

**CLASS – VIII SST**  
**HISTORY CH-1**

WHEN WHERE  
AND HOW

# Introduction to History

History is the study of past events and it is much more than memorising dates.

In this lesson we will learn: “**how did it happen**”, “**when did it happen**” and “**where did it happen**”.

What is history?

**EVENTS?**

**PLACES?**

**DATES?**

**NAMES?**

**LEARNING FACTS?**

# Meaning of History

History is about changes that occur over time.

I.e., finding how things were in the past and how things have changed.

*The second emperor of China,  
Shen Nung, discovers tea  
when tea leaves blow into  
his cup of hot water  
or so the story goes...*



# Caste System in Hinduism

There are 5 types of caste in Hinduism



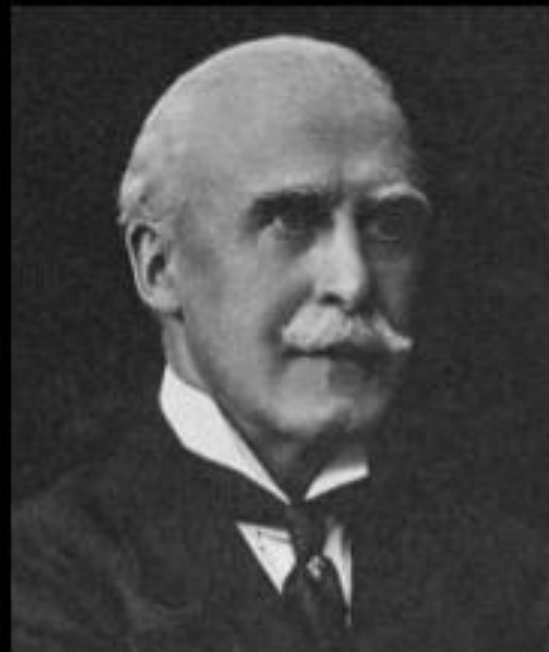
# James Rennel

---

He was born on Dec 3, 1742 in England and died on March 29, 1830.

He was the leading British Geographer of his time. He constructed the first nearly accurate map of India.

He joined East India Company and became Surveyor General of Bengal (1764-77)



## **Britannica/East India Company**

English company formed for the exploitation of trade with East and Southeast Asia and India. Incorporated by Royal Charter on December 31, 1600.

Started as a monopolistic trading body, the company became involved in politics and acted as an agent of British imperialism in India from the early-18th century to the mid-19th century.

The activities of the company in China in the 19th century also served as a catalyst for the expansion of British influence there.



Official of East India Company riding in an Indian Procession





## Past versus present state of history

Earlier history was associated with string of dates. This was because history used to keep a track of battles and big events.

At present, history is a wider concept which includes 'how' and 'what' concepts.

For example, how people earned their livelihood, what did they produce, and eat? Etc.

# Criteria to select a set of dates

Dates become important when we assume that a particular set of events are important.

Most of the history in India was written by British historians. These historians started writing with the rule of first Governor-General, Warren Hastings and ended with the last Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten.

# Warren Hastings

---

He became the first Governor-General of India in 1773.

Warren Hastings was a competent, honourable, and farsighted administrator, whose policies, while some controversial, decisively shaped and stabilized future Anglo-Indian relations.

The controversy surrounding his administration made him the subject of impeachment and trial in Great Britain.

**WARREN HASTINGS**  
**(1732 - 1818)**



# Criteria to periodise

In 1817, a Scottish Economist and Political Philosopher, named James Mill, published a book “**History of British India**”.

In this book, the Indian history is divided into 3 periods:

- 1) Hindu
- 2) Muslim
- 3) British

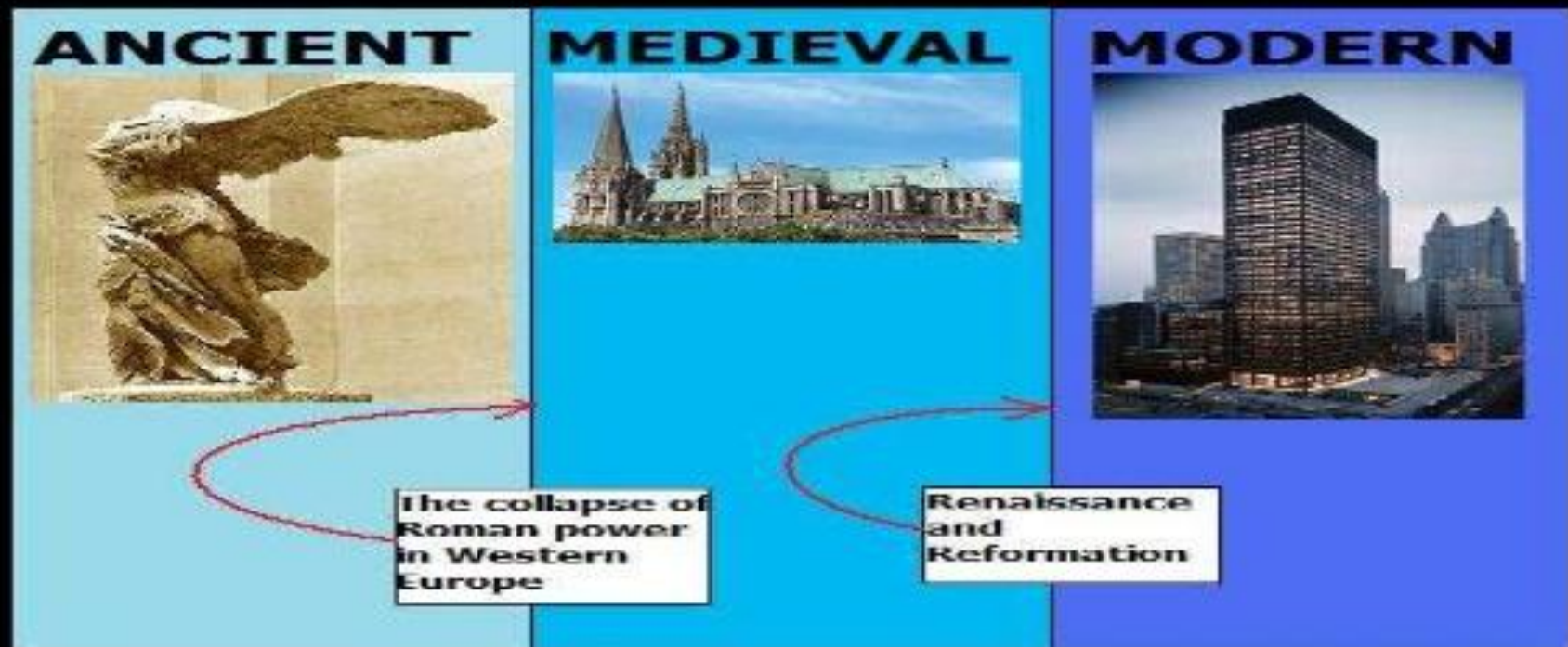


*James Mill*

*Classico*

# Indian History Classification

- Ancient History – 4000 B.C. – A.D.500
- Medieval History – A.D. 500 – A.D. 1500
- Modern History – A.D. 1500 – Present



## Modern period changed to Colonial

Modern period is related to growth of all the forces of modernism. But under the British rule, people were not getting modernised. Therefore the name changed to Colonial period.

When the subjugation of one country by another leads to political, economic, social and cultural changes this is the process of Colonisation.

# Sources of writing history

Sources that historians use in writing about last 250 years on Indian history includes:

- 1) **Official records of the British Administration** - For British, the **act of writing** was crucial. So every plan, policy agreement was in writing. This led to administrative culture of memos, noting and reports.

British also kept all the **documents preserved in the record room** which was attached to all administrative institutions. Moreover these documents were written by **calligraphists**, who specialised in the art of beautiful writing.



## Sources of writing history

2) **Conducting surveys** - Conducting surveys was common under colonial administration. The British believed that a country had to be properly known before it could be **effectively administered**.

By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, detailed surveys were being carried out to **map the entire country**.

For Example: forest survey, zoological survey, etc.

# What official records do not tell

- 1) Records do not tell what other people in the country felt.
- 2) Only dairies of people, travellers, autobiographies of important personalities can tell about literate people.
- 3) No record of the history is available for the Tribals, peasants, workers or the poor.

# PERIODISATION OF INDIA'S PAST

- ◉ Hindu, muslim and british

In AD 1817, a scottish economist and political philosopher called James mill divided india's past into three periods-Hindu, muslim and british.

mill's preiodisation was widely accepted at the time. But today, many historians do not agree with his division of the past into hindu or muslim periods on the basis of the religion of rulers. They point out the number of problems with such a classification. firstly, not all ancient a rulers were hindu and not all medival indian rulers were muslim. Many rulers in ancient india belonged to other faiths , such as Buddhism Jainism, etc

# ANCIENT MEDIVAL AND MODERN

- Nowadays, many historians classify India past into the ancient, the medival and the modern period. The ancient period said to have ended in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD with the death of harshavardhana. The medival period is said to extend from AD 700 to AD 1750. This was the period of regional rulers such as the cholas ,rajputs, the palas, etc. the modern is period is to have begun in the 18<sup>th</sup> centuary AD. The British also exploited the country resources for their own gain-they collected revenue from the land owners. There polices

Gradually turned india from an exporter of finished goods to an exporter of raw material of british goods. This led to a huge drain of wealth and resources of india . Such subjugation of one country by another that brings about political social economic and cultural changes is called colonisation. Therefore, this period which saw the colonisation of india is also called the colonial periods in indian history.



**JAMES MILL**



# IMPORTANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MODERN PERIOD

- ◉ New political formations

After Aurangzeb's death in AD 1707, mughal power declined and many regional and political forces began to assert their authority over the subcontinent. A number of independent states were carved out of the old mughal provinces in the 18<sup>th</sup> century AD. Among these the states of Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad were important. They were founded by mughal nobels the state of hyderabad was founded by Chin Qilich khan , the state of bengal was established by Murshid Quli khan , while awadh became independent under Sa'adat khan another important state at the time was Mysore ,which was never under direct

Mughal control. It had emerged as a powerful state under Hyder Ali and his son Tipu sultan. As Mughal power faded ,other political groups, such as the raj puts, the Marathas , the Sikhs, and the also seized control of various territories .

Tipu sultan

Aurangzeb



## RISE IN BRITISH POWER

The British initially came to India for trade. They were interested in setting up trading centers for exchanging Indian goods, not conquering territories. They tried to take control of Indian markets and set up trading posts; they came in conflict with regional powers and other European traders, like the Dutch and Portuguese. After that, they soon realized the need for occupying territories to establish their power. By AD 1757, the British had forcibly taken control of Bengal. In the next century, the British transformed from traders to rulers of the subcontinent.



The British rule over India lasted for about two hundred years , ending in 1947 when the long drawn struggle for independence finally won Indians their freedom.

## WARS BETWEEN BRITISH AND DUTCH



# HISTORICAL SOURCES

A number of sources tell us about the modern periods in Indian history they can be grouped under - primary and secondary sources

Primary sources

Primary sources are original sources of information created at time of an event or recorted by eyewitness to an event and they include archaeological remains, original documents or video tapes etc.



Some primary sources are

- Official records

The British believed in keeping a record of all their official documents plans and policies.

A number of important documents written by British officials and their correspondence with prominent Indian leaders were stored in record rooms that were attached to all government institutions, such as collectorates, law courts etc. Later on such documents were stored in archives and museums. A number of such documents are now preserved in the National Archives of India.



### 3 monuments

The British erected a number of monuments such as the gateway of India, the Rashtrapati Bhawan, and the parliament house.



## SCEONADRY SOURCES

Sceonadry sources are second hand accounts of events or sources that derive their information from primary sources ex. News paper magazines pamphlets reports reviews articles books etc. A number of both books in both Indian and foreign languages throw a good deal of light on the progress made in different fields like medicine, engineering, art, literature, mathematics, music, dance and drama during the modern period. British historians wrote a number of histories describing the rule of various governor-generals of India, their lives and their political achievements many Indians wrote books to bring awareness about the exploitative rule of British.



THANK  
YOU