democracy, liberty, and nationalism.

Key Influences: Philosophers like Bacon, Locke, Rousseau, and economists like Adam Smith, and writers like Wordsworth and Dickens.



Schools of Thought in British India

Conservatives:

- Advocated minimal changes, respecting Indian culture, and introducing Western ideas gradually.
- Early representatives included **Warren Hastings** and **Edmund Burke**.

Paternalistic Imperialists:

- Critical of Indian society and justified political and economic subjugation of India, especially after 1800.

Radicals:

- Applied humanistic and rational thought, believing India could improve with modern Western science, philosophy, and literature.
- Supported by figures like **Raja Rammohan Roy** but still concerned with preserving British rule.



British Policy Towards Princely States

Two-Point Policy:

- Use princely states as a buffer for the empire.
- Subordinate them to British authority (subordinate union).

Post-1857:

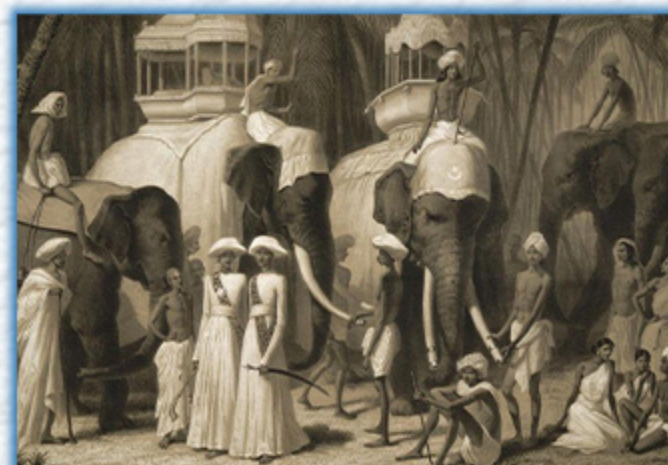
- After the 1857 revolt, annexation was abandoned.
- The new policy focused on punishing or deposing rulers but not annexing states.
- Territorial integrity and the right to adopt heirs were guaranteed

British Sovereignty:

- In 1876, the Queen adopted the title of Kaiser-i-Hind to emphasize British control.
- Lord Curzon later clarified that princes were merely agents of the British Crown.

Interference and Control:

- The British government gained the right to interfere in state affairs through residents, ministers, and officials.
- Modern communication infrastructure (railways, telegraphs) facilitated British influence.





Stay Tuned!