

Contents

UNIT 1

Chapters 1 and 2

SOURCES AND APPROACHES

1. Sources for the History of Modern India	1
Archival Materials	1
Central Government Archives	2
Archives of the State Governments	3
Archives of Three Presidencies	3
Archives of Other European Powers	4
Published Archives	4
Judicial Records	5
Foreign Repositories	5
Private Archives	6
Literary Sources	6
Biographies, Memoirs, and Travel Accounts	6
Newspapers and Journals	7
Creative Literature	9
Oral Evidence	10
Painting	10
<i>Summary</i>	11
2. Major Approaches to the History of Modern India	12
Colonial Approach	12
Nationalist Approach	13
Marxist Approach	14
Subaltern Approach	15
Communalist Approach	16
Cambridge School Approach	16

Contents

Liberal and Neoliberal Approach	16
Feminist Approach	17
Summary	17

UNIT 2 **Chapters 3 to 5**

ADVENT OF EUROPEANS AND CONSOLIDATION OF BRITISH POWER IN INDIA

3. Advent of the Europeans in India	19
The Portuguese in India	19
Discovery of a Direct Sea Route to India	20
From Trading to Ruling	21
Portuguese State	26
Portuguese Lose Favour with the Mughals	28
Decline of the Portuguese	30
Significance of the Portuguese	32
The Dutch	33
Dutch Settlements	33
Anglo-Dutch Rivalry	34
Decline of the Dutch in India	34
The English	35
Charter of Queen Elizabeth I	35
Progress of the English Company	36
Other English Companies	39
The French	40
Foundation of French Centres in India	40
The Anglo-French Struggle for Supremacy: the Carnatic Wars	42
Causes for the English Success and the French Failure	49
The Danes	51
Why the English Succeeded against	51
Other European Powers	
Structure and Nature of the Trading Companies	51
Naval Superiority	52
Industrial Revolution	52

Contents

Military Skill and Discipline	52
Stable Government	53
Less Zeal for Religion	53
Use of Debt Market	53
<i>Summary</i>	54
Boxes	
Portuguese Rise and Fall	31
Formative Years of the East India Company	39
Rise and Fall of Dupleix in India	45
About the Goods in Trade Initially	50
4. India on the Eve of the British Conquest	57
Challenges before the Mughals	57
External Challenges	57
Internal Challenge: Weak Rulers after Aurangzeb	59
Causes of the Decline of the Mughal Empire	62
Shifting Allegiance of Zamindars	64
Jagirdari Crisis	64
Rise of Regional Aspirations	66
Economic and Administrative Problems	67
Rise of Regional States	68
Survey of Regional Kingdoms	69
Nature and Limitations of Regional States	72
Socio-Economic Conditions	73
Agriculture	73
Trade and Industry	73
Status of Education	75
Societal Set-Up	76
Developments in Art, Architecture, and Culture	77
<i>Summary</i>	78
Boxes	
Why Many Empire-Shaking Battles at Panipat	59
Causes of the Mughals' Downfall in a Nutshell	68
5. Expansion and Consolidation of British Power in India	80
The British Imperial History	80
Was the British Conquest Accidental or Intentional?	81

Contents

When did the British Period Begin in India?	83
Causes of British Success in India	84
Superior Arms, Military, and Strategy	84
Better Military Discipline and Regular Salary	84
Civil Discipline and Fair Selection System	85
Brilliant Leadership and Support of Second-Line Leaders	85
Strong Financial Backup	85
British Nationalist Pride	86
British Conquest of Bengal	86
Bengal on the Eve of the British Conquest	86
Alivardi Khan and the English	87
Challenges before Siraj-ud-Daulah	87
The Battle of Plassey	88
Mir Kasim and the Treaty of 1760	89
The Battle of Buxar	90
The Treaty of Allahabad	93
Dual Government in Bengal (1765–72)	93
Mysore's Resistance to the Company	94
The Wodeyar/Mysore Dynasty	94
Rise of Haidar Ali	95
First Anglo-Mysore War (1767–69)	96
Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780–84)	96
Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790–92)	97
Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)	98
Mysore after Tipu	101
Anglo-Maratha Struggle for Supremacy	101
Rise of the Marathas	101
Entry of the English into Maratha Politics	102
First Anglo-Maratha War (1775–82)	102
Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–05)	104
Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817–19)	108
Why the Marathas Lost	110
Conquest of Sindh	112
Rise of Talpuras Amirs	112
Gradual Ascendancy over Sindh	113
Criticism of the Conquest of Sindh	117

Contents

Conquest of Punjab	117
Consolidation of Punjab under the Sikhs	117
Ranjit Singh and the English	118
Punjab after Ranjit Singh	119
First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–46)	120
Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848–49)	122
Significance of the Anglo-Sikh Wars	123
Extension of British Paramountcy through Administrative Policy	123
The Policy of Ring-Fence	123
Subsidiary Alliance	124
Doctrine of Lapse	127
Relations of British India with Neighbouring Countries	132
Anglo-Bhutanese Relations	132
Anglo-Nepalese Relations	132
Anglo-Burmese Relations	133
Anglo-Tibetan Relations	134
Anglo-Afghan Relations	137
John Lawrence and the Policy of Masterly Inactivity	139
Lytton and the Policy of Proud Reserve	139
British India and the North-West Frontier	140
<i>Summary</i>	141
Boxes	
Robert Clive	92
Estimate of Tipu Sultan	99
Annexation of Awadh	127
The Opium Wars	135

UNIT 3

Chapters 6 and 7

RISING RESENTMENT AGAINST COMPANY RULE

6. People's Resistance against the British before and after 1857	144
People's Resistance	144

Contents

Genesis of People's Resistance	145
Causative Factors	145
Civil Uprisings	146
Major Causes of Civil Uprisings	146
General Characteristics of Civil Uprisings	147
Important Civil Uprisings	147
Peasant Movements	160
Tribal Revolts	167
Different Causes for Mainland and North-Eastern	167
Tribal Revolts	
Characteristics of Tribal Revolts	168
Important Tribal Movements of the Mainland	169
Tribal Movements of the North-East	187
Other Resistance Movements in Brief	193
Sepoy Mutinies	194
Causes	194
Important Mutinies	195
Weaknesses of People's Uprisings	195
<i>Summary</i>	196
Box	
Phases of Tribal Movements	169
7. The Revolt of 1857	202
Simmering Discontent	202
The 1857 Revolt: Major Causes	203
Economic Causes	203
Political Causes	204
Administrative Causes	205
Socio-Religious Causes	205
Influence of Outside Events	205
Discontent among Sepoys	205
Beginning and Spread of the Revolt	206
The Spark	206
Starts at Meerut	208
Choice of Bahadur Shah as Symbolic Head	208
Civilians Join	209