

Industrialisation in Colonial India

Chapter 4: The Age of Industrialisation · Topic 2

Key Concept

Colonial policies encouraged India to export raw materials (like cotton and jute) to Britain, while importing British manufactured goods, limiting India's own industrial growth.

Despite these constraints, Indian entrepreneurs established textile mills in cities like Bombay and Ahmedabad, and jute mills in Bengal, marking early industrial development.

Indian industrialists, like Jamsetji Tata, also invested in heavy industries like steel, laying important foundations despite facing competition from established British industries.

Colonial industrial policy often neglected Indian workers' welfare, with poor wages and working conditions in factories, similar to challenges seen during Britain's own industrialisation.

Quick Revision Notes

- Colonial policies favoured British industries.
- India exported raw materials and imported British manufactured goods.
- This limited India's own industrial growth.
- Indian entrepreneurs built textile mills in Bombay and Ahmedabad.
- Jute mills developed in Bengal.
- Jamsetji Tata invested in heavy industries like steel.
- Indian industries faced competition from British industries.
- Indian factory workers often faced poor wages and conditions.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Jamsetji Tata's contributions to Indian industry.
- 2 Discuss why colonial policy limited Indian industrial growth.
- 3 Research early textile mills in Bombay or Ahmedabad.
- 4 Explain the import-export pattern under colonial rule.
- 5 Discuss working conditions faced by early Indian factory workers.
- 6 Compare industrialisation in Britain and colonial India.