

1. What was the significance of Constantinople in European-Asian trade before 1453?

Answer: Constantinople was a crucial hub for land trade between Europe and Asia until its capture by the Turks in 1453, which disrupted European trade routes and prompted the search for sea routes to Asia.

2. Name two technological advancements that aided European exploration to India.

Answer: Advances in shipbuilding and improvements in compass and map-making.

3. Who was the first European to reach India by sea, and in which year?

Answer: Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, reached India in 1498.

4. Where did Vasco da Gama first arrive in India, and who ruled that region?

Answer: He arrived at Kappad near Kozhikode, which was ruled by the Zamorin dynasty.

5. Why did the Zamorin refuse the Portuguese demand for exclusive trading rights?

Answer: The Zamorin refused because the Arabs controlled foreign trade in Kozhikode, and he did not want to expel them to favor the Portuguese.

6. Who were the Kunjali Marakkars, and what role did they play?

Answer: The Kunjali Marakkars were naval chiefs of the Zamorin who resisted Portuguese attacks on the western coast, with Kunjali III capturing Fort Chaliyam.

7. Name three crops introduced by the Portuguese in India.

Answer: Cashew (parangi mavu), guava (perakka), and pineapple.

8. What was Fort Manuel, and where was it established?

Answer: Fort Manuel was the first European fort in India, established by the Portuguese in Kochi.

9. What was the Battle of Colachel, and what was its outcome?

Answer: The Battle of Colachel (1741) was fought between Marthandavarma of Travancore and the Dutch at Colachel, near Kanyakumari. The Dutch were defeated, marking the first European loss to an Indian ruler.

10. What is *Hortus Malabaricus*, and who compiled it?

Answer: *Hortus Malabaricus* is a book documenting 742 medicinal plants of Kerala, compiled by Hendrik van Rheed, the Dutch governor, with contributions from Itti Achuthan and others.

11. Name the territories controlled by the French in India after the Carnatic Wars.

Answer: Pondicherry, Yanam, Karaikal, and Mahe.

12. What were the Carnatic Wars, and who emerged victorious?

Answer: The Carnatic Wars were fought between the British and French for dominance in South India. The British emerged victorious, reducing French control to a few territories.

13. When was the English East India Company established, and for what purpose?

Answer: It was established in 1600 for trade with Asia.

14. How did the British gain control of Bombay?

Answer: Bombay was gifted to British King Charles II in 1662 upon his marriage to Portuguese princess Catherine and later handed over to the English East India Company.

15. What was the significance of the Battle of Plassey (1757)?

Answer: The British victory in the Battle of Plassey, led by Robert Clive, established their control over Bengal, enabling them to collect taxes and expand their influence in India.

16. What was the Permanent Land Revenue Settlement, and who introduced it?

Answer: Introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793 in Bengal, it required zamindars to collect high taxes for the British, with farmers paying a fixed amount regardless of crop yield.

17. How did the Ryotwari System differ from the Permanent Land Revenue Settlement?

Answer: In the Ryotwari System, introduced in South India and Deccan in 1820, the British collected taxes directly from peasants, who were considered landlords, unlike the zamindars in the Permanent Settlement.

18. What was the impact of British tax policies on Indian farmers?

Answer: High taxes forced farmers into debt, with no relief during crop failures, leading to land loss to moneylenders and a shift to cash crops, causing food shortages.

19. Why did the Santhal Rebellion occur in 1855?

Answer: The Santhals rebelled against British-supported landlord extortion, loss of grain and forest resources, and exploitation, led by Sikhu and Kanhu in the Rajmahal Hills.

20. What was the Attingal Revolt, and why is it significant?

Answer: The Attingal Revolt (1721) was the first organized uprising against the British in Kerala, caused by British interference in the pepper trade and internal affairs. Locals attacked a British contingent, marking a significant early resistance.

21. Application: Why did the British force farmers to grow indigo, and what were the consequences?

Answer: The British forced indigo cultivation for export to meet European demand, paying farmers low prices. This led to food shortages, economic hardship, and the Neelam Peasant Revolt (1859) as farmers resisted exploitation.

22. Application: How did the Subsidiary Alliance Policy affect Indian princely states?

Answer: The Subsidiary Alliance Policy, introduced by Lord Wellesley, forced princely states to maintain British troops, bear their expenses, and avoid foreign alliances, leading to annexation if conditions were violated, thus weakening Indian rulers.

23. Application: Why was the Revolt of 1857 considered India's first struggle for independence?

Answer: The Revolt of 1857 was a widespread, organized rebellion involving soldiers, rulers, peasants, and artisans across North India, driven by British policies like the Doctrine of Lapse and religious grievances, marking a unified resistance against colonial rule.

24. Application: How did the British policies impact Indian artisans?

Answer: British importation of machine-made goods outcompeted Indian handicrafts (e.g., cotton, silk, pottery), leading to loss of markets and employment, forcing artisans to abandon traditional occupations.

25. Application: Why did Rani Chennamma of Kittur fight the British?

Answer: Rani Chennamma fought due to the British annexation of Kittur under the Doctrine of Lapse, which prevented her from adopting an heir after her husband's death, prompting her to declare war to protect her state's sovereignty.

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