

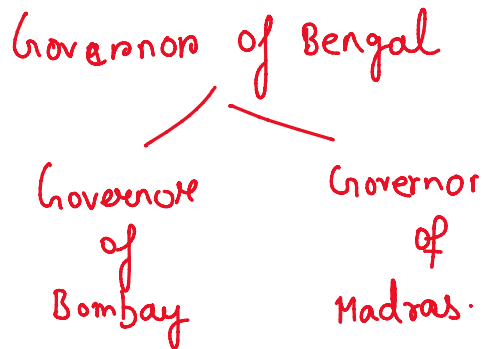
British Administrative Structure and Economic Policies

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Phase I. - Company Rule.

- Regulating Act of 1773.

↳ executive council. for the Governor General of Bengal



- Pitt's India Act of 1784. -

Company's rule under British Crown.

- Charter Act of 1813. - British rule to be extended upto another 20 years.

↳ 1,00,000 spent on the advancement of education.

- Charter Act of 1833 - ended the Monopoly of British East India Company.
- Charter Act of 1853 - a separate Governor of Bengal was created.
- FJ Halliday - Lieutenant Governor of the Bengal Presidency.
- Bengal Sati Regulation Act, 1829.
William Bentinck passed this.

Phase II : Crown Rule

- Government of India Act, 1858 - India was directly taken over by the Crown (Queen Victoria as the supreme monarch).

- Indian Councils Act, 1892. - - non official members were increased in the Central & Provincial Legislatures.

Bengal it was 20.

for Awadh it was 15.

- Indian Councils Act, 1909. [Morley - Minto Reforms]
 - ↓
 - first time election was introduced.
 - ↓
 - due to demands of the moderates of INC.
 - ↓
 - Dadabhai Naoroji &
 - Pherozshah

Pherozshah
Mehta.

- Indian Press Act, 1910.

sedition matters.

- Government of India Act, 1919.

↓

Montague Chemsford Report. (Reforms)

↓

system of dyarchy.

- Bengal Criminal Law Amendment, 1924.

Jugantar Group. in Bengal.

Subhash Chandra Bose was detained.

- Govt. of India Act, 1935.



'Federation of India'



[Central Executive Level + provinces + princely states]

- Indian Independence Act, 1947.

↳ 2 new independent dominions.

Land Revenue System.

- Permanent Settlements. → Lord Cornwallis (1793).
Sir John Shore (planner)
↳ Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Benaras, Madras.
↓
zamindars (owners).



$1/11^{\text{th}}$ of the revenue → zamindars.
 $10/11^{\text{th}}$ of the revenue → Britishers.
(fixed).

tenants → peasants → farmers.
Flood Commission - (1938) (1943) intermediaries abolished.

Ryotwari Settlement

[Munro and Charles Reed]

↳ Bombay, Madras, Assam,

(not exceeding 30 years.)

- ↳ Scientific Rent Theory of Ricardo.

Mahalwari System.

↳ 1833.

↳ William Bentinck.

↳ Ganga valley, North-West Frontier Provinces, Punjab, Central India

↳ villagers, estates with the landlords.

Bhai-Chara. [group of villages

maintained
the revenue
settlement]

Taluqdari System.

↳ Oudh.

↳ 30 years. [agreement]

-
- exploitation of the peasants.
 - money lending activities were encouraged
 - Rich became richer; poor became poorer.
 - Commercialisation of agriculture.

- Commercialisation of agriculture.
-

Peasant and Tribal Movements.

- Peasants Uprising of Rangpur. (1783).

Rangpur, Dinajpur.



Bengal.

Debi Singh

Dirghinayana (leader) of the movement.

↳ Kutcheries (Courts).

↳ storehouses of crops.

- Rebellion at Mysore. (Nagar Revolt) (1830-31).

Sardar Malla prominent leader of the rebels.

Moplah Uprising (1835-1921).

↳ poor peasants.

+

agricultural labourers.

+

petty traders.

+

fishermen of the Malabar

+

cultivating tenants.

descendants
of the
Arab settlers.
(lower castes).

Illegal taxes, hostile attitude,

• Harish Chandra Mukherjee.
[The Hindu Patriot]

• Ram Gopal Ghose
[Amrita Bazar Patrika]

Pagal Panthi Revolt [1825-50]

↳ East Bengal

↳ Karan Singh,

Tipu Shah

1833-

Indigo Revolt in Bengal: (1859-60)

|
April.

↳ Nil Darpan:

↳ Dinabandhu Mitra.

1867-68 - Champaran (Bihar).

- Pabna Rebellion (1873 - 76)

Ishan Chandra Roy

Sambhunath Pal

Khodī Mulla.

- Deccan Riots / Maratha Peasants Uprising (1875)

Deccan Riots Commission

Deccan Agriculturist Relief Act, 1879 } was passed

- The Sanyasi Rebellion (1763 - 1800):

Sanyasis and
Muslim fakirs participated.

Majna Shah.

↓
Chirag Ali , Musa Shah - Bhawani Pathak,
Debi Chowdhurani.

Warren Hastings was able to control this with the help of military action.

Novel - Anandmath

↳ Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.

British Administrative Structure and Economic Policies

British rule in India can be divided into two phases: Phase I (1773-1857) and Phase II (1857-1947).

Phase I and Phase II also known as the Company Rule and the Crown Rule respectively.

Phase I : Company Rule

- Regulating Act of 1773 - Regulating Act of 1773 created executive council for Governor-General of Bengal. It also made the Governors of Bombay and Madras presidencies subordinate to the Governor-General of Bengal.
- Pitt's India Act of 1784 -The Pitt's India Act brought India Company's rule in India under the control of the British Crown.
- Charter Act of 1813 -The Act provided extension of the company's rule to another 20 years. One lakh rupees was allocated for the advancement of the education system in India.
- Charter Act of 1833 - The Charter Act of 1833 ended the monopoly of East India Company, specially the Tea trade with China.

Charter Act of 1853 - Under the Act, a separate Governor of Bengal was created.

- FJ Halliday became the first Lieutenant Governor of the Bengal Presidency.
- Bengal Sati Regulation Act, 1829 The Bengal Sati Regulation banned the Sati practice in all jurisdictions of British India. It was passed by Governor-General Lord William Bentinck.

Phase II: Crown Rule

- Government of India Act, 1858 The rule of British East India Company was abolished and the Government of India was directly taken over by the Crown with Queen Victoria as the supreme monarch.
- Indian Councils Act, 1892 According to the Act, the number of non-official members was increased in Central and Provincial legislatures. The numbers of the Additional Members of the Provincial Councils

were also raised, for Bengal it was 20 and 15 for the Awadh.

- Indian Councils Act, 1909 Also known as Morley-Minto Reforms, it introduced for the first time the method of election, an attempt to widen the scope of Legislative Councils due to the demands of moderates of Indian National Congress.
- Indian Press Act, 1910 The Act empowered the Local Governments to issue warrants against any newspaper or book which contained seditious matters, were to be forfeited.
- Government of India Act, 1919 This Act authorised the government to imprison any person without trial and conviction in a court of law. The Act was based on the Montague-Chelmsford Report. It also introduced the system of dyarchy.
- Bengal Criminal Law Amendment, 1924 This law was implemented to check the rise in revolutionary nationalism by the Jugantar group against British Government in Bengal. Many people were detained under the law, including Subhash Chandra Bose.

Government of India Act, 1935 The Act stipulated for the creation of a 'Federation of India' that consisted of two levels: a Central executive level and provinces and princely states level. Separate electorates were provided for Muslims, Sikhs and others, but not to depressed classes through this Act.

- Indian Independence Act, 1947 The act created two new independent dominions; India and Pakistan. The Bengal and Punjab provinces were partitioned between the two new countries:

Through this Act sovereignty and responsibility of British Parliament abolished. Subsequently, crown ceased to be the source of authority.

Moreover, Dominion legislature became sovereign and Governor-General and provincial governors became constitutional heads.

Land Revenue System

The British introduced different Land Revenue Systems in different areas over the time. Some of these were as follows

Permanent Settlement

- It was introduced in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, districts of Banaras and Northern districts of Madras by Lord Cornwallis in 1793. Sir John Shore planned this settlement.
- It declared zamindars as the owners of the land. Hence, they could keep 1/11th of the revenue collected to themselves, while the British got a fixed share of 10/11th of the revenue collected. The zamindars were free to fix the rate. Assured of their ownership, many zamindars stayed in towns and exploited their tenants.
- The system was introduced to ensure the revenue receipt of the British colonial power, where a zamindar was declared the proprietor of land on condition of fixed revenue payments to the British regime.
- The peasants were turned into tenant farmers and deprived of the land titles, including other rights and privileges enjoyed during the Mughal period.
- The zamindars collected the rents of land through different intermediate collectors. As a result of such practices, there had been creation of multilevel ranks of collector under the zamindar.
- The peasantry was subjected to deprivation of his share in produce from land and relegated to abject poverty.
- This revenue system accounted for 57% of cultivated area in the country. The Flood Commission was established in 1938 to inquire the reasons of the Great Bengal Famine in 1943, recommended the abolition of intermediaries.

Ryotwari Settlement

- It was introduced in Bombay, Madras and Assam. Munro and Charles Reed recommended it. In this system, the direct settlement was made between the government and the ryots.
- The revenue was fixed for a period not exceeding 30 years. It was based on the Scientific Rent Theory of Ricardo. The position of the cultivator became more secure.

Mahalwari System

- This system was introduced in 1833 during the period of William Bentinck.
- It was introduced in the area of Ganga valley, North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), parts of Central India and Punjab. Revenue settlement was to be made by villages or estates with landlords.
- In this system, a settlement was made with the village, which maintained a form of common ownership known as Bhai-Chara or connectivity issue with Mahals, which were a group of villages. Revenue was periodically revised.

Taluqdari System

- In the district of Oudh, there existed another system known as Taluqdari system. A number of villages came under the Taluqdari system. The government entered into an agreement with the Taluqdar for a period of 30 years.
- Unlike the Bengal zamindars, the Oudh Taluqdars had no real rights over the lands under their charge. Moreover, they worked as revenue collectors for the fixed period of the settlement.

Impact of Land Revenue Systems

- The revenue demand being high and harsh led to economic hardship of cultivator and added to the existing poverty i.e. exploitation by the government.
- The land settlements introduced market economy and removed the customary rights. Cash payment of revenue encouraged money lending activity.
- It sharpened economic disparity and social differentiation. The rich had access to the courts to defend their property. However, the poor hardly had any redressal mechanism.
- It led to the commercialisation of agriculture. This was followed by introduction of methods to compel as well as lure the cultivators to grow commercial crops desired by the rulers.

Peasant and Tribal Movements Peasant Rebellions and Movements

- The peasants suffered from high rents, illegal levies, arbitrary evictions and unpaid labour in zamindari areas. In Ryotwari areas, the government itself levied heavy land revenue.
- The social, political, economic and cultural life of Indians with the help of enactment of law and introduction of new legal system etc led to discontentment amongst the Indians in general and peasants in particular.

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Peasants Uprising of Rangpur (1783)

- Rangpur and Dinajpur were two of the districts of Bengal, which faced all kinds of illegal demands by the East India Company and its revenue contractors.
- One such revenue contractor was Debi Singh of Rangpur and Dinajpur. He and his agents created a reign of terror in the two districts of Northern Bengal. Peasants appealed to the company officials to redress their grievances. Their appeal, however, remained unnoticed.
- Being deprived of justice, the peasants took the law in their own hands. They elected Dirhjinarayana as their leader and attacked the local Kutcheries (courts) and storehouses of crops of local agents of the contractors and government officials.
- Both Hindus and Muslims fought side by side in the insurrection. Ultimately, the government's armed forces took control of the situation and suppressed the revolt.

Rebellion at Mysore (1830-31) (Nagar Revolt)

- The financial pressure from the company on ruler of Mysore (Wodeyar) ultimately fell on the cultivators. Revolt broke out in province of Nagar and peasants from adjoining areas joined the rebellion.
- Sardar Malla was a prominent leader of the rebels, who defied the authority of Mysore ruler.

Moplah Uprising (1835-1921)

- Moplah were poor peasants and agricultural labourers, cultivating tenants, petty traders and fishermen of South Malabar.
- They were mostly descendants of Arab settlers/traders and converts from lower caste (like Tiyya Hindu) and were followers of orthodox Islam. They represented lower socio-economic strata of the society.
- British occupation of Malabar and introduction of new changes in land revenue administration aggravated the hardship of Moplahs.
- The Zamindars (Jenmis) from the traditional partnership with the Moplahs were transferred to an independent owner of the land.
- Over assessment, imposition of illegal taxes, eviction and over all hostile attitude of British landlords etc forced Moplahs to opt for rebellion.
- This uprising also caught attention of Harish Chandra Mukherjee (editor of Hindu Patriot), Ram Gopal Ghose (Amrita Bazaar Patrika) and many other intellectuals, who supported the cause of cultivators through their

Pagal Panthi Revolt (1825-50)

- The peasant movement developed in the Sherpur Pargana of Mymen district in East Bengal, where Karam Shah and later his successor, Tipu Shah, started a new religious movement.
- The peasants of the area resisted the collection of illegal abwabs by the zamindars and opposed the new revenue settlement i.e. Permanent Settlement.

In such circumstances, around 1824, Tipu's Pagal Panthi section held out a promise of a new regime and just rents.

- The new spirit gradually spread over the whole region and took the shape of an armed insurrection. It was crushed with the help of the army in 1833.

Indigo Revolt in Bengal (1859-60)

- The largely European planters used totally arbitrary and ruthless methods to force peasants to grow the unremunerative indigo crop on a part of their land in Eastern India.
- Peasants were kidnapped, illegally confined, women and children were attacked, cattle were lifted and crops were looted, burnt and destroyed if the peasants were defiant.
- The British planters enjoyed the privileges and immunities and placed them above the law and beyond all judicial court.
- Finally, in 1860, the terribly oppressed indigo peasants launched non-cultivation of indigo movements. In April 1860, all the cultivators of Barasat sub-division in the districts of Pabna and Nadia resorted to strike to articulate their demands.
- Factories were attacked as were policemen and police posts. Household servants of the planters were pressurised to leave the service of their employers through social boycott and caste pressures used by indigo agitators.
- Nil Darpan, a Bengali play written by Dinabandhu Mitra highlighted the plight of peasants. The government ordered a notification to be issued enjoining the police to profess the right in the possession of their lands on which they had liberty to sow any crop they like.
- This was the first strike of the Indian peasants and succeeded. The same story was repeated in 1867-68 in Champaran (Bihar).

Pabna Rebellion (1873-76)

- The attempts of zamindars to annihilate the tenants newly acquired occupancy rights and to convert them into tenants at will, through forcible written agreement resulted into harassment and atrocities that was vehemently opposed by peasants under the leadership of Ishan Chandra Roy and Sambhunath Pal and Khodi Mulla.

In 1873, peasants of Yusufshahi Pargana of Pabna organised an Agrarian League, which raised funds to mitigate litigation expenses, held mass meetings to which villagers were called by sounding of buffalo horns, drums etc. Peasants did not object to hike in rent..

In fact, the Agrarian League founded in Yusufshahi Pargana in Pabna district in 1873 spread very fast and they wanted to become Queens's Ryots for securing redressal of their grievances. •

Pabna uprising is rarest example, where peasants did not defy colonial authority and as a matter of fact wanted to become Ryots of the queen. Pabna rebellion is a landmark since, it brought about change in perception between individual rights of zamindar and peasants respectively. Attempts were made to paint the movement with communal colour since, majority of peasant activists were Muslims and Pabna had 70% Muslims population.

Deccan Riots/Maratha Peasants Uprising, 1875

The riots were direct outcome of the exploitative nature of Ryotwari System and over assessment associated with it. Cotton boom of 1860's was abruptly cut short by fall in prices due to end of American Civil War (1861-65). The overall result of such changes was that the farmer became a debtor cultivator.

Peasants began a systematic attack on the moneylenders' house and shops. The riot took the form of forcible seizure of debt bonds. Government had to rush police and army to control the situation and the uprising was completely suppressed (1875).

Government appointed the Deccan Riot Commission to investigate into the causes/course of uprising and Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act, 1879 was passed.

The Sanyasi Rebellion (1763-1800)

Forced eviction of peasants and Bengal famine of 1770, propelled the movement that originally started

with small group of Hindus sanyasi who resisted the restriction imposed on their movement to religious places.

Further, Muslim fakir also rebelled. They formed small unit of mobile troops that raided and attacked storehouses and local rich men merchants zamindars and government institution and officials..

Sanyasi and fakir rebellions spread Northern Bengal and adjacent areas of Bihar between 1763-1800.

In fact, they established independent government in Bogra and Mymensingh in which Hindus and Muslims participated

enthusiastically. This is evident from the names of important leaders like Majnu Shah and his son Chirag Ali, Musa Shah, Bhawani Pathak, Debi Chowdhurani etc.

Warren Hastings was able to control Sanyasi rebellion through military action. However, he did not succeed in suppressing

the movement altogether. It was made famous by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, through his novel, Anandamath.

Other Peasant Movements

Movements/Organisations	Locations	Leaders	Causes
Sambhalpur Uprisings (1840)	Sambhalpur	Surendra Sai	▪ Against the interference of the British in the internal affairs of the area Sambhalpur.
The Kuka Revolt (1840)	West Punjab	Bhagat Jawahar Mal and Baba Balak Singh	▪ To purge Sikhism of its corrupt practices by preaching abolition of castes and similar discriminations and discouraging eating of meat and taking of drugs.
Gadkari Rebellion (1844-45)	Kolhapur	Gadkaris	▪ Against the assumption of direct administration of Kolhapur by British and its revenue policy.
Indigo Revolt (1860)	Nadia district of Bengal	Digambar Biswas, Bishnu Biswas, Harish Chandra Mukherjee (editor of newspaper Hindu Patriot)	▪ Peasants were forced to grow Indigo in their field by European factory owners. ▪ Dinabandhu Mitra had written about this revolt in his play <i>Nil Darpan</i> (translated into English by Madhusudan Datta).
Polygar Rebellions 1799	Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu	Kattabomma Nayak	▪ Controversy of who shall collect Taxes and against the suzerainty of British.

Movements/Organisations	Locations	Leaders	Causes
Poona Sarvajanik Sabha (1870)	Pune	MG Ranade	▪ To popularise the peasants' Legal Right.
Pabna Agrarian Uprising (1873)	Pabna district of Bengal	Shah Chandra Roy, Shambhu Pal	▪ Against oppression of peasants by zamindar. ▪ Bengal Tenancy Act (1885) passed.
Ramosis Uprising (1877-87)	Ramosis, Maharashtra	Vasudev Balwant Phadke	▪ It was against the British failure to take up an anti-famine measure.
Bijolia Movement (1905, 1913, 1916, 1927)	Rajasthan	Sitaram Das, Vijay Pathak Singh	▪ The movement arose due to imposition of 86 different types of cesses on peasants.
Champaran Satyagraha (1917)	Bihar	Gandhiji, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Raj Kumar Shukla	▪ Against the Tinkathia system imposed by the European Indigo planters.
Kheda Satyagraha (1918)	Uttar Pradesh	Gandhiji	▪ Against ignored appeal for remission of land revenue in case of crop failure.
United Province Kisan Sabha (1918)	Uttar Pradesh	Gauri Shankar Mishra, Indra Narayan Dwivedi	▪ Against the threat of bedakhli eviction and this Jajmani system.
Uttar Pradesh Kisan Sabha Uttar Pradesh (1918)	Uttar Pradesh	Indra Narayan Dwivedi, Madan Mohan Malaviya	▪ To organise Kisans against zamindari system.
Awadh Kisan Sabha (1920)	Oudh	Jawaharlal Nehru, Baba Ram Chandra	▪ To organise peasants.
Eka (1921)	Awadh	Madari Pasi	▪ Higher extraction of rent.
Moplah Rebellion (1835-1921)	Malabar region (Kerala)	Sayyid Ali, Sayyid Fazi	▪ Against the oppression and exploitation of Muslim Moplah Peasants by Hindu zamindars (Jemis) and British Government.
Andhra Ryots Association (1928)	Andhra Pradesh	NG Ranga	▪ Abolition of zamindari.
Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)	Bardoli (Gujarat)	Vallabhbhai Patel	▪ Against the 30% increase over the existing land revenue.
All India Kisan Sabha (1936)	United Province	Swami Sahajanand	▪ Protection of peasants from economic exploitation.
Tebhaga Movement (1946)	Tebhaga (Bengal)	Bengal Kisan Sabha	▪ Against zamindars, rich farmers (jotedars), moneylenders, traders, local bureaucrats.
Telangana Movement (1946-51)	Hyderabad	Praja Mandal and Communist Party of India	▪ Against Nizam officials