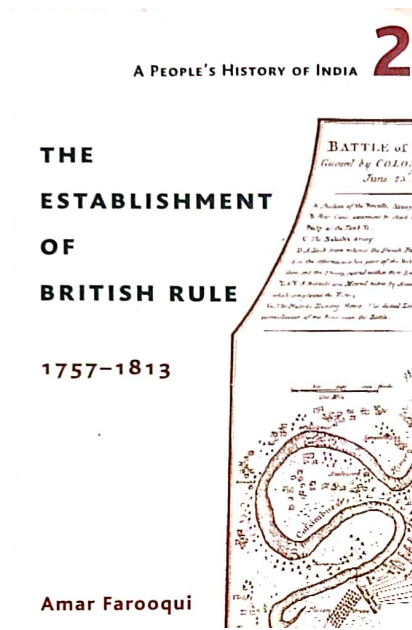


Book Review



Amar Farooqui:*The Establishment of British Rule 1757-1813* (Aligarh Historian Society,New Delhi,Tulika Books,Third Edition, 2019, pp.96, Price:250/p INR)

Dipankar Barman¹

The establishment of British Rule was expurgated vast areas by many famous Historians. Most Historians had been published books regarding this area like

¹**Research Scholar**, Department of History, Raiganj University, Raiganj,Uttar Dinajpur,West Bengal,India Email: dipankarpt25@mail.com

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D.N.Banerjee's early administrative of the East India company in Bengal, Ramesh Chandra Dutt's "The Economic History of India," Robert Orme's "A History of the Military Transactions of the British Nation in Indostan from the year 1745 etc.

The present book under review being 23rd volume of the series titled 'A Peoples History of India, is one of the latest additions on this topic. Amar farooqui, the emeritus professor of 'University of Delhi' is the general editor of this series and also the author of this book. The book 'The Establishment of British Rule' principally focuses on the political, military and administrative development in India under English East India company during the period 1757-1813AD. The establishment of British rule is disunited into three chapters namely....

1. The road to colonial conquest.
2. British territorial expansion, to 1813
3. Colonial administration, 1765 to 1813

Each and every chapter has points and described in details. At the end of each chapter we can see chronology, extraction, small notes and bibliographical note etc. and sometimes mentioned maps or atlas for concrete knowledge. But here author has not maintained sequentially.

In the first chapter author has briefly elaborated about the rise of colonial powers, European colonialism may be said to begin with the arrival of a Spanish flotilla under Christopher Columbus and the appearance of a Portuguese fleet under Vasco da Gama in the Indian Ocean (1498). Later England, Netherlands (Holland), France were main European nations engaged in the conquest of different countries across the seas and around the World.

In the early years of the 17th century some European countries involved to conduct Maritime trades or seaborne trades between Asia and Europe and made some companies like Dutch East India Company, English East India Company, French East India Company etc. Eventually these companies involved in conflict for the possessions in India. A major and long-term conflict was between English and French companies in South India. The hostility very soon escalated into full-

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fledged war that was Carnatic War. Here one question is raising that why France failed to resist England? Here the only one argument that has come again and again is that France had much greater capacity for land warfare but on the opposite side the English were superior in naval power, had huge navies and a much larger fleet. A crucial advantage was that by such naval superiority could be easily used to block the dispatch of French troop reinforcements to India.

In 1757 conquest of Bengal by British East India company was very important for the permanently establishment of British rule in India. Company's avarice was shown after the battle of Plassey and company became a gigantic beast. The Company was the main gainer. After the battle of Buxer in 1764, company gradually swallowed Bengal province.

In the second chapter, East India Company began the process of the conquest in the entire Indian subcontinent that continued for the next 100 years and more. Company expanded its territory from coastal area into interiors. After enhancing the economic power they made permanent military base and systematically were extending their territory by intervening in the indigenous state's internal disputes. British involved war with Mysore. It was a small province of South India, formed under the leadership of Haidar Ali. A united kingdom of Mysore was established under Haider and his son Tipu Sultan. They fought against British bravely but at last defeated and English captured the Mysore. Even British took the state Awadh under Subsidiary Alliances.

After Mysore they made conflict with Maratha. In western India, a unified Maratha Empire was formed on the bank of the Arabian Sea under the leadership of Chhatrapati Shivaji. Later Peshwa system was formed and due to incompetence of the rulers, British intervention began and went to war. Lastly English got victory over Maratha kingdom. Then they moved their extension policy towards the Punjab Frontier. Here sometimes writer interpreted extra incidents like Poligar revolts and mutiny at Vellore etc. During the time of Lord Wellesley, British government had made subsidiary alliance for basically a treaty between British East India Company and Indian princely states. Thus Company swallowed so many Indian states. Award was the first state that received the alliance.

In the book, after the expansion of territory the English company focused on the establishment of administrative system in India. The British knew that in

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order to run such a large empire, they needed a cohesive system of governance. So English tried to establish a skilled administration system in the captured areas rapidly. In 1765 the Mughal Titular emperor Shah Alam was made to grant the Diwani to the company, thus a 'Dual' or 'Double' government was created. Government was aware about the system so it was abolished very quickly. When Warren Hastings took charge as governor of Bengal in April 1772, he received directions from the court of Directors to dismantle the Dual government.

British brought the regulating Act in 1773, the act introduced changes in both the organization of the company in London and the structure of the government in India. In this chapter we can see so many acts were passed by British rulers to concrete the British rule in India like strains within British administration in 1774 to 1784, Pitt's India act, 1784, permanent settlement for land revenue, civil and judicial measures etc. British East India Company largely took initiatives for the development of administration system in India. After the grant of Diwani, company was largely exploiting in the area of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa area in 1770. Some evil effects of the Dual system were seen like administrative Breakdown, Decline of agriculture, Disruption of the trade and commerce, Ruination of industry and skills etc. So Bengal province was faced in 1770 a tremendous famine. Warren Hastings and Cornwallis took vital role for Revenue Reforms. In order to work out a satisfactory system of land revenue administration, Warren Hastings restored to devise of experimentation and tried to evolve a system by the method of trial and error.

In 1772 Hastings made a 5 years settlement of land revenue and one year settlement in 1777. Cornwallis made permanent settlement in 1793. Gradually British Government set up full-fledged judicial system in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. Company established a Supreme Court in Calcutta. The Judges being barristers in England or Ireland with five years standing were appointed by the king of England. The expenses and salaries were to be paid by East India Company. But the system was fully for British subjects.

However the British parliament's charter act of 1813 had been taken as the terminal point because the act ended the Monopoly of the East India Company over trade between India and England. And this incident marked a fundamental change in the nature of India's economy relationship with British.

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In the opinion of professor Amar farooqui, writings on eighteen century Indian History there had been a tendency to pass by the intensely violent character of the company's intrusion.

Nationalist Historiography had expressed in the revealing the exploitation nature of British Rule in India. Dadabhai Naoroji and Ramesh Chandra Dutta did laborious work to show that British reduced its people to starvation. Nationalists were mostly political and dynastic and cultural in nature. P.E. Robert in his book 'History of British India,p.142 mentioned "In 1756 the British in Bengal, through the most prosperous European community in that province of the Empire were regarded merely as a body of merchants with one reach settlement. But by 1760 the position was entirely altered. The British were supreme in Bengal." Thompson and Garratt stated in their book "Rise and fulfillment of British Rule in India, pp.171 -172" the reformation and administration system.

The book is a best series 'a people's History of India' and it will enrich the learners to familiar with the history of India under East India Company. But in this we found that there are many lack of data. Author could elaborate more incidents at the mentioned time period. Sometimes learners can feel it that author has written the book with deficiency of data and some where should be more reasonable. After carefully studying the book there is some spelling discrepancy like 'Reza Khan' or 'Riza Khan', Trichinopoly or Tiruchirapalli' etc. Chronology, extract and notes those are very interesting and helpful for learners.

At the end of the each chapter, author could mention the bibliography following the 'Chicago style' and did not maintain footnotes or endnotes. Although this book is very authentic and reliable and we hope that author will rectify or correct the all errors or discrepancies in future. It is also our praiseworthy that author will maintain the quality and ethics and he will avoid the untruthful facts in the next edition of the book.