

SUPPORT MATERIAL CLASS VIII- HISTORY

CHAPTER -1- HOW, WHEN AND WHERE

1. Colonial period– The period of the British Rule in India.

2. Archive – It is a place where a collection of public (govt) documents or records are kept.

3. Modern Period- In India, the modern period began with the establishment of the British rule under the English East India Company.

4. Oral History- Oral history is the first hand personal account of the people. It provides correct information about the colonial rule.

The two ways in which the British rule affected India, economically were :

(i) Britishers controlled Indian raw materials.

(ii) They drained away wealth from India.

III. 1. Newspapers published in various languages, journals, novels, biographies and autobiographies of great men, plays, diaries and letters written by great men of that period. 2. The British built record rooms in their offices to preserve all the important documents. They methodically recorded every plan, policy, treaty and agreement. 3. Historical paintings and buildings have proved useful as a source of history. They give us glimpses of various aspects of the society of that period. Most paintings either reflect the affluent British society or the subjugation of Indian rulers. 4. The British felt the need to survey India to know the detailed information about the flora, fauna, crops, soil and topography of India. They conducted census so that they could get a detailed account of the various castes, religions, occupations and the population growth of India. 5. The following factors gave rise to the Indian

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The Rise of the English East India

(i) Drain of wealth from India.

(ii) Exploitation of peasants, artisans and craftsmen.

(iii) Planned and deliberate exclusion of the Indians from the high offices even if they genuinely deserved those seats.

IV. 1. Three developments which took place in the modern period were as follows :

(i) New system of administration: British introduced a new system of laws and a new method of revenue collection.

(ii) Fast fading cottage industries: The Britishers ruined the handicrafts industry of India bringing artisans and craftsmen to a halt.

(iii) Rise of colonialism: Making resource rich cities their colonial centres, British created a rebellion in almost each Indian and eventually a national movement sprouted. 2. The social and cultural changes during the British period : • A new system of education was introduced. • Steps were taken to abolish social evils prevalent in the Indian society. • Acts were passed to abolish sati, child marriage and female infanticide. • Law was passed to allow widow marriage. • Efforts were made to abolish caste discrimination. • Schools were opened for girls.

Colonisation accompanied modernisation: The Britishers ruled India for nearly two hundred years. Though, India was exploited by them, yet it helped in bringing modernisation in India. The Railways were introduced. Post and Telegraphs system were introduced. New cities came up. India came in contact with other countries. Many acts were passed to end social evils. Condition of women improved. Modern education started in India. India came in close contact with Europe. 4. The most challenging aspect of Indian history was the saga of the Indian National Movement. This movement was not limited to any particular section of the Indian society. The Indian National Congress, the revolutionaries, the peasants and the tribal groups all moved out in unison to challenge the British rule. 5. Role of Newspapers: The nationalist newspapers included the Hindu, Amrit Bazar Patrika, Maratha and Kesari. These papers criticised the government policies and put forward the Indian point of view. The newspapers brought political as well as social awareness among the Indians. These papers also helped in connecting Indians living in different parts of India. 6. Basically, British wanted to know the country of India properly. The surveys they conducted, gave them an overall idea about India and its people apart from other physical features. These informations were important from the point of view to govern a vast and varied population.

QUESTION BANK

1. What is History?

2. Which Dates are considered important in History?

3. According to James Mill , what were the differences between the period of Hindu and Muslim rulers and British Rulers?

4. What were the problems with the classification of history done by British historians?

5. Why did British preserve official documents?
6. What is meant by Colonisation?
7. What is the difference between periodisation of Indian History done by James Mill and Indian Historians?
8. Why do we divide history into different periods?
9. What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian history that James Mill offers?
10. What changes have occurred in writing about the historical events of recent past?
11. Who are calligraphists?
12. What is a Census?
13. Who produced the first map of India?
14. Who was the first Governor General of India?
15. Who was the last vice-roy of India?
16. Name the book written by James Mill on India?
17. When was National Archives of India set up?

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE

CHAPTER-1

- POINTS TO REMEMBER

- WHY DOES A COUNTRY NEED A CONSTITUTION?

- ✓ A constitution helps us to serve as a set of rules and principles.
- ✓ The constitution also defines the nature of a country's political system.
- ✓ The constitution often lays down rules that guard against this misuse of power by our political leaders.
- ✓ In a democracy, the constitution also ensures that a dominant group does not use its power against other, less powerful people or groups.

- KEY FEATURES OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- ✓ Federalism: It means existence of more than one level of government in the country.
- ✓ Parliamentary form of government: Constitution of India guarantees universal adult suffrage and can also contest in elections.
- ✓ Separation of power: According to the constitution, there are three organs of the state- the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.
- ✓ Fundamental rights: These rights protect citizens against the arbitrary and absolute exercise of power by the state.
- ✓ Secularism: A state in which the state does not officially promote any one religion as state religion.

- FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

- ✓ Right to Equality
- ✓ Right to Freedom
- ✓ Right against Exploitation
- ✓ right to Freedom Of Religion

- ✓ Cultural and Educational Rights
- ✓ Right to constitutional remedies.
- Our Constitution was adopted on 26th January 1950.
- Group of leaders who drafted the Indian constitution was known as constituent assembly.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the president of the constituent assembly.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is known as the father of Indian constitution as well as the drafting chairman of Indian constitution.
- WORDS THAT MATTER
 - Polity
 - Tyranny
 - National Movement
 - Constitution
 - Arbitrary
- QUESTIONS
 - ✓ What is a Constitution?
 - ✓ What are the key features of Indian constitution?
 - ✓ What are the six fundamental rights enjoyed by the citizen of India? Explain any two.
 - ✓ Why do we need a constitution or what is the importance of having a constitution?.,