ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPEANS - PORTUGUESE

EUROPEAN ARRIVAL IN INDIA

* Political context - Following the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, India entered a period of political disintegration. By 1757-1760, the British East India company began its political conquest
* European powers in India - 5 major powers established themselves in India after Aurangzeb's death. Portuguese - (1498), Dutch (1595), English (1600) Danish (1620), French (1664). The Portuguese were the first to arrive & the last to leave (1961) when Goa was liberated.
* Significance of circumstances - Understanding these arrival circumstances is vital because they contributed to the rise of nationalism & capitalism in Europe, eventually leading Indians to drive these powers out.

REASONS FOR EUROPEAN EXPANSION

* The Renaissance and Scientific shift - Starting around the 12th century, European society began moving away from dogmatic religious control towards a more materialistic & scientific worldview. Influential works like Dante Alighieri's "Divine Comedy" questioned traditional religious authority
* Advancements in knowledge - Thinkers like Galileo,

Copernicus & Newton challenged established beliefs by proposing natural laws. Concepts such as the heliocentric view, Sun as the centre of the universe & laws of gravitation replaced the idea that everything was controlled by divine intervention.

- Economic and social impact - This societal shift led to a growing demand for luxury goods from India & China - such as silk, cotton & spices to support the lifestyle of a newly materialistic society. Changing nutritional habits increased the demand for spices for food preservation.
- The trade crisis - (1453) - Historically, trade between East & West flowed through Constantinople. However the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the Ottoman empire resulted in the blockage of traditional trade routes for European powers. This created an urgent need to discover new, direct sea routes to India to bypass the Ottomans, which set the stage for arrival of Europeans in India.

FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (1453)

* The trade disruption - The Ottoman Empire's conquest of Constantinople effectively blocked the traditional land trade routes that connected Asia & Europe. Before this Arab merchants facilitated the flow of goods like silk, cotton & spices from India & China to Europe

via these routes.

- Economic pressure - With Constantinople closed to Christian-dominated Europe, the supply of highly demanded Eastern luxury goods dropped, while demand remained high. This created an urgent economic incentive to find alternative, direct sea routes to India.
- Age of exploration - The scramble for new trade routes led to famous voyages of discovery aimed at finding a path to India & China.
  - 1497-1498 - Vasco da Gama successfully navigated around the Cape of Good hope to reach India.
  - 1492 - Christopher Columbus explored westward, mistakenly discovering the Americas.
  - 1500 - Pedro Alvares Cabral discovered Brazil.
- Strategic motivation - These explorers were not purely motivated by discovery but by the need to secure profitable trade by bypassing the Ottoman & Middle Eastern monopolies

SPONSORSHIP AND STATE SUPPORT

- Italian merchant financing - Because these sea voyages were extremely expensive & high-risk, they required significant sponsorship. Wealthy merchants from the city-states of Venice & Genoa who had controlled the silk road trade for centuries were the primary financiers.

- Naval technological shifts - Scientific & intellectual advancements during this period led to the development of new, more efficient ships like the "caravel" & the "galleon" which were specifically designed for long distance oceanic navigation.
- State patronage - In Portugal, Prince Henry the navigator emerged as a central figure. Around 1480, he provided consistent state support & funding, which was vital for organizing the massive expeditions led by explorers like Vasco da Gama & Pedro Alvares Cabral.
- Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) - This significant diplomatic agreement between Portugal & Spain effectively divided the world into spheres of influence. Spain focused its colonial efforts on Latin America, while Portugal concentrated on securing trade routes through Africa & into Asia.

PORTUGUESE ARRIVAL AND VASCO DA GAMA

Arrival & diplomacy - In 1498 Vasco Da gama landed on the Malabar coast near Calicut. He established initial diplomatic contact with local rulers through Arabic speaking intermediaries. After returning to Portugal in 1499, the expedition was highly successful, yielding profits approximately 60 times the initial cost of the journey

* Imperial expansion - Pedro Alvares Cabral became one of the first imperial officers to arrive in India. His interactions led to the first armed conflicts with local rulers, signaling a shift in Portuguese strategy.
* The lack of naval focus - Indian rulers of the medieval period, both Hindu & Muslim, had neglected naval development because they lacked external maritime threats & were preoccupied with internal regional conflicts.
* Gunboat diplomacy - The Portuguese introduced "gun boat diplomacy" to compensate for their lack of large armies. When a local ruler at Cochin resisted their trade demands, the Portuguese sailed their ships into the harbor & used their heavy cannons to bombard the city from the water. This tactical advantage forced local leaders to comply, securing the Portuguese trade position & setting a precedent for future European dominance in the Indian ocean.

PORTUGUESE GOVERNANCE AND EXPANSION

* Governor appointment - Francisco de Almeida served as the first Portuguese Governor in India from 1505 to 1509. He was specifically tasked by the Portuguese king to counter the growing resistance from local Islamic kingdoms & Arab merchants who were

challenging Portuguese presence.

* The trade network challenge - The Portuguese realized that to dominate trade, they had to control the routes connecting the East to Europe. This included the Red sea, Persian Gulf, & the Strait of Malacca. Since goods from China & India traditionally flowed through these channels towards the Mediterranean sea-eventually reaching Venice & Constantinople- the Portuguese focused their efforts on seizing control of these key maritime junctions to dictate the flow of commerce.

BLUE WATER POLICY -

Instead of attempting to conquer or colonize the interior of India - which they realized would be difficult due to powerful empires like the Mughals, Marathas & Vijayanagara the Portuguese focused on capturing the entire Indian ocean. Their strategy was to monopolize the sea & impose taxation on all trade, rather than seeking land based territorial control. This policy was also driven by the desire to disrupt the established networks of Arab merchants. The portuguese viewed these as a response to the trade restrictions previously imposed by the Ottoman empire on Christian powers, essentially turning their commercial efforts into a struggle against Islamic trade domiance.

* Strategic captures - In 1509, Francisco de Almeida captured Bombay & utilized the region to strengthen

the Portuguese naval presence. He also successfully sought vengeance for the death of his son by defeating the navy of Gujarat, cementing the effectiveness of his policy.

ALBUQUERQUE AND PORTUGUESE FOUNDATIONS -

* Consolidation & strategic alliances - Albuquerque played a crucial role in forming an alliance with Krishnadevaraya of the Vijayanagara Empire. Through this partnership & his support against the Bahmani sultanate, he successfully captured Goa in 1510, which remained a long standing Portuguese base.
* Control of trade routes - By securing Goa & strategically targeting areas like the Gulf of Aden, he ensured Portuguese dominance over the Indian ocean trade, effectively controlling the movement of goods from East to Europe.
* Social & cultural reforms -
  - Abolition of Sati - Albuquerque was a pioneer in banning the practice of Sati within Portuguese controlled territories, a measure implemented long before the British colonial administration.
  - Encouragement of intermarriage - Unlike the later exclusionary policies of the British under Lord Cornwallis, Albuquerque promoted intermarriage between Portuguese officers & local Indian women to foster a stable mixed heritage community.

* Introduction of new crops - He is credited with introducing several non native crops to India, including tobacco, cashews & specific varieties of mangoes.

NUNO DA CUNHA AND CAPITAL SHIFT

* Administrative capital shift - Nuno da Cunha was instrumental in shifting the administrative headquarters of the Portuguese domain from Cochin to Goa around 1530-1534. This solidified Goa as the centre of their operations in India.
* Conflict with Bahadur Shah - Despite a brief period of military coordination following Bahadur Shah's retreat from conflicts with the Mughals in 1534, tensions escalated. In 1537, the Portuguese betrayed Bahadur Shah during negotiations, ultimately causing his death at sea near Diu.
* Establishment in Bengal - During this same era, the Portuguese established their presence in Bengal, specifically at Hooghly. However despite being entrenched in coastal locations like Goa & Hooghly for roughly 150 yrs, the Portuguese never sought an elaborate land conquest of India, unlike the later British approach. Their focus remained heavily tied to their naval "Blue water policy" & maritime trade control rather than territorial expansion.

CARTAZ AND CAFILA SYSTEMS

* Cartaz system (Trading pass) - To exercise control over the Indian ocean, the Portuguese enforced a licensing system called Cartaz. Any vessel wishing to navigate the Indian ocean or visit major ports like Goa, Cochin was required to purchase this pass. The fee was 5% of the total value of the ship's cargo. If a merchant refused to buy the pass, the Portuguese would seize the ship & cargo, often sinking the vessel.
* Impact on local merchants - This policy severely disrupted the business of Gujarati & Arab merchants, who were the primary traditional traders in the region. Facing financial losses & harassment, these merchants began complaining to their respective rulers, including Sultan of Egypt & even hired private armies or privateers to protect their ships.
* Cafila system (Convoy system) - As a countermeasure to the rise of piracy, the Portuguese implemented the Cafila system. This involved sending merchant ships in protected groups or convoys. A fleet of 10-15 private merchant ships would be escorted by 8-10 armed Portuguese warships or Gale to ensure safe passage across Indian ocea[n]

PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH LOCAL POWERS

* Mughal empire - Maintained cordial relations with the Mughals. Jesuits like Monserrate were invited to Akba[r]

court at Fatehpur Sikri, where they introduced him to European portrait painting.

- Vijayanagara & Deccan Sultanates - Portuguese provided these kingdoms with military technology during their conflicts & received the port of Goa as a gift in 1510
- Marathas - They supplied Gurabs (small warships) to Shivaji Maharaj & trained his naval admirals, Bhandari & Daulat Khan. Shivaji recognised the strategic necessity of a strong naval force & utilized their technology to build his fleet. Relations deteriorated with Sambhaji: Conflict arose over the control of Sonda region & Anjidiva island. This resulted in Battle of Sonda after which the "treaty of Sonda" was signed, with Sambhaji accepting Portuguese dominance in certain areas for peace.

REASONS FOR PORTUGUESE FAILURE

- Limited resources - Lacked financial & military resources reqd to conquer & govern the vast Indian interior, which was controlled by powerful states
- Foreign rivalries - They faced significant competition from other European powers & strong regional entities such as Ottoman empire which forced them to spend heavily on naval welfare to protect their interests
- Lack of internal ambition - Remained focused on maritime trade & naval power, failing to replicate the systemic inland administrative control to get hold over India

ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPEANS - DUTCH

WHY THE DUTCH CAME TO INDIA

* Motivation for Spice trade - Following the Renaissance in Europe, there was a massive surge in the demand for spices. The Portuguese were initially unable to satisfy this demand effectively.
* Focus on Indonesia - While the Dutch began their expeditions as early as 1594 and 1598, their primary interest was always Indonesia. They considered the Indonesian archipelago to be the true land of spices, which they sought to control to dominate the European trade market.
* The Dutch East India Company - Established in 1602 the company was initially focussed on the Indonesian trade. However, because the journey involved navigating around Africa, the Dutch required a stopping point in India for refueling and supplies to ensure their ships did not run out of provisions.
* Transition to India - Although the Dutch were having early trade networks in Indonesia, their presence in India became a secondary necessity to support these long distance maritime routes.

EARLY DUTCH PRESENCE AND LOGISTICS

* Arrival and timing - The Dutch were the second European company to arrive in India. While the British established their company first (in 1600)

the Dutch arrived in India earlier because they already possessed established trade routes to India.

* Strategic logistics - India served as a vital supply station & refilling point for ships travelling the long route to Indonesia.
* Establishment of presence - The Dutch established factories in Masulipatnam, Golconda & Nagapatnam. While they faced local interference & competitive tension with the British, their home governments eventually stabilized their influence in 1667, designating Indonesia for the Dutch & India for the British.
* The Battle of Bedara - The Dutch influence in India eventually waned significantly after the battle of Bedara (also known as Battle of Hooghly), where they were defeated by Robert Clive. By 1795, the Dutch had sold their remaining Indian positions to the British.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE -

* Components of a factory - Factories were strategically located near rivers or the coast for trade efficiency. They typically contained a storehouse, a residential complex, & a manufacturing unit for packaging goods.
* Purpose - These served as local hubs where officers

built trade networks using brokers to source goods from the Indian interior.

- Administrative hierarchy -
- Gentlemen 17 - The supreme board of directors based in the Netherlands.
- Governor general - The head of the administrative council located in Jakarta, overseeing Asian affairs.
- Local councils - Each factory had its own council, governor & factor (a key officer) to manage daily operations & communication.
- Legacy - The Dutch introduced the concept of the joint stock corporation to India, which significantly influenced the British East India Company's later administrative and organizational structures.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH INDIAN RULERS

- Relations with the Golconda Sultanate - The Dutch negotiated significant trade concessions with the ruler of Golconda. This included exemption from local custom duties in exchange for an annual payment.
- Monopolistic tendencies & local pressure - The Dutch were among the first to pressure regional governments to secure trade dominance often threatening to move their business elsewhere if tax demands were too high.
- Right to mint currency - The Dutch secured the

right to mint their own coins at local trading centres. This was a sophisticated strategy to increase their influence & local business contacts while earning revenue through taxation on the minting process.

* Diplomacy with the "Mughals" - The Dutch maintained favourable relations with Mughal emperors, including Jahangir, Shah Jahan & Aurangzeb. They secured various trade permissions, such as the removal of transit duties, which were later reduced to 2.5% under Shah Alam.
* Strategic motivations - Indian rulers were willing to offer these favourable terms because they lacked naval power & were keen on acquiring European arms & ammunition, which the Dutch provided.

DUTCH NAVAL SUPERIORITY AND RIVALRY

* Breaking European rivals - The Dutch played a crucial role in dismantling the previous systems established by the Portuguese, specifically the cartaz & cafila systems, by utilizing their superior naval power.
* Use of force - The Dutch demonstrated that they were willing to use violence & military force to pressure other European rivals & secure favorable trade concessions.

- Monopolistic ambitions - Unlike the Portuguese, who focused on controlling the Indian ocean trade, the Dutch actively sought monopoly rights from Indian rulers alongside permissions to establish factories, signalling a more aggressive & systematic approach to dominating trade in the region

KEY COMMODITIES :

- Mutual agreement -(1667)- A critical diplomatic pact was signed between the Dutch and British Governments. This agreement established that Indonesia would remain the Dutch sphere of influence, while India would remain in the British sphere of influence
- Shift in trade focus - Following this agreement, the Dutch concentrated their monopoly on spices and black pepper in the Indonesian archipelago.
- British commodities in India - The British East India company shifted its focus to key Indian commodities such as cotton, indigo, rice, opium & silk. Saltpeter became a vital commodity as it was an essential raw material to produce gunpowder.
- Trade strategy - The British used opium as a crucial trade item to facilitate their commerce with China further expanding the economic importance of their Indian trade network.

REASONS FOR DUTCH SUCCESS

* Joint stock structure (1602) - The VOC was one of the world's earliest & most successful joint-stock private companies. It consolidated various smaller Dutch trading enterprises under one central management, making it highly efficient compared to the initial individualistic approach of the British.
* Liberal policies - Unlike the Portuguese, who focused heavily on forced religious conversions, the Dutch maintained a more secular, liberal & business-focused approach. This allowed them to prioritize trade & profit over religious conflicts.
* Strategic geography & resources - Their focus on Indonesia provided them with lucrative access to spices. They also controlled key resources in other regions, including gold & diamond mines in Golconda & along the East African coast.
* Advanced technology - The Dutch utilized superior naval technology, specifically the development of the fluyt - a specialized cargo ship which allowed them to transport goods more efficiently than their rivals.

DUTCH DECLINE IN INDIA

* Strategic miscalculation - The Dutch lacked "foresight" regarding the Indian Market. While the

British recognized the long term potential of cotton & textile trade in India, the Dutch remain fixated on Indonesian spices.

- Diversified focus - Their resources were spread thin across Indonesia (spices), Africa (gold mines) & other regions.
- Loss of presence - Because of this lack of interest in the Indian trade, landscape compared to the British, their influence gradually faded. This culminated in the Battle of Bedara, where their forces were defeated by the British, effectively ending their significant presence in India.