

# UPSC Mains History Optional Paper-II Syllabus

## **1. European Penetration into India:**

The Early European Settlements; The Portuguese and the Dutch: The English and the French East India Companies: Their struggle for supremacy: Carnatic Wars: Bengal-The conflict between the English and the Nawabs of Bengal: Siraj and the English; The Battle of Plassey: Significance of Plassey.

## **2. British Expansion in India**

Bengal-Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim, The Battle of Buxar Mysore; The Marathas; The three Anglo-Maratha Wars; The Punjab.

## **3. Early Structure of the British Raj:**

The Early administrative structure; From diarchy to direct control; The Regulating Act (1773), The Pitt's India Act (1784): The Charter Act (1833); The Voice of free trade and the changing character of British colonial rule; The English utilitarian and India.

## **4. Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule:**

(a) Land revenue settlements in British India, The Permanent Settlement; Ryotwari Settlement; Mahalwani Settlement; Economic impact of the revenue arrangements; Commercialization of agriculture; Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society.

(b) Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce; De-industrialisation; Decline of traditional crafts; Drain of wealth; Economic transformation of India Railroad and communication network including telegraph and postal services; Famine and poverty in the rural interior; European business enterprise and its limitations.

## **5. Social and Cultural Developments:**

The state of indigenous education, its dislocation; Orientalist-Anglicist controversy. The introduction of western education in India; The rise of press, literature and public opinion; The rise of modern vernacular literature; Progress of Science; Christian missionary activities in India.

## **6. Social and Religious Reform Movements in Bengal and Other Areas:**

Ram Mohan Roy. The Brahmo Movement; Devendranath Tagore, Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, The Young Bengal Movement; Dayanada Saraswati; The social reform movements in India including Sati, widow remarriage, child marriage etc.; The contribution of Indian Renaissance to the growth of modern India; Islamic revivalism-the Feraizi and Wahabi Movements.

## **7. Indian Response to British Rule:**

Peasant movement and tribal uprisings in the 18th and 19th centuries including the Rangpur Dhing (1783), the Kol Rebellion (1832), the Mopla Rebellion in Malabar (1841-1920), the Santal Hul (1855), Indigo Rebellion (1859-60), Deccan Uprising (1875) and the Munda Ulgulan (1899-1900), The Great Revolt of 1857-Origin, character, causes of failure, the consequences: The shift in the character of peasant uprisings in the post- 1857 period; the peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930

8. Factors leading to the birth of Indian Nationalism, Politics of Association The Foundation of the Indian National Congress; The Safety-valve thesis relating to the birth of the Congress; Programme and objectives of Early Congress; the social composition of early Congress leadership; the Moderates and Extremists; The Partition of Bengal (1905), The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal; the economic and political aspects of Swadeshi Movement; The beginning of revolutionary extremism in India.

9. Rise of Gandhi; Character of Gandhian nationalism; Gandhi's popular appeal; Rowlatt Satyagraha; the Khilafat Movement; the Non-cooperation Movement: National politics from the end of the Non-cooperation movement to the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement; the two phases of the Civil Disobedience Movement: Simon Commission; The Nehru Report; the Round Table Conferences; Nationalism and the Peasant Movements; Nationalism and Working class movements; Women and Indian youth and students in Indian politics (1885-1947); the election of 1937 and the formation of ministries; Cripps Mission; the Quit India Movement; the Wavell Plan: The Cabinet Mission.

10. Constitutional Developments in the Colonial India between 1858 and 1935.

11. Other strands in the National Movement.

The Revolutionaries: Bengal, the Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P. the Madras Presidency, Outside India.

The Left: The Left within the Congress: Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress Socialist Party; the Communist Party of India, other left parties.

12. Politics of Separatism; the Muslim League; the Hindu Mahasabha: Communalism and the politics of partition Transfer of power; Independence.

13. Consolidation as a Nation; Nehru's Foreign Policy, India and her neighbours (1947-1964); The linguistic reorganisation of States (1935-1947); Regionalism and regional inequality; Integration of Princely States: Princes in electoral politics; the Question of National Language.

14. Caste and Ethnicity after 1947; Backward Castes and Tribes in post-colonial electoral politics; Dalit movements.

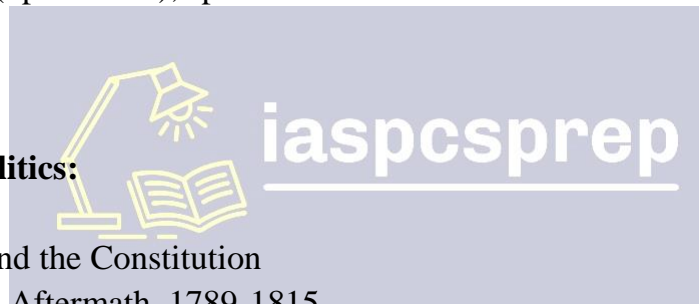
15. Economic development and political change; Land reforms; the politics of planning and rural reconstruction; Ecology and environmental policy in post-colonial India: Progress of Science.

### **16. Enlightenment and Modern ideas:**

- (i) Major Ideas of Enlightenment: Kant, Rousseau.
- (ii) Spread of Enlightenment in the colonies.
- (iii) Rise of socialist ideas (up to Marx); spread of Marxian Socialism.

### **17. Origins of Modern Politics:**

- (i) European States System
- (ii) American Revolution and the Constitution
- (iii) French Revolution and Aftermath, 1789-1815
- (iv) American Civil War with reference to Abraham Lincoln and the abolition of slavery.
- (v) British Democratic politics, 1815-1850: Parliamentary Reformers, Free Traders, Chartists.



### **18. Industrialization:**

- (i) English Industrial Revolution: Causes and Impact on Society.
- (ii) Industrialization in other countries: USA, Germany. Russia, Japan.
- (iii) Industrialization and Globalization.

### **19. Nation-State System:**

- (i) Rise of Nationalism in 19th century.
- (ii) Nationalism: State-building in Germany and Italy.
- (iii) Disintegration of Empires in the face of the emergence of nationalities across the World.

## **20. Imperialism and Colonialism:**

- (i) South and South-East Asia.
- (ii) Latin America and South Africa.
- (iii) Australia.
- (iv) Imperialism and free trade: Rise of neo-imperialism.

## **21. Revolution and Counter-Revolution:**

- (1) 19th Century European revolutions.
- (ii) The Russian Revolution of 1917-1921.
- (iii) Fascist Counter-Revolution, Italy and Germany.
- (iv) The Chinese Revolution of 1949.

## **22. World Wars:**

- (i) 1st and 2nd World Wars as Total Wars: Societal implications.
- (ii) World War I: Causes and Consequences.
- (iii) World War II: Causes and Consequences.

## **23. The World after World War II:**

- (i) Emergence of Two power blocs.
- (ii) Emergence of Third World and non-alignment
- (iii) UNO and the global disputes.

## **24. Liberation from Colonial Rule:**

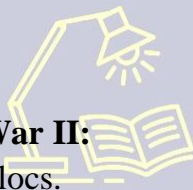
- (i) Latin America-Bolivar
- (ii) Arab World-Egypt.
- (iii) Africa-Apartheid to Democracy.
- (iv) South-East Asia-Vietnam.

## **25. Decolonization and Underdevelopment:**

- (i) Factors constraining Development: Latin America, Africa.

## **26. Unification of Europe:**

- (i) Post War Foundations; NATO and European Community.



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- (ii) Consolidation and Expansion of European Community.
- (iii) European Union.

**27. Disintegration of Soviet Union and the Rise of the Unipolar World:**

- (i) Factors leading to the collapse of Soviet Communism and Soviet Union, 1985-1991.
- (ii) Political Changes in East Europe 1989-2001.
- (iii) End of the Cold War and US Ascendancy in the World as the lone superpower.

