

WHERE, WHEN AND HOW

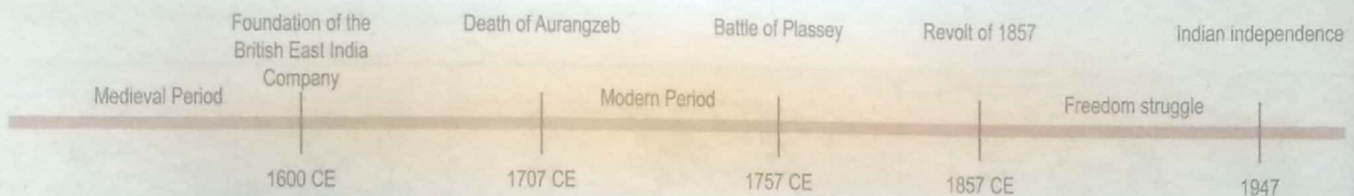
Spotlight

- ◆ The time frame for modern history
- ◆ Major developments in the modern period around the world
- ◆ New geographical categories during the modern period
- ◆ Sources for the study of modern history of India

Gear Up

Why is studying history essential? What kind of information can you get by studying the history of our country?

TIMELINE



Time Frame: An Outline

As we have already studied, history is divided into three periods—ancient, medieval and modern. The time frame of this division is, however, not uniform for entire world history. In Europe, for instance, the modern period began around the 16th century, which was very much a part of medieval history in India. The death of Aurangzeb (1707) is considered to be the beginning of the modern period in India.

Modern Period: An Overview

The modern period in Europe began with the European Renaissance, which laid emphasis on the spirit of enquiry. Revival of interest in the life of human beings led to **humanism** which found expression in music, painting, sculpture, theatre literature and science.

- ◆ In 1453 CE, the Turks took control of the overland trade routes, connecting Europe to the East. This forced the Europeans to look for alternative sea routes to the East.

- ◆ The zest for adventure, initiated by the movement called Renaissance, also encouraged long sea voyages.
- ◆ Spanish and Portuguese explorers such as Magellan, Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama made their mark in finding new sea routes across the globe.



Vasco da Gama discovered the sea route to India by travelling around the continent of Africa in 1498.

- ◆ Discovery of new sea routes helped in making new trade contacts, which led to the emergence of imperialism—a systematic control the

territory, political system and economic life of a less powerful country by the more powerful ones.

New Geographical Categories

A major development in world history was the Industrial Revolution, which began in England in the mid-eighteenth century. It subsequently spread to other parts of Europe. It was marked by new inventions such as steam engine, power loom and cotton gin.

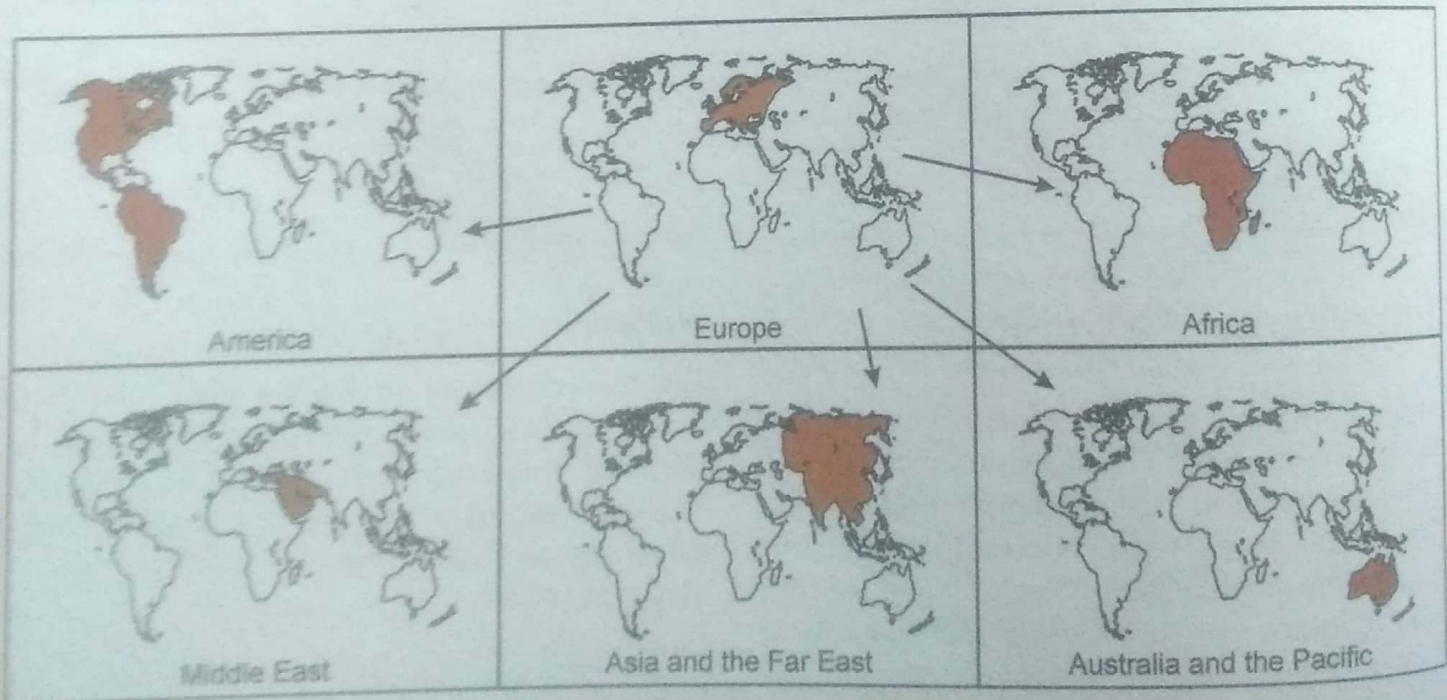
Through voyages of discovery, Europeans got to know about vast areas all over the world which could provide them with cheap raw material and labour, besides serving as markets for their finished products.

The race for capturing these new, unexplored areas resulted in the establishment of various colonies of European powers in different parts of the world.

Thus, new geographical areas emerged, which have been shown in the map given below.

GOOD TO KNOW

The invention of astrolabe, mariner's compass, gunpowder, improved cartography and shipbuilding facilitated the process of sea voyages during this period.



New geographical categories in the 18th century

Modern Period in India: An Outline of the Time Frame

The successors of Aurangzeb were too weak to maintain the unity and integrity of the vast Mughal Empire. So, eventually, after his death, political instability became rampant throughout those territories of the Indian subcontinent, that were under the Mughal rule. This led to many changes in the Indian political scenario.

GOOD TO KNOW

Around the same time, the British forced the people of their colonies in America to pay heavy taxes and abide by trade restrictions. Americans were denied political rights. In the latter half of the 18th century, American people decided to revolt against the British domination. This led to the famous Boston Tea Party incident. In 1776, the representatives of 13 colonies met at Philadelphia and adopted the Declaration of Independence.

- ◆ A number of provincial kingdoms including Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad declared their independence. These were all known as succession states as they succeeded the Mughal Empire.
- ◆ Some of the Rajput rulers became powerful. The ruler of the Marwar state, Sawai Raja Jai Singh, built the great city of Jaipur.
- ◆ The Sikhs established their independent state under Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
- ◆ Hyder Ali and his son, Tipu Sultan, established and consolidated the kingdom of Mysore.
- ◆ The Marathas gained prominence under the Peshwas, until they lost power to Ahmed Shah Abdali in the Third Battle of Panipat, in 1761.
- ◆ Invasions of Nadir Shah (1739) and Ahmed Shah Abdali (1761) dealt a severe blow to the already weak Mughal Empire.
- ◆ The lure of profitable trade brought the Portuguese, Dutch, French and English trading companies to the southern part of India. Intense rivalry between the British and the French for sole control over this trade, resulted in the three Carnatic Wars from 1744–1763. The British emerged victorious and concentrated on extending their control over the entire country.

- ◆ The Battle of Plassey and Buxar made the English the masters of Bengal and gradually, of the entire country. The East India Company transformed itself from a trading company into a dominating political power.
- ◆ The exploitative nature of the Company's rule led to the growth of a common feeling of hatred against the British among the masses.

PICSTOP



1. Who is shown in the picture?
2. What happened after his death that had far reaching consequences for India?

How Can We Study the Modern Period?

We are already familiar with the various types of sources used by historians in writing the history of a particular period.

The advantages of sources for the modern period are that they are found in abundance, and are also well preserved.

Scientific methods are available in today's world, which make it easier for us to preserve records. The sources for studying the modern period of Indian history are various. These sources are of the following two types:

Primary Sources

These include archaeological sources, original documents, photographs, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets and videotapes.

Archaeological Sources

These include the buildings spread across the country such as the Gateway of India, India Gate, Parliament House and Rashtrapati Bhavan. They also include coins, paintings and weapons of this period.

Original documents

Government orders and official correspondence are other significant sources of historical information. These are well documented and preserved in the archives, and give us a first-hand knowledge of the events of the concerned period.

Newspapers, magazines and letters

News articles, letters and magazines belonging to this period are also kept in libraries and archives. They were printed in different languages, in different regions of the country. Some of these newspapers are printed even today.

Letters are also important as they help us understand a particular situations from a personal point of view.

Printed books

They give us details about the achievements in various fields such as art, literature, science and technology, medicine, etc.

Books also tell us about social, economic and political conditions of a period. Biographies and autobiographies give an account of the life and ideology of famous personalities.

GOOD TO KNOW

Rabindranath Tagore's novel *Ghare Baire* (The Home and the World), which was set in the early 20th century Bengal, depicts the clash between the political ideologies of two factions of the freedom struggle—the revolutionaries advocating *Swadeshi* and the more conservative leaders, called the Moderates, opposing it.

TIME TO THINK

What is contemporary history? How is modern history different from contemporary history?

Films, photographs and videotapes

Films and pictures portray lives of famous people and events. The impact of such films or video clippings is more permanent as compared to impact of other sources. These movies are available over the Internet, and are known as digital archives.

Mapping

In order to effectively administer India, the British Government felt the need to map the subcontinent, for which they got various surveys conducted. They set up the Survey of India at Dehra Dun. Elaborate maps were drawn up showing the location of towns and cities with various features, flora, fauna, demography, topography, etc.

Secondary Sources

These include reports, reviews, articles and printed books based on primary sources. Indologists such as James Mill, Max Mueller and Vincent Smith took keen interest in Indian culture, and examined many ancient Indian texts. Through these texts, the British tried to understand the Indian traditions, customs and norms that would help them to rule efficiently. These colonial writers projected the view that India was a backward country and British rule was a blessing in disguise for India.

However, the nationalist writers, such as Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, wanted to rediscover India's glorious past. Dadabhai Naoroji's *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India* and Jawaharlal Nehru's *Discovery of India* exposed the negative impact of British rule, highlighting India's glorious past. The Indian people's grievances against the British rule were reflected in the many writings such as *Neel Darpan* by Dinbandhu Mitra.

SUM IT UP

- ◆ History is divided into three major time periods—ancient, medieval and modern.
- ◆ The modern history of India is directly or indirectly related to many important events in world history. Thus, it cannot be studied in an isolation from these events.
- ◆ Renaissance, voyages of discovery and the Industrial Revolution had a huge impact on modern world history.
- ◆ Various available sources in primary and secondary formats make the study of modern history very informative and precise. One can find films, audio tapes, official documents, old magazines, newspapers and many other sources that shed light on modern Indian history.

CORNER

CREATIVE

1. **Map Work:** On an outline map of India, mark the different ancient and medieval kingdoms of India. (Hint: Awadh, Magadha, etc.)
2. **Activity:** Visit any local museum which showcases ancient artefacts. Try to get information about the period to which they belong, from various sources at the museum.
3. **Discuss:** The history of a nation becomes important in order to understand its present. Discuss this topic with your friends in the classroom.
4. **Debates:** 'Is history of our slavery to foreign rulers worth remembering and studying?' Organise a debate in the classroom and speak in favour or against the motion.

GLOSSARY

humanism	a rationalist outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human (rather than divine or supernatural) matters
imperialism	a policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonisation, use of military force, or other means over another country
Industrial Revolution	a revolution that marked the emergence of modern methods and technological advancement in England, in the industrial sector
archive	a systematic and organised record of things

EXERCISES

A. Answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate alternative from those given below.

1. The Marathas lost power to Ahmed Shah Abdali in
a. 1763 b. 1764 c. 1761 d. 1762
2. Aurangzeb's death in made India politically unstable.
a. 1709 b. 1708 c. 1707 d. 1706
3. Which of the following is not a main source for the modern period of Indian history?
a. newspapers b. e-mails c. magazines d. pamphlets
4. A systematic control of the territory, political power and economic life of a less powerful country by a more powerful one is called
a. humanism b. imperialism c. renaissance d. revolution

5. Which of the following kingdoms did not declare its independence following Aurangzeb's death?
- Jaipur
 - Awadh
 - Bengal
 - Hyderabad

B. Match the following:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Battle of Plassey | a. invader |
| 2. Vasco da Gama | b. Europe |
| 3. Nadir Shah | c. Max Muller |
| 4. Renaissance | d. Bengal |
| 5. indologist | e. explorer |

C. Answer the questions in about 50–70 words.

- Describe the modern period in Indian history.
- Mention any two explorers you know and write about their discoveries.
- What was the result of the decline of the Mughal Empire?
- How did the British come to power in Bengal?
- Mention the primary sources that give us information about the modern period in Indian history.

D. Answer the questions in about 80–100 words.

- How did Indian history change after the death of Aurangzeb?
- What is the importance of printed books in tracing modern history? Explain.
- What are the differences between primary and secondary sources of modern history?
- How did the Industrial Revolution lead to Imperialism?
- How did the events in modern Europe affect the modern history of the world? Give your opinion.

E. Think and answer.

- Why is the study of modern history very important? Give your opinions.
- Why is study of modern Indian history easier than study ancient Indian history?

PROJECT WORK

Research Activity

- ◆ From various sources, collect pictures of the newspapers published during the British rule in India. Collect at least five cut-outs and arrange them in a chronological order. Make a report on the information they offer.

LIFE SKILL (CRITICAL THINKING)

Keeping aside the exploitative nature of the British rule in India, do you think some of their policies have helped the Indians? Write about 2–3 such policies that you think benefitted Indian citizens.

SURF AND LEARN

Use these links to learn more about the topics:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/285248/India/47005/The-British-1600-1740>

<http://nationalarchives.nic.in/Default.aspx>

http://www.gatewayforindia.com/history/british_history1.htm

SELF-ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

1. I have understood the extent of the modern Indian period.
2. I can elaborate the main feature of modern Indian history.
3. I can list the main sources of modern Indian history.

YES

NO

PARTIALLY
