

I: LORD HASTINGS (1813-1823)
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- Gurkha war 1814-16
- Third Anglo Maratha War 1817-19
- Pindari War
- Battle of Khadki
- Abolition of Censorship by Lord Hastings
- Retirement of Lord Hastings and succession

Gurkha war 1814-16

Gurkhas were ruling in Nepal. From 1767 onwards, they extended their power over the hills and valleys of Nepal. They were ruling on Feudal basis and soon became powerful. They marched into the Kumaun and Gangetic Plains and raided in the British Territories.

The British had recently acquired the lands of Nawab of Oudh and Gorakhpur, Sikkim were on the front. The dispute was because of no fixed boundary. The war ended in a defeat of Gurkhas. The British army marched from Patna to Kathmandu and finally dictated the terms of **Treaty of Segauli**, which defined the *English relations with Nepal*.

Gurkhas lost Sikkim, the territories of Kumaon and Garhwal, and most of the lands of the Terai; the British East India Company promised to pay 200,000 rupees annually to compensate for the loss of income from the Terai region. This remained the definition of India-Nepal relations for a long time.

Third Anglo Maratha War 1817-19

The Third Anglo Maratha war consisted of skirmishes such as **Pindari war**, **Battle of Sitalbaldi**, **Battle of Mahidpur** and **Battle of Khadki**.

Pindari war

The Pindaris were many castes and classes who worked like mercenaries under the Maratha Chiefs. When the Maratha chiefs became weak, they started raiding the territories of the British. The companies accused Marathas of giving shelter to Pindaris.

Pindaris, opposed to the Marathas, who were bound by traditions of confederate government, were merely freebooters or plundering bands. They were a mix of Hindus, Muslims, Afghans, Jats and Marathas, better called as a “debris of the Mughal Empire” broken and not incorporated into any of the regimes. The Pindaris were crushed in 1817. But in the same year three great Maratha powers at *Poona, Nagpur, and Indore* rose separately against the British.

Battle of Khadki

Peshwa Baji Rao was chafed with terms & circumstances imposed by the **Treaty of Bassein** in 1802. In June 1817, a new Treaty of Poona was signed which freed the Gaekwar from his control and ceded fresh districts to the British for the pay of the subsidiary force.

The Marathas attacked the British at **Khadki near Poona**, and same plot was enacted at **Nagpur at Sitabaldi**. The Maratha armies of **Indore (Holkar) rose in Mihidpur** in the following month. The result was a general defeat of the Marathas. The outcome of this war was as follows:

- Dominions of the Peshwa Baji Rao were annexed to the Bombay presidency.
- The Peshwa surrendered, and was permitted to reside at Bithur, near Cawnpore (Now Kanpur), on a pension of 8 Lakh Rupees per year. His adopted son Nana Sahib later led the Mutiny of 1857.
- The Peshwa's place was filled as traditional head of the Maratha confederacy and a descendant of Shivaji was brought forth from obscurity, placed upon the throne of Satara.
- An infant was recognized as heir of Holkar, another child was proclaimed Raja of Nagpur under the Guardianship of British.
- The Rajas of Rajputana accepted the position of feudatories of the paramount British Power in India. They remained the Princely states till India got independence.

This was the last big battle won by the British. India was now theirs. The Map which was drawn by Lord Hastings remained same till Lord Dalhousie came in 1848 and imposed the infamous "*Doctrine of Lapse*". The next few years were of general peace but there was a development on the foreign front.

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Abolition of Censorship by Lord Hastings

One of the important events during the tenure of Lord Hastings was abolition of Censorship. This was basically because of his dislike towards "unnecessary" imposition of restrictions on Press. But as a precaution, he issued some guidelines prohibiting company's policies in the newspapers. The result was that many fresh newspapers came up. India's first Vernacular newspapers ***Samachar Darpan*** was started in 1818. However, some scholars note that "*Bengal Gazetti*" was published even prior to this Vernacular magazine by *Ganga Kishore Bhattacharya*. A few years later, Raja Rammohan Roy started national press in India. He published "***Sambad Kaumudi***" in 1821. This was one of the pre-reformist publications that had actively campaigned for Abolition of Sati. However, this liberal policy of Lord Hastings could not continue further. The successors of Lord Hastings took harsh actions against the press people.

II: WILLIAM BENTINCK (1828-1833)

REFORMS

1. Financial Reforms
2. Judicial Reforms.
3. Administrative Reforms.
4. Educational Reforms
5. Social Reforms.
6. Public Works Reforms
7. Charter Act of 1833.

FINANCIAL REFORMS

- Appointed Two Committee to inquire the expenditure on civil and military affairs of the Company.
- Accepted the recommendations and abolished many sinecure jobs, cut down the allowances and reduced the salaries of the civil servants but no change in the military affairs.
- Abolished Provincial Courts of Appeal and Circuit. According to Bentinck, “these courts served as resting places for those members of the service who were deemed unfit for higher responsibilities”
- An attempt was made to increase the revenue of the Company by regulating the opium trade.
- Assumption of Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa by the Company, grants of revenue-free lands had been made to individuals.
- Regulations 1828 confirmed the grants.

JUDICIAL REFORMS

- System was suffered due to delay, expense and uncertainty.
- To carry the Judicial reforms- Bentinck was assisted by Charles Metcalfe, Butterworth Bayley and Holt Mackenzie.
- 1829- abolished Provincial Courts of Appeal and Circuit.
- 1829 Regulation provided that the magistrates were to have the power of awarding punishment of two years imprisonment.
- Regulations of 1831 was provided to appoint Indians in the Zila Courts and City Courts and try cases upto Rs.300, judges known as Munsifs.
- Decided to setup a separate Sadar Diwan Adalat and Sadar Nizamat Adalat at Allahabad.
- Regulation of 1832 introduced the jury system in Bengal.
- He abolished the use of Persian as Court language and ordered the use of vernacular language.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

- Indians were appointed in clerical posts.
- Introduced three grades of Indian judges and the highest of them called Sadar Amins were given a salary of Rs. 750.
- Legal officers added into the Governor General’s Council after the Charter Act of 1833.
- Appointed Board of Revenue at Allahabad for the North-Western Province.

- Educational Reforms: Macauley became law member, Macauley minute was submitted, English was made as Medium of Instruction from 1835.
- 1835, Medical College was opened at Calcutta.
- Given importance to the western and vernacular system of education.

SOCIAL REFORMS

- Abolition of Sati in 1829 by Saratha Act
- Supported by Rajaram Mohan Roy
- Abolition of Thugees by captain Sleeman.

III: RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY (1772 – 1833)

EARLY LIFE

- Born in Radhanagar, Hooghly District, Bengal Presidency in May 1772 into a Bengali Hindu family.
- He is known as the 'Father of Modern India' or 'Father of the Bengal Renaissance'.
- He was a religious and social reformer.
- Widely known for his role in the abolition of the practice of Sati.
- He was a scholar and knew Sanskrit, Persian, Hindi, Bengali, English and Arabic.
- He fought against the perceived ills of Hindu society at that time.
- Propagated Western education among Indians.
- Formed the Brahma Samaj in 1828.
- Worked for the East India Company as a clerk.
- He died in September 1833 in Bristol, England.

CONTRIBUTION

- He was opposed to Sati, polygamy, child marriage, idolatry, the caste system, and propagated widow remarriage.
- He stressed on rationalism and modern scientific approach.
- He believed in social equality of all human beings.
- He started many schools to educate Indians in Western scientific education in English.
- He was against the perceived polytheism of Hinduism. He advocated monotheism as given in the scriptures.
- He studied Christianity and Islam as well.
- He translated the Vedas and five of the Upanishads into Bengali.
- He started the Sambad Kaumudi, a Bengali weekly newspaper which regularly denounced Sati as barbaric and against the tenets of Hinduism.
- In 1828, he founded the Brahma Sabha which was later renamed Brahma Samaj. He had also founded the Atmiya Sabha.
- Brahma Samaj's chief aim was the worship of the eternal god. It was against priesthood, rituals and sacrifices. It focused on prayers, meditation and reading of the scriptures.
- It was the first intellectual reform movement in modern India where social evils then practised were condemned and efforts made to remove them from society.
- It led to the emergence of rationalism and enlightenment in India which indirectly contributed to the nationalist movement.

- The Brahma Samaj believed in the unity of all religions.
- He worked for the improvement in the position of women. He advocated widow remarriage and education of women.
- His efforts led to the abolition of Sati in 1829 by Lord William Bentinck, the then Governor-General of India.
- He was a true humanist and democrat.
- He also spoke against the unjust policies of the British government especially the restrictions on press freedom.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy and his Brahma Samaj played a vital role in awakening Indian society to the pressing issues plaguing society at that time and also was the forerunner of all social, religious and political movements that happened in the country since.
- He visited England as an ambassador of the Mughal king Akbar Shah II (father of Bahadur Shah) where he died of a disease. He was awarded the title ‘Raja’ by Akbar II.

IV: RANJIT SINGH.

- **Lion of the Punjab**, (born November 13, 1780, Budrukhan, or Gujranwala [now in Pakistan]—died June 27, 1839, Lahore [now in Pakistan]), founder and maharaja (1801–39) of the Sikh kingdom of the Punjab.
- Ranjit Singh was the first Indian in a millennium to turn the tide of invasion back into the homelands of the traditional conquerors of India, the Pashtuns (Afghans), and he thus became known as the Lion of the Punjab. At their height, his domains extended from the Khyber Pass in the northwest to the Sutlej River in the east and from the Kashmir region at the northern limit of the Indian subcontinent southward to the Thar (Great Indian) Desert. Although he was uneducated, he was a shrewd judge of people and events, free from religious bigotry, and was mild in the treatment of his adversaries.

Consolidation of territory and later career

- Ranjit Singh then turned his ambitions in other directions. In December 1809 he went to the aid of Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra in the Lesser Himalayas (in what is now western Himachal Pradesh state) and, after defeating an advancing Ghurka force, acquired Kangra for himself. In 1813 he joined a Bārakzay Afghan expedition into Kashmir. Although the Bārakzays betrayed him by keeping Kashmir for themselves, he more than settled scores with them by rescuing Shah Shojā‘—brother of Zamān Shah, who had been deposed as Afghan king in 1803 and had fled from the Bārakzays—and by occupying the fort at Attock on the Indus River, southeast of Peshawar, the Pashtun citadel. Shah Shojā‘ was taken to Lahore and pressured into parting with the famous Koh-i-noor diamond. In the summer of 1818 Rangit Singh’s troops captured the city of Multan, and six months later they entered Peshawar. In July 1819 he finally expelled the Pashtuns from the Vale of Kashmir, and by 1820 he had consolidated his rule over the whole Punjab between the Sutlej and Indus rivers.
- All Ranjit Singh’s conquests were achieved by Punjabi armies composed of Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus. His commanders were also drawn from different religious

communities, as were his cabinet ministers. In 1820 Ranjit Singh began to modernize his army, using European officers—many of whom had served in the army of Napoleon I—to train the infantry and the artillery. The modernized Punjabi army fought well in campaigns in the North-West Frontier (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan, on the Afghanistan border), including quelling an uprising by tribesmen there in 1831 and repulsing an Afghan counterattack on Peshawar in 1837.

- In October 1831 Ranjit Singh met with British officials regarding the disposition of Sindh province (now in southeastern Pakistan). The British, who had already begun to navigate the Indus River and were eager to keep Sindh for themselves, prevailed on Ranjit Singh to accept their plan. Ranjit Singh, however, was chagrined by the British design to put a cordon around him. He opened negotiations with the Afghans and sanctioned an expedition led by the Dogra commander Zorawar Singh that extended Ranjit Singh's northern territories into Ladakh (a region of eastern Kashmir now in Jammu and Kashmir state, India) in 1834.
- In 1838 he agreed to a treaty with the British viceroy Lord Auckland to restore Shah Shojā' to the Afghan throne at Kabul. In pursuance of that agreement, the British Army of the Indus entered Afghanistan from the south, while Ranjit Singh's troops went through the Khyber Pass and took part in the victory parade in Kabul. Shortly afterward, Ranjit Singh was taken ill, and he died at Lahore in June 1839—almost exactly 40 years after he entered the city as a conqueror. In little more than six years after his death, the Sikh state he had created collapsed because of the internecine strife of rival chiefs.

