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**History of Modern India**

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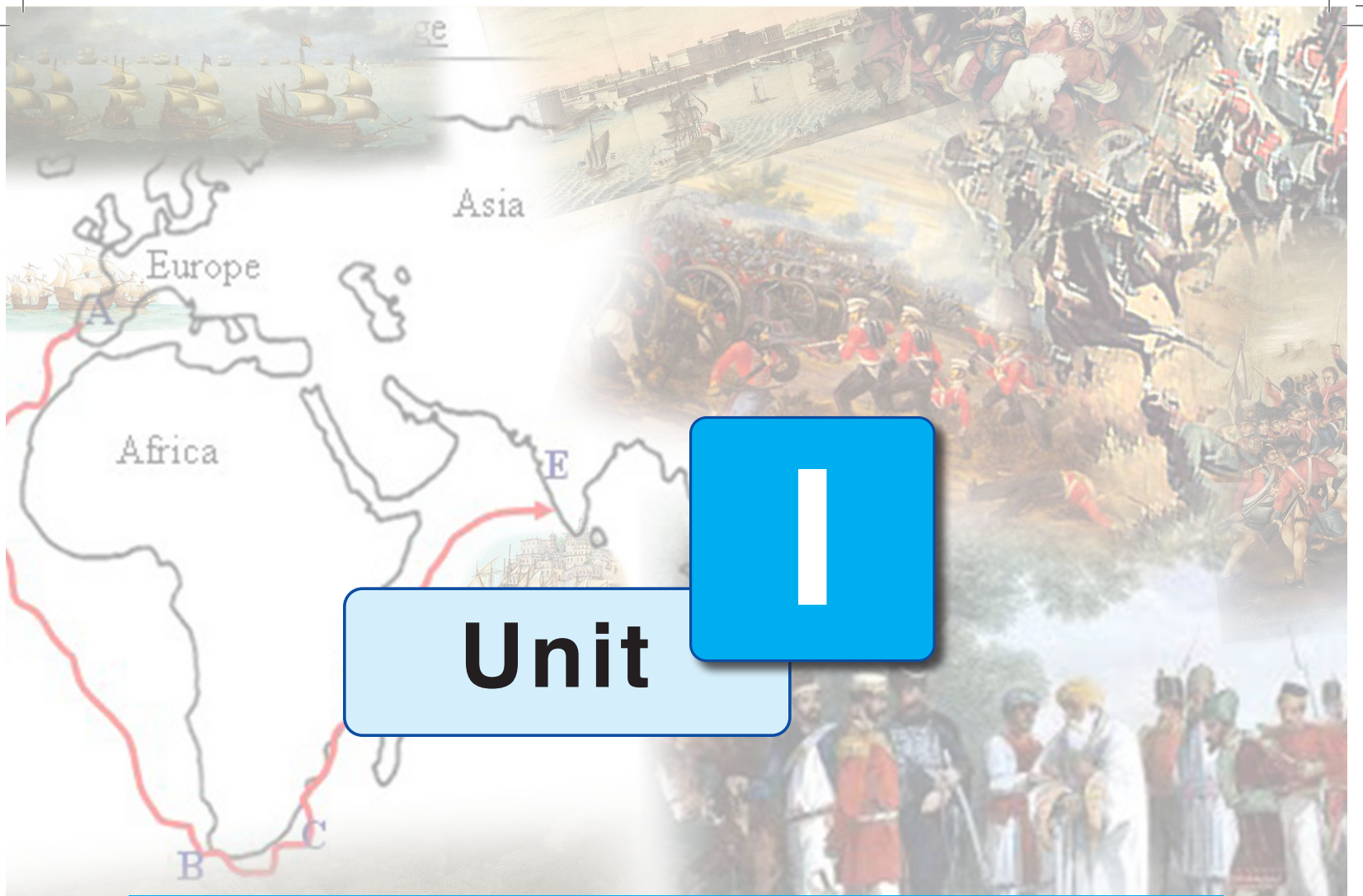
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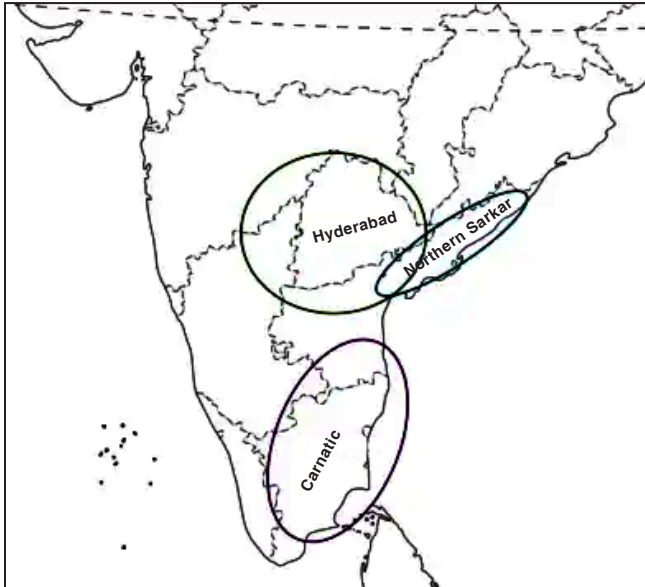


## 4.1 Anglo-French Conflict

### Introduction

After the decline of the Portuguese in India, they were relegated to Goa, Diu and Daman; and the agreement between the Dutch and the English in 1667, made the Dutch give up all their claims in India for the British stakes in Indonesia. Thus, India and Indian trade in the 18th century were left to the English East India Company (EIC) and the French EIC. Both these European powers, from their humble beginnings in trade were inevitably drawn into the politics of India, resulting in nearly 20 years of Anglo-French conflict.

### First Carnatic War (1746-48)



### Background

The First Carnatic War was a spill out of the War of Austrian Succession in Europe in 1740 and the ongoing war between France and England in 1742 over colonies in America. It got extended to trade rivalry in India as well.

### Course of the War

In 1745, the English navy captured French ships off the South-East coast of India and threatened Pondicherry. Under the brilliant leadership of the French Governor-General at Pondicherry, Dupleix, the French retaliated and occupied Madras in 1746. This led to a very important event of the war.

Differences arose between the Nawab of Carnatic and the French, when the French went back on their promise to give Madras to Nawab after its capture. Hence the struggle for Madras began between the Nawab of Carnatic and the French. The Nawab of Carnatic sent an army against the French to stop the two foreign trading

companies from fighting on his soil. And so the 10,000 strong army of the Nawab clashed with a small French force, consisting of 230 Europeans and 700 Indian soldiers trained along Western lines, at St. Thomas on the banks of the Adyar river (Battle of Adyar). The Nawab was decisively defeated.



Painting of Carnatic Wars

### Outcomes

Battle of Adyar revealed the immense superiority of Western armies over Indian armies as a result of better equipment used in war and organisation. The large but ill disciplined and unwieldy Indian army could not stand up against the smaller but better disciplined Western army.

In 1748, the war between England and France ended with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle and, as a part of the peace settlement, Madras was restored to the English in lieu of some territories (Louisburg) in North America.

### Second Carnatic War (1749-1754)

#### Background

Though the general war between the British and French had ended, the rivalry in trade and over possessions in India continued. Moreover, the war had revealed to them the weakness of Indian administration and armies, and thereby had arisen the greed of both the companies for territorial expansion in India.



Painting of siege of Arcot

Dupleix, through his experience of working with the Nawab of Carnatic, evolved the strategy of using the well-disciplined, modern French army to intervene in the mutual quarrels of Indian princes and, by supporting one against the other, securing monetary, commercial, or territorial favours from the victor (First example of Subsidiary Alliance in India).

### Course of the War

In 1748, in Hyderabad the death of Asaf Jah Nizam-ul-Mulk, a civil war broke between his son Nasir Jang and his grandson Muzaffar Jang and in the state of Carnatic Chanda Sahib began to conspire against Nawab Anwaruddin.

Dupleix seized this opportunity and concluded a secret treaty with Chanda Sahib and Muzaffar Jang to help them with his well-trained French and Indian forces.

In Hyderabad, the French were successful. Nasir Jang and Muzaffar Jang became the Nizam of the Deccan. The new Nizam rewarded the French Company by giving it territories Masulipatam and Pondicherry. A sum of Rs. 500,000 was given to the Company and another Rs. 500,000 to its troops. Dupleix received Rs. 2,000,000 and a jagir worth Rs. 100,000 a year and was made honorary Governor of Mughal dominions on the East coast from the river Krishna to Kanya Kumari.

The three allies defeated and killed Anwaruddin in a battle at Ambur. The latter's son, Muhammad Ali, fled to Trichinopoly. The rest of the Carnatic passed under the dominion of Chanda Sahib who rewarded the French with a grant of 80 villages around Pondicherry.

The French had started out by trying to win Indian states as friends and they had ended it by making them their clients or satellites.

With the accidental death of Muzaffar Jang, French immediately raised Salabat Jang, the third son of Nizam-ul-Mulk, to the throne. In return, the new Nizam granted the French, the area in Andhra known as the Northern Circars.

On the other side the English had not been silent spectators of their rivals' successes. To offset French influence and to increase their own, they had been intriguing with Nasir Jang and Muhammad Ali. In 1750, they decided to throw their entire strength behind Muhammad Ali.

Robert Clive proposed that French pressure on Muhammad Ali could be released by attacking Arcot, the capital of Carnatic. The proposal was accepted and Clive assaulted and occupied Arcot with only 200 English and 300 Indian soldiers (Siege of Arcot). Chanda Sahib was soon captured and killed.

### Outcomes

- **Treaty of Pondicherry:** The French Government, weary of the heavy expense of the war in India and fearing the loss of its American colonies, initiated peace negotiations ending with the Treaty of Pondicherry in

1754, which recognized Muhammad Ali as the Nawab of the Carnatic.

- **Return of Dupleix:** The French also acceded to the English demand for the recall of Dupleix from India. His return to France coupled with internal quarrels of high French officials and Military & Naval commanders, was to prove a big blow to the fortunes of the French Company in India.

## Third Carnatic War (1758-1763)

### Background

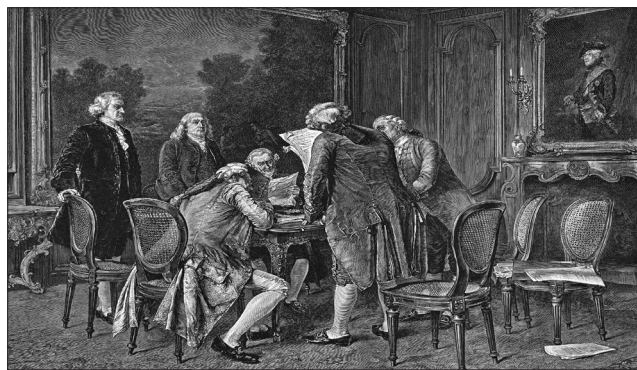
The outbreak of the Seven Years' War in Europe in 1756 resulted in a renewed conflict between French and British forces in India.

### Course of the War

The third Carnatic war fought on many fronts in India. The British forces captured the French settlement of Chandernagore in 1757 in the very beginning of the war. The rich resources of Bengal turned the scales decisively in favour of the English. However, the war was decided in south India where the British successfully defended Madras. The decisive Battle was fought at Wandiwash on 22 January 1760 where a strong French force headed by Count de Lally was defeated by the British force under English General Eyre Coot.

### Outcomes

**Treaty of Paris:** The war ended in 1763 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The French factories of Chandernagore and Pondicherry were restored but they could no longer be fortified or even adequately garrisoned with troops. They could only serve as centers of trade and now the French lived in India under British protection.



Treaty of Paris

The English replaced the French as the Nizam's protectors and secured from him Masulipatam and the Northern Circars. The French recognised British as the rulers of Indian states.

## Critical Analysis

### Reasons for Failure of French East India Company

1. **Political Situation in France:** The French Government in the 17th century and for the major part of the 18th

century was a personal despotism. It got involved in the Continental War in Europe which precluded it from sending adequate help/funds to its colonies abroad.

2. **Over-dependence on France:** Unlike the English East India Company, the French East India Company was a State concern, depending for everything on the home government. Its freedom of action was very much limited by the charter and the whims and fancies of the rulers. Growing into a department of state, the Company lost the energy and vigour of a private enterprise. Its limited resources were inadequate for company employees. The viceroys and their subordinates very often indulged in private trade smuggling, slave trade etc. which directly or indirectly contributed much to the deviation from the main purpose and the consequent collapse of the French power in India.
3. **Seats of Power in India:** While the English had three well-established seats of power in India, namely, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, and had in their possession one dockyard and an excellent harbour. The French had only one seat of power, Pondicherry, and a harbour and sea base at Mauritius, but it was distant and ill-equipped.
4. **Dwindling Naval Strength:** The lack of naval strength of the French compared to that of the English was one of the decisive factors for the failure of the French in India. The French success in 1746 was due to its naval superiority in the Coromandel Coast but this superiority could not be maintained by the French beyond 1748 because during the War of Austrian Succession the French naval strength was so greatly reduced that it had hardly any battle ships left with it in the Seven Years' War.
5. **Policy of Conquest in Place of Commerce:** In their bid for territorial expansion in India the French forgot that they were primarily merchants. All through the Anglo-French hostilities the English busily transacted their ordinary commercial activities while Dupleix, on the other hand, deliberately came to the conclusion that for France, at any rate, the Indian trade was a failure and that military conquest opened up a more attractive prospect. The English, however, never forgot that they were primarily a trading body.
6. **Administrative Lapses:** Recall of Dupleix by French Government was a blunder. The vacuum created was not filled by the generals who succeeded him. Similarly appointment of Count de Lally as the French Governor General and Commander in Chief during the Third Carnatic war proved disastrous as he lacked the foresight and statesmanship of Dupleix. His departure from Hyderabad ended the French influence there.

### Reasons for Success of English East India Company

1. **Commercial Superiority and Better Financial Position:** The trade carried on by the English Company was much bigger than the French Company. In between 1736 to 1756, the trade of British Company was many times than that of French company. The English East India Company was an asset to the British Government, for the Government even received loans from it.
2. **Private Character of the English Company:** The British Company was a private enterprise and this created a spirit of self reliance. The British Government interfered in the affairs of the Company only when it was necessary to secure the interests of its shareholders. Thus the English Company moved with its own initiative and with the moral support of the Government at home.
3. **Naval Superiority:** The naval superiority of the English in the Seven Years' War enabled the English to keep their communication with India undisturbed, to keep their settlements at Bombay and Calcutta supplied with necessary reinforcements and to isolate the French force in the Carnatic.
4. **British Settlement of Bengal:** The early control over Bengal at the start of Third Carnatic War helped the British seize Chandernagore and take the fight to the south. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 proved to be decisive in establishing British supremacy in Bengal as well as Carnatic.
5. **Territorial and strategic advantage to British in Europe:** Due to this continental conflicts did not affect them that much.

### Conclusion

Freed of all European rivals, the British now set about the task of conquering India. Anglo-French struggle led to routing out of French dreams of a French empire in India. During this struggle, the English learnt a few important and valuable lessons.

- The Western trained Indian infantry armed with modern weapons and backed by artillery could defeat large Indian armies with ease in battles.
- It was proved that the Indian soldier trained in the European manner was as good a soldier as the European. The Indian soldier lacked a feeling of nationalism, so he could be hired by the highest bidder. The Indian soldiers were called Sepoys. With this army and the vast resources of Indian trade and territories under its command, the English East India Company colonised India with wars and territorial expansion.
- The British realised that the absence of nationalism in the country could act as a catalyst in their political schemes by taking advantage of the mutual quarrels among Indian rulers.

## 4.2 Anglo-Mysore Wars (1767-99)

### Introduction

The most important power that emerged in South India was Mysore under Haider Ali. The kingdom of Mysore had preserved its precarious independence ever since the end of the Vijayanagar Empire.

### Rise of Haider Ali

When Krishnaraja died, Haider Ali became the de facto ruler of Mysore in 1761, Mysore had territorial threats from both the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad. By the time Haider Ali took complete control of Mysore, he had been able to successfully drive out Marathas from Bangalore where they had laid a siege (1758). In 1761, in the Battle of Panipat, the Marathas got defeated and due to this they drew their forces from Mysore. Haider Ali was able to increase his influence after this battle. He established a modern arsenal in **Dindigul** in 1755 with the help of French experts. In 1761 he overthrew Nanjaraj and established his authority over the Mysore state. He extended full control over the rebellious poligars (zamindars) and conquered the territories of Bidnur, Sunda, Sera, Canara and Malabar.

After capturing the throne of Mysore, **Haider Ali** looked down over the Deccan for expansion of territories. The aggressive designs of Haider alarmed the English, the Marathas and the Nizam who thus declared him as their common enemy. This tripartite struggle for power between English, the Marathas and the Nizam against Mysore opened the front for the first Anglo Mysore War.



## First Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69)

### Background

The British East India Company, seeking an overland connection between its holdings at Madras and Bengal, sought to gain access to the Northern Circars, a series of coastal territories held by the French till 1758, when they were ousted with British military support. The British went to the Nizam of Hyderabad for access to the area but he being a French Protégé, rejected the demand of Robert Clive for the same. Thereafter, Robert Clive took his application to Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II who in 1765 issued a decree granting the rights of that territory to Clive.

The British began occupying the Northern Circars, in turn fuelling Nizam's ambition to get Mysore from Haider Ali. The Marathas also joined the Nizam in this alliance against Haider Ali.

### Course of the War

The war started when Marathas attacked Mysore in 1767. But Haider Ali made peace with Marathas paying them money. After the Marathas returned, Nizam attacked Mysore with the assistance of the British. But even before the war could be concluded, the Nizam changed the side and came towards Haider Ali. The English forces could not retaliate and retreated to Trichinopoly. The British now threatened to attack Hyderabad forcing the Nizam to sign a treaty in 1768 according to which the Nizam agreed to give the British Diwani Rights of Mysore when Haider Ali was ousted and Mysore is won by him. Thereafter, an English Force was sent to capture Mysore, but it got defeated by Haider Ali.

### Outcomes

- Treaty of Madras:** Signed in April 1769. As per the Treaty of Madras:
  - Both the Parties returned the areas won by each other.
  - The District of Arcot was given to Nawab of Arcot.
  - British & Haider Ali promised that they would support each other if there is any foreign invasion.
- Marathas again launched an attack on Mysore in 1770, confiscating nearly all the territories of Haider. In the absence of British support, Haider made peace with the Marathas by paying them an annual tribute.

## Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84)

### Background

Haider Ali emerged victorious against the British in the first Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69) and at the end of the war a defensive treaty was concluded between Haider

Ali and the British. After eleven years, the Second Mysore War broke out because of the following reasons:

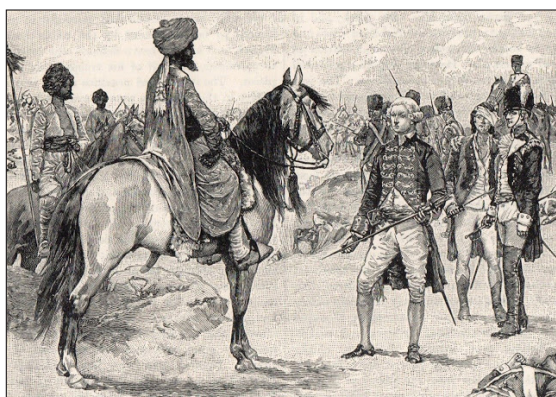
1. The British failed to fulfill the terms of the defensive treaty with Haider when he was attacked by the Marathas in 1771.
2. There was an outbreak of hostilities between the English and the French (an ally of Haider) during the American War of Independence.
3. The British captured Mahe, a French settlement within Haider's territories.
4. Haider Ali formed a grand alliance with the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas against the British in 1779.

### Course of the War

The War began when the British led their forces through Haider's territory without his permission, to capture Guntur in the Northern Circars. Haider Ali defeated Colonel Baillie and captured Arcot in 1780. In the next year, Warren Hastings, by a clever stroke of diplomacy, divided the Confederacy. He made peace with the Nizam, won the friendship of Bhonsle and came to an understanding with the Scindia (both Marathas). Consequently, Haider was isolated without any alliance. He was defeated by Sir Eyre Coote at Porto Novo in 1781. In December 1782, Haider died at the age of sixty and his death was kept secret till his son Tipu Sultan assumed power.

### Outcome

**Treaty of Mangalore:** Second Mysore War came to an end by the Treaty of Mangalore in 1784. Accordingly, all conquests were mutually restored and the prisoners on both sides were liberated.



Painting of surrender of Baillie to Hyder Ali

The treaty is an important document in the history of India, because it was the last occasion when an Indian power dictated terms to the Company. The treaty was negotiated with Haider's son and heir Tipu Sultan who steered the

negotiations and finally the British had to agree to his terms.

### Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790-92)

#### Background

The Treaty of Mangalore (1784) exhibited the military strength of Mysore, exposed English weaknesses and increased Tipu's strength. Like his father he wanted to eliminate the English from India. His other designs were to wreak vengeance on the Nizam and on the Marathas as they had betrayed his father during the hour of need. The chief causes for the Third Mysore War were:

1. **Rise of Tipu Sultan:** Tipu Sultan strengthened his position by undertaking various internal reforms. This caused worries to the British, the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas.
2. Moreover, Tipu made attempts to seek the help of France sending envoys to those countries.
3. He also expanded his territories at the cost of his neighbours, particularly the Raja of Travancore, who was an ally of the British.
4. Tipu did not honour the article regarding transfer of the prisoners contained in Mangalore Treaty of 1784 and kept the British prisoners with him. This was one of the reasons of the hostility.
5. In 1790, the British concluded a tripartite alliance with the Nizam and the Marathas against Tipu.

#### Immediate Cause

The immediate reason of the war which commenced in 1790 was that the local Dharamaraja of Travancore made some fortifications into the territories which were claimed by Tipu. Travancore Raja also purchased two forts from the Dutch in Cochin, a state paying tribute to Tipu. Travancore was an ally of the British. So when Tipu attacked Travancore, the British attacked Tipu.

#### Course of the War

War broke out in May 1790 between the English and Tipu. It was fought in three phases.

The first phase commenced when Medows, the Governor of Madras, initially directed the campaign to invade Mysore but Tipu's rapid movements halted the progress of the English troops and inflicted heavy losses on them. In the meantime, Cornwallis himself assumed command in December 1790.

This was the beginning of the second phase of the war. Marching from Vellore, he captured Bangalore in March 1791, but Tipu's brilliant strategies prolonged the war and Cornwallis was forced to retreat to Mangalore due to lack of provisions.

The third phase of the war began when timely aid from the Marathas with plenty of provisions helped him to resume his campaign and marched against Srirangapattinam again. This time Tipu was at a disadvantage. Swiftly the English forces occupied the hill forts near Srirangapattinam and

seized it in February 1792. Tipu Sultan concluded the Treaty of Srirangapattinam with the British.

### Outcomes

The terms of the Treaty of Srirangapattinam (1792) were as follows:

1. Tipu had to give up half of his dominions.
2. He had to pay a war indemnity of three crore rupees and surrender two of his sons as hostages to the English.
3. Both sides agreed to release the prisoners of war. The Treaty of Srirangapattinam is a significant event in the history of South India. The British secured a large territory on the Malabar Coast. In addition, they obtained the Baramahal district and Dindigul. After this war, although the strength of Mysore had been reduced, it was not extinguished.

### Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1798-99)

#### Background

Tipu Sultan wanted to avenge his humiliating defeat and the terms imposed on him by the British. He aimed at making Mysore a strong state. Tipu worked continuously to secure help to fight British imperialism. He took efforts to seek the help of the France, Arabia, Kabul and Turkey. He corresponded with the Revolutionary French Government in July 1798.

At Srirangapattinam, a **Jacobian Club** was started and the flag of the French Republic was hoisted. The tree of Liberty was also planted. Napoleon's landing in Egypt in 1798 was intended to further the capture of the British possessions in India, and the Kingdom of Mysore was a key to that next step, as the ruler of Mysore, Tipu Sultan, in fact received a letter of assurance from Napoleon informing him of French desire of relieving Tipu's kingdom from British yoke. It was at this juncture that Wellesley reached Calcutta with a mind already filled with fear of Napoleon. Therefore, he prepared for a war against Mysore.

#### Course of the War

As a part of his strategy, Wellesley tried to revive the Triple Alliance of 1790 with the Marathas. Though his proposal was not accepted by the Marathas, they promised to remain neutral. However, a Subsidiary Alliance with the Nizam was concluded by the British and as a consequence, the French force at Hyderabad was disbanded. Wellesley set out to persuade Tipu to accept a pact of subsidiary alliance and wrote letters requesting the Tipu to dismiss the French, to receive an English envoy, and to make terms with the Company and its allies.

Tipu paid scant attention to Wellesley's letters paving way for the Fourth Anglo-Mysore war. The war was short and decisive. As planned, the British Bombay army invaded Mysore from the west. The Madras army, forced Tipu to retreat to his capital Srirangapattinam. Although severely wounded, he fought till his capital Srirangapattinam was captured and he died in May 1799.

### Outcomes

The Wodeyar dynasty was restored on the throne of the Mysore and Mysore came indirectly under the British. Thus, with the end of Fourth Mysore war, Mysore became a princely state with suzerainty of the East India Company.

### Critical Analysis

- The successor of Wodeyar family was made to sign a Subsidiary Alliance, in sync with Lord Wellesly's political strategy, making Mysore a dependency of the East India Company.
- Tipu had used the iron cased rockets in the Third and Fourth Mysore wars. It led the British to develop their own versions of the Rockets.

## 4.3 Anglo-Maratha Wars (1775-1819)

### Introduction

The Marathas had largely remained disunited since the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) in which Marathas were badly defeated. The third Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao could not withstand the shock of the defeat of the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat and died on June 23, 1761. The internal conflict among the Marathas was best utilized by the British in their expansionist policy. There were two factions within the Marathas after the death of Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao – Peshwa Madhav Rao (supported by Nana Fadnavis) and former Peshwa Raghunath Rao (supported by the British).



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

#### Background

In 1775, there was a dispute for the post of Peshwa between Madhav Rao and his uncle Raghunatha Rao. The British authorities in Bombay concluded the Treaty of Surat with Raghunatha Rao in March 1775 according

to which Raghunatha Rao promised to cede Bassein and Salsette to the British. Unwilling to fulfill his promise later, the British captured said territories. This action of the Bombay Government was not approved by Warren Hastings – the Governor-General of Bengal. In 1776, Warren Hastings sent Colonel Upton to settle the issue. The Treaty of Surat was cancelled thereafter and Treaty of Purandar concluded with Nana Fadnavis, another Maratha leader. According to this treaty, Madhav Rao II was accepted as the new Peshwa and the British retained Salsette along with a heavy war indemnity.

However, Warren Hastings also disapproved the Treaty of Purandar and sanctioned operations against the Marathas.

### Course of the War

In the meantime, the British force sent by the Bombay Government was defeated by the Marathas. In 1781, Warren Hastings dispatched British troops under the command of Captain Popham. He defeated the Maratha chief, Mahadaji Scindia, in a number of small battles and captured Gwalior. Later in May 1782, the Treaty of Salbai was signed between Warren Hastings and Mahadaji Scindia.

### Outcomes

1. **As per the Treaty of Salbai (1782):**
  - (a) Salsette and Bassein were given to the British.
  - (b) Raghunath Rao was pensioned off and Madhav Rao II was accepted as the Peshwa.
2. Accordingly, the Treaty of Salbai established the British influence in Indian politics. It provided the British twenty years of peace with the Marathas.
3. The Treaty also enabled the British to exert pressure on Mysore with the help of the Marathas in recovering their territories from Haider Ali.

## Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-06)

### Background

The only power that remained outside the purview of the subsidiary system was the Marathas. The Maratha Empire at that time consisted of a confederacy of five major chiefs: the Peshwa (Prime Minister) at the capital city of Poona, the Gaekwad chief of Baroda, the Scindia chief of Gwalior, the Holkar chief of Indore, and the Bhonsle chief of Nagpur.

Nana Fadnavis provided the leadership to the Marathas as the Peshwa. He was responsible for the preservation of independence of his country from the onslaught of the British. Wellesley had repeatedly offered a subsidiary treaty to the Peshwa and Scindia, but Nana Fadnavis refused strongly. By extending a helping hand to Cornwallis against Tipu he was able to acquire a large slice of territory as the share of the Marathas from the kingdom of Mysore. His death in 1800 removed the last great Maratha leader leading to Maratha chiefs being engaged in internal quarrels.

### Course of the War

Nana Fadnavis' successor, Peshwa Bajji Rao II, lacked political wisdom. The infighting among the Maratha

leaders proved to be self-destructive. Jaswant Rao Holkar and Daulat Rao Scindia were fighting against each other. The Peshwa supported Scindia against Holkar. Holkar marched against the Peshwa. The combined forces of Scindia and the Peshwa were utterly defeated. The city of Poona fell at the feet of the victor who did not hesitate to commit all sorts of atrocities, including the torturing of rich inhabitants. Holkar returned to his capital with rich booty.

### Treaty of Bassein (1802)

- Sensing danger, Peshwa Bajji Rao II fled to Bassein where he signed the Treaty of Bassein with the British in 1802. It was a subsidiary treaty and the Peshwa was recognized as the head of the Maratha kingdom.
- Although it was nominal, the treaty was considered the crowning triumph of Wellesley's Subsidiary System.
- The treaty of Bassein was more on lines of subsidiary alliance of British.
- The Marathas had to maintain subsidiary force and could not sign treaties without the British acknowledgement.
- This is the reason why the Marathas considered the treaty as a document of surrendering their independence.

As an immediate response to the Treaty of Bassein, the British troops marched under the command of Arthur Wellesley towards Poona and restored the Peshwa to his position. The forces of Holkar vanished from the Maratha capital.

### Response to the Treaty of Bassein

Daulat Rao Scindia and Raghoji Bhonsle took the Treaty of Bassein as an insult to the national honour of the Marathas. Soon the forces of both the chieftains were united and they crossed the river Narmada. Wellesley seized this opportunity and declared war in August 1803. Arthur Wellesley captured Ahmadnagar in August 1803 and defeated the combined forces of Scindia and Bhonsle at Assaye near Aurangabad. Subsequently, Arthur Wellesley carried the war into Bhonsle's territory and completely defeated the Maratha forces on the plains of Argaon.

### Treaty of Deogaon

- As a result, the Treaty of Deogaon was signed between Bhonsle and Wellesley.
- The former signed the subsidiary treaty which forced him to give up the province of Cuttack in Odisha.
- Scindia after his defeat at Laswari surrendered all his territories between the Ganges and the Jamuna and his forts and territories north of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Gohad.
- Ahmadnagar, Broach and all territories west of the Ajanta hills were also surrendered.

### Treaty of Surji

Scindia then signed a subsidiary treaty with the British. It is known as the Treaty of Surji –Arjangaon. During the war against Bhonsle and Scindia, Holkar remained aloof because he was Scindia's enemy. However, when

Wellesley offered an alliance, Holkar made extreme demands. This made Wellesley to declare war against Holkar.

### Outcomes

1. Scindias entered into subsidiary alliance with the British.
2. As a result of this war, the titular Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II was brought under the English protection. Extension of territories up to the borders of Jaipur, Jodhpur etc. offered opportunities to the English to enter into friendly alliance with Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bundi, Macheri, and the Jat Kingdom of Bharatpur.

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

### Background

The third Maratha war is considered to be one of the major achievements of Lord Hastings against the Marathas. The Maratha power had weakened considerably after the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) and the two subsequent Anglo-Maratha wars. Despite being crushed, the Maratha chiefs fought amongst themselves and their successors were invariably weak and incapable. The relationships of powerful Maratha chiefs like the Bhonsle, Gaekwad, Scindia, Holkar and the Peshwa were ridden with mutual jealousies.

The Third Anglo Maratha war consisted of skirmishes such as Pindari war, Battle of Sitalbaldi, Battle of Mahidpur and Battle of Khadki.

### Course of the War

- **Suppression of Pindaris:** The Pindaris were many castes and classes who worked like mercenaries under the Maratha Chiefs. When the Maratha chiefs became weak, they started raiding the territories of the British. The companies accused Marathas of giving shelter to Pindaris. They were a mix of Hindus, Muslims, Afghans, Jats and Marathas, better called as a “debris of the Mughal Empire” broken and not incorporated into any of the regimes. By 1818, the Pindaris were completely suppressed and all their bands disintegrated. Karim Khan was given a small estate in the Gorakhpur district of the United Provinces. Wasil Muhammad took refuge in the Scindia’s camp but the latter handed him over to the British.
- **Maratha Confederacy:** Peshwa Baji Rao II wanted to become the head of the Maratha Confederacy and at the same time wanted freedom from the British control. He was encouraged by his Chief Minister Triambakji. On the advice of the Company, the Gaekwad sent his Prime Minister Gangadhar Shastri to negotiate with the Peshwa. On his way back, Gangadhar Shastri, was murdered at Nasik in July 1815, at the instance of Triambakji. This caused a lot of anger not only among the Marathas but also among the British. The latter asked the Peshwa to handover Triambakji to them. Peshwa handed over his Minister to the British, who lodged him in Thana jail from where he escaped. Consequently, on 13 June 1817, the British forced the Peshwa to sign the Treaty of Poona.

Baji Rao gave up his desire to become the supreme head of the Marathas.

Soon the Peshwa undid the Treaty of Poona with the British and on 5 November 1817 attacked the British Residency. He was defeated at a place called Kirkee/Kadki. Similarly, the Bhonsle chief, Appa Sahib also refused to abide by the Treaty of Nagpur, which he had signed with the British on 17 May 1816. According to this treaty, Nagpur came under the control of the Company. He fought with the British in the Battle of Sitabaldi in November 1817, but was defeated.

The Peshwa now turned to Holkar for help, but Holkar too was defeated by the British on 21 December 1817 at Baroda. Therefore, by December 1817 the dream of a mighty Maratha Confederacy was finally shattered. In 1818, Scindia was also forced to sign a new treaty with the British on the basis of which Ajmer was given to the Nawab of Bhopal, who also accepted the British suzerainty. The Gaekwad of Baroda, while accepting the Subsidiary Alliance, agreed to hand over certain areas of Ahmedabad to the British. The Rajput states which were under the Pindaris were freed after the latter’s suppression.

### Outcomes

1. The Maratha dream of establishing themselves as the paramount power in India was completely destroyed. Thus, the last hurdle in the way of British paramountcy was removed.
2. Dominions of the Peshwa Baji Rao were annexed to the Bombay presidency. The Peshwa surrendered, and was permitted to reside at Bithur, near Cawnpore (Now Kanpur), on a pension.
3. The Peshwa’s place was filled as traditional head of the Maratha confederacy and a descendant of Shivaji was brought forth from obscurity, placed upon the throne of Satara.
4. The Rajas of Rajputana accepted the position of feudatories of the paramount British Power in India. They remained the Princely states till India got independence.

### Critical Analysis

1. **Causes of Defeat of the Marathas:** There were several reasons for the defeat of the Marathas in the Anglo-Maratha Wars. The main reasons were:
  - ♦ Lack of a proper stable economic policy: Their main revenue sources were plunder and taxes like Chauth, Sardeshmukhi. There were no major money generating activities.
  - ♦ Lack of capable leadership
  - ♦ Military weakness of the Marathas.
  - ♦ Mutual bitterness and lack of cooperation amongst themselves.
  - ♦ The Marathas did not have cordial relations with other princes and Nawabs of India.
  - ♦ The Marathas failed to estimate correctly the political and diplomatic strengths of the British.

2. Suppression and destruction of Marathas was the last big hurdle of the British towards complete possession of India. The territories captured by Lord Hastings remained same till Lord Dalhousie came in 1848 and imposed the infamous 'Doctrine of Lapse'.

## 4.4 Anglo-Sikh Relations

### The Sikhs

The Sikh religion was founded in late 15th century by Guru Nanak, the Sikh religion spread among the Jat peasantry and other lower castes of Punjab. The transformation of the Sikhs into a militant, fighting community was started by Guru Hargobind (1606-1645) after execution of his father Guru Arjun Dev.



Guru Nanak

However, under the leadership of Guru Gobind Singh (1664-1708), the tenth and the last Guru of the Sikhs, that they became a political and military force. From 1699 onwards, Guru Gobind Singh waged constant war against the armies of Aurangzeb and the hill rajas. After Aurangzeb's death, Guru Gobind Singh joined Bahadur Shah's camp as a noble of the rank of 5000 zat and 5000 sawar and accompanied him to the Deccan where he was treacherously murdered by one of his Pathan employees. After Guru Gobind Singh's death the institution of Guruship came to an end and the leadership of the Sikhs passed to his trusted disciple Banda Singh, who is more widely known as Banda Bahadur.

Banda Bahadur rallied together the Sikhs Punjab and carried on a vigorous struggle against the Mughal army for eight years. He fought battle like battle of Sirhind, battle of Chaparchiri. He was captured and put to death by Mughal ruler Farrukh Siyar. His death gave a set-back to the territorial ambitions of the Sikhs, and their power declined. However, the invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali and the consequent dislocation of Punjab administration gave the Sikhs an opportunity to rise once again. With the withdrawal of Abdali from the Punjab, they began to fill the political vacuum. Between 1765 and 1800 they brought the Punjab and Jammu under their control.



Banda Bahadur

**Sikh Confederacies/Misls:** The Sikhs were organised into 12 misls or confederacies which operated in different parts of the province. These misls fully cooperated with each other. They were originally based on the principle of equality, with all members having an equal voice in deciding the affairs of a misl and in electing its chief and other officers. Gradually the democratic character of the misls disappeared and powerful chiefs dominated them. The spirit of brotherhood and unity of the khalsa

also disappeared as these chiefs constantly quarreled with one another and set themselves up as independent chieftains.

### Emergence of Ranjit Singh

At the end of the 18th century, Ranjit Singh, chief of the Sukerchakia Misl, rose into prominence. A strong and courageous soldier, an efficient administrator, and a skilful diplomat. He captured Lahore in 1799 and Amritsar in 1802. He soon brought all Sikh chiefs west of the Sutlej under his control and established his own kingdom in the Punjab. In 1805, he captured the Amritsar Sahib from Bhangi Misl and took over Kashmir. Later, he conquered Peshawar and Multan. The geographical reach of the Sikh Empire under Ranjit Singh included all lands north of Sutlej river, and south of high valleys in the northwestern Himalayas and was called Sarkar-i-Khalsa.



Ranjit Singh

Ranjit Singh maintained good relations with the British in a bid to save his Kingdom from their annexation. In fact, Lord William Bentinck met Ranjit Singh in 1831 at Rupar on the bank of the river Sutlej amidst show and splendor and was successful in winning the friendship of Ranjit Singh and the Indus Navigation Treaty was concluded between them. This treaty opened up Sutlej for navigation. In addition, a commercial treaty was negotiated with Ranjit Singh.

When the British forbade Ranjit Singh in 1809 to cross the Sutlej and took the Sikh states east of the river under their protection, he kept quiet for he realized the military strength of British much greater than theirs. Through his diplomatic realism, Ranjit Singh only managed to prevent the British threat for some time and after his death it took the shape of an intense struggle for power that led to destruction of Sikh kingdom.

### Governance under Ranjit Singh

- The old Sikh chiefs under Ranjit Singh were transformed into big zamindars and jagirdars.
- No changes were made in the system of land revenue promulgated earlier by the Mughals.
- Ranjit Singh built up a powerful, disciplined, and well-equipped army along European lines with the help of European instructors.
- His new army was not confined to the Sikhs. He also recruited Gurkhas, Biharis, Oriyas, Pathans, Dogras, and Punjabi Muslims.
- He set up modern foundries to manufacture cannon at Lahore and employed Muslim gunners to man them.
- It is said that he possessed the second best army in Asia, the first being the army of the English East India Company, Ranjit Singh had great capacity for choosing his ministers and officials.
- His court was studded with outstanding men.

### Religious Policies

- He was tolerant and liberal in religious matters.
- Many of his important ministers and commanders were Muslims and Hindus.
- The most prominent and trusted of his ministers was Fakir Azizuddin, while his Finance Minister was Dewan Dina Nath.
- In fact, in no sense the Punjab, ruled by Ranjit Singh was a Sikh state.
- Political power was not used for exclusive Sikh benefit.
- On the other hand, the Sikh peasant was as much oppressed by Sikh chiefs as were the Hindu and Muslim peasants.

### First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46)

#### Background

Maharaja Ranjit Singh died in 1839 during the First Anglo Afghan war, after a rule of around 45 years. Immediately after his death the Sikhs started disintegrating. There were two major factions at the time within the Punjab contending for power and influence: the Sikh Sindhanwalias and the Hindu Dogras.

The Dogras succeeded in raising Sher Singh, the eldest illegitimate son of Ranjit Singh, to the throne in January 1841. After the death of Ranjit Singh, the British East India Company began increasing its military strength, particularly in the regions adjacent to the Punjab, establishing a military cantonment at Ferozepur, only a few miles from the Sutlej River which marked the frontier between British-ruled India and the Punjab. In 1843, they conquered and annexed Sindh, to the south of the Punjab breaking diplomatic relations with the Sikhs.

#### Course of the War

The British moves and preparations alarmed the Sikh troops which crossed the Sutlej in December, 1845 and took offensive position against the English troops. Henceforth, battles were fought at Mudki, Ferozeshah and Aliwal. To settle the issue the final battle of Sobraon proved decisive in first Anglo Sikh War. After victory at Sobraon, the English army occupied Lahore and dictated peace terms. Therefore, the First Anglo-Sikh Battle ended with the Treaty of Lahore (1846).

#### Outcomes

According to the Treaty of Lahore (1846) signed between Lord Hardinge and 7 year old Maharaja Duleep Singh along with 7 members of the Lahore Durbar:

1. Duleep Singh was recognized as Raja with Rani Jindan as Regent and Lal Singh as Wazir.
2. The Jullundur Doab (including Jammu, Kashmir and Hazara) was added to the British territory. Thus all claims south of Sutlej River were lost by the Sikhs.
3. It limited the Sikh army to a specified number and a British Resident (Sir Henry Lawrence) was appointed to assist the Sikh Council of Regency.



Anglo Sikh War

### Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-49)

#### Background

The aftermath of the First Anglo Sikh War laid the foundation of the Second Anglo Sikh War. After a few months of the treaty of Lahore, Rani Jindan and Lal Singh realized the true intentions of the English Company. The Sikh Sardars were discontent with the British control over Punjab and the Sikh army wanted to avenge their humiliation in the first war. The immediate cause for the English Company's invasion of the Punjab was the revolt of Mulraj, the Governor of Multan.

#### Course of the War

The city of Multan was part of the Sikh kingdom, having been captured by Ranjit Singh in 1818. In 1848, it was governed by a Hindu viceroy, Dewan Mulraj. After the Treaty of Lahore, Sir Henry Lawrence was appointed at the Lahore Darbar as the British Resident. He left England due to some disease, and in his place a lawyer named Sir Frederick Currie was appointed at the Lahore Durbar. Sir Frederick Currie was a legalist and a puritan, who asked the somewhat independent Governor of Multan, Dewan Mulraj to pay arrears of the taxes. When the British officers were sent at Mulraj's fortress, he revolted, attacked and wounded them. Though the small army of Mulraj was defeated but it started a series of rebellions spread over Punjab. The war prolonged for months but Sikhs were defeated.

#### Subsequent Outbreaks

A large army under command of Lord Gough fought an indecisive battle at Ramnagar in November 1848. Next, at battle of Chilianwala in January, 1849 the Sikh soldiers won with glory. The final and decisive battle at Gujarat near Chenab was won by the English in 1849. This war resulted in the annexation of Punjab.

#### Outcomes

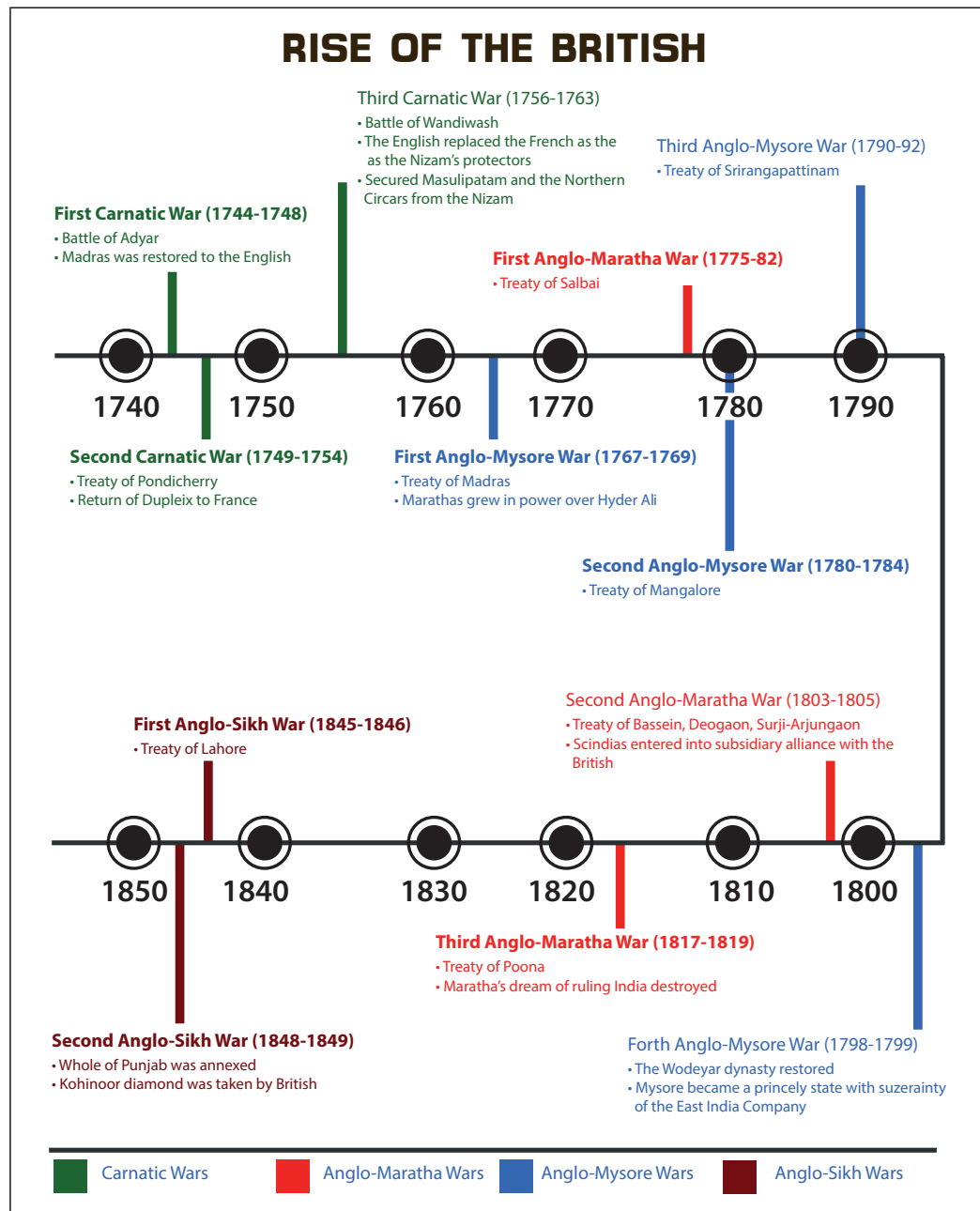
1. The whole of Punjab was annexed.
2. Lord Dalhousie pensioned off Duleep Singh to England.
3. Sir John Lawrence became the first Chief Commissioner of Punjab to look after administration of Punjab. Therefore, Punjab became a British province. Although Patiala and some other small states retained their rulers after recognizing sovereignty of the British.
4. The Kohinoor diamond was also taken from Duleep Singh.



Duleep Singh and his mother Rani Jindan

**Critical Analysis**

- Annexation of Punjab by the British was hailed as a major success under Lord Dalhousie.
- The Sikh Wars gave the two sides a mutual respect for each other's fighting prowess leading to an increased recruitment of people from various communities of the Punjab in the Punjab Army under British command.

**TRY THIS MAINS PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION**

1. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? (Write in 150 Words) (2014)