

Consolidating British Rule in India: 1780-1820

British territory 1783



British territory 1857 in red



Themes

- Introduction
- The “Forward School”
- The Politics of India 1780-1820
- Maratha Wars
- Formalisation of EIC Rule

Introduction

- From supremacy over Bengal, established by



Introduction

- To the effective supremacy of EIC over most of India by 1820, either directly or indirectly.
- Its claim to be a Sovereign power
- The importance of this
- How and why did it happen?

The Forward School

- New strategic thinking on India
- Its growing importance
- The national interest of Britain lay in continuing to expand its rule
- Why this change?

The Forward School

- Loss of American Colonies and the turn east
- The threat from Revolutionary and Napoleonic France

The Forward School

- After c. 1790s most Governor Generals of India belonged to this view



Richard Wellesley

Arthur Wellesley

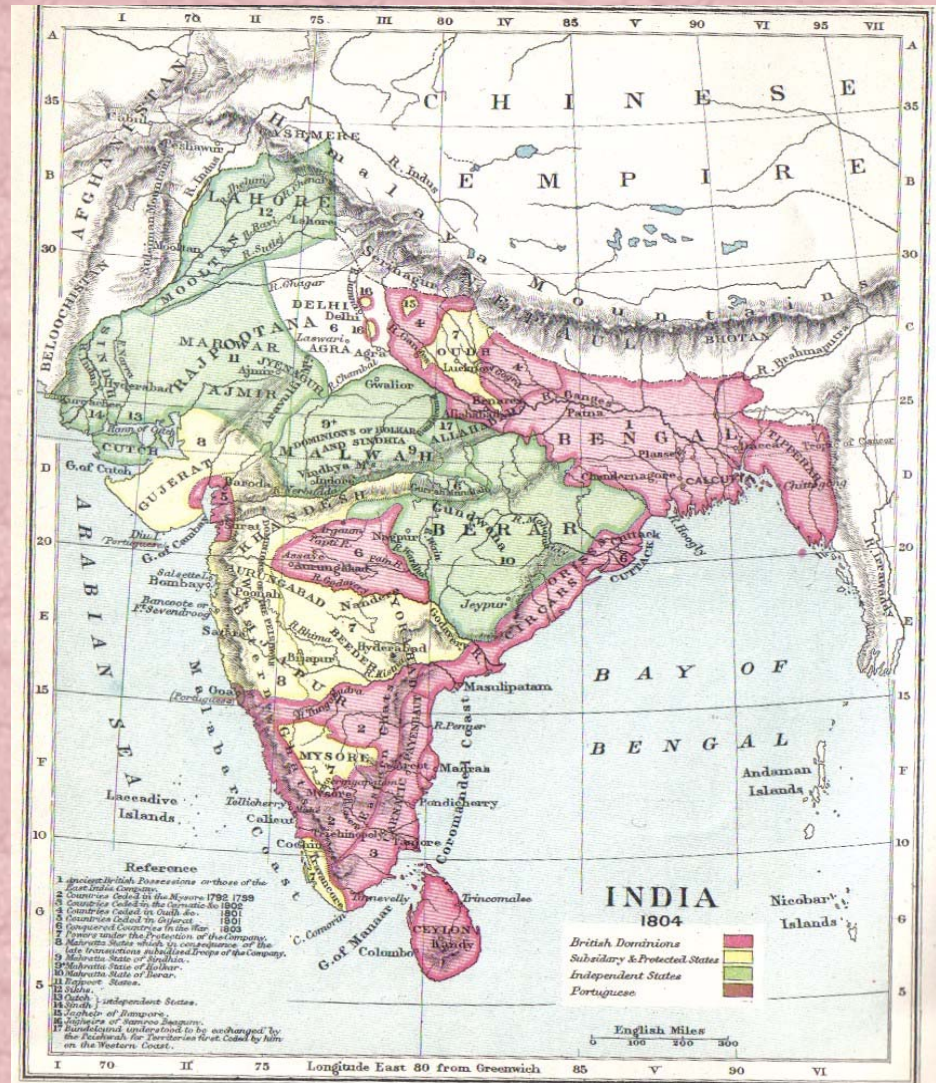


The Politics of India 1780-1820

- Increasingly fragmented society
- Demise of central Mughal emperor power
- Rise of regional powers

Politics of India

The Maratha Confederacy in green



The Marathas

Hyder Ali 1784



Tipu Sultan 1750-99
Killed by British



The Maratha Wars 1798-1818

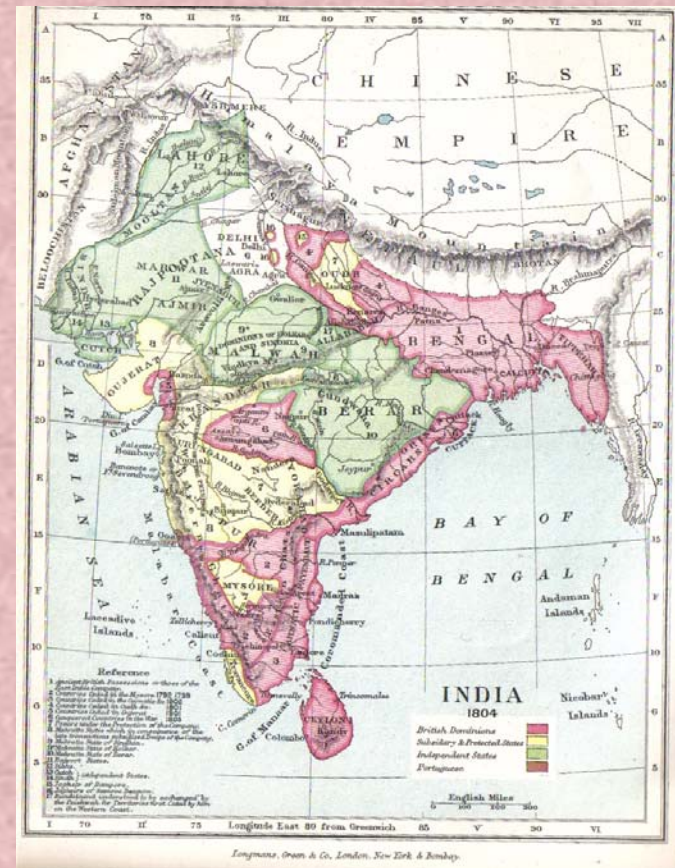
Mysore:

- 1798-99: defeat and death of Tipu. Control over Central, South India



Maratha Wars

- 1802-1805 Conquest of North Central India, the Sind
- 1817-1818 final defeat remaining Marathas



Formalisation of EIC Rule

- Indirect Rule
- Direct Rule; this came from Clive's victories in the 1760s in Bengal. One consequence was
- EIC as Diwani
- This its claim to control revenues
- Thus, its interest in land organisation and ownership.

Formalisation of EIC Rule

- The Permanent Settlement 1793
- But not only the EIC that was now increasingly involved in India. The British state was, too, because of the need to supervise the EIC
- The India Act 1784, Charter Act 1813

Conclusion

- By 1820 EIC no longer merely a trading company
- Its mission now one of political rule and, it liked to argue, civilising.
- British government also now involved.