

Formation of British Provinces

Chapter 2: Reshaping India's Political Map · Topic 2

Key Concept

British India was divided into provinces like Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, each headed by a Governor who reported to the Viceroy in overall charge of India.

Each province was further divided into districts, managed by a District Collector, responsible for revenue collection, law enforcement, and general administration.

This provincial system helped the British efficiently administer a vast and diverse territory, standardising laws and policies across different regions.

The provincial boundaries and administrative structures established during this period had a lasting impact, influencing the states and administrative divisions of independent India.

Quick Revision Notes

- British India was divided into provinces like Bengal, Bombay and Madras.
- Each province was headed by a Governor.
- Governors reported to the Viceroy.
- Provinces were divided into districts.
- A District Collector managed each district.
- Collectors handled revenue, law and administration.
- This system standardised laws across regions.
- This structure influenced independent India's states.

Practice Questions

- 1 Name three provinces of British India.
- 2 Explain the role of a Governor.
- 3 Explain the role of a District Collector.
- 4 Discuss why the British organised India into provinces.
- 5 Research how this system influenced modern Indian states.
- 6 Create a simple chart of British India's administrative structure.