

Establishment of Colonial Rule

Chapter 4: The Colonial Era in India · Topic 1

Key Concept

After the Revolt of 1857, the British Crown took direct control of India from the East India Company, establishing formal colonial rule known as the British Raj.

The British established a centralised administrative system, with a Viceroy representing the Crown, and introduced new laws, courts, and a civil service to govern India.

Colonial rule significantly changed India's economy, often prioritising British interests, like exporting raw materials from India and importing British manufactured goods.

This period saw the introduction of railways, telegraphs, and modern education, alongside policies that often exploited Indian resources and labour for British benefit.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Revolt of 1857 led to British Crown taking direct control.
- This was the start of formal colonial rule (British Raj).
- A Viceroy represented the Crown in India.
- New laws, courts and civil service were introduced.
- Colonial rule changed India's economy significantly.
- Raw materials were exported, manufactured goods imported.
- Railways, telegraphs and modern education were introduced.
- These changes often exploited Indian resources for British benefit.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Revolt of 1857 and its outcome.
- 2 Discuss what the British Raj means.
- 3 Explain the role of the Viceroy.
- 4 Research how railways were introduced in India.
- 5 Discuss how colonial trade policies affected Indian economy.
- 6 Create a timeline of colonial rule's key milestones.