



VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPEETH SHAKTI UTTHAN AASHRAM LAKHISARAI

CLASS-8TH

(BASED ON N C E R T PATTERN)

Date:- 14.12.21

HISTORY

Crafts and industries

Topics

- Nawabs lose their power
- The peasants and the sepoys
- Responses to reforms

1. Nawabs lose their power

Nawabs and rajas lost their authority and power since the mid-eighteenth century. In order to protect their interests, many ruling families tried to negotiate with the Company. Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi wanted the Company to recognise her adopted son as the heir to the kingdom after the death of her husband. But, the Company turned down these pleas.

Awadh was one of the last territories to be annexed. In 1801, a subsidiary alliance was imposed on Awadh, and in 1856 it was taken over. The Company planned to bring down the Mughal dynasty to an end. In 1849, Governor-General Dalhousie announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar, his family would be shifted out of the Red Fort and given another place in Delhi to reside in. After Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal King, none of his descendants would be recognised as kings – they would just be called princes.

2. The peasants and the sepoys

Peasants and zamindars from the countryside resented the high taxes and the rigid methods of revenue collection. Many lost their lands as they failed to pay back their

loans to the moneylenders.

The Indian sepoys who were employees of the Company were unhappy about their pay, allowances and conditions of service. When sepoys were told to go to Burma to fight for the Company via sea route, they refused to go but agreed to go via land route. The Company passed a law in 1856, which stated that every new person who took up employment in the Company's army had to agree to serve overseas, if required.

3. Responses to reforms

The British reformed Indian society by passing laws to stop the practice of Sati and to encourage the remarriage of widows. English education was widely promoted. After 1830, Christian missionaries were allowed to function freely in its domain and own land and property. A new law was passed in 1850, to convert into Christianity easier. The law allowed Indian Christians to inherit the property of their ancestors.

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