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# Expansion of Company Rule in India

## Company Rule Expands

The annexed Indian states between **1757 and 1857**. It used **political, economic and diplomatic methods**, and only sometimes used direct military force.

After the , the Company sent **Residents** (political or commercial agents) to Indian states.

These Residents began interfering in the internal affairs of Indian kingdoms. They influenced decisions such as **who should succeed to the throne, who should receive administrative posts**, and they forced states to accept **subsidiary alliances**.

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## Subsidiary Alliance

Under the **Subsidiary Alliance**, Indian states were protected by the Company, but they had to **pay for the subsidiary forces** maintained by the British.

If a state failed to pay, the Company **took part of its territory**.

### Example

When was Governor-General from **1798 to 1805**, the **Nawab of Awadh** lost **half of his territory in 1801** because he could not pay for the subsidiary forces.

Similarly, **Hyderabad** also lost territory for the same reason.

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# Tipu Sultan – The “Tiger of Mysore”

The Company used its army whenever its political or economic interests were threatened.

The growth of **Mysore** under (1761–1782) and (1782–1799) worried the British.

## Tipu Sultan

Tipu Sultan controlled the **profitable trade of the Malabar Coast**.

He **stopped trade with the Company** and prevented the export of valuable goods such as **sandalwood, pepper and cardamom**.

He also **modernized his army with the help of the French**.

Because of this conflict, the British fought **four wars against Mysore**:

- **\*\*1767–1769**

## War with the Marathas

In 1761, the Marathas lost the Third Battle of Panipat.

Maratha power was divided among chiefs of dynasties:

Sindhia

Holkar

Gaikwad

Bhonsle

They were united under the Peshwa in Pune.

Important leaders included Mahadji Sindhia and Nana Phadnis.

Anglo–Maratha Wars

First Anglo–Maratha War (1775–1782)

Ended with the Treaty of Salbai with no clear winner.

Second Anglo–Maratha War (1803–1805)

The British gained Orissa, Agra and Delhi.

Third Anglo–Maratha War (1817–1819)

Maratha power ended and the Peshwa was exiled to Bithur.

## **Result**

The Company gained complete control over the region south of the Vindhyas.

## **The Claim to Paramountcy**

In the early 19th century, the East India Company began expanding its territory more aggressively.

Lord Hastings (1813–1823) introduced the Policy of Paramountcy. According to this policy, the Company claimed that its authority was superior to that of all Indian states.

Using this claim, the Company declared that it had the right to take over any Indian kingdom if it believed it was necessary to protect British interests.

## **Resistance**

Some Indian rulers resisted the expansion of the British.

One important example was Rani Chennamma of Kittur in present-day Karnataka.

She led a strong resistance against the British when they tried to take control of her kingdom.

However, she was arrested in 1824 and died in prison in 1829.

After her arrest, her loyal follower Sangolli Rayanna continued the struggle.

He attacked British camps and destroyed British records, but he was later captured and hanged in 1830.

## **Expansion in the North-West**

The Company also expanded its rule towards the north-western regions of India.

Between 1838 and 1842, the British fought a war with Afghanistan.

In 1843, the British annexed Sind.

After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, the powerful Sikh kingdom weakened.

After two wars with the Sikh rulers, the British annexed Punjab in 1849.

# The Doctrine of Lapse

The Doctrine of Lapse was introduced by Lord Dalhousie (1848–1856).

According to this policy, if an Indian ruler died without a male heir, his kingdom would automatically be annexed by the Company.

This policy allowed the British to expand their territory quickly.

## States Annexed under Doctrine of Lapse

Several states were taken over by the Company under this policy:

Satara (1848)

Sambalpur (1850)

Udaipur (1852)

Nagpur (1853)

Jhansi (1854)

Awadh (1856)

## Consequences

The British claimed that they were freeing people from bad rulers and misgovernment.

However, many Indians were angry and unhappy with these annexations.

The annexation of Awadh created widespread resentment.

These policies became one of the major causes of the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

## Setting Up a New Administration

As the Company expanded its territories, it needed a strong administrative system to control them.

Warren Hastings played an important role in expanding Company power in Bengal, Bombay and Madras.

# Administrative Structure

The British divided their territories into three Presidencies:

Bengal

Madras

Bombay

Each Presidency was ruled by a Governor.

Above them was the Governor-General, who had the highest authority.

Warren Hastings served as Governor-General from 1773 to 1785.

## Judicial Reforms

In 1772, Warren Hastings introduced a new justice system.

Two types of courts were created:

Faujdari Adalat – Criminal Court

Diwani Adalat – Civil Court

Civil courts were managed by European collectors.

They were assisted by Maulvis and Hindu pandits, who explained the religious laws of Muslims and Hindus.

Criminal courts were run by Qazis and Muftis, but they were supervised by the collectors.

## Standardisation of Hindu Law

There were many different interpretations of Dharmashastra, which created confusion in the courts.

### To solve this problem:

11 Hindu pandits prepared a digest of Hindu laws in 1775.

It was translated into English by Nathaniel Brassey Halhed.

A code of Muslim law was also compiled in 1778.

The Regulating Act of 1773 established the Supreme Court and the Sadar Nizamat Adalat in Calcutta.

District Administration

Each district was controlled by a Collector.

The Collector had two main responsibilities:

Collecting revenue

Maintaining law and order

He worked with judges, police officers and darogas.

The collectorate gradually became the new centre of power, replacing traditional local authorities.

## **The Company Army**

The success of colonial rule depended heavily on military power.

Therefore, the British made many changes to their army.

## **Mughal Army Structure**

During the Mughal period, the army mainly consisted of:

Cavalry (sawars)

A smaller number of infantry soldiers (paidal)

Soldiers were trained in:

Archery (teer-andazi)

Sword fighting

Often peasants were armed, and zamindars supplied soldiers to the Mughal rulers.

## **Military Changes in the 18th Century**

Successor states such as Awadh and Banaras began recruiting peasants as soldiers.

The East India Company adopted this system and created the Sepoy Army (from the word Sipahi).

By the 1820s, cavalry became less important because of changes in warfare technology.

The British army fought wars in Burma, Afghanistan and Egypt, where infantry regiments played a more important role.

## **Uniform Military Culture**

In the early 19th century, the British introduced a uniform military culture.

Soldiers received:

European-style training

Strict drills

Strong discipline

However, these changes created problems because the British ignored the caste and community traditions of Indian soldiers.

This dissatisfaction later became one of the factors that contributed to the Indian Rebellion of 1857.