

(W)
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Revision questions

History

Q. What do you mean by Doctrine of Lapse?

ANS → Traditionally in India, if a ruler died he had to have a child, it was an accepted practice to adopt one. But the British refused to recognize such adoptions. So when the ruler of a subsidiary or protected state died without a natural heir, the state could not pass to the adopted child but was annexed to British territory instead.

Q. What do you mean by Subsidiary Alliance system?

ANS → In the subsidiary alliance system an Indian ruler had to maintain British troops in his state either by giving some of his territory or by paying for the maintenance of the troops. The rulers who joined this system like the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Nizam of Awadh, got security but lost their independence.

Q. What do you mean Annexation?

ANS → Annexation means to take control of a neighbouring territory, usually with the use of force.

Q. Who annexed Awadh in 1856?

ANS → After the battle of Buxar, Awadh signed

the Treaty of Allahabad with British. In 1801, a second treaty was signed at the time of Wellesley, and about half of Awadh was taken away by the British and the pawns of Awadh became dependents of the British. In 1856, Dalhousie annexed Awadh without any provocation, and its ruler said Ali Shah was deposed.

5) Discuss and explain the different strategies of the British to acquire new territories in the country?

Ans -> The three different strategies of the British are:

- > Subsidiary alliances
- > Annexation
- > The Doctrine of Lapse

Subsidiary alliances

Wellesley, the governor-general of India from 1798 to 1805, was an ambitious man: He wanted to make Britain the most important power in India. He waged wars and captured several territories. Another strategy he used to increase Britain's power was to enter into subsidiary alliances with the rulers of various states.

Annexations

Wellley annexed the smallest kingdom of Travancore, sunset and curative using this policy. The annexation was done using the PINDAR, under the pretext of protecting the Indian ruler the British took virtual control of the state over time. The Indian rulers stopped maintaining their army even for self protection.

The Doctrine of Lapse

When the ruler of a subsidiary or protected state died without a natural heir, the state could not pass to the adopted child but was annexed to British territory instead. Satara (1848), Thanji (1853) and Nagpur (1854) fell prey to this policy.