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A Study of History of India During Colonial Period

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ABSTRACT

The history of India during the colonial period primarily refers to the time between the mid-18th century and 1947, when India was under British rule. This era began with the decline of the Mughal Empire and the rise of the British East India Company, which gradually expanded its control through diplomacy, warfare, and annexation. The Battle of Plassey (1757) marked the beginning of British dominance in India. The colonial period was characterized by profound political, economic, and social changes. India was transformed from a collection of independent princely states into a centralized colony governed under British laws and institutions. Economically, the British restructured Indian agriculture and industry to serve colonial interests, leading to deindustrialization, famines, and widespread poverty. Socially, traditional systems were disrupted, but it also led to the introduction of Western education, legal reforms, and modern infrastructure. The colonial period also witnessed the emergence of Indian nationalism, with movements like the Revolt of 1857, the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885, and mass struggles led by leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi. The period ended with India's independence in 1947. Thus, the colonial era is both a time of subjugation and resistance, shaping the foundations of modern India.