

Europe and India

Chapter 2: Europe and India · Topic 1

Key Concept

European traders, including the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and British, arrived in India seeking valuable spices, textiles, and other goods.

The British East India Company gradually expanded from a trading company into a political power, exploiting India's internal conflicts.

European technological and military advantages, combined with India's political fragmentation, allowed for gradual European control.

This period of European involvement fundamentally transformed India's economy, administration, and society, setting the stage for colonial rule.

Quick Revision Notes

- European traders: Portuguese, Dutch, French, British.
- They sought spices, textiles, other goods.
- British East India Company expanded politically.
- It exploited India's internal conflicts.
- European tech, military advantages helped control.
- India's political fragmentation also helped.
- This transformed India's economy, administration.
- It set stage for colonial rule.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the arrival of the Portuguese in India.
- 2 Discuss the East India Company's transformation.
- 3 Research how political fragmentation helped Europeans.
- 4 Discuss European technological advantages of that era.
- 5 Draw a timeline of European arrival in India.
- 6 Explain how trade led to colonial control.