



Theme B - Tapestry of the past.

4 - The colonial Era in India.

Answer the following questions:

1. Name the Indian ruler defeated the Dutch at the Battle of Colachel in 1741?
Ans. King Marthanda Varma, defeated the Dutch at the Battle of Colachel in 1741.
2. How did the subsidiary alliance reduce the freedom of Indian rulers?
Ans. * Under this system, a British Resident was stationed in the court of an Indian ruler, who in return received protection against internal or external threats.
* The ruler was obliged to pay for the upkeep of British troops and to conduct foreign relations only through the British.
* Although the princely states appeared to remain independent, real authority passed to the British, while Indian rulers bore the costs.

3. Why Doctrine of lapse caused resentment?

Ans: The Doctrine of lapse, which allowed the annexation of any princely state where the ruler died without a direct male heir.

The policy ignored the Hindu custom of adoption, leading to the takeover of numerous states.

It created widespread resentment and became one of the causes of the Rebellion of 1857.

4. What were the reasons for the decline of Indian textile industry during British rule?

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Ans: India's textile exports had fallen sharply, while imports from Britain grew rapidly.

Reasons:

* Indian textiles sent to Britain had to pay very high import duties, while British goods entered India at very low rates.

* Britain also controlled the shipping routes and the money exchange system, which made it harder for Indian traders to sell their goods abroad.

5. Analyse the factors that led to the 1857 revolt and justify why do historians call it the 'first war of Independence'.

Ans: * The revolt of 1857 was caused by political annexations, economic exploitation, military grievances, and religious fears.

* Policies like the subsidiary Alliance, heavy taxation, and the use of greased cartridges angered Indians.

* The revolt involved soldiers, rulers, peasants and common people across many regions.

* It is called the First war of Independence because it was the first large-scale, united attempt by Indians to overthrow British rule and end foreign domination.