

## Chapter

# 1

## British Expansion in South India (Conquest of Mysore and the Marathas, 1767–1818)

You already know that the 18th century Indian polity was characterised by three dominant themes namely the decline of the Mughal Empire, the rise of regional powers and the rise of British supremacy in India towards the last decades of the 18th century. The struggle with the French for supremacy marked the first phase of the rise of the British power. The conquest of Bengal was the second and decisive step.

After the conquest of Bengal, the process of British expansion and consolidation ensued through conquests and elimination of rivals in various parts of the subcontinent which has been discussed in this unit. This unit gives an overview of the emerging imperial ideology and traditions that shaped the attempt to consolidate and systematise British rule in India.

After the conquest of Bengal, the British turned to south India, primarily driven by commercial interests. Thus, in this chapter, you will learn about the British expansion in south India, i.e. Mysore and the Maratha states.

The English East India Company had already eliminated the French from the region by 1761 through the Carnatic Wars—wars which had also brought to the forefront many weaknesses of the Indian regional powers. 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. It took many years to get political control over the region and the English Company fought several wars to subdue the local rulers. The internal weaknesses of these south Indian states decided the final outcome of this struggle for power, and the defeat of Mysore and the Marathas proved fatal for other Indian powers as well.

Tipu Sultan's failure was a tragedy for him and a tragedy for the subcontinent for his defeat meant the end of the first round of the struggle for Freedom.

### CAUSES FOR POWER STRUGGLE IN THE 18TH CENTURY

The 18th century was ridden with power struggle between various groups. There was the struggle for power among the Indian States, and there was also the struggle for power between the Indian States and the English Company.

#### What Brought the Country Powers in Conflict with One Another?

The main cause of conflict among the country powers was their desire for **territorial expansion**. The traditional approach of explaining this struggle in terms of personal desire of rulers, their



insatiable search for territory or even their religious zeal seems an oversimplification. Territorial expansion was mainly a response to the need for further resources. For instance, the Marathas mostly relied on chauth and sardeshmukhi collected from their spheres of influence. In this way, the desire for territorial expansion driven by the need for more resources brought the neighbouring states into conflict with each other. This mutual enmity among the 'country powers' ultimately helped the British to intervene effectively in their internal polity. In the following section, we see how the English Company outwitted the country powers by playing one against the other.

### What Brought the British in Conflict with Indian States?

The main reason for British intervention in Mysore and Maratha states was **commercial interest**. The conflict among country powers gave the British an opportunity to intervene in the internal political affairs of Indian states so that they could expand their area of control and increase their profits.

### BRITISH INTERVENTION IN MYSORE AND THE MARATHA STATES

The reasons for British intervention in Mysore and the Maratha states were primarily commercial. These are given as follows:

- 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 English 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.
- The Marathas were seen as a threat to the English trade from Bombay (there had been a sudden rise in the Company's cotton trade after 1874 to China from Gujarat through Bombay).
- The development in infantry and gunnery in both these states caused great uneasiness in the Company.
- The British home government was in need of finances for growing expenditure in Napoleonic wars, and so it encouraged an aggressive expansionist policy of the Company's merchants.

The British colonialists put forward another argument in support of their military actions in India 'that most contemporary Indian rulers were usurpers of previous dynasties and therefore could be dispensed with and previous dynasties be resorted to the full enjoyment of their civil rights' (as in the case of Wadiyar dynasty). Such an argument was born more out of the willingness to legitimise their political intervention in India, rather than anything else.

### ANGLO-MYSORE WARS (DURING 1767–99)

The rise of Mysore under Hyder Ali was viewed as a threat by the neighbouring states—the Marathas, the Nawab of Carnatic and the Nizam of Hyderabad. The Marathas and the Nizam formed an alliance against Mysore and also co-operated with the English Company to curb Mysore. But the Nizam was equally apprehensive of the Marathas and therefore cooperated with the English Company against the Marathas.

In all, there took place four Anglo–Mysore wars. Except the first war, the British emerged victorious in all of them. The English Company was mainly represented by the Madras Presidency. The basic cause of these wars was the Company's objective to undermine the independent authority of the Mysore rulers. The Marathas, the Nawab of Carnatic and the Nizam of Hyderabad aligned with the English from time to time to subdue the Mysore ruler.

After the victory in the fourth war, the British disintegrated the Mysore state and gave one part of the kingdom to the minor prince of Wadiyar dynasty.



Anglo-Mysore Wars

### First Anglo-Mysore War (1767–69)

Hyder Ali's friendship with the French is considered as one reason for the Anglo–Mysore war. Another important reason was the Mysore border dispute between the Madras government and the Nawab of Carnatic.

The immediate context for war was provided by the rivalry over control of **Northern Circars**. The English Company was seeking an overland connection between its territories in Madras and Bengal, and Northern Circars (held by the French until 1758) was a series of coastal territories that lay in between. **Robert Clive** demanded access to this area from the Nizam of Hyderabad (a French protégé), which the Nizam initially rejected.

However, in 1766, the English Company began expanding in the Northern Circars and the Nizam objected and considered going to war with the English, but later signed a treaty with the Company in view of his poor financial condition. As per this treaty, the Company got the Northern Circars and in return promised to give military support to the Nizam in his endeavours against Hyder Ali.

At the same time, the Nizam had formed an alliance with the Marathas as both felt threatened by the expansionist attitude of Hyder. Hyder himself was annoyed with the English as they had set up a fortified outpost at Vellore.



In this way, the Marathas, the Nizam and the English entered into a **tripartite treaty** against Hyder Ali and attacked Mysore in 1766. But Hyder successfully persuaded the Nizam and the Marathas to join hands with him against the English. He then launched an attack against the Company and reached up to the gates of Madras. He forced the Madras Council to sign peace on his terms in 1769, known as the **Treaty of Madras**. As per the treaty, both the powers agreed to help each other in case of an attack by a third party.

**Expansion under the Various Governor Generals:** The Mysore and Maratha Wars:

**Expansion under Warren Hastings (1772–85):**

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775–82)

Second Mysore War (1780–84)

**Expansion under Cornwallis (1786–93):**

Third Mysore War (1790–92)

**Expansion under Lord Wellesley (1798–1805):**

Fourth Mysore War (1799)

Second Anglo-Maratha War 1803–05

**Expansion under Lord Hastings (1813–22):**

Third Anglo-Maratha War 1817–18

**First Governor General Warren Hastings (1772–85):** Warren Hastings became the deputy ruler of Madras after the end of the First Anglo-Mysore War (1769). In 1772, he was appointed as the Governor of Calcutta Presidency, the most important of the three major British Presidencies—Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. In 1774, Hastings was considered as the natural choice to be the first Governor-General.

The task before Warren Hastings was enormous. He had to transform a company of traders into a force of administrators and develop a workable system of administration in Bengal. Most importantly, he had to rehabilitate the Company's finances.

**Administrative Reforms** In 1772, it was decided to end the dual system of administration set up by Clive. The Company now decided to collect land revenue itself and not through the Naib-Diwan who was earlier appointed by Clive for the purpose. Thus, the President was required to take over the charge of the entire management of revenues of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Accordingly, the Governor and the Council formed the **Board of Revenue** and the Company appointed its own European officers called **Collectors** to collect land revenue and manage revenue affairs. The treasury was also removed from Murshidabad to Calcutta.

**Revenue Reforms** In 1772, Hastings made a five-year settlement (quinquennial settlement or **panchshala bandobast**) of land revenue by the crude method of farming out estates to the highest bidder. The revenue farmers had no permanent interest in land and therefore tried to extort the maximum revenue from the cultivators. The officers of the Company themselves participated in the bidding under the name of their servants. Warren Hastings himself was accused of such forgery. Hence this system caused much hardship to the farmers and failed miserably.

After the expiry of the five-year settlement, Hastings reverted to the system of annual settlement (**salana bandobast**) in 1777, once again based on the method of farming out estates to the highest bidder.



Warren Hastings with his wife in their garden (by artist Johann Zoffany, 1784)

**Judicial Reforms** Hastings made several successful reforms in the existing judicial system of Bengal. Before Hastings, civil and criminal cases were decided by zamindars. He then tried to build up a judicial framework based on the Mughal model and set up the **Diwani Adalat** (decided civil cases, appeals went to Sadr Diwani Adalat) and the **Faujdari Adalat** (decided criminal cases, appeals went to Sadr Nizamat Adalat, followed the Muslim law). These courts followed both Muslim and Hindu laws. However, as per the Regulating Act of 1773, a Supreme Court competent to try all 'British subjects' was set up at Calcutta, which followed the English law. This dualism in the legal system continued throughout the Company's rule in India. Hastings also attempted to codify Hindu and Muslim laws. In 1776, a translation of the Code in Sanskrit appeared under the title of '**Code of Gentoo laws**'.

**Expansion under Warren Hastings** comprised of First Anglo-Maratha War (1775–82) and Second Mysore War (1780–84).

## Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780–84)

The British had no intention of sticking to the treaty of Madras. When Marathas invaded Hyder's territory in 1771, the English Company did not come to his help. So, it was now a question of time before a second round of war between the Company and the Mysore state started. On the other hand, the French proved more helpful to Hyder with his military demands as saltpeter, lead, guns and other military hardware naturally found their way into Mysore through **Mahe** (a French settlement on the Malabar coast within Hyder's jurisdiction). Further, the American War of Independence had broken out in 1775 and the French help to American colonists made Governor-General **Warren Hastings** extremely anxious of Hyder's relations with the French. Under these circumstances, the Company attempted to capture Mahe, which was a direct challenge to Hyder Ali. The English had also offended Hyder Ali when an English force trespassed on Hyder's territory in order to take over Guntur in the Northern Circars.



Admiral Suffren meeting Hyder Ali (July 1782)

The English capture of Mahe provided the immediate pretext for the second Mysore war. The English won over the Marathas and the Nizam (Hastings bribed Nizam with the cession of Guntur district). In July 1781, the English army under **Sir Eyre Coote** defeated Hyder Ali at **Porto-Novo**. The French help under **Admiral Baillie de Suffren** reached India in 1782. Skirmishes continued but later Hyder died of cancer in December 1782 during the course of the second Mysore war.

Tipu, son and successor of Hyder, continued the war against the British. However, in 1783, the American War of Independence ended. Thereafter, Suffren sailed back for Europe leaving Tipu to fight his own battles. The Madras government also desired peace due to lack of resource and uncertainty of the Maratha attitude. Tipu also needed time to strengthen his own administration. Thus, the war ended with the **Treaty of Mangalore** (March 1784) signed on the basis of mutual restitution of each other's territories. This was the last British treaty with an Indian ruler on an equal footing.



**Governor General Lord Cornwallis (1786–93):** Cornwallis was sent to India specially charged with the duty of finding out a satisfactory solution to the land revenue problem. The administrative superstructure built by Cornwallis remained substantially in force till 1858.

**Revenue Reforms** In 1790, Cornwallis decided to recognize the zamindars as the owners of land, subject to annual payment of land revenue to the state. A ten-year settlement was made with the zamindars on the basis of 89 per cent of the rental, leaving 11 per cent with the zamindars. In 1793, this decennial settlement was declared permanent (called **Permanent Settlement of Bengal**).

**Cornwallis Code** In 1793, Cornwallis compiled his judicial reforms in the form of the Famous Cornwallis Code based on the principle of separation of powers. The Code divested the Collector of all his judicial powers and left him with the duty of revenue administration alone. The judicial powers were given to a new class of officer—the **District Judge**.

**Reform of Criminal Law** Cornwallis brought about changes in the criminal law as well, even though the Muslims took their criminal law to be divinely ordained. For instance, in cases of murder, the law officers were now to be guided by the intention of the murder and not merely by the manner of perpetration. The usual punishment of amputation of body parts was to be replaced by imprisonment or fine. Further, non-Muslims were now allowed to give testimony against Muslims in criminal cases.

**Undesirable effects**—Though the judicial reforms of Cornwallis were based on the principle of equity, in its immediate context it produced many undesirable effects. The new code was unfamiliar and elaborate, beyond the comprehension of the common man. The traditional judicial functionaries were replaced by European judges who knew very little about Indian customs and habits.

**Suppression of Bribery and Corruption** Cornwallis himself was beyond the greed for money that had tarnished the names of Clive and Warren Hastings. Cornwallis forbade the Company's employees from indulging in private trade and required each officer to declare his property under oath before he left India. He also raised the salaries of the Company's officials in order to desist them from indulging in corruption.

#### Europeanisation of Administration

Unfortunately, Cornwallis, like most of his countrymen, suffered from the evil infection of **racial discrimination**. He had very low opinion of Indians in general and regarded every Indian to be corrupt. He sought to reserve all higher services for Europeans and reduced the Indians to 'hewers of wood and drawers of water'. For instance, in the army, Indians could not rise above the position of Jemadar or Subedar and in civil services not above Deputy Collector. In this way, he put the official seal on the policy of racialism that infested Anglo-Indian relations till the very end.

**Expansion under Cornwallis** comprised of the Third Mysore War (1790–92).

### Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790–92)

The above treaty was only a temporary respite before a final showdown. **Lord Cornwallis** had become the Governor-General in 1786 and through his diplomacy he brought the Marathas and the Nizam to the English side. Convinced of the inevitability of war, Tipu also sought help from the Turks and the French by sending embassies to Constantinople and France during 1784–87.



Lord Cornwallis

However, Tipu's attack on **Travancore** became the immediate cause of the Third Anglo-Mysore war. The Raja of Travancore had purchased Jaikottai and Cranganore from the Dutch in Cochin and since Cochin was a tributary state of Mysore, Tipu considered this as a violation of his sovereign rights. Thus, in April 1790, Tipu attacked Travancore. The English were already itching for a war and decided to side with the ruler of Travancore.

The war started in 1790. Supported by the Maratha and the Nizam's troops, Cornwallis himself headed a large army and approached Seringapatam. Tipu suffered a serious setback and showed initiative for peace. Thus, the **Treaty of Seringapatam** (or Srirangapatnam) was signed in 1792 and Tipu had to surrender half of his territory to the Company and its allies. While the Company acquired Baramahal, Dindigul and Malabar, the Marathas gained territory on the Tungabhadra side and the Nizam acquired territories from the Krishna to beyond the Pennar. Tipu also had to pay war indemnity of ₹3 crore, but as he was unable to pay this sum immediately, his two sons were kept as prisoners with Cornwallis.

Tipu lamented after losing Malabar, 'I can ruin their resources by land but I cannot dry up the sea'.

On the other hand, Cornwallis declared, 'We have effectively crippled our enemy, without making our friends too formidable'.

After Cornwallis, **Sir John Shore** became the Governor-General but he adopted the **policy of non-intervention** towards Mysore. For this reason, John Shore is known as the father of the policy of non-intervention. Later, Sir John Lawrence also adopted the policy of non-interference towards Afghanistan.

**Governor General Lord Wellesley (1798–1805):** Lord Wellesley came to India in 1798 at a time when the British were locked in a life and death struggle with France all over the world. He was an imperialist to the core and believed that the only way to safeguard India against French danger was by bringing as many Indian states as possible under British control. To achieve his political aims, Wellesley relied on three methods—the System of Subsidiary Alliance, outright war and the assumption of territories of previously subordinated rulers.

**The Subsidiary Alliance System** comprised of the following provisions:

- The Indian state had to surrender its foreign relations into the hands of the Company. It could not negotiate with any other Indian state without consulting the Governor-General.
- The Company assured the Indian state complete protection against foreign as well as internal threat.
- An English force was stationed within the territory of the Indian state for its protection in return for an annual subsidy in cash to the Company. The larger states had to cede a part of their territory for the purpose.
- A British Resident was posted in the capital.
- The Indian state could not employ any European in its service without the approval of the British.



Lord Wellesley



**Negative Impact on Indian States:** The system had several disadvantages for the Indian state. It also led to internal decay of the state in many ways. These are as follows:

- Politically, the ruler signing a Subsidiary Alliance virtually signed away his independence. He lost the right to self-defence as well as to maintain independent foreign relations.
- Economically, it was drained as the annual subsidy was arbitrarily fixed and was very high (usually one-third of the annual revenue of the state), much beyond the paying capacity of the state. The ruler transferred this burden onto the people by means of heavy taxes, impoverishing them. Its army was disbanded which also resulted in loss of livelihood to several thousand people.
- Morally, it made the rulers irresponsible and oppressive as they no longer feared their subjects. They were fully protected by the English Company from internal as well as external aggression.

**Advantages for the British:** On the other hand, the Subsidiary Alliance System was very advantageous to the British in the following ways:

- The British could maintain a large army that too at the cost of the India states, and without arousing the suspicion of other European nations.
- It allowed the Company to counter the French threat, as the subsidiary ally was required to dismiss all Frenchmen from its service.
- The Company became the intermediary in interstate relations, thereby closing all possibility of states coming together in conspiracy against the British.
- It also allowed them to gradually increase their control over the signatory state by transforming the British Resident from political agent to virtual dictator.
- The state could then be overthrown easily with the help of the English army stationed in the very heart of the Indian state.
- Thus, the Subsidiary System proved to be a Trojan horse tactic. It has been truly said, 'it was a system of fattening allies, like oxen, till they were worthy of being devoured'.

Subsidiary alliance treaty was signed with the following: Nizam of Hyderabad (1798 and 1800), Mysore (1799), Tanjore (1799), Awadh (1801), Peshwa (1802), Bhonsle Raja of Berar (1803), Scindia (1804), Holkar (1818, under Lord Hastings). The Rajput states of Jodhpur, Jaipur, Macheri, Bundi and Bharatpur were also annexed. Though the detailed provisions of the alliance varied from state to state, Wellesley was particularly severe with Mysore, Carnatic, Tanjore and Surat.

**Karl Marx** said that "the native states virtually ceased to exist from the moment they became subsidiary to the Company. If you divide the revenue of a country between two governments, you are sure to cripple the resources of one or the administration of both".

**Sir Thomas Munro** said that "a state purchased security by the sacrifice of independence, of national character- and of whatever renders a people respectable."

### Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)

Lord Wellesley sailed for India in 1797, probably the toughest year in English history, and England was struggling for its survival against France all over the world. Napoleon Bonaparte had conquered Egypt and Syria and he now turned towards India. In 1801, he made an alliance with Czar Paul of Russia and drew up a serious plan to invade India via Herat and Kandahar. The English well realized the consequences of a defeat at the hands of Napoleon; it would mean an end to its commerce that had brought it immense financial and political gains. To us, Napoleon's

plans may appear fanciful today but the contemporaries did not regard them as such. To them they posed a very real danger and Wellesley could ill afford to take any risks.

In Napoleon's plans, Tipu Sultan of Mysore saw the right opportunity to oust the English from India. He entered into negotiations with the French and started making elaborate preparations for war with the Company. He planted a 'flag of Liberty' at Seringapatam, styled himself 'Citizen Tipu'. He employed the French Commandant **Monsieur Raymond** and raised a corps of 14,000 men with his help.

Wellesley concluded that it was urgently needed to bring the Indian states under the English sphere of influence and tame not only the actual allies but even the potential allies of France. For this purpose, he tried to convert as many India states into the subsidiary allies of the Company, either by persuasion or by force.

After he successfully forced the treaty of subsidiary alliance upon the Nizam, he turned his attention to Tipu Sultan. Wellesley estimated that a French invasion via the Red Sea could only be possible after mid-1799 and he decided to deal with Tipu before that time. After Tipu refused all offers of the Governor General for acceptance of the subsidiary alliance, war began in February 1799 and was over by May the same year. The English Company won a decisive victory at the **Battle of Seringapatam** (1799). Tipu was killed during the defence of the city, before French help could reach him. He died a hero's death defending his capital.

Much of the remaining Mysorean territory was annexed by the Company, the Nizam and the Marathas, giving the Company the command over the sea coast of the Lower Peninsula. Any French mischief from the Malabar Coast was now rendered impossible. The remaining core, around Mysore and Seringapatam, was restored to the minor Indian prince, two-year-old Krishnaraja belonging to the Wadiyar Dynasty, whose forefathers had been the actual rulers before Hyder Ali became the de facto ruler. A special **Treaty of Subsidiary Alliance** was imposed on the Wadiyar King and Mysore virtually became a dependency of the British. The Wadiyars ruled the remnant state of Mysore until 1947, when it joined the Union of India. Tipu's family members were imprisoned in Vellore and his two sons pensioned.

After the success in the fourth Anglo-Mysore war, Wellesley arrogantly pronounced, 'Now the kingdom of the east is under our feet.'

After Mysore, Wellesley turned his attention to Awadh, forcing the Nawab to accept subsidiary alliance (1801). Next Wellesley turned his attention to the Marathas, the only power of importance and French nest outside British protection. The French officers in Scindia's army were beyond Wellesley's toleration and the Maratha influence over the western coast also left open the possibility of French infiltration from that corner. Even though the Governor General's offer of subsidiary alliance was turned down, internal dissensions in the Maratha camp drove the Peshwa into the Company's trap in 1802.



**Prelim Capsule****The Anglo-Mysore Wars (during 1767-99)**

Wars	Period	Important Details
<b>First Mysore War</b>	<b>1767-69</b>	Immediate context—provided by the rivalry over control of <b>Northern Circars</b> . The rivalry ultimately led to a tripartite treaty between the Marathas, the Nizam and the English against Hyder Ali. Began with the attack on Mysore by the allies in 1766. Soon, Hyder persuaded the Nizam and the Marathas to join hands with him against the English and finally forced the Madras Council to sign peace on his terms. Thus, the war ended with the <b>Treaty of Madras</b> in 1769. Result—Hyder Ali had an edge over the English.
<b>Second Mysore War</b> Warren Hastings	<b>1780-84</b>	Immediate context—capture of <b>Mahe</b> by the English. In this war, the Marathas and the Nizam sided with the English. Main battle fought— <b>Battle of Port-Novo</b> . Ended with the <b>Treaty of Mangalore</b> . Result—It was a drawn struggle.
<b>Third Mysore War</b> Lord Cornwallis	<b>1790-92</b>	Immediate context—provided by Tipu's attack on <b>Travancore</b> . In this war too, the Marathas and the Nizam sided with the English. Ended with the <b>Treaty of Seringapatam</b> . Result—Tipu Sultan lost. He surrendered half of his territory to the Company and its allies. The Company acquired Baramahal, Dindigul and Malabar. 2 sons of Tipu were kept as prisoners with Cornwallis.
<b>Fourth Mysore War</b> Lord Wellesley	<b>1799</b>	Immediate context—provided by <b>Napoleon's plans</b> to invade India and Tipu's consequent negotiations with the French. Main battle fought— <b>Battle of Seringapatam</b> . Result—Tipu was killed during the defence of the city. Mysore lost its independence.

**ANGLO-MARATHA WARS (DURING 1777-1818)**

From the ashes of the Mughal empire had emerged the Marathas as well as the English East India Company. Both had emerged victorious in their own spheres—the Marathas among other Indian states, the English among other European contenders in India. But now, towards the last quarter of the 18th century, the two came face to face and indulged in direct clash and conflict.

The first, second, and third Anglo-Maratha wars were fought between the army of the English East India Company, which after 1757 was de facto ruler of Bengal, and the Maratha Empire, in

the south of India. The Maratha Empire comprised of five major chiefs—the Peshwa at Poona, Bhonsle 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**. The wars started in 1777 and ended with British victory in 1818. This left the British in control, directly or indirectly via treaties with Princely states, of a vast proportion of India, making India the jewel in the crown of the British Empire.

**First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-82)**

The first Maratha war was a result of the excessive ambition of the English, accentuated by the internal strife of the Marathas. While the Bengal and Madras governments had increased their influence over Awadh and Carnatic respectively, the Bombay government had no such political achievement to its credit due to the presence of the powerful Maratha confederacy in the area and it had begun to feel somewhat belittled. It now cast its longing eyes upon the Maratha territories, particularly the ports of Salsette and Bassein and hoped to gain political influence at the Poona Court. The dispute over succession to the Peshwaship after the death of the Fourth Peshwa Madhav Rao gave the English the much-needed opportunity to intervene in the Maratha affairs.

**Flashback:** After the death of Madhav Rao, the Maratha Empire was thrown into a state of confusion. At Poona there was a struggle for power between Raghunath Rao (younger brother of Balaji Bajirao) and Narayan Rao (younger brother of Madhav Rao). Narayan Rao succumbed to the intrigues of his Uncle Raghunath Rao in 1773. Raghunath Rao then became the Peshwa of the Maratha Empire for a brief period from 1773 to 1774. He was deposed by Nana Phadnis and 11 other administrators (Baarbhai) in what is known as '**the Baarbhai Conspiracy**'. The Baarbhai included influential Maratha sardars like **Mahadji Shinde** (or Scindia) and Tukojirao Holkar.

The Baarbhai installed Narayan Rao's posthumous son, Madhav Rao II, as the Peshwa with themselves, led by Nana Phadnavis, as the Regents. The succession of Sawai Madhav Rao gravely frustrated Raghunath Rao's ambitions and he now went over to the British and tried to capture power with their help, resulting in the **first Anglo-Maratha war**.

Thus, out of frustration, Raghunath Rao went over to the British and tried to capture power with their help. This was the immediate background of the first Anglo-Maratha war. The war began with the Treaty of Surat and ended with the Treaty of Salbai. In Raghunath Rao, the Bombay government saw a plaint a tool and hoped to set up in Maharashtra the type of dual government as Clive had done in Bengal.

**Treaty of Surat (7 March 1775)**

This treaty was signed between Raghunath Rao (Raghoba) and the British Government at Bombay on 7 March 1775. There were 16 conditions in all in the treaty. As per the treaty it was decided that the British would help Raghunath Rao in becoming the Peshwa by sending 2500 soldiers. In return, Raghoba would cede territories of Salsette and Bassein and revenues from Surat and Bharauch to the British.

In accordance with the Treaty of Surat, a British army reached Surat led by Colonel Keating. On 18 May 1775, at Adas (**Battle of Adas**) there took place a terrible battle between the English



and the Maratha armies. In this battle, though the Marathas were defeated, they retained control over Poona.

### Treaty of Purandar (1 March 1776)

When a copy of the Treaty of Surat reached the superior British Government in Bengal, i.e. the Calcutta Council, it condemned the treaty as unjust and unauthorised. Further, Warren Hastings sent Colonel Upton to Poona Darbar and signed the treaty of Purandar. Thus, the Treaty of Purandar was signed between the British Government at Calcutta and Poona Court (Poona Darbar) and it stated the following:

1. The Treaty of Surat was annulled.
2. The British left the side of Raghoba and it was decided that Raghoba will be given a monthly pension of ₹25,000 by Peshwa government and he will go to Gujarat and reside there in Kopar village.

However, the Treaty of Purandar was not implemented due to a sudden turn of events. The American War of Independence had broken out in 1775 and in 1778 France joined on the American side against England. At the same time, a French adventurer, Chevalier de St. Lubin, reached Poona. This greatly alarmed Warren Hastings, who immediately scrapped the Treaty of Purandar, sent a large force to reinforce the Bombay government and sanctioned operations against the Marathas. Thus, the Bombay Government resumed the war and sent an army towards Poona under Colonel Egerton (who was later replaced by Colonel Cockburn).

The English and the Maratha armies met on the outskirts of Poona. The Maratha army was led by the brilliant General **Mahadji Shinde**. He lured the English army into valleys of the Western Ghats near Talegaon (**Battle of Talegaon**, 9 January 1779) and trapped them from all sides. The Marathas also used the '**scorched earth policy**', burning farmlands and poisoning wells. The English were forced to retreat to a village named Wadgaon. Finally, by mid-January 1779, the English surrendered and the Bombay Government was forced to sign a humiliating treaty with Poona Darbar called the Treaty of Wadgaon.

### Treaty of Wadgaon (1779)

As per this treaty, it was decided that the Bombay Government would return all territory conquered by it after 1773 and the Scindias will get a part of the revenue from Bharoch.

Hastings refused to accept this humiliating Treaty of Wadgaon. He quickly sent an army from Bengal led by Colonel Goddard which soon captured Ahmedabad and Vasai. But this British army got defeated by the Marathas in Poona. Meanwhile, Hastings sent another detachment from Bengal led by **Colonel Popham** which captured Gwalior on 3 August 1781. **General Camac** also defeated Scindia in the **Battle of Sipri** (modern day Shivpur).

Mahadji Scindia aspired to become the leader of the Maratha confederacy, and he therefore tried to strike a treaty with the British. Subsequently, an understanding was struck between Scindia and the English Company as the latter promised to allow him to carry out his designs in and around Delhi. Finally, the Treaty of Salbai was signed between the British and the Poona Government.

### Treaty of Salbai (Gwalior District, 1782)

This treaty was signed between the British and the Poona Government with the mediation of Mahadji Scindia. The treaty of Salbai was signed on the basis of mutual restitution of each other's territories or 'status quo ante bellum'. The main provisions of this treaty were:

1. Madhav Narayan Rao will be accepted as Peshwa.
2. British will give up the cause of Raghoba and he be given yearly pension of ₹3.5 lacs.
3. The Company gave up Bassein and other territories captured since the Treaty of Purandar, but retained Salsette and the Elephanta Island.
4. Scindia got back the entire territory on the west of Yamuna.

In this way, the British attempt to gain supremacy in the Maratha state proved premature. The First Anglo-Maratha War was drawn. Both sides had a taste of each other's strengths which ensured mutual respect and peace for the next **20 years**. It also gave the British the needed time to concentrate on other fronts specially Mysore.

Among the Marathas, Ahilyabai Holkar, Mahadji Scindia and Nana Phadnavis are remembered as able leaders of this period. But in general, the Maratha state was in a bad shape during these years. There was disagreement regarding the succession to the Peshwaship and Nana Phadnavis was in complete control of the Maratha affairs. Fed up by the dictatorial rule of Nana, the young Peshwa Madhav Rao Narayan committed **suicide** on 25 October 1795. Raghoba's son Baji Rao II became the next Peshwa. On 13 March 1800, Nana Phadnavis died in Poona. And once again Poona Darbar became a centre of conspiracies.

### Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–05)

Lord Wellesley came to India in 1798 and aggressively followed his policy of subsidiary alliance. The Marathas earlier refused all offers to accept subsidiary alliance; however, their internal differences ultimately drove them into Wellesley's trap.

#### Flashback: Peshwa- Baji Rao II, 1<sup>st</sup> Reign (1796–1802)

His first reign saw the Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–05). 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 Baji Rao II, Daulat Rao Scindia and Yashwant Rao Holkar emerged as the main Maratha leaders. Peshwa and Scindia formed an alliance against Holkar and tried to insult him. In 1801, Peshwa brutally killed Holkar's brother Vithoji Rao Holkar. Holkar attacked Poona (Battle of Poona) in response, and defeated the combined armies of Peshwa and Scindia near Hadapsar and captured Poona. Peshwa fled, took refuge in Bassein and approached Wellesley for help. This gave the British an ideal opportunity to intervene in the Maratha affairs. Baji Rao II accepted subsidiary alliance and signed the Treaty of Bassein in 1802.

### Treaty of Bassein (Subsidiary Alliance, 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**. The main provisions of the treaty were as follows:



1. Peshwa accepted the Company's protection and had to pay a large annual subsidy.
2. Peshwa accepted that an English army will be stationed at Poona and no European enemy of the English will be kept in the Maratha army.
3. Peshwa accepted that his foreign relations with other states will go under British control.

In this way, the Peshwa, i.e. the 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 breakup of the Maratha confederacy. Daulat Rao Scindia and Raghuji 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.

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. It was also fought in three sub-centres namely—Gujarat, Bundelkhand and Orissa.

- 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 Argaon** (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). General Lake captured Aligarh, Delhi and Agra. It is noteworthy that now the control of Delhi passed from the Marathas into British hands and once again the blind Mughal ruler, Shah Alam II, became a pensioner of the Company (He had first become a pensioner of the Company after his defeat in the Battle of Buxar in 1764).



The Battle of Assaye

In this way, 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 **Raghuji Bhonsle and the Company**. As per this treaty, Bhonsle lost to the English Company the territories of Balasore, Cuttack and entire kingdom west to the Wardha River. Bhonsle agreed to keep a British Resident in Nagpur. **M Elphinstone** was sent for this post.

#### Treaty of Surji-Arjangaon (30 December 1803)

This treaty was signed between **Scindia and the Company**. As per this treaty, he gave the Company a large part of his kingdom including the territory between the Ganga and the Yamuna. He

agreed to keep a British Resident **Sir John Malcolm** in his court. As per another treaty (**Treaty of Burhanpur**, 27 February 1804), Scindia entered subsidiary alliance with the Company.

#### War with Yashwant Rao Holkar

Until now Holkar had kept himself away from the war, but in April 1804, war between him and the British began. Holkar defeated Colonel Monson near Kota and advanced towards Delhi. But Delhi was successfully defended by local resident there, **Lt. Colonel Octor Loni**. One detachment of Holkar's army was defeated in the **Battle of Ding**, while another detachment which was being led by Holkar himself was defeated by **General Lake**. Holkar fled to Amritsar and asked the Sikhs for help. But the Sikhs refused. Now he began considering peace with the British. At the same time, the shareholders of the EIC felt that continuous wars were proving costly. Company's directors felt that it was time to stop expansion. Similarly, the home government in Britain was facing financial crunch at a time when Napoleon was reemerging as a threat in Europe. Thus **Wellesley was recalled** and Sir George Barlow was sent to India who made peace with Holkar. In this way, expansion under Wellesley was checked just before the end, yet the Company had now emerged as the supreme power in India.

#### Treaty of Rajpurghat (24 December 1805)

This treaty was signed between **Yashwant Rao Holkar and the English Company**. As per this treaty, Holkar agreed to renounce all claims to the north of the River Chambal and the Bundi hills (Bundelkhand) but at the same time, he got back the major part of his lost kingdom. The English also promised not to disturb Holkar's possessions in Mewar and Malwa. The Treaty of Rajpurghat marked the end of the second Anglo-Maratha War.

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

**Governor General Lord Hastings (1813–22):** If Lord Wellesley had succeeded in expelling the French and establishing the Company's military ascendancy in India, Lord Hastings succeeded in unmistakable terms, in establishing the British Paramountcy in India. In fact, Hastings completed the fabric of British supremacy in India, almost exactly the way his predecessor had planned it.

Prior to becoming the Governor General of India, Lord Hastings had served the British forces in the American War of Independence. In India, he adopted an **aggressive forward policy** and waged extensive wars, thus completing and even consolidating Wellesley's policy.

**Expansion under Lord Hastings** His governorship saw the Anglo-Nepal war, the suppression of the Pindaris and the Third Anglo-Maratha War. Lord Hastings' era marks a milestone in the expansion and consolidation of British power in India.

**Administrative Reforms** Though Hastings' genius was more suited for war, yet his era saw some significant administrative reforms thanks to his capable band of administrators that included—Sir John Malcolm, Sir Thomas Munro, Mountstuart Elphinstone, Jenkins and Charles Metcalfe.



Lord Hastings



- Munro, governor of Madras in 1820, established the **Ryotwari system** of land settlement in Malabar, Canara, Coimbatore, Madura and Dindigul. Under it, the settlement was made directly with the ryots, i.e. the actual tiller of soil.
- In the north-west provinces, the **Mahalwari system** was introduced in 1822. Under it, the settlement was made with a village community or mahal.
- Hastings modified Cornwallis' laudable system of separating the judiciary from the executive and henceforth the **Collector could hold the office of the Magistrate also**.

**Suppression of Pindaris, the Robber Bands:** It is popularly believed that the term 'Pindari' is of Marathi origin, meaning 'consumer of pinda' a fermented drink. 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. The declining Mughal authority, the weak regional states and repeated Maratha raids created conditions in India for the rise of the Pindaris like 'masses of putrefaction in animal matter'. The Pindaris often described as 'scavengers of the Marathas', greatly swelled in ranks during Wellesley when native armies were disbanded in large numbers. In fact, the Pindaris were a heterogeneous mix of elements drawn from disbanded soldiers, hardy peasants, idle and unscrupulous men.

The chief characteristic of Pindari plunders was their speed and secrecy. Even before it was possible to gain any information of their movement, their operation was over. They came like swarms of locusts, destroying and plundering whatever came in their way.

In the early 19th century, the chief Pindari leaders who emerged were: **Chitu, Wasil Muhammad** and **Karim Khan**. The Pindaris gradually extended their area of operation and in 1812, plundered the English districts of Mirzapur and Shahabad and later the Northern Circars (in 1816), instigating Lord Hastings to take stern action against them. He planned to suppress the Pindaris and defeat the Marathas in one sweep. Hastings collected a large army, himself took the command of the North Force and delegated the charge of the Deccan to **Sir Thomas Hislop**.

By January 1818, the Pindaris were effectively crushed. Karim Khan surrendered, Wasil Muhammad committed suicide in British custody while Chitu escaped into the forests where he was devoured by a tiger.

### Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-18)

The third and final phase of Anglo-Maratha war started with the arrival of British Governor General Lord Hastings. He 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. The breathing space that the Marathas had got since 1805 was not utilized by consolidating their power but wasted in mutual conflicts. Hastings' main objective now was to destroy the independence of the three Maratha rulers—the Bhonsle, the Scindia and the Holkar.

**The Bhonsle Raja of Berar** proved to be the weakest link of the three Maratha chiefs. After the death of Raghuji Bhonsle on 22 March 1816, his son Parsoji's succession to the gaddi was challenged by Parsoji's cousin, Appa Sahib also known as Mudhoji II Bhonsle. The British **Resident Jenkins** saw in this the right opportunity to impose a subsidiary alliance on the state. Appa Sahib, in his keenness to gain the Company's support, offered very favourable terms to the Company.

**Treaty of Nagpur (Subsidiary Alliance, 27 May 1816)** Accordingly, on 27 May 1816, the treaty of Nagpur was signed between Appa Sahib and the English Company and subsidiary force was stationed at Nagpur.

**Peshwa Baji Rao II** had earlier signed the Treaty of Bassein (December 1802) but with time, he had begun to feel strangled and began to show signs of independence. He began to reassert his authority over the Gaekwad of Baroda, a feudatory of the English, and laid claim over the tribute of Kathiawar and Baroda. The Baroda sent its Chief Minister **Gangadhar Shastri** to negotiate with the Peshwa but the negotiations failed and Shastri was killed on his way back at Nasik at the instance of Trimbakji, the Chief Minister of Peshwa. The British Resident Elphinstone demanded the surrender of Trimbakji. While the Peshwa vacillated, the English Company prepared for war and its troops surrounded Poona. The Peshwa reluctantly surrendered and accepted the new treaty of Poona.

**Treaty of Poona (Subsidiary Alliance, 13 June 1817)** As per this treaty, among other things, the Peshwa accepted the **dissolution of the Maratha Confederacy**, a milestone in the establishment of British Paramountcy in India. He also gave up some important forts to the Company including Konkan and ceded Bundelkhand, Malwa and Hindustan.

**Daulat Rao Scindia** was asked by Lord Hastings, who had arrived with a big force in September 1817, to either surrender or face war. Scindia surrendered and accepted subsidiary alliance, yet it was a treaty of 'amity and friendship' and Scindia continued to remain independent in many ways.

**Treaty of Gwalior (Subsidiary Alliance, 5 November 1817)** Daulat Rao Scindia was also forced by the English to sign the Treaty of Gwalior. As per this treaty, he pledged to help the Company in suppressing the **Pindaris**, the irregular forces of the Marathas. Thus the Third Maratha War began as a campaign against the Pindaris. The British troops were led by Lord Hastings supported by a force under General Thomas Hislop.

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 the Peshwa. Peshwa's forces supported by those of Bhonsle (Mudhoji II Bhonsle, also known as Appa Sahib of Nagpur) and Holkar (Malhar Rao Holkar III of Indore) rose against the EIC. 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).

### Holkar and the Treaty of Mandsaur (Subsidiary Alliance, 6 January 1818)

Malhar Rao Holkar III of Indore was forced to sign the Treaty of Mandsaur and now a British Resident was placed in Indore. Holkar had to surrender all his territories south of the Narmada including Khandesh. He also renounced his claim over the Rajput states (later Scindia also ceded Ajmer and the Rajputana states which were under the control of Scindia and Holkar for last several decades now came under British control). Since the Holkar was only 11 years old, Tantia Jog was appointed as the Chief Minister. In this way, Holkar became the **last Maratha chief** to sign a subsidiary alliance with the British.



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 EIC.

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**. His kingdom was brought under 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.

### Prelim Capsule

#### The Anglo-Maratha Wars (during 1775-1818)

Wars	Period	Important Details
<b>First Maratha War</b> Warren Hastings	<b>1775–82</b>	Immediate context—Sawai Madhav Rao succeeded as Peshwa, which gravely frustrated Raghunath Rao and he now tried to capture power with British help. Began with the <b>Treaty of Surat</b> and ended with the <b>Treaty of Salbai</b> . Main battles fought—Battles of <b>Adas</b> , <b>Talegaon</b> and <b>Sipri</b> . Result—It ended in a draw. Treaty of Salbai gave the Marathas 20 years of peace.
<b>Second Maratha War</b> Lord Wellesley	<b>1803–05</b>	Immediate context—In 1801, Peshwa Baji Rao II killed Holkar's brother Vithoji Rao Holkar. When Holkar launched a counter attack, Peshwa fled, took refuge in Bassein and approached Wellesley for help. Began with the <b>Treaty of Bassein</b> and ended with the <b>Treaty of Rajpurghat</b> . Main battles fought—Battles of <b>Assaye</b> , <b>Argaon</b> , <b>Delhi</b> , <b>Laswari</b> and <b>Ding</b> . Result—the English had an edge over the Marathas. Separate treaties were signed with Scindia, Bhonsle and Holkar by the Company which tore apart the Maratha confederacy.
<b>Third Maratha War</b> Lord Hastings	<b>1817–18</b>	Immediate Context—The War began as a campaign against the <b>Pindaris</b> , the irregular Maratha forces. Began with the <b>Treaty of Gwalior</b> and ended with the <b>Treaty of Mandsaur</b> . Main battles fought—Battles of <b>Khadki</b> , <b>Sitabaldi</b> , <b>Mehidpur</b> , <b>Koregaon</b> and <b>Ashti</b> . Result—Maratha forces were decisively defeated. Peshwa's territories were annexed by the British. The House of the Peshwa was extinguished.

### REASONS FOR THE DEFEAT OF MYSORE AND THE MARATHAS AT THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH

We find that there were some common weaknesses in both the states of Mysore and Marathas that were also characteristic of 18th century Indian polity. These weaknesses contributed to their defeat at the hands of the English Company. The static eastern people could not successfully contend with the dynamic English nation rejuvenated by the forces of renaissance, industrial revolution and Machiavellian methods of statecraft. The main reasons are as follows:

1. **Mutual rivalry among Indian states:** Constant rivalry among the 'country powers' made them an easy prey to the imperialist powers. We have seen in this chapter that there were disputes between the states of Mysore and Maratha. The English took this as an opportunity and used one against the other to establish their control over both of them.
2. **Presence of factions and interest groups in the administration:** In both the states, there were different interest groups that opposed each other and weakened the central authority. In the case of the Marathas, there were the Maratha chiefs like the Scindias and the Holkars. They constantly competed with one another for power and tried to establish independent authority. This certainly weakened the central Maratha authority and caused political instability which the English fully exploited in their favour.
3. **Lack of resources:** Lack of resources with the Indian states was a major constraint while fighting the British, especially when we see that the British were already in control of Bengal, the most productive part of the country, and had the backing of their home government. The Marathas were primarily dependent on resources from outside, such as chauth and sardeshmukhi. Mysore was comparatively better off under Hyder Ali and Tipu, yet lacked resource mobilisation from the countryside.

Some historians also mention causes such as incapacity of individual rulers, weak military organization and religious or caste differences of the rulers and the ruled, etc. Such arguments are only myths and misrepresent the true situation. For instance, in the case of Mysore we find that the Mysore rulers were able leaders who also tried to organise the army along European lines. Their great misfortune was that they were pitted against imperial giants who had both the will and capacity to bulldoze the whole of India.

To sum up, in this chapter we saw the process of British expansion in south India in the form of conquest of Mysore and Maratha states. The British first came in the region for commercial gains. The existing rivalry among the states gave the British an opportunity to interfere in their political matters. The administrative weakness of the states finally led to their defeat at the hands of the British. The defeat of Mysore and the Marathas proved fatal for Indian states and laid the foundation of British rule in India.





## Previous Years' Questions – Main Exam

1. 'Dalhousie's predecessors had acted on the general principles of avoiding annexations, if these could be avoided. Dalhousie acted on the principles of annexation if he could do so legitimately. His annexations were

both of War and Peace.' Analyse.

[UPSC 2010]

2. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate.

[UPSC 2013]



## Previous Years' Questions – Preliminary Exam

1. Who among the following streamlined the Maratha administration after Sambhaji?

[UPSC 2000]

- (a) Raja Ram  
(b) Balaji Vishwanath  
(c) Ganga Bai  
(d) Nanaji Deshmukh

2. Who among the following Indian rulers established embassies in foreign countries on modern lines?

[UPSC 2001]

- (a) Hyder Ali (b) Mir Qasim  
(c) Shah Alam II (d) Tipu Sultan

3. Assertion (A): Marathas emerged as the strongest native power in India after the decline of Mughal Empire.

[UPSC 2003]

Reason(R): Marathas were first to have a clear concept of united nation.

- (a) Both A and R is true and R is the correct explanation of A  
(b) Both A and R is true but R is not a correct explanation of A  
(c) A is true but R is false.  
(d) A is false but R is true.

4. Consider the following Princely states of the British rule in India:

[UPSC 2003]

1. Jhansi 2. Sambalpur  
3. Satara

The correct chronological order in which they were annexed by the British is:

- (a) 1-2-3 (b) 1-3-2  
(c) 3-2-1 (d) 3-1-2



## Practice Questions – Preliminary Exam

1. What brought the Indian states in conflict with one another?

1. The rulers followed the policy of territorial expansion.  
2. The rulers belonged to different religions.

With reference to the above question, which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) both (d) neither

2. 1. Subsidiary Alliance was introduced in India by Lord Cornwallis.  
2. After the death of Tipu Sultan, the British restored Mysore to Tipu's successors.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) both (d) neither

3. Consider the following statements and choose the correct answer.

1. Peshwa Baji Rao II did not accept the subsidiary alliance system.  
2. The Treaty of Salbai confirmed the British possession of Salsette.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) both (d) neither

4. 1. There took place three Anglo-Mysore wars.  
2. There took place four Anglo-Maratha wars.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) both (d) neither

5. The First Anglo-Maratha war ended with \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Treaty of Wadgaon  
(b) Treaty of Salbai  
(c) Treaty of Rajpurghat  
(d) Treaty of Poona

6. What happened as a result of the Third Maratha war?

- (a) Death of the Peshwa  
(b) Annexation of Gwalior  
(c) War with the Pindaris  
(d) None of the above

7. The Treaty of Purandar was signed between \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) the British and the Nizam  
(b) Raghoba and the British  
(c) the British and the Poona Court  
(d) the British and Mahadji Scindia

8. The Treaty of Bassein damaged \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) the Portuguese (b) the Rajputs  
(c) the British (d) the Marathas

9. Which British ruler finally defeated the Marathas?

- (a) Warren Hastings (b) Lord Wellesley  
(c) Lord Hastings (d) Sir John Shore

10. Benoit de Boigne was the general of whose army?

- (a) Nizam of Hyderabad  
(b) Hyder Ali  
(c) Mahadji Scindia  
(d) Raghuji Bhonsle

11. Wellesley's expansion policy in India was abruptly stopped and he was recalled because-

1. The shareholders of the EIC felt that continuous wars were proving costly.  
2. Napoleon was reemerging as a threat in Europe.

Select the correct answer using the codes given as follows:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) both (d) neither

12. With reference to the Treaty of Bassein, consider the following statements-

1. The treaty helped the British to interfere in the administrative affairs in case of Peshwa's death without any natural heir.  
2. As per the treaty, no European except the English could be kept in the Peshwa's army.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) both (d) neither

13. Who was the governor of Madras when British signed the Treaty of Mangalore with Tipu Sultan?

- (a) Lord Hamilton  
(b) Lord Stephenson  
(c) Lord Dalhousie  
(d) Lord McCartney

14. Which of the following statements are true regarding the Third Anglo Mysore war?

1. It started in 1788 and ended in 1790.  
2. The British formed an alliance with Marathas and the Nizam against Tipu Sultan.



## 2.24 Modern Indian History

3. Tipu's attack on Travancore became the immediate cause of the Third Anglo Mysore war.  
(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3  
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 3 only
15. Which of the following were among the reasons for the defeat of Mysore and the Marathas at the hands of the British?
1. Mutual rivalry among Indian states
  2. Presence of factions and interest groups in the administration
  3. Lack of leadership
  4. Lack of resources
- Select the correct answer using the codes given as follows:
- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 1, 2 and 3  
(c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4



### Practice Questions – Main Exam

1. What brought the British in conflict with the country powers in the 18th century? Analyze.
2. What explanation can you give for the success of the British against the Indian states? Give examples in support of your answer.
3. Write a Short Note on each of the following:  
(a) First Anglo–Mysore War  
(b) Third Anglo–Maratha War
4. What was the immediate cause of the Third Anglo–Maratha War? Write a critical note on its outcome and significance in Indian history.
5. Critically evaluate the causes of the decline of the Marathas in the context of Anglo–Maratha Wars.

## Answers

### Previous Years' Questions – Preliminary Exam

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (c)

### Practice Questions – Preliminary Exam

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (b)  
6. (c) 7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (c) 10. (c)  
11. (c) 12. (a) 13. (d) 14. (b) 15. (b)