

Chapter - 4 | The Colonial Era in India

QUIZ-01

1. Who was the first European navigator to reach India by sea in 1498?

- A. Christopher Columbus
- B. Vasco da Gama
- C. Ferdinand Magellan
- D. Bartolomeu Dias

(B)

Explanation: Vasco da Gama reached Calicut (Kozhikode) in 1498, opening the sea route for European colonial powers in India.

2. Which European power established the Goa Inquisition in 1560?

- A. British
- B. Dutch
- C. Portuguese
- D. French

(C)

Explanation: The Portuguese implemented the Inquisition in Goa, persecuting Hindus, Muslims, and Jews suspected of practicing their original faith.

3. Which battle in 1741 marked a rare instance of an Asian power defeating a European colonial force?

- A. Plassey
- B. Colachel
- C. Panipat
- D. Buxar

(B)

Explanation: The Travancore kingdom under King Marthanda Varma defeated the Dutch at Colachel, limiting Dutch influence in India.

4. Who pioneered indirect rule in French India using puppet Indian rulers?

- A. Robert Clive
- B. Dupleix
- C. Mir Jafar
- D. Lord Lytton

(B)

Explanation: Dupleix trained sepoys and installed puppet rulers to expand French influence in India, a strategy later adopted by the British.

5. What was the main strategy of the British East India Company to gain control in India?

- A. Direct mass invasions
- B. Divide and Rule
- C. Forming alliances only with Europeans
- D. Encouraging Indian industrial growth

(B)

Explanation: The British exploited rivalries among Indian rulers and succession disputes, positioning themselves as kingmakers (e.g., the Battle of Plassey, 1757).

6. What did the Doctrine of Lapse allow the British to do?

- A. Impose Jizya tax
- B. Annex princely states without a male heir
- C. Ban all Indian education
- D. Build ports in India

(B)

Explanation: According to the Doctrine of Lapse, any princely state without a natural male heir could be annexed by the British, disregarding traditional adoption rights.

7. What major famine occurred in Bengal due to harsh revenue policies of the East India Company (1770–1772)?

- A. Great Deccan Famine
- B. Bengal Famine
- C. Orissa Famine
- D. Madras Famine

(B)

Explanation: Excessive land tax and poor relief during crop failure caused a famine in Bengal, killing nearly one-third of the population (~10 million).

8. Who wrote "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India" highlighting wealth drain by the British?

- A. Romesh Chunder Dutt
- B. Dadabhai Naoroji
- C. William Digby
- D. Brooks Adams

(B)

Explanation: Dadabhai Naoroji quantified the economic drain from India under British rule in his 1901 work.

9. What was the purpose of Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education (1835)?

- A. Promote Sanskrit and Persian schools
- B. Create English-educated Indians loyal to British interests
- C. Provide free education for peasants
- D. End European influence in Indian education

(B)

Explanation: Macaulay aimed to create a class of Indians "Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect" to serve colonial administration.

10. Which tribal uprising occurred in 1855–1856 against British economic exploitation?

- A. Kol Uprising
- B. Santhal Rebellion
- C. Indigo Revolt
- D. Sannyasi-Fakir Rebellion

(B)

Explanation: Led by Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, the Santhals rebelled against landlords and moneylenders supported by the British, declaring their own government.