**The Advent of Europeans in India- The Portuguese, the Dutch and the Danes**

**India has been a major trading destination for many European countries in the Ancient and Medieval Era. Britishers were not the only Europeans who came and settled but the Portuguese with their developments in navigation first found the sea route to India. In this article, read about the advent of Europeans in India**

The European Age of Discovery started with the Portuguese navigators, where Prince Henry the Navigator started a maritime school in Portugal. The resulting of this technical and scientific discoveries led Portugal to develop the most advanced ships, including the Caravel, the Carrack, and the Galleon, where for the first time in history maritime navigation was possible. The Portuguese Empire led the Portuguese Kingdom to discover and map most of the Globe, and find seas routes as far as the East and West, such as the remarkable voyage to find the sea route to India via the Cape of Good Hope. Here, we are giving brief accounts on the arrival of Europeans in India.

**Arrival of Portuguese in India**

It was the Portuguese who first discovered a direct sea route to India. Portuguese sailor Vasco da Gama arrived at Calicut an important seaport located in South-West India on May 20, 1498 AD. King Zamorin, the local rule received him and bestowed on him certain privileges. After staying in India for a period of three months Vasco da Gama returned with a rich cargo which he sold in the European market at an exorbitant price- 60 times the cost of his voyage.

But soon Vasco da Gama came back to India for the second time in 1501 AD. He set up a trading factory at Cannanore. With the establishment of trade links, Calicut, Cannanore, and Cochin emerged the significant Portuguese centers in India. Arab traders became jealous of the rise and success of the Portuguese and hence caused enmity bred between the Portuguese and the local king Zamorin. The hostilities grew and led to a full-fledged military face-off between them. King Zamorin was defeated by the Portuguese. With the victory over Zamorin, the military superiority of the Portuguese was established.

**Rise of Portuguese Power In India**

In 1505 AD, Francisco de Almeida was appointed as the first Portuguese governor in India. His policy being centric on controlling the Indian Ocean was known as the Blue Water Policy. Alfonso de Albuquerque who replaced Almeida as the governor in 1509 AD, and captured Goa from the Sultan of Bijapur in 1510 AD is considered the real founder of the Portuguese power in India. Goa subsequently became the headquarters of the Portuguese settlements in India. Portuguese hold over the coastal areas and superiority in naval power helped them significantly. By the end of the 16th century, the Portuguese captured not only Goa, Daman, Diu, and Salsette but also vast stretches along the Indian coast.

**Decline of Portuguese Power**

The Portuguese rise in Indian had a short life as the new rival trading communities from Europe posed a big challenge to them. Struggle among various rival trading blocs ensued in which Portuguese had to give way to the more powerful and enterprising competitors gradually rendering them an atrophied entity.

[**Famous Indian mathematicians from Ancient to Modern India**](http://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/list-of-famous-indian-mathematicians-from-ancient-to-modern-india-1498193066-1)

**Arrival of the British**  
Arrival of the British and the establishment of British East India Company was the outcome of the Portuguese traders who earn enormous profit by selling their merchandise in India. Being motivated by the successful business stories of the Portuguese a group of English merchants -‘Merchant Adventurers’ formed a company- the East India Company in 1599 AD. The Company received a royal charter from Queen Elizabeth I on December 31, 1600 AD authorizing it to trade in the East. Queen was herself a shareholder in the East India Company.  
**Expansion in West and the South**

Subsequently, in 1608 AD, the East India Company sent Captain William Hawkins to the court of the Mughal emperor Jahangir to secure royal patronage. He succeeded in getting a royal permit for the Company to establish its factories at various places on the Western coast of India. Then in 1615 AD, Sir Thomas Roe was sent by Emperor James I of England to Jahangir’s court, with a plea for more concession for the Company. Roe was very diplomatic and thus successfully secured a royal charter giving the Company freedom to trade in the whole of the Mughal territory.

**Expansion in the East**

After establishing its factories in the south and west India, the company started to focus on east India particularly Bengal a significant province Mughal empire. The governor of Bengal Sujauddaula in 1651 AD, allowed the English Company to carry out its trade activities in Bengal. A factory in Hugli was established and three villages -Sutanati, Govindapur and Kolkata- were purchased in 1698 AD by the Company to build a factory over there. Subsequently Fort William was raised in order to provide protection around the factory.

[**Important Battles And Wars In India**](http://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/important-battles-and-wars-in-india-list-1-1292045564-1)

**Arrival of the Dutch**

The people of Holland (present Netherlands) are called the Dutch. Next to the Portuguese, the Dutch set their feet in India. Historically the Dutch have been experts in sea trade. In 1602, the United East India Company of the Netherlands was formed and given permission by the Dutch government to trade in the East Indies including India.  
  
**Rise of the Dutch**

The Dutch founded their first factory in Masaulipatam in Andhra Pradesh in 1605. Subsequently they also established trading centres in various parts of India. Dutch Suratte and Dutch Bengal were established in 1616 AD and 1627 AD respectively. The Dutch conquered Ceylon from the Portuguese in 1656 AD. They also took the Portuguese forts on the Malabar coast in 1671 AD. The Dutch gradually became a potent force capturing Nagapatam near Madras (Chennai) from the Portuguese thereby establishing their foothold in South India. In economic terms, they earned huge profit through business monopolizing in black pepper and spices. The major Indian commodities traded by the Dutch were cotton, indigo, silk, rice and opium.  
  
**Dutch Coinage**

The Dutch, during their stay in India, tried their hands on the minting of coinages. As their trade flourished they established mints at Cochin, Masulipattam, Nagapatam Pondicherry and Pulicat. Even more, Gold pagoda with an image of Lord Venkateswara, (god Vishnu) was issued at Pulicat mint. The coins issued by the Dutch were all modelled on the local coinages.  
  
**Decline of Dutch Power**

Dutch presence on the Indian subcontinent lasted from 1605 AD to 1825 AD. The rise of the British power in the Eastern trade posed serious challenge to the commercial interest of the Dutch leading to  bloody warfare between them in which Britishers were the clear winners owing to huge resources at their disposal. The brutal killing of some English traders by the Dutch in Amboyna in 1623 further aggravated the situation. The Britishers one after another captured Dutch strongholds.

[**History of Taxation in India**](http://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/history-of-taxation-in-india-1481028305-1)

**Arrival of the French**  
The last European people to arrive in India were the French. The French East India Company was formed in 1664 AD during the reign of King Louis XIV to trade with India. In 1668 AD the French established their first factory at Surat and in 1669 AD established another French factory at Masaulipatam. In 1673 AD the Mughal Subedar of Bengal allowed the French to set up a township at Chandernagore.

**Pondicherry and French Commercial Growth**

In 1674 AD, the French obtained a village called Pondicherry from the Sultan of Bijapur and founded a thriving city on it which later became the main stronghold of the French in India. The French East India Company with the passage of time developed its trade bastians at Mahe, Karaikal, Balasor, and Qasim Bazar. The French came to India mainly with a purpose of trade and commerce. From their arrival until 1741 AD, the objectives of the French, like those of the British, were purely commercial. The French East India Company took hold of Yanam in 1723 AD, Mahe on Malabar Coast in 1725 AD and Karaikal in 1739 AD.

Colonial India

**Colonial India** was the part of the [Indian subcontinent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_subcontinent) that was under the jurisdiction of European colonial powers during the [Age of Discovery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Discovery). European power was exerted both by conquest and trade, especially in [spices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spice_trade).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-2) The search for the wealth and prosperity of India led to the colonization of the [Americas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americas) after their discovery by [Christopher Columbus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Columbus) in 1492. Only a few years later, near the end of the 15th century, [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal) sailor [Vasco da Gama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama) became the first European to re-establish direct trade links with India since Roman times by being the first to arrive by circumnavigating Africa (c. 1497–1499). Having arrived in [Calicut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Kozhikode), which by then was one of the major trading ports of the eastern world,[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-3) he obtained permission to trade in the city from [Saamoothiri Rajah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saamoothiri). The next to arrive [were the Dutch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_India), with their main base in [Ceylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceylon). Their expansion into India was halted, after their defeat in the [Battle of Colachel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Colachel) by the [Kingdom of Travancore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travancore), during the [Travancore-Dutch War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travancore-Dutch_War).

Trading rivalries among the seafaring European powers brought other European powers to India. The [Dutch Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_Republic), [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_colonial_empire), France, and [Denmark-Norway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark-Norway) all established trading posts in India in the early 17th century. As the [Mughal Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Empire) disintegrated in the early 18th century, and then as the [Maratha Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maratha_Empire) became weakened after the [third battle of Panipat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_battle_of_Panipat), many relatively weak and unstable Indian states which emerged were increasingly open to manipulation by the Europeans, through dependent Indian rulers.

In the later 18th century [Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) and France struggled for dominance, partly through proxy Indian rulers but also by direct military intervention. The defeat of the formidable Indian ruler [Tipu Sultan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tipu_Sultan) in 1799 marginalised the French influence. This was followed by a rapid expansion of British power through the greater part of the [Indian subcontinent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_subcontinent) in the early 19th century. By the middle of the century the British had already gained direct or indirect control over almost all of India. [British India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_India), consisting of the directly-ruled British presidencies and provinces, contained the most populous and valuable parts of the [British Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) and thus became known as "the jewel in the British crown".

India, during its colonial era, was a founding member of the [League of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations), a participating nation in the [Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_at_the_Olympics) in [1900](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_at_the_1900_Summer_Olympics), [1920](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_at_the_1920_Summer_Olympics), [1928](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_at_the_1928_Summer_Olympics), [1932](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_at_the_1932_Summer_Olympics), and [1936](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_at_the_1936_Summer_Olympics), and a [founding member](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_states_of_the_United_Nations) of the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) in [San Francisco in 1945](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Conference_on_International_Organization).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-mansergh-UN-SanFrancisco-4) In 1947, India [gained its independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_independence_movement) and was [partitioned](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_India) into the [Dominion of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_of_India) and the [Dominion of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_of_Pakistan), the latter of which was created as a homeland for [colonial India's Muslims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_India).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-Fernandes2014-5)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-TrivediAllen2000-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-GortJansenVroom2002-7)



Portuguese[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=1)]

Long after the decline of the [Roman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire)'s sea-borne trade with [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), the Portuguese were the next Europeans to sail there for the purpose of trade, first arriving by ship in May 1498. The closing of the traditional trade routes in western Asia by the [Ottoman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), and rivalry with the Italian states sent [Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Portugal_(1415-1542)) in search of an alternate sea route to India. The first successful voyage to India was by [Vasco da Gama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama) in 1498, when after sailing around the [Cape of Good Hope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_of_Good_Hope) he arrived in [Calicut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kozhikode), now in [Kerala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kerala). Having arrived there, he obtained from [Saamoothiri Rajah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saamoothiri) permission to trade in the city. The navigator was received with traditional hospitality, but an interview with the Saamoothiri (Zamorin) failed to produce any definitive results. Vasco da Gama requested permission to leave a factor behind in charge of the merchandise he could not sell; his request was refused, and the king insisted that Gama should pay customs duty like any other trader, which strained their relations.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

Though [Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal)'s presence in India initially started in 1498, their colonial rule lasted from 1505 until 1961.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] The [Portuguese Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire) established the first European trading centre at [Quilon (Kollam)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kollam) in 1502. It is believed that the colonial era in India started with the establishment of this Portuguese trading center at Quilon.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-8) In 1505, King [Manuel I of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_I_of_Portugal) appointed Dom [Francisco de Almeida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_de_Almeida) as the first [Portuguese viceroy in India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_governors_of_Portuguese_India), followed in 1509 by Dom [Afonso de Albuquerque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afonso_de_Albuquerque). In 1510, Albuquerque conquered the city of [Goa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goa), which had been controlled by Muslims. He inaugurated the policy of marrying Portuguese soldiers and sailors with local Indian girls, the consequence of which was a great [miscegenation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miscegenation) in Goa and other Portuguese territories in Asia.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] Another feature of the Portuguese presence in India was their will to evangelise and promote Catholicism. In this, the [Jesuits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_of_Jesus) played a fundamental role, and to this day the Jesuit missionary [Saint Francis Xavier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Francis_Xavier) is revered among the Catholics of India.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

The Portuguese established a chain of outposts along India's west coast and on the island of [Ceylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Ceylon) in the early 16th century. They built the St. Angelo Fort at [Kannur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kannur) to guard their possessions in [North Malabar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Malabar). Goa was their prized possession and the seat of Portugal's viceroy. Portugal's northern province included settlements at [Daman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daman,_Daman_and_Diu), [Diu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diu,_India), [Chaul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaul), [Baçaim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasai-Virar), [Salsette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salsette), and [Mumbai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mumbai). The rest of the northern province, with the exception of [Daman and Diu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daman_and_Diu), was lost to the [Maratha Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maratha_Empire) in the early 18th century.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

In 1661, Portugal was at [war with Spain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Restoration_War) and needed assistance from [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_England). This led to the marriage of [Princess Catherine of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_of_Braganza) to [Charles II of England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_II_of_England), who imposed a dowry that included the insular and less inhabited areas of southern [Bombay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombay) while the Portuguese managed to retain all the mainland territory north of Bandra up to Thana and Bassein. This was the beginning of the [English presence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_colonial_empire) in India.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

Evolution of Portuguese possessions in the Indian subcontinent.

[Vasco da Gama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama) lands at [Calicut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Kozhikode), 20 May 1498 CE.

Dutch[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=2)]

*Main article:*[*Dutch India*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_India)

[Eustachius De Lannoy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eustachius_De_Lannoy) of the [Dutch East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company) surrenders to Maharaja [MarthandaVarma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marthanda_Varma) of the [Kingdom of Travancore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Travancore) after the [Battle of Colachel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Colachel). (Depiction at [Padmanabhapuram Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padmanabhapuram_Palace))

The [Dutch East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company) established trading posts on different parts along the Indian coast. For some while, they controlled the [Malabar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_Malabar) southwest coast ([Pallipuram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pallippuram,_Ernakulam), [Cochin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kochi,_India), Cochin de Baixo/[Santa Cruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Cruz,_Goa), [Quilon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quilon) (Coylan), [Cannanore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kannur), [Kundapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kundapura), [Kayamkulam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayamkulam), [Ponnani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponnani)) and the [Coromandel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coromandel_Coast) southeastern coast ([Golkonda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golkonda), [Bhimunipatnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhimunipatnam), [Pulicat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulicat), [Parangippettai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porto_Novo), [Negapatnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negapatnam)) and [Surat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surat) (1616–1795). They conquered [Ceylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceylon) from the Portuguese. The Dutch also established trading stations in [Travancore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travancore) and coastal [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu) as well as at [Rajshahi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajshahi) in present-day [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh), [Hugli-Chinsura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugli-Chinsura), and [Murshidabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murshidabad) in present-day [West Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bengal), [Balasore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balasore) (Baleshwar or Bellasoor) in [Odisha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odisha), and [Ava](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inwa), [Arakan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rakhine_State), and [Syriam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syriam) in present-day [Myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar) (Burma). However, their expansion into India was halted, after their defeat in the [Battle of Colachel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Colachel) by the [Kingdom of Travancore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travancore), during the [Travancore-Dutch War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travancore-Dutch_War). The Dutch never recovered from the defeat and no longer posed a large colonial threat to India.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-10)

[Ceylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceylon) was lost at the [Congress of Vienna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_Vienna) in the aftermath of the [Napoleonic Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), where the Dutch having fallen subject to France, saw their colonies raided by Britain. The Dutch later became less involved in [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), as they had the [Dutch East Indies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_East_Indies) (now [Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia)).

English and British India[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=3)]

**Rivalry with the Netherlands**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=4)]

At the end of the 16th century, England and the [United Netherlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_Republic) began to challenge Portugal's monopoly of trade with Asia, forming private [joint-stock companies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_stock_company) to finance the voyages: the [English (later British) East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_Company), and the [Dutch East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company), which were chartered in 1600 and 1602 respectively. These companies were intended to carry on the lucrative spice trade, and they focused their efforts on the areas of production, the [Indonesian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia) archipelago and especially the "[Spice Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maluku_Islands)", and on India as an important market for the trade. The close proximity of London and [Amsterdam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amsterdam) across the [North Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Sea), and the intense rivalry between England and the Netherlands, inevitably led to conflict between the two companies, with the Dutch gaining the upper hand in the [Moluccas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maluku_Islands) (previously a Portuguese stronghold) after the withdrawal of the English in 1622, but with the English enjoying more success in India, at [Surat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surat), after the establishment of a [factory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Factory_(trading_post)) in 1613.

[Fort St. George](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_St._George_(India)) was founded at [Madras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chennai) in 1639

The Netherlands' more advanced financial system[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-ferguson19-11) and the three [Anglo-Dutch Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Dutch_Wars) of the 17th century left the Dutch as the dominant naval and trading power in Asia. Hostilities ceased after the [Glorious Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glorious_Revolution) of 1688, when the Dutch prince [William of Orange](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_III_of_England) ascended the English throne, bringing peace between the Netherlands and England. A deal between the two nations left the more valuable spice trade of the Indonesian archipelago to the Netherlands and the textiles industry of India to England, but textiles overtook spices in terms of profitability, so that by 1720, in terms of sales, the English company had overtaken the Dutch.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-ferguson19-11) The English East India Company shifted its focus from Surat—a hub of the spice trade network—to [Fort St. George](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_St._George_(India)).

**East India Company**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=5)]

*See also:*[*Company rule in India*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_rule_in_India)

In 1757 [Mir Jafar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mir_Jafar), the commander in chief of the army of the [Nawab of Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawab_of_Bengal), along with [Jagat Seth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jagat_Seth), and some others, secretly connived with the British, asking support to overthrow the Nawab in return for trade grants. The British forces, whose sole duty until then was guarding Company property, were numerically inferior to the [Bengali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_people) armed forces. At the [Battle of Plassey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Plassey) on 23 June 1757, fought between the British under the command of [Robert Clive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Clive) and the Nawab, Mir Jafar's forces betrayed the Nawab and helped defeat him. Jafar was installed on the throne as a British subservient ruler.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-12) The battle transformed British perspective as they realised their strength and potential to conquer smaller Indian kingdoms and marked the beginning of the imperial or colonial era in [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia).

[Opium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opium) storehouse in [Patna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patna). Under British East India Company's rule, by the 1850s, opium constituted 40% of India's exports.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-13)

British policy in Asia during the 19th century was chiefly concerned with expanding and protecting its hold on India, viewed as its most important colony and the key to the rest of Asia.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-refhdbe478-14) The [East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_Company) drove the expansion of the [British Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) in Asia. The company's army had first joined forces with the [Royal Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Navy) during the [Seven Years' War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Years%27_War), and the two continued to cooperate in arenas outside India: the eviction of Napoleon from [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) (1799), the capture of [Java](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java) from the Netherlands (1811), the acquisition of Singapore (1819) and [Malacca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malacca) (1824), and the defeat of [Burma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burma) (1826).[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-#refOHBEv3|Porter,_p._401-15)

From its base in India, the company had also been engaged in an increasingly profitable [opium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opium) export trade to China since the 1730s. This trade helped reverse the trade imbalances resulting from the British imports of tea, which saw large outflows of silver from Britain to China. In 1839, the confiscation by the Chinese authorities at [Canton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guangzhou) of 20,000 chests of opium led Britain to attack China in the [First Opium War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Opium_War), and the seizure by Britain of the island of Hong Kong, at that time a minor settlement.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-16)

[*Suppression of the Indian Revolt by the English*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suppression_of_the_Indian_Revolt_by_the_English), which depicts the execution of mutineers, many of whom were sepoys, by blowing from a gun by the British, a painting by [Vasily Vereshchagin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasily_Vereshchagin) *c.* 1884. Note: This painting was allegedly bought by the British crown and possibly destroyed (current whereabouts unknown). It anachronistically depicts [the events of 1857](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Rebellion_of_1857) with soldiers wearing (then current) uniforms of the late 19th century.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-Ilina_2018-17)

The British had direct or indirect control over all of present-day India before the middle of the 19th century. In 1857, a local rebellion by an army of [sepoys](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sepoy) escalated into the [Rebellion of 1857](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Mutiny), which took six months to suppress with heavy loss of life on both sides, although the loss of British lives is in the range of a few thousand, the loss on the Indian side was in the hundreds of thousands.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-18) The trigger for the Rebellion has been a subject of controversy. The resistance, although short-lived, was triggered by British East India Company attempts to expand its control of India. According to Olson, several reasons may have triggered the Rebellion. For example, Olson concludes that the East India Company's attempt to annex and expand its direct control of India, by arbitrary laws such as Doctrine of Lapse, combined with employment discrimination against Indians, contributed to the 1857 Rebellion.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-19) The East India Company officers lived like princes, the company finances were in shambles, and the company's effectiveness in India was examined by the British crown after 1858. As a result, the East India Company lost its powers of government and [British India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_India) formally came under [direct British rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj), with an appointed [Governor-General of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor-General_of_India). The East India Company was dissolved the following year in 1858. A few years later, [Queen Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Victoria) took the title of Empress of India.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-20)

Victims of the [Great Famine of 1876–78](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Famine_of_1876%E2%80%9378) in British ruled India, pictured in 1877.

India suffered a series of serious crop failures in the late 19th century, leading to [widespread famines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Famine_in_India) in which at least 10 million people died. Responding to earlier famines as threats to the stability of colonial rule, the East India Company had already begun to concern itself with famine prevention during the early colonial period.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-21) This greatly expanded during the [*Raj*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj), in which commissions were set up after each famine to investigate the causes and implement new policies, which took until the early 1900s to have an effect.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-22)

The slow but momentous reform movement developed gradually into the [Indian Independence Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Independence_Movement). During the years of [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I), the hitherto bourgeois "home-rule" movement was transformed into a popular mass movement by [Mahatma Gandhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahatma_Gandhi), a [pacifist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacifist). Revolutionaries such as [BaghaJatin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bagha_Jatin), [Khudiram Bose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khudiram_Bose), [Bhagat Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhagat_Singh), [Chandrashekar Azad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandrashekar_Azad), [Surya Sen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surya_Sen), [Subhas Chandra Bose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subhas_Chandra_Bose) were not against use of violence to oppose the British rule. The independence movement attained its objective with the independence of Pakistan and India on 14 and 15 August 1947 respectively.

Conservative elements in England consider the independence of India to be the moment that the [British Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) ceased to be a world power, following [Curzon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Curzon,_1st_Marquess_Curzon_of_Kedleston)'s dictum that, "[w]hile we hold on to India, we are a first-rate power. If we lose India, we will decline to a third-rate power."

French[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=6)]

*Main article:*[*French India*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_India)

View of [Pondicherry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pondicherry) in 1843

Following the Portuguese, English, and Dutch, the French also established trading bases in India. Their first establishment was in [Pondicherry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pondicherry_(city)) on the [Coromandel Coast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coromandel_Coast) in southeastern India in 1674. Subsequent French settlements were [Chandernagore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandernagore) in Bengal, northeastern India in 1688, [Yanam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yanaon_(Inde_fran%C3%A7aise)) in Andhra Pradesh in 1723, [Mahe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mah%C3%A9,_India) in 1725, and [Karaikal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karaikal) in 1739. The French were constantly in conflict with the Dutch and later on mainly with the British in India. At the height of French power in the mid-18th century, the French occupied large areas of southern India and the area lying in today's northern [Andhra Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andhra_Pradesh) and [Odisha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odisha). Between 1744 and 1761, the British and the French repeatedly attacked and conquered each other's forts and towns in southeastern India and in Bengal in the northeast. After some initial French successes, the British decisively defeated the French in Bengal in the [Battle of Plassey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Plassey) in 1757 and in the southeast in 1761 in the [Battle of Wandiwash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Wandiwash), after which the British East India Company was the supreme military and political power in southern India as well as in Bengal. In the following decades, it gradually increased the size of the territories under its control. The enclaves of [Pondichéry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pondicherry_district), Karaikal, Yanam, Mahé, and Chandernagore were returned to France in 1816 and were integrated with the [Republic of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_India) in 1954.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

Dano-Norwegian[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=7)]

*Main article:*[*Danish India*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danish_India)

[Fort Dansborg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Dansborg) at Tranquebar, built by [OveGjedde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ove_Gjedde), c. 1658

[Denmark–Norway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark%E2%80%93Norway) held colonial possessions in India for more than 200 years, but the Danish presence in India was of little significance to the major European powers as they presented neither a military nor a mercantile threat.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-23) Denmark–Norway established trading outposts in [Tranquebar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tranquebar), Tamil Nadu (1620), [Serampore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serampore), West Bengal (1755), [Calicut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calicut), Kerala (1752) and the [Nicobar Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicobar_Islands) (1750s). At one time, the main Danish and Swedish East Asia companies together imported more tea to Europe than the British did. Their outposts lost economic and strategic importance, and Tranquebar, the last Dano-Norwegian outpost, was sold to the British on 16 October 1868.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

Other external powers[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=8)]

The [Spanish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Empire) were briefly given territorial rights to India by [Pope Alexander VI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Alexander_VI) on 25 September 1493 by the [bull](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_bull) [*Dudumsiquidem*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter_caetera#Background) before these rights were removed by the [Treaty of Tordesillas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Tordesillas) less than one year later. The [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andaman_and_Nicobar_Islands) were [briefly occupied](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_occupation_of_the_Andaman_Islands) by the [Japanese Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Empire) during [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II).[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-Klemen-24)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-25)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-26)

The [Swedish East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedish_East_India_Company) briefly possessed a factory in [Parangipettai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parangipettai).[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India#cite_note-27)

Wars[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_India&action=edit&section=9)]

Major General [Wellesley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Wellesley,_1st_Duke_of_Wellington) commanding his troops at the [Battle of Assaye](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Assaye), 1803

The [Battle of Ferozeshah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Ferozeshah) during the [First Anglo-Sikh War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Anglo-Sikh_War), 1845

The wars that took place involving the British East India Company or British India during the Colonial era:

* [Anglo-Mysore Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Mysore_Wars)
* [First Anglo-Maratha War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Anglo-Maratha_War)
* [Second Anglo-Maratha War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Anglo-Maratha_War)
* [Third Anglo-Maratha War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Anglo-Maratha_War)
* [First Anglo-Sikh War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Anglo-Sikh_War)
* [Second Anglo-Sikh War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Anglo-Sikh_War)
* [Gurkha War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurkha_War)
* [Burmese Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burmese_War)
* [First Opium War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Opium_War)
* [India's First War of Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India%27s_First_War_of_Independence) (Rebellion of 1857)
* [Second Opium War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Opium_War)
* [First Anglo-Afghan War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Anglo-Afghan_War)
* [Second Anglo-Afghan War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Anglo-Afghan_War)
* [Third Anglo-Afghan War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Anglo-Afghan_War)
* [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I): see [List of Indian divisions in World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Indian_divisions_in_World_War_I), [Bombardment of Madras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombardment_of_Madras)
* [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II): see [Indian Army during World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Army_during_World_War_II)

**FACTORS FOR ADVENT OF EUROPEANS.**

**Introduction**

* + The landing of Vasco da Gama at Calicut in 1498 with three ships is generally regarded as the beginning of new era in world history, especially in the relation between Asia and Europe.
  + British were not the only trading nation to come to India. There were a few other European countries such as Portuguese, Dutch, and French who aspired to establish commercial relations with India. They first came to India in search of trading opportunities, but circumstances made them the masters of this vast country. And the British emerged winner from among all European power.

**Body**

**The factors that lead to the advent of Europeans in India –**

* + **Weak rulers and fragmented regional powers:**Aurangzeb was the last of the powerful Mughal rulers. He established control over a very large part of the territory that is now known as India. After his death in 1707, many Mughal governors (subadars) and big zamindars began asserting their authority and establishing regional kingdoms. As powerful regional kingdoms emerged in various parts of India, Delhi could no longer function as an effective centre.
  + **Vast wealth of India:** It was the immense wealth of India that attracted the Europeans to this country which they came to know from the accounts of Marco Polo and some other sources.
  + **Heavy demand for Indian commodities:** Heavy demand for Indian commodities like spices, calicoes, silk, various precious stones, porcelain, etc caught the attention of the European traders from the early medieval period.
  + **Advancement in navigational technologies:** For a long time Europeans failed to establish a direct trade relation with India as all the major land routes to this country were then controlled by the Arabs. In the 15th century, Europe achieved great advancement in the art of ship building and navigation.
  + **Quest of the expansion of the market:** Industrialization greatly increased the economic, military, and political strength of the European societies, along with government support and need for market expansion to fulfill their capitalist desire.

**Conclusion**

* + During the second half of the 19th Century and the first half of the 20th Century a powerful national struggle against British imperialism developed in India. This struggle was the result of a clash of interests between those of the Indian people and those of the British rulers.
  + The very nature of the foreign rule resulted in nationalistic sentiments arising among the Indian people and produced the material, moral, intellectual and political conditions for the rise and development of a powerful national movement.

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