



The Company Rule in India

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The Company Rule in India (1773–1858)

Arrival of East India Company

- ◆ British EIC arrived (1608) → Permission to trade (from Jahangir)
- ◆ EIC's rule in India began → 1757 after Battle of Plassey

Regulating Act of

1773



- Estd:
 - British Crown's control over the EIC & centralised governance
 - Supreme Court of Calcutta (1774)

First Governor General of Bengal – Warren Hastings

- Prohibited Company servants from private trade or bribes

Amending Act of 1781

- Resolved issues of Regulating Act 1773
- Exempted Governor-General Council from Supreme Court jurisdiction and revenue oversight

- Differentiated commercial & political functions of the Company
- Court of Directors → commercial affairs; Board of Control → political affairs
- Established double government
- Granted British Crown supreme control over Company territories



Pitt's India Act of 1784

(Amendment) Act of 1786:

- Lord Cornwallis became GGB – granted overriding authority & made Commander-in-Chief

Charter Act of

1793



- Enhanced powers of the Governor-General
- Increased control over Bombay & Madras presidencies
- Trade Monopoly of EIC → +20 years
- Board of Control to be paid from Indian revenues

- Ended EIC's monopoly in Indian trade (except tea & China)
- Allowed Christian missionaries in India; promotion of western education
- Authorised local taxes & punishments for non-payment



Charter Act of 1813

Charter Act of 1833



- Estd. centralised government
- GGB → Governor-General of India

First Governor-General of India → Lord William Bentick

- Estd. Law Commission (1834) (Chairman - Lord Macaulay)
- EIC became purely administrative (no commercial activities)
- Proposed open competition for civil service positions (later opposed)

- Final Charter Act reshaping governance in India
- Estd. **Indian (Central) Legislative Council** (mini-Parliament)
- First separation of legislative & executive functions
- Opened civil service to Indians & evaluated recruitment
- Allowed Company to retain territories (under Crown) indefinitely



Charter Act of 1853



The Company's rule ended with the Government of India Act 1858 abolishing the EIC rule and placing India under direct control of British Crown.

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