

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Class : 12th

Subject : History

Chapter : 12

Chapter Name : Colonial Cities

Q1 To what extent are census data useful in reconstructing patterns of urbanisation in colonial context?

Answer. The census data is useful in reconstructing patterns of urbanisation in following ways :

- It helped in keeping detailed records of their trading activities in order to regulate the commercial affairs.
- To keep track of life in the growing cities.
- After 1800, urbanisation in India was sluggish
- The proportion of the urban population to the total population in India was extremely low and had remained stagnant.
- In the forty years between 1900 and 1940 the urban population increased from about 10 percent of the total population to about 13 percent.

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Q2 What do the terms "White" and "Black" Town signify?

Answer. The English East India Company built its factories and because of competition among European companies, fortified these settlements for protection. In Madras, Fort St. George, in Calcutta Fort William and in Bombay the Fort marked out the areas of British settlement. Indian merchants, artisans and other workers who had economic dealings with European merchants lived outside these forts in settlements of their own. Thus, from the beginning there were separate quarters for Europeans and Indians, which came to be labelled in contemporary writings as the 'White Town's and 'Black Town's respectively.

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Q3 How did prominent Indian merchants establish themselves in the colonial city?

Answer. Colonial cities reflected the mercantile culture of the new rulers. Political power and patronage shifted from Indian rulers to the merchants of the East India Company. Indians who worked as interpreters, middlemen, traders and suppliers of goods also had an important place in these new cities. To impress their English masters they threw lavish parties during festivals. They also built temples to establish their status in society.

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Q4 Examine how concerns of defence and health gave shape to Calcutta.

Answer. In 1756, Sirajudaula, the Nawab of Bengal, attacked Calcutta and sacked the small fort which the British traders had built as their depot for goods. The English East India company traders had been questioning the sovereignty of Nawab. Subsequently, in 1757, when Sirajudaula was defeated in the battle of Plassey, the East India Company decided to build a new fort, one that could not be easily attacked.

Calcutta had grown from three villages named Sutanati, Kolkata and Govindapur. A site in the southernmost village of Govindapur was cleared by the Company and the traders and weavers were asked to vacate the place. A vast open space around the new Fort William known as the Maidan or garermath was left vacant. This was basically done so that there would be no obstructions while firing against an advancing enemy army. When the British became confident about their own permanent presence in Calcutta, they began building residences around the Maidan. Thus, the English settlement started taking shape.

The crowding, excessive vegetation, the dirty tanks, the smells and poor drainage. These conditions worried the British because they believed at the time that poisonous gases from marshlands and pools of stagnant water were the cause of most diseases. The tropical climate itself was seen as unhealthy and enervating. Creating open places in the city was one way of making the city healthier.

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Q5 What are the different colonial architectural styles which can be seen in Bombay city?

Answer. Many new buildings were constructed at this time. These buildings reflected the culture and confidence of the rulers. The architectural style was European. Initially these buildings were at odds with the traditional Indian buildings. Gradually, Indians too got used to European architecture and made it their own. The British in turn adapted some Indian styles to suit their needs. For public buildings three broad architectural styles were used. Two of these were direct imports from fashions prevalent in England. The first one was called neo-Classical, the other one was called neo-Gothic.

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Q6 How were urban centres transformed during the eighteenth century?

Answer. The urban centres started transforming with the decline of the Mughal Empire. The slow and gradual erosion of Mughal power led to the demise of towns associated with their rule :

- The growth of new regional powers was seen in the increasing importance of regional capitals - Lucknow, Hyderabad, Seringapatam, Poona , Nagpur, Baroda and Tanjore.
- Traders, administrators, artisans and others migrated from these old Mughal centres to these new capitals in search of work and patronage.
- Changes in the trade network were reflected in the history of urban centres.
- The European commercial Companies had set up base in different places early during the Mughal era : the Portuguese in Panaji in 1510, the Dutch in Masulipatnam in 1605, the British in Madras in 1639 and the French in Pondicherry in 1673. With the expansion of commercial activity, towns grew around these trading centres.
- By the end of the eighteenth century the land-based empires in Asia were replaced by the powerful sea-based European empires. Forces of international trade, mercantilism and Capitalism now came to define the nature of society.

→ From the mid-eighteenth century, there was a new phase of change. Commercial centres such as Surat, Masulipatnam and Dhaka, which had grown in seventeenth century, declined when trade shifted to other places.

→ New buildings and Institution developed , and urban spaces were ordered in new ways.

Page : 345 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q7 What were the new kinds of public places that emerged in the colonial city? What functions did they serve?

Answer. The new kinds of public places that emerged in the colonial city were public parks, theatres, and from the twentieth century cinema halls provided exciting new forms of entertainment and social interaction. For the Indian population, the new cities were bewildering places where life seemed always in a flux. New transport facilities such as horse-drawn carriages and, subsequently, trams and buses meant that people could live at a distance from the city centre.

These newly created public places offered new opportunities especially the women. Many new professions emerged in the city as domestic and factory workers, teachers and theatre and film actors and actresses.

Page : 345 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q8 What were the concerns that influenced town planning in the nineteenth century?

Answer. The major concerns that influenced town planning in the nineteenth century were health and defence.

Large forts were built in order to save themselves from the attack of the rulers. This was also done so that there were no obstructions to a straight line of fire from the fort against an advancing enemy army.

The British became concerned about the condition of the Indian part of the city the crowding, the excessive vegetation, the dirty tanks, the smells and poor drainage. These conditions worried the British because they believed at the time that poisonous gases from marshlands and pools of stagnant water were the cause of most diseases. The tropical climate itself was seen as

unhealthy and enervating. Creating open places in the city was one way of making the city healthier. Creating open places in the city was one way of making the city healthier. Many committees were set up for this purpose. Many bazaars, burial grounds, ghats and tanneries were cleared or removed. From then on the notion of public health became an idea that was proclaimed in projects of town clearance and town planning.

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Q9 The what extent do social relations transformed in the new cities?

Answer. The new cities were bewildering for the Indians, where life seemed always in flux. New transport facilities such as horse-drawn carriages and subsequently trams and buses meant that people could live at a distance from the city centre. Over time there was a gradual separation of the place of work from the place of residence.

The creation of public places like public parks, theatres and, from the twentieth century, cinema halls - provided exciting new forms of entertainment and social interaction. Within the cities new social groups were formed and the old identities of people were no longer important. All classes of people were migrating to the big cities. There was an increasing demand for clerks, teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers and accountants.

Social changes did not happen with ease. Cities for instance, offered new opportunities for women. Middle-class women sought to express themselves through the medium of journals, autobiographies and books.

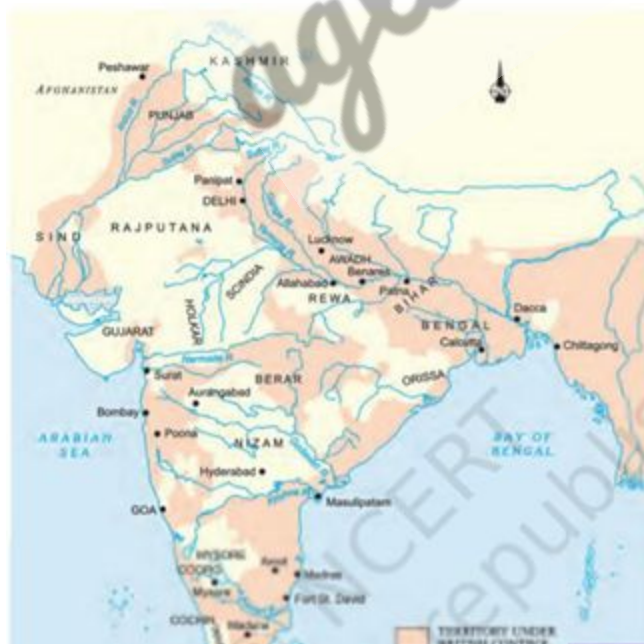
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Q10 On an outline map of India, trace the major rivers and hill ranges. Plot ten cities mentioned in the chapter, including Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and prepare a brief note on why the importance of any two cities that you have marked (one colonial and one pre-colonial) changed in the nineteenth century.

Answer. The major rivers were Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Ganga, Yamuna, etc. The hill ranges were Aravallis, Vindhya, Satpura, etc.



River Map of India



Indian Cities

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