

History Model Answers

Q. Although though the Plassey battle was won via deceit and betrayal, it had a significant impact on the political landscape by the middle of the eighteenth century. Comment.

The British East India Company and the Nawab of Bengal and his close supporters, who were mostly the French forces, engaged in combat at the Battle of Plassey. The Battle of Plassey took place near Murshidabad, the administrative centre of Bengal, and Calcutta at Palashi, on the banks of the Bhagirathi River. According to several historians who took part in the British Empire's seven-year war in India, there were more skirmishes than actual battles.

Body

Deception and treachery to win the Battle of Plassey.

- He learned from Mir Jafar on June 22, 1757, that Robert Clive ought to fight the Nawab right away and that Jafar would support the British.
- A traitor was on the side of the English. An agreement with the English was formalised by a guy who was trusted by the Nawab and who over 10,000 soldiers under his command.
- On June 23, 1757, Robert Clive engaged the Nawab's formidable army on the battlefield with his ostensibly "little army."
- This 'huge Indian army' was divided into three parts, as was obvious.
- With 12,000 men each, Mir Murdan controlled one section, Rai Durlab commanded another, and Mir Jafar headed the third. Of the three commanders, Mir Murdan was the only one who remained faithful to the Nawab.
- Deals with the English had already been surreptitiously finalised by Rai Durlab and Mir Jafar.
- The Indian army, led by Mir Murdan, assaulted the English army with vigour when the combat began, but Murdan was hit by a grapeshot and died on the field of battle.
- Because the other two leaders had already turned on each other, his death was decisive.
- While Murdan's men—who were merely obedient soldiers—were annihilated by the English, Mir Jafar and Rai Durlab stood by with their troops.
- Only six European soldiers and fourteen Indian sepoys of the English army perished in the war's final battle against the Indians, compared to more over 500 casualties in the Indian camp.
- Later, once Mir Jafar had been put in place as a puppet Nawab, Nawab was arrested and killed.
- The battle opened the gates for the British control of India. For the next 190 years India remained under the exploitative colonial regime of the British.

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Financial and Political consequences

- Uncontested free trade rights were granted to the Company throughout Orissa, Bihar, and Bengal.
- Moreover, it got the 24 Parganas Zamindari from close by Calcutta.
- The British were necessary for the upkeep of Mir Jaffar's status as the new Nawab in Bengal. Bengal was home to a 6000-person English army.
- Following Plassey, British received an instant payment of £800,000.
- When he was reduced to being simply a puppet leader, Mir Jaffar came to regret the deal he had made with the British.
- Prior to 1757 the English trade in Bengal was largely financed through import of bullion from England; but after that year not only bullion import stopped, but bullion was exported from Bengal to China and other parts of India, which gave a competitive advantage to the English Company over its European rivals.

Position of British after the Battle

- The battle of Plassey was of immense historical importance. It paved way for British Mastery of Bengal and eventually the whole of India.
- It boosted British prestige and at a single stroke raised them to the status of major contender for the Indian Empire. Before the battle, it was only just another European company trading in Bengal. But after Plassey they monopolized trade of Bengal.
- Plassey had brought about a gradual transformation in the character of the Company. In the context of the then politics, military control was synonymous with political body. Thus, the Company played a role of commercial-cum-military-cum-political body.
- The rich revenues of Bengal enabled them to organize a strong army and meet the cost of conquest of the rest of the country.
- In the Anglo-French conflict, which the British ultimately won, control over Bengal was crucial.
- The Company and its servants were able to gain immense fortune as a result of Plassey's victory at the expense of Bengal's hapless citizens.
- Another important factor in the East India Company's victory over its French adversaries was the battle at Plassey.

Conclusion

The Baron of Plassey was Robert Clive. Events that took place following the British East India Company's victory at the Battle of Plassey transformed it from a commercial organisation into a dominant force. Hence, the English East India Company's governmental dominance in India began with the Battle of Plassey.

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Q. Analyze the 28-month duration of Congress' rule in the provinces critically. Do you believe they made significant changes and reforms to give the nation's citizens a sufficient reprieve?

Significant was the 28-month congress rule based on the stipulations of the 1935 Government of India Act. It established Ministries in Madras, Bombay, the Central Provinces, Orissa, Bihar, and the U.P. in July 1937. Eventually, Assam and the North-West Frontier Province both established Congress Ministers.

Body:

Between 1936 and 1939, a paradigm shift in Indian politics was observed:

- The Congress's reputation as a rival authority that would protect the interests of the populace, particularly the peasants, greatly increased.
- It was an unusual experiment since a party dedicated to ending British rule assumed control of government under a British-crafted constitution that gave Indians only limited governmental authority;
- Additionally, the imperial power had the ability to deprive the Indians of this power at any time.
- The Congress was now expected to serve as both a provincial government and the Central Government's adversary in areas of real state power play.
- It was intended to continue the fight for independence, prepare the populace for the next stage of widespread resistance, and enact social reforms through provincial assembly and government.
- As a result, the Congress was forced to apply its S-T-S (Struggle, Truce, Struggle) strategy in a historically exceptional circumstance.

Assessment of the provinces' 28-month tenure under Congress

- Congress ministries tried to bring a lot of reforms in their sphere of jurisdiction. The reforms brought in with the achievements and limitations are as follows:

Civil liberty:

Achievements:

- Laws linked to emergency powers were repealed.
- Press restraints, book and newspaper bans, and restrictions on illegal organisations were all repealed.
- Police authority was reduced in Congress regions, and CID agents were no longer allowed to report on public speeches or follow party workers.
- Several revolutionaries involved in the Kakori and other plots were also liberated, and thousands of political prisoners were freed.

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Limitations:

- For making inflammatory and seditious speeches, Yusuf Meherally and S.S. Batliwala were detained.
- M. Munshi employed CID to combat leftists and communists.

Agricultural Reform:

Successes

- Many laws pertaining to debt relief, land reforms, forest grazing fees, rent arrears, and land tenure sect.
- Congress made an agreement with the zamindars of Bihar about the Tenancy Bill's provisions.
- At the local level, Kisan Sabha started a series of campaigns to remind Congress to carry out the Faizpur Agricultural Program.
- They were able to return confiscated lands to their rightful owners in Bombay as a result of the congress's no-rent campaign.

Limitations:

- Statutory and occupation tenants received the most of these benefits, whereas subtenants received little.
- Farm workers did not profit because they were not organised.

Reforms in social welfare:

Achievements:

- measures made for the welfare of Harijans, including education and temple access.
- The development of khadi and indigenous businesses was encouraged.
- Under Congress President Subhash Chandra Bose, a national planning committee was established in 1938.
- Reforms were implemented in jails, public health, sanitation, and education.

Economic Reforms:

- Support for indigenous businesses
- With the National Planning Committee, which was established in 1938 by Congress President Subhash Bose, develop planning

Following the start of the Second World War in October 1939, several Congress ministries resigned. Confirmation of dramatic social revolution required Indian self-government. It disproved the notion that Native Americans were unsuited to rule. Even with limited funding, it produced quality results.