

## Key Factors Leading to European Exploration

Europeans had trade relations with Asia since ancient times, with Constantinople serving as a major trade hub between Europe and Asia until its capture by the Turks in 1453. This event disrupted land trade routes, prompting Europeans to seek sea routes to Asia. The following factors facilitated this exploration:

- **Technological Advances:** Improvements in European shipbuilding and sailing techniques.
  - **Geographical Knowledge:** Increased understanding of geography and advancements in compass and map-making.
  - **Travel Writings:** Voyagers' accounts provided insights into new territories and their wealth.
  - **Commercial Demand:** Growing European market for Asian products like pepper.
  - **Conquest of Constantinople:** Forced Europeans to find alternative sea routes.
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## 2. Portuguese Arrival and Impact

### Vasco da Gama's Voyage

- **Year:** 1498
- **Starting Point:** Lisbon, Portugal
- **Arrival Point:** Kappad, near Kozhikode, India
- **Oceans Traversed:** Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean
- **Continents Traversed:** Europe, Africa, Asia
- **Ships Used:** Sao Gabriel, Sao Rafael, Berrio
- **Significance:** Vasco da Gama's arrival marked the beginning of European dominance in India. His voyage yielded goods worth 60 times the cost of the journey, encouraging further Portuguese expeditions.

### Portuguese Interactions in India

- **Kozhikode and the Zamorin:** The Zamorin, ruler of Kozhikode, controlled foreign trade dominated by Arabs. He rejected the Portuguese demand to expel Arabs and grant exclusive trading rights.
- **Kannur and Kolathiri King:** Vasco da Gama obtained trade permissions from the Kolathiri king of Kannur.
- **Conflicts:** The Portuguese faced resistance from the Kunjali Marakkars, naval chiefs of the Zamorin. Kunjali III captured Fort Chaliem, but Kunjali IV was executed by the Portuguese in Goa, leading to the decline of the Zamorin's power.

### Impact of Portuguese Contact

The Portuguese introduced significant cultural, agricultural, and technological changes in India:

Field	Impact
<b>Political</b>	Established the first European fort, Fort Manuel, in Kochi; ruled Kochi, Goa, Daman, and Diu.
<b>Agricultural</b>	Introduced crops like cashew ( <i>parangi mavu</i> ), papaya, guava ( <i>perakka</i> ), and pineapple.
<b>Knowledge</b>	Popularized printing technology.
<b>Cultural</b>	Introduced art forms like Chavittunatakam and Margamkali; started European-style construction and Christian religious education centers.
<b>Military</b>	Provided training in European war tactics and weapons.

### Malayalam Words from Portuguese

- Table: *Mesha*
- Other items introduced include cashew tree (*parangi mavu*), guava (*perakka*), and pineapple.

## 3. The Dutch in India

### Arrival and Trading Centers

- **Who:** The Dutch (from Holland/Netherlands) followed the Portuguese.
- **Major Trading Centers:** Nagapattinam, Bharuch, Ahmedabad, Chinsura.
- **Competition:** The Dutch outcompeted the Portuguese, gaining a trade monopoly.

### Battle of Colachel (1741)

- **Participants:** Marthandavarma (Travancore) vs. the Dutch.
- **Location:** Colachel, near Kanyakumari.
- **Outcome:** The Dutch were defeated, marking the first time a European power lost to an Indian ruler, ending their supremacy in India.

### Hortus Malabaricus

- **Description:** A significant Dutch contribution, this work documented 742 medicinal plants of Kerala.
- **Compiler:** Hendrik van Rheed (Dutch governor).
- **Contributors:** Itti Achuthan (indigenous medical practitioner), Appu Bhat, Ranga Bhat, Vinayaka Bhat.

- **Significance:** The first book to include Malayalam words, later translated into Malayalam and English by Dr. K. S. Manilal.

#### 4. The French in India

- **Arrival:** Followed the Dutch and British.
- **Carnatic Wars:** Fought between the British and French for dominance in South India (Tamil Nadu and coastal Andhra Pradesh). The British emerged victorious.
- **French Territories:** Reduced to Pondicherry, Yanam, Karaikal, and Mahe.

#### Comparison of European Occupied Territories

##### European Power Occupied Territories

<b>Portuguese</b>	Kochi, Goa, Daman, Diu
<b>Dutch</b>	Nagapattinam, Bharuch, Ahmedabad, Chinsura
<b>French</b>	Pondicherry, Yanam, Karaikal, Mahe

#### 5. The English East India Company: From Trade to Power

##### Establishment

- **Year:** 1600
- **Purpose:** Trade with Asia.

##### Key Milestones

- **Madras (Chennai):** In 1639, King Damarila Venkituatri Nayaka leased the port of Madras to the British, sharing half the toll revenue.
- **Bombay (Mumbai):** Gifted to King Charles II in 1662 upon his marriage to Portuguese princess Catherine, later handed to the Company.
- **Calcutta (Kolkata):** Fort William was built in 1699 around Sutanuti, Kalikata, and Gobindapur, evolving into a major town.
- **Surat Factory:** Captain William Hawkins obtained permission from Mughal Emperor Jahangir to establish a factory in Surat, Gujarat.

##### British Dominance

- **Battle of Plassey (1757):**
  - **Participants:** Nawab of Bengal (Siraj-ud-Daulah) vs. East India Company (led by Robert Clive).

- **Outcome:** British victory, establishing control over Bengal's rich agricultural resources and tax revenues.
- **Battle of Buxar (1764):**
  - **Participants:** Combined forces of Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, Nawab of Oudh (Shuja-ud-Daulah), and Nawab of Bengal (Mir Qasim) vs. the Company.
  - **Outcome:** British gained the right to collect taxes, strengthening their administrative presence.

#### Robert Clive's Statement

- **Quote:** "Send me two thousand soldiers, I will conquer India."
- **Reasons:**
  - Disunity among Indian princely states.
  - British military and technological superiority.

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### 6. British Policies and Their Impact

#### Subjugation of Princely States

The British used wars and diplomacy to control princely states:

- **Anglo-Mysore Wars:**
  - Fought between Mysore (led by Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan) and the Company.
  - **Outcome:** Mysore fell in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799) after Tipu Sultan's death.
- **Anglo-Maratha Wars:**
  - Fought against the Maratha Kingdom.
  - **Outcome:** Maratha territories came under British control after the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
- **Anglo-Sikh Wars:**
  - Fought against the Sikhs.
  - **Outcome:** Punjab was annexed by the British.

#### Tax Policies

The British implemented exploitative tax systems, affecting farmers and agriculture:

Tax System	Implemented Areas	Executed By	Features
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<b>Permanent Land Revenue Settlement (1793)</b>	Bengal	Lord Cornwallis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zamindars collected high taxes for the British.</li> <li>- Fixed tax regardless of crop yield.</li> </ul>
<b>Ryotwari System (1820)</b>	South India, Deccan	Thomas Munro, Alexander Reed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peasants considered landlords.</li> <li>- British collected taxes directly.</li> <li>- Land seized if taxes unpaid.</li> </ul>
<b>Mahalwari System (1822)</b>	North India, Central India, Punjab	Holt Mackenzie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Village treated as a unit for tax collection.</li> <li>- Defaulting villages annexed.</li> </ul>

#### Impact of Tax Policies

- **High Tax Rates:** Farmers struggled to pay, leading to debt.
- **No Tax Relief:** Taxes were collected even during crop failures (e.g., floods, droughts).
- **Debt Traps:** Farmers borrowed from moneylenders, risking land loss.
- **Cash Crops:** British forced cultivation of indigo and cotton, reducing food crop production and causing food shortages.
- **Commercialization:** Farmers sold produce at low prices, benefiting moneylenders.

#### Impact on Artisans

- **Competition:** Imported machine-made British goods outcompeted Indian handicrafts (cotton, silk, wool, pottery, leather, edible oil).
- **Outcome:** Loss of employment for artisans, forcing many to abandon traditional occupations.

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## 7. Resistance Against British Exploitation

### Economic Hardships

- **Famine in Bengal (1773):**
  - Described in Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's *Anandamath*.
  - **Causes:** Sudden cessation of rains, crop failure, and relentless tax collection.
  - **Effects:** People sold cattle, tools, seeds, jewelry, and even house doors; consumed grass, leaves, and animals; diseases like fever, plague, and smallpox spread.

### Key Rebellions

The British policies sparked widespread resistance from peasants, tribals, artisans, and rulers.

### **Sannyasi-Fakir Rebellion**

- **Participants:** Sannyasis and Fakirs.
- **Leaders:** Bhavani Pathak, Majnu Shah.
- **Cause:** Famine and exploitative tax policies.
- **Significance:** Highlighted resistance against British economic oppression.

### **Neelam Peasant Revolt (1859)**

- **Location:** Bengal.
- **Cause:**
  - Forced indigo cultivation by British planters.
  - Low prices paid for indigo.
  - Food shortages due to cash crop focus.
  - Decline in indigo demand due to artificial dyes.
- **Leaders:** Digambar Biswas, Vishnu Biswas.
- **Outcome:** Farmers abandoned indigo cultivation, attacked factories, and indigo cultivation nearly disappeared from Bengal.

### **Santhal Rebellion (1855)**

- **Location:** Rajmahal Hills, Bengal.
- **Cause:**
  - Unjust extortion by landlords with British support.
  - Loss of grain and forest resources.
- **Leaders:** Sikhu and Kanhu.
- **Outcome:** Brutally suppressed, but a significant tribal resistance movement.

### **Munda Rebellion (Ulgulan, 1899)**

- **Location:** Munda tribal areas (present-day Jharkhand).
- **Cause:**
  - British land grabbing and exploitation.
  - Financial exploitation by moneylenders and merchants.
- **Leader:** Birsa Munda.
- **Outcome:** Armed rebellion suppressed; Birsa Munda died in prison.

### Other Tribal Rebellions

- Kurichiya Rebellion, Pahariya Rebellion, Kol Rebellion, Bhil Rebellion, Khash Rebellion.

### Poligar Resistance

- **Who:** Poligars (military leaders in Tamil Nadu, from Tamil *palayakkar*).
- **Leaders:**
  - Veerapandya Kattabomman (Panchalam Kurichi).
  - Marut Pandya brothers (Sivagangai).
- **Cause:** Increased British taxes and interference.
- **Outcome:** Leaders fought heroically but were defeated.

### Attingal Revolt (1721)

- **Location:** Attingal, Kerala.
- **Cause:** British interference in pepper trade, internal affairs, and communal tensions.
- **Event:** Locals attacked a British contingent delivering gifts to the Attingal Rani, blockaded Anchuthengu fort.
- **Significance:** First organized popular uprising against British rule in Kerala.

### Vellore Mutiny (1806)

- **Location:** Vellore, Tamil Nadu.
- **Cause:** Changes in dress code for Indian soldiers by the Company.
- **Outcome:** Suppressed, but inspired later anti-British uprisings.

### Kittur Rani Chennamma

- **Location:** Kittur, Karnataka.
- **Cause:** British annexation of Kittur after preventing Chennamma from adopting an heir.
- **Outcome:** Chennamma fought the British but died in custody in 1829.

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## 8. The Revolt of 1857: India's First War of Independence

### Causes

- **Subsidiary Alliance Policy** (Lord Wellesley):
  - Princely states allied with the British had to:
    - Maintain a Company army unit and bear its expenses.

- Avoid alliances with other European powers without British approval.
- Consult the British Governor-General for decisions.
- Host a British Resident.
- Violation led to annexation.
- **Doctrine of Lapse** (Lord Dalhousie):
  - Prevented rulers from adopting heirs, annexing princely states without male heirs (e.g., Awadh).
- **Soldier Dissatisfaction:**
  - Indian soldiers received lower pay, poor food, and accommodation compared to British soldiers.
  - Enfield gun cartridges, rumored to be greased with cow and pig fat, offended religious beliefs.
- **Mangal Pandey's Protest:**
  - Location: Barrackpore.
  - Event: Protested against Enfield cartridges; executed on April 8, 1857, for assaulting a British soldier.

### Events

- **Start:** Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Key Action:** Indian soldiers declared Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah II as Emperor of India in Delhi.
- **Participants:** Soldiers, rulers, peasants, artisans, and landlords across North India.
- **Hindu-Muslim Unity:** A significant strength of the revolt.

### Leaders and Centers

Venue	Leaders	Features
Delhi	Bahadur Shah II, General Bakht Khan	Declared Emperor; Bahadur Shah exiled to Rangoon.
Jhansi	Rani Lakshmibai	Ruler of Jhansi; fought bravely.
Kanpur	Nana Sahib, Tantia Tope	Nana Sahib was Maratha ruler; Tantia Tope used guerrilla warfare.
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Led resistance in Awadh.
Ara, Bihar	Kunwar Singh	Farmer lord of Jagdishpur; severed his arm during battle.



## Outcomes

- **Suppression:** The British brutally suppressed the revolt, killing many (e.g., 150,000 in Oudh, including 100,000 civilians).
  - **Limitations:**
    - Confined to northern India.
    - Lacked organized leadership.
    - Company army had superior military skills.
    - Limited middle-class support.
    - Some princely rulers abstained.
  - **Impact:**
    - End of English East India Company rule.
    - Direct control by the British Crown, with the Governor-General replaced by a Viceroy.
    - Inspired later national movements.
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## 9. Cultural References

- **Vande Mataram:** National song from Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's *Anandamath* (1882).
- **Nil Darpan:** Play by Dinabandhumitra (1860) depicting indigo farmers' miseries.
- **Literary Works:**
  - Mulasueteta Den's *Jhansi Rani*.
  - Malayattoor Ramakrishnan's *Amrtham Thedi*.
- **Films:**
  - *Mangal Pandey: The Rising* (directed by Ketan Mehta).
  - *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi* (directed by Krish Jagarlamudi).