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Tender Heart High School,  
Sector 33B, Chandigarh  
Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 9  
Traders to Rulers - (2)

Good Morning Students,

In this chapter we will study about the gradual expansion of their power by the British in India. So let us begin here with their conflict with the Kingdom of Mysore.

The Kingdom of Mysore was ruled by Hyder Ali and later by his son Tipu Sultan. The First and the Second Anglo-Mysore Wars were fought during the time of Hyder Ali. He defeated the British but due to his death, Tipu Sultan continued his fight against the British. He introduced modern weapons in the army. In the Third Anglo-Mysore war, Tipu Sultan lost almost half of his territories. The Fourth Anglo Mysore War resulted in the defeat of Tipu Sultan and he died while giving a tough resistance to the British.

From 1775 to 1782, the British and the Marathas were engaged in the First Anglo-Maratha War. It was fought over the issue of succession to the throne of the Peshwa. Among the two claimants Madhav Rao II and Raghunath Rao, British supported the latter. The war did not result in victory

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for either side.

The British were well aware of the internal conflicts between the Maratha chiefs. So they took advantage of this rift. The Scindhia and Bhonsle fought against the British. But Holkar and Gaekwad remained neutral. Later on Scindhia and Bhonsle became allies of the British. This weakened the position of the Marathas. In the third Anglo-Maratha War the armies of the Peshwa, Holkar and Bhonsle were defeated in various places.

Amongst the few Indian Kingdoms that remained independent was Punjab. The British had good relations with this region. But after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, his son Dalip Singh came to the throne. In 1845, the First Anglo-Sikh War ended in defeat for Sikhs. But as they refused to accept defeat there was Second Anglo Sikh War in 1848. It sealed the fate of Punjab and it was finally annexed by the British.

Among the British expansionist policies let us discuss about Subsidiary Alliance first. Subsidiary Alliance was started by Lord Wellesley in 1798. It was a clever move as the British took advantage of the rivalries between the Indian rulers. The British asked the rulers to accept the paramountcy of the British and signed a subsidiary treaty. In return the



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British promised to help the ruler from internal rebellions and attacks by his rivals. Rulers who signed the Subsidiary Treaty had to agree to the following conditions

1. The ruler would not keep an army of his own.
2. He would keep a British army and pay for its maintenance.
3. The ruler would have to ask British before entering into alliance with another ruler or declaring war.
4. A British officer called Resident would be stationed at the ruler's court.

This proved to be of great advantage for the British but Indian ruler now became dependent upon the British. He could no longer make his own decisions.

In 1848, Lord Dalhousie became the Governor-General and devised a policy called the Doctrine of Lapse. According to it, when the ruler of a kingdom under British protection died without a natural heir, his territory would not pass to an adopted heir but would lapse or become part of British dominion. He annexed Satara, Nagpur on these grounds.

The British were successful as Indians lacked unity, did not gain support of common people, had poorly trained army and were technologically backward.