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Advent of the Europeans

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1 Portuguese in India: Vasco da Gama to Albuquerque

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to reach India by sea (1498) and built a trading empire of forts and sea control on the west coast, with Goa as its capital.

Core facts

- **Vasco da Gama** reached **Kappad near Calicut** in **May 1498**, via the Cape of Good Hope. The ruler of Calicut, the **Zamorin**, received him.
- **Pedro Alvares Cabral** came in **1500**. The first Portuguese fort (Fort Manuel) was built at **Cochin** in **1503**.
- **Francisco de Almeida** (1505–09) was the first Viceroy. His policy is called the **Blue Water Policy**: control the sea, not the land.
- **Alfonso de Albuquerque** (1509–15) **captured Goa from the Sultan of Bijapur in 1510**.
- **Nino da Cunha** moved the capital from Cochin to **Goa** in **1530**.
- The Portuguese enforced the **cartaz**: a sea-pass that ships in the Indian Ocean had to carry.
- **Goa, Daman and Diu** stayed Portuguese until **1961**, when India took them by military action.
- Crops they brought: **tobacco, maize, potato, chilli, pineapple, cashew**. The first printing press in India was set up at **Goa in 1556**.

Explained

Why Portugal came

- Spices (pepper above all) reached Europe through Arab and Venetian middlemen at high prices.
- Portugal wanted a direct sea route and also saw a religious aim against Muslim traders.
- The Zamorin's rivals and the Arab merchants of Calicut resented Portuguese demands, so the Portuguese moved to Cochin and Cannanore.

Key governors

Name	Years	Known for
Francisco de Almeida	1505–09	Blue Water Policy; victory at **Diu (1509)**
Alfonso de Albuquerque	1509–15	Goa (1510), Malacca (1511), Ormuz (1515)
Nino da Cunha	1529–38	Capital to Goa (1530); Bassein and Diu

- **Battle of Diu (1509).** Almeida defeated a combined fleet of Egypt's Mamluks, Gujarat and Calicut. After it, Portugal ruled the Indian Ocean for about a century.
- **Albuquerque** built Goa into a base. He encouraged Portuguese soldiers to marry Indian women and settle, and he took the city by force from Yusuf Adil Shah's Bijapur.
- **Cartaz system.** Indian and Arab ships paid for a pass. Ships without it could be seized. This was a tax on trade at sea.

- **Settlements.** Goa, Daman, Diu, Bassein, Salsette, Bombay (until 1661), San Thome near Madras, and Hugli in Bengal (from about 1579).
- **Bombay.** Portugal gave it to **Charles II** of England as part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza (1661). The Crown passed it to the Company in **1668**.
- **Bassein.** Bahadur Shah of Gujarat ceded Bassein by treaty in **1534**.

Decline

- Their religious policy (the Inquisition at Goa from 1560) alienated Indians.
- Brazil drew attention and settlers away.
- Dutch and English sea power, plus a small home population, broke the monopoly.
- Shah Jahan drove them out of **Hugli in 1632**.

Common traps

✗ "Vasco da Gama landed at Goa." ✓ He landed near **Calicut (Kappad)** in 1498.

✗ "Almeida captured Goa." ✓ **Albuquerque** took Goa in **1510**. Almeida's mark was the Blue Water Policy and Diu (1509).

✗ "Goa became the capital in 1510." ✓ It became the capital in **1530** under Nino da Cunha. Before that it was Cochin.

✗ "The Portuguese gave Bombay to the Company in 1661." ✓ In **1661** it passed to **Charles II**; the Company got it in **1668**.

✗ "The cartaz was a land tax." ✓ It was a **naval pass** for ships at sea.

Quick revision

- 1498: Vasco da Gama at Calicut (Kappad); Zamorin.
- 1503: first Portuguese fort at Cochin.
- Almeida (1505–09): Blue Water Policy; Diu 1509.
- Albuquerque: Goa 1510 from Bijapur; Malacca 1511.
- 1530: capital moved to Goa.
- Cartaz: sea pass.
- 1556: first printing press at Goa.
- 1632: Shah Jahan expels them from Hugli.
- 1961: Goa, Daman, Diu join India.

2 Dutch, Danish and French East India Companies

The Dutch (1602), Danes (1616) and French (1664) all set up Indian trading posts, but only the English Company held on, and the three smaller powers were reduced to a few enclaves.

Core facts

- Order of the companies: Portuguese (1498), **English (1600)**, **Dutch (1602)**, **Danish (1616)**, **French (1664)**.
- **Dutch** (United East India Company, **VOC**, 1602):
  - first Indian factory at **Masulipatnam** (1605)
  - **Pulicat** (1610) with Fort Geldria
  - other posts: Chinsurah, Nagapattinam, Cochin (1663), Surat, Kasimbazar
  - their main interest was the **spice trade of Indonesia**
- Dutch power ended in India with the **Battle of Colachel (1741)**, lost to **Marthanda Varma of Travancore**, and the **Battle of Bedara (1759)**, lost to the English.
- **Danes: Tranquebar** (1620, Tamil Nadu) and **Serampore** (1755, Bengal). Both were **sold to the British in 1845**.
- **French:** Compagnie des Indes Orientales formed by **Colbert** under **Louis XIV** (1664).
  - **Surat** (1668), **Masulipatnam** (1669)
  - **Pondicherry** (1674) founded by **Francois Martin**
  - Chandernagore (1690), Yanam (1723), Mahe (1725), Karaikal (1739)

Explained

The Dutch

- They preferred the Indonesian islands, so India was a source of cloth (for the spice trade) and indigo, saltpetre and opium.
- **Pulicat** was their main Coromandel base. They minted gold *pagodas* there.
- **Chinsurah** (Fort Gustavus) in Bengal was their chief centre in the east.
- **Colachel (1741).** Marthanda Varma of Travancore defeated a Dutch force. This was an Indian victory over a European power.
- **Bedara (1759).** The Dutch landed troops to challenge the English in Bengal. Colonel Forde beat them near Chinsurah.
- By the **Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824** the Dutch gave up their Indian posts for British Bencoolen in Sumatra. Chinsurah passed to the British in 1825.

The Danes

- The company was small and never strong. **Tranquebar** (Tharangambadi) was on the Coromandel coast.
- **Serampore**, near Calcutta, became known for the Baptist mission of **William Carey** and for printing.

- Both were bought by Britain in **1845**.

The French

- The company was a state creation and was always short of money.
- **Francois Martin** got Pondicherry from the Bijapur governor of the area (1674) and developed it.
- **Dupleix** was Governor-General of French India (1742–54). His plan to use Indian rulers' quarrels and train Indian soldiers (sepoys) is the topic of the next note.
- **Yanam** lies in the Godavari delta of present-day Andhra Pradesh; it was French until 1954.

AP angle

- **Masulipatnam** (Machilipatnam) was the first Dutch factory in India (1605), and also an early English and French base. It was the port of the Golconda kingdom.
- **Pulicat** (on Pulicat Lake, which straddles the AP–Tamil Nadu border; the town itself is in Tamil Nadu) was the Dutch capital on the Coromandel coast.
- **Yanam**, in the Godavari delta, is part of the Union Territory of Puducherry but lies inside AP.

Common traps

✗ "The French company was formed before the Dutch." ✓ Order: English 1600, **Dutch 1602**, Danish 1616, **French 1664**.

✗ "The first Dutch factory was at Pulicat." ✓ It was **Masulipatnam (1605)**. Pulicat followed in 1610.

✗ "Tranquebar was a French settlement." ✓ It was **Danish**.

✗ "Pondicherry was founded by Dupleix." ✓ **Francois Martin** founded it in 1674. Dupleix developed French power later.

✗ "Colachel was fought against the English." ✓ It was fought between **Travancore and the Dutch** (1741).

✗ "Serampore was sold in 1845 to the French." ✓ It was sold to the **British**.

Quick revision

- Dutch VOC 1602; first factory Masulipatnam 1605; Pulicat 1610.
- Colachel 1741: Marthanda Varma beats the Dutch.
- Bedara 1759: English beat the Dutch.
- Danes: Tranquebar 1620, Serampore 1755; sold 1845.
- French company 1664 (Colbert); Pondicherry 1674 (Martin).
- Yanam, Mahe, Karaikal, Chandernagore are the other French posts.

- Dupleix: governor 1742–54.

3 English East India Company: early factories and farmans

The English Company began as a chartered trading body in 1600, built fortified factories in Surat, Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, and used a Mughal farman of 1717 to trade in Bengal almost free of duty.

Core facts

- **31 December 1600:** Queen **Elizabeth I** granted the company a charter, with a monopoly of English trade east of the Cape of Good Hope.
- **William Hawkins** came to Jahangir's court in **1608**. **Sir Thomas Roe**, envoy of **James I**, came in **1615** and got permission for trade.
- **Surat factory:** 1613, after the English naval victory over the Portuguese off Surat (1612).
- **Masulipatnam** (1611) was the first English factory on the east coast.
- **Golden Farman (1632):** the Sultan of **Golconda** allowed English trade in his ports for **500 pagodas** a year.
- **Fort St George, Madras (1639–40):** Francis Day and Andrew Cogan; land from a local Nayak.
- **Bombay** came from Charles II (1661) and went to the Company in **1668**.
- **Hugli** (1651); **Job Charnock** founded **Sutanuti** (Calcutta) in **1690**. **Fort William** followed around 1700.
- **1717 farman** of Emperor **Farrukhsiyar**: the "Magna Carta" of the Company's trade in Bengal.

Explained

Growth of the factories

- A **factory** was a fortified warehouse and residence for the Company's agents, not a manufacturing plant.
- The three bases became the **Presidencies**: Madras, Bombay and Calcutta (Fort William).
- **Armagon** (Durgarajapatnam, 1626) was a short-lived early fort on the Andhra coast. The Company moved to Madras in 1639.

Rivals at home and abroad

- In 1698 a rival "New Company" got a charter. The two merged in **1708** as the **United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies**.
- Against the Portuguese, the English relied on their fleet. Against the Mughals, they asked for farmans.

The 1717 farman

- A delegation led by **John Surman** went to Delhi in 1715. The surgeon **William Hamilton** is said to have cured the emperor, which helped.
- Farrukhsiyar's farman allowed:

- duty-free trade in **Bengal** in return for a fixed payment of **Rs 3,000 a year**
- rupees minted at the Company's **Bombay mint** to be current across Mughal territory
- the right to rent more villages around Calcutta
- the Company's **dastak** (pass) to prove goods were exempt

Why it caused conflict

- Company servants misused dastaks for their *private* trade. This cost the Nawabs revenue and hurt Indian merchants.
- Bengal's Nawabs, **Murshid Quli Khan** and then **Alivardi Khan**, objected. The dispute led to Siraj-ud-Daulah's attack on Calcutta in 1756 (see the Plassey note).

AP angle

- **Masulipatnam** (1611) was the first English factory on the east coast. It was the main port of the Golconda sultanate.
- **Armagon** (Durgarajapatnam) in Nellore district (1626) was the first English fort on the Coromandel coast.
- **Golden Farman (1632):** issued by **Abdullah Qutb Shah** of Golconda, which brought the English into the Telugu coast's trade.
- **Madras (1639)** was founded on land granted by a local Nayak under the **Vijayanagara** chief of Chandragiri.

Common traps

✗ "Hawkins got the trade permission from Jahangir." ✓ He failed. **Thomas Roe (1615)** got it.

✗ "The Company was chartered in 1608." ✓ **1600**. Hawkins came in 1608.

✗ "The Golden Farman was given by the Mughals." ✓ It came from the **Sultan of Golconda** (1632).

✗ "Calcutta was founded by Clive." ✓ **Job Charnock** (Sutanuti, **1690**).

✗ "The 1717 farman was granted to Clive." ✓ It was granted by **Farrukhsiyar** after the **Surman** mission.

Quick revision

- 1600 charter (Elizabeth I).
- Hawkins 1608; Roe 1615; Surat 1613.
- Masulipatnam 1611; Armagon 1626; Madras 1639.
- Golden Farman 1632 (Golconda; 500 pagodas).
- Bombay: to the Company in 1668.
- Charnock, Sutanuti 1690.
- Merger of the two companies 1708.

- Farman 1717 (Farrukhsiyar, Surman).

4 Anglo-French rivalry: the three Carnatic wars

Between 1746 and 1763 the English and French fought three wars in the Carnatic and the Deccan, and the English victory at Wandiwash (1760) ended French hopes of an Indian empire.

Core facts

- **First Carnatic War (1746–48):** an extension of the War of the Austrian Succession.
  - **Battle of St. Thome / Adyar (1746):** a small French force beat the Nawab of Arcot, **Anwaruddin**.
  - Ended by the **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748)**: Madras went back to the English.
- **Second Carnatic War (1749–54):** disputed succession in Hyderabad and the Carnatic.
  - French side: **Muzaffar Jang** (Hyderabad), **Chanda Sahib** (Carnatic).
  - English side: **Nasir Jang**, **Muhammad Ali**.
  - **Robert Clive** took and held **Arcot (1751)**.
  - Ended by the **Treaty of Pondicherry (1754)**; **Dupleix was recalled**.
- **Third Carnatic War (1756–63):** the Seven Years' War.
  - French commander: **Count de Lally**. English: **Sir Eyre Coote**.
  - **Battle of Wandiwash (22 January 1760):** English victory; Bussy captured.
  - **Pondicherry** fell in **1761**.
  - **Treaty of Paris (1763):** French factories returned, but not to be fortified.

Explained

Causes

- The two companies were rivals for trade, and wars in Europe spilled over to India.
- Dupleix, the French governor (1742–54), saw that Indian rulers could be used by taking sides in succession quarrels.

First war

- The English fleet threatened the French, so the French governor of Mauritius, La Bourdonnais, came to help. He captured Madras in 1746.
- The Nawab of Arcot objected as it was in his territory. At **St. Thome** a few hundred French soldiers routed his army of thousands. This showed that disciplined European troops with artillery were superior.

Second war

- After Nizam-ul-Mulk's death (1748), his son **Nasir Jang** and grandson **Muzaffar Jang** fought. In the Carnatic, **Chanda Sahib** challenged **Anwaruddin**.
- At the Battle of **Ambur (1749)** Anwaruddin was killed. The French set up their candidates for a short time.

- **Clive**, a clerk turned soldier, led a diversion and seized **Arcot** in 1751 and held it for 53 days against a siege. This turned the war.
- **Bussy** stayed at Hyderabad with French troops and got the **Northern Circars** in 1753. Dupleix was recalled in 1754 and **Godeheu** made peace.

Third war

- Count de Lally took **Fort St David** (1758) but quarrelled with his own officers and lacked money.
- English control of the sea cut French supplies. At **Wandiwash** Eyre Coote won (1760). Pondicherry was starved into surrender (1761).
- At the **Treaty of Paris (1763)**, Pondicherry and other posts were returned but could not be fortified or used as political bases.

AP angle

- The **Northern Circars** (coastal Andhra) were granted to the French by Salabat Jang in 1753–54.
- **Colonel Forde** defeated the French at the **Battle of Condore (Chandurthi), 1758**, and captured **Masulipatnam (April 1759)**. The English took charge of the region.
- The Mughal emperor Shah Alam II formally granted the Northern Circars to the Company by a **farman in 1765** (Clive's settlement).
- Masulipatnam and Yanam show the French and English interest in the Telugu coast.

Common traps

✗ "The first Carnatic War ended with the Treaty of Paris." ✓ It ended with **Aix-la-Chapelle (1748)**. Paris (1763) ended the third.

✗ "Clive won at Wandiwash." ✓ **Eyre Coote** won at Wandiwash (1760). Clive's fame came at **Arcot (1751)**.

✗ "Dupleix lost at Wandiwash." ✓ He had been **recalled in 1754**. Lally commanded in the third war.

✗ "Pondicherry fell in 1760." ✓ **1761**, after Wandiwash.

✗ "St. Thome was fought against the Nizam." ✓ It was against the **Nawab of Arcot, Anwaruddin**.

Quick revision

- First war 1746–48: St. Thome; Aix-la-Chapelle.
- Second war 1749–54: Arcot 1751 (Clive); Treaty of Pondicherry 1754.
- Third war 1756–63: Wandiwash 1760; Pondicherry 1761; Paris 1763.
- Dupleix recalled 1754.
- Lally (French); Eyre Coote (English).

- Northern Circars: Bussy 1753; Forde at Condore 1758.