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MODERN HISTORY

CHAPTER 3

Extension of British Paramountcy Through Administrative Policy

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CHAPTER 3

Extension of British Paramountcy Through Administrative Policy

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IN THIS CHAPTER

- The Policy of Ring-Fence
- Subsidiary Alliance
- Doctrine of Lapse
- Anglo-Afghan Wars
- Summary of British Expansion

From **1757 to 1857**, the Company expanded its empire and established British paramountcy (supremacy) through a **two-fold method**:

- **(a) Annexation by conquest or war** — discussed in the previous chapter.
- **(b) Annexation by diplomacy and administrative methods** — discussed in this chapter.

Three main examples of the second method are:

Policy	Introduced By
Ring-Fence Policy	Warren Hastings
Subsidiary Alliance	Lord Wellesley
Doctrine of Lapse	Lord Dalhousie

The Policy of Ring-Fence

- Introduced by **Warren Hastings**.
- It was a policy of **defending the frontiers of neighbouring states** in order to protect the Company's own territories.
- Example: The Company agreed to organise the defence of **Awadh's** frontiers on the condition that the Nawab paid the expenses of the army.
- In other words, these allies had to maintain **subsidiary forces**, which were organised, equipped and commanded by Company officers but paid for by the rulers of these states.

Subsidiary Alliance

Introduced by **Lord Wellesley**. It was in fact an **extension of the ring-fence system**.

Terms for the Indian Ruler

- He had to accept a **British force permanently stationed** in his territory and pay a subsidy for its upkeep.
- He had to accept a **British Resident** at his court.

- He could not employ any **European** without first consulting the Company.
- He could not go to **war** or negotiate with any other Indian ruler without consulting the Governor-General.

What the British Promised

- To defend the ruler from his enemies.
- Not to interfere in the internal matters of the allied state.

States That Accepted the Subsidiary Alliance

Awadh was the first Indian state to accept such an arrangement, in **1765**. Under Wellesley's system, the states were:

State	Year
Nizam of Hyderabad (first under Wellesley)	1798 and 1800
Ruler of Mysore	1799
Ruler of Tanjore	October 1799
Nawab of Awadh	November 1801
The Peshwa	December 1801
Bhonsle Raja of Berar	December 1803
The Sindhia	February 1804
Rajput states of Jodhpur, Jaipur, Macheri, Bundi and the ruler of Bharatpur	1818
Holkar (last Maratha state to accept)	1818

Doctrine of Lapse

- Introduced by **Lord Dalhousie**.
- **The rule:** An adopted son could inherit his foster father's **private property**, but **not the state**. The paramount power (the British) would decide whether to give the state to the adopted son or to annex it.
- During Dalhousie's term, many rulers happened to die without a male heir, and their states were annexed under this doctrine.
- The most important were **Satara (1848)**, and **Jhansi and Nagpur (1854)**. Smaller states included Jaitpur (Bundelkhand), Sambalpur (Orissa) and Baghat (Himachal Pradesh).
- Dalhousie annexed **Awadh in 1856** after removing Nawab **Wajid Ali Shah** on grounds of misgovernment (not under the Doctrine of Lapse).

State Annexed by Dalhousie	Year
Satara	1848
Sambalpur	1849
Baghat	1850
Udaipur	1852
Nagpur	1854

State Annexed by Dalhousie	Year
Jhansi	1854
Awadh (on charge of misadministration)	1856

REMEMBER

Princely states were states ruled by a king but under the complete control of the British Empire.

EXAM TIP

A common trap: **Awadh** was annexed for **misgovernment**, not under the Doctrine of Lapse. **Satara** was the first state annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse.

Anglo-Afghan Wars

Forward Policy of Auckland

- **Lord Auckland** became Governor-General in **1836** and supported a **forward policy**.
- This meant the Company government in India had to take the initiative to protect British India's borders from a possible **Russian attack**.
- **Dost Mohammed** (ruler of Afghanistan) turned to Russia and Persia for help. This pushed the British to go ahead with the forward policy.

First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–42)

- After a successful attack, the English army entered **Kabul in August 1839**.
- Dost Mohammed surrendered in **1840**, and **Shah Shuja** was made Amir of Afghanistan.

John Lawrence and the Policy of Masterly Inactivity

- **John Lawrence (1864–1869)** followed a policy of **masterly inactivity**, as a reaction to the disasters of the First Afghan War.
- Even when Dost Mohammed died in 1863, the British did not interfere in the war of succession.
- The policy depended on two conditions: (1) peace on the frontier was not disturbed, and (2) no candidate in the civil war sought foreign help.
- When **Sher Ali** established himself on the throne, Lawrence tried to build friendship with him.

Lytton and the Policy of Proud Reserve

- **Lytton** became Viceroy in **1876**.
- He started a new foreign policy of **"proud reserve"**, aimed at having **scientific frontiers** and protecting "spheres of influence".

Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878–80)

- Sher Ali refused to keep a British envoy in Kabul, though he had earlier allowed a Russian envoy.
- Lytton was displeased. When the Russians withdrew their envoy from Kabul, Lytton decided to invade Afghanistan.
- Sher Ali fled. The **Treaty of Gandamak (May 1879)** was signed with his son **Yakub Khan**, ending the war.

Summary of British Expansion

Conflict Between the English and the Nawabs of Bengal

- **Battle of Plassey (June 23, 1757):** Robert Clive's victory over Siraj-ud-daula laid the territorial foundation of British rule in India.
- **Battle of Buxar (1764):** The English victory over the combined armies of the Nawab of Bengal, the Nawab of Awadh and the Mughal Emperor laid the real foundation of English power.
- **Treaties of Allahabad (1765):** Gave the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the English — one treaty with the Nawab of Awadh and one with Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.
- **Dual Government:** 1765–72

Wars and Their Treaties

War	Period	Treaties
First Anglo-Mysore	1767–69	Treaty of Madras
Second Anglo-Mysore	1780–84	Treaty of Mangalore
Third Anglo-Mysore	1790–92	Treaty of Seringapatam
Fourth Anglo-Mysore	1799	Mysore conquered by British forces
First Anglo-Maratha	1775–82	Treaty of Surat (1775), Treaty of Purandhar (1776), Treaty of Wadgaon (1779), Treaty of Salbai (1782) — ended the war
Second Anglo-Maratha	1803–05	Treaty of Bassein (1802), Treaty of Devgaon with Bhonsle (1803), Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon with Sindhia (1803), Treaty of Rajpurghat with Holkar (1806)
Third Anglo-Maratha	1817–19	Treaty of Poona (Peshwa), Treaty of Gwalior (Sindhia), Treaty of Mandasor (Holkar)
Conquest of Sindh	1843	Treaty of Eternal Friendship (Amirs of Sindh and British); Governor-General: Lord Ellenborough
Punjab	1809, 1838	Treaty of Amritsar (Ranjit Singh and the British); Tripartite Treaty (Ranjit Singh, the British and Shah Shuja)
First Anglo-Sikh	1845–46	Treaty of Lahore, Treaty of Bhairowal
Second Anglo-Sikh	1848–49	Annexation of Punjab on March 29, 1849
First Anglo-Afghan	1839–42	Forward Policy of Auckland
Second Anglo-Afghan	1878–80	Treaty of Gandamak (May 1879)

British Paramountcy in Action

- Ring-Fence Policy of Warren Hastings
- Subsidiary Alliance of Wellesley

- Doctrine of Lapse of Dalhousie (1848–56)

Anglo-Afghan Relations

- Forward Policy of Auckland (Governor-General) → First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842)
- John Lawrence — Policy of Masterly Inactivity
- Lytton — Policy of Proud Reserve → Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878–80)
- North-West Frontier: **Durand Agreement (1893)**

Other Facts

- The **Treaty of Sagauli (1816)** was signed between the British and Nepal.
- **Burma** was annexed to British India in **1885** after three Anglo-Burmese wars; it was separated from India in **1935**.
- The **Treaty of Lhasa (1904)** was signed between Tibet and the British.

QUICK REVISION

Chapter 3 at a Glance

1. The British expanded by war and by diplomacy/administration.
2. Ring-Fence (Warren Hastings): defend neighbours' frontiers, e.g. Awadh, at the neighbour's cost.
3. Subsidiary Alliance (Wellesley): British troops and a Resident at court, paid for by the Indian ruler.
4. Hyderabad (1798) was the first to accept Wellesley's subsidiary alliance; Holkar (1818) was the last Maratha state.
5. Doctrine of Lapse (Dalhousie): an adopted son could not inherit the state; Satara (1848) was the first state annexed.
6. Awadh was annexed in 1856 for misgovernment; Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was removed.
7. Forward Policy (Auckland) led to the First Afghan War (1839–42).
8. John Lawrence: Masterly Inactivity; Lytton: Proud Reserve.
9. Second Afghan War ended with the Treaty of Gandamak (1879); Durand Agreement in 1893.
10. Treaty of Sagauli (1816) – Nepal; Burma annexed 1885; Treaty of Lhasa (1904) – Tibet.