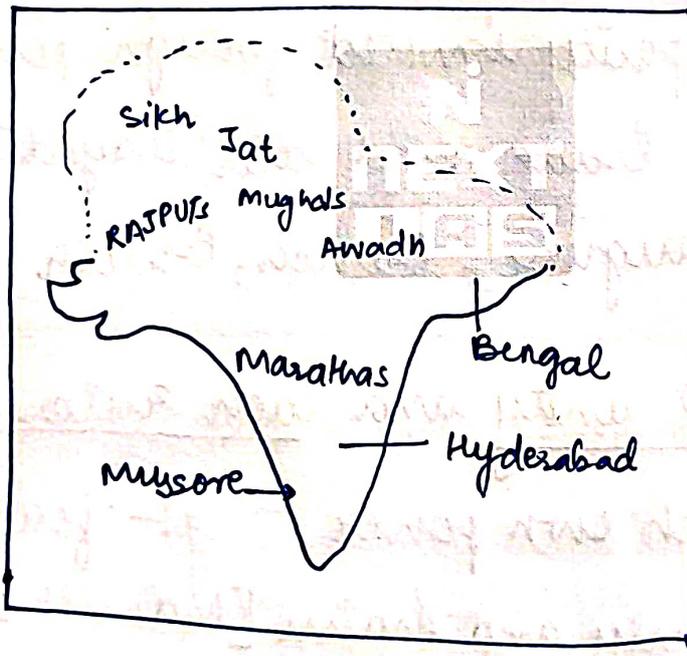


Q1 = Clarify how mid 18<sup>th</sup> C India was beset with spectre of fragmented polity. (10M)

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In mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, Indian political scenario saw the rise of different political powers while others were on the verge of extinction.

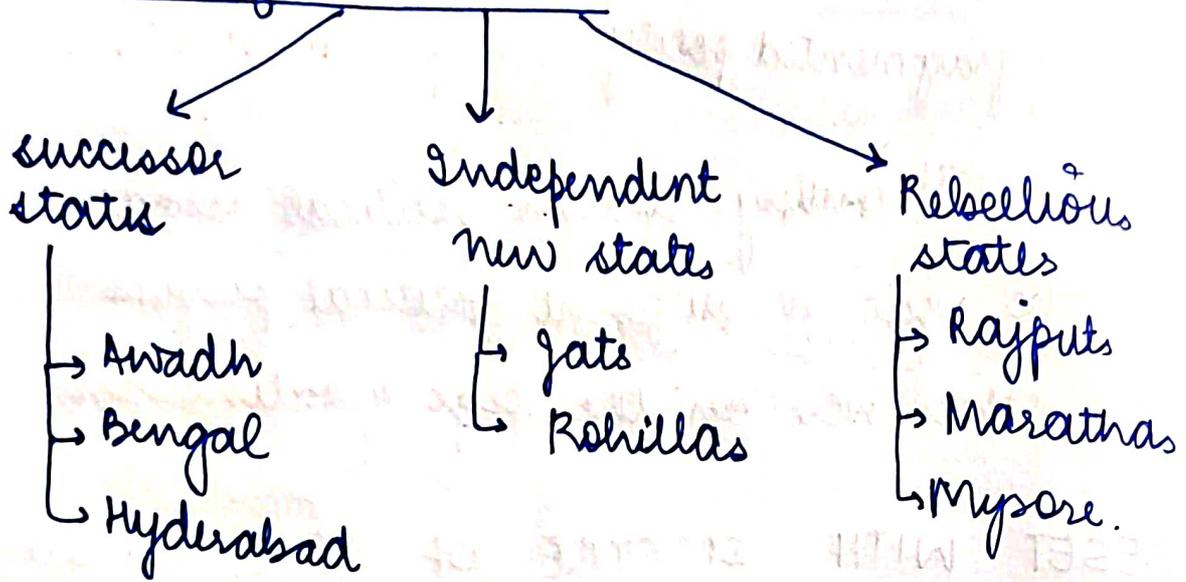
BESET WITH SPECTRE OF FRAGMENTED POLITY



1) Decline of Mughal Empire :-

- Deccan policy of Aurangzeb drained wealth
- Weak successors
- Zamindari & jagirdari crisis
- Constant infighting among rulers
- Loss of agriculture revenue.

2) Rise of new states



3) Incoming foreign power → such a spectre of fragmented polity invited foreign powers who came for trade and later stayed to rule - eg:- Portuguese, French, British.

4) No regional unity and each ruler only concerned with own power - eg:- feud between Rajaram's family and Shahu [Marathas]

Therefore, 18<sup>th</sup> century witnessed breaking of unity maintained by earlier rulers which ultimately weakened India's unity

Q2. The success of EIC depended on its capacity to mobilize greater resources than its rivals. Critically comment in context of reasons for success of EIC both against Indians & Europeans. [10M].

The East India Company [1600 CE] set to become one of the most successful companies in the history of mankind as it not only made profits across world but also gained huge political control over once-called Golden Bird i.e. India.

Reasons for success over Europeans:

- 1) Privately organized company unlike French, Dutch - state sanctioned
- 2) Less religious in approach than orthodoxy shown by Portuguese
- 3) Were better equipped with arms, modern army and disciplined force.
- 4) Naval super powers as they had better ships and were able to control substantive portion of sea routes.

5) More patriotic than other companies, thus, worked tirelessly for progress.

Reasons for success over Indians:-

- 1) Better organized and disciplined forces compared to large, inefficient Indian army [eg:- won Battle of Plassey with handful men]
- 2) Shrewd policies such as divide and rule [eg: Marathas]
- 3) Involved in regional affairs and gained maximum benefit - eg: Carnatic wars.
- 4) Never let go of their focus from the commercial aspect
- 5) Industrial revolution in Britain → started economic drain in India, giving edge to British.

Thus, British emerged as superpowers due to their excellent leadership, discipline and diplomacy.

Q3. Indian society's impulse for change & reform was a response to colonial rule. Elaborate. (10M)

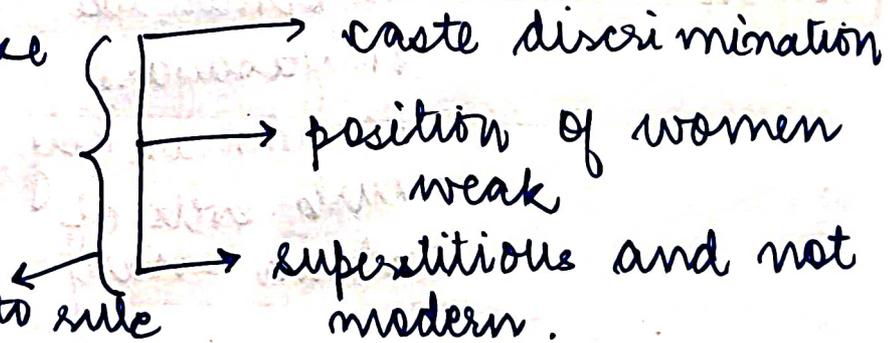
At the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Indian society was marred with many ills, superstitions which weakened it from within and paved way for British to rule.

### IMPULSE FOR CHANGE: REACTION TO BRITISH

#### RULE :-

(1) British established hegemony on the pretext that it's white man's burden to cure India

of evils like



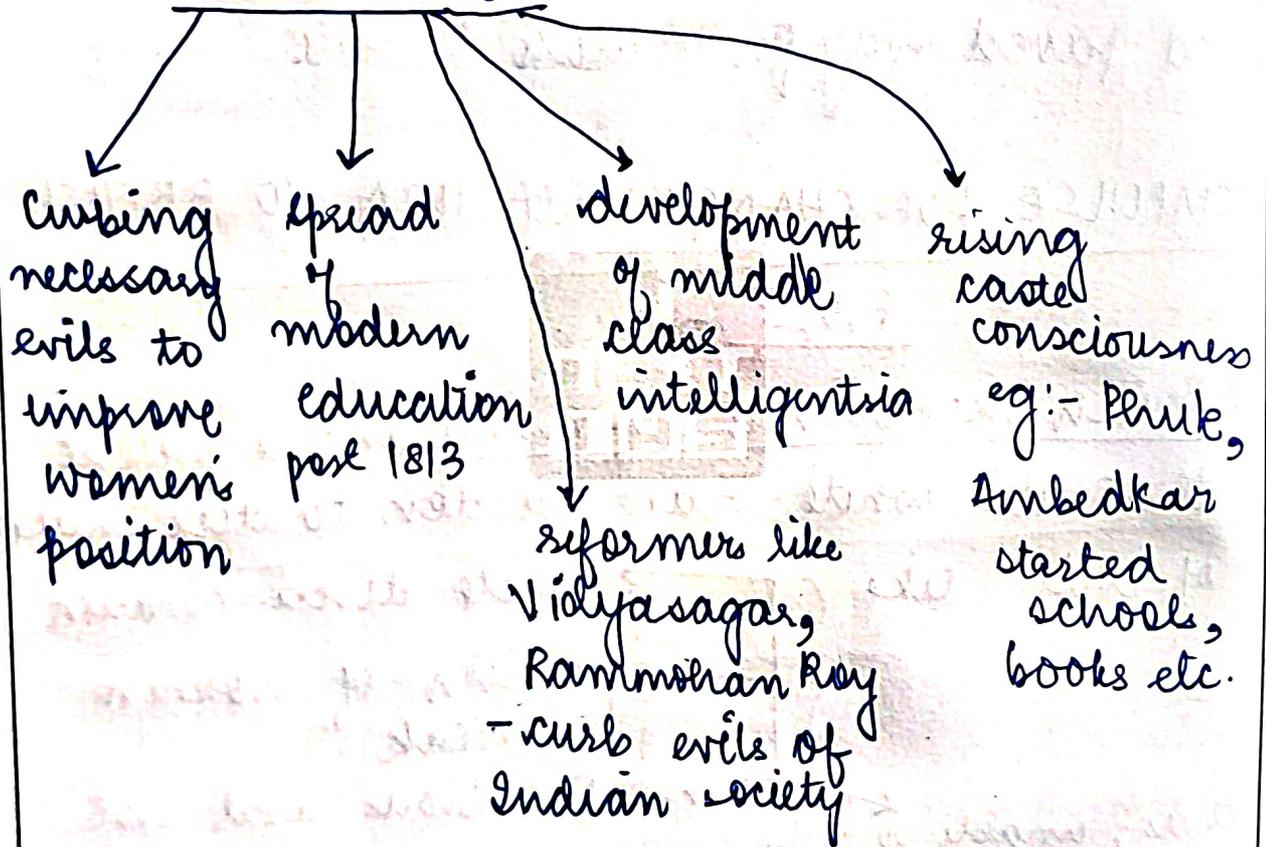
(2) Urge to challenge this notion led rise to birth of individual reformers who wanted to cure India of these defects

(3) Reaction also came as revivalism - who wanted to claim religion to their original form, free of evils.

(4) As a response to show Indians fit for self-rule - began usage of doctrines like rationalism, humanism [advocates like - Vivekananda, Raja Rammohan Roy]

CHANGE WAS NOT CONFINED AS A COLONIAL

RESPONSE :-



Therefore, the reform or the renaissance period in India came as a reaction to British policies but also driven from the inner urge to change.

Q4. The 1857 uprising was culmination of recurrent, big & small local rebellions that occurred in preceding 100 years of British rule. Elaborate.

The revolt of 1857 was the melting pot of simmering discontent which began to boil as soon as British interfered with the way of life of different classes of society.

### 1857: CULMINATION OF RECURRENT, BIG AND SMALL REBELLIONS:-

- 1) Tribal uprisings - Began in 1750s, uprisings by Santhals (1855-57), Pahariyas [1760s and later], Chuaras etc continued even ~~over~~ after 1857 to fight interference with their lands.
- 2) Peasant revolts - challenging British hegemony and their right to extract revenue, uprisings began in 1800s eg:- Fairazi movement, Nalkalberia uprising.
- 3) Zamindars' revolt - They were deprived of their power and position by British and thus started civil rebellion against

them. eg:- Poligar's revolt in Travancore.

(4) Revolts by ~~small~~ small kings - Regular battles with regional powers as British annexed their empire on one pretext or other - eg:- Doctrine of Lapse, subsidiary alliance

(5) Military revolts :- Due to discrimination, inhuman treatment and less facilities than British soldiers. eg:- Vellore Mutiny (1806), Meerut Conspiracy (1824) etc.

Therefore, a number of groups dissatisfied with British rule ultimately got together for their interests to oust them of their power.

Q5.

Critically examine how introduction of Western education transformed India in unforeseen ways.

Introduction of Western education began as a modest attempt when ₹1 lakh was sanctioned for spread of education under the Charter Act, 1815.

### TRANSFORMATION IN UNFORESEEN WAYS:-

1) Created a class of clerical staff - low paying English speaking jobs were given to a select pool of Indians.

2) Development of a distinct middle class :-  
As the decision to spread education, went into favour of anglicists, a select class of Indians who could afford to study were imparted English education.

3) Spread of revolutionary ideas across world - Western education opened gateways to reform movt.

new  
revolution  
across world

ideas  
such as  
liberty, freedom

literature by  
authors like  
Ruskin Bond etc.

- 4) Immigration to foreign land began - started revolutionary groups and affiliations like India house, London [Chyami] Verma] to prepare youth for struggle.
- 5) Idea of independence born in minds of these classes who were earlier aloof to it.
- 6) Exposure of real nature of British rule eg:- Dadabhai Naoroji's Critique in Poverty & Unbritish Rule in India.
- 7) Brought people from distinct linguistic backgrounds together - eg:- National conference held in Calcutta.
- 8) Yet, no development of mass education which limited only to a group of elite.
- 9) Work done for social reform, caste discrimination and women's position

Thus, western education became the key to newer prospects of freedom, intellectual liberty and collective consciousness raising.

NEXT IAS

06 = How did social reform & ideological struggle against backward traditional elements and hegemony of colonial culture in 19<sup>th</sup> C can influence the emergence of a distinct cultural identity & national consciousness? [15M]

Ideological struggle in 19<sup>th</sup> century tackled two evils which plagued our society - first, dominance and imposition of colonial culture and second, backward traditional elements which pulled back our growth. Fighting against these two resulted in a new phase of struggle and identity building.

Social reform against backward elements

1) Women treated as inferiors - prevalence of practice such as sati, kulinisim, purdah, polygamy, denial of remarriage etc.

↳ efforts of Rammohan Roy to abolish sati he called it "murder".

↳ Vidyasagar made stride to ensure widow remarriage, girls education [Bethune school]

(2) Caste discrimination - Untouchability, denial of education, rights like visiting temple, wells etc. denied.

↳ efforts by Jyotiba Phule who started education drive for Dalits, women and Poona Sarvajanik Sabha.

↳ Ambedkar - started Mooknayak (newspaper), Bahishkrit Hitkarni Sabha and acts like public Burning of Manusmriti

(3) Orthodoxy and superstition - challenged by leaders like Vivekananda, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan - who believed in modern education, global learning.

Ideological struggle to British empire's rule :-

- 1) Challenge to supremacy of west by cultural reimmigration of ancient past
- 2) Emphasis on the glorious past filled with science, art and literature.

NEXT IAS

(3) Religion linked with rationality and reason → eg:- Rammohan Roy in Precepts of Jesus tries to uncover how philosophical basis of most religions are same.

(4) Modern elements fused with traditional elements :- Eg:- Vivekananda in his speech at Chicago in 1897 emphasised on importance of spirituality and India's contribution to it.

(5) challenge to claim that women not treated well in India :- emphasis on women roles in past, starting of women schools, organization eg:- Rukhmabai, Kadambini Ganguly - important figures.

All of this lead to cultural awareness and national consciousness

- spirit of unity
- enquiry, reform & humanism
- urge to have control over own land and challenge claims of British.

Thus, this churning was important to forge a united struggle.

Q7. The process of consolidation of Bengal, which started after Plessey culminated in Battle of Buxar. Do you think Battle of Buxar was more imp for British than Plessey?

Battles of Buxar (1764) and Plessey (1757) laid the foundation for British rule in India. Both of them have significantly contributed to their transformation from trading partners to ruling class.

### Battle of Plessey

1) Backdrop :- Wanted gain of economic routes, trade and zamindari rights  
 • The Blackhole Tragedy which allegedly killed many EIC soldiers gave immediate cause to attack.

2) The War :- Robert Clive, with a handful men, exploited weakness of the empire by turning its military chief and army against the king and British won decisively.

3) Gains :-

(i) Controlled zamindari of 24 pargana

- (ii) sole rights to issue dastaks.
- (iii) controlled the matters of Bengal as Mir Jafar, a puppet ruler established and subedar was appointed by British.

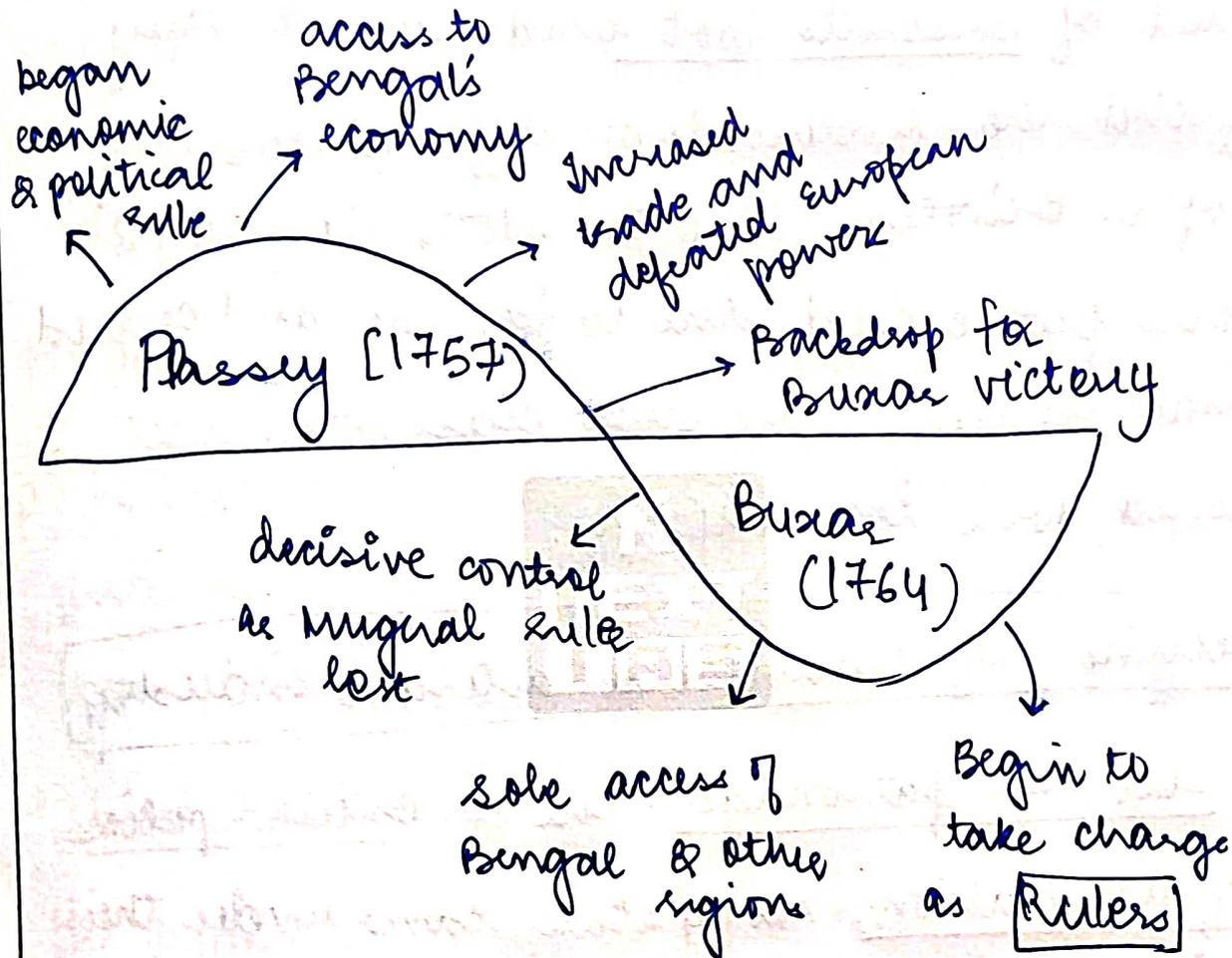
### Battle of Buxar

- 1) In 1764, after British have won Carnatic, their aims grew larger. Moreover, the Bengal rule under Mir Qasim was not a puppet rule anymore as he was asserting his authority.
- 2) Mir Qasim - obstructed misuse of powers by EIC and also allowed others to trade in same region - giving rise to war.
- 3) Mir Qasim, with Shah Shuja (Nawab of Awadh) and Shah Alam II (Mughal emperor) attacked British but was decisively defeated.
- 4) In Treaty of Allahabad (1765)
  - (i) Mughal ruler was to be treated as a house prisoner in Allahabad.
  - (ii) Given ₹ 1 crore to British.
  - (iii) Dinani of Bengal, Odisha & Bihar to British.

NEXT IAS

(W) started dual <sup>govt.</sup> rule in Bengal where British had final say.

## IMPORTANCE OF THE WARS



Therefore, it would not be apt to say one was more important than others.

Even though Buxar conclusively laid the foundation of this rule, the Battle of Plassey was equally important as the foundation stone.

Q8.

Examine how the decline of traditional artisan industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. [15 m]

The economic policies of British were nothing short of absolute loot and ruin as they effected the livelihoods of different classes of people. Between 1850 to 1900, close to 1.8 crore people died due to famine and crippled rural economy. One such class who was ruined were the artisans.

### Decline of traditional artisan industry

- 1) Loss of patronage - Due to British policies of annexation, many states came under their direct rule, thus, old patronage by rulers to the artisans was gone.
- 2) Import of cheap, machine made products - flooding Indian markets and made traditional product unviable
- 3) Imposition of 90% export duty on Indian traditional handicrafts, thus,

- attacking with twin swords.
- 4) forced export of cheap raw material including timber, wood, agriculture products, dyes - impacted their availability.
  - 5) Falling into redundancy as new machines and industrialization was not introduced to India.

### Crippling of rural economy

- 1) Forced artisans to leave urban cities and move back to rural areas for jobs, thus began 'ruralization' of economy
- 2) Increased crowd on land as :-
  - (i) productivity couldn't increase to accommodate surplus labour.
  - (ii) reduced availability of produce per person
  - (iii) Began to have more subsistence agriculture than surplus.
- 3) Major families now dependent on agriculture and tenancy as a

lot of artisans did not have their own lands.

(4) Oppressive zamindars and money lenders further resorted to loot and exorbitant pricing, increasing their woes.

(5) No incentive or money to improve land productivity and forced to grow crops like indigo.

Thus, traditional artisan industry had domino effect not <sup>only</sup> over on the urban area but also enhanced penury of villages.

Q9. Discuss British govt's approach towards Indian admin after revolt of 1857? How did admin changes post 1857 help in consolidating British control over India?

The revolt of 1857 came as a shock to the British government who then decided to take charge from the East India company and the Queen of England, became Kaiser-e-Hind & empress of India.

### BRITISH GOVT'S APPROACH TOWARDS

#### INDIAN ADMINISTRATION POST 1857

- 1) stopped the policy of doctrine of lapse as states were faithful during the revolt but princely states now came directly under the British crown.
- 2) Governor General of India also became the Viceroy of India who would directly report to crown.
- 3) Secretary of state with a 15 member council established to have control over Indian affairs.
- 4) Military changes
  - (i) all important posts only under

British soldiers.

(ii) Regiments based on regions and identity formed - eg: Sikh, Gurkha [martial races]

5) Educational reforms - The attitude to civilize the barbarians was pushed aside and govt stopped paying attention to spread of education.

6) The Executive's council was the sole body to decide on issues and Indians deprived of any power.

7) Stringent laws such as Vernacular Press Act, 1878 passed to gag the press.

8) Revenue and taxes made more stringent and zamindars were restored authority.

9) Increase in trust deficit between the colonizer and colonized.

How did it help to consolidate  
British rule in India?

- 1) The East India Company's nefarious activities were stopped and Britain gained direct access over resources.
  - 2) could exploit the Indian princely states and provinces to their own use.
  - 3) could curb any further sepoy mutiny as they have unleashed a sign of terror among people.
  - 4) Loss of patronage to education also created divide amongst have & have nots.
  - 5) Policy of favouring Muslims over Hindus communally divided the society.
- Therefore, after 1858 the political and economic situation in India was drastically changed, making it easier for British to consolidate their rule over India.

Q 10 What was the real reason behind British decision to partition the province of Bengal? To what extent did the differences in approach to deal with the issue of the partition of Bengal led to great split of 1907? [15M].

The decision to partition Bengal in 1905 came as a game-changer in the national movement's history as it has unprecedented effects on the struggle.

### Reason behind the Decision

- 1) Official reason stated by Curzon:- For administrative ease of ruling the large province of Bengal with close to a quarter of country's population.
- 2) Real reason - to create regional and religious divide amongst masses.
- 3) Regional divide - by dividing Bengal from Assam in East, Bihar and Odisha in West, the numerical strength of the was reduced.

↳ Also created regional divide

amongst these regions based on language culture etc.

4) Religious divide - Bengal was split into East and West wherein West had majority caste hindu and East has majority muslims

- ↳ This resulted in raising communal consciousness
- ↳ British used divide and rule through 'carrot and stick' policy. By attacking classes and also using them into jobs based on religion, British were able to create divide.

### PARTITION OF BENGAL → SURAT SPLIT

1) Mixed Congress Reaction -

(i) moderate leaders wanted to protest against the move through constitutional means of protest and petition.

(ii) The extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, Anusindho Ghosh wanted to use extra constitutional methods

of waraj and agitation against the British

2) Difference in approach

### MODERATES

- were believers of British benevolence in partition also
- Thought of concessions as a more viable strategy
- Did not want any mass movement or endorse any protest from Congress.

### EXTREMISTS

- saw through the real reason
- Only forceful agitations would work.
- Wanted to start boycott of goods, services and wanted Congress to endorse it.

To decide the further course of action, moderates wanted Rash Behari Ghose to lead in Surat while Extremists wanted Tilak to be the leader ~~from~~ of Congress in 1907 session. The moderates ruled by majority. This, led to Surat split.

Thus, British decision to partition Bengal also had far reaching consequences on unity of Congress.