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Hamma Lakhdar University of El-Oued

Faculty of Arts and Languages

Department of Arts and English Language



**Trade and British Imperialism: The Role of the East India
Company in Colonizing India**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

Submitted by:

LABBI Meriem

ZERROUK Isra

Supervised by: Dr. Said

Board of Examiners:

President: Dr. Soltani Djalal

Supervisor: Dr. Said Tarek

Examiner: Dr. Atik Zid Ouahid

Dedication

I want to dedicate this dissertation to my dear mother Terrouche Assia whose existence is the most precious gift from Allah in my life, her presence will forever be the candle to illumine my life.

I would like to dedicate this dissertation also to my dear father and leader, my first teacher in my life, Labbi Mohammed Lakdhar.

Also, I dedicate my dissertation to my dear brothers and sisters Seif Eddine, Ibrahim, Mayssoune, and Manel, and to my classmate Zerrouk Isra who has always been through everything. Thank you so much, I hope you will always be proud of me.

Labbi Meriem

I want to dedicate this work to my dear father Zerrouk Mohamed who has supported me throughout my life, his unflinching faith has given me the courage to face any challenge that comes my way.

I dedicate this work also to my dear mother Zerrouk Ismahane who has encouraged me in every decision I has made and for her belief in my efforts, her encouragement and love is what pushed me through life's challenges.

Also, I dedicate my dissertation to my dear siblings who were my biggest cheerleaders: Asma, Mokhtar, Leulmi, Yazid, and Imane, and to my classmate Labbi Meriem who was my companion in this journey.

Finally, we want to dedicate this work to our classmates for their kindness, support, and encouragement.

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Abstract

The colonization of India by the British Empire stands as an important topic in the annals of the colonial history. This study examines the role of the British East India Company as an imperial body in colonizing the Indian subcontinent from the 16th to the 19th centuries. This research adopts the historical analysis methodology in which there is the use of descriptive and analytical methods. The main aim of the dissertation is to relate the East India Company's establishment in 1600 as a trading imperial company and the military forced colonization of India in 1858. The findings confirmed the strong correlation between that corporation and the direct British colonization of the Indian subcontinent specifically after the company's shift to an imperial body. In doing so, The East India Company's policies were imposed to impact India economically, militarily, politically, and culturally in an indirect way. Addressing the Western imperial strategies sheds light on the historical and the contemporary power dynamics in addition to adding valuable knowledge to the field.

Keywords: *India, East India Company, British Empire, Colonization.*

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

EIC	East India Company
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

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General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

A significant portion of Europe's long-distance trade, cross-cultural exchanges, and colonial undertakings during the 16th , 17th , and 18th centuries were organized by companies rather than monarchs or kingdoms. These businesses were crucial in creating the early modern European Empires. One major turning point in the 15th century that changed the future of many nations was the Age of Exploration (Colonization and Companies, 2024), when Portuguese explorers reached the Cape of Good Hope in 1487 while exploring Africa's Western coast, they found spices that they could sell in Northern Europe in addition to gold. With his ships stocked with Asian spices, Vasco Da Gama travelled all the way to India, arrived in Calicut, and then returned to Portugal in 1498, realizing the long-held hope of discovering a maritime route to the prosperous markets of Asia. This event caused the interests in the spice trade to suddenly expand (Tracy, 1990). European countries embarked on adventurous missions to build direct trade links with Asia, rejecting typical land routes that were dangerous to pass through them.

This direct sea route allowed the European nations through these companies to seek trade in this region, primarily for spice. East India Companies, established between 1600 and 1800 by European home states, operated long-distance trade between Europe and Asia (Nierstrasz, n.d.). They received rights and privileges to profit. By the 19th century, despite the fierce competition between them most of them disappeared (Tracy, 1990), but some were developed to be European colonial powers like the British Empire which expanded its political power across Asia through the hugely successful EIC. The company was established in India by Queen Elizabeth I's Charter to London merchants for the intention of trading spices, tea, textiles, indigo, and other goods from various areas in the East Indies, however, it obtained an interest in adding imperial characteristics to extend its power and domination in the region

through economic and political control. Despite being established as a business enterprise for trading purposes, the EIC contributed to paving the way for the direct colonization of India by the British Empire.

For illustration, an extensive body of research literature in the field has stressed the relationship between the EIC's trade, its imperial methods, and its evolution. Roy (2012) in his book *The East India Company: the world's most powerful corporation*, for instance, argued that the trade operations of the company as well as its engagement in commerce played a vital role in gaining an imperial feature. In another sphere, Robins (2012) emphasized that the company was a necessary prelude to the British Raj. Rather, it is more accurate to view the British Empire in India as the outcome of the EIC's collapse. The EIC considered as a corporate entity from a different era due to its royal charter formation, its monopoly on all trading activities between Britain and Asia, and its semi-sovereign privileges in raising armies and rule territories (Robins, 2012).

2.Statement of the Problem

Since the EIC's establishment, its strategies have captured the attention of various historians and researchers. Despite the numerous works concerning the EIC's methods, especially the shift of the firm from a trading entity to an imperial territory in India, there is still a gap in knowledge in examining this concept in relation to the direct British colonization of the Indian subcontinent. In addition, a limited amount of research has been conducted in this area.

3.Research Questions

The present study aims to answer the following questions:

- 1-What were the key motivations behind the EIC's expansion into India?
- 2-How did the EIC establish and maintain its trade monopoly in India?

3-How did the EIC actions influence Indian society, economy, and governance?

5.Research Aims

This study aims to investigate the relationship between the EIC's strategies and the British colonization of the Indian subcontinent. Specifically, it examines how the EIC shifted from a trading campaign to an imperial force in India paving the way for the direct military colonization. To achieve this aim, the research revolves through three ideas: to explore the historical context of the EIC presence in India during the British colonial period, to analyze the economic, political, and social impact of the firm's trading activities on India, and also to assess its role in shaping the colonial policies and governance in India.

6.Research Methodology

The current study is qualitative in nature in which it includes gathering and examining non-numerical data in order to comprehend certain viewpoints and to produce an in-depth insights about the EIC.. This research adopts the historical analysis methodology in which there is the use of descriptive and analytical techniques. A variety of data collection methods are used to provide new insights into the EIC evolution process and its transformation from a trading into an imperial force. After collecting data, the analytical process begins, in which the sources gathered are analyzed to answer the proposed questions through analyzing the company's economic, cultural, military and political impacts. Also analyzing the relation between the company's failure and the start of the British Raj are discussed. Furthermore, the interpretation of the past historical events is used as a measure of data analysis to determine the association between the research variables.

7. Significance of the Study

This dissertation attempts to explore the role the EIC has in colonizing India, specifically its effect as a trading and imperialist body. The findings of the study aim to help the teachers and the students specialized in civilization to raise their awareness about the indirect colonial strategies manipulated by the West and mainly Great Britain for the exploitation purposes in the East. This research also seeks to extend the knowledge concerning the British imperialism and its multiple faces. This research is also interesting as it seeks to increase the curiosity and to promote the critical thinking through investigating the past and exhibiting various historical viewpoints and interpretations.

8. Research Structure

The present dissertation contains two main chapters. The first chapter is entitled the East Indian Company from Trade to Imperialism: Historical Overview. It provides a detailed theoretical explanation of the research variables. The first chapter is divided into six subsections. The first one offers an overview of the EIC and discusses the exploration trips to India that laid the groundwork for the company's establishment. The second one outlines the company's formation and structure. The third subsection explores the early British activities in India. The fourth one presents the company's change into political and military spheres or in other words its shift to an imperial force. The Battle of Plassey or the turning point in the British colonial history of India and the EIC motivations of expansion in India are discussed in the subsections five and six respectively.

The second chapter of this dissertation is entitled The Impact of the East India Company on Colonizing India. It consists of a historical analysis of the gathered data. A complete presentation of the research findings and their interpretations based on relevant literature is the core of this chapter.

Chapter One

The East Indian Company from Trade to Imperialism: A Historical Overview

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Introduction

Chapter one digs into the foundation of the EIC in 1600 and illustrates the fundamental reasons for its arrangement. This chapter comprises six subsections. The first subsection offers an overview of the EIC and discusses the exploration trips to India that laid the groundwork for the company's establishment. The second subsection outlines the company's formation and structure. The third subsection explores the early British trading activities in India. The fourth subsection presents the company's change into political and military spheres in which it gained imperial characteristics. The Battle of Plassey or the turning point in the British colonial history of India and the EIC motivations of expansion in India are discussed in sections five and six respectively.

1.1.An Overview of EIC

EIC was an impressive exchanging organization that altogether impacted British dominion. At first built up as an exchanging enterprise within the East Indies in 1600, it fundamentally centered on the zest exchange. As its exercises extended in India, it started to imagine solid colonial prospects for the British Domain, given India's riches. Over time, the company developed as an overwhelming financial, political, and social constrain, significantly affecting the history and the geopolitical elements of the East Indies since its beginning in 1600 (Keay, 1994).

Figure 1.1

Indian subcontinent before 1600

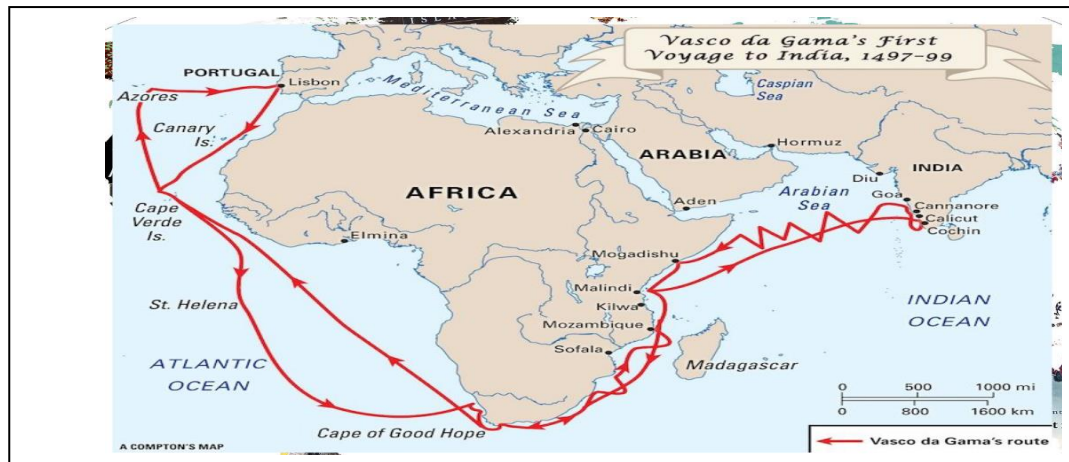


Note: <https://images.app.goo.gl/TH2dd48XMx7CN5MJ8>

By the late 15th century, several European explorers ventured to India. First, Portuguese explorer Vasco Da Gama arrived at Calicut on the Malabar Coast in 1498 after discovering the sea route to India around the Cape of Good Hope. Subsequently, smaller groups of Danes arrived, followed by Thomas Stephens, the first Englishman to set foot in India on April 4th, 1579, sailing from Lisbon and arriving in Goa in October of the same year. Despite earlier French expeditions, French trade, established by Jean-Baptiste Colbert, finance minister to King Louis XIV, did not emerge until the mid-17th century (Keay,1994).

Figure 1.2

Vasco Da Gama's First Voyage to India, 1497- 1499



Note: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vasco-da-Gama>

1.2. Formation and Structure of EIC

According to Brunton (2013), the EIC was initiated as a British imperial project chartered by Queen Elizabeth I in 1600, granting Britain the right to trade in the East Indies. Initially it focused on economic collaboration between Britain and India, then the company's objectives were shifted over the years to include the indirect colonization of the Indian subcontinent (Keay, 1994). That transition culminated in direct military colonialism in 1858. As described in the English dictionary, "the company chartered in 1600 by the British government to trade in the East Indies after being driven out by the Dutch, it developed trade with India until the Indian Mutiny of 1857 when the British Crown took over the administration. The company was dissolved in 1874." Additionally, the Economist (2011) claimed: "The modern world began on a freezing New Year's Eve in 1600 when Queen Elizabeth I granted a company of 218 merchants a monopoly of trade to the East of the Cape of Good Hope".

In conclusion, Robins (2012) argued "the EIC pioneered the model of corporations we see today. Its innovations included the shareholder model of ownership and the administrative framework of the

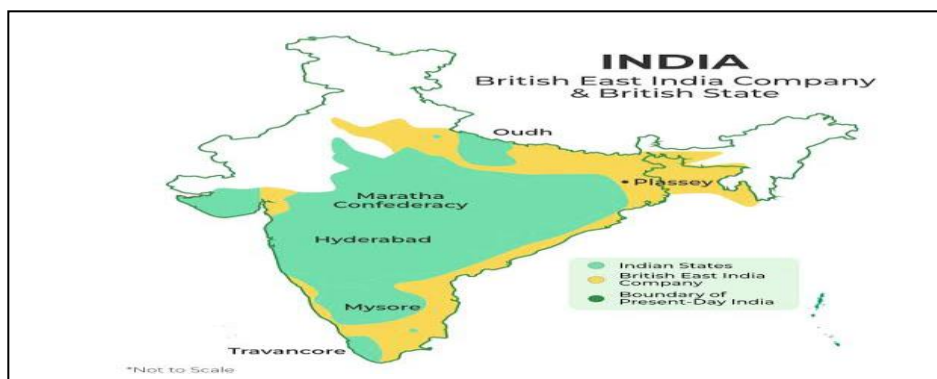
modern firm" suggesting that the EIC foreshadowed the modern capitalist economic landscape centuries ago.

1.2.1. Structure of the Company (Joint-Stock, Board of Directors)

To start with, Keay (1994) declared "The English EIC was set up in 1600 as a joint-stock company basically aiming to exchange with the East Indies. Be that as it may, its exchange exercises extended to envelop the Indian subcontinent and China". In addition, Dalrymple (2019) highlighted that the foundation of the English EIC in 1600 marked the creation of the world's greatest commercial corporation. Moreover, Tharoor (2017) observed that under the pretext of trade, the EIC pursued conquest and colonialism in India. Essentially, the company operated as a joint-stock entity governed by a board of directors.

Figure 1.3

EIC and the Indian States after 1600



Note: <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/east-india-company-and-british-state/>

1.3. Early British Trading Activities in India

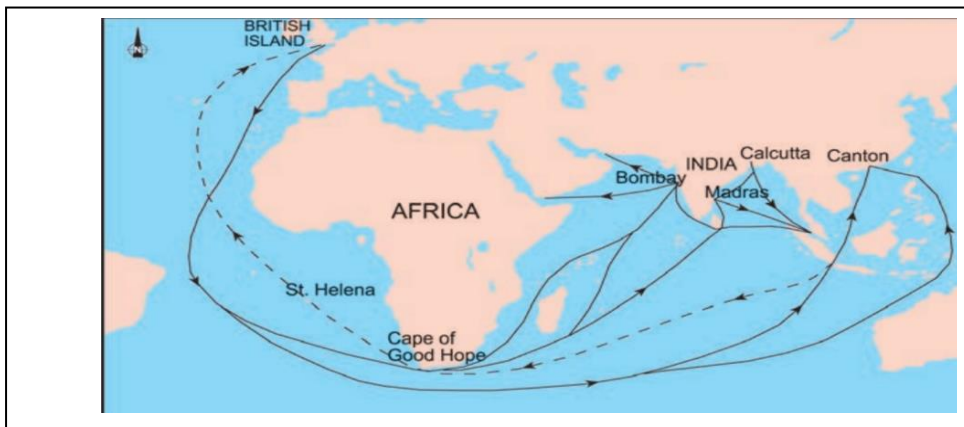
The British Empire planned for its exploitative goals in the Indian subcontinent from the late 15th century and early 16th century. The latter included mainly the establishment of a monopolistic trading firm that was the EIC. The company contributed to the protection and the reinforcement of Britain's colonial aims.

1.3.1. Establishment of Trade Monopoly

Nadri (2012) said that The EIC started its exchange operations in Bengal with the foundation of the first factory on the banks of the Hugli Waterway in 1651. That plant served as the nerve center for the company's dealers, highlighting a stockroom for merchandise capacity and workplaces for regulatory purposes. As the exchange prospered, the EIC effectively energized dealers to settle within the region of its production line.

Figure 1.4

Routes to India in the 18th Century



Note: <https://grafosyssias.wordpress.com/ncert/8th/8th-our-past/8th-our-past-02/>

By 1696, the EIC took important steps to protect its settlement and managed to secure a decree from the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb granting it the privilege of duty-free trade. That decree further strengthened the EIC's trade monopoly in the region. The company continuously sought additional concessions and privileges to maximize its profits and to solidify its dominant position in the Indian trade market (Nadri, 2012).

Erikson (2014) argued that from its inception, the EIC was characterized as a monopolistic entity, holding exclusive rights to trade in the English overseas and Asia, a privilege legally granted and supported by the British government from 1600. Besides, Micgilvary (2019) said that India and the Far

East were perceived as vital sources of wealth, power, and influence by the EIC's leadership. Furthermore, Gupta (2013) suggested that the company's control over trade routes, commodities, and competition in the Indian markets facilitated its generating of substantial profits. However, the EIC's monopoly was not absolute, and its dynamics were influenced by various economic and political factors.

Another way, Erikson (2014) said that the employees of the EIC were permitted to engage in personal business ventures alongside their roles with the company. That unique arrangement allowed them to act as both independent traders and company's representatives fostering a system of peer communication that directed English trade, coordinated business activities, and encouraged innovation. Also, Winterbottom (2015) claimed that the EIC introduced new spices to the European market, initiated deforestation projects, and altered land use patterns leading to significant environmental changes in India.

In summary, Gupta (2013) and Erikson (2014) suggested that the EIC operated as a monopolistic trading entity with fluctuating principles that were influenced by market dynamics and pressures. Despite the challenges and the changing circumstances, the EIC's monopolistic strategies played a crucial role in its success and contributed to the accelerated trade between Europe and Asia fostering broader economic advancements in England (Erikson, 2014).

1.3.2.Maintenance of Trade Monopoly

The British Empire had to protect its trading activities in the Indian subcontinent. In doing so, it followed a set of policies. The latter influenced India's economic, cultural, and social structures. Roy (2015) declared that the Indian subcontinent was an urbanized and industrialized region with a robust export trade specializing in cotton textiles, silk, spices, and rice. India held a unique position as the sole producer of cotton textiles exporting to Britain and other European nations. However, after the British

victory over the Mughal Empire in the Battle of Buxar in 1764, the EIC subsequently reindustrialized India.

Kapur and Kim (2006) posited that the EIC facilitated British goods' entry into the Indian market without tariffs, negatively impacting local Indian trade. Indian merchants were burdened with heavy taxation, while protectionist policies in Britain, such as bans and high tariffs, hindered Indian textiles' sale in Britain. Consequently, the British imposed tariffs and duties of 70-80% on Indian textiles, severely limiting India's export potential. Despite India's prominence in global textiles trade in the early 1700s, British economic policies enabled Britain's manufacturing to dominate the global markets, leading to India's declining exports from 27% to 2% during the EIC era.

Besides, taxation in India reached as high as 50% of income in certain regions, compelling Indians to abandon their lands. Unlike Indian rulers of previous centuries who relied on revenues from regional and the global trade networks, the British introduced the zamindari revenue system, taxing Indian farmers based on land rent payments rather than crop yields. The British also implemented various agricultural policies, such as the Permanent Settlement and the Ryotari System resulting in high taxation, landlessness among peasants, agricultural stagnation, and limited GDP growth in the Indian agricultural sector. To illustrate, the British estimates indicated that agricultural taxes were 2 to 3 times higher during the British colonization than before.

D'souza (2007) argued that the British administration did not drastically deviate from the traditional economy, rather it maintained control under regional rulers. Despite frequent devastating famines, Marshall observed that the British economy in India generally prospered in the latter part of the 18th century. However, British infrastructure projects like railways primarily benefited British interests, damaging the Indian economy and contributing to increased taxation.

1.3.3.EIC Policies for Protecting its Monopoly

To begin with Shani (2013) said that the EIC policies were characterized by economic exploitation, military dominance, cultural hegemony, and profit-driven endeavors that often resulted in morally questionable activities within its governed regions. Besides, Allen (2018) argued that the EIC employed enslaved individuals in its Bencoolen factory in Sumatra, establishing systems of interconnected and forced labor exchange during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Additionally, (Witerbottom, 2015) claimed that the EIC environmental interventions such as introducing new spices, deforestation, and redirecting rivers profoundly impacted the ecosystems.

EIC also strengthened its army by incorporating and adapting military cultures and practices from both Europe and India, recognizing the armed powers of the British and the Mughal Empires (Winterbottom, 2015). Additionally, challenges to the EIC trade monopoly, especially concerning China, were posed by individuals like John Crawford, a Scottish orientalist and EIC employee, who advocated for liberal colonial policies and welfare for Britain's colonized citizens (Wong, 2018). With the EIC growing power and control over larger parts of India, the British Parliament passed the India Act of 1784 granting it full control of commerce in India while political matters were clandestinely controlled by the British government.

In conclusion, the EIC policies were multifaceted, encompassing economic exploitation, environmental alteration, military advancements, and reinforcement of the colonial administrative systems. The EIC legacy was marked by the spread of the British dominance and the enduring impacts of its practices.

1.4.EIC Expansion into Political and Military Spheres

Throughout time, the EIC expanded its military and political prospects in India. That process contained series of strategies. The British strong tactics facilitated the integration of Britain's rule.

1.4.1.Alliances with Indian Rulers

The EIC strategically formed alliances with local Indian rulers and princes through diplomatic negotiations, mutual interests, and trade agreements (Robert, 2014). By offering protection and access to European goods, the company secured favorable trading terms. Those alliances often exploited existing rivalries and divisions among Indian rulers, weakening potential adversaries, and securing cooperation from those willing to align with the EIC. Subsidiary alliances were also employed where Indian rulers accepted British military protection in exchange for ceding control over their foreign affairs to the company. By and large, those collusions were a complex mixture of strategies, military constrain, and financial motivations. They played an essential part in forming the British colonialism and laid the basis for the foundation of the British Raj in 1858 (Keay, 1994).

1.4.2.Deployment of Armed Forces for Protecting Trading Interests

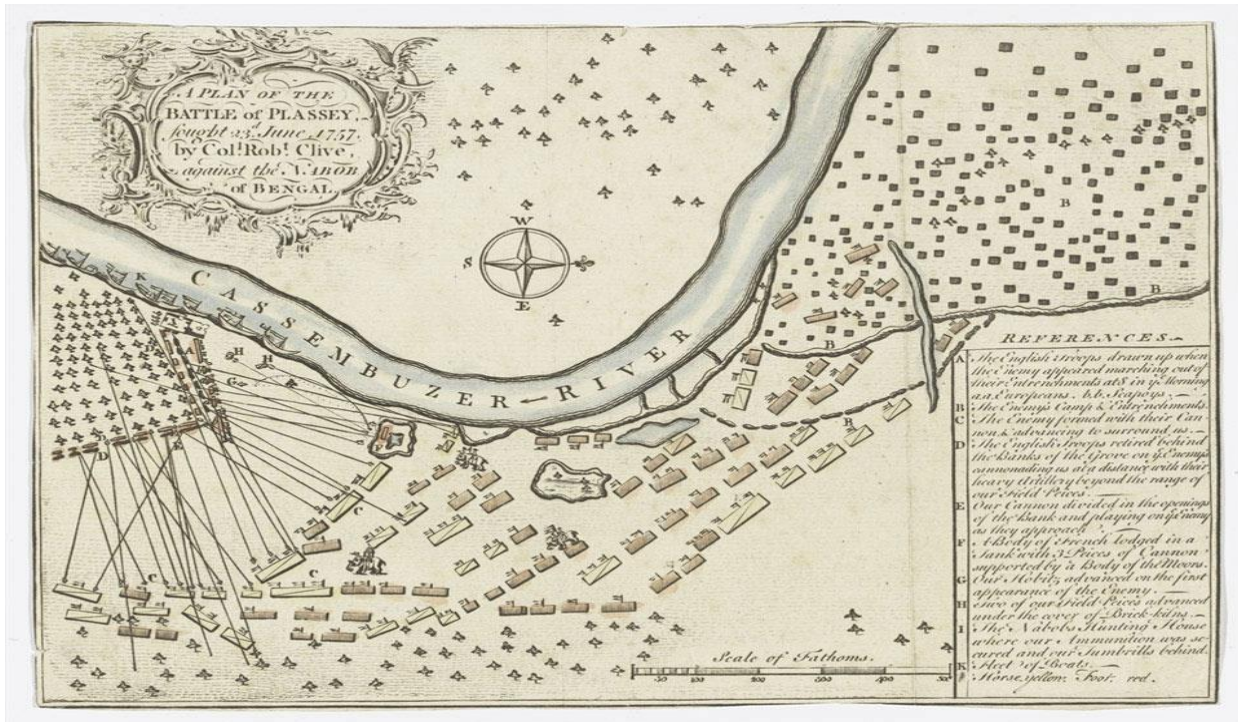
Keay (1994) claimed that The EIC intensely depended on sea exchange courses and shielded them from robbery and equal European powers by conveying outfitted ships known as 'Indiamen' to escort shipper vessels and to discourage outside danger. Maritime trade routes were significant for maintaining the company's trade monopoly and ensuring the flow of goods between India and Europe. Also, the EIC positioned battalions of outfitted officers at key areas, braced its settlements, and developed protective structures such as dividers and bastions.

In conclusion, the EIC arrangement of equipped forces was central to ensuring its commercial interests, attesting to its expertise, and expanding its influence on India. In other words, the military control played a crucial part in the company's dominance laying the establishment for the British colonial reign within the Indian subcontinent.

1.5 Turning Point (The Battle of Plassey)

Figure 1.5

Plan of the Battle of Plassey



This figure is the plan of the Battle of Plassey, made by Robert Clive in 1757. It was created to exhibit a detailed strategy for military units to achieve specific objectives, providing a comprehensive guide to ensure coordinated efforts and effective execution and an achievement

Note: [Battle of Plassey | National Army Museum \(nam.ac.uk\)](https://nam.ac.uk/battle-of-plassey)

The Battle of Plassey was on June 23th, 1757 between the EIC army which was led by Robert Clive, a British military officer, and the Nawab of Bengal Sirjuddaulah, and it marked the flourish of the EIC expansion in the Indian subcontinent (Cartwright, 2022). When Alivardi Khan died in 1756, Sirajuddaulah ascended as the Nawab of Bengal. The EIC searched for a compliant ruler who would grant trade concessions, and it attempted unsuccessfully to support one of Sirajuddaulah's rivals for the Nawabship. An angered Sirajuddaulah demanded the company's cease interference in his realm's politics, halt fortification, and paid revenues. Following failed negotiations, the Nawab led 30000 soldiers to the English factory of Kassimbazar, seizing the company's officials, locking the warehouse,

disarming English men, and blockading English ships. Subsequently, he proceeded to Calcutta to assert control over the company's fort there.

Due to the hearing of the fall of Calcutta, EIC authorities in Madras sent troops led by Robert Clive who became the first British governor of Bengal and created the EIC military and political supremacy via a significant victory at the Battle of Plassey against the Mughal Empire. In 1757, Robert Clive led the company's army against Sirajuddaulah at Plassey, and he was promised to be a Nawab after crushing Sirajuddaulah. Following the loss at Plassey, Sirajuddaulah was assassinated.

Mir Jafar was instated as the Nawab. Meanwhile, the company remained hesitant to assume administrative duties, it prioritized trade expansion instead. It aimed at extending its commercial activities without the need for the conquest by forming alliances with cooperative local rulers willing to grant privileges and then taking the territories directly. The company soon realized that achieving that goal was a challenge because puppet Nawabs, the latter meant Indian rulers obeyed the orders of the British governors without any objection, did not always comply as desired by the company. Ultimately, the EIC had to maintain dignity and authority to gain respect from the Indian citizens. In doing so, it removed Mir Jafar from his place because of his objections, and it replaced him with Mir Qasim, he experienced grievances, and he was defeated in the Battle of Buxar in 1764. Finally, he was expelled from Bengal.

After that, Mir Jafar was reinstated. Although the company received a monthly payment of Rs.500000 from the Nawab, it sought additional funds to finance its wars, to meet the demands of its trade and its other expenses, and to acquire more territories and revenues. At the time of Mir Jafar's death in 1765, the EIC attitude was changed because it failed to collaborate with the puppet Nawabs, Robert Clive (1765) declared: "we must indeed become Nawabs ourselves".

In 1765 the Diwani, a right to collect revenues, was granted to the EIC by the Mughal Emperor over Bengal's provinces. Prior to that, the company's trade with India had spread from the early 18th century, whereas it had primarily to use gold and silver imported from Britain to purchase goods in India because Britain had little to offer for trade there at that time.

Following the Battle of Plassey, the outflow of gold from Britain retained decreasing, and it ceased. The revenues from India at that time could only cover the company's expenses including buying some goods such as cotton, silk, and textiles in addition to maintaining troops and constructing forts and offices in Calcutta. Finally, within four years of the Plassey Battle, Indian social structures, basic institutions, and the self-sufficient village system were broken. In other words, the Battle of Plassey had a significant influence on the Indian rule and the features of the British cultural communication in the Indian subcontinent.

1.5.1. Transition from Trading Entity to Political Power (The Shift into an Imperial Force):

Kohli (2020) argued that the EIC began its journey in India with the support of the British government aiming primarily at economic gains. Its approach often involved forceful means overcoming indigenous resistance and to facilitate the transfer of Indian resources. That strategy led to the depletion of India's natural resources and the decline of the local industries.

As a trading body, the company was renowned for its profits from the spice trade, textiles, and other commodities. It reinvested those profits to finance further trading expeditions and to establish settlements and military bases. Over time, those colonies were transformed into political entities with their own armies and vast properties. The EIC influence was extended to local politics where it sought to make decisions through economic pressure, taxation, and trade regulations that favored its interests.

However, the EIC dual role as both a trading entity and a political power had its challenges. Its economic exploitation and alteration of Indian economic structures led to discontent among the Indian

population. That dual identity eventually contributed to its decline, and paved the way for direct British governance under the British Crown in 1858 (Cartwright, 2022).

Shani (2013) argued that the EIC involvement in India has sparked ongoing debates about corporate imperialism and the ethical implications of its actions. Another way, Stern (2012) highlighted the EIC unique transition from a trading company to an imperial power, which has intrigued historians due to its role in shaping the modern state.

1.6.EIC Motivations of Expansion

Most of the colonial powers had various motives for the desire of conquest including economic, political, religious, social, and cultural ambitions that were designed in a strict plan before the direct process of Colonialism. The Middle East has been a dream for the European colonizers to exploit its resources. The Indian subcontinent has been the best region for Britain to achieve its prospect.

1.6.1.Economic Motives

Robins (2012) stated that the Portuguese dominance won in the European exchange with India and the Far East. In 1600, the Ruler Elizabeth I allowed English dealers the right to lock in flavor exchange with the East Indies for 21 a long time driving to the arrangement of the EIC. The company's foundation marked the start of the competition with the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Danish, and the French exchanging companies. By the early 17th century, English and Dutch companies seized the Portuguese resources in India and ousted the Portuguese dealers. India presented a lucrative opportunity for Britain due to its significant manufacturing capabilities accounting for nearly a quarter of global manufacturing output compared to Britain's mere 1.9%. Bengal as known as the wealthy province within the Mughal Empire was particularly coveted for its abundant raw materials, thriving agriculture, and advanced textile production.

Originally, Cartwright (2022) posited that the EIC focused on the spice trade but later diversified into cotton, silk, indigo, tea, opium, saltpeter, and even participated in the slave trade. By the late 18th century, the decline of the Mughal Empire further facilitated the EIC expansion in India.

The colonization of India by the British East India Company (EIC) was driven predominantly by economic motives. Established in 1600, the EIC began as a commercial enterprise aimed at exploring trade opportunities in the East Indies but ultimately became the de facto ruler of India.

The primary motive of the EIC was profit. The company was founded by a group of English merchants who sought to capitalize on the lucrative trade in spices, silk, cotton, and other goods. The prospect of high returns from trade in these commodities motivated the EIC to establish a foothold in India. Initially, the EIC focused on establishing trade relations with local rulers and setting up trading posts or factorie along the Indian coastline.

In addition, the EIC sought to establish a monopoly over the trade in Indian goods. This was achieved by negotiating exclusive trading rights with local rulers and eliminating competition from other European powers. The EIC's monopoly allowed it to control prices and maximize profits.

Besides, to facilitate trade, the EIC invested in infrastructure such as ports, warehouses, and transportation networks. This not only reduced costs but also ensured a steady supply of goods to European markets.

Control over trade routes was another significant economic motive for the EIC. The establishment of a stable and secure trading network was essential for the company's profitability.

Moreover, the EIC strategically established trading posts and forts at key locations along the Indian coast and interior. These locations were chosen based on their proximity to major trade routes and their ability to serve as hubs for the collection and distribution of goods.

Furthermore, the EIC built a formidable naval presence to protect its trading interests. By securing maritime routes, the company ensured the safe passage of its ships and prevented piracy and rival European powers from disrupting its trade.

India's vast resources were a major attraction for the EIC. The company sought to exploit these resources to fuel its economic growth and profitability.

Also, India was a major producer of valuable agricultural products such as cotton, indigo, tea, and opium. The EIC exploited these products by establishing plantations and encouraging the cultivation of cash crops. The company then exported these products to European and other international markets at substantial profits.

The EIC also exploited India's natural resources, including minerals and timber. These resources were essential for the British economy and were used to support industrialization and other commercial activities.

Another way, the EIC implemented various economic policies that facilitated the extraction of wealth from India. These policies had far-reaching effects on the Indian economy and society.

The introduction of the land revenue system, such as the Permanent Settlement and Ryotwari system, allowed the EIC to collect taxes directly from Indian peasants. These systems were designed to maximize revenue collection but often led to widespread exploitation and impoverishment of Indian farmers.

The EIC established monopolies over certain products, such as salt and opium, which enabled it to control prices and maximize profits. These monopolistic practices often led to economic hardships for the local population.

The economic motives of the EIC had profound impacts on the Indian economy and society. The EIC's policies and practices led to the deindustrialization of India. Traditional Indian industries, such as textiles, were undermined by the influx of cheap British manufactured goods. This resulted in the loss of livelihoods for many Indian artisans and craftsmen.

The systematic exploitation of India's resources and wealth by the EIC led to an economic drain. A significant portion of India's wealth was transferred to Britain, contributing to the impoverishment of the Indian economy.

The economic policies of the EIC caused social disruptions. The introduction of cash crops led to changes in agricultural practices and rural economies, often resulting in food shortages and famines.

The colonization of India by the East India Company was driven by economic motives centered around profit, control over trade routes, and exploitation of resources. The company's pursuit of these objectives led to significant economic and social changes in India. While the EIC achieved substantial profits and economic gains, its policies and practices had detrimental effects on the Indian economy and society. The legacy of the EIC's economic exploitation continues to be felt in India to this day, highlighting the lasting impact of colonialism on the Indian subcontinent.

1.6.2. Strategic Interests

Frank (1996) highlighted that India served as a crucial trade gateway between the Western world and the Middle East. As the EIC expanded its trade activities, competition intensified with French and Dutch companies. The EIC established a vast market for Asian goods, including Indonesian spices, Indian cotton, and Chinese tea. Despite the British Royal Charter of 1600 limiting the EIC trade to the Eastern markets, the company recruited Indian soldiers known as sepoy, and formed its own army. That military force was not only for protection but also to enforce its exploitative policies notably during its interactions with the Mughal Empire in the 18th century.

The EIC exercised control over major commercial gateways in India, evolving from a trading entity into a powerful imperial institution. Its political and military strength was further bolstered by the British Crown until the company's dissolution after the Indian Mutiny in 1858.

The colonization of India by Britain stands as one of the most significant episodes in colonial history. Britain's interests in India were multifaceted, driven by economic, political, strategic, and cultural factors.

Economic motives were at the forefront of British colonial interests in India. The vast resources and economic potential of India made it an attractive target for British imperial ambitions.

The British East India Company (EIC) initially ventured into India to capitalize on its rich trade potential. India was a major source of valuable commodities such as spices, silk, cotton, tea, and indigo. Establishing control over these goods allowed Britain to dominate global markets and generate substantial profits.

The Industrial Revolution in Britain created a massive demand for raw materials, which India could abundantly supply. Cotton from India, for instance, was crucial for the British textile industry. Additionally, India provided other raw materials like jute, opium, and various minerals.

The British introduced various land revenue systems, such as the Permanent Settlement and the Ryotwari system, to extract wealth from Indian agriculture. These systems enabled the British to secure a steady flow of revenue by taxing Indian farmers, thereby financing their colonial administration and military expenditures.

Beyond economic gains, political and strategic interests played a critical role in Britain's colonization of India. The acquisition of Indian territories was driven by the desire to expand the British Empire. The British engaged in wars and formed alliances with Indian princely states to consolidate their control. Key victories, such as the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and the Battle of Buxar in 1764, cemented British dominance in India.

India's strategic location made it a linchpin in British geopolitical strategy. Control over India provided Britain with a strategic advantage in Asia, allowing it to counterbalance rival European powers such as France, Russia, and the Dutch. India's ports and naval bases were vital for maintaining British naval supremacy and protecting trade routes to the Far East and the Middle East.

Establishing a stable and efficient administrative structure in India was essential for maintaining British control. The British implemented a centralized system of governance, introduced English as the medium of instruction, and established legal and judicial systems based on British models. These measures helped consolidate British authority and facilitate the extraction of resources.

Cultural and ideological motives also underpinned Britain's colonial interests in India. The British often justified their colonial rule with the notion of a "civilizing mission." They believed it was their duty to bring Western education, culture, and religion to what they considered the "backward" societies of India. Missionary activities aimed at converting Indians to Christianity were part of this ideological framework.

The British introduced Western education systems and promoted the English language as a means to create a class of educated Indians who would assist in administration and act as intermediaries between the British rulers and the Indian populace. This policy of Anglicization aimed to cultivate loyalty to the British Empire and perpetuate colonial dominance.

British colonial policies were often driven by a sense of cultural superiority. The British believed in the inherent superiority of Western civilization and sought to impose their cultural norms and values on Indian society. This led to significant social and cultural changes, including the introduction of Western legal systems, dress codes, and lifestyles.

The economic exploitation of India by the British had profound and lasting impacts on the Indian economy and society.

British policies led to the decline of traditional Indian industries, particularly textiles. The influx of cheap British manufactured goods undermined local artisans and craftsmen, leading to widespread unemployment and economic dislocation.

The systematic extraction of wealth from India, often referred to as “ the economic drain,” resulted in the transfer of substantial financial resources to Britain. This drain contributed to the impoverishment of India and hindered its economic development.

British economic policies caused significant social disruptions. The emphasis on cash crops for export led to changes in agricultural practices, often resulting in food shortages and famines. The introduction of Western education and cultural norms also created social divisions and eroded traditional values and institutions.

The colonization of India by Britain was driven by a complex interplay of economic, political, strategic, and cultural interests. While economic exploitation and revenue generation were primary motives, political and strategic considerations also played a crucial role in shaping British colonial policy. Additionally, cultural and ideological factors, rooted in notions of Western superiority and a civilizing mission, underpinned British rule in India. The legacy of British colonialism in India is marked by profound economic, social, and cultural transformations, the impacts of which continue to

resonate in contemporary India. Understanding these colonial interests provides a comprehensive view of the motivations behind Britain's imperial enterprise in India and its far-reaching consequences.

1.6.3.Political Ambitions

The EIC political ambitions were manifested in its military engagements. Smith (2022) stated that the company engaged in numerous armed conflicts with France and various Indian powers to secure its colonial territories. As the EIC's military and political influence grew, its focus shifted from trade to territorial control. The latter was achieved through alliances with indigenous states and rulers.

The company's regional extension was driven by financial greed, competition with other European powers, and vital contemplations. Over time, the EIC added domains and declared control over bigger locales. Essential events like the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and the Battle of Buxar in 1764 enabled the firm to run Bengal, Bihar, and parts of Orissa (Keay,1994).

Utilizing a blend of diplomacy, military force, and alliances with local rulers, the EIC expanded its territorial control. It exploited internal conflicts and divisions among Indian states to further its political interests and governance.

The British colonization of India is a seminal event in world history, marked by complex motives and far-reaching consequences. While economic incentives often dominate discussions about imperial motivations, political ambitions played a critical and multifaceted role in shaping British policies and actions in India. These ambitions encompassed the desire for territorial expansion, global dominance, strategic control, and effective governance, all of which were instrumental in the British pursuit of a colonial empire in the Indian subcontinent.

From the very outset, the British East India Company (EIC) embarked on a mission of territorial expansion, a pursuit driven by both economic and political motives. Initially a commercial enterprise, the EIC gradually morphed into a political entity, assuming control over vast territories in India. This

transition was facilitated by a series of military conquests and strategic alliances with local rulers. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 and the Battle of Buxar in 1764 were pivotal moments that established British dominance in India, marking the beginning of a new era of colonial rule. These victories were not merely military achievements but also significant political triumphs that allowed the British to consolidate power and expand their territorial holdings.

The policy of annexation further exemplified British political ambitions. Under leaders like Lord Dalhousie, the British adopted the Doctrine of Lapse, which enabled them to annex any princely state where the ruler died without a direct male heir. This policy led to the annexation of several key states, including Jhansi and Nagpur, significantly expanding British territories and solidifying their control over the subcontinent. The British approach to territorial expansion was not merely opportunistic but a deliberate strategy aimed at consolidating their power and eliminating any potential threats to their dominance.

Beyond territorial ambitions, the British sought to enhance their global dominance through the colonization of India. The geopolitical landscape of the 18th and 19th centuries was characterized by intense rivalry among European powers, and control over India was seen as a crucial element in this global power struggle. The Anglo-French rivalry, epitomized by the Carnatic Wars, highlighted the strategic importance of India. By defeating the French and establishing supremacy in India, the British not only secured a valuable colony but also gained a significant advantage over their European rivals. This victory bolstered British prestige and affirmed their status as a leading imperial power.

India's strategic location further amplified its importance to British political ambitions. Situated along key maritime trade routes, India was a critical hub for British commercial and military operations. Control over Indian ports and naval bases enabled the British to secure their trade

routes to the East Indies, China, and the Middle East, ensuring the flow of valuable goods and resources.

Additionally, India served as a buffer against potential threats from other powers, particularly Russia. The "Great Game," a strategic rivalry between Britain and Russia in Central Asia, underscored the geopolitical significance of India. British control over the northwestern frontier of India was crucial in countering Russian expansionism and protecting British interests in the region.

Establishing an effective administrative system was another cornerstone of British political ambitions in India. Effective governance was essential for maintaining control and facilitating economic exploitation. The British implemented a centralized administrative structure, which involved the creation of a bureaucracy staffed by British officials. Significant authority was vested in the Governor-General and later the Viceroy, ensuring centralized control and efficient implementation of British policies. This administrative framework was designed to consolidate British authority and integrate Indian territories into the broader imperial system.

Legal and judicial reforms were integral to the British administrative strategy. The establishment of courts based on British legal principles aimed to create a uniform legal system that would legitimize British rule and facilitate governance. These reforms were part of a broader effort to impose British cultural norms and values on Indian society, reflecting the colonial ambition to reshape Indian institutions in line with British ideals. The promotion of Western education and the English language further exemplified this ambition. By creating a class of educated Indians trained in British customs and administrative practices, the British sought to cultivate a loyal and efficient administrative cadre that would support their colonial governance.

The political ambitions of Britain in India had profound and lasting impacts on the Indian subcontinent. The reorganization of India's political boundaries and administrative divisions laid the groundwork for the modern Indian state, but also disrupted traditional power structures and local governance systems. British policies and reforms often undermined existing social and economic arrangements, leading to significant changes in Indian society.

One of the most significant legacies of British political ambitions in India was the rise of Indian nationalism. The imposition of foreign rule, coupled with the introduction of Western education and political ideas, led to the emergence of a politically conscious Indian middle class. This class played a crucial role in the struggle for independence, mobilizing resistance against British rule and advocating for self-governance. The Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, became a key platform for nationalist leaders to voice their demands and challenge British authority.

The economic and social consequences of British rule were also profound. British policies, aimed at maximizing revenue and exploiting resources, often led to economic hardship for the Indian population. The introduction of new land revenue systems, such as the Permanent Settlement and the Ryotwari system, placed significant burdens on Indian farmers and contributed to widespread poverty. The emphasis on cash crops for export disrupted traditional agricultural practices, leading to food shortages and famines. Moreover, the integration of India into the global economy facilitated the extraction of wealth, resulting in the "economic drain" that transferred substantial financial resources from India to Britain.

The colonization of India by Britain was driven by a complex interplay of political ambitions, including territorial expansion, global dominance, strategic control, and effective governance. These ambitions shaped the policies and strategies adopted by the British, leading to significant political, social, and economic transformations in India. While the British achieved their imperial objectives,

their rule had profound and lasting impacts on the Indian subcontinent, contributing to both its colonial exploitation and its eventual emergence as an independent nation. Understanding the political ambitions behind British colonialism in India provides crucial insights into the nature of imperialism and its enduring consequences for the countries subjected to colonial rule.

In conclusion, the EIC led British territorial expansion in India paving the way for the exploitation of India's abundant natural resources and skilled labor. The strategies employed by various British governors ensured precise control over Indian territories and subjugation of indigenous rulers.

Conclusion

EIC was set up in 1600 as a British commercial undertaking, and it advanced over time. Its change from a trading firm to a political colonial institution in India in 1858 was checked by financial abuse, military dominance, and complex unions with neighborhood rulers. The company's impact on Indian culture, economy, and administration has cleared out an enduring affect, making it a central point for chronicled consider. This theoretical chapter highlighted the historical background of the company, and presented its official foundation in 1600 as a commercial enterprise and its expansion. The chapter also tackled the EIC transformation from a trading body to a political colonial force. It is considered as a solid foundation for the practical part or chapter two.

Chapter Two

The Impact of the East India Company on Colonizing India

Chapter Two: The Impact of the East India Company on Colonizing India

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Introduction

The majority of the imperial methods and trading strategies implemented by the EIC were designed to facilitate British dominance over the Indian subcontinent. As a result, these tactics benefited the company enabling it to gain political sovereignty, economic control over the region's fortunes, and an immense extent of military dominance. Due to the political and the administrative features of the company, it facilitated the British government interference in the Indian regional matters. This chapter tackles the company's lasting changes on economic, military, and cultural levels and its correlation with the direct British Colonization.

2.1.Impact on Indian Society

Indians were seen as inferior and in need of improvement by the British from the beginning of their rule in Bengal. Since the EIC's victory in the Battle of Plassey on 23th June 1757, the British viewed the political regimes and administrative systems as corrupt (Fischer-Tiné& Mann,2004, p.46). According to Talukdar (2018), they introduced/the British certain contemporary concepts to India as a consequence to the corruptive state of the region including liberty, justice, democracy, and social and economic equality. The various reforms implemented by the EIC were manifestations of inserting a typical imperial mentality of Western ideas among the Indian population in order to confirm the European superiority. In other words, the British imperialism was practiced on the Indian population from cultural and social perspectives, and the EIC impact on Indian society was manifested in various forms.

The EIC impact regarding culture consisted of reforms which aimed to westernize Indians through different legislations and methods. One example was the Sati Abolition Act of 1829 which criminalized the practice of burning widows alive after the death of their husbands. Although there was a dilemma between adhering to the principle of non-intervention in the Indian traditions and the

possibility of saving lives, the act was implemented despite the risk of facing troubles, rebellion, and negative impacts on the EIC economic success (Fischer-Tiné & Mann, 2004). Fischer-Tiné and Mann (2004) stated that the practice of Sati was often cited as a reason for the British colonizers to introduce many civilized changes to Indians. That change was done after the company's transformation into a ruling body which could then interfere in Indian affairs in 1765. The EIC also aimed to change other aspects of Indian society.

The EIC impact on Indians regarding religion involved spreading Christianity in the subcontinent as part of the "civilizing mission." The EIC manipulated the Hindu caste system which has divided the Indian society into groups from the birth. The caste system was utilized by the British colonialism to achieve its objectives. The poorer classes are called "the Dalits," they constituted the majority of citizens who converted to Christianity. In fact, converting to Christianity allowed all social groups regardless of their caste background, to upgrade and to experience social and economic mobility (Mott, J. R., 1993). Understanding the caste system was crucial for the EIC to address religious social disabilities and to replace them with Christianity. To Alavi (1998), one movement, known as the "Age of Reform" starting from the 1830s, argued that this era was a decade when the impact of evangelical and utilitarian ideas of reform became most pronounced on the British policy. That movement was led by Charles Grant and James Mill with the motive to westernize India's, and arguing that Hinduism was tyrannical and the degraded state of Indian society resulted from it. Moreover, the firm made other religious changes such as the abolition of Sati to encourage widow remarriage and supporting women's education (Fischer-Tiné & Mann, 2004). Meanwhile, in Southern India numerous Christian mass movements among non-Christians had been occurring since the late 1700s (Arles, 1998). It is no surprise that the British imperialism and the disregard for Indian traditional ways received strong reactions from Indians.

EIC impact regarding education involved mainly regulations concerning the quality of the learning process. British administrators of the Age of Reform focused on educating the Indian population, and after 1813 they aimed to create classless educational activities as part of the evangelic mission (Fischer-Tiné & Mann, 2004). For instance, Thomas Macaulay, a British official, aimed to change India by bringing morality, education, and government concepts from England. In 1835, he enacted the English Education Act for India making English the sole administrative language. Macaulay envisioned creating a group of people who were Indian in blood and color but English in taste, opinions, morals, and intellect as a bridge between the British rulers and the Indian population. This concept often referred to as "Macaulayism," it aimed to westernize upper-class Indians through education reforms. Macaulay suggested also using English as a means to spread Christianity in India. In short, the company's interest in reforming education meant to bring improvement within the population.

In conclusion, the company's policies and tactics deeply impacted Indian society on cultural and social levels. While some reforms such as the abolition of Sati can be seen as an act of humanity, the British intentions were often viewed negatively by Indians, especially with the presence of evangelical missions and Christian missionaries. The British imperial experience was driven by a sense of national superiority and a belief in the right to rule over other people. Its goal was to transfer the British culture to the Indian subcontinent. In short, the EIC played a significant role in facilitating the direct conquest of India by introducing changes to its native population, and various reforms were a manifestation of Western liberal ideas.

2.2. Establishment of Economic Dominance

The Company's primary goal in India was to extract economic resources (Atul, 2020). The British success in the Battle of Plassey was a crucial factor in making the company as a powerful military and economic force. As Durant (1930) wrote: "The British conquest of India was the invasion and

destruction of a high civilization by a trading company [the British East India Company] utterly without scruple or principle, careless of art and greedy of gain, overrunning with fire and sword a country temporarily disordered and helpless, bribing and murdering, annexing and stealing, and beginning that career of illegal and 'legal' plunder which has now [1930] gone on ruthlessly for one hundred and seventy-three years".

2.2.1. Exploitation of Indian Resources

The EIC changed its profit-making approach in India in the second half of the 18th century shifting from trading and economic missions to resource extraction. Scholars regarded this shift as difficult to comprehend (Atul, 2020). Once Bengal was seized by Lord Robert Clive in 1757 in what is known as the Battle of Plassey, the Company became a cruel and exploitative ruler of India for almost another century benefiting Britain at the expense of India by exploiting its resources. The EIC territorial conquest enabled it to reduce expenses and to maximize profits. A popular method of economic exaction used by the British was taxation. The Earl of Chatham or Sir William Pitt the younger as described by Tharoor (2016) in his book *The Inglorious Empire* as "the redemption of a nation...a kind of gift from heaven." (p.33). Also, Tharoor (2016) explained that between 1765 and 1815, the British extracted about £18,000,000 a year from India (p.34) and any unpaid taxes were met with severe penalties. The extracted resources from the India were utilized to establish an armed force under the British control comprising Indian soldiers to protect Pax Britannica in India against the pressure from other competing European imperialist powers and internal rebellions (Hyam, 1976). Pax Britannica was a period of global peace (1815-1914) under the British rule.

One of the imperial tactics employed by the company to solidify its power was the Charter Act of 1813. That Act renewed the charter issued to the British EIC, extended its rule in India, and maintained the possession of the British territories along with certain exclusive privileges (The charter

act of 1813, 2015). As a result, the British state and the EIC developed closer ties with assuming gradually more dominating role.

An example of the exploited resources was the spices it played a significant role in establishing trading business with Asia. Initially it gained popularity among the British elite, and later it spread throughout the nation. As a result, meals throughout Europe underwent a long-lasting transformation becoming far less monotonous. More significantly, spices came to represent another aspect of authority and wealth (Henriques, n.d). According to Van Der Veen, the spices had a significant social, emotional, and economic impact on Europe. In conclusion, the spices and their economic gains were primary contributing factors to the establishment of the EIC trading dominance.

To conclude the EIC principal motive was purely economic in the beginning, and then India's economy was profoundly impacted by the firm's economic policies resulting in empowering Britain's resources.

2.2.2.Impact on Local Economies

Destructing India's prosperous local manufacturing industries laid the foundation for Britain's Industrial Revolution and devastated the region's local economy (Tharoor, 2016). Historian Brooks Adams (2011) posited a connection between the Battle of Plassey and the onset of the Industrial Revolution in England in 1760. Before 1760, English cotton machines were as basic as those in India according to Bains. However, rapid changes occurred afterward where the revolution, initially it was considered scientific, acquired an industrial aspect due to the economic gains from India. Contrary to common belief, the EIC controlled a land that was anything but primitive. As explained by Yorkshire-born American Unitarian minister J.T. Sunderland:

“Nearly every kind of manufacture or product known to the civilized world—nearly every kind of creation of man's brain and hand, existing anywhere, and prized either for its utility or

beauty—had long been produced in India. India was a far greater industrial and manufacturing nation than any in Europe or any other in Asia. Her textile goods—the fine products of her looms, in cotton, wool, linen, and silk—were famous over the civilized world; so were her exquisite jewelry and her precious stones cut in every lovely form; so were her pottery, porcelains, ceramics of every kind, quality, color, and beautiful shape; so were her fine works in metal—iron, steel, silver, and gold.” (Durant, p. 8).

Using textiles as a prime example, the British systematically destroyed India's textile industry and exports replacing Indian textiles with British-made goods such as Indian handloom which became extremely popular in England. Bengali handloom weavers had been producing some of the world's most valued textiles for generations. When the British came to power, they established a company monopoly, pushed away other foreign purchasers, severed India's textile export markets, and broke long-standing trade ties. As British manufacturing increased, unable to compete, they aimed to eliminate Indian textiles. Allegedly, EIC soldiers even dismantled Bengali weavers' looms and broke their thumbs rendering them unable to continue their art. In essence, the British exported their finished goods back to India and the rest of the globe after exploiting Indian raw materials (Tharoor, 2016).

2.3. Political Sovereignty and Military Dominance

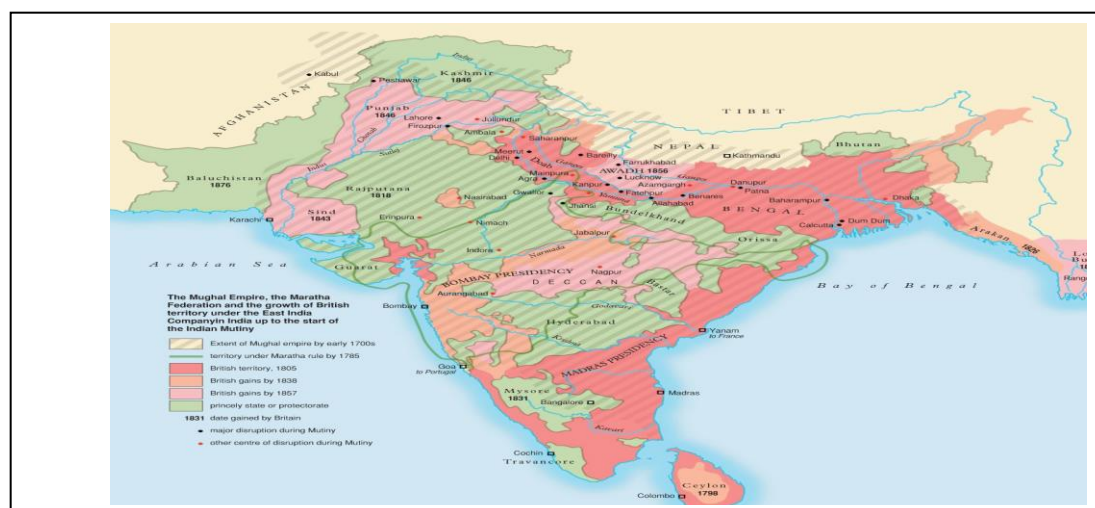
The Battle of Plassey marked a military turning point in India. Between 1755 and 1770, the EIC significantly expanded its operations and gained authority over vast regions in India asserting British dominance. Military operations for territorial expansion were led by Robert Clive, beginning with the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and following by the Battle of Buxar in 1764 (Loftus, 2018). On August 12th, 1765, Shah Alam II signed the Treaty of Allahabad after the victory granting the EIC the perpetual right to collect land revenue (dewani) in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa (Cartwright, 2022).

Controlling the economically significant and densely populated regions enabled the EIC to increase taxes boosting the company's finances and facilitating further territorial capture throughout the Indian subcontinent (Judd, 2004). The EIC authority continued to expand until the Great Rebellion of 1857. Then, about two-thirds of the entire region was under the British rule. According to Judd (1938), by 1818 the British destroyed the Mughal Sovereign in Delhi and vanquished the Maratha Confederacy. Also, in 1815 other European countries held only minor portions of Indian Territory. In 1819, when Mountstuart Elphinstone was appointed as a governor of Bombay, a third of EIC administrations in India were established (Saikhu, 2018). Furthermore, the three Presidencies of Bombay, Madras, and Bengal expanded rapidly as governing and military powers.

The attached map illustrates the chronological territorial expansion of the British EIC in the Indian subcontinent along with the territories of the princely states including the Mughal Empire, and presents other significant events.

Figure 2.1

Expansion of British East India Company



Note: <https://images.app.goo.gl/GCsiNWbuy4WgvkCh9>

The map illustrates that by 1857, before the official British colonization, two out of three regions in the Indian subcontinent were owned by the EIC. The company's territorial expansion extended from Bengal westward into Bihar further into the Mughal heartland in Awadh and eventually around Delhi. Conquering rich regions like Bengal was crucial to the British to encourage the British government to officially claim its sovereignty. After the Pitt's Acts in 1784 the company was already being overseen by the British government.

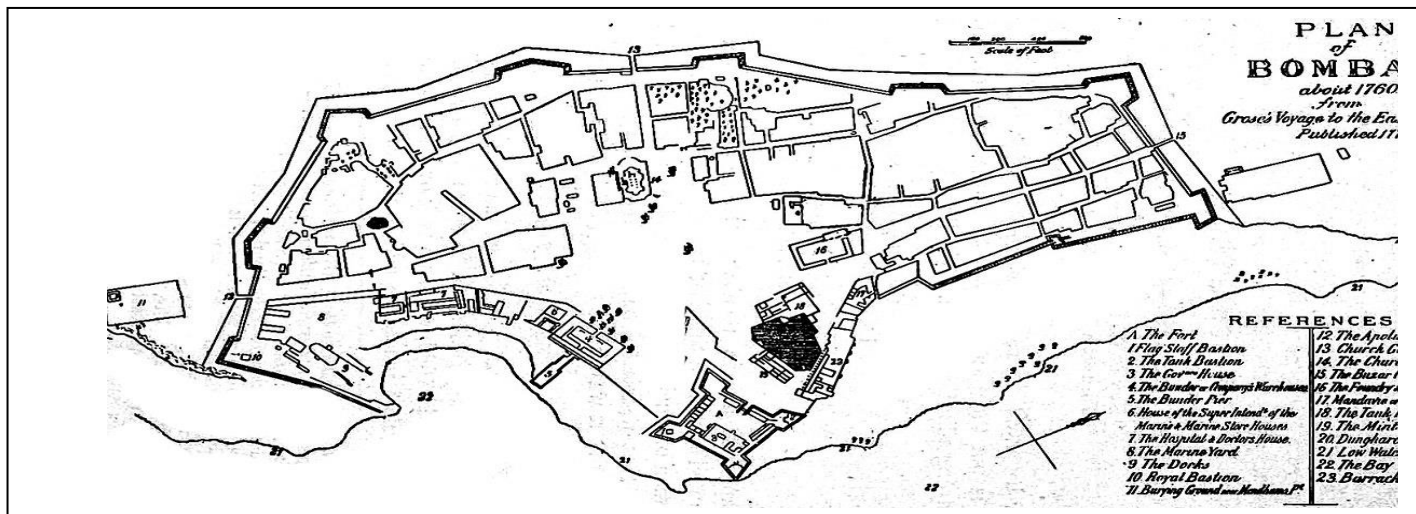
The military and economic achievements from India were interdependent: military expansion which boosted trade earnings, and higher profits that funded the expanding military. Besides, the British government assistance provided necessary material resources for conducting wars in India and allowing the company to attack rivals or force Indian rulers to concede (Loftus, 2018). Although the military prominence became evident after the Battle of Plassey, the right to maintain an army was granted in 1600 by Queen Elizabeth I's Charter to the Governor and Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East Indies permitting the company to display a coat of arms to defend its trade. In doing so, the EIC, initially started as a commercial enterprise, soon evolved into a conquest-driven business supported by imperial policies and a military force. (Roos, 2020).

The EIC military force established unmatched political dominance in the Indian subcontinent. After Robert Clive's success in getting the victory in the Battle of Plassey, he was appointed as the Governor of Bengal. Through this position, he obtained the "diwani" in 1765 from Emperor Shah Alam II granting the company the right to collect taxes and customs revenue from Bengal. This solidified British military dominance gave the company a political power in India. Indian goods were purchased with Indian tax money and exported to Britain. To enforce territorial regulations and to gather taxes, the EIC established an extensive civil and military administration evolving from a business entity to an imperial force (National Army Museum, 2019). With his authority over the Nawab, Mir Jafar who was treated as a "puppet" ruler, the British were able to obtain important concessions.

Also, the fortification further reinforced the company's political force. The British saw forts and defensive infrastructure as essential to their relationship with India. Thirteen forts seemed serving functions beyond trade and raising suspicions about the company's true intentions. By fortifying the bases, the company ensured long-term economic dominance with a strong military presence. An example was the fortification of Bombay which included six extensive charts displaying Bombay's defenses and proposing future fortifications (Loftus, 2018).

Figure 2.2

A Plan of Bombay's Defenses in the 1750s



To conclude, in the 18th and the first half of the 19th century, the EIC grew to be a significant military and political force in India.

2.4. Resistance and Response

The list is endless when it comes to the variety of regulations and methods used by the British under the EIC's name to exploit the economic resources of the subcontinent and to westernize the Indian population. It was no surprise that British imperialism received a strong reaction from Indians as rebellions because of the years of the exploitation and the subjugation. One of the historic

responses and the harshest outcomes of British intervention in Indian political and social structures was the Great Rebellion of 1857.

2.4.1.The Great Rebellion

Based on Urdu records from the National Archives, Dalrymple a contemporary historian, highlighted the religious component as one of the important factors that led to the Revolt of 1857 in his research. Thomas Lowe, a British author, wrote: “The infanticide Rajput, the bigoted Brahmin, the fanatic Musalmans, and the luxury-loving fat-paunched ambitious Mahrattah, for they all joined together in the cause; cow killer, cow worshiper, the pig hater and pig eater, the crier of ‘Allah is God and Mahomet his Prophet,’ and the mumblor of the mysteries of Brahm!” (Lowe, 1860, p.324). Thomas Lowe concluded that they all joined together against the British during the Rebellion of 1857. The Great Rebellion of 1857 involved three-phase events that occurred in India: its prelude, its occurrence, and its result.

The British government's harsh policies and regulations were marked as a reason for the rebellions, those policies included the sudden rise in taxes which led to a famine in 1837 killing millions of Bengalis and Biharis (Aijaz, 2021). The British government's response was the Regular Settlement which caused many villages in the Mewat region to lose their entire population due to death and emigration. The Mewati people attributed their suffering to the British Government and saw it as an opportunity to destroy British authority (Aijaz, 2021). Logically, as a result of the EIC's corrupt legislations, the company witnessed a crisis of control that was exacerbated by military retrenchment and resentment among Sipahis for infringement of ritual rules and the number of deserters increased from 687 in 1822 to 8322 in 1825 (Alavi, 1998). The British also implemented various regulations on the Indian population such as the Religious Disabilities Act that was introduced in 1850. The latter repealed regulations restricting conversion to a different caste or religion and modifying Hindu property law. This caused controversy as it promoted conversion and personal convictions. Six years

after this act, the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act was passed. Those acts impacted the political atmosphere as the interference caused discontent and disaffection among India mainly from 1803-1857.

The second phase of the Great Rebellion is its occurrence that started in Delhi on May 10, 1857, and was led by the Sepoys who fought against the British (Mehellou, 2022). The reforms implemented by the EIC were a manifestation of the country's growing consciousness and the dissemination of Western liberal ideas among the Indian population. As a result of this factor and other significant reasons, the Sepoys attacked the company they worked for. The rebels from the border regions raced to Delhi to fight for the country as the rebellion started there. The Indian sepoy used the names of nations and religion to inspire the youths to oppose the British such as the Mewat youths. The letters that the Mewati Militants (Fidawiane Jameeye Mewat) and their leader Alif Khan wrote to General Bakht Khan on August 13th, 1857 served as an evidence for this claim (Aijaz, 2021). The Sepoys from the Meerut military for instance in their resistance against the British fought with the citizens and Muslim theologians (Alavi, 1998). Both groups also made attacks concerning their social customs and religion.

Figure 2.3

Clive at Plassey, 1757



Note: <https://images.app.goo.gl/9nFDdBKs2HqW84p99>

This source is a watercolor and ink piece by William Heath from 1821. It depicts Clive at Plassey, a battle and a historical event known as the Battle of Plassey which took place in 1757. The British EIC defeated the Nawab of Bengal and his French allies in its army led by Clive during the Seven Years' War. This painting gains greater authenticity and fluidity from the watercolor method capturing the historical setting and the brutality of warfare. The figures and the landscape gain structure and detail from the application of ink outlines.

The result of the 1857 Rebellion was a complete failure. It failed due to a combination of organized strategy, expensive equipment, and strategic errors on the part of the revolutionaries. That led to the transfer of authority to the British Crown even though the Mutiny Rebellion of 1857 was successful in ending the EIC's economic dominance. Consequently, India was formally incorporated into the British Raj in 1858 and became a colony of Great Britain (Mehellou,2022).

In conclusion, the EIC significantly impacted India's military and political landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries by forcing battles, attacking European trading companies, and extorting funds. The firm either destroyed rivals or planned to replace them with allies. Despite not annexing foreign territory, it continued to expand its presence in India (Loftus, 2018). The corporation's possessed power allowed it to practice tyranny and to achieve its objectives. So that, it faced resistance and intolerance from the native Indian rulers and people. To illustrate, the Mutiny Rebellion of 1857 occurred consisting of the sepoys who fought the EIC's army. The latter war ended the official British EIC rule in India and led the British government to take direct control marking the beginning of the British Raj in 1858.

2.5. Analysis of the Correlation between the Failure of the Company and the Start of the British Colonization of India

The failure of the EIC led to the beginning of the British Raj in the Indian subcontinent. The brutal rebellion of 1857 as a reaction to the British oppression, strict regimes since the Battle of Plassey, and the disrespect of the religious matters, ended with complete success for the British army and failure for the rebellious sepoys. Despite the tremendous success of the British, it was difficult to accept that the enemy was a group of men who had once been important protectors of the company and maintainers of order in the region. The idea of positioning Indian soldiers as protectors of an indirect imperial company was reassuring to many civilians.

India was a significant part of the British economy ranging from textiles to gold to other exotic goods that always attracted European powers. However, the company's reputation was tarnished by the Mutiny Rebellion of 1758 posing a serious threat to its business and profits. Consequently, the British government decided to interfere in the matters of the EIC and started an official colonization of India by Britain in 1858, a year after the battle.

This shift from the EIC to the British government was superficial as the company had long been under the control of the British government. The British Parliament passed the Regulating Act in 1773 strengthening government control over the EIC. In 1774, the British Parliament passed the India Act giving the government more authority over the firm. In 1784, Pitt's India Act established British direct engagement in India by placing the activities of the EIC under the immediate control of the British Parliament. In 1813, the Charter Act ended the EIC's commercial monopoly in India declaring British sovereignty over newly conquered territories and establishing distinct geographical and economic jurisdictions as well as full colonial government. Meanwhile, the EIC firmly established British settlements in India, installed the British ambassador, and built permanent industries. Ultimately, on

August 2, 1858, the British government fully occupied the Indian lands held by the EIC. Finally, The company was formally dissolved by the British Parliament on June 1, 1874.

In conclusion, the company's failure shifted business matters to the British government. This occurred gradually through various charters and acts transforming the firm from a trading entity to an imperial force aiming to expand its territories and to impose its rules on every part in India. The company was officially managed directly by the British government demonstrating once more that the official colonization of India was a second purpose for domination and not the first.

2.6.Discussion and Results

The research indicates a relationship between EIC's impact which caused lasting changes on economic, military, and cultural levels, and the British colonization of India. The data confirmed that the company's policies and tactics significantly influenced Indian society promoting cultural and social reforms that were viewed negatively by Indians particularly with evangelic missions and Christian missionaries. The company aimed to transfer the British culture to India through the EIC in order to facilitate the direct invasion. The data also proved that the corporation in the 18th century focused on extracting resources from India. For example, it extracted £18,000,000 annually between 1765 and 1815. That led to the establishment of an armed force and further conquests in what are now India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. In another sphere, the Battle of Plassey contributed to the Industrial Revolution in England in 1760, it decimated India's local manufacturing industries and most of the Indian economic regions. Another way, the company's economic policies significantly impacted India's economy negatively and Britain's positively. Additionally, the EIC had a significant military influence in India between 1755 and 1770 , and this helped Britain in expanding its operations and gaining authority over broad regions. In 1815, other European countries held only minor portions of Indian Territory while the EIC administration was expanded rapidly. The three Presidencies of Bombay, Madras, and Bengal were primarily composed of Indians and British officers with British armed forces

from the monarchy confirming the direct British government involvement in the company's affairs. Those British imperialistic tactics in India led to the Great Rebellion of 1857, a historic response to the British exploitation and subjugation and resulted in harsh consequences for Indian society.

The above summary confirmed the hypotheses suggested in the general introduction. The EIC's policies after its transformation into an imperial institution had an impact that changed the history of both Britain and India. In other words, all the tactics, acts, and strategies employed by the British EIC aimed to benefit the British Empire. Firstly, its economic policies worked to reindustrialize India by frequently exploiting the local populace to extract wealth, minerals, and agricultural products helping the British to establish new markets for their products. Those markets benefited the colonists economically by providing them a place to sell their excess inventory but prevented Indian rulers from achieving economic independence. Secondly, its cultural policies aimed to westernize and to Christianize Indians in order to create an environment and beliefs similar to their homeland facilitating the control by using the religion and easing the process of policy implementation without much rebellions. In doing so, the colonial policies convinced Indians that they were culturally inferior to the British and needed British guidance for political success. EIC's strategies were achieved through military force to assert dominance. The mentioned policies were part of an indirect colonial process. Hypothetically speaking, if the Great Rebellion had never occurred, the direct colonization of 1858 might not have happened as the company already enjoyed the privileges of indirect colonization. This analysis offers a new understanding of the relationship between the EIC and its impact on the British colonialism of India. However, the authenticity of the findings may be influenced by other aspects and dimensions of the British invasion. In conclusion, the study demonstrates a connection between the British EIC and the armed direct colonization of India.

Conclusion

The victory at Plassey marked the beginning of the British EIC rule in India and its shift from a peaceful trading body to an imperial force. As a result, the British Empire expanded its military strength, colonial pushback, and puppet governments in the Indian states. Moreover, the EIC continued to extend its presence and its interference in India. Its tyranny provoked a massive rebellions which ended with the success of the British. Consequently, the Indian subcontinent was then directly governed by Britain in 1858 marking the beginning of the British Ra

General Conclusion

The Indian subcontinent has always been considered as a jewel for Europeans because of its wealth, its natural resources, and its strategic location. In the 16th century the British Empire planned to colonize India through the idea of imperialism. That is, Britain planned to integrate into India's economy often coinciding with the establishment of a trading organization. That corporation was the British EIC. This study sought to explore the tactics employed by the EIC to colonize India. It particularly delved into how that company transitioned from a trading body into an imperial power, and how it facilitated the direct British colonization of India. This research involved three main objectives to cover the main purpose of the study including exploring the historical background of the EIC during the colonial British period, scrutinizing the economic, political, and social influence of the firm on India and its people, and presenting the company's impact through introducing its colonial policies and its governance in India.

This dissertation included two main chapters. The first chapter is entitled the East India Company from Trade to Imperialism: Historical Overview. It examined the EIC's role in the British conquest of India through focusing on its change from a trading corporation into an imperial power. In doing so, the first chapter tackled the historical context of the company's establishment in 1600 and its presence in India, and it analyzed its impact on the Indian subcontinent's economy, politics, and society in addition to assessing its influence. Besides, the chapter two is entitled the East India Company's impact on colonizing India. The latter presented an in-depth description of the dissertation's methodology which was a historical analysis of various historical collected data. This chapter discussed the designed strategies employed by the EIC to facilitate the British colonial incursion into India. It contained a comprehensive analysis yielding valuable findings that proved the relationship between the EIC and the direct British invasion of India in the light of relevant literature.

Moreover, This research revolved around three main questions. The First question aimed to find the main motives behind the EIC subsequent expansion in the Indian subcontinent. The second question sought to discover the firm's strategy to maintain its trading monopoly in India. The third one investigated the impacts of the company amongst India and its people. Correspondingly, three main hypotheses were formulated. The first hypothesis was that the EIC profit-driven tactics in India influenced its policies and practices. The second one supposed that the firm's imperial strategies led to its exploitation of the Indian natural and economic resources. The last hypothesis suggested that the company paved the way for the direct military British colonialism of the Indian subcontinent. To test out the mentioned hypotheses and to get the answers to our questions, this study opted from qualitative approach where exploratory and historical methods were used in collecting and analyzing the data.

Accordingly, this research reached the following results. This study indicated a correlation between the British EIC's policies and its enduring effects on India's economy, military, and culture paving the way for the direct British colonization. The findings revealed that the company's policies significantly influenced India and the Indian society. To illustrate, an economic exploitation with an annual extraction of Indian £18,000,000 fuelled the British military expansion, and that led to the Battle of Plassey between the British army and the indigenous rulers and people in 1757 catalyzing England's Industrial Revolution at the expense of India's local industries. Also, the company's military dominance expanded its authority mainly after the Indian Rebellion in 1857 which was led by the sepoys against the British exploitation. Those results validated the previous posited hypotheses showcasing how the EIC's tactics served the British interests while hindering India's economic, military, and political success. By exploiting resources and imposing cultural and religious assimilation, the company indirectly colonized India with the British government's support. Overall, this study sheds light on the intertwined relationship between the establishment of the EIC as a trading collaborating company between Britain and India and the British colonization of India in 1858.

To confirm our hypotheses and to reach the objectives, this research selected qualitative approach in which there is the use of descriptive and exploratory methods to describe and to analyze the history concerning the role of the British EIC as an imperial plan in colonizing the Indian subcontinent. To sum up, EIC is a great example of today's western capitalism. The study's findings may be limited by the accessibility and the availability of relevant data. Some historical records or primary resources may be missing or insufficient which limits the depth and the scope of the research.

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المخلص

إن استعمار الهند من خلال شركة الهند الشرقية (EIC) يمثل موضوعًا مهمًا في سجلات التاريخ الاستعماري. تبحث هذه الدراسة في دور هذه الشركة كمؤسسة امبريالية في استعمار شبه القارة الهندية من القرن السادس عشر إلى القرن التاسع عشر. يعتمد هذا البحث على منهجية التحليل التاريخي من خلال استخدام الأساليب الوصفية والتحليلية للمعلومات التاريخية. الهدف الرئيسي من الأطروحة هو تأكيد العلاقة بين الشركة المذكورة و الاستعمار العسكري القسري للهند في 1858 على وجه التحديد بعد تحول هذه الشركة التجارية الى كيان امبريالي استعماري بشكل غير مباشر، حيث تم فرض سياسات للتأثير على الهند اقتصاديًا، عسكريًا، سياسيًا ، وثقافيًا بطريقة غير مباشرة. ان مناقشة و تسليط الضوء على الاستراتيجيات الامبريالية التي يستخدمها الغرب يشرح بشكل واضح ديناميكيات القوة التاريخية والمعاصرة و يضيف معرفة قيمة إلى هذا الميدان.

الكلمات الرئيسية: الهند، شركة الهند الشرقية ، الإمبراطورية البريطانية، الاستعمار.