CHAPTER 2 FROM TRADE TO TERRITORY

1. Mercantile companies in the last decade of 15th century (1490s) were empowered by monarchs of Portugal, Spain, France, Holland and England, to find sea routes for trade with the East. This is because land trade route had been blocked by the Turks.

1.1 Vasco Da Gama found the route in 1498 and Portuguese base was established on the Malabar Coast in Goa, that continued till 1947. The culture of Goa continues to be predominantly Portuguese.

1.2 The Dutch trading bases were in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu at the mouth of River Narmada.

1.3 The French set up their base in Pondicherry, Yanam, and Karaikal in Coromandal Coast and one in Mahe in Malabar coast. The residents of Pondicherry continue to vote in the French Presidential Elections even now.

4. Cotton, Muslin, Silk, Pepper, Cloves, Cardamom, and Cinnamon were the main trading commodities.

4.1 All the four mercantile companies competed for the same goods, that became expensive due to demand. The rivalry in Europe got extended to India. Companies began eliminating their competitors through trade wars and piracy on seas.

4.2 To secure their bases, wars were fought with local rulers.

5. After the death of Auranzeb in 1707, three successive Nawabs of Bengal Murshid Quli Khan, Alivardi Khan and Sirajuddaulah were strong rulers. They accused the Company of deceit, loss to the treasury by non payment of duties, refused concessions and demanded large tributes for permitting it to trade.

5.1 Battle of Plassey, 1757, was won through treachery of Mir Jafar, who did not fight, due to Clive’s promise to make him the Nawab.

5.2 Battle of Buxar: 1764, Mir Qasim was defeated to be replaced by Mir Jafar again.

5.3 In 1765, Diwani of Bengal was obtained by the Company, from the Mughal Emperor, as he was not getting his share of revenues from Bengal.

2. In 1600 Queen Elizabeth 1 of England, gave the East India Company the royal charter or the sole right to trade with East.

As the Malabar coast in the south west and Coromandal coast in the south east, were already controlled by the Portuguese and the French, the East India Company set up its base in Bengal at the mouth of River Hoogly.

3. The Nawab of Bengal, in 1651, had given permission to the East India Company to set up a small factor or warehouse for storing goods traded. By 1696, they had built a fort with cannons and guns. They bribed Mughal officials into giving them zamindari of a village called Kalikata, and persuaded Aurangzeb to issue a farman making the trade of the Company, duty free. Thereafter, the English traders stopped paying the duty for their private trade also.
2. Kingdom of Mysore and the East India Company’s control of the Indian Peninsula.

4. Four Mysore Wars were fought in 1767 to 69, 1780 to 84, and 1790 to 92 and 1799. Tipu was defeated because in the last war, the Marathas and Nizam of Hyderabad sided with the British to attack him from three sides. Mysore was placed under subsidiary alliance.

5. After Mysore, the British crushed the Marathas in a series of wars, in 1782, 1803 to 05, 1817 to 19. The Peshwa was removed in 1819 and sent to Betur near Kanpur. The Company took control of the whole of Peninsular India.

1. The Kingdom of Mysore controlled the Malabar region and its trade in sandalwood, pepper and cardamom. It had two powerful rulers at the time.

2. Haider Ali from 1761 to 1782 and Tipu Sultan from 1782 to 1799, prohibited the trade with East India Company. Tipu modernized his army with help of the French. England and France were enemies in Europe, and The French Revolution in 1789 had an big impact on monarchy in England.

3. Tipu Sultan aligning with French East India Company for modernizing him army sent alarm signals to British Company. Tipu also prohibited trade with British in his kingdom.

1. Match the following:
Answer.
   a. Diwani right to collect land revenue
   b. “Tiger of Mysore” Tipu Sultan
   c. faujdari adalat criminal court
   d. Sepoy sipahi
   e. Rani Channamma led an anti British movement in Kitoor
2. Fill in the blanks:
2.1 The British conquest of Bengal began with the Battle of Plassey.
2.2 Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan were the rulers of Mysore.
2.3 Dalhousie implemented the Doctrine of Lapse.
2.4 Maratha kingdoms were located mainly in the central part of India.

3. State whether true or false:
   a) The Mughal empire became stronger in the eighteenth century. False.
   b) The English East India Company was the only European company that traded with India. False.
   c) Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the ruler of Punjab. True.
   d) The British did not introduce administrative changes in the territories they conquered. False.

4. What attracted European trading companies to India?
   Answer. The great demand in Europe for Cotton, Muslin, Silk, Pepper, Cardamom, Cinnamon and the very high profits that could be made from trade in these items, attracted the European trading companies to India.

5. What were the areas of conflict between the Bengal nawabs and the East India Company?
   Answer. The Nawab of Bengal had given permission to the East India Company to have a warehouse for storing its goods for trade. The Company got a farman issued by Aurangzeb, exempting it from paying the trading duties. Though the farman was for the trade of the Company only, its officials who also stopped paying the duties on their private parallel trade. After Aurangzeb’s death, the Nawab asserted his power. The Company started to meddle in court politics by attempting to install a cousin of the Nawab. This led to a direct conflict between the two.

6. How did the assumption of Diwani benefit the East India Company?
Answer. The assumption of the Diwani of Bengal made the Company, and all its officials into a Nawab. This is because at the time the Diwani was granted only to the most trusted of nobles of the Mughal court. The Diwan had administrative, financial as well as military powers. Thereafter, each Company official became a law into himself. They not only suppressed the craftsmen and local businessmen of Bengal, but began a slave trade in men, women and children, similar to the slave trade in Africa.

7. Explain the system of “subsidiary alliance”.
Answer. A defeated India ruler was required to allow a British Resident to be stationed in his capital city. The Resident commanded a regiment and the kingdom was required to pay for the expenses of the British Resident as well as their stationed regiments. In addition, the defeated kingdom was required to offer expensive gifts and gold to the Company, and a regular fixed amount to the Resident. In effect, the kingdom did not have any self decision powers as administration was as per advice of the Resident. In case these conditions were not fulfilled, the kingdom that was made a part of the area under the Company’s control.

8. In what way was the administration of the Company different from that of Indian rulers?
Answer. The Indian rulers administered their kingdom keeping the long term prosperity and well being of their subjects in view. The Company made the Indian rulers pay for Company’s wars against other Indian kingdoms. The Indian rulers in fact were made to pay for its own subjugation and the deprivation of their kingdom.

The Company’s administration was based on the single objective of extracting as much wealth from the kingdom as possible. For this the Governor General was the head and the three Presidencies of Bengal, Madras and Bombay, were under one Governor each.

The system of justice with its Criminal Courts, the Civil Courts was a new system, not understood by the people who were being exploited by the Company itself. The unjust Doctrine of Lapse
became the proverbial last straw on the camel’s back, resulting in the Mutiny of 1857.

9. Describe the changes that occurred in the composition of the Company’s army.

Answer. As the power of the Company rested on its military strength, the British army was reformed and re organized. The Mughal system of sawars, who were soldiers mounted on horsebacks, archers, swordsmen, and paidal or foot soldiers, was replaced by the Company with a professionally trained infantry. The Indian sipahi meaning soldier, became a Sepoy. After 1820 and end of Napoleonic wars in Europe, the warfare technology changed. The British Empire fighting in Burma, Egypt and Afghanistan, replaced the sepoy with soldiers trained in the use of muskets and matchlocks. Infantry regiments became more important. A uniformed military culture was developed with discipline instilled through training, drills and a regulated life. The problem of regional loyalties was solved by creating area specific battalions with soldiers of same region. For example, the Maratha Regiment, Gurkha Regiment, Punjab Regiment, Rajput Regiment. Each was given a special uniform for instilling pride and valour.