CREATOR ACADEMIA

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest

Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)



Arrival of Europeans (1498)



Carnatic Wars



Battle of Plassey (1757)



Battle of Buxar (1764)

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

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Introduction

Meaning

- Arrival and establishment of European powers in India for trade, which gradually led to political control, especially by the British.



Why did Europeans come?

- Spice trade (high demand in Europe)
- Search for new trade routes after fall of Constantinople (1453)
- Richness of Indian textiles and goods
- Desire for economic and political power

Major European Powers

- Portuguese (first to arrive)
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Danes
- Germans

Advent of Europeans in India (1498 – 1765 CE)

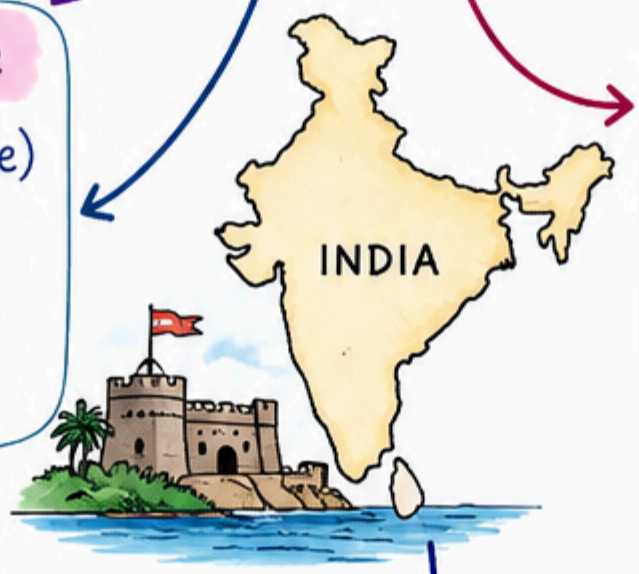
Nature of their Entry

- Initially came as traders
- Established factories (trading posts)
- Gradually involved in Indian politics
- Conflict with local rulers for trade and territory



First European to Arrive

- **Vasco da Gama** (Portuguese)
- Reached **Calicut** in **1498**
- Opened the sea route from Europe to India



Shift from Trade to Power

- Trade → fortified settlements
- Settlements → military power
- Military power → political control
- Rivalry among European powers (e.g., British vs French)
- Use of Indian rivalries for expansion

Key Regions of Activity

- West Coast (Calicut, Cochin, Surat)
- East Coast (Masulipatnam, Madras, Pondicherry)
- Bengal (later became crucial for the British)

Result

- Decline of Indian powers due to internal weaknesses
- Gradual rise of British power
- By 1765, British laid the foundation of their political dominance in India

Significance

- Marked the beginning of a new era in Indian history
- Transformed India from a major trading hub to a colonial economy
- Changed the political, economic and social fabric of India

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

1. Arrival of European Powers in India

Why did Europeans come?

- Search for new trade routes to the East
- High demand for Indian spices in Europe
- Fall of Constantinople (1453) blocked traditional land routes
- Desire for wealth, trade and colonies



Spices ("Black Gold")

First to Arrive – Portuguese

- Vasco da Gama reached Calicut in **1498**
- Sponsored by King Manuel I of Portugal
- Established trading posts along the west coast
- Main centres: Calicut, Cochin, Goa (later)



Other European Powers

- **Dutch** arrived in 1602 (through Dutch East India Company)
- **English** arrived in 1600 (English East India Company)
- **French** arrived in 1664 (French East India Company)
- **Danes** arrived in 1620 (Danish East India Company)
- **Germans** came in the 18th century (small presence)

Arrival of European Powers in India



Main Objectives

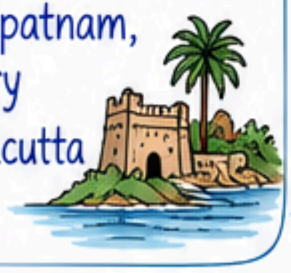
- Trade in spices, textiles and other Indian goods
- Establish trading posts and factories
- Gain political influence
- Expand territorial control
- Compete with other European powers



From Trade to Territory

Major Trading Centres

- **West Coast**: Calicut, Cochin, Surat
- **East Coast**: Masulipatnam, Madras, Pondicherry
- Later: Bombay, Calcutta





Impact on India

- Increased foreign trade
- Introduction of new goods, ideas and technologies
- Growing European rivalry on Indian soil
- Gradual shift from trade to political control



Trade → Competition → Conflict

Key Takeaway The arrival of European powers in India began as a quest for trade, but eventually led to political dominance, with the British emerging as the most powerful.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

1. Arrival of European Powers in India

A. The Portuguese

Background

- Portugal was the first European power to reach India by sea.
- Motivated by the search for a sea route to the East, especially for spices.
- Prince Henry the Navigator (Portugal) initiated maritime exploration in the 15th century.



Vasco da Gama

Arrival in India

- Vasco da Gama reached Calicut on 20 May 1498.
- He was received by the Zamorin (ruler) of Calicut.
- This established the first direct sea route between Europe and India.

Objectives

- To trade in spices (pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, etc.).
- To establish a Portuguese trading empire in the East.
- To break the monopoly of Arab and Venetian traders.
- To spread Christianity.



Portuguese Ship (16th Century)

Major Settlements in India

- Calicut (1498) – first contact
- Cochin (1500) – trading post (with support of local ruler)
- Goa (1510) – captured from the Bijapur Sultan; became the main base
- Diu (1535) – important naval base
- Daman (1559) – strategic post

Methods to Establish Control

- Built fortified trading posts (factories).
- Used naval power to dominate sea trade.
- Followed a policy of cartaz (system of sea passes).
- Often used force to suppress rivals.

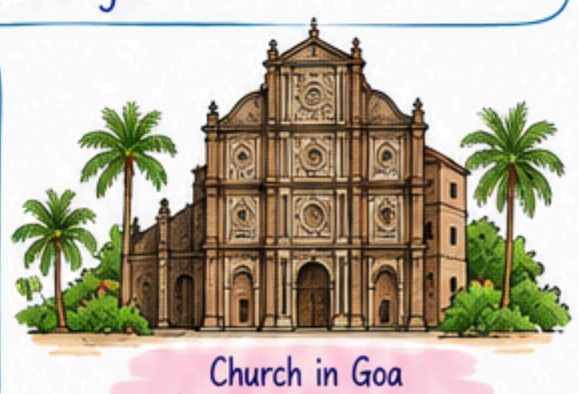


Key Features

- First European power to establish a strong presence in India.
- Focused mainly on coastal areas.
- Combined trade with missionary activities.
- Faced resistance from local rulers and later from the Dutch and English.

Legacy

- Introduced the Europeans to Indian trade and politics.
- Established Goa as a major centre (remained under Portuguese control till 1961).
- Opened the way for the Dutch, English and French in India.
- Left a lasting cultural impact, especially in Goa (language, architecture, Christianity).



Church in Goa (Portuguese Legacy)

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

1. Arrival of European Powers in India

B. The Dutch

Who were the Dutch?

- The Dutch came from the Netherlands (Holland).
- They were a maritime trading power.
- Founded the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in 1602.
- Aimed to control the spice trade in Asia.



Logo of the Dutch East India Company (VOC)

Arrival in India

- Reached the Coromandel Coast in 1605.
- Established their first factory at Masulipatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- Later expanded to other parts of India.
- Mainly focused on trade, not territorial conquest.

Major Trading Centres

- Masulipatnam (first factory)
- Pulicat (main centre in the south)
- Nagapattinam
- Surat
- Cochin
- Chinsurah (in Bengal)



Dutch Factory at Pulicat (reconstructed view)



Dutch East India Company Ship

Main Commodities



- Pepper
- Cinnamon
- Cloves
- Textiles (Indian cotton)

Exported to Europe

Relations with Other Powers

- Competed with the Portuguese for control over the spice trade.
- Later came into conflict with the English.
- Defeated by the English in the Battle of Bedara (1759) in Bengal.
- Gradually lost their influence in India after the mid-18th century.



Major Dutch Settlements in India

Significance

- Introduced a new European trading power in India.
- Contributed to the growth of Indian Ocean trade.
- Strengthened the commercial importance of Indian ports.
- Though they did not establish political control, they influenced the economic history of India.

Key Takeaway | The Dutch were important traders in India, especially in the spice and textile trade, but they remained a commercial power and could not establish territorial rule.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

1. Arrival of European Powers in India

C. The English East India Company

Establishment

- Founded on 31 December 1600 by a royal charter from Queen Elizabeth I.
- Initially a trading company, not a ruling power.
- Called the "Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies".



Queen Elizabeth I

Objectives

- To carry on trade with the East Indies.
- To obtain lucrative commodities like spices, textiles, indigo, saltpetre, etc.
- To establish trading posts and factories.
- To expand commercial influence, which later led to political control.



Arrival in India

- Captain William Hawkins came to the court of Jahangir in 1608.
- Sir Thomas Roe came in 1615 and obtained better trade concessions.
- First factory established at Surat in 1612.



English East India Company Ship

AUSPICIO REGIS ET SENATUS ANGLIÆ
(By the Authority of the King and Parliament of England)

Major Trading Centres

- Surat (1612) – first factory
- Madras (1639) – Fort St. George
- Bombay (1661) – received from Portuguese (marriage of Charles II and Catherine of Braganza)
- Calcutta (1690) – Fort William



Expansion of Power

- Initially focused on trade.
- Gradually involved in local politics and conflicts.
- Used military power to protect its interests.
- Began territorial expansion after the mid-18th century (e.g., after Plassey, 1757).

Key Features

- A joint-stock company.
- Had its own army, navy and monetary system.
- Combined trade with political ambitions.
- Received support from the British government when needed.
- Eventually transformed from a trading company into a territorial power.

Significance

- Laid the foundation of British rule in India.
- Started as a trading company but became a major political power by the mid-18th century.
- Changed the economic, political and social landscape of India.
- Paved the way for key events like the Carnatic Wars, Plassey (1757) and Buxar (1764).

Key Takeaway

The English East India Company began as a trading enterprise but gradually emerged as the most powerful European power in India, laying the foundation for British rule.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

1. Arrival of European Powers in India

D. The Danes & The French

The Danes

Background



- The Danes came from Denmark.
- Established the Danish East India Company in **1616**.
- Their presence in India was limited compared to the British, French and Dutch.

Major Settlements in India

- **Tranquebar (1620)** – main centre (in present-day Tamil Nadu)
- **Serampore (1755)** – in Bengal (later acquired by the British)
- Also had small settlements at Balasore and Nicobar Islands.



Danish Fort at Tranquebar

Objectives

- Mainly interested in trade, especially textiles.
- Did not have large political ambitions.
- Maintained friendly relations with local rulers.



Decline

- Could not compete with the British, French and Dutch.
- Sold their Indian settlements to the British in **1845**.
- Their role in Indian history remained minor.

The French

Background



- The French came from France.
- Established the French East India Company in **1664** by Jean-Baptiste Colbert (under Louis XIV).
- Came to India to compete with the British for trade and power.

Major Settlements in India

- **Pondicherry** (main centre)
- **Chandernagore** (in Bengal)
- **Mahe** (in Kerala)
- **Karaikal** (in Tamil Nadu)
- **Yanam** (in Andhra Pradesh)



French Settlement at Pondicherry

Objectives

- To trade in textiles, spices and other goods.
- To establish a strong political presence in India.
- To challenge British dominance.
- To expand their territorial control with the support of local rulers.



Decline

- Defeated by the British in the Carnatic Wars (1746–1763).
- Lost most of their territories in India.
- Retained only Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam and Chandernagore (later returned to French control).
- Could not match the military and financial strength of the British.

Key Takeaway | The Danes had a limited and short-lived presence in India, while the French were the main rivals of the British, but eventually lost the struggle for power.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

2. Anglo-French Rivalry: The Carnatic Wars (1746 – 1763 CE)

Background

- Rivalry between Britain and France in Europe extended to India.
- Both wanted to expand their trade, influence and territory.
- The decline of the Mughal Empire created opportunities for European powers.
- The Carnatic (in present-day Tamil Nadu) became the main theatre of conflict.

Struggle for trade, influence and power



British vs French

Carnatic Wars (1746 – 1763 CE)

A series of three wars fought in South India to establish supremacy between the British and the French.

Main Causes

- European rivalry (part of the larger global conflict).
- Competition for control over rich Indian trade and resources.
- Support to rival Indian rulers for political gains.
- Strategic importance of the Carnatic region.
- Ambitious and capable leaders on both sides (Dupleix and Clive).

The Three Carnatic Wars

1 First Carnatic War (1746 – 1748)

- Part of the War of Austrian Succession (in Europe).
- French captured Madras (1746).
- Ended with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) – Madras was returned to the British.

2 Second Carnatic War (1749 – 1754)

- A struggle for the succession to the Nizam of Hyderabad.
- French supported Muzaffar Jang; British supported Chanda Sahib's rival.
- Robert Clive gained recognition after his strategic successes (e.g., capture of Arcot in 1751).
- Ended with the Treaty of Pondicherry (1754).

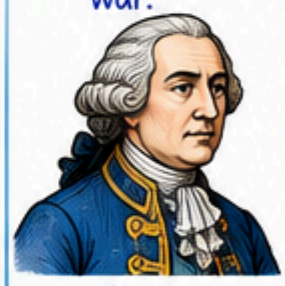
3 Third Carnatic War (1756 – 1763)

- Part of the Seven Years' War (1756 – 1763).
- British under Sir Eyre Coote defeated the French in the Battle of Wandiwash (1760).
- French lost most of their possessions in India.
- Ended with the Treaty of Paris (1763).

Key Places

Key Personalities

- **Joseph François Dupleix** (French) – expanded French influence.
- **Robert Clive** (British) – played a crucial role in British success.
- **Sir Eyre Coote** (British) – led British forces in the third war.



Dupleix (French)



Robert Clive (British)

Results and Significance

- French power in India declined significantly.
- British emerged as the dominant European power in India.
- Laid the foundation for British territorial expansion.
- Marked a shift from mere trade to political control.



Fort St. George (Madras)

Key Takeaway | The Carnatic Wars weakened the French and established the British as the principal European power in India, paving the way for their eventual conquest.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

2. Anglo-French Rivalry: The Carnatic Wars (1746 – 1763 CE)

A. First Carnatic War (1746 – 1748 CE)

Background

- Part of the larger conflict between Britain and France in Europe (War of Austrian Succession, 1740–1748).
- The rivalry between the two European powers extended to their colonies in India.
- Both wanted to strengthen their trade and political influence in the Carnatic region (southern India).



British vs French in India

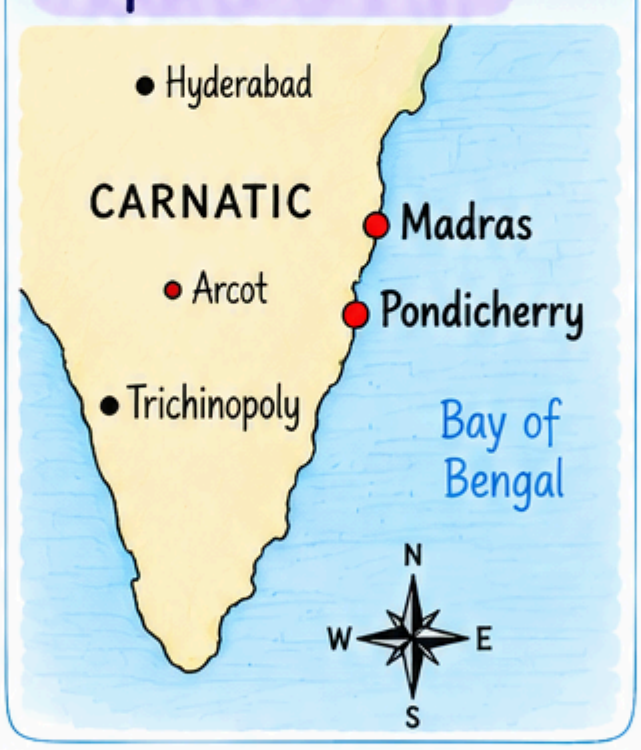
Main Events

- In **1746**, the French, led by Joseph Francois Dupleix, captured Madras from the British.
- The British attempted to regain control with the help of the Royal Navy.
- A British fleet under Admiral Boscawen attacked the French but failed to recapture Madras (1748).

Key Personalities

- **Joseph Francois Dupleix** (French Governor of Pondicherry) – led the French.
- Admiral Boscawen (British) – led the naval forces.
- Governors of Madras (British) – defended British interests.

Important Places

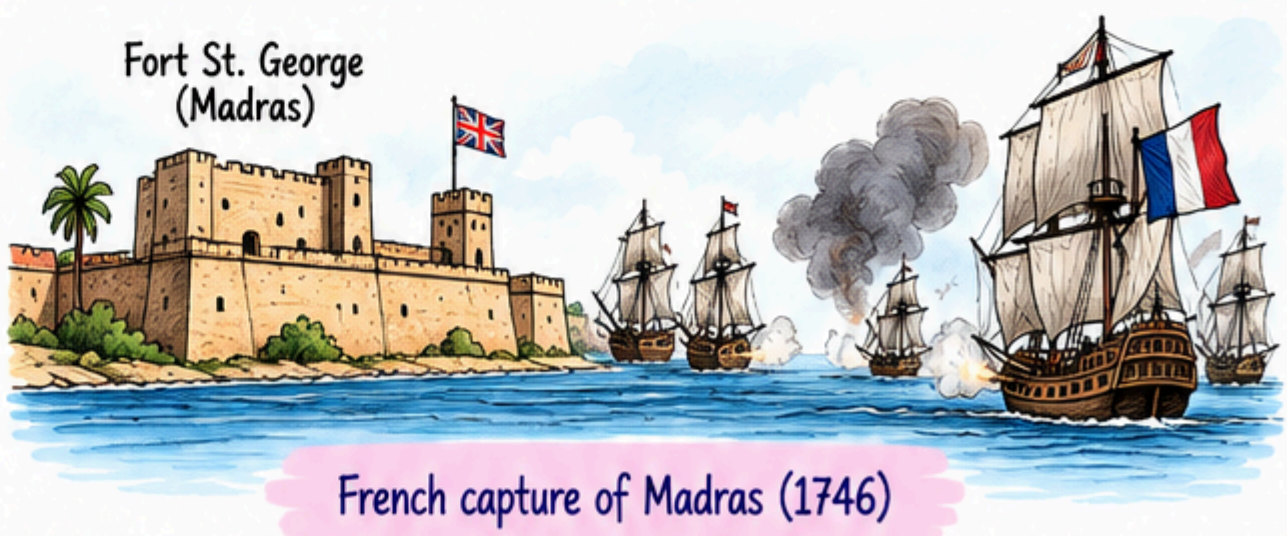


Outcome

- Ended with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) in Europe.
- As per the treaty, Madras was returned to the British in exchange for French conquests in Europe.
- No major territorial changes in India, but it marked the beginning of a prolonged Anglo-French rivalry in the Carnatic.

Significance

- Brought the European rivalry directly into Indian politics.
- Enhanced the reputation of Dupleix in India.
- Exposed the weaknesses of the British and the importance of a strong naval power.
- Set the stage for the Second Carnatic War (1749–1754).



French capture of Madras (1746)

Key Takeaway | The First Carnatic War did not result in a decisive victory for either side, but it marked the beginning of intense Anglo-French rivalry in India.

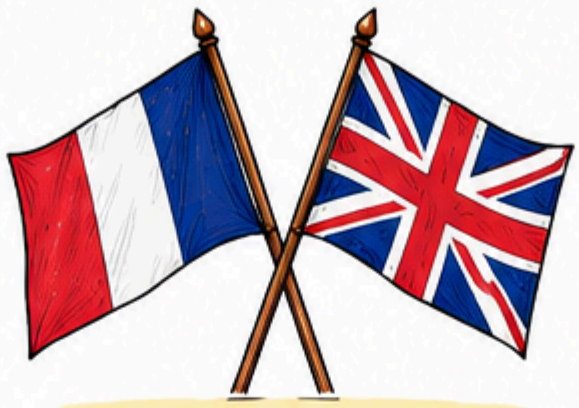
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2. Anglo-French Rivalry: The Carnatic Wars (1746 – 1763 CE)

B. Second Carnatic War (1749 – 1754 CE)

Background

- Fought as a sequel to the First Carnatic War.
- Linked to the War of Austrian Succession (1740–1748) and European rivalry in India.
- Main issue: struggle for the succession to the Nizamship of Hyderabad.
- Both the French and the British intervened in the internal politics of the Deccan.



French vs British

Struggle for influence in the Deccan

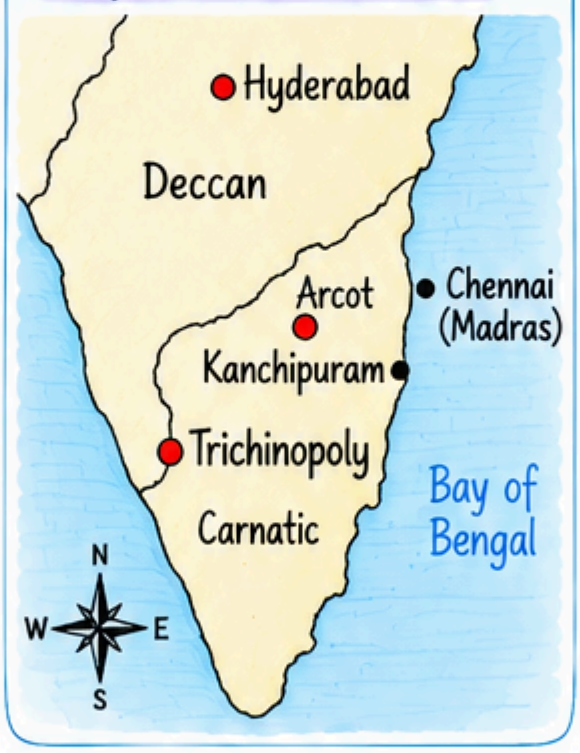
Key Personalities

- **Dupleix (French)**
  - Ambitious and expanded French influence.
  - Supported Muzaffar Jang (for Nizam) and Chanda Sahib (for Carnatic).
- **Robert Clive (British)**
  - Early military successes.
  - Supported Nasir Jang (for Nizam) and Muhammad Ali (for Carnatic).

Main Events

- Death of Nizam-ul-Mulk (1748) created a succession crisis in Hyderabad.
- French supported Muzaffar Jang, while the British supported Nasir Jang.
- In the Carnatic, the French backed Chanda Sahib, and the British supported Muhammad Ali.
- British victories, especially Clive's capture of Arcot (1751), boosted British prestige.
- French influence began to decline due to lack of strong support from France and financial constraints.

Important Places



Outcome

- Treaty of Pondicherry (1754) between the French and the British.
- Restoration of territorial conquests: both sides returned the captured territories.
- Chanda Sahib was killed (1752).
- Muhammad Ali was recognised as the Nawab of the Carnatic (with British support).
- French power declined, while the British emerged stronger in Indian politics.



Capture of Arcot by Robert Clive (1751)

Significance

- Marked a turning point in favour of the British in South India.
- Showed the importance of military initiative and local alliances.
- Weakened French prospects of establishing a dominant position in India.
- Paved the way for the British success in the Third Carnatic War.



Robert Clive

Key Takeaway | The Second Carnatic War expanded the British influence in Indian politics and weakened the French position, setting the stage for British dominance in the region.

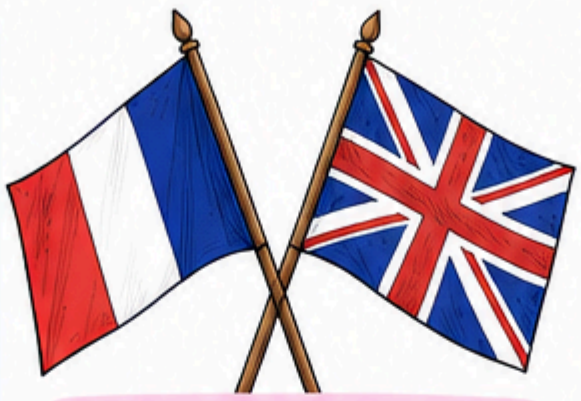
Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

2. Anglo-French Rivalry: The Carnatic Wars (1746 – 1763 CE)

C. Third Carnatic War (1758 – 1763 CE)

Background

- Part of the larger global conflict – the Seven Years' War (1756 – 1763).
- The French, under Comte de Lally, made a final attempt to regain their lost influence in India.
- The British, under Sir Eyre Coote, were better prepared and determined to end French power in the Carnatic.



Third Carnatic War (1758 – 1763 CE)

Final struggle for supremacy in India between the British and the French.

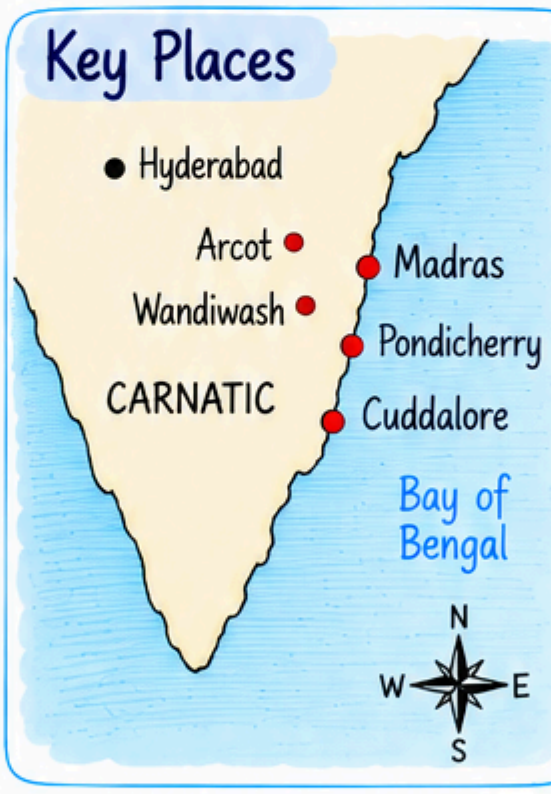
Key Personalities

- **Comte de Lally (French)**
  - Sent by Louis XV to revive French power in India.
  - Adopted an aggressive policy.
- **Sir Eyre Coote (British)**
  - Led British forces with great military skill.
  - Defeated the French in key battles.
- **Nizam Salabat Jang**
  - Initially supported the French.
- **Muhammad Ali**
  - Supported by the British.

Major Events

- French captured Fort St. David (1758).
- Lally laid siege to Madras (1758–59) but failed to capture it.
- **Battle of Wandiwash** (22 January 1760) – decisive British victory under Sir Eyre Coote.
- After Wandiwash, the British captured most of the French settlements in India.
- Pondicherry, the last major French stronghold, surrendered in 1761.

Key Places



Outcome

- French power in India was virtually destroyed.
- Pondicherry was returned to the French in 1763 by the Treaty of Paris, but they were not allowed to fortify it or maintain a large army.
- The British emerged as the dominant European power in India.
- Marked the end of French political ambitions in India.

Significance

- Decisive British victory that ended serious French resistance in India.
- Ensured British supremacy in the Carnatic region.
- Paved the way for British territorial expansion (e.g., Plassey in 1757 had already strengthened their position in Bengal).
- Marked a major shift in the balance of power in favour of the British.



Battle of Wandiwash (1760)

Key Takeaway | The Third Carnatic War ended French ambitions in India and established the British as the leading European power in the subcontinent.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

3. British Conquest of Bengal: Plassey and Buxar

Why Bengal?

- One of the **richest** and most prosperous provinces in India.
- **Fertile land** and flourishing agriculture (rice, jute, sugar, etc.).
- Famous for **fine textiles** (muslin, silk, cotton).
- Strategically important due to its access to the **Bay of Bengal** for trade.

Map: Bengal (18th Century)



Key Personalities



Siraj-ud-Daulah

- Nawab of Bengal (1756 – 1757).
- Opposed the expansion of the English.



Robert Clive

- Led the British forces at Plassey.
- Used diplomacy and intrigue.

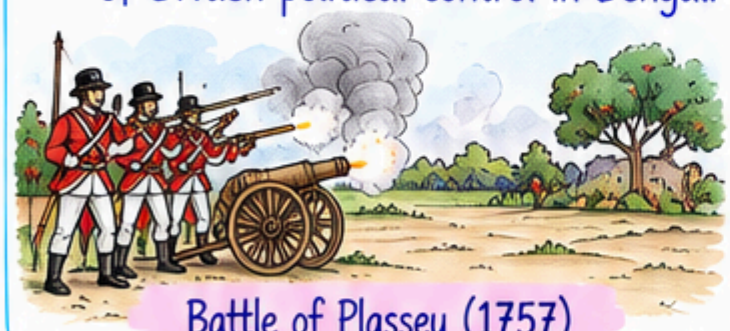


Mir Jafar

- Bengali general who betrayed Siraj-ud-Daulah.
- Installed as the Nawab (by the British).

Battle of Plassey (1757)

- **Date:** 23 June 1757
- **Location:** Plassey (near the Bhagirathi River, Bengal)
- **Opponents:** Siraj-ud-Daulah vs. British East India Company
- **Result:** British victory.
- **Significance:** Marked the beginning of British political control in Bengal.



Battle of Plassey (1757)

After Plassey

- Mir Jafar was installed as the Nawab of Bengal (a puppet ruler).
- The Company gained enormous financial resources.
- British influence in Bengal increased rapidly.

Battle of Buxar (1764)

- **Date:** 22 October 1764
- **Location:** Buxar (Bihar)
- **Opponents:** British (led by Hector Munro) vs. combined forces of Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh) and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.
- **Result:** Decisive British victory.
- **Significance:** Ended the combined resistance of Indian powers in eastern India.

Treaty of Allahabad (1765)

- Concluded in **1765** after the British victory at Buxar.
- Shah Alam II granted the **Diwani rights** of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the East India Company.
- Marked a major step towards British territorial and financial control in India.

Key Takeaway

The victories at Plassey (1757) and Buxar (1764) gave the British control over Bengal's vast resources and laid the foundation for their political dominance in India.

3. British Conquest of Bengal: Plassey and Buxar

A. The Crisis under Siraj-ud-Daulah (1756 – 1757 CE)

Who was Siraj-ud-Daulah?

- Became the Nawab of Bengal in 1756.
- Grandson of Alivardi Khan.
- Young, inexperienced and impulsive.
- Faced internal opposition from powerful nobles.



Siraj-ud-Daulah
(Nawab of Bengal)
r. 1756 – 1757

Causes of Conflict with the British

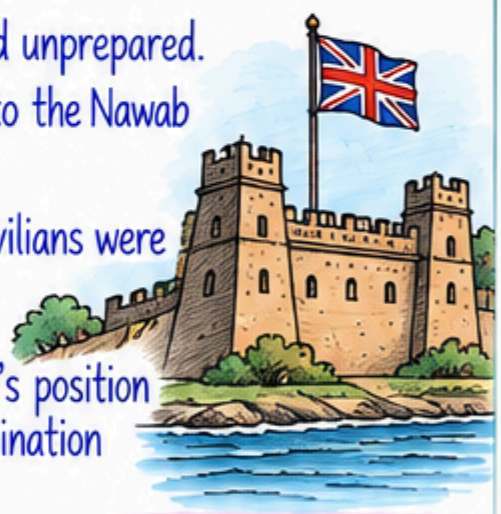
- British were strengthening their fortifications at Calcutta without the Nawab's permission.
- Misuse of dastaks (duty-free trade) leading to revenue loss.
- British support to Siraj's rivals.
- Shelter given to fugitives (e.g., Krishnadas, a royal official).
- Growing British political interference in Bengal's affairs.

Events Leading to the Crisis

April 1756	Siraj demanded that the British stop fortifications and surrender fugitives.
June 1756	Nawab moved towards Calcutta with his army.
20 June 1756	British abandoned Calcutta and fled to the ships.
July 1756	Calcutta was captured by the Nawab.

Capture of Calcutta (1756)

- British forces were weak and unprepared.
- Calcutta (Fort William) fell to the Nawab in July 1756.
- Many British officers and civilians were taken prisoners.
- The event strengthened Siraj's position but increased British determination to take revenge.



Fort William, Calcutta

The Black Hole Controversy

- A number of British prisoners were confined in a small room in Fort William on the night of 20 June 1756.
- Many died due to heat and suffocation.
- Later, Robert Clive used this incident to gain support in Britain, though the actual number of casualties is debated.

Significance

- Marked a direct confrontation between the Nawab and the British.
- Provided the British with a pretext for military revenge.
- Set the stage for the Battle of Plassey (1757).
- Showed the growing influence and ambitions of the British in Bengal.

3. British Conquest of Bengal: Plassey and Buxar

B. The Battle of Plassey (June 23, 1757 CE)

Background

- Siraj-ud-Daulah became the Nawab of Bengal in 1756.
- He was opposed to the growing influence of the English East India Company.
- Tensions rose due to British fortifications, misuse of trade privileges and shelter given to his rivals.
- Capture of Calcutta (June 1756) led to a direct confrontation.



Siraj-ud-Daulah
Nawab of Bengal

Robert Clive
British East India Company

Forces Involved

- Siraj-ud-Daulah's Army
  - Around 50,000 soldiers
  - 40–50 war elephants
  - Large artillery
- British Forces
  - Around 3,000 soldiers (European and Indian)
  - 8–10 cannons
  - Better trained and disciplined

Key Betrayals

- Mir Jafar, the commander of Siraj's army, secretly supported the British.
- Other nobles like Rai Durlabh and Yar Lutuf Khan also did not actively support Siraj.
- This internal betrayal weakened Siraj-ud-Daulah during the battle.

Location



Course of the Battle

- The battle was fought on 23 June 1757 at Plassey (on the banks of the Bhagirathi).
- Siraj's large army could not effectively use its numbers.
- Heavy rainfall damaged Siraj's gunpowder, while the British protected their ammunition.
- Mir Jafar and other traitors did not join the battle.
- Siraj's forces gradually retreated, leading to his defeat.

Result

- Decisive British victory.
- Siraj-ud-Daulah fled but was later captured and killed (July 1757).
- Mir Jafar was installed as the Nawab of Bengal (a puppet ruler).
- Marked the beginning of British political control in Bengal.



Battle of Plassey (1757)

Significance

- Brought the Bengal Subah under effective British control.
- Gave the Company enormous financial resources.
- Paved the way for further expansion in India (Buxar, 1764).
- A turning point in the establishment of British power in India.

3. British Conquest of Bengal: Plassey and Buxar

C. The Puppet Nawabs and the Battle of Buxar (1764 CE)

Puppet Nawabs after Plassey

- Mir Jafar was installed as the Nawab of Bengal (1757), but he could not satisfy the British demands.
- He was replaced by Mir Qasim in 1760.
- Both were dependent on the British and are called "puppet nawabs".
- They had little real power and acted in the interests of the East India Company.

Main Nawabs



Mir Jafar (1757 – 1760)
Installed by the British after Plassey.



Mir Qasim (1760 – 1763)
Tried to assert independence but came into conflict with the British.



Mir Jafar (II) (1763 – 1765)
Reinstalled by the British after Mir Qasim's defeat.

Why did Conflict with Mir Qasim occur?

- Mir Qasim tried to reduce British trade privileges.
- He abolished internal duties to promote equal trade.
- This affected the profits of the East India Company.
- The British accused him of supporting anti-British forces.
- Mir Qasim fled to Awadh and sought the support of Shuja-ud-Daula and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.

The Battle of Buxar (1764)

- **Date:** 22 October 1764
- **Location:** Buxar (Bihar)
- **Opponents:** East India Company (Robert Hector Munro) vs. Mir Qasim + Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh) + Shah Alam II (Mughal Emperor)
- **Result:** Decisive British victory.



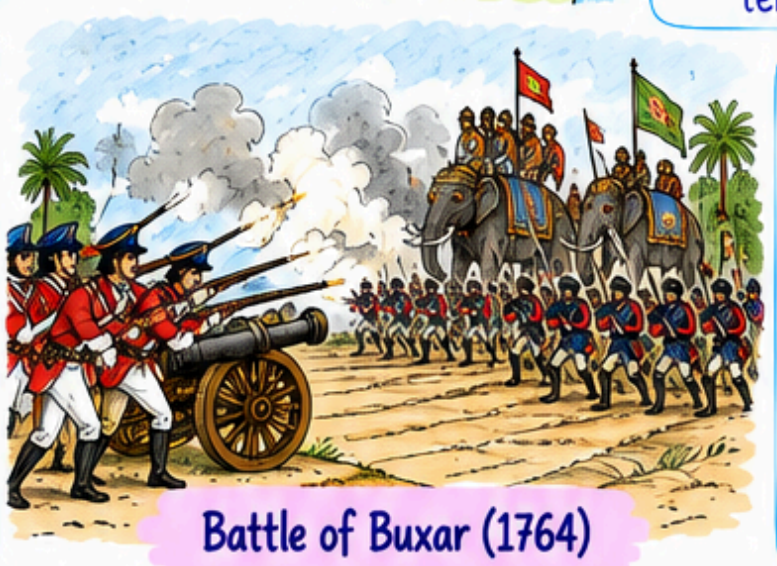
Significance of Buxar

- Ended the combined resistance of Indian powers (Bengal, Awadh and Mughal).
- Established the military supremacy of the East India Company in north India.
- Paved the way for the Treaty of Allahabad (1765).
- Marked a major step towards the British political and territorial expansion in India.

The Three Opponents at Buxar

- **Mir Qasim** – Former Nawab of Bengal (in exile)
- **Shuja-ud-Daula** – Nawab of Awadh
- **Shah Alam II** – Mughal Emperor (without real power)

Formed an alliance to check the growing power of the British.



Battle of Buxar (1764)

Key Takeaway

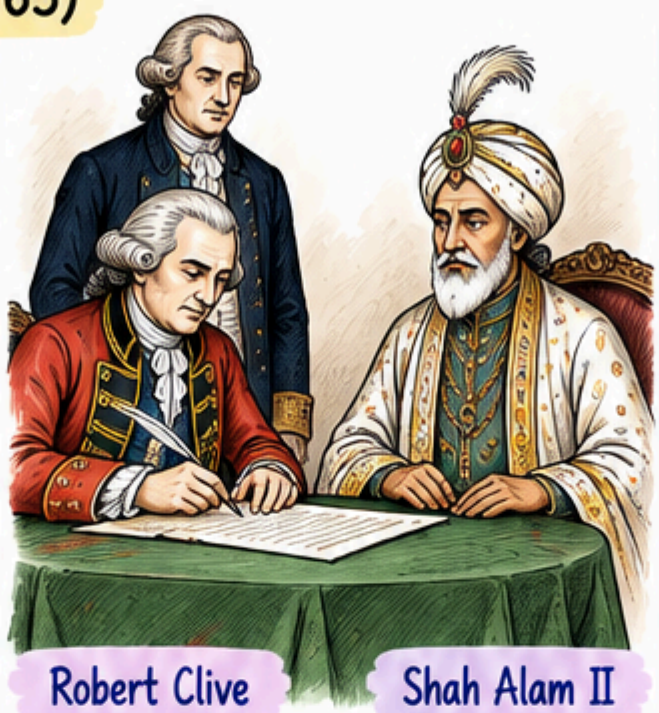
The Battle of Buxar (1764) was a turning point, as it destroyed the last major Indian resistance in eastern and northern India and established the East India Company as the dominant political power.

3. British Conquest of Bengal: Plassey and Buxar

D. The Treaty of Allahabad (1765 CE) and the Dual Government

The Treaty of Allahabad (1765)

- Signed in August 1765 between the British and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II after the Battle of Buxar (1764).
- Negotiated by Robert Clive on behalf of the East India Company.
- Also included a separate treaty with the Nawab of Awadh (Shuja-ud-Daula).
- Marked a decisive step in establishing British political and territorial power in India.



Robert Clive | Shah Alam II

Treaty of Allahabad (1765)

Terms of the Treaty

- Shah Alam II granted the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the East India Company.
- The Company agreed to pay a yearly tribute of 26 lakh rupees to the Emperor.
- Shah Alam II was given Allahabad and Kora as jagirs for his personal maintenance.
- Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh) accepted defeat and agreed to a treaty with the British (restoration of Awadh with territorial adjustments).

Diwani Rights

- Gave the East India Company the right to collect land revenue in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- Provided the Company with enormous financial resources.
- Made the Company a de facto ruler in these regions.

Territories under Diwani



Significance of the Treaty

- Formal recognition of the Company's political power.
- Provided a legal basis for British revenue collection.
- Weakened the Mughal Empire further.
- Laid the foundation for the establishment of Dual Government in Bengal (1765–1772).
- Marked a major turning point in the transformation of the Company from a trading body to a territorial power.

The Dual Government in Bengal (1765 – 1772)

- Introduced by Robert Clive after obtaining the Diwani.
- A system in which the Company controlled the revenue affairs, while the Nawab retained nominal authority over administration and criminal justice.
- Resulted in administrative confusion, exploitation and suffering of the people.
- Ended in 1772 by Warren Hastings.

Dual Government

Diwani (Revenue & Civil)

- Exercised by the East India Company.
- Included collection of land revenue and civil administration.
- Real power and financial control with the Company.

Nizamat (Police & Criminal)

- Exercised by the Nawab of Bengal (nominal).
- Included law and order, police and criminal justice.
- Actual power was limited due to lack of financial resources.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)



European Arrival ... to British Power

QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS



Arrival and Establishment of Europeans

Portuguese (1498)

- Vasco da Gama reached Calicut in 1498.
- Important centres: Goa (1510), Diu (1535), Daman (1559).


Goa

Dutch (1602)

- Dutch East India Company (VOC) in 1602.
- Major centres: Pulicat, Nagapattinam, Cochin, Chinsurah.



English (1600)

- English East India Company in 1600.
- Major centres: Surat, Madras (1639), Bombay (1661), Calcutta (1690).


Fort St. George (Madras)

Danish (1616)

- Danish East India Company in 1616.
- Major centres: Tranquebar (1620), Serampore (1755).


Tranquebar

French (1664)

- French East India Company in 1664.
- Major centres: Pondicherry, Chandernagore, Mahe, Karaikal, Yanam.


Pondicherry

Rivalry for Trade and Territory

- Competition among the English and French became intense in the 18th century.
- Led to a series of wars in the Carnatic and eventually to British territorial power.



Key Indian Powers

- Decline of the Mughal Empire created opportunities for European expansion.
- Regional powers (Nizam, Nawabs, Marathas) were drawn into European rivalries.



Wars, Battles, Treaties and Consequences

Carnatic Wars (1746 – 1763)

- Three wars between the English and French.
- Fought mainly in the Carnatic (Tamil Nadu).
- Result: British emerged stronger; French influence declined.



First Carnatic War (1746 – 1748)

- Triggered by the Austrian Succession.
- Important event: Capture of Madras (1746) by the French.


Madras

Second Carnatic War (1749 – 1754)

- Strıgggle for succession in Hyderabad and Carnatic.
- Key figures: Dupleix, Clive, Muzaffar Jang, Chanda Sahib.


Dupleix

Third Carnatic War (1758 – 1763)

- Part of the Seven Years' War.
- Key event: British victory at Wandiwash (1760).
- Result: End of French political power in India.


Battle of Wandiwash

Battle of Plassey (23 June 1757)

- British (Clive) vs Siraj-ud-Daulah.
- Mir Jafar's betrayal led to British victory.
- Marked the beginning of British political power in Bengal.


Robert Clive

Battle of Buxar (22 October 1764)

- British (Hector Munro) vs Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II.
- Decisive British victory.
- Established British supremacy in North India.



Treaty of Allahabad (1763)

- Signed between the British, Shah Alam II and Shuja-ud-Daulah.
- British received Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- Marked the beginning of Dual Government in Bengal.



ONE LINE MEMORY TRICKS



1498
Vasco da Gama reached Calicut



1600
English East India Company



Carnatic Wars (1746 – 1763)
English vs French



1757
Plassey (British in Bengal)



1764
Buxar (British supremacy)



1765
Allahabad (Diwani + Dual Govt.)

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

MCQs

Test Your Understanding



1 **Which European power established the first trading post in India?**

(a) Portuguese
(b) Dutch
(c) English
(d) French



Correct Answer: (a) Portuguese

Explanation:

- The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in India, when Vasco da Gama reached Calicut in 1498.
- They established the first trading post at Calicut (with the permission of the Zamorin).

2 **The Carnatic Wars were mainly fought between which two European powers?**

(a) British and Portuguese
(b) British and French
(c) Dutch and French
(d) English and Danish



Correct Answer: (b) British and French

Explanation:

- The three Carnatic Wars (1746 – 1763) were primarily fought between the British and the French for control over south India.
- These wars were a part of their larger struggle for supremacy in India.

3 **In which year was the Battle of Plassey fought?**

(a) 1756
(b) 1757
(c) 1764
(d) 1765



Correct Answer: (b) 1757

Explanation:

- The Battle of Plassey was fought on 23 June 1757 between the British (led by Robert Clive) and Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal.
- It marked the beginning of British political power in Bengal.

4 **Who was the Nawab of Bengal at the time of the Battle of Buxar?**

(a) Siraj-ud-Daulah
(b) Mir Jafar
(c) Mir Qasim
(d) Najm-ud-Daulah



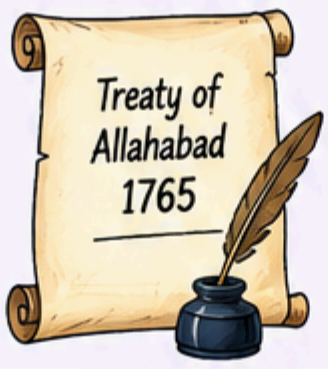
Correct Answer: (c) Mir Qasim

Explanation:

- The Battle of Buxar (22 October 1764) was fought between the British (led by Hector Munro) and the combined forces of Mir Qasim (Nawab of Bengal), Shuja-ud-Daulah (Nawab of Awadh) and Shah Alam II (Mughal Emperor).
- It resulted in a decisive British victory.

5 **Which treaty gave the British the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa?**

(a) Treaty of Paris (1763)
(b) Treaty of Allahabad (1765)
(c) Treaty of Madras (1748)
(d) Treaty of Salbai (1782)



Correct Answer: (b) Treaty of Allahabad (1765)

Explanation:

- The Treaty of Allahabad was signed in 1765 between the British, Shah Alam II and Shuja-ud-Daulah.
- Through this treaty, the British received the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- It laid the foundation of British territorial and financial power in India.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

MCQs

Page 2



6 **Who captured Madras from the British during the First Carnatic War?**

(a) Dupleix
(b) La Bourdonnais
(c) Count de Lally
(d) Bussy



Fort St. George (Madras)

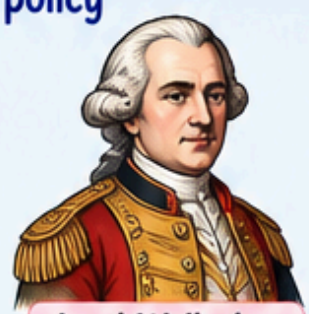
Correct Answer: (b) La Bourdonnais

Explanation:

- During the First Carnatic War (1746 – 1748), the French naval commander La Bourdonnais captured Madras from the British in 1746.
- However, it was later returned to the British as per the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748).

7 **Which of the following was associated with the 'subsidiary alliance' policy in the Carnatic region?**

(a) Robert Clive
(b) Warren Hastings
(c) Lord Wellesley
(d) Lord Cornwallis



Lord Wellesley

Correct Answer: (c) Lord Wellesley

Explanation:

- The subsidiary alliance policy was systematized by Lord Wellesley (Governor-General, 1798 – 1805), though its roots can be seen in earlier British expansion in the Carnatic.
- Under this policy, Indian rulers accepted British protection and kept a British contingent, losing their independent foreign policy.

8 **The French Governor who was the most prominent rival of Robert Clive in India was:**

(a) La Bourdonnais
(b) Dupleix
(c) Count de Lally
(d) Bussy



Dupleix

Correct Answer: (b) Dupleix

Explanation:

- Joseph François Dupleix was the French Governor of Pondicherry (1742 – 1754).
- He pursued an aggressive policy of territorial expansion and was the main French rival of Robert Clive in the Carnatic.
- His failure to get adequate support from France led to the decline of French power in India.

9 **The Battle of Buxar was fought between the British and the combined forces of:**

(a) Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II
(b) Siraj-ud-Daulah, Mir Jafar and the French
(c) Mir Qasim, the Marathas and the Nizam
(d) Shuja-ud-Daulah, the French and the Dutch

Correct Answer: (a) Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II

Explanation:

- The Battle of Buxar (22 October 1764) was fought between the British (under Hector Munro) and the combined forces of Mir Qasim (Nawab of Bengal), Shuja-ud-Daulah (Nawab of Awadh) and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.
- The British emerged victorious, which established their supremacy in North India.

10 **Which treaty formally gave the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the British?**

(a) Treaty of Paris (1763)
(b) Treaty of Allahabad (1765)
(c) Treaty of Salbai (1782)
(d) Treaty of Madras (1748)



Correct Answer: (b) Treaty of Allahabad (1765)

Explanation:

- The Treaty of Allahabad was signed in 1765 between the British, Shah Alam II and Shuja-ud-Daulah.
- Through this treaty, the British received the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- It marked a major turning point in the establishment of British political and financial control in India.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)



MCQs

Page 3



11 **Which European power lost its influence in India after the Third Carnatic War (1763)?**

(a) British
(b) French
(c) Dutch
(d) Portuguese



Correct Answer: (b) French

Explanation:

- The Third Carnatic War (1758 – 1763) ended with the defeat of the French.
- The Treaty of Paris (1763) restricted French political activities in India, allowing them to keep only a few trading settlements.
- After this, the French lost their influence, and the British emerged as the dominant European power in India.

12 **Which of the following was NOT one of the main causes of the British victory at Plassey?**

(a) Betrayal of Mir Jafar
(b) Superior British military strategy
(c) Heavy rainfall during the battle
(d) Disunity in the Nawab's army



Correct Answer: (c) Heavy rainfall during the battle

Explanation:

- The British victory at Plassey was mainly due to the betrayal of Mir Jafar, superior strategy under Robert Clive, and disunity in Siraj-ud-Daulah's army.
- Although there was rainfall during the battle, it actually damaged the Nawab's artillery, while the British had protected their ammunition.

13 **Who granted the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the British in 1765?**

(a) Mir Qasim
(b) Shah Alam II
(c) Shuja-ud-Daulah
(d) Siraj-ud-Daulah



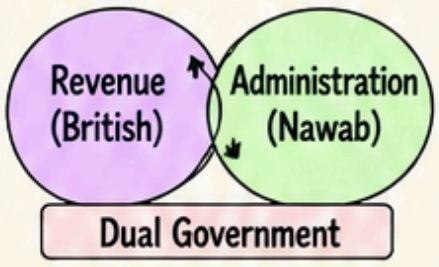
Correct Answer: (b) Shah Alam II

Explanation:

- The Treaty of Allahabad (1765) was signed between the British, Shah Alam II and Shuja-ud-Daulah.
- Shah Alam II granted the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the British.
- In return, he received an annual payment of 26 lakhs of rupees.

14 **The system introduced by the British in Bengal after 1765, where they controlled revenue but left administration to the Nawab, was called:**

(a) Subsidiary Alliance
(b) Dual Government
(c) Ryotwari System
(d) Permanent Settlement



Correct Answer: (b) Dual Government

Explanation:

- After the Treaty of Allahabad (1765), the British introduced the Dual Government in Bengal.
- They controlled the revenue collection (Diwani), while the Nawab retained the administration (Nizamat).
- This system allowed the British to enjoy financial gains without taking direct responsibility for governance.

15 **Which Indian ruler was the ally of the British during the Battle of Buxar (1764)?**

(a) Mir Qasim
(b) Shuja-ud-Daulah
(c) Shah Alam II
(d) Mir Jafar



Correct Answer: (d) Mir Jafar

Explanation:

- In the Battle of Buxar (1764), the British fought against a combined force of Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II.
- Mir Jafar, the deposed Nawab of Bengal, supported the British.
- The British victory in this battle established their supremacy in North India.

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)

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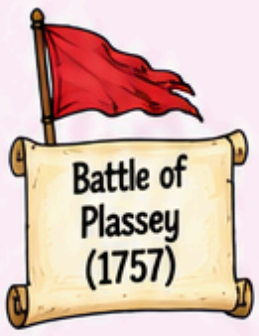
MCQs

Page 4



16 **Which of the following best describes the main result of the Battle of Plassey (1757)?**

(a) End of the Mughal Empire
(b) Establishment of British supremacy in Bengal
(c) End of the Carnatic Wars
(d) Annexation of Awadh



Correct Answer: (b) Establishment of British supremacy in Bengal

Explanation:
- The Battle of Plassey (23 June 1757) resulted in the defeat of Siraj-ud-Daulah and established British political power in Bengal.
- It gave the British control over Bengal's resources and marked the beginning of their territorial expansion.
- It did not end the Mughal Empire or the Carnatic Wars, nor did it annex Awadh.

17 **Who among the following betrayed Siraj-ud-Daulah in the Battle of Plassey?**

(a) Mir Jafar
(b) Mir Qasim
(c) Mir Sadiq
(d) Raja Man Singh



Correct Answer: (a) Mir Jafar

Explanation:
- Mir Jafar, the commander of Siraj-ud-Daulah's army, betrayed him and sided with the British.
- His betrayal was a key reason for the British victory at Plassey.
- In return, the British made him the Nawab of Bengal after the battle.

18 **The Battle of Buxar was fought in:**

(a) 1756
(b) 1757
(c) 1764
(d) 1765

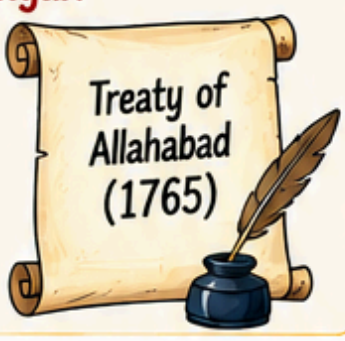


Correct Answer: (c) 1764

Explanation:
- The Battle of Buxar was fought on 22 October 1764 betweed the British (under Hector Munro) and the combined forces of Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II.
- It was a decisive victory for the British, which consolidated their power in North India.

19 **Which treaty marked the beginning of the Dual Government in Bengal?**

(a) Treaty of Paris (1763)
(b) Treaty of Allahabad (1765)
(c) Treaty of Salbai (1782)
(d) Treaty of Madras (1748)



Correct Answer: (b) Treaty of Allahabad (1765)

Explanation:
- The Treaty of Allahabad was signed in 1765 between the British, Shah Alam II and Shuja-ud-Daulah.
- Through this treaty, the British received the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, leading to the establishment of the Dual Government in Bengal.
- It marked a major step in the consolidation of British power in India.

20 **Who was the British commander in the Battle of Buxar (1764)?**

(a) Robert Clive
(b) Hector Munro
(c) Warren Hastings
(d) Lord Cornwallis



Correct Answer: (b) Hector Munro

Explanation:
- The British forces in the Battle of Buxar (1764) were led by Hector Munro.
- He defeated the combined forces of Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II.
- This victory established British suprermacy in North India and paved the way for the Treaty of Allahabad (1765).

Advent of Europeans in India and the British Conquest: Carnatic Wars, Plassey, and Buxar (1498 – 1765 CE)



MCQs
Page 5

History is not just about dates, but turning points!

21 **Which of the following was a major cause of the conflict between Siraj-ud-Daulah and the British?**

(a) British support to the Marathas
(b) Fortification of Calcutta without permission
(c) Dispute over the Carnatic
(d) Non-payment of tribute by the Nizam

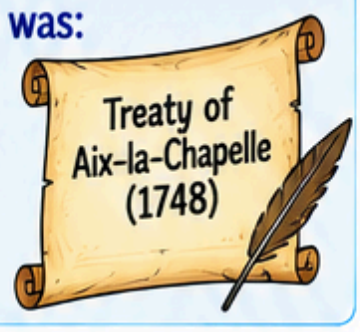

Fort William (Calcutta)

Correct Answer: (b) Fortification of Calcutta without permission

Explanation:
- Siraj-ud-Daulah was unhappy with the British fortifying Calcutta without his permission, which he considered a threat to his authority.
- This, along with the British support to his rivals, led to the conflict.
- It eventually resulted in the capture of Calcutta by Siraj-ud-Daulah in 1756.

22 **The treaty which ended the First Carnatic War (1746 – 1748) was:**

(a) Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle
(b) Treaty of Paris
(c) Treaty of Utrecht
(d) Treaty of Madras



Correct Answer: (a) Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle

Explanation:
- The First Carnatic War (1746 – 1748) ended with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) between the British and the French.
- Under this treaty, the territories captured during the war were restored to their original owners.

23 **Who succeeded Siraj-ud-Daulah after the Battle of Plassey with the support of the British?**

(a) Mir Jafar
(b) Mir Qasim
(c) Najm-ud-Daulah
(d) Shuja-ud-Daulah


Mir Jafar

Correct Answer: (a) Mir Jafar

Explanation:
- After the Battle of Plassey (1757), Siraj-ud-Daulah was overthrown and Mir Jafar was placed on the throne of Bengal with British support.
- He became a puppet Nawab and had to fulfill the demands of the British.

24 **Which of the following was NOT included in the Diwani rights granted to the British in 1765?**

(a) Bengal
(b) Bihar
(c) Orissa
(d) Awadh

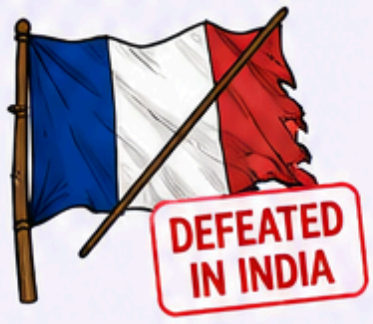


Correct Answer: (d) Awadh

Explanation:
- Under the Treaty of Allahabad (1765), the British received the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- Awadh was not included in the Diwani; instead, it remained under Shuja-ud-Daulah, who became a British ally.
- The British received an annual payment from Awadh as per the treaty.

25 **Which European power was finally defeated by the British in India after the Third Carnatic War?**

(a) Portuguese
(b) Dutch
(c) French
(d) Danish



Correct Answer: (c) French

Explanation:
- The Third Carnatic War (1758 – 1763) ended with the defeat of the French.
- After this war, the French lost their political power in India and remained only a commercial power.
- The British emerged as the dominant European power in India.

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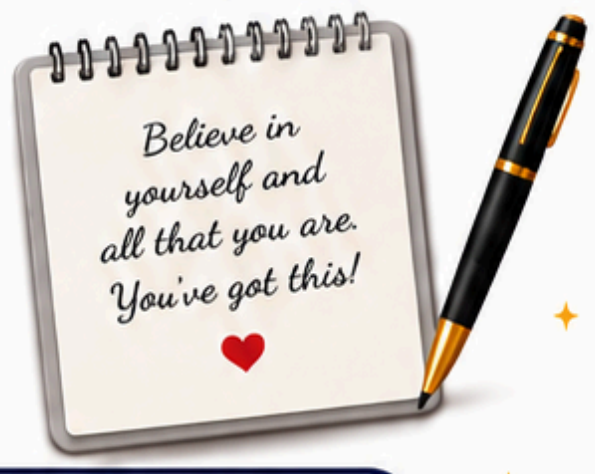
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