

Q2 a. When and why did British have a war with Aurangzeb?

[3]

The EIC had the audacity to go to war with Aurangzeb in 1686.

He ^{def}eated the company's forces and pardoned them ^{only} after they had apologized for the "ill crimes they have done". They were forced to pay a heavy tax.

c. What was the Doctrine of Lapse?

[4]

Doctrine of lapse was an annexation policy introduced by Lord Dalhousie. It started in 1857 after the war. It said that if a ruler of state died without the natural heir-ness the state will fall in British control. There were some states who faced this problem were: Satara, Nagpur, Jhansi and Udaipur.

Q) Who was Nana Sahab? (4)

Victim of DOL. Bajirao II - last Peshwa on the pension of company after his death company refused to pay to his adopted son (Nana Sahab).

Nana Sahab was sent to Kanpur away from Poona. He travelled to other countries to create awareness about British policies.

Q) Who was Rani ^{Laxmi} Lakshmi Bai? (4)

Victim of DOL. 1853 when ruler of Jhansi died, the widow Rani and adopted son Anand Rao weren't recognized as successors. Rani became enemy of British. She dressed as a man and fought in the war and was killed.

b. What happened at battle of Plassey in 1757?

[5]

In 1756 French encouraged the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah to attack the EIC base at Calcutta. He captured the city, but was unable to keep control of it. In 1757 Clive arrived with a force of EIC soldiers and defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah's troops in the Battle of Plassey. The Nawab's body was found in a river after the Battle.

d. Explain any three reasons of decline of the Mughal Empire

The reasons of decline of Mughal Empire were :-

Aurangzeb's policy & Aurangzeb was largely responsible for the downfall of the Mughal Empire. His predecessors did a lot to win over the loyalty of his subjects. He imposed jaziya and forbade the celebrations of Hindu Festivals. Hence, he lost friendship and loyalty with the Rajputs. His execution of the Sikh gurus and his enmity with the Marathas forced them to raise forces against him. Perhaps most costly for Aurangzeb was the ^{campaign} ~~on~~ fight against Marhatta tribe in Deccan. The Maratha leader, Shivaji was originally defeated in 1665 and brought as a prisoner ^{one} to Agra. Aurangzeb laid too much of stress on simplicity and was against singing, dancing & drinking which were common habits of the Muslim nobles. After the death of Aurangzeb the mighty empire disintegrated into smaller states.

Weak successors of Aurangzeb :- The successors ~~of~~ were weak and became victims of the intrigues and conspiracies of the faction ridden nobles. They were inefficient generals and incapable of suppressing revolts. There was the need of a strong ruler and a capable army.

Empty Treasure :- Shah Jahan's zeal for construction had depleted the treasure. Aurangzeb's long wars in the south had further drained the wealth.

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a. He was a brave and courageous soldier. Yet, his characteristics were controversial because he was also known to have reckless behaviour. He was rebellious as he got expelled from many schools. His strategies & tactics were remarkable that earned him great success in many battles.

b. Explain why EIC was interested in the subcontinent in the years before 1750. [7]

Firstly, India was popular for its spices & raw materials. These were very common & easily found in India. In addition, India was largely populated, which provided a profitable marketplace.

Secondly, British had keen interest in India's Mughal empire. The empire was loaded with remarkable expensive treasures. They had heard stories & tales and they wanted control of it.

Lastly, India held great strategic importance. It had many ports for efficient trading. British would largely benefit from India's money & all countries in relation with British. British would develop rapidly in relations with India & they would be able to colonize entirely as that was their aim.

Q 5 a) Who was Titu Mir?

Ans 5 a) Titu Mir (real name Syed Mir Nisar) was a great Bengali freedom fighter who led the people against the oppression of the zamindars and the British colonial system.

Q 5 b) ~~How~~ ^{How} did Titu Mir try to protect Bengal?

Ans 5 b) He was determined to free Bengal from un-Islamic practices and British rule. He proclaimed ~~to~~ himself king and raised an army of 25,000 followers. He built a bamboo fort at Narkelbaria in October 1831 and defeated British forces sent to destroy it. As a result the British sent an army including cavalry and canon. Titu Mir's forces could not withstand the power of the British modern weapons. Titu Mir along with many of his followers died after five days of fierce fighting.