



RULING THE COUNTRYSIDE

Chapter 3
Class 8
MODULE 2

CHANGING SITUATIONS

By the first decade of the nineteenth century the situation changed.

The price in the market rose and cultivation slowly expanded.

It was beneficial for the Zamindars but not for the company.

ZAMINDARS also lost interest in improving the land.

PROBLEMS FOR PEASANTS



In the villages, the cultivator found the system extremely oppressive.



The rent he paid to the zamindar was high and his right on the land was insecure.



When he failed to pay the rent he was evicted from the land he had cultivated for generations.

MAHALWARI SYSTEM

MAHALWARI SYSTEM was introduced by Holt Mackenzie in 1882.

It was introduced in the North Western Provinces of the Bengal Presidency.

Under his directions, collectors went from village to village, inspecting the land, measuring the fields, and recording the customs and rights of different groups.

The estimated revenue of each plot within a village was added up to calculate the revenue that each village(MAHAL) had to pay.

This demand was to be revised periodically, not permanently fixed.

The charge of collecting the revenue and paying it to the company was given to the village headman, not Zamindars.

MAHALWARI SYSTEM (CONTD.)

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RYOTWARI SETTLEMENT

RYOTWARI SETTLEMENT was introduced by Thomas Munro and extended all over in South India

It was tried on a small scale by Captain Alexander Read in some of the areas that were taken over by the Company after the wars with Tipu Sultan

Under the ryotwari settlement, the settlement was made directly with the cultivators(ryots) who had filled the land for generations

Their fields had to be carefully and separately surveyed before the revenue assessment was made

ALL WAS NOT WELL

Driven by the desire to increase the income from land, revenue officials fixed too high a revenue demand.

Peasants were unable to pay, ryots filed the countryside, and villages became deserted in many regions.

CROPS FOR EUROPE

The British also realized that the countryside could not only yield revenue, it could also grow the crops that Europe required.

By the late eighteenth century the Company was trying its best to expand the cultivation of opium and indigo.

The British persuaded or forced cultivators in various parts of India to produce other crops : Jute in Bengal, tea in Assam, sugarcane in the United Provinces(now Uttar Pradesh), wheat in Punjab, cotton in Maharashtra and Punjab, rice in Madras.

DEMAND FOR INDIAN INDIGO

The Indigo plants grows in the tropics and in our country the climate is hot hence it is classified as a tropical region . so it was favourable to grow indigo .

By the 13 century Indian Indigo was being used by cloth manufacturers in Italy , France and Britain to dye cloth

DEMAND FOR INDIAN INDIGO

India was the biggest supplier of indigo in the world at that time.

The indigo plant grows primarily in the tropics.

By the thirteenth century Indian indigo was being used by cloth manufacturers in Italy, France and Britain to dye cloth.

Only small amounts of Indian indigo reached the European market and its price was very high.

European cloth manufacturers therefore had to depend on another plant called woad to make violet and blue dyes.

WOAD is a plant of the temperate zones.

DEMAND FOR INDIAN INDIGO(CONTD.)

Cloth dyes, however, preferred indigo as a dye.

Indigo produced a rich blue colour, whereas the dye from woad was pale and dull.

The French began cultivating indigo in St Domingue in the Caribbean islands, the Portuguese in Brazil, the English in Jamaica, and the Spanish in Venezuela.

Indigo plantations also came up in many parts of North America.

From the last decades of the 18th century, indigo cultivation in Bengal expanded rapidly and Bengal indigo came to dominate the world market.

Attracted by the prospect of high profits, numerous Scotsmen and Englishmen came to India and became planters.



THANK YOU