

CHAPTER 3

The British Expansion and Consolidation in India

The expansion and consolidation of British colonial power in the Indian sub-continent began in the mid 18th century with Bengal and went on till 1856 when Awadh was annexed by Lord Dalhousie.

BRITISH OCCUPATION OF BENGAL

The first major conflict of the British against an Indian power was in Bengal. The history of Bengal from **1757 to 1765** is the history of gradual transfer of power from the nawabs to the British.

- During this short period of eight years three nawabs- **Siraj-ud- Daula, Mir Jafar and Mir Qasim** ruled over Bengal but they failed to uphold the sovereignty of the nawab and ultimately the reign of control passed into the hands of the British.

Background

Since the 17th century, **Bengal's rich resources had attracted the** Dutch, the English and the French Companies.

- In 1651, at **Hugli**, the first East India Company's (EIC) factory was set up upon receiving permission from **Sultan Shuja** (second son of Emperor Shah Jahan), the subahdar of Bengal.

Shuja also granted the English East India Company (EIC) the **privilege of free trade in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa** in return for lump sum payment of ₹ 3,000 (350 pounds). Thereafter, **English factories sprang up at Kasimbazar, Patna and other places.**

- In 1698, the East India Company obtained the **Zamindari of the Villages of Sutanati, Kalikata and Govindpur** from Subahdar Azim-us-Shan. In 1700, the Bengal factories were placed under **Fort William**. Soon, the villages grew into a city known as **Calcutta**.

- In **1717**, through Royal Farman, **Emperor Farrukhsiyar** confirmed the trade privileges granted to the company by earlier subahdars.

In the same year, Farrukhsiyar appointed **Murshid Quli Khan**, the Diwan of Bengal, as Subahdar or Governor (Nizam or Nazim) of Bengal, thus **holding the post of Subahdar and Diwan at the same time**. Taking advantage of his position, Murshid Quli now **declared himself as the Nawab of Bengal** and became the first independent Nawab of Bengal.

- In 1740, **Alivardi Khan**, the Deputy Governor of Bihar, deposed and killed Nawab Sarfaraz Khan (grandson of Murshid Quli). Alivardi Khan **rightly did not allow fortifications of French and English factories** at Chandernagore and Calcutta.

In 1756, Alivardi died, nominating his grandson **Siraj-ud- Daulah** as his successor.

Plassey To Buxar (1757–1765)

Bengal Nawabs	Important Events
Siraj-ud- Daulah (April 1756 to June 1757)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siraj's succession was challenged by two other contenders for the throne, Shaukat Jung (Faujdar of Purnea) and Ghaseti Begum (Alivardi's daughter). This resulted in intense court factionalism and seriously destabilised the administration of Bengal and the Advantage was taken by English India Company. The EIC came in conflict with the Nawab mainly due to the Farman of 1717 and misuse of dastaks by the company's servants.

But the **breaking point** came when the English Company, began to strengthen the **fortifications of Fort William** and mounted guns on its walls (**Immediate cause of conflict**).

Plassey To Buxar (1757–1765)	
Bengal Nawabs	Important Events
	<p>Black Hole Tragedy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 15 June 1756, Siraj-ud-Daulah surrounded Fort William and the siege lasted for five days. During this while, Governor Roger Drake and some of his men escaped and took refuge at Fulta near the sea and waited for help from Madras, they left behind 146 persons, including some women and children, under the command of John Zepahnaih Holwell. After the fort fell on 20th June, the Nawab renamed Calcutta as Alinagar, placed it under the charge of Manik Chand and himself returned to Murshidabad. Subsequently, Holwell and others were imprisoned in a small room of the fort popularly known as Black Hole (18 feet long and 14 feet 10 inches wide) in conditions of excessive heat and crowding owing to summer solstice. It is believed that out of 146 persons imprisoned in that room, only 26 survived next morning, the rest were probably trampled down by the others for places near the window. This incident came to be known as the 'Black Hole Tragedy'. The English Company portrayed Siraj-ud- Daulah a cruel monster and used this episode to sway British public opinion and sympathy in favour of the wars of aggression it intended to wage. Meanwhile, help came from Madras in the form of a strong naval force under the command of Robert Clive. Manik Chand, the Nawab's officer in charge of Fort William, was bribed and he surrendered after a brief pretence of resistance. <p>Treaty of Alinagar (February 1757):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February 1757, the Nawab had to make peace with the English and sign the humiliating Treaty of Alinagar. As per the treaty, the Nawab had to restore to the English their former privileges of trade, grant permission to fortify Calcutta and even pay compensation amount for the losses suffered by the English. Still, the English were not satisfied. They had decided to replace the Nawab with Mir Jafar. <p>The Battle of Plassey (23 June 1757):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The disaffected nobles of Siraj's court joined hands with the English to oust Siraj and install their protégé, leading to the Plassey Conspiracy of 1757. Chief among these were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mir Jafar- the Mir Bakshi (Commander-in-Chief of the Nawab's army) Manik Chand- The officer incharge of Calcutta Amir Chand- A rich merchant Jagat Seth- The biggest banker of Bengal Khadim Khan- commanded a large number of the Nawab's troops On 23 June 1757, both Nawab's army (commanded by treacherous Mir Jafar) and English army met at Plassey. Only a small group of Nawab's soldiers led by Mir Madan and Mohan Lal fought bravely. As a result, the Nawab had to flee but was captured and put to death by an assassin, Mohammad Ali Beg hired by Mir Jafar's son, Miran. <p>Consequence of the Battle of Plassey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mir Jafar was proclaimed as Nawab of Bengal. Robert Clive became the Governor of Bengal (Clive's first Governorship; 1757 -60). The EIC was granted undisputed right to free trade in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa The Company received the Zamindari of 24- Parganas near Calcutta. All the French settlements in Bengal were surrendered to the English. Mir Jafar paid out a sum of ₹ 50 lakh as gift or bribe to the company's officials, besides a large amount as personal present to Clive and compensation for the Company's losses <p>Significance of the Battle of Plassey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British emerged as kingmakers in Bengal. The company emerged supreme and established its monopoly over Bengal trade by marginalizing the French and the Dutch Companies. Vast resources of Bengal were placed at British disposal to meet the cost of conquest of rest of the country.
Mir Jafar (June 1757 to October 1760)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mir Jafar failed to meet the growing demands of the Company and began intriguing with the Dutch against the British. Clive, however, thwarted this design by defeating the Dutch in the decisive Battle of Bedra (November 1759). In October 1760, Mir Jafar was ultimately forced to abdicate by Vansittart (who had succeeded Clive as the Governor of Bengal in 1760) in favour of his son-in-law, Mir Qasim.

Plassey To Buxar (1757–1765)	
Bengal Nawabs	Important Events
Mir Qasim or Itmad-ud-Daulah (October 1760 to 1763)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mir Qasim granted the Company the zamindari of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong. His relationship with the British embittered due to the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He shifted the capital from Murshidabad to Monghyr in Bihar, away from the influence of the Company at Calcutta. He also majorly overhauled the bureaucracy by men of his choice and sought to improve the finances of the state. He sought to modernize his army along European lines and preparations were made for manufacture of guns at Monghyr. He dismissed Ram Narayan, the deputy Governor of Bihar and a protégé of the British. The misuse of dastaks by the Company's servants for private trade and use of violence and oppression by them against peasants and Indian merchants (Immediate cause of the Battle of Buxar).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In such conditions, Vansittart and Warren Hastings met the Nawab at Monghyr and concluded a compromise. But unfortunately, the agreement was disapproved by the Calcutta Council and instead of the compromise they (members of Calcutta Council) favoured the deposition of Mir Qasim.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of desperation, Mir Qasim abolished all inland duties to bring the Indian merchants on the same footing as the English, provoking hostilities by an attack on Patna town. In this way, war between the Nawab and the English broke out in 1763 and the Nawab was defeated in a series of battles that year.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsequently, Mir Qasim fled to Awadh and formed an alliance with Shuja-ud-Daulah (Nawab of Awadh) and Shah Alam II (the fugitive Mughal Emperor) in a final bid to overthrow the English.
	Battle of Buxar (22 October 1764): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three allies (Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II) clashed with the Company's army (commanded by Major Munro) at the battlefield of Buxar on 22 October 1764. The British won the battle.
	Consequences of Battle of Buxar:
	Awadh: Clive concluded with Shuja-ud-Daulah the First Treaty of Allahabad (16 August 1765) . As per the treaty- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nawab of Awadh was made to pay a war indemnity of ₹ 50 Lakh to Company. The Nawab was made to surrender Allahabad and Kora to Emperor Shah Alam and confirm Balwant Singh, the Zamindar of Banaras, to his estate. Awadh was made to enter Subsidiary alliance with the Company.
	Mughals: Clive concluded the Second Treaty of Allahabad (August 1765) with the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. As per the treaty- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Emperor was taken into Company's protection and given the districts of Kora and Allahabad ceded by Awadh (the Emperor resided in the fort of Allahabad for 6 years as a virtual prisoner of the English). In return, the Emperor issued a farman dated 12 August 1765 granting to the Company the Diwani (right to collect revenue) of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa in return for the Company making an annual payment of ₹ 26 lakh to him and providing for the expenses of the Nizamat of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa which was fixed at ₹ 53 lakh.
	Bengal: Mir Jafar was brought back to the throne of Bengal, this time on much harsher terms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive was made Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bengal (Clive's second governorship: 1765-67). After the death of Mir Jafar, Najim-ud-Daulah was allowed to succeed his father (February 1765) on the condition that the Nawab would surrender Defense and Foreign Affairs (both were nizamat functions) into the hands of the company and civil administration into the hands of a Naib-Subahdar nominated by the Company and not removable without their consent. Dual System of Administration (Dual/ double governance or Dyarchy) was established in Bengal: In theory, Dual System meant the system of governance where the Company exercised Diwani functions (revenue collection) while the Nawab of Bengal exercised the Nizamat functions (defense, law and order and administration of justice).
	Significance of Battle of Buxar : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While Plassey had made the British a powerful factor in Bengal politics, Buxar made them a powerful factor in politics of north India. Infact, the British now emerged as strong contenders for the India Empire.

BRITISH EXPANSION IN SOUTH INDIA (CONQUEST OF MYSORE AND THE MARATHAS, 1767-1818)

After the conquest of Bengal, the British turned to South India. The English East India Company had **already eliminated the French from the region by 1761** through the **Carnatic Wars**. The **existing rivalry among the southern rulers** and the **volatile political situation in the region** provided a **favourable ground for political intervention** by the Company.

British Intervention in Mysore

The **reasons for British intervention** in Mysore and the Maratha states were **primarily commercial**:

- Hyder and Tipu's **control over the rich trade of the Malabar Coast** was seen as a threat to the English Company's trade in pepper and cardamom.
In 1785, Tipu declared an embargo on export of pepper and cardamom through the ports within his kingdom.
- In 1788, he clearly forbade dealings with British traders. Mysore was also seen as a **threat to English control over Madras**.
- The **French alliance with Mysore** was seen as a threat to English dominance.

Anglo-Mysore Wars (During 1767- 1799)

- There were **four Anglo-Mysore wars**. Except for the first war, the British emerged victorious in all of them. The English Company was mainly represented by the **Madras Presidency**.

Anglo-Mysore Wars (During 1767- 1799)

First Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69)

Cause:

In 1766, the **British had declared war on Mysore**, which was allied with the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad. To solve the crisis, **Haider Ali engaged in a diplomatic game**. He brought the Marathas and the Nizam together to launch an attack on Arcot.

Course of the war:

- The war began when the **Marathas invaded northern Mysore in January 1767**. On payment of thirty lakh rupees, however, **Haider Ali made peace with the Marathas**.
- In March of 1767, the **Nizam of Hyderabad attacked Mysore** with the assistance of an English force. However, the **attack was unsuccessful**. The Nizam abandoned the English in September 1767 and joined forces with Haider Ali.

Result:

- On **April 4, 1769**, Madras Government signed the humiliating **Treaty of Madras**.
- The treaty was signed on the basis of **mutual restitution of each other's territories and a defensive alliance** requiring the English to aid Haider if he were to be attacked by another power.

Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780- 1784)

Causes:

- Haider Ali accused the Company of violating the terms of the defensive treaty when, **in 1771, the Marathas attacked Mysore and the Company refused to assist him**.
- The French were more helpful than the English in meeting Haider's military demands for firearms, saltpetre, and lead.

The English attempt to capture Mahe, whom Haider considered to be under his protection, was a **direct challenge to Haider Ali**.

Haider Ali arranged a **joint front with the Nizam and the Marathas** against the common enemy—the English East India Company.

Course of the war:

- In July 1780, **Haider attacked Carnatic and captured Arcot**, defeating Colonel Baillie's English army.
- In the meantime**, the English separated the Marathas and the Nizam from Haider's side.
- Haider bravely confronted the English but was defeated at **Porto Novo** (November 1781).
- The following year, Haider handed the English army led by **Colonel Braithwaite** a humiliating defeat. Braithwaite was taken prisoner.
- Haider passed away on 7 December 1782**, leaving unfinished business to his son Tipu. **Tipu continued the war** for another year, but neither side achieved complete victory.

Result:

- The two sides, tired of war, signed the **Treaty of Mangalore (March 1784)**. The treaty was based on the **mutual restitution of each other's territories**. The second round of the conflict was similarly inconclusive.

Anglo-Mysore Wars (During 1767- 1799)

Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790- 1792)

Causes:

- **Tipu vs. British: Tipu Sultan wanted to eliminate the English from India.** His other designs were to wreak vengeance on the Nizam and on the Marathas as they had betrayed his father during the hour of need.
- In 1785, **Tipu Sultan stopped the export of sandalwood, pepper and cardamom** through the ports of his kingdom, and **disallowed local merchants from trading with the English Company.** He strengthened his position by undertaking various internal reforms. This created worries for the British, the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas.
- **Tripartite alliances:** Lord Cornwallis worked on the anti-Tipu suspicions of the **Nizam** and the **Marathas** and arranged a **Triple Alliance (1790)** with them against Tipu.
Convinced of the inevitability of a war with the English, **Tipu had sought the help of the Turks** by sending an embassy to Constantinople in 1784 and again in 1785 and on to the French king in 1787.
- **Dispute between Tipu and the Raja of Travancore:** Tipu's differences with the Raja of Travancore arose over the latter's **purchase of Jaikottai and Cranganore from the Dutch** in Cochin state.

Course of the war"

- The English, siding with Travancore, attacked Tipu. **In 1790, Tipu defeated the English** under General Meadows.
- Later on, an **English army headed by Cornwallis** marched through Vellore and Ambur to Bangalore (captured in March 1791) and **approached Seringapatam.** The English captured Coimbatore but lost it later.
- With the **help of the Maratha and Nizam troops** the English made a second advance towards Seringapatam and forced Tipu to conclude the **Treaty of Seringapatam** (March 1792).

Result:

- The treaty resulted in the **surrender of nearly half of Mysorean territory** to the victorious allies.
- The **British** acquired Baramahal, Dindigul and Malabar while the **Marathas** got territory on the Tungabhadra side and the **Nizam** acquired territories from the Krishna to beyond the Pennar.

Tipu had also **to pay a war indemnity** of over three crores of rupees.

Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)

Causes:

- **Attitude of Tipu towards Hindu royal family of Mysore:** When the Hindu ruler of the Wodeyar dynasty passed away in 1796, Tipu refused to place Wodeyar's minor son on the throne and instead proclaimed himself sultan.
- **Tipu's closeness with French:** Tipu Sultan desired revenge for the humiliating Seringapatam Treaty. He tirelessly sought assistance to combat British imperialism.
He **made efforts to seek help from** France, Arabia, Kabul, and Turkey.
In July 1798, he **corresponded with** the French Revolutionary Government.
At Seringapatam, a **Jacobin Club** was established and the French Republic's flag was raised. The **Liberty Tree** was also planted.
- **Lord Wellesley's charges against Tipu:** As Governor-General in 1798, in the backdrop of Napoleonic danger to India, Lord Wellesley was **determined to either tame Tipu to submission or eliminate** his independence.

Course of the war:

- The war against Tipu began on 17 April and ended with the **fall of Seringapatam** on 4 May 1799.
- Tipu was defeated by **English General Stuart and General Harris.** The history of Mysore's independence ended with this defeat.

Result:

- Tipu died valiantly in combat.
- The **English occupied** Kanara, Coimbatore, Wayanad, and Dharpuram in addition to the entire Mysore coastline.
- **A number of territories were granted to the Nizam.**
- A boy from the **former Hindu royal family of Mysore** was placed on gaddi and a **Subsidiary Alliance** was imposed.

Marathas

- **Marathas** were seen as a **threat to the English trade from Bombay.**
- The **development in infantry and gunnery in both states** caused great uneasiness in the Company.

Anglo-Maratha Wars (1777-1818)

The Maratha Empire comprised of **five major chiefs-** the **Peshwa** at Poona, **Bhonsale** at Nagpur, Scindia at Gwalior, **Holkar** at Indore and **Gaekwad** at Baroda. Peshwa was the nominal head of this **Maratha confederacy** and there existed **bitter mutual rivalry among all of them, particularly Scindia and Holkar.**

- In all, **three Anglo-Maratha Wars** were fought between the army of the English East India Company.
- The Wars started in 1777 and **ended with British Victory in 1818.**

Anglo-Maratha Wars (1777-1818)

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775- 1782)

- **The Roots of the Conflict**

The tussle among Marathas: An intense struggle for power took place between the supporters of the infant Peshwa **Sawai Madhava Rao II, led by Nana Phadnis vs his opponents led by Ex- Peshwa Raghunath Rao**, supported by British.

Intervention by the British: When Raghunath Rao sought English help, the British officials in Bombay readily agreed and concluded with him the **Treaty of Surat in 1775**.

- » By the **terms of this treaty**, Raghunath Rao had to give the English- Salsette and Bassein in return for their help.

- **Course of the War**

All the **Maratha chiefs led by Nana Phadnis** and the **South Indian powers under the leadership of Haider Ali and the Nizam** declared war against the Company.

- » Thus, the British were faced with the **powerful combination of the Marathas, Mysore and Hyderabad**.

- **Outcome of the War**

- After the first Anglo- Maratha war, peace was finally concluded in **1782** by **Treaty of Salbai**. According to the treaty-

Both parties **agreed to return each other's territory** conquered during the course of war.

The **English gave up the cause of Raghunath Rao** who was to be given a pension by the Treaty of Salbai.

Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803- 1805)

- **The Roots of the Conflict**

Internal issues of Marathas and interference of British: After the **death of Nana Phadnavis (March 1800)**, the Poona Court once again fell victim to various court conspiracies. In the **struggle for power in Maratha polity**, Peshwa Bajirao II, Daulat Rao Scindia and Yashwant Rao Holkar emerged as the main Maratha leaders.

Treaty of Bassein (31 December 1802): This treaty of 'perpetual and general alliance' was **signed between Peshwa Bajirao II and the English Company**. It was a treaty of Subsidiary Alliance. Through this treaty, the Peshwa i.e. head of the Maratha confederacy lost his independent authority and eventually the other Maratha chiefs were reduced to a similar position of subordination to the Company.

- » This **affected the patriotic feelings of other Maratha chiefs** and provoked the Second Anglo-Maratha War that began the break-up of the Maratha confederacy.

Lack of unity among Maratha chiefs: After the signing of Treaty of Bassein between Peshwa Bajirao II and the English Company, **Daulat Rao Scindia and Raghujji Bhonsle** immediately **formed an alliance against the English**. They tried to include **Yashwant Rao Holkar** but could not succeed. **Gaekwad** remained neutral. In this way, even in time of national danger, the Maratha chiefs did not unite.

- **Course of the War**

The **English decided to attack all Maratha regions**. The war was fought in two main centres- in **Deccan under Arthur Wellesley** and in **north India under General Lake**.

- » In the **Deccan**, Wellesley defeated the combined armies of Scindia and Bhonsle in the **Battle of Assaye** (near Aurangabad, September 1803) and the **Battle of Argaoon** (near Burhanpur, November 1803).
- » In the **north**, Lord Lake defeated Daulat Rao Scindia in the **Battle of Delhi** (September 1803) and the combined armies of Scindia and Bhonsle in the **Battle of Laswari** (near Alwar, November 1803).

- **Outcome**

- Scindia and Bhonsle faced total defeat within five months and had to sign two separate treaties with the English Company.

Treaty of Deogaon (17 December 1803): This treaty of **subsidiary alliance** was signed between **Raghujji Bhonsle** and the Company.

Treaty of Surji- Arjangaon (30 December 1803): This treaty of **Subsidiary alliance** was signed between **Scindia** and the Company.

Treaty of Rajpurghat (24 December 1805): This treaty was signed **between Yashwant Rao Holkar and the English Company**.

- **Result**

The result of Second Anglo- Maratha War was that **it tore apart the Maratha confederacy**.

Anglo-Maratha Wars (1777-1818)

Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817- 1818)

- **The Roots of the Conflict**

British conflict with the Pindaris: The **chief reason for this war** was the British conflict with the Pindaris whom the British suspected were being protected by the Marathas.

- » The Pindaris were first heard of in 1689 during the Mughal invasion of Maharashtra and were referred to as **irregular horsemen attached to the Maratha army**, serving without pay but instead receiving the license to plunder.
- » **Often described as 'scavengers of the Marathas'**, they greatly swelled in ranks during the Wellesley when native armies were disbanded in large numbers. In fact, the Pindaris were **a heterogenous mix of elements drawn from disbanded soldiers, hardy peasants, idle and unscrupulous men.**

Aggressive policy of Lord Hastings: Hastings tried to establish the supremacy of English East India Company in India and **resumed the threads of aggressive policy abandoned in 1805** with the recall of Wellesley.

Pride of Maratha chiefs: Though the Maratha chiefs had been humbled, they had **not yet reconciled with the loss of their independence** and they rose once again under the leadership of Peshwa.

- **Course of the War**

Peshwa Baji Rao II's forces **supported by** those of Bhonsle (Mudholji II Bhonsle, also known as **Appa Sahib of Nagpur**) and Holkar (**Malhar Rao Holkar III of Indore**) rose against the East India Company.

On 5 November 1817, the Peshwa set ablaze the British residency of Poona and attacked the British camp at Khadki. But the **Peshwa was defeated at Khadki** (also known as Kirkee or Ganesh Khind, 5 November), **Bhonsle was defeated at Sitabaldi hills** (26 November) and **Holkar was defeated at Mehidpur** (21 December 1817).

After the defeat at Khadki, Peshwa fought **two more battles** with the British- **Battle of Koregaon** (1 January 1818) and the **Battle of Ashti** (20 February 1818). He was **defeated in both** the battles and **finally surrendered** in front of Sir John Malcolm.

In this way, the entire Maratha force was routed by superior military power of the East India Company.

- **Result**

Hastings decided to **get rid of both- the Peshwa and the Peshwaship**. Hence the **Peshwa was dethroned, pensioned off** and ordered to spend his last days in **Bithoor near Kanpur**.

Peshwa's kingdom was brought under the British control and **enlarged presidency of Bombay** was brought into existence.

To satisfy Maratha pride, **a small kingdom of Satara** was carved out of Peshwa's kingdom and given to **Pratap Singh**, a direct descendant of Shivaji.

Thus by 1818, the **entire Indian Subcontinent except Sindh and Punjab** had been brought under British control, directly or indirectly.



BRITISH EXPANSION IN NORTH INDIA (CONQUEST OF SINDH, PUNJAB AND AWADH, 1843- 57)

In north India, Rohilkhand and Etawah had been annexed by Shuja-ud- Daula in 1774 and later incorporated into Company's territory in 1801. Thus, only Punjab and Awadh were left as major powers in north India. Sindh (or Sind) in the west was conquered in 1847. In this way, **from 1818 to 1857, the British completed the task of conquering the whole of India.**

Conquest of Sindh (1843)

- Alarmed by the prospect of Napoleon invasion on India via land route, the **British signed the Treaty of Eternal Friendship with the Amirs of Sindh in 1809.**

Under this treaty, **Amirs promised not to allow the French to settle in Sindh.**

In 1820, the treaty was renewed to further exclude the Americans from Sindh.

- Soon the commercial and navigational value of the Indus began to attract the attention of the Company's authorities. Consequently, **in 1832, William Bentinck sent Colonel Pottinger** to Sindh to sign a **new commercial treaty** with the Amirs.

As per the treaty, the Amirs allowed a free passage to English travellers and merchants through Sindh and also allowed the use of Indus for commercial pursuits.

Later, Pottinger was stationed as the **Company's political agent in Sindh.**

- **In the context of Anglo-Russian Rivalry, Lord Auckland** began to see Sindh from a larger perspective of **defence for India from the Russian threat**. To him, Sindh was a necessary prelude to the annexation of Afghanistan.

- Soon **Ranjit Singh** captured Rojhan, a town on the Sindh frontier, giving the Company a chance to offer protection to the Amirs.
The Amirs had neither desired nor asked for foreign help, yet they were **forced to sign a Subsidiary Treaty in 1839 and accept a British Resident at Hyderabad**.
The Amirs had virtually passed under the British protection.
- **During the Afghan war (1839- 1842)**, the Amirs of Sindh found themselves saddled with the responsibility of helping the British forces. Parts of their territory like Shikarpur, Bukkar and Karachi were taken away in **gross violation of the Treaty of Perpetual Friendship** and they also had to contribute a large amount of money in order to maintain troops in their midst whom they did not want. **The independent position of the Amirs was gone forever**.
In 1842, **Lord Ellenborough** succeeded Auckland as Governor- General and proved to be equally unscrupulous in his dealings with the Amirs. He was **eager to find a pretext for the annexation of Sindh**.
In September 1842, Major Outram was replaced by **Sir Charles Napier** as British Resident in Sindh. He was equally eager to annex the province and **followed a bullying policy**. He **charged the Amirs of hostility and disaffection** towards the British government.
Sindh was **finally annexed in 1843** after a brief campaign (**Battles of Miani and Dabo**) led by Sir Charles Napier. Napier called the Sindh war as '**the tail of the Afghan storm**'.
In 1847, Sindh was made part of British India's **Bombay Presidency**.

Conquest of Punjab (1849)

- In 1843, **Dalip Singh**, a minor son of **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**, was proclaimed king under the guardianship of **Rani Jindan**.
- The **English** were **closely watching the happenings in Punjab** and **cast longing eyes on the fertile plains** on the other side of the Sutlej (in 1843 itself, to the south of Punjab, they had annexed Sindh).
- In 1843, **Major Broadfoot** was appointed as Company's political agent in Punjab. He stressed on the disorder in Punjab.
In 1844, Lord Ellenborough was succeeded by **Lord Hardinge** as Governor- General. Hardinge undertook **vigorous measures to strengthen the Company's military position**. The Company's troops in Punjab and Sindh were trained and fortified.
- To the Sikhs, the British moves appeared more as an act of aggression rather than defence. Consequently, **on 11 December 1845, the Sikh troops, led by Lal Singh** (a lover of Rani Jindan, who had won over the army on his side and become the **Wazir** in 1845), crossed the Sutlej and **took offensive action** against the English troops commanded by **Sir Hugh Gough**.
- On 13 December, Hardinge made his **declaration of war** and thus the war began.

Anglo Sikh Wars

- First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46)**
- Four successive battles were fought between the British and the Sikh army. These were the **battles of Mudki, Ferozeshah, Baddoal and Aliwal**. But the fifth and decisive battle was the **Battle of Sabraon** (10 February 1846).
Due to the treachery of **Lal Singh (Wazir) and Teja Singh (commander of the Sikh forces)**, who gave all critical information to the English, the battle resulted in a bloody slaughter of Sikh troops.
After the **defeat of the Sikhs**, the British occupied Lahore and forced the Sikhs to sign the Treaty of Lahore.
 - **Treaty of Lahore (9 March 1846)**: The main provisions of the treaty were as follows:
Maharaja **gave up** all his territories lying to the south of the River Sutlej.
Sikhs had to pay **₹ 1.5 crore** as **war indemnity**. Unable to pay the entire sum, they had to give up certain additional territories including Kashmir and Hazara.
» The **British sold Kashmir to Gulab Singh** for ₹ 1 crore.
Minor Dalip Singh was accepted as king with **Queen Jindan** as his guardian (Queen Regent) and **Lal Singh** as the Wazir.
Sir Henry Lawrence became the British Resident at Lahore.

Anglo Sikh Wars

The Sikhs **disliked** the British move of selling away Kashmir to Gulab Singh. Consequently, the Sikhs **revolted under Lal Singh**. The revolt was suppressed and yet another treaty, **Treaty of Bhairoval**, was signed with Dalip Singh.

- **Treaty of Bhairoval (22 December 1846)**: Main provisions of the treaty were as follows:

Rani Jindan's guardianship was **ended** and she was pensioned.

A **Council of eight Sikh chiefs** under the Chairmanship of British Resident was appointed for governance works.

It was decided that a **permanent British army** will be **placed at Lahore** until Dalip Singh becomes a major.

Punjab was **not annexed** after the **First Anglo-Sikh war**. The annexation of Punjab would have created some serious problems for the British. It was clear that Punjab had to be territorially reduced, militarily enfeebled and financially crippled before it could be absorbed into the British Empire.

Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-1849)

- The British got opportunity for annexation of Punjab when two British officers, **Vans Agnew and**

Lieutenant Anderson, were sent for taking charge of Multan from its **Governor, Mulraj**. The officers were **murdered** there and within a short period of time, **other Sikh chiefs joined** with their armies in **open rebellion** under the banner of Mulraj. The rebellion soon developed into a national uprising in Punjab. Taking this as an excuse, **Dalhousie (then Governor-general) declared war**.

- **Three battles** were fought in the Second Anglo-Sikh War, namely:

1. **Battle of Ramnagar** (22 November 1848)
2. **Battle of Chillianwala** (13 January 1849)

The first two battles were **indecisive**. In these battles, the British army was led by **General Gough**.

3. **Battle of Gujarat** (21 February 1849): The Sikh army was **defeated** and it surrendered before the English led by **Charles Napier**.

Once the Sikh army collapsed, **Dalhousie** decided in favour of annexation. He **annexed Punjab on 29 March 1849**.

Maharaja Dalip Singh was pensioned and sent to England for education. Punjab administration was entrusted to a Board of Commissioners. **Kohinoor diamond** was taken away from Dalip Singh and placed in the British royal crown. In this way, Punjab was made part of the British Empire.

Annexation of Awadh (1856)

- Awadh signed the **Treaty of Subsidiary Alliance** after the Battle of Buxar.
Hence, Awadh was created as a **buffer state** between the Company's territories and the turbulent western India.
- Despite the subordinate status of Awadh within the subsidiary alliance system, **Shuja-ud-Daulah, the Awadh Nawab** asserted his independence in many ways and **in 1774**, he also **annexed Rohilkhand and Etawah**.
- However, Awadh's position significantly weakened after the **death of Shuja-ud-Daulah in 1775**. His son **Asaf-ud-Daulah** tried to gain control but he faced challenge from other aspirants. Frustrated, he **struck a compromise with the Company**.

The **Company** secured the Nawabi for him but at the same time **seized this opportunity** to consolidate its position in Awadh.

- **The treaty of 1801**: In 1801, **Governor-General Lord Wellesley** forced the Nawab, **Saadat Ali Khan**, to sign a new treaty. **As per the treaty-**

The **Nawab had to cede half of his territory** including the Lower Doab, Gorakhpur and Rohilkhand to the Company (called the Ceded Districts).

He was **also required to act** as per the advice of the **council of officers** of the Company.

- Finally **in 1856, Awadh was annexed by Lord Dalhousie on the pretext of maladministration** based on British Resident to Lucknow Outram's report.
- The **Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah** was kept under **house arrest in Calcutta**.

RELATIONS OF BRITISH INDIA WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The desire of the British imperialists to consolidate their administrative and political power in the region led them into conflict with countries neighbouring India.

Relations of British India with Neighbouring Countries

	Anglo-Bhutanese Relations	Anglo-Nepalese Relations	Anglo-Burmese Relations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The occupation of Assam in 1826 brought the British into close contacts with the mountain state of Bhutan. Frequent raids by Bhutanese into adjoining territories in Assam and Bengal and the bad treatment meted out to Elgin's envoy in 1863–64 and the treaty imposed on him, by which the British were forced to surrender the passes leading to Assam, led to British annexation of these passes and the stopping of allowance paid to the Bhutanese.• In 1865, the Bhutanese were forced to surrender the passes in return for an annual subsidy. It was the surrendered district which became a productive area with tea gardens. The Gorkhas wrested control of Nepal from the successors of Ranjit Malla of Bhatgaon in 1760. They found it easier to expand in the southern direction, as the north was well defended by the Chinese.• In 1801, the English annexed Gorakhpur, which brought the Gorkhas' boundary and the Company's boundary together.• The conflict started due to the Gorkhas' capture of Butwal and Sheoraj in the period of Lord Hastings (1813–23). The war ended in the Treaty of Sagauli in 1816, which was in favour of the British. As per the treaty-<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nepal accepted a British resident.• Nepal ceded the districts of Garhwal and Kumaon, and abandoned claims to Terai.• Nepal also withdrew from Sikkim.	<p>The expansionist urges of the British, fuelled by the lure of the forest resources of Burma, market for British manufactures in Burma and the need to check French ambitions in Burma and the rest of South-East Asia, resulted in three Anglo-Burmese Wars, and in the end, the annexation of Burma into British India in 1885.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Burma War (1824–26)<p>The British expeditionary forces occupied Rangoon in May 1824 and reached within 72 km of the capital at Ava.</p><p>Peace was established in 1826 with the Treaty of Yandabo, which provided that the Government of Burma:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">» Pay one crore rupees as war compensation» Cede its coastal provinces of Arakan and Tenasserim» Abandon claims on Assam, Cachar, and Jaintia» Recognise Manipur as an independent state» Negotiate a commercial treaty with Britain and» Accept a British resident at Ava while posting a Burmese envoy at Calcutta• Second Burma War (1852)<p>The second war was the result of the British commercial need and the imperialist policy of Lord Dalhousie.</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">» The British merchants were keen to get hold of timber resources of upper Burma and also sought further inroads into the Burmese market.<p>This time, the British occupied Pegu, the only remaining coastal province of Burma.</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">» An intense guerrilla resistance had to be overcome before complete British control of lower Burma could be established.• Third Burma War (1885)<p>Dufferin ordered the invasion and final annexation of upper Burma in 1885.</p><p>[*Note: The British had to face a strong guerrilla uprising in the whole of Burma soon after, and a nationalist movement after the First World War. The Burmese nationalists joined hands with the Indian National Congress. To weaken this link, Burma was separated from India in 1935. The Burmese nationalist movement further intensified under U Aung San during the Second World War, which finally led to the independence of Burma on January 4, 1948.]</p>	

Relations of British India with Neighbouring Countries

Anglo-Tibetan Relations

- Tibet was **ruled by a theocracy of Buddhist monks (lamas)** under nominal suzerainty of China. The **British efforts** to establish friendly and commercial relations with Tibet had **not yielded any result** in the past and a **deadlock** had been reached by the time of Curzon's arrival in India.
 - Curzon** felt alarmed and sent a small Gorkha contingent under **Colonel Younghusband** on a special mission to Tibet to oblige the Tibetans to come to an agreement. The Tibetans refused to negotiate and offered non-violent resistance.
- Younghusband **pushed his way into Lhasa** (August 1904) while the **Dalai Lama fled**.
Treaty of Lhasa (1904) was signed. Under this treaty Great Britain got **some control over foreign affairs** of Tibet.

Anglo-Afghan Relations

In the early 19th century, the English got alarmed about possible Russian plans regarding India. Soon, there was a search for a scientific frontier from the Indian side. Passes of the north-west seemed to hold the key to enter India. The need was felt for Afghanistan to be under control of a ruler who would be friendly to the British.

- Forward Policy of Auckland:** Auckland who came to India as the governor general in 1836, advocated a forward policy. This **implied that** the Company government in India itself had to take initiatives to protect the boundary of British India from a probable Russian attack.
- In 1838 a **Tripartite Treaty** was entered into by the British, the Sikhs, and **Shah Shuja** (who had been deposed from the Afghan throne in 1809 and had been living since then as a British pensioner at Ludhiana). The **treaty provided that:**

Shah Shuja be **enthroned** with the armed help of the Sikhs, the Company remaining in the background.
 Shah Shuja **conduct foreign affairs** with the advice of the Sikhs and the British.

- First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–42)**

Soon after the tripartite treaty of 1838, an **English army entered triumphantly into Kabul (August 1839)** after a successful attack. Most of the tribes had already been won over by bribes. **Dost Mohammed** (the Amir of Afghanistan) surrendered (1840) and **Shah Shuja** was made the Amir of Afghanistan.

But Shah Shuja was **unacceptable** to the Afghans. As soon as the British withdrew, the **Afghans rose in rebellion**, killing the garrison commander in Kabul. The **British were compelled to sign a treaty (1841)** with the Afghan chiefs by which they agreed to evacuate Afghanistan and restore Dost Mohammed. But the English **plan failed**.

Under a **new expedition**, the British re-occupied Kabul in September 1842, but having learned their lesson well, they **arrived at a settlement with Dost Mohammed** by which the British evacuated from Kabul and **recognised him** as the independent ruler of Afghanistan.

- John Lawrence and the Policy of Masterly Inactivity**

John Lawrence (1864–69) started a policy of masterly inactivity, which was a reaction to the disasters of the First Afghan War and an outcome of practical common sense.

Even when Dost Mohammed died in 1863, there was **no interference** in the war of succession. As **Sher Ali** established himself on the throne, Lawrence **tried to cultivate friendship** with him.

- Lytton and the Policy of Proud Reserve**

Lytton became the **Viceroy of India** in 1876. He started a new foreign policy of 'proud reserve', which was **aimed at** having scientific frontiers and safeguarding 'spheres of influence'.

According to Lytton, the relations with Afghanistan could no longer be left ambiguous.

- Second Anglo-Afghan War (1870–80)**

Sher Ali **refused to** keep a British envoy in Kabul while having earlier granted a similar concession to the Russians. **Lytton was displeased**, and when the Russians withdrew their envoy from Kabul, Lytton **decided to invade Afghanistan**.

Sher Ali fled in face of the British invasion, and the **Treaty of Gandamak (May 1879)** was signed with **Yakub Khan**, the eldest son of Sher Ali.

But soon, **Yakub had to abdicate** under popular pressure and the British had to recapture Kabul and Kandhar. **Abdur Rehman** became the new Amir.

Lytton chalked out a plan for the dismemberment of Afghanistan, but could not carry it out. **Ripon** abandoned this plan and **decided on a policy of keeping Afghanistan as a buffer state**.

[*Note: After the First World War and the Russian Revolution (1917), the Afghans demanded full independence. Habibullah (who succeeded Abdur Rahman in 1901) was killed in 1919 and the new ruler Amamullah declared open war on the British. Peace came in 1921 when Afghanistan recovered independence in foreign affairs.]

BRITISH INDIA AND THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER

- In 1893, a compromise was reached between the British and Abdur Rahman (Amir of Afghanistan) on drawing a boundary line known as **Durand Line between Afghan and British territories**. But the **Durand Agreement (1893)** failed to keep peace and soon there were tribal uprisings.
- **Curzon**, the viceroy between 1899 and 1905 **created the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP)** directly under the Government of India (earlier, it was under control of the lieutenant-governor of Punjab). The peaceful conditions continued thereafter with occasional tribal uprisings.
- In January 1932, it was announced that the NWFP was to be **constituted as a governor's province**. **Since 1947**, the province **belongs to Pakistan**.

VARIOUS POLICIES OF THE BRITISH

Subsidiary Alliance

- The system was **devised by Governor-General Lord Wellesley** in 1798. **As per this**, those who entered into this alliance with the British had to accept **certain terms and conditions**. The British would be responsible for **protecting their ally** from external and internal threats to their power. A **British armed contingent** would be **stationed in the territory of the ally**. The ally would have to **provide the resources** for maintaining this contingent. Indian rulers were **not allowed** to have their **independent armed forces**. The ally could enter into agreements with other rulers or engage in warfare only with the **permission of the British**. If an Indian ruler/ally **failed to make the payment**, then part of their territory was taken away as penalty. **For instance**, the Nawab of Awadh was forced to give over half of his territory to the Company in 1801, as he failed to pay for the subsidiary forces. Hyderabad was also forced to cede territories on similar grounds. It's **one of the main objectives** was to keep the French from reviving and expanding their influence in India.

Policy of Ring-Fence or Buffer State (1765-1813)

- **Governor-General Warren Hastings** introduced this policy aiming at **creating buffer states around the Company's territories**.

It was the **policy of defence of their neighbours' frontiers** for safeguarding their own territories. The idea was purely that of defence of the frontiers of the Company.

The **allies were required to maintain subsidiary forces** which were to be organized, equipped and commanded by the officers of the Company, who in turn, were to be **paid by the rulers** of these states.

Doctrine of Lapse

- It was widely followed by **Governor-General Lord Dalhousie** (1848- 1856).
- The **doctrine declared** that if an Indian ruler died without a male heir, his kingdom would "lapse", that is, become part of Company territory.
- The **states actually annexed** by the application of the Doctrine of Lapse under Lord Dalhousie were **Satara (1848)**, **Jaitpur and Samthalpur (1849)**, **Baghat (1850)**, **Udaipur (1852)**, **Jhansi (1853)** and **Nagpur (1854)**.