

**CBSE Class 8 Social Science History Notes Chapter 3:** In Chapter 3 of Class 8 Social Science History, "Ruling the Countryside," we learn how the British East India Company controlled agriculture in India to secure revenue and profit. After receiving Diwani rights in 1765, the Company became responsible for revenue collection in Bengal.

To maximize income, they introduced the Permanent Settlement in 1793, under which zamindars were made responsible for collecting revenue from peasants. This system often led to exploitation, as peasants were overburdened to meet revenue demands. The chapter sheds light on the transformation of rural India under British colonial policies, which led to widespread distress among farmers.

## **CBSE Class 8 Social Science History Notes Chapter 3 Overview**

The chapter "Ruling the Countryside" in Class 8 Social Science History focuses on how the British East India Company gained control over agricultural production in India, particularly after the Battle of Plassey in 1757. With the Diwani rights granted in 1765, the Company became the chief financial administrator of Bengal, collecting revenue directly from peasants.

To maximize their revenue, the British introduced new systems of land revenue like the *Permanent Settlement* in 1793, which fixed the revenue that zamindars (landowners) had to pay. This often led to exploitation, as zamindars pressured peasants to meet revenue demands, resulting in widespread poverty and distress among farmers.

Additionally, CBSE Class 8 Social Science History Notes Chapter 3 highlights the Company's interest in commercial crops like indigo, leading to the exploitation of Indian farmers. The Indigo Rebellion of 1859-60 was a significant response to this coercion, where indigo cultivators resisted oppressive farming contracts.

## **CBSE Class 8 Social Science History Notes Chapter 3 Ruling the Countryside**

Here we have provided CBSE Class 8 Social Science History Notes Chapter 3 -



## **The Company Become the Diwan**

On August 12, 1765, the East India Company assumed the role of Diwan of Bengal. Under the name Diwan, the Company rose to prominence as the region's principal financial manager. The Company had to manage the property and set up its sources of income. It had to be done in a way that would bring in enough money to cover the company's rising costs.

## **Revenue for the Company**

The company's goal was to acquire silk and fine cotton fabric at the lowest possible cost in order to boost income. The value of the commodities the Company purchased in Bengal increased in just five years. Prior to 1865, the Company imported gold and silver from Britain to buy products in India.

It was now funded by the money that Bengal earned in revenue. There was a downturn in artisanal production, and agricultural cultivation was beginning to fail. Then, 10 million people in Bengal perished in a horrific famine in 1770.

## **The need to improve agriculture**

The Company first offered the Permanent Settlement in 1793. The rajas and taluqdars were acknowledged as zamindars under the provisions of the settlement, and they were required to collect rent from the peasants and provide money to the company. The payment sum was set in stone. In addition to guaranteeing a steady stream of income into the Company's coffers, this settlement would motivate the zamindars to make improvements to their land.

### **The problem**

Issues were raised by the Permanent Settlement. Officials from the enterprise soon found that because the fixed revenue was so great, the zamindars were not making improvements to their land. The circumstances evolved by the first ten years of the 1800s. The market saw price increases, and cultivation gradually increased. The zamindars showed no interest in developing the area even at that point.

The cultivator thought the system was quite onerous in the villages. They borrowed money from the moneylender because the rent they were paying the zamindar was excessive, and when they didn't make the rent payments, they were forced to leave the property.

### **A new system was devised**

Officials from the Company made the decision to alter the income structure. The new method was designed by Holt Mackenzie and went into action in 1822. Under his supervision, collectors visited each community, measuring the fields, looking over the land, and documenting the rights and customs of the various communities.

The total revenue that each village (mahal) was required to pay was determined by adding the expected revenue of each plot within a village. This requirement was to be periodically updated rather than set in stone. Rather than the zamindar, the village headman was tasked with gathering the revenue and paying it to the Company. The Mahalwari settlement was the name given to this system.

### **The Munro system**

A new system called the ryotwar (or ryotwari) was developed in the southern British possessions. Over time, this system was expanded throughout all of South India. Direct negotiations with the ryots, the cultivators who had tilled the land for generations, were required for the settlement. Before the revenue estimate was determined, each of their fields had to be thoroughly and independently surveyed.

### **All was not well**

Revenue administrators imposed excessive revenue demand in order to boost land revenues. In many areas, settlements fell abandoned, ryots left the land, and peasants were unable to make ends meet.

### **Crops for Europe**

By the late 1700s, the Company attempted to grow its indigo and opium plantations. Producers of jute in Bengal, tea in Assam, sugarcane in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh), wheat in Punjab, cotton in Maharashtra and Punjab, and rice in Madras were all coerced by the Company to grow other crops.

### **Does colour have a history?**

The plant known as indigo provided the deep blue colour. India was the source of the blue dye used in the Morris prints produced in nineteenth-century Britain. At the time, India was the world's largest supplier of indigo.

### **Why the demand for Indian indigo?**

Tropical climates are ideal for indigo plant growth, and Italian, French, and British textile producers used Indian indigo to colour textiles. Indian indigo was extremely expensive when it did arrive in small quantities on the European market. Consequently, in order to produce violet and blue dyes, European fabric manufacturers had to rely on a different plant known as woad.

The hue generated by indigo was rich and blue, while the colour created by woad was dreary and pale. The market for Indian indigo continued to expand at the end of the eighteenth century. The existing indigo supply from the West Indies and America failed for a number of reasons, despite the growing demand for the plant. The world's indigo production decreased by half between 1783 and 1789.

### **Britain turns to India**

Due to the strong demand for indigo in Europe, the Company in India searched for methods to increase the area dedicated to indigo growing. As the indigo trade expanded throughout time, company executives and commercial agents started to invest in the indigo industry. The Company executives travelled to India to become indigo planters after being drawn by the promise of large earnings.

### **How was indigo cultivated?**

The Nij and Ryoti were the two primary indigo cultivation systems. In the Nij cultivation system, the planter cultivated indigo on land under his direct control. He either directly employed hired labourers to produce indigo, or he rented the land from other zamindars.

### **The problem with Nij cultivation**

It was hard for the planters to extend the area under Nij cultivation. Only rich soils could support the cultivation of indigo. Planters tried to expel the peasants from the region and lease land surrounding the indigo business. huge-scale nij agriculture also required a huge number of bullocks and ploughs. Planters were therefore unwilling to increase the area under Nij cultivation until the late eighteenth century.

## Indigo on the land of Ryots

Under the ryoti system, the planters were compelled to sign a satta, or contract. In exchange for producing indigo, those who signed the contract received low-interest monetary advances from the planters. A new loan was approved and the cycle began anew when the harvested crop was delivered to the planter. The borrowing mechanism was quickly discovered by the peasants. The ground was unsuitable for rice planting following an indigo harvest.

## The “Blue Rebellion” and After

Bengali ryots declined to plant indigo. The planters' employees were subjected to social boycotts, and when their gomasthas (rent collectors) showed up, they were physically assaulted. The village headmen and zamindars in the area supported the Bengal riots in their uprising against the planters.

The Indigo peasants had faith that the British government would stand behind them when they battled the plantation owners. The British administration was concerned about the likelihood of another public uprising following the Revolt of 1857. Intellectuals from Calcutta flocked to the indigo districts as the uprising gained momentum. The Indigo Commission was established by the government to investigate the indigo production system.

Bengal's indigo industry fell during the uprising. Following his return from South Africa, a Bihar peasant convinced Mahatma Gandhi to travel to Champaran and observe the suffering of the indigo growers. When he came in 1917, the Champaran movement against the indigo planters had just begun.

# Benefits of CBSE Class 8 Social Science History Notes

## Chapter 3

The benefits of studying CBSE Class 8 Social Science History Notes for Chapter 3, Ruling the Countryside, include:

**Clear Understanding of British Rule:** The notes help students grasp how the British East India Company gained control over India's agricultural economy and its effects on Indian society.

**Simplified Concepts:** Complex historical events like the introduction of the Permanent Settlement and the exploitation of farmers are explained in an easy-to-understand manner, aiding better comprehension.

**Preparation for Exams:** Well-structured notes help in quick revision and serve as an excellent resource for answering exam questions.

**Insight into Colonial Impact:** Students learn about the long-term effects of colonial policies on Indian agriculture, the economy, and rural life.

**Encourages Critical Thinking:** By understanding the exploitation of Indian farmers and events like the *Indigo Rebellion*, students can critically evaluate colonial policies and their consequences.

**Helps in Retention:** Concise and well-organized notes enable better retention of important facts and figures.