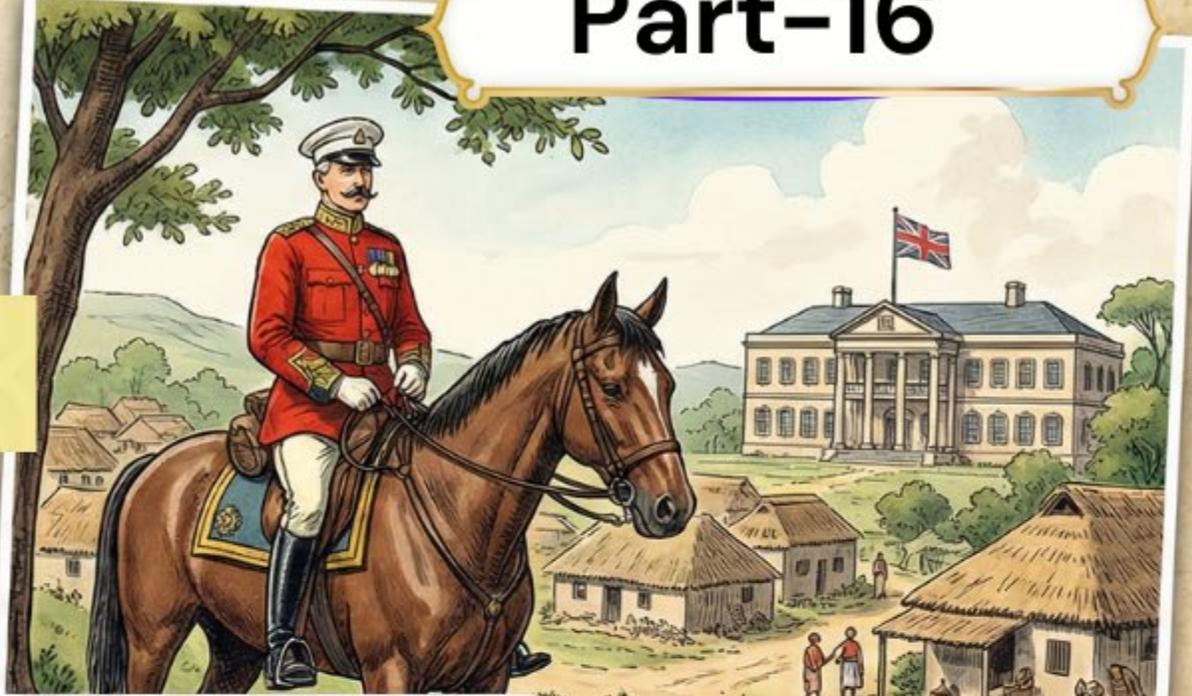


# TOP 60

## HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR THE CBSE EXAM 2025-26"



RURAL LIFE



# Part-16

## CLASS 12 HISTORY

COLONIAL RULE

# COLONIALISM AND THE COUNTRYSIDE



Prepared by: Mr. Bikrant  
PGT-Hist.  
PM SHRI KV DIPHU

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSocietalSense>

chapter wise previous year paper

## "I TEACH HISTORY, NOT MATH"

"I know I promised 60 questions, but I teach History because I was never great at Math—so 60 accidentally became 100.

**Good News:** You don't have to suffer for my enthusiasm. If you honestly prepare **any 60 questions** (spread evenly across the chapters), I guarantee you have enough ammunition to score a Distinction!"



**Q.61 Examine the different aspects of the 'Permanent Settlement' introduced in Bengal by the British. (8 Marks, 2024 Supp - OR)**

**Ans.** The Permanent Settlement, introduced by Lord Cornwallis in Bengal in 1793, had several key aspects:

**Role of Zamindars:** The settlement was made with the zamindars (and rajas), who were recognized as the **owners of the land**.

**Duty of Zamindars:** Their role was to **collect rent from the ryots** and pay a fixed sum of revenue to the Company.

**Revenue Fixed Permanently:** The revenue demand was fixed permanently.

**BRITISH PERMANENT SETTLEMENT (1793):  
ASPECTS & IMPACT**

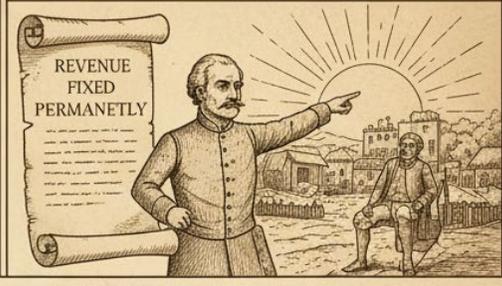
**1. ZAMINDARS: LAND OWNERS**



- Pay fixed revenues
- Pay fixed revenue to Company

Lord Cornwallis - 1793

**2. REVENUE FIXED & 'SUNSET LAW'**



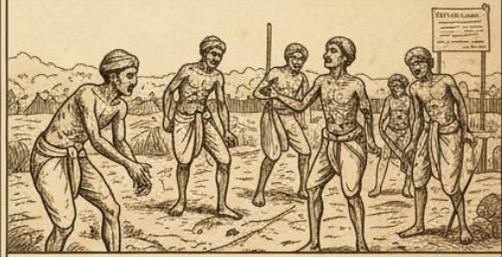
- Initial demand very high
- Estate auctioned if not paid by sunset

**3. COMPANY'S GOAL: STABILITY**



- Stable, fixed income for Company
- Created loyal, wealthy class

**4. NEGATIVE IMPACT ON RYOTS**



- Ryots at the mercy of Zamindar
- Rents & rights undefined, exploitation

*Result: Zamindars Empowered, Ryots Exploited, & A New Colonial System Established*

**High Initial Demand:** The **initial revenue was extremely high**, making it difficult for zamindars to pay.

**The "Sunset Law":** If the revenue was not **paid by sunset on the specified date**, the zamindar's estate was auctioned off.

**Company's Goal:** securing a **stable, fixed income** and creating a **class of loyal, wealthy landowners**.

**Empowering Zamindars:** The zamindar's power over the ryot increased, but his power *against* the state was reduced (his troops were disbanded, his court (*cutcherry*) was supervised by the Collector).

**Negative Impact on Ryots:** The system left the ryots at the mercy of the zamindar.

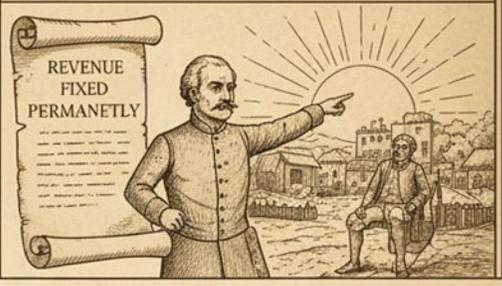
**BRITISH PERMANENT SETTLEMENT (1793):  
ASPECTS & IMPACT**

**1. ZAMINDARS: LAND OWNERS**



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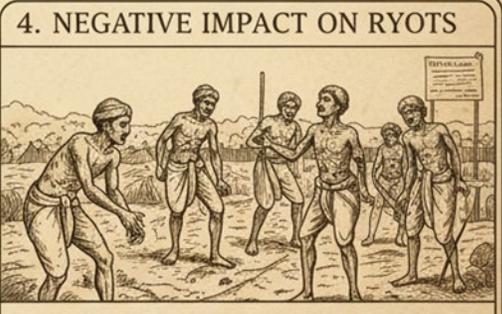
Lord Cornwallis - 1793

**3. COMPANY'S GOAL: STABILITY**



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- Created loyal, wealthy class

**4. NEGATIVE IMPACT ON RYOTS**



- Ryots at the mercy of Zamindar
- Rents & rights undefined, exploitation

*Result: Zamindars Empowered, Ryots Exploited, & A New Colonial System Established*

# Follow up Question-1

**Q. Why did the British introduce the Permanent Settlement in Bengal? Explain. (3 Marks, 2022 Main)**

**Ans.** The British introduced the Permanent Settlement in 1793 for several reasons:

- **Financial Security:** They wanted to create a **stable and predictable revenue stream**.
- **Creating a Loyal Class:** They believed that by making the zamindars the owners of the land, they would create a wealthy, privileged class that would be loyal to the British.
- **Reducing Administrative Burden:** It was hoped that the settlement would free the Company from the complex and expensive task of direct revenue assessment and collection.

**BRITISH PERMANENT SETTLEMENT (1793)**  
**WHY IN BENGAL ?**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. FINANCIAL SECURITY</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Fixed, predictable revenue stream. Ended financial uncertainty.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. CREATING A LOYAL CLASS</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Made Zamindars landowners. Ensured loyalty to British Raj.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN</b></p>   <p style="text-align: center;">Freed Company from complex, expensive tax collection.</p>
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Goals: Stable Revenue, Loyal & Reduced Costs



Simple version

Why was Permanent Settlement introduced? (3 Marks)

- To get a **fixed and stable revenue**.
- To make **Zamindars loyal** to the British.
- To reduce the **administrative work** of collection.

# Follow up Question-2

**Q. Why did the Zamindars default on the payment of dues after the introduction of the Permanent Settlement? Explain. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp)**

**Ans.**

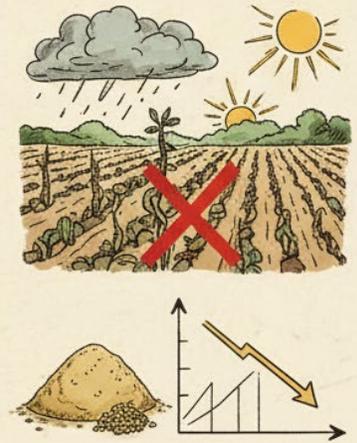
**High Revenue Demand:** The initial revenue demand fixed by the British in 1793 was extremely high.

**Fluctuating Output:** Agricultural prices were low, and harvests were uncertain. If crops failed, the zamindar still had to pay the fixed amount.

**Rigid Payment (Sunset Law):** The revenue had to be paid by a specific date, regardless of the harvest.

**PERMANENT SETTLEMENT:  
WHY ZAMINDARS DEFAULTED**

- 1. HIGH REVENUE DEMAND**  


Initial demand extremely high. Not based in actual productivity.
- 2. FLUCTUATING OUTPUT**  


Low agricultural prices. Uncertain harvests. Fixed payment regardless to crop.
- 3. RIGID PAYMENT (SUNSET LAW)**  


Payment by specific date. Failure to pay = pay = Estate auctioned.

**Result: Debt, Land Loss, & Widespread Default Among Zamindars**

- **Q.62 "Jotedars inevitably weakened Zamindars in Bengal by the end of the 18th century." Give arguments to support the statement. (3 or 8 Marks)**

- **Ans.** The Jotedars, a class of wealthy peasants, weakened the authority of the Zamindars in several ways:
- **Local Control:** Unlike the zamindars who lived in urban areas, the Jotedars lived in the villages. They controlled large tracts of land and had direct influence over the poorer ryots.
- **Control of Trade:** They controlled local trade and moneylending, which made the local ryots dependent on them.



- **Resisting Zamindars:** They actively resisted the zamindars' efforts to collect revenue. Eg. mobilize the ryots to deliberately delay payments.
- **Purchasing Estates:** When the zamindars failed to pay the revenue and their estates were auctioned, it was often the Jotedars who purchased these lands.





Simple version

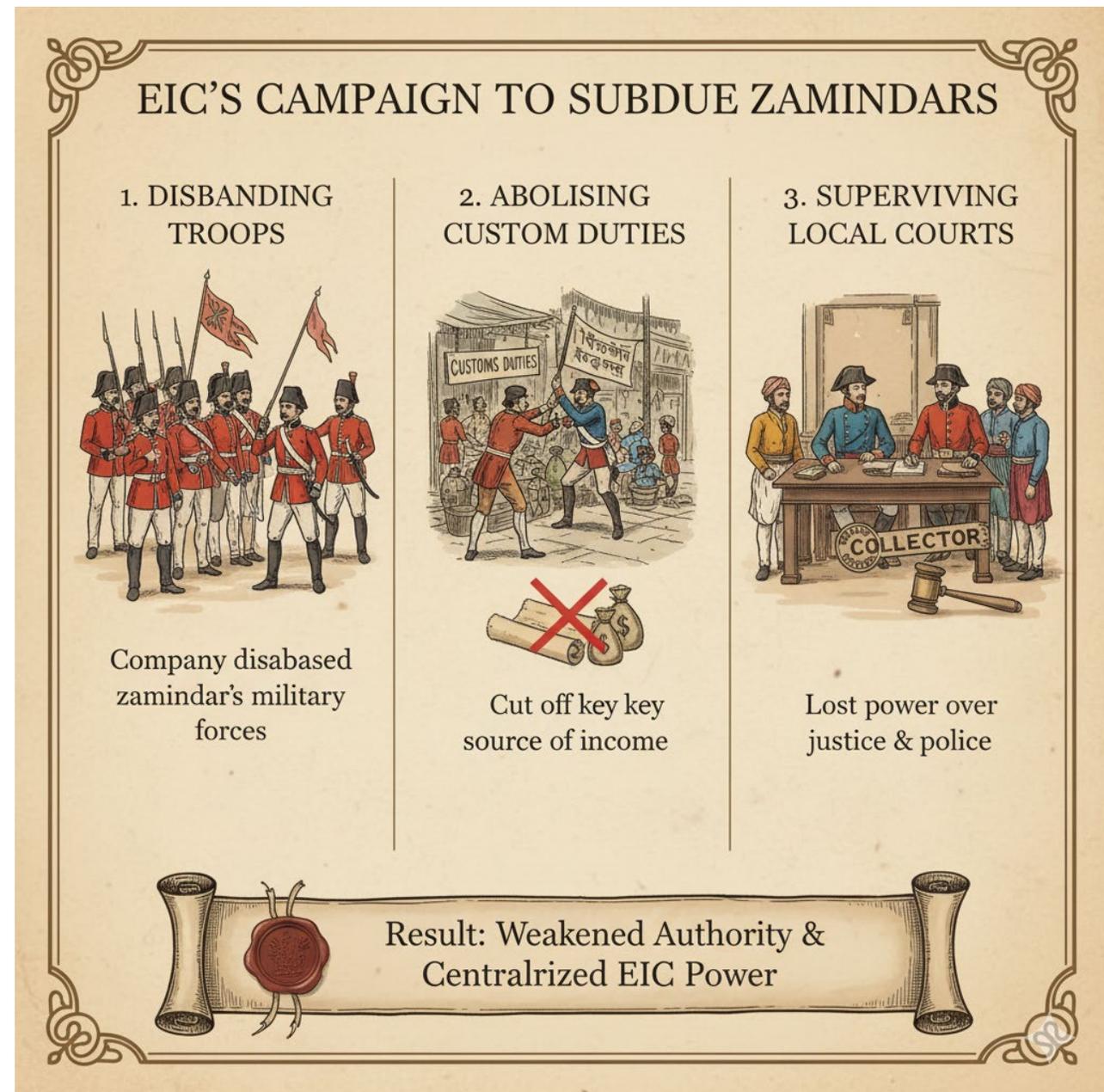
## Jotedars vs Zamindars. (8 Marks)

- **Jotedars:** Rich peasants living in villages.
- Controlled **local trade** and money.
- Had power over **poor cultivators**.
- **Zamindars:** Lived in cities (absentee).
- Jotedars advised ryots **not to pay** zamindars.
- Jotedars **bought estates** of failed Zamindars.
- Jotedars were **more powerful** locally.
- Weakened the **Permanent Settlement**.

**Q.63 Explain the steps taken by the East India Company to subdue the authority of Zamindars in the 18th century. (3 Marks)**

**Ans.**

- The Company **disbanded the troops** of the zamindars, removing their military power.
- They **abolished the zamindar's right to levy custom duties**.
- Their **local courts (*cutcherries*) were brought under the supervision** of a Company-appointed Collector, and they lost their power to organize local justice and police.





Simple version

## Steps to Subdue Zamindars. (3 Marks)

- Disbanded their **troops**.
- Abolished their **custom duties**.
- Placed their courts under **British Collector**.

**Q.64 Explain the causes that led to the conflict between the Paharias of Rajmahal Hills and the Santhals. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)**

**Ans.**

- The **Paharias** practiced shifting cultivation using a hoe, were deeply connected to the forest, and resisted outsiders.
- The **Santhals** were ideal settlers for the British. They practiced settled agriculture and cleared forests to do so.
- The British encouraged the Santhals to settle in the *Damin-i-Koh* (foothills of the Rajmahal).
- This directly displaced the Paharias, pushing them deeper into the hills.

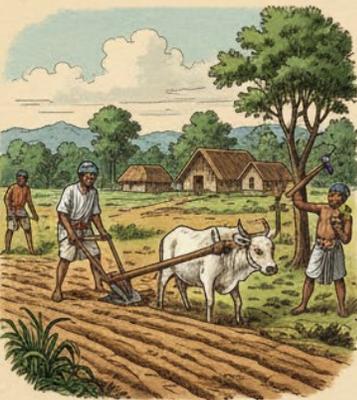
## THE PAHARIA-SANTHAL CONFLICT: A CLASH OF CULTURES & LAND (18<sup>th</sup> -19 Century)

### 1. THE PAHARIAS: PEOPLE OF THE HILLS



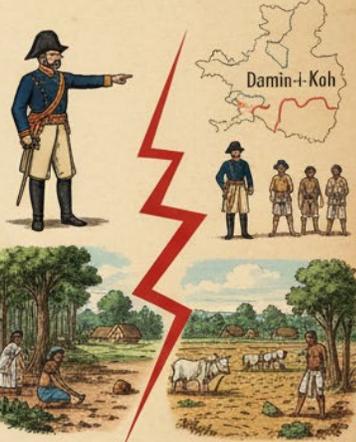
- Shifting Cullivation (Hoe)
- Deep Forest Connection
- Resisted Outsiders

### 2. THE SANTHALS: PLOUGHMEN & SETTLERS



- Settled Agriculture (Plough)
- Cleared Forests for Fields
- Welcomed by British

### 3. BRITISH POLICY & & CONFLICT



- British Encourage Santhal Settlement in Damin-i-Koh Sasntoris, Displaced, Forestoy
- Led to Direct Conflict & Rebelion & Rebelion

**A DEVASATING COLLISION OF LIFESTYLES & COLONIAL LAND POLICIES**



Simple version

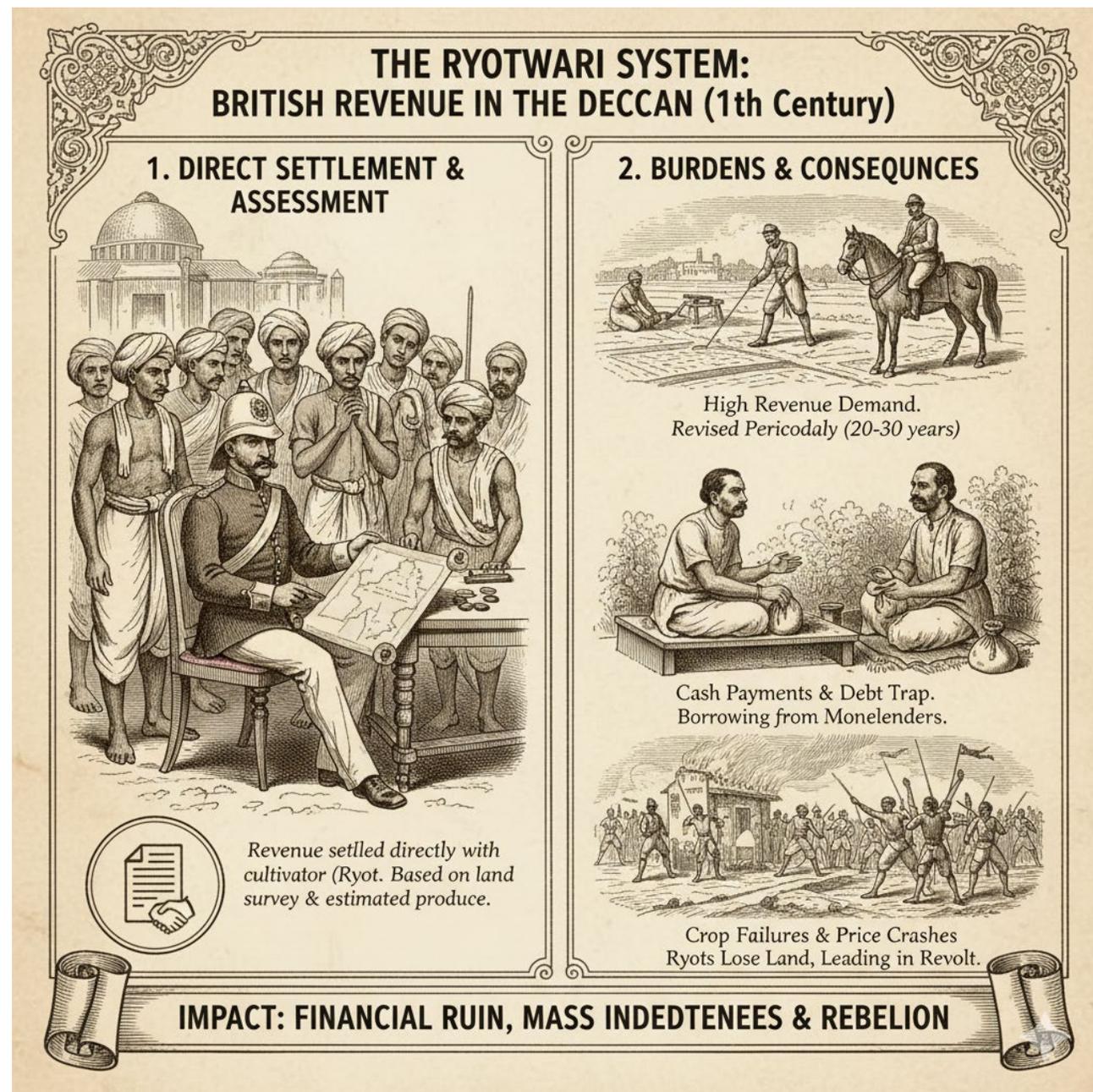
## Paharias vs Santhals. (3 Marks)

- **Paharias:** Shifted cultivation (Hoe), lived in hills.
- **Santhals:** Settled agriculture (Plough), cleared forests.
- British supported Santhals, forcing Paharias **deeper into hills.**

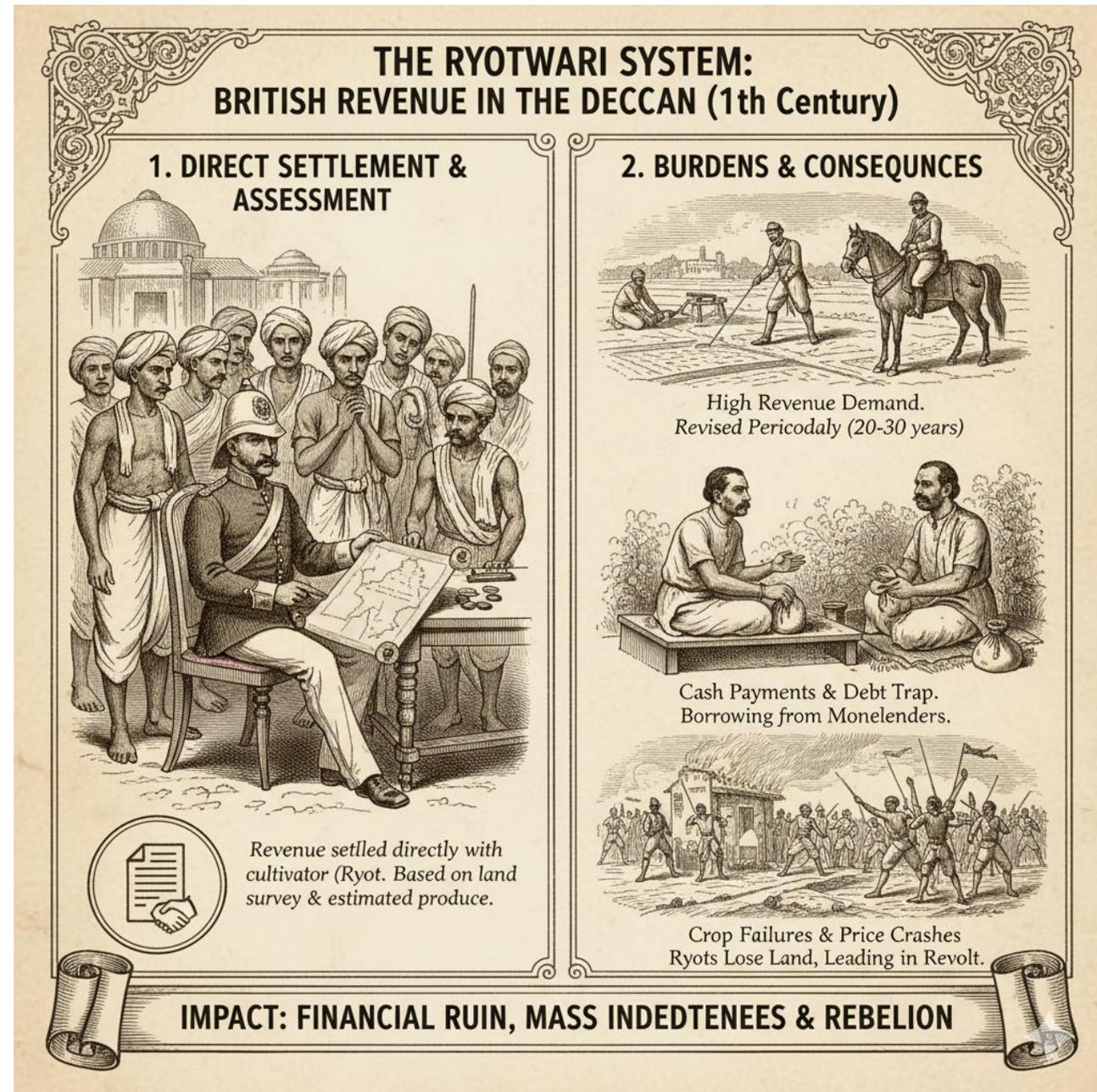
**Q.65 Examine the different aspects of 'Ryotwari system' introduced in the Bombay Deccan by the British. (8 Marks, 2024 Supp)**

**Ans.** The Ryotwari system introduced in the Bombay Deccan had several distinct aspects:

- **Direct Settlement:** Unlike the Permanent Settlement, the revenue was settled directly with the cultivator, or ryot.
- **Land Survey:** A survey was conducted, and the revenue demand was based on the estimated soil quality and potential produce, not the actual harvest.
- **Temporary Settlement:** The revenue was not fixed permanently. It was revised periodically, generally every 20-30 years, often leading to increases.



- **High Revenue Demand:** The revenue demand was fixed at a very **high rate**.
- **Cash Payments:** The revenue had to be paid in cash, forcing ryots to cultivate cash crops (like cotton) or **borrow money**.
- **Consequences:** When prices fell or crops failed, ryots were unable to pay.
- **Rise of Moneylender:** To pay the revenue, ryots had to **take loans** from moneylenders (*sahukars*), who charged **high interest rates**.
- **Debt Trap:** This led to a vicious cycle of debt. Ryots lost their lands to the moneylenders.





Simple version

## Aspects of Ryotwari System (Bombay Deccan). (8 Marks)

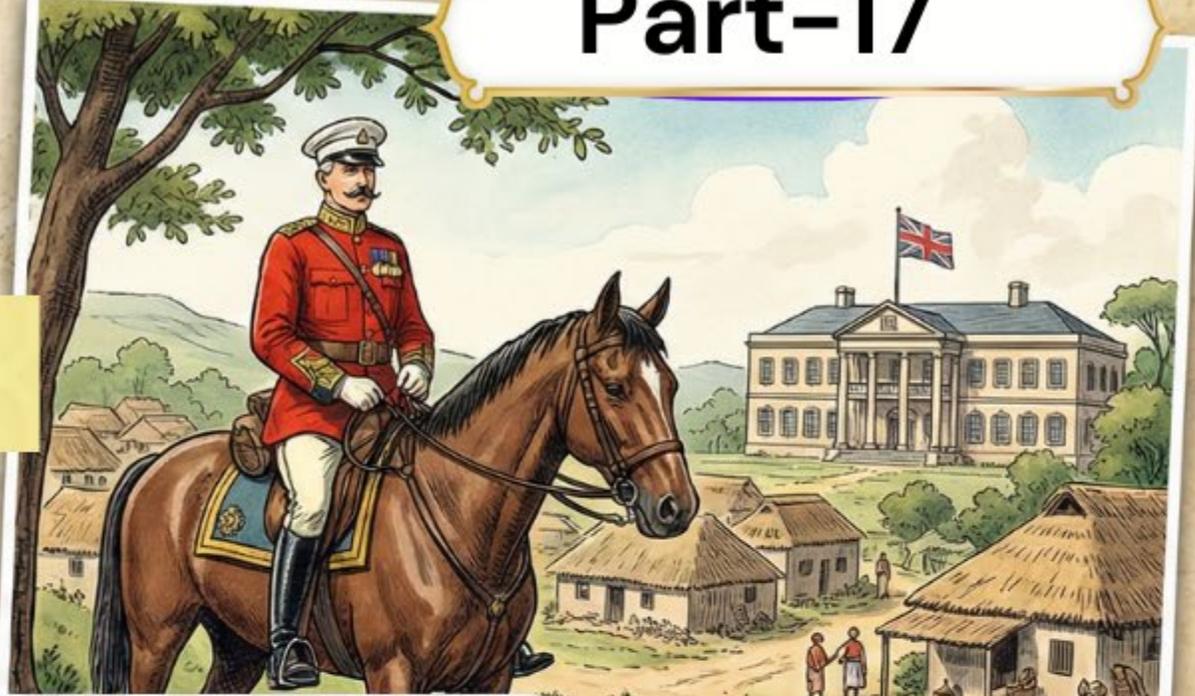
- Revenue settled directly with the **Ryot (Farmer)**.
- Land was **surveyed** before fixing tax.
- Revenue was **temporary** (revised every 30 years).
- Tax rate was **very high**.
- Revenue had to be paid in **Cash**.
- Farmers had to take **loans** to pay tax.
- Moneylenders **exploited** the farmers.
- Led to the **Deccan Riots** of 1875.

# TOP 60

## HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR THE CBSE EXAM 2025-26"



RURAL LIFE



COLONIAL RULE

### CLASS 12 HISTORY

# COLONIALISM AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

chapter wise previous year paper

Prepared by: Mr. Bikrant  
PGT-Hist.  
PM SHRI KV DIPHU

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSocietalSense>



**Q.66 Why did the 'Fifth Report' become the basis of intense Parliamentary debates in Britain in 1813? Explain. (3 Marks, 2022 Supp)**

**Ans.**

- The Fifth Report, submitted in 1813, of the East India Company **detailed the maladministration and corruption (EIC) in India.**
- Private traders and industrialists used the report to criticize the Company's rule, **arguing for an end to their monopoly.**
- The report **highlighted issues like the collapse of the zamindari system,** which led to intense debates in the British Parliament



## Fifth Report. (3 Marks)

- Report on **EIC administration** (1813).
- Criticized Company's **corruption**.
- Used by British Parliament to **limit Company rule**.



Simple version

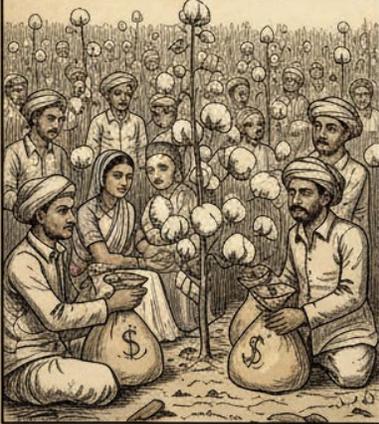
**Q.67 How did the American Civil War of 1861 affect the lives of Ryots of India? Explain. (3 Marks, 2023 Main)**

**Ans.**

- The American Civil War (1861-65) **disrupted the supply of American cotton** to Britain's textile mills, causing a "cotton boom" in India.
- Ryots in the Deccan were given **advances and credit by moneylenders to rapidly expand cotton cultivation**, leading to a period of temporary prosperity.
- When the **war ended** in 1865, demand for **Indian cotton collapsed**, and prices crashed.
- Ryots were **left with huge debts** they could not repay, leading to widespread distress and the Deccan Riots of 1875.

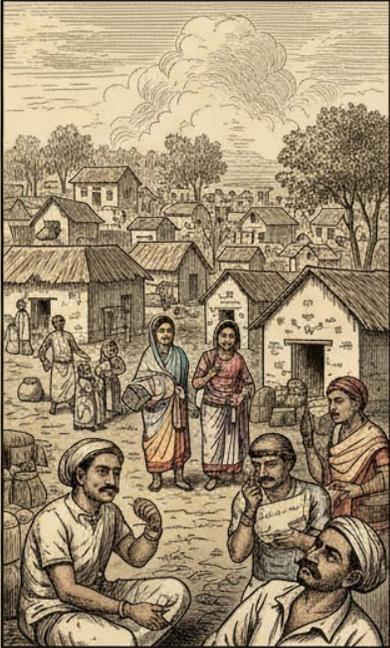
## AMERICAN CIVIL WAR & THE INDIAN RYOT (1861-1865)

### 1. THE COTTON BOOM



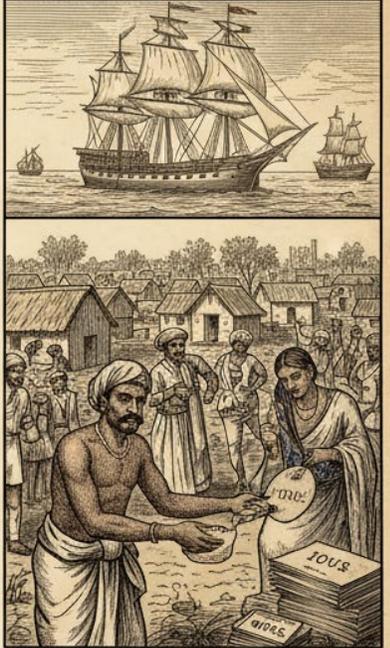
War stops US cotton to Britain. Britain. India fills demand. Ryots get advances & credit.

### 2. TEMPORARY PROSPERITY



Increased cultivation & high prices. Peasants. Peasants experience temporary prosperity.

### 3. DEBT & DISTRESS



War ends (1865). US supply resumes. Indian cotton prices crash. Ryots in debt & distress (Deccan Riots 1875).

A GLOBAL EVENT'S LOCAL IMPACT: PROSPERITY TO POVERTY



Simple version

## American Civil War Impact. (3 Marks)

- Cotton supply from America **stopped**.
- Demand for **Indian cotton** increased ("Cotton Boom").
- Ryots got easy **credit**, but later faced debt.

## Q.68 Why did the Santhals rebel against Zamindars, Moneylenders, and the Colonial State? (3 Marks)

Ans.

- **Loss of Land:** The land (*Damin-i-Koh*) that the Santhals had cleared and cultivated was slipping from their hands.
- **State Taxes:** The colonial state began levying heavy taxes on the land.
- **Debt Trap:** Moneylenders (*dikus*) charged them high rates of interest and took over their land when debts were unpaid.
- The zamindars also began asserting control over the *Damin* area.
- By the 1850s, the Santhals felt they had no choice but to rebel (1855-56) to drive out these "outsiders."



**Q.69 How did Buchanan describe the living condition of Santhals? Mention the caution we should take while reading his account. (8 Marks)**

**Ans. Buchanan's Description:**

- Francis Buchanan surveyed the Rajmahal hills.
- He described the Santhals as hardworking and effective settlers.
- He noted they were clearing the forests with great skill and cultivate a range of commercial crops (mustard, tobacco) and rice.
- He described their houses as small and made of mud, reflecting a simple and "poor" life.
- He saw them as "uncivilized" and "backward," but also as a useful tool for the Company to clear the forests and generate revenue.

**BUCHANAN'S GAZE: THE SANTHALS OF RAJMAHAL**  
(19th Century E.I.C. Account)

**BUCHANAN'S DESCRIPTION**



**HARDWORKING SETTLERS**  
Commercial Crops (Mustard, Tobacco, Rice).



**SIMPLE LIVING**



Small Mud Houses, "Poor" but "Useful" for Revenue.

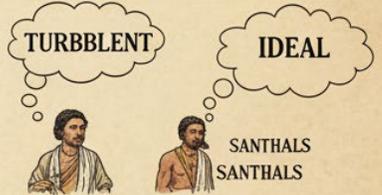
**CAUTION: COLONIAL BIAS**

**EIC AGENT'S AGENDA**



Primary Goal: Find Resources (Timbiron Ore) for Company  
Primary Goal: Parsilabic Inciseo.

**TURBBLENT** **IDEAL**



SANTHALS  
SANTHALS

Shaped by Company's Economic Interests.

**LIMITED UNDERSTANDING**



Viewed Forest Dwellers as "Savage"

**CONCLUSION: A COLONIAL LENS - SEEING SANTHALS THROUGH THE E.I.C'S EYE FOR PROFIT & CONTROL**

## Caution while reading his account:

**Colonial Bias:** Buchanan was an agent of the EIC. His primary goal was to find resources for the Company (iron ore, timber, etc.).

**Colonial Mindset:** His descriptions of the people (Paharias as "turbulent," Santhals as "ideal") were shaped by the Company's economic interests.

**Limited Understanding:** He viewed forest dwellers as "savage" and settled agriculture as the only "civilized" way of life.

**BUCHANAN'S GAZE: THE SANTHALS OF RAJMAHAL**  
(19th Century E.I.C. Account)

**BUCHANAN'S DESCRIPTION**



**HARDWORKING SETTLERS**  
Commercial Crops (Mustard, Tobacco, Rice).



**SIMPLE LIVING**  
Small Mud Houses, "Poor" but "Useful" for Revenue.

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Find Resources  
(Timbiron Ore)  
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Primary Goal: Parsilabic Inciseo.

**TURBBLENT**

**IDEAL**



SANTHALS  
SANTHALS

Shaped by Company's Economic Interests.

**LIMITED UNDERSTANDING**



Viewed Forest Dwellers as "Savage"

**CONCLUSION: A COLONIAL LENS - SEEING SANTHALS THROUGH THE E.I.C'S EYE FOR PROFIT & CONTROL**



Simple version

## Buchanan's Account (Caution). (8 Marks)

- He was an employee of **East India Company**.
- Looked for **resources** (minerals/timber).
- Disliked **forest lifestyle** ("Uncivilized").
- Wanted **settled agriculture** for revenue.
- Biased against **Paharias**.
- Praised **Santhals** for working hard.
- His view was **Colonial**, not neutral.
- Missed the **people's perspective**.

## Q.70 Explain the policy of extermination and pacification adopted by the British against the Paharias. (8 Marks)

**Ans.** The British adopted a two-fold policy to control the Paharias:

### Policy of Extermination (c. 1770s):

- The British led expeditions into the hills to hunt down and kill the Paharias, to clear them from the area.
- This policy was led by officials like Augustus Cleveland.
- It largely failed as the Paharias knew the terrain and could not be easily defeated.

**BRITISH RAJ vs. THE PAHARIAS:  
EXTERMINATION & PACIFICATION**

**1. POLICY OF EXTERMINATION**  
(c. 1770s)

Brutal Military Suppression.  
Hunted & Killed Paharias.  
Led by Augustus Cleveland.  
Largely Failed.

**2. POLICY OF PACIFICATION**  
(c. 1780s)

ANNUAL ALLOWANCES (PENSIONS)  
Paid Chiefs for "Good Behavior"

PAHARIA REGIMENT: Raiders to Soldiers

More Successful in Control.  
Created Divisions & Weakened Chiefs.

**CONCLUSION: A DIVIDED COMMUNITY  
& ERODED AUTHORITY**

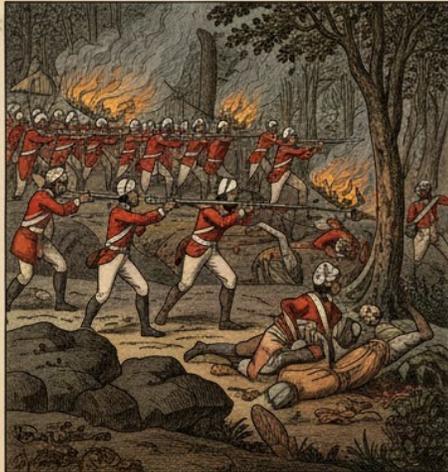
## Policy of Pacification (c. 1780s):

- When extermination failed, Cleveland shifted to a strategy of pacification.
- **Allowances:** They began paying annual allowances (pensions) to the Paharia chiefs, making them responsible for the "good behavior" of their men.
- **Paharia Regiment:** They recruited Paharias into a new military regiment, turning them from raiders into soldiers for the Company.
- **Impact:** This policy was more successful in establishing control, but it created divisions within the Paharia community and eroded the authority of the chiefs who accepted the allowance.

**BRITISH RAJ vs. THE PAHARIAS:  
EXTERMINATION & PACIFICATION**



**X** 1. POLICY OF EXTERMINATION  
(c. 1770s)



Brutal Military Suppression.  
Hunted & Killed Paharias.  
Led by Augustus Cleveland.  
Largely Failed.



2. POLICY OF PACIFICATION **✓**  
(c. 1780s)

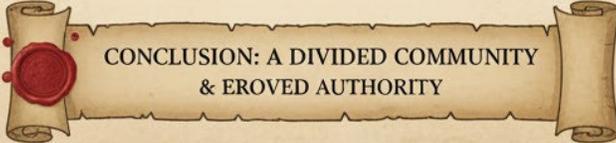


ANNUAL ALLOWANCES (PENSIONS)  
Paid Chiefs for "Good Behavior"



PAHARIA REGIMENT: Raiders to Soldiers

More Successful in Control.  
Created Divisions & Weakened Chiefs.



**CONCLUSION: A DIVIDED COMMUNITY  
& ERODED AUTHORITY**



Simple version

## British Policy for Paharias. (8 Marks)

- **Extermination:** Killed them to clear forests (Failed).
- **Pacification:** Proposed by Augustus Cleveland.
- Paid **annual allowance** to Chiefs.
- Chiefs had to keep **order**.
- Recruited Paharias into **army**.
- Created **divisions** within tribes.
- Pushed them into **Damin-i-Koh**.
- Restricted their **movement**.

## Q.71 What was the Limitations Law? Analyze its impact. (3 Marks)

Ans.

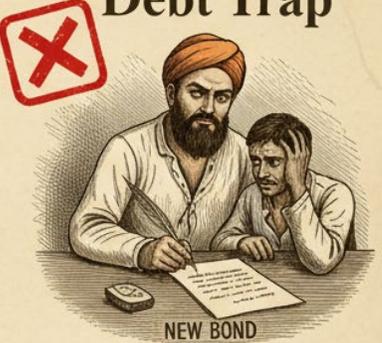
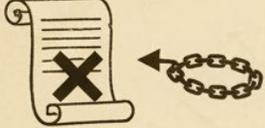
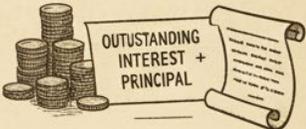
**The Law:** The Limitations Law was passed by the British in 1859. It stated that a **loan bond** signed between a moneylender and a ryot would be **valid for only three years**.

**Intention:** It was meant to stop the accumulation of long-term interest and protect ryots from being exploited.

**Negative Impact:** The law backfired. Moneylenders **began forcing ryots to sign a new bond every three years**. By adding the outstanding interest and principal into the "new" loan.

### The Limitations Law (1859)

Intention vs. Impact

<b>1. INTENTION: Protect Ryots</b>	<b>2. NEGATIVE IMPACT: Debt Trap</b>
	
Passed by British, 1859	NEW BOND
	
Loan bond valid for only 3 years. Meant to stop long-term interest & exploitation.	Moneylenders forced ryots to sign a new bond every year. Added old debt + interest into 'new' loan.

**Result:**  
Law Backfired: Ryots Tapped in Endless Cycle of Debt, Lost Land.



Simple version

## Limitations Law. (3 Marks)

- Loan bonds valid for only **3 years**.
- Meant to protect peasants from **interest**.
- Moneylenders forced **new bonds** to cheat peasants.