

# Traders to Rulers - Part I

Chapter 5: Traders to Rulers - Part I · Topic 1

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## Key Concept

The British East India Company initially came to India for trade in spices, textiles, and other goods, establishing trading posts along the coast.

Over time, the Company began interfering in local politics, forming alliances with some Indian rulers and fighting others for control.

The Battle of Plassey in 1757 was a turning point, giving the Company significant political control over Bengal, one of India's richest regions.

This shift from trade to political rule marked the beginning of British colonial control that would eventually expand across India.

## Quick Revision Notes

- The British East India Company came to India for trade.
- They traded spices, textiles and other goods.
- The Company began interfering in local politics.
- They formed alliances and fought Indian rulers.
- The Battle of Plassey (1757) was a turning point.
- It gave the Company control over Bengal.
- This marked the shift from trade to political rule.
- British colonial control expanded from here.

## Practice Questions

- 1 Research the British East India Company's early trade.
- 2 Discuss the significance of the Battle of Plassey.
- 3 Explain how trade led to political control.
- 4 Research Bengal's importance to the British.
- 5 Create a timeline of the Company's early actions in India.
- 6 Discuss why this shift is historically significant.