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## **EARLY UPRISING AGAINST TO BRITISH RULE**

### **INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT**

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## **EARLY UPRISING AGAINST TO BRITISH RULE**

### **Introduction**

- The conquest of territories and the expansionist policy of the **British East India Company** led to a series of rebellions of deposed kings, or their descendants, uprooted zamindars, and palayakarars.
- Historians describe this as primary resistance.
- Independent of such revolts were the uprisings of the dispossessed **peasants** and **tribals**.

### **Mysore Sultans and their Resistance**

#### **Rise of Haider Ali**

- Mysore was a small feudatory kingdom under the **Vijayanagar Empire**.
- After Vijayanagar fell in **1565**, the ruling dynasty of Wodeyars asserted their independence and the Raja Wodeyar ascended the throne in **1578**.
- The capital moved from Mysore to Srirangapatnam in **1610**.

#### **First Mysore War (1767-69)**

- In the **third Carnatic War** **Colonel Forde** hile conducting the forces from **Bengal** captured **Masulipatnam** in **1759**.
- This led to a treaty with **Salabad Jung**, who ceded the Northern Sarkars to the British (districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatnam, Godavari, Krishna and Guntur).

#### **Haider and the Second**

- **Mysore War (1780)** After the American War of Independence, France had signed a treaty of friendship with **America (1778)** and so **Britain** declared war against **France**.
- In a similar context of Spain reaching an agreement with America, and thereby being dragged into the war against **England (1779)** England remained isolated.

- In India the coming together of the **Nizam** and the **Marathas**, supported by the French aggravated the situation further.

### Third Mysore War (1790-92)

- In the meantime **Lord Cornwallis** had become governor general.
- The Marathas, who had signed the Treaty of Salbai with the English after the First Anglo-Maratha war in **1782**, also joined the British.
- The British position was thus greatly strengthened.
- Tipu sent an embassy to Constantinople and another in **1787** to Paris.
- These diplomatic efforts of Tipu were intended to strengthen him against the English.

### Early Resistance of Southern Palayakkarars against the British

#### Origin of Palayams and Palayakkarars

- After the decline of Vijayanagara Empire, Nagama Nayak who arrived as a viceroy to **Madurai** and his son **Viswanatha Nayak** asserted themselves as independent rulers of **Madurai** and **Tirunelveli**.
- The **settlement** of **Telugu migrants** in the **black soil** tracts, lying in the eastern part of Tirunelveli, left those parts under **Nayak Palayakkarars**.

#### Revolt of Palayakkarars

- The **Nawab of Arcot**, who had borrowed heavily by pledging the villages in several parts of Tamilnadu, entrusted the task of collecting land revenue arrears to the Company administration.
- With the promise of restoring Kalakkadu, Puli Thevar had already won over the ruler of Travancore to his confederacy.
- Nawab, on his side, sent an additional contingent of **sepoys to Mahfuzkhan** and the reinforced army proceeded to Tirunelveli.
- Besides the **1000 sepoys** of the Company, Mahfuzkhan received **600** more sent by the Nawab. He also had the support of cavalry and foot soldiers from the **Carnatic**.



### Vellore Revolt (1806)

- **Vellore Revolt 1806** was the culmination of the attempts of the descendents of the dethroned kings and chieftains in south India to throw off the yoke of the **British rule**.
- After the suppression of revolt of **Marudu brothers**, they made Vellore the centre of their activity.

### Peasant and Tribal Revolts

- In the late **eighteenth** and **early nineteenth centuries** the land tenures and revenue settlements of the Company's government had fundamentally disrupted the Indian rural society and affected the peasantry in an unprecedented manner.
- A peasant movement of the **1840s** and **1850s** was the Malabar rebellion in present day **Kerala**.

### Religious Sentiments

- The **Act of 1856** providing for enrolment of high caste men as sepoys in the Bengal army stipulated that future recruits give up martial careers or their caste scruples.
- This apart, acts such as the abolition of sati, legalization of remarriage of Hindu widows, prohibition of infanticide were viewed as interference in religious beliefs.