

B.A. Part III Paper VI
(History of India (1765-1936))

Q. Dual Administration in Bengal & its impact
(on Bengal
RULE OF TWO)

Ans The battle of Buxar changed the political landscape of India. Mughal Emperor was leaving the dust. North India was prostrated before the might of East India Company. Rich province of Bengal was eyed by the lusty leecher who used every machination to exploit the riches of Bengal.

Dual settlement was ^{among} one of them. As Bengal was in submission, anxiety prevailed. Clive, the man who was instrumental in achieving this feat was entrusted by the company to consolidate the rule of Company.

Though, he didn't create new system. He offer the solution to the political problems of Bengal was setting up of DUAL SYSTEM

The dual system remain a bad memory in the hearts of the people of Bengal. In this system, the de facto power was enjoyed by the Company's official while ruler of Bengal ~~became~~ ^{all mere}

During the period of Mughals, two officials were appointed by the Central Government. One was Subhedar and another one was the Diwan. Both officials were entrusted with different nature of work which enabled the Mughals to maintain Check and Balance.

Where, Subhedar look after the Nizamat function that is military defence, Police and Administration of Criminal Justice, the other one was engaged to maintain Revenue affairs, besides being accountable for the civil administration in the provinces.

But this situation took a turn after the death of Aurangzeb and subsequent consolidation of regional power. This the event of Buxar brought change in it.

The Firman issued by Emperor Shah Alam - II on 12 August 1765 conferred the DIWANI function to the Company in lieu of Rs 26 lakh to the Emperor and provision for the expenses of the Nizamat (fixed at Rs 53 lakhs).

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Some time before in 1765, Najm ud Daula took the charge of Bengal after the death of his ~~father~~ father on the terms that he would be forfeit the Nizam function in favour of the Company and the Civil administration affairs would be managed by the Deputy Subedar to be named by the Company and not removable without their consent.

In this manner, the company took control of the DIWANI function from the Emperor and the Nizam function from the Subedar of Bengal.

Arrangement made by the Company:

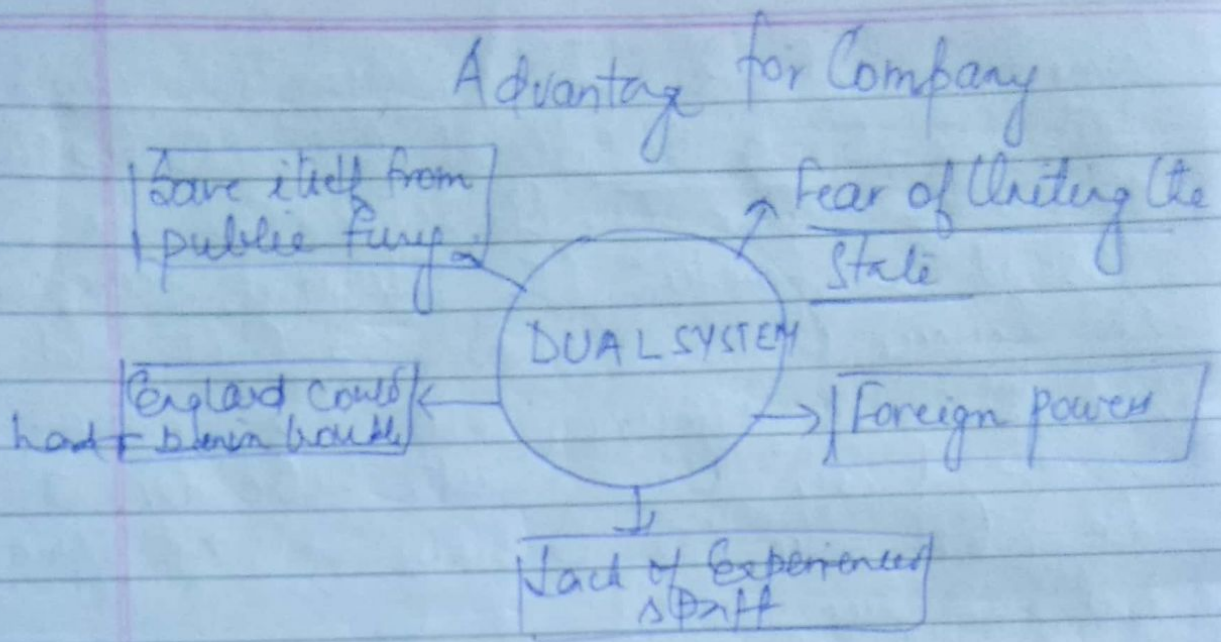
(i) The company appointed two Deputy Diwans, Mehammad Reza Khan for Bengal and Raja Shetab Rai for Bihar to exercise the diwani function.

(ii) It was in reality a mask for colonial company.

(iii) This system of Government came to be known as DUAL SYSTEM OR DYARCHY.

i.e. RULE OF TWO

(iv) Indian people were instrument who were entrusted to serve the purpose of East-India Company.



(a) Fear of uniting the Indian princes
 Clive justified the dual system on the basis of the reasoning that it might have united the Indian princes against the company. Though it was far fetched thought, still company had not enough strength to face the combined military power of the Indian princes.

(b) Foreign Power & East India Company
 was not lone power in the India. Beside Company, the french, Dutch and the Danes ~~was~~ would have ~~could~~ come together to challenge the authority of the East India Company's Monopoly, they too

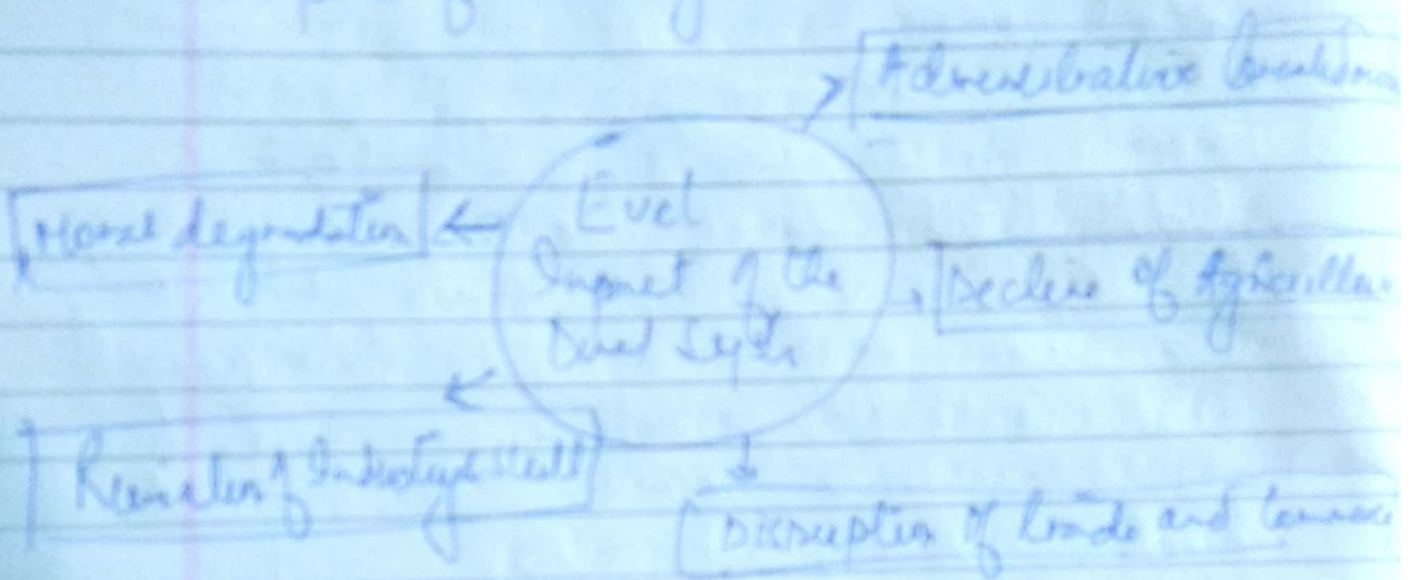
enjoyed many privileges which was from the Imperial ruler

(c) Lack of Experienced Staff: The Company didn't had trained officials to take over and manage the affairs effectively. The few servants of the Company that could be available for the work of administration were ignorant of Indian practices, language and customs.

(d) England could have been troubled
Had the Company openly asserted its power, it could have created trouble in European politics. Holland, France, Portugal or Sweden might have joined in anti-British alliance which Europe witnessed during the American War of Independence.

(e) Failure to be blamed on Indian Officials
It was seen in later period that the misadventure was put on Indians and the Company absolved and from its responsibility. Though they exercised real authority still they blamed the Indian authority.

Impacts of the Dual System



(A) Administrative breakdown: Due to the dual system, the Nizamat function was in disorder. While the Nawabs had no authority to enforce law, the Company officials held the authority. The whole administration from top to bottom was unscrupulous and corrupt.

(B) Decline of Agriculture: This system thoroughly destroyed the flourishing state of Bengal. The land revenue was annually handed out to the highest bidder. The tax collected had no permanent interest in the land and they never looked after the cultivation.

Disruption of trade and commerce:

Agricultural depression adversely affected the trade and commerce of the country.

By the form of 1717 issued by Emperor FARUKSIYAH, they imposed duty free trade in Bengal. Dastak or pass chits exempting from Goods, was flagrantly misused by him.

Ruin of Industry and skills: The weaving industry of Bengal received a setback.

The Company due to its control exploited the silk industry. They were compelled to sell at lower price to the company and received lower wages. Weavers' rights were tried and received nothing for it.

Moral degradation

Moral degradation also set in Bengal society. The farmer realised that more he laboured the more he would have to pay to the ~~several~~ several farmers as Government officials would ask no more than was absolutely necessary for the bare need of his family.

So, the introduction of
DUAL SYSTEM proved to be disastrous
for the people and for the people.
The One the flourishing state was
ruined due to the cupidly of the
East India Company. Nature of the rule
was itself faulty. Company run the
administration without responsibility
while the Nawab was mere puppet
with all responsibility but no
authority. So it was bound to suffer
failure.