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MODERN HISTORY

CHAPTER 1

Arrival of European in India

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CHAPTER 1

Arrival of European in India

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The Portuguese in India

Europe made great advances in shipbuilding and navigation. Finding an ocean route to India became an obsession for **Prince Henry of Portugal**, who was nicknamed **"the Navigator"**.

Vasco da Gama (First European to Reach India by Sea)

- Vasco da Gama's three ships, guided by a Gujarati pilot named **Abdul Majid**, arrived at **Calicut in May 1498**.
- He was welcomed by the local Hindu ruler of Calicut, the **Zamorin**.
- In **1500**, **Pedro Alvarez Cabral**, the second Portuguese to arrive, came to Calicut to trade in spices. He negotiated and set up a factory at Calicut.
- Vasco da Gama came to India again in **1501**. He set up trading factories at **Cannanore, Calicut and Cochin**, which became the main Portuguese trade centres.

Francisco de Almeida

- He was the **first Portuguese governor** in India.
- His task was to strengthen the Portuguese position in India and to destroy Muslim trade.
- His famous policy was the **"Blue Water Policy" (cartaze system)**.

Alfonso de Albuquerque

- Albuquerque, the Portuguese governor, was the **real founder of Portuguese power in India**.
- He captured **Goa from the Sultan of Bijapur in 1510**. Goa, the Sultan's main port, became "the first bit of Indian territory to be under the Europeans since the time of Alexander the Great".
- The Portuguese introduced new crops like **tobacco and cashew nut** in Goa.
- Albuquerque introduced "the policy of Imperialism".

Nino da Cunha

Nino da Cunha became governor of Portuguese interests in India in **November 1529**. About a year later, he shifted the Portuguese headquarters in India **from Cochin to Goa**.

The Portuguese State

- Within fifty years of Vasco da Gama's arrival, many coastal parts of India had come under Portuguese power.
- On the east coast, they set up military posts and settlements at **San Thome** (in Chennai) and **Nagapatnam** (in Tamil Nadu).

- The Portuguese were the **first Europeans to come** to India and also the **last to leave**. The Government of India took back **Goa, Daman and Diu in 1961**.

Decline of the Portuguese

- In **1608**, Captain **William Hawkins** of England reached Surat on his ship *Hector*. He carried a letter from **James I**, King of England, to the Mughal emperor **Jahangir**, asking permission to trade in India.
- Hawkins knew the Turki language well and spoke to the emperor without an interpreter. Pleased, Jahangir made him a **mansabdar of 400** with a salary of Rs 30,000.
- The trading facilities given to the English offended the Portuguese.
- During the reign of **Shah Jahan**, the Portuguese lost their advantages at the Mughal court forever.

Summary: The Portuguese

1498 Vasco da Gama arrives at Calicut; grand reception by the Zamorin

1503 First Portuguese fort set up at Cochin

1505 Second Portuguese fort set up at Cannanore

1509 Governor Francisco Almeida defeats the combined fleet of Gujarat, Egypt and the Zamorin

1510 Albuquerque captures Goa from Bijapur

1530 Goa declared the Portuguese capital

1559 The Portuguese capture Daman

1612 Surat lost to the English

1663 The Dutch win all Portuguese forts on the Malabar coast

EXAM TIP

Remember the order of arrival: **Portuguese → Dutch → English → French**. The Portuguese came first and also left last (1961).

The Dutch (Second Europeans in India)

- **Cornelis de Houtman** was the first Dutchman to reach the East (Sumatra and Bantam), in **1596**.
- In **1602**, the States-General of the Netherlands merged many trading companies (nearly 96) into the **East India Company of the Netherlands**. This company could wage war, sign treaties, take territory and build forts.
- The Dutch set up their **first factory at Masulipatnam** (Andhra) in **1605**.
- Their main trade items were **silk, cotton, indigo, rice and opium**.
- After a long conflict, the Dutch and the English reached a compromise in **1667**. The English gave up all claims on Indonesia, and the Dutch withdrew from India to focus on their more profitable trade in Indonesia.
- The English defeated the Dutch in the **Battle of Hooghly (Bedara), November 1759**. This was a crushing blow to Dutch ambitions in India.
- The Dutch were not interested in building an empire in India; they cared only about trade.

The English (Third Europeans in India)

- In **1599**, a group of English merchants called the **"Merchant Adventurers"** formed a company.
- On **December 31, 1600**, Queen **Elizabeth I** gave this company a charter with exclusive trading rights. It was named the "Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies".
- In **1609**, Captain William Hawkins got trading rights from Jahangir. The first English factory was set up at **Surat in 1613** under **Thomas Aldworth**.
- **Bombay:** The King of Portugal gave Bombay to King **Charles II** as dowry when he married the Portuguese princess Catherine in **1662**. In **1668**, Bombay was handed to the East India Company for an annual payment of only ten pounds. **Gerald Aungier** became its first governor.
- **Golden Farman (1632):** Issued by the Sultan of Golconda, it further improved the English position in India.
- **Bengal:** In **1651**, **Shah Shuja**, the subahdar (governor) of Bengal, allowed the English to trade in Bengal for an annual payment of Rs 3,000 in place of all duties. Factories were later started at Hooghly by **William Hedges**, the first agent and governor of the Company in Bengal.
- **Calcutta:** In **1698**, the English got the zamindari of three villages — **Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikata** (Kalighat) — for Rs 1,200. They fortified the settlement as **Fort William in 1700**.
- **Rival company:** After the English Revolution of 1688, a rival company was formed in England. It sent **Sir William Norris** as ambassador to Aurangzeb's court (January 1701 – April 1702) to get trading privileges.
- In **1708**, the two companies merged as the **"United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies"**. This company continued till 1858.

Farrukhsiyar's Farmans

In 1715, an English mission led by **John Surman** went to the court of Mughal emperor **Farrukhsiyar**. It secured three famous farmans that gave the Company valuable privileges in **Bengal, Gujarat and Hyderabad**. These farmans are called the **"Magna Carta of the Company"**.

Summary: The English

1600	East India Company established
1609	William Hawkins arrives at Jahangir's court
1611	Captain Middleton gets permission from the Mughal governor of Surat to trade there
1613	Permanent factory at Surat (first English factory in India)
1615	Sir Thomas Roe, ambassador of King James I, arrives at Jahangir's court
1616	First factory in the south, at Masulipatnam
1632	Golden Farman from the Sultan of Golconda
1633	First factory in east India, at Hariharpur, Balasore (Odisha)
1662	Charles II gets Bombay as dowry on marrying Catherine of Braganza
1717	Farrukhsiyar's farman (Magna Carta of the Company) grants many trade concessions

The French (Last Europeans in India)

- The French were the last Europeans to come to India for trade.

- During the reign of **Louis XIV**, his minister **Colbert** founded the **Compagnie des Indes Orientales** (French East India Company) in **1664**.
- The first French factory was set up at **Surat by Francois Caron in 1668**.
- **Pondicherry** was founded by the French in **1674**. **Francois Martin** developed it, and it became the French stronghold in India.
- War between the Dutch and the French badly affected the French position in India. The Treaty of Ryswick (September 1697) restored Pondicherry to the French.
- **Dupleix** became French governor in **1742**. This began the Anglo-French conflict known as the **Carnatic Wars**, which ended in the final defeat of the French in India.

Carnatic Wars (English vs French)

War	Period	Key Facts
First Carnatic War	1740–48	Ended with the Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle. Dupleix represented the French.
Second Carnatic War	1749–54	Fought between Dupleix and Robert Clive. Ended with the Treaty of Pondicherry (Treaty of Godeheu).
Third Carnatic War	1758–63	The English defeated the French in the Battle of Wandiwash. Count de Lally led the French. Ended with the Treaty of Paris (1763).

- Under the **Treaty of Paris (1763)**, the French agreed not to interfere in British activities in India.
- The English became the supreme European power in India, as the Dutch had already been defeated in the **Battle of Bedara (1759)**.

EXAM TIP

The **Battle of Wandiwash** (Third Carnatic War) decided the fate of the French in India. Don't confuse the Treaty of **Aix-La-Chapelle** (1st war) with the Treaty of **Pondicherry** (2nd war) and the Treaty of **Paris** (3rd war).

QUICK REVISION

Chapter 1 at a Glance

1. Vasco da Gama reached Calicut in May 1498, guided by Abdul Majid; the Zamorin welcomed him.
2. Almeida was the first Portuguese governor (Blue Water Policy); Albuquerque was the real founder of Portuguese power and captured Goa in 1510.
3. Nino da Cunha shifted the Portuguese capital from Cochin to Goa; India took back Goa, Daman and Diu in 1961.
4. The Dutch set up their first factory at Masulipatnam (1605) and were defeated at Bedara (1759).
5. The English East India Company got its charter on 31 December 1600; its first factory was at Surat (1613).
6. Bombay came as dowry to Charles II (1662) and passed to the Company in 1668.
7. Fort William (Calcutta) was fortified in 1700 on land of Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikata.
8. Farrukhsiyar's farmans (1717) are called the Magna Carta of the Company.
9. The French Company was founded in 1664; Pondicherry was founded in 1674.
10. The three Carnatic Wars ended French power; the Treaty of Paris (1763) closed the Third War.