

SHAH WALIULLAH **(1703-62)**

Birth & Education: -

Qutub-ud-Din popularly known as Shah Wali Ullah was born in Delhi in 1703. He belonged to a respected family. His father Shah Abdul Rahim founded Madrassa Rahimya and also helped to compile Fatawa-I-Alamgiri a book of Islamic legal text under the direct supervision of Emperor Auragzeb Alamgir. Shah Waliullah received his education from Madrassa Rahimya and also taught there for twelve years. In 1724 he went to Arabia, he was greatly influenced by the teaching of Abu Tahir bin Ibrahim a well-known scholar of his time. He returned to Delhi in 1732.

Political & Social Conditions of India during Shah Waliullah's Time: -

The social & political condition of India during Shah Waliullah's time was extremely bad there was political instability & insecurity of life, property & honor were not secure as there were a number of disruptive forces at work in the muslim society. Disintegration of the Mughal empire had set in & the Muslims were split up among themselves. Taking advantage of this situation of the division of the Indian muslims the neighboring non-Muslim communities like the Marathas, jats & skins were now threatening to overwhelm Delhi & finish the once mighty mughal Empire. Ignorance about quran and sunnah. B/C Hindus and muslim live together.

Social Conditions: -

As far as the social condition of the Indian Muslims was concerned, they were divided among different religious groups & there was a constant trouble between the Shia & Sunni sects, which was a serious threat to Muslim society. More over after the death of Aurangzeb the Mughal Empire began to crack and crumble because of the incapable successors.

In 1793 Nadir Shah attacked Delhi. The result of this plunder was that the Muslims suffered the most, the infidels gained strength & as the attack has weakened the power to Delhi the neighboring non-Muslim attacked one by one. After Nadir Shah's attack, Delhi was attacked, by Jats, who not only plundered Delhi but took away whatever they could lay their hands on. After sometime the Marathas & Sikhs also attacked Delhi & thus the conditions of Muslims in Delhi became worse. Loss of power also caused economic suppression, sectarian differences and social degradation among the Muslims.

Shah Wali Ullah appeared in his crucial period & exerted to make the Islamic regima independent of all these props. His services in the religious, political & economic fields for the above cause are discussed below: -

Educational Services: -

Shah Waliullah believed that many of the problems Muslims faced was due to their ignorance about islam & the Holy Quran. He felt that an emphasis on Quranic teachings would not only improve their knowledge, but it would also reduce the sectarian differences & create a feeling of unity. Shah Wali Ullah worked hard to ensure that he was a role model for other Muslims His deep understanding of the Holy Quran, Hadith, Fiqah and Tasawuf made him highly knowledgeable scholar at an early age.

As Arabic was not widely understood by the Indian Muslims, thus the average Muslims derived his knowledge from the teaching of Muslim Jurists.

- A. Translation of Holy Quran Shah Wali Ullah recognized that the principles of Islam could not be followed properly unless the Holy Quran itself was understood. As the Indian Muslims did not understand the Holy Quran in Arabic since it was not their language thus Shah Waliullah translated the Holy Quran into Persian, which was the main language of the Indian Muslims of that time. The Ulema criticized Shah Wali Ullah, but his work proved very popular Later his two sons, Shah Abdul Qadir and Shah Rafi translated the Holy Quran into Urdu, which meant that many more people could study it.
- B. Hijatul-Balighah in this book, Shah Waliullah discussed at length the principle & fundamentals of Islam. In this he explained the methods of changing the muslim society into a real Muslim society. He advises the Indian Muslims to act upon the teachings of Holy Quran & asked them to forget their differences & unite.

- C. Izalat-al-Akhfa is another renowned book of Shah Waliullah in which he has written the explanation of the Holy Quran. Shah Waliullah wrote extensively on hadis & Fiqah. He altogether wrote 51 books, out of which 23 are in Arabic & 28 are in Persian.
- D. End of the Shia-Sunni Rivalry: - Shah Waliullah very firmly rejected the belief of some Sunnis that the Shias were not Muslims. He tried to bridge this difference of opinion by writing an account of the first four Khalifas of Islam in a way that should be acceptable to both the sects.

His Political Services: -

The political conditions of the Mughal Empire were in a bad state. The Mughal rulers had become lazy & ease loving & the officers had become totally corrupt.

A. His Letters to the Kings & Nawabs For the Protection Of Indian Muslims:

The Marhatas were a permanent threat for the Mughals. They had killed many Muslims & had destroyed their lands & fields. The Muslim Kings, Nawabs & Knights were leading lives of ease & did not care for their people. The Mughal rule was shaking & was on the verge of decline. Shah Waliullah wanted to save the Muslims from these loots & plunder. He wanted that the Muslims should lead peaceful lives & for this purpose he wrote letters to the kings & Nawabs but in vain.

B. His invitation to Ahmed Shah Abdali to Attack India: when his efforts of writing to the Muslim kings & Nawab resulted in nothing they finally. Shah Waliullah invited Ahmed Shah Abdali to attack India. In his letter Shah Waliullah encouraged Ahmed Shah & pleased him to launch an attack, as it was the only way left to save the Muslims of India.

In his letter to Ahmed Shah, he explained the geographical situation of India & the economic condition of the people & also the military strength of the enemies.

Due to his effort, Ahmed Shah Abdali the ruler of Kabul combined his forces with Najib-ud-Dullah the leader of Rohillas & attacked India in 1761. This battle, which was also known as 3rd Battle of Panipat. Ahmed Shah Abdali defeated the Marhatas & crushed their power. But due to the lazy & ease-loving attitude of the Mughal rulers, the Muslims could not avail this golden opportunity of the conditions created by Shah Waliullah. However he was able to arouse the consciousness of the Muslims of India.

His Economic Services: -

Shah Waliullah was very concerned about the economic conditions of the Indian Muslims. He requested the workers to work for more hours & spend less. He laid great stress on Adl & Tawazun that is Justice & Equilibrium. He stressed labour; peasants & craftsmen should be justly rewarded. He also urged the traders & businessmen to adopt a fair system of trading & making money.

His Death: -

Shah Waliullah was laid to rest in 1762, happy to see the defeat of the Marhatas by Ahmed Shah Abdali but disappointed that Ahmed Shah did not stay back in India. His sons & followers ably continued his work. Under his successors the Madrasa-I-Rahimya also continued to flourish.

SYED AHMED SHAHEED BARAILVI
(1786-1831)

Syed Ahmed's Birth & Education: -

Syed Ahmed was born near Lucknow in the town of Rae Bareilly. He was faithful following of Shah Abdul Aziz. In 1806 he enrolled in Madrassa of Shah Waliullah (Madrassa-I-Rahimiya). He graduated from Madrassa & joined a Pathan military force led by Amir Khan. He learnt about European weaponry including use of Artillery. In 1821 he went for Hajj & returned to Delhi in 1823 with a clear vision of Jihad. He soon founded the "*Jihad Movement*" which was aimed at nothing less than the rejuvenation & restoration of Muslim power.

Syed Ahmed's Aim & Objectives as A Muslim: -

The purpose of Syed Ahmed's life & struggle was not only confined to the spread of Islam by preaching & persuasions but he believed in taking practical steps for this purpose. The main purpose before Syed Ahmed & his followers was the establishment of a state, which was based on the Islamic principles. His approach to freedom was based on the armed struggle & confrontation against the foreign (British) & non Muslim forces.

Syed Ahmed's Jihad Movement: -

Born on Azah-Born on Friday Players. Syed Ahmed Shaheed Barailvi started his "*Jihad Movement*" from Punjab & N.W.F.P. The Punjab was under Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh who had imposed tax on beard, banned "Azaan" & other religious activities of the Muslims. The Punjab also seemed a logical location from which to start a Jihad as it was the only area in the subcontinent not under Muslim or British control. In addition, because the Afghan & Pathan tribes would be ready to assist them, there was no danger of being surrounded on both sides by hostile forces. Syed Ahmed visited towns around the Punjab & the United Provinces to whip up support & was joined by notable Muslim support (Shah Ismail Shaheed, grand son of Shah Waliullah). The initial force of a few hundred men led by Syed Ahmed could not reach the area directly from Delhi for obvious reasons & so had to proceed through the long & difficult route through Rajasthan, Sindh & Balochistan until they reached Kabul. A part from the obvious need to avoid the Sikh forces at this stage, Syed Ahmed also collected support & troops along the way. In 1826 he established his headquarter at Naushera & sent a message to Ranjit Singh either to accept Islam or get ready for war. Ranjit Singh used degrading remarks against Islam & the Muslims. The 1st battle against Sikhs was fought in Okara & 2nd battle at Hazro both won by the Muslims. The end of 1830 captured Peshawar by the forces of Jihad. This success encouraged other Pathan tribes to join Syed Ahmed Jihad Movement & the number of people reached up to 80,000.

SASB wanted a Jihad to restore the Muslim faith. The Punjab was under the Sikh and Punjabi Muslims found it difficult to practice their religion and were humiliated by the Sikhs.

Causes of Failure of Jihad Movement:-

1. After the successes in the wars against Sikhs, Ranjit Singh created disruption in the camp of the Mujahideen through his agents who called the reforms of Syed Ahmed as UnIslamic. A conspiracy was hatched against, the movement & an attempt was made on the life of Syed Ahmed by poisoning him, which he survived. Sardar Yar Muhammad was bribed to betray to Syed Ahmed & joined the Sikhs against Mujahideen. Some misunderstanding arose between the pathans & the Mujahideen & the Pathans now deserted the Movement.
2. Syed Ahmed was still hopeful & he now shifted his headquarters to Balakot. He met the Sikhs again in 1831 at Balakot. A severe & courageous battle took place where Syed Ahmed, Shah Ismail & many of the Mujahideen lost their lives.
3. Lack of cooperation between the followers of Syed Ahmed & local Pathan tribes.
4. Lack of proper funds to provide for different expenses of the Movement.
5. Poor war equipment.
6. Lack of proper military training in the Mujahideen fighters.
7. After capturing Peshawar, Syed Ahmed tried to introduce Islamic system of Government, which out down the influence of Tribal chiefs & thus created dissatisfaction.

Past Paper Questions

November 2002

Q-1) why did Syed Ahmed Shaheed Barailvi wish to revive islam in the Sub-Continent? [7]

Possible Examination Questions

Q-1) why was Syed Ahmed Shaheed Barailvi a very suitable person to lead opposition to the British?

Q-2) what role did Syed Ahmed Shaheed Barailvi play in opposing the Sikhs?

Q-3) what were the reasons for the failure of the Jihad Movement?

HAJI SHARIATULLAH **(1781-1840)**

Introduction:-

Ever since the loss of independence, the Muslims of India were not only hovering in the domain of uncertainty but also many un-Islamic ideas were taking place in the minds of Muslims. It was at that time that some Muslim thinkers thought that unless the Muslim were brought back to the teachings of the Quran & Hadis, would not be possible to save Muslims from their ruin. This shows that growth or Religion & national Movements in the subcontinent was not a spontaneous act. All these movements started not only in one part of Indo-Pakistan but throughout the country. One of the movements started by Haji Shariatullah in Bengal was Faraizi Movement'.

Haji Shariat Ullah's Birth & Education: -

Haji Shariatullah was born in the district of Faridpur in the year 1781. After receiving his early education in his village he got an opportunity to perform Haji at the age of 18 He stayed there in Hejaz for 20 years & studied religion & Arabic. He returned to Bengal in 1806. During his stay in Arabia he was greatly impressed by doctrines of sheikh Mohammad Abdul Wahab who had initiated the Wahabi Movement in Arabia.

Conditions Of The Muslims In Bengal & Reasons Of Starting The Faraizi Movement By Haji Shariatullah: -

When Haji Shariatullah came back to Bengal from Arabia, he was in much pained to see the miserable conditions of the Bengal Muslims. The British traders & the Hindu Zamindars were giving them a rough treatment. The Muslims there had also gone far away from the paths of the true religions Islam being influenced by the Hindus; they were sunk in various superstitions. Haji Shariatullah was deeply moved by these prevailing conditions of the Muslims of Bengal & decided to improve it. Thus he started the Faraizi Movement among the Muslims.

The Faraizi Movement: -

Haji Shariatullah started his Faraizi Movement, The Faraizi Movement emphasized on performing of Faraiz, which were the religious duties imposed by Allah. He also asked his Muslim brothers to give up all the un-Islamic practices. His followers thus came to be known as Faraizi'. Furthermore Haji Shariatullah utterly disliked the expressions of Pir (Master) & Murid (Disciple) & desired them to be replaced with the title of Ustad (Teacher) & Shagird (Student). He believed that these titles signified a complete submission by relationship between Ustad & Shagird.

Adopting Tauba: -

Haji shariat ullah urged from his followers to adopt 'Tauba' as a manifestation of repentance for all the past sins & a pledge to lead a righteous & God-fearing life in future. His followers as already mentioned were known as Faraizi. His movement brought the Muslim peasants together against the cruel treatment by the Hindus Zamindars.

Declaring India as Dar-ul-Harb: -

Haji Shariatullah declared India as Dar-ul-Harb (Lands of Infidels) where Eid & Friday prayers could not be offered. The Movement of Haji Shariatullah was direct, Jihad against the religious oppression & superstitions. It infused a new life among the Bengali Muslims & especially among the peasants. With this movement his sowed the seed of independence in Bengal. He thus brought a renaissance in the history of Bengal & Prepared the ground for his successors for future works.

Opposition of Hindu Zamindars against Haji Shariatullah: -

Haji Sahib was greatly opposed by the Hindus who were disturbed by the unity of the Muslim peasants. They started harassing him by putting up false cases against him. Ultimately he was forced to leave Dhaka. He thus returned to his birthplace in Faridpur district & continued his religious preaching & fighting against the non-Islamic forces.

His Death: -

Haji Shariatullah breathed his last in the year 1840 & was succeeded by his son Dadu Main who continued his father's movement.

Possible Examination Questions

- Q-1) Why did Haji Shariat Ullah mean by Dar-ul-Harb?
- Q-2) Why was Haji Shariat Ullah's movement called the Faraizi Movement?
- Q-3) Why did Hindu Landlords drive Haji Shariat Ullah out of East Bengal?
- Q-4) Why did the British imprison Mohsin ud-Din?

Sir Hamza Mohammad Ali

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1857 **(Meerut May 1857 – August 1858 Allahabad)**

The revolt of 1857 was the important landmark in the history of the sub-continent. It marked the beginning of the country's struggle for independence after 150 years of foreign rule. The revolt of the sepoys accompanied by the civilians was so strong that the foundation of British rule in indo-pakistan was shaken. It seemed for sometime that the company's rule had disappeared from the land.

The causes of the war of independence were political, social economic & religious: -

1. **Political Causes: -** The English East Indian company had been growing fast over the sub-continent ever since the battle of Plessey 1757; soon afterwards in 1764 the British got yet another victory in the battle of Buxar against the Indians. The victory at Buxar brightened the prospects of the company in India. By 1818 practically all the Indian states had either been annexed or had entered into a treaty with the British.

- a. **Annexation Policy of the British: -** The Britishers through their diplomacy continued to expand their rule by annexing different states of the sub-continent for example Sindh, Mysore, Oudh, etc as a result their territorial limits also increased.
- b. **Doctrine of Lapse: -** Lord Dalhousie applied a new policy for the expansion of the British Empire, which was called 'Doctrine of Lapse' in 1852. According to the doctrine the rulers of state were not allowed to adopt sons. As a result their states were annexed many states like Oudh, Jhansi, Behar etc through this doctrine. These annexations created a sense of insecurity among the general public. They became suspicious of the British policies. Before the introduction of 'Doctrine of Lapse', the replacement of both Sanskrit & Persian by English as the official language in 1834 had further upset both the Hindus & Muslims.
- c. **Confiscation of Property of Nobles: -** It was decided by the past rulers that the nobles were always granted large estates which served as a source of income for them. The British Government reversed this policy & confiscated thousand of such states. As a result thousands of affected persons went against the company. That is why when the war broke out those landlords were in the front-line.

2. **Economic Causes: -** The new agrarian policy of the British, destruction of the local industries, unemployment & monopoly of the British traders were some important economic causes of the war.

- a. **Agrarian Policy: -** The new agrarian policy introduced by the British Government shook the foundations of the village communities. The Zamindars were now asked to provide documents to proof about their land holdings. If they failed to do so then their properties were confiscated. In addition the rates of taxes on the lands were also increased due to which thousands of zamindars were in great problem.
- b. **Destruction of Local Industries: -** As a result of the industrial revolution in England, cheaper & superior goods now flowed in Indian markets. The local industries could not compete with the imported goods, as a result the local industries badly suffered.
- c. **Unemployment: -** The British did not trust the Indians due to this factor Indians were not appointed on important jobs especially on the higher posts. The higher posts were now reserved for the British only. This policy resulted in unemployed & many educated Indians were now without a job. Due to destruction of local industries (cottage industries) left millions of people jobless especially among lower classes.

3. **Religious Causes: -**

- a. **Propagation of Christianity: -** Although in the beginning the English had shown respect towards all religions, yet with the passage of time they changed their mind & devised ways & means of propagation of Christianity in India. The missionaries were sent to India from England for preaching. They did their preaching mainly on the public places with the support of British Government. Bible was included in the syllabus of different school. More over the British Government now passed a law according to which the convents were allowed to keep their ancestral properties.
- b. **Anti-religious Laws: -** The British Government introduced certain laws which were against the prevailing religions of the sub-continent. For example the widows were allowed to remarry which

greatly offended the Hindus & so did the banning of the sati custom in 1829. The British Government banned Parda.

4. Military Causes: -

- a. **Disbandment of Armies of the annexed states: -** The British had annexed many states of the sub-continent on the basis of the doctrine of lapse. Now they declared that the armies of these annexed states were banned. This action of their left thousands of local soldiers unemployed. As the British Army marches into Afghanistan, it created problem

Because the Hindu soldiers did not want to leave what they saw as 'Mother India' The Muslims soldiers were also unhappy with having to fight fellow Muslims.

- b. **Greased Cartridges: -** The British introduced a new kind of cartridges which were greased in cow's & pig's fat & the soldiers were required to chew the top & then use it. Since there were both Muslims & Hindus soldiers in the army; they became too agitated with this new introduction as pig is consider Haram for Muslims & cow is a sacred animal for the Hindus. Now both communities refused to use these new cartridges.

Causes of the Failure of the Revolt of 1857

War of independence 1857 was over officially in August 1858. Although the people made great sacrifices and waged a heroic struggle to end the foreign domination; the attempt to expel British failed due to number of reasons:

- There was absence of fully organized plan and coordination between the freedom fighters; they fought like rabble in different groups at various places. Even there was no coordination between the local rulers who were fighting individually so they were defeated easily by the British troops.
- British troops numerically inferior were superior to the armies of the local soldiers; they were well trained, well equipped and well disciplined. The British also had advantage of effective and adequate military equipments and resources. Their control over telegraph and postal system enable them to gather information from various fronts of the war and issue necessary instructions.
- There was very little unity and the sense of nationalism amongst the Indian states. The rising was led by princes and big landlords. They were temporarily united to achieve a single common goal of throwing out British from India. Most of the rulers were fighting to restore their own regional authority and restoration and the protection of their own rights.
- Many of the prominent states for example Hyderabad, Gwalior and Nepal remained loyal to the British. Rulers of Kashmir and Punjab assisted British government during the rising.
- Apart from the Rani of Jhansi (Lakshmi Bai) and Nana Sahib there was no capable central leadership who could unite whole population. The last Mughal King was too old and weak and was not fit to be the leader of the rebel's army.
- The British succeeded in bribing certain freedom fighters in the Indian camp. These traitors betrayed their own men & sided with the British troops, which resulted a great loss to Indians.

Impact of the War of Independence 1857

- Bahadur Shah Zafar the last Mughal emperor exiled by the British to Rangoon in Burma and Mughal rule (Muslim Rule) was ended from India forever.
- War of independence also put an end to the rule of British East India Company and crown rule was established.
- British held Muslim responsible for the rising because they were the chief fighters and Muslims of India wanted to restore Muslim Rule in India. On other hand Hindu had no such desire. Hindu joined hand with British and started a revengeful policy to crush Muslims in all fields of life.
- Soon after the War of Independence British government realized that some of their earliest policies were wrong for example abolition of 'Doctrine of Lapse' and change in the policy of annexation; they did much to correct them in next 50 years.

CAUSES OF DOWNFALL OF MUGHAL EMPIRE

The Mughal refused to learn and accept the new trends in academics and military. Consequently, British who were fully equipped with these new trends dominated them.

The conquering of Mughal during the Akbar period was vast and continuous due to which wealth and treasures were unlimited & these areas were difficult to control. Too many officers were appointed in the government; the expenditure of their salaries weakened the economy.

After Akbar, the following rulers distributed and threw this wealth with both hands. The office bearers became leisure lovers. The son of Akbar (Jehangir) wasted this wealth in the construction of domes & forts. After Jehangir, Noor Jehan also spent the wealth lavishly & indiscriminately.

The Mughals though skilled in land warfare were no match for the British who were a seafaring nation. After Akbar the Mughals did not make any major attempts to improve their arms & weapons. When dynasties are in power for long period, it is easy to imagine that success will continue forever. This happened with the Mughals, who lost their army's expertise decline until it was no longer an effective force.

It should also not be forgotten that it was true that huge sums were wasted when emperors died and there was succession dispute.

Jagirdars were squeezing too much revenue out of the peasants & this ruined the agricultural economy of the jagir. Rulers were busy in expanding the empire, so they got little time in consolidating their hold in all the parts of the empire. The huge empire was very difficult to administer. Decisions often had to be relayed over thousands of miles. Obviously emperors could not know exactly what was happening in every part of empire. This is one reason why Aurangzeb encouraged the use of mansabdars. With the weak control from the center, the mansabdari system was not sufficiently supervised and administrative efficiency declined.

Discontent grew and revenue from tax collection declined. Industrial Revolution started in the west, development in education & new farm implements while in the east decline of Mughal rule was obvious.

After the death of Orang Zeb, his grand son Jehandar set on throne that took the lavish life to its height. He made Lal kunwar his friend who with the help of his friends & relatives was bestowed upon the wealth & properties having no limits. As a result of this lavish expenditure, the treasury became empty.

With these moral evils of Mughals, the curse of Marhatas & the attack of Nadir Shah Durrani completed the story of down fall of Mughal rule in this sub-continent. The Mughal Empire was huge and within the empire there was an array of different peoples and different religions. As Mughals were continually fighting rebellions, there was always a pressure of the empire from separatist elements. The cost of putting down rebellions and fighting wars against invaders, such as Nadir Shah from Persia was enormous.

The Mughal Empire was in serious decline by the end of the 18th century. The weakness of the Mughal Empire, together with the strength of the British, meant the fall of one mightiest dynasty in history was almost inevitable.

Sir Hamza

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY & BRITISH COLONIAL RULE IN NORTHERN & NW INDIA

The English had always desired to trade with India & their main interest were 'Spices and Christians', but the English were not the 1st Europeans to do trade with India in 1498 Portuguese explorer Vasco de Gamma visited India and established a base in Goa in 1510. In 1600, Queen Elizabeth I, granted a charter to British East India Company, giving it a monopoly for all British trade east of Africa. The 1st serious effort made by the British for trade with India was made in 1608 through Captain Hawkins who requested the Mughal Emperor Jehangir to set up a factory in Surat. The request was turned down (pressure by the Portuguese). In 1612 another request was made through Sir Thomas Roe, which was accepted by Khurram (Future Shah Jehan) and thus the company setup its factory at Surat. In 1615 British Company had a minor battle with Portuguese to remove their from India. In 1640 the English built fort (head office) at Madras. In 1681 they got a charter to keep warships, soldiers and weapons for the defense of their factories. In 1674 they got a charter to keep warships, soldiers and weapons for the defense of their factories. In 1674 the British moved their headquarters to Bombay and founded the town of Calcutta in 1690.

Aurangzeb suspected the East India Company of issuing their own coins and avoiding taxes. In 1691 Aurangzeb fought with the British and defeated them and they have to pay a huge fine, if they wanted to trade in India.

After acquiring all the important coastal strategic bases in India the company made some changes in their policies and started to get involved in the administration of India. In 1751 a brief war broke out between British and France, which was won by British.

Battle of Plassey 1757: The province of Bengal was one of the largest and the richest province of India. It was also economically very important due to its natural resources and trade. A fierce battle took place at Plassey in 1757 in which due to the treachery of Mir Jaffer the Nawab of Bengal Sirajudalla was defeated. The company then appointed Mir Jaffer as the new Nawab of Bengal as promised.

Battle of Buxar 1764: In 1764 the victory at Battle of Buxar meant that EIC also received trading rights from Nawab of Oudh as well as new territory. The EIC had been established to gain as much profit as possible but its greed after battle of Buxar embarrassed the British government. The company made huge profit from its monopoly of the trade in Bengal and company merchants become accustomed to receiving personal 'gifts', which increased their wealth, whilst they made huge profits, the local people were exploited and many died in a serious famine, which hit Bengal.

Act of Parliament 1773: The British government was forced to act to try to stop this misgovernment. In 1773 it passed an Act of Parliament, which required the EIC to provide good government to stop this anarchy. Then in 1784 the British government passed the India Act and took direct control of the Indian possessions. It appointed a Governor-General, who would control of the three presidencies (Bombay, Madras and Calcutta). There would also be Provincial governor and a C-in-C of the armed force. The EIC continued to trade, but lost most of its administrative powers.

In 1784 the first British Governor General of India, Warren Hastings, signed a treaty ending the First Maratha war between the British and Marathas. This gave the British the opportunity to extend their influence elsewhere.