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CLASS-8TH

(BASED ON N C E R T PATTERN)

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HISTORY

Crafts and industries

Topics

- ECONOMIC DRAIN OF INDIA
- DE-INDUSTRIALISATION
- DECLINE OF TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES

1. ECONOMIC DRAIN OF INDIA

After the Battle of Plassey, British got the right to collect the taxes from Bengal and it utilized earnings from taxes to buy Indian goods. Thus, began the process of drain of India's wealth, India witnessed a drain of wealth in the 18th and 19th centuries through trade with East India Company and the various charges imposed by it on the Indians. During the 19th century, two simultaneous process took place Industrialisation of Britain and deindustrialisation of India.

2. DE-INDUSTRIALISATION

The process of disruption of traditional Indian crafts and decline in national income has been referred to as deindustrialisation of Indian Economy.

3. DECLINE OF TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES

The decline of traditional industries in India was considered inevitable by the British officials as part of the process of modernisation as it had happened in

the West. In England, the suffering caused by the decline of handicrafts was soon accompanied by greater employment opportunities and income generating effect of factory industries. In colonial India, the artisans were made to bear the burden of development in a country six thousand miles away, since the growth of Indian factories was non-existent before the 1850s and 1860's and painfully slow even afterwards. The only choice left for craftsmen and artisans was to turn to agriculture

The Gradual destruction of rural crafts broke up the union between agriculture and domestic industry in the countryside and this in turn led to the destruction of the self-sufficient village economy. On one hand, hundreds of peasants who had supplemented their income by part time spinning and weaving now had to rely overwhelmingly on cultivation. On the other hand, hundreds of rural artisans lost their traditional source of livelihood and became agricultural labourers. This increasing pressure on agriculture was one of the major causes of extreme poverty of India under British rule. thus, the process of industrialisation of Britain was accompanied by deindustrialisation of India.

However, peasant crafts, which were practised as a subsidiary occupation during the lean agricultural season, using locally available cheap raw materials such as basket weaving and craftwork were immune to competition from machine made foreign goods. Minor manufacturers in villages like potters, blacksmiths etc. were also not ,much affected.

The industrial Revolution of Europe coupled with high import duties and other restrictions imposed on the Indian goods in Britain and other European countries during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries wiped out the market for Indian artisans in Europe because the mass production in the new English factories made it impossible for Indian artisan's products to compete with factory products.

Till 1813, Indian industry, especially the textile industry, was adversely affected in two ways. Firstly, the company reduced the weavers to the status of indentured labour, by forcing them to take an advance from the company. In 1789, for example, the weavers were forced to pay a penalty of 35% on the advance taken if they defaulted in supplying goods. Secondly, in 1813, the British parliament imposed an increased consolidated duty on consumption of calicoes and muslins in Britain.

Due to the discriminatory colonial economic policy, India was reduced almost totally to the status of an exporter of raw or processed agricultural goods. It meant that there was a reversal of roles for India and England. India ceased being an exporter of cotton cloth and became an importer of cloth and yarn, while England stopped importing cloth from India and acquired an export market of that commodity in India.

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