

WORLD HISTORY

G. N. CHATTERJEE

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WORLD HISTORY

[1763-1949]



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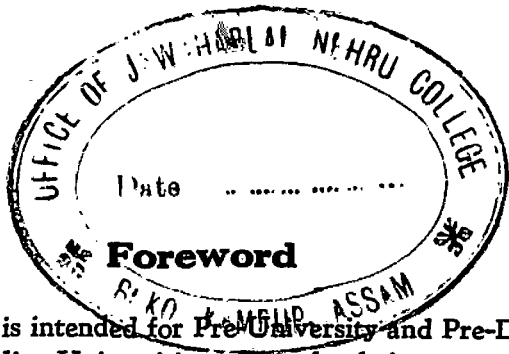
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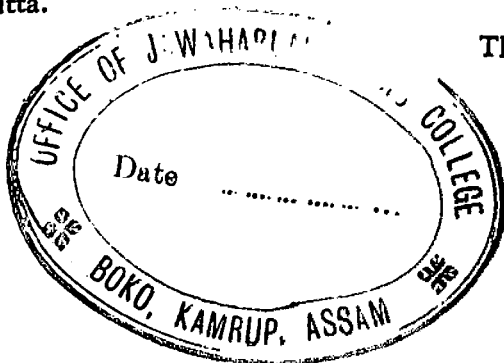
This book is intended for Pre-University and Pre-Degree students of Indian Universities. The book is expected to fulfil a long-felt want of providing a suitable book for the young students of history. The book has been written in such a way as to acquaint the young minds with the great historical processes of modern times and create in their mind some interest about the great historical developments of which very little discussion has been possible in this book. The writer of this book would think his labour amply remunerated if this aim is fulfilled.

The author fervently hopes that this book will secure good circulation among teachers and the students.

Janmastami, 1369. B. S.

Calcutta.

The Author



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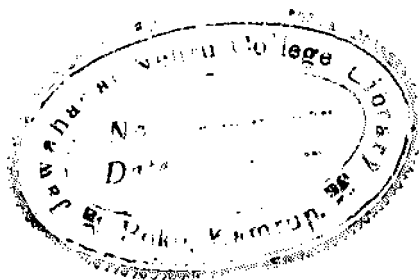
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INTRODUCTION

EUROPEAN COLONISATION UPTO. THE 18th CENTURY

A new chapter was opened up in the history of Europe when the Musalmans captured Constantinople in 1453. The scholars in ancient Greek Literature and Philosophy who had been residing in Constantinople, left it and settled in different countries of Europe. This caused the

introduction of the persuit of culture in a wide scale. Thus the culture of literature, art, science and religion spread out and an analytical mind was found in all spheres.

This analytical spirit caused the beginning of two great movements—in the realm of education and thought it ushered in the Renaissance and in the realm of religion, it ushered in the Reformation. Renaissance and the Reformation became responsible for bringing the Middle Ages to a close and for the beginning of the Modern Ages. The main feature of the new age was that the people of Europe were animated with a spirit of discovery and adventure.

Desire to go to India by a new route

From very ancient times, Greece and Rome had commercial contact with India. References to Indian spices, Indian robes and things of luxury being widely used are found in the writings of historian Pliny and etc. With

Trade with India
was captured by
the Arabian
merchants

the fall of Rome, the political atmosphere of Europe became clouded and confusion and disorder became supreme. Due to this chaos and confusion, this commercial contact between Europe and

India was lost. When Europe was passing through the so-called Dark Ages, the Arabians captured this trade. The Italian traders of Genoa and Venice, consequently had to buy Indian goods from the Arabian merchants. The Indian goods included spices and other valuables—there was a great demand in Europe for spices in particular. The Italian merchants bought these commodities from the Arabian merchants and sold it in Europe. Consequently, the European people had to pay more. This caused the

Desire to go to
India

Europeans to search for a new route to go to India and enter into commercial relation directly with her. 'To go to India and the

Spice Islands' formed the background for the bulk of the adventures in connection with the geographical discoveries. The legends of fantastic wealth of India and China had been current in Europe. In the 13th century, Marco Polo, who had gone to China described in his 'Travels' the great wealth he had seen in China. There is no doubt that these tales had made Europe greedy and more anxious to go to the East.

The Renaissance had filled the mind of the European people with the spirit of inquisitiveness. This caused new inventions and discoveries in many spheres of Science and Arts. The Mariner's Compass was invented which became very much helpful to the mariners in the sea. The Maps and Charts etc. were prepared and the people of Europe tried heart and soul to go to India.

Various
scientific
inventions

Two comparatively small countries of Europe became the pioneer in these geographical discoveries and adventures. They were Spain and Portugal. The Portuguese Prince

Henry showed great enthusiasm in these geographical discoveries and he was given the name of Henry the Navigator. In 1487, Barthelamew Diaz reached the southernmost point of Africa. Here he experienced great hardship due to storm. So he gave it the name of 'Cape of Storm.' His countryman Vasco-Da-Gama renamed it as the Cape of Good Hope and sailing round the coast of Africa, he reached the port of Calicut in South India in 1498. The

Activities of
Spain and
Portugal

desire of Europe to go to India was fulfilled. Six years before the date of Vasco-da-Gama's coming to India, Christopher Columbus had discovered America in 1492. He had

Vasco-Da-Gama
arrived at Calicut
in 1498

thought that India lay on the other side of Atlantic and when he crossed this great ocean, he thought that he had come to India and the islands on which he first set his steps were named as West Indies, the name which the country still bears. In the next century, the real value of the discovery of

Discovery of
America

Columbus was understood and the great continent (North & South America) was named America after the name of Amerigo Vespuchi who landed on the coast of South America in 1499.

Discoveries of other places

Towards the beginning of the 16th century, Philipine was discovered by the sailors like Balboa and Magelan. Magelan first circumnavigated the world and it was he who first crossed the Pacific. In 1519, Cortez, a Spaniard defeated the Aztecs and captured Mexico for Spain. In 1562, Peru was captured for Spain by a bold adventurer Pizzaro. The English sailors John and Sebastian Cabot discovered the Labradores and the

Various
geographical
discoveries

Newfoundland. In 1535-36, the Frenchman Cartier discovered Canada and during the course of the early years of the 16th century, the whole of the American hemisphere was discovered. Spain occupied the bulk of it, Portugal occupied Brazil and in the north, Canada was occupied by the French who lost it after the Seven Years War. Some English Colonies were established in North America.

Spain and Portugal had shown great enthusiasm for geographical discoveries and adventures. But over the question of possession of the newly discovered lands, they quarreled amongst themselves. The Pope of Rome, mediated in this dispute. He divided the world into two halves and allotted one half to Spain and the other half to Portugal. Other European nations who were engaged in rivalry with Spain and Portugal refused to accept this division and so fierce rivalry ensued between the European nations over this question.

With the coming of Vasco-Da-Gama to Calicut in 1498, direct contact between India and Europe was established. The Portuguese Government tried to utilise fully the discovery made by Vasco-Da-Gama. Some expeditions were accordingly despatched and these expeditions destroyed the supremacy of the Arabs at sea. The primary intention of the Portuguese in India was trade, but very soon, they gave up this intention. They engaged themselves in piratical and proselytising activities and set themselves to the task of establishing an empire in India. Due largely to exertion of two Portuguese Governors, De Almeida and Alfonso De Albuquerque, they built up a big empire on the

Division of the world by the Pope

Portuguese Empire in India

Capture of Goa

western coast of India. They Captured Goa and made it the capital of Portuguese India.

The Portuguese made great wealth by trading with India and this drew the attention of other European nations. Becoming jealous of the prosperity of the Portuguese the Dutch, the French and the English came to India. The Portuguese superiority was soon lost and the Dutch, the French and the English were involved in a fierce rivalry amongst themselves for trade and commerce. The rivalry between the Dutch and the English and the French formed one of the most important political events of Indian history after the downfall of the Mughal Empire.

Competition and rivalry for Indian trade

Effects of these geographical discoveries

The geographical discoveries were responsible for epoch making consequences. The effects of these discoveries were many-sided and they caused the human civilization to forge ahead.

New countries and waterways were discovered. As a result, new colonies and empires were established by European powers. Rivalry for superiority in colonial and commercial affairs ensued and the European powers became keen for the fulfilment of their own interests. The under-developed and militarily weak countries of the world were subjected. For centuries together, the main current of European politics revolved round the great factors of colonial expansion, supremacy and rivalry for colonies and empires.

Rivalry for Colonies and Empire

Trade and commerce received a great impetus from the

geographical discoveries, Inter-Oceanic Trade was evolved and big markets for goods and great sources of raw materials were found. This great scope for expansion indirectly ushered in the great social change—known as the Industrial Revolution. The supremacy of the Italian ports e.g. Venice, Zenoa etc. was lost.

The geographical discoveries became responsible for the growth of the middle class people and this class was responsible for the introduction of great changes—changes in social set up, political set up and new economic set up. Slave trade was begun by the greedy merchants as a result of the geographical discoveries.

Due to the discoveries of the new countries, the knowledge of men became extended. This new knowledge was valuable. The spirit of discovery and adventure found reflection in literatures. The Europeans developed great tact and skill regarding the navy and naval warfare respectively. The historical processes of modern times are to be more easily understood if read in the context of these geographical discoveries and their consequences.

Increase of
Knowledge

Impetus to trade
and commerce

Growth of
Middle Class

WORLD HISTORY (1763—1949)

CHAPTER I

THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE (1773-1783)

Introduction

The Seven Years' War is the most important event in the history of Europe and the world during the first few years of the second half of the 18th century. The end of the war saw many important developments. France was decisively defeated and her power, wealth and prestige declined very much. She was defeated in India and America in her colonial struggle. The loss of Canada in America was of great importance because several years afterwards, it caused the great American Revolution. After the end of Seven Years' War, England became the greatest colonial power. She defeated France in India and America. The dream of a French Empire in India was finally shattered and the English East India Company consolidated its position by winning the battle of Plassey in 1757. While the English gained in strength and territory, the French lost in prestige and power. The repeated defeats decried the despotism of the French monarchs, exhausted her (France's) treasury and consequently led to the French

Decline of France

The gain of the
English

Revolution. So on this background, the final stage was set for the two outstanding events of modern times—the American Revolution which caused the birth of the modern United States of America and the French Revolution which profoundly changed man's ideas about society and state.

The spirit of Renaissance and Reformation profoundly stirred the thought-world of the European people. Europe began to emerge out of the so-called 'Dark Age'. During this period, a spirit of adventure and discovery animated the people of Europe.

The spirit of discovery and desire to go to India

Due to various reasons, they wanted to open up a new route to go to India. A Genoese

sailor Christopher Columbus thought that India lay on the other side of the Atlantic. In his attempt to go to India, Columbus discovered America in 1492.

The discoveries of Columbus and Vasco-da-Gama

Europe's hope to go to India by a new route was, however, crowned with success when Barthelomew Diaz discovered the Cape of

Good Hope and Vasco-da-Gama reached the port of Calicut in Southern India in 1498.

Several reasons caused an exodus of the people of Europe to American continent i. e. to the New World. Some nations of Europe used the New World as a fertile ground for their imperialistic activities. Adventurous people ran to America to try their luck. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Europe was disturbed by

Causes of the exodus from Europe to America

religious feuds—between the Protestants and the Catholics. Inhuman atrocities were

perpetrated by either sects and peace-loving men, tired of these quarrels, went to America. Europe had become

denser in population and people migrated to America for this reason as well. Moreover, America promised a prosperous future. The large continent had a very small population. Her large plains and long coasts beckoned the adventurous people to come to her shores.

America became, in these ways, populous in a very short time. Nearly the whole of South America came to be dominated by two small European powers, Spain and Portugal. In North America, Canada was dominated by the French. On the coast of the Atlantic, England had established thirteen colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries. These thirteen colonies had a population of nearly thirteen lakhs. The colonies were under the control of England in every respects; yet, considering the position enjoyed by other colonies of England, the thirteen colonies in America enjoyed certain amount of local autonomy. There was an assembly in each of the colonies and a governor, appointed by the Motherland, carried out the daily administration with the help of these assemblies. In the Seven Years' War, England defeated the French and captured Canada.

There was serious discontent and unrest in the colonies immediately after the Treaty of Paris, 1763 which concluded the Seven Years' War. This unrest took the shape of an open rebellion in 1775 and as a result, the thirteen colonies became independent and formed a new state—the modern United States of America.

There were many reasons, behind this revolution. The causes were due to discontent piled up for a long time. The causes were both indirect and direct.

Indirect Causes

Many Englishmen had left England during the 17th century due to the religious persecution and despotism of the Stuart kings and made America their permanent home. These Englishmen and their descendants cherished great dislike and resentment towards England and her domination. This caused flare up for very small reasons.

American colonies of England lay at a very great distance and crossing the Atlantic was not an easy task in those days. Due to this geographical difficulties, it was not possible for the English cabinet to control the day to day administration of the colonies.

The American colonies had governors appointed by the English Crown and they carried on the administration in consultation with the Colonial Assembly. This caused two-fold reactions—firstly, it slackened the hold of England on the colonies and secondly, it generated in the mind of the colonial people an aspiration to be independent of the mother country i. e. England.

Though the American colonists enjoyed some political advantages, they were completely under the tight control of England in the economic sphere. The commerce of the colonies were regulated with a view to promote the

economic interest of England and the economic interest of the colonies were not considered at all.

The economy and commerce of the colonies controlled in the interest of England

The colonies were considered market for produced materials of England and the source of raw materials at a cheap rate for the English factories. Production of steel, woollen materials and many other things in the colonies were prohibited. The Navigation Act, 1660 prohibited import of cotton, sugar, tobacco, hide, ship-building materials, etc. from any country other than England. This law also made it a rule that all commodities were to be exported from the colonies through England. This economic policy which did not look to their interest at all produced bitter resentment in the trading and commercial sections in the colonies.

The Seven Years' War ended the French domination in America. British rule in Canada was established. The English colonies had been always apprehensive of the French in Canada. In spite of many causes of discontent, the colonies did not take recourse to any extreme action due to French fear. "But with the triumph of Wolfe on the Height of Abraham, began the history of the United States." The conquest of Canada freed the American colonies from the danger of absorption by the French. Before this, the colonies could not think of cutting up all connection with England for their own safety. But the very success of the English over the French in Canada supplied mental power to the colonies to stand by themselves and to become independent of the mother country. To this discontent was added further factors which became the direct cause of the revolution.

Conquest of Canada in the Seven Years' War and its effects

Direct Causes

The Prime Minister of England was George Grenville when the Seven Years' War came to an end. Several things occurred during his Prime Ministership which created trouble. In the Seven Year's War, England had to spend a vast sum and consequently her National Debt had been doubled.

Grenville's
measures

Grenville suggested some measures to ease this great pressure on British economy. Grenville found that the revenue from the American customs was very small and he tried to put a stop to the vast amount of smuggling by which large amount of tax was evaded. This measure was very much resented by the colonists. Secondly, Grenville decided that it was necessary for the defence of the American colonies, not only against the French but against the Indian tribes, to keep a standing army in America. He also suggested that the colonies should pay only one-third of the expense of this army. In 1765, the British Parliament

Stamp Act, 1765

passed the 'Stamp Act' by which it was provided that all legal documents should bear stamps. The colonies did not want to accept the Act. They questioned the right of the British Parliament to impose taxes over them. They objected to being

Opposition of
the colonies

taxed by a Parliament in which they were unrepresented and which belonged to a country three thousand miles away.

'No taxation without representation', became their slogan.

'No taxation without representation' had been the watchword of English liberties and to safeguard it the Englishmen had shed their blood. Over this point,

English opinion was sharply divided. George Grenville, of course, said that England had right to tax the colonies. But the great orator Edmund Burke thought that the Act was inexpedient. Elder Pitt thought that the British Parliament had no right to impose an internal tax on the colonies and he proclaimed that Americans would be slaves if they had not resisted.

Division of
opinion at Home

Opinion of Burke
and Pitt

The American colonies were highly irritated over this measures. When the Stamp Act was passed, great disturbance broke out in the colonies. No one used the stamps and what was most important—delegates from nine out of the thirteen colonies met together to protest, thus showing an unprecedented unity of purpose. The colonies strongly protested the action of the English Parliament for another reason. If the colonies acquiesced in this tax, other taxes were most likely to follow. This argument was a very strong one.

Disturbances and
movement in the
colonies

George Grenville retired from office and he was succeeded by Rockingham as Prime Minister. He conciliated the colonies by repealing the Stamp Act. But the root of the discontent was kept alive by a proposal passed by the English Parliament which asserted that Great Britain had a right to tax the colonies. In 1767, Charles Townshend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer imposed duties on tea, glass and paper imported into American colonies. This aroused strong opposition and consequently in 1770, Lord

Rockingham and
the repeal of the
Stamp Act

Duties on tea not
abolished.