

## 8<sup>th</sup> – How, When and Where II



**The Industrial Revolution:** The Industrial Revolution completely changed the way people lived. One of the most important results of the industrial revolution was the growth of colonialism. The factories were producing goods on large scale. For these goods to be sold, a large market was needed. The factories also need raw material like raw cotton, iron ore, and coal on a large scale. This prompted Britain and other European countries to search overseas for colonies as a market for the finished goods, and as a source of raw material.

**The American and French revolutions and nationalism:** The American and French Revolutions, and the ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity the adopted, changed the lives of millions of people across the world. They inspired the people of many countries to rebel against domination and exploitation, and to fight for freedom and democracy.

These revolutions led to the growth of another powerful movement in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe-nationalism. Nationalism is a strong feeling of love, pride and loyalty that people have for their country. It inspired people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to fight for independence from British rule.

**India in the Modern Worlds:** After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the Mughal Empire went into a rapid decline. The later Mughal rulers did not have the capabilities needed to hold this vast Empire together. Powerful new kingdoms were established by the Marathas and the Sikhs. The rulers of Hyderabad, Awadh, Carnatic and Bengal ruled independently over their provinces. These new powers constantly fought for supremacy among themselves.

In this course of time, the Europeans took advantage of the rivalries among the Indian rulers and made their base stronger. The Europeans also fought among themselves for control over the hugely profitable trade with India. Soon, the British had established themselves as the main power of India. Establishment of Company rule. End of Mughal Empire. Direct control over India by British Government.

**Sources of information of Modern Indian History:** Of the three periods of history, modern history has the most abundant sources of information to draw on. Sources of information can be – **primary and secondary.**

**Primary source** of information bare those that are originated, or created at the time of the event by the people who witnessed the event. Artefacts from archeological sites, coins, monuments, inscriptions, travelogues and autobiographies are all primary source of information. For modern Indian history, primary source of information also include government reports, letters, photographs, maps, newspapers, magazines and films. A lot of this material has been preserved in government museums and archives, from which they can be accessed when needed.

**Secondary sources** of information are secondhand accounts of events. They are usually collected and put together by people who study the primary sources. Secondary sources include textbooks, biographies, magazines, newspapers and movies about historical events.

**Books, newspapers and magazines:** The printing press, which was invented in Germany in the 15th century, came into common use in India in the 18th century. This resulted in the mass printing of books, newspapers, magazines and pamphlets, which are important sources of information for historians today. Books



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were printed in English and in the various regional languages. Many biographies of great people were written, which give us authentic information about the people and the times in which they lived.

**Government documents:** British officials were very particular about keeping proper records of all official transactions. Government orders, acts and other important decisions of the government had to be meticulously recorded. Hence, historians have a rich fund of official British documents, official letters and correspondence, survey maps, district gazettes and census records to refer to.

**Disadvantage of official records:** From the vast corpus of records we can get to know a lot, but we must remember that these are official records. They tell us what the officials thought, what they were interested in, and what they wished to preserve for posterity. These records do not always help us understand what other people in the country felt, and what lay behind their actions.

We have diaries of people, accounts of pilgrims and travelers, autobiographies of important personalities, and popular booklets that were sold in the local bazaars. As printing spread, newspapers were published and issues were debated in public. Leaders and reformers wrote to spread their ideas, poets and novelists wrote to express their feelings.

All these sources, however, were produced by those who were literate. From these we will not be able to understand how history was experienced and lived by the tribal and the peasants, the workers in the mines or the poor on the streets. Getting to know their lives is a more difficult task.

