

PREFACE

Fortunes of India brought her into a number of political vicissitudes in her whole history. Right from Alexander to Nadirshah India faced invasions without much loss of her cultural identity. These land powers which came from north-west did influence her without making much mark in the totality of India's life. It is only the West that came to India and established itself through East-India company of Great Britain and proved to be an irresistible mighty force before which many premier states, time honoured religious and traditional practices found their natural limitations self-consciously. In other words an English power from 1757 to 1818 represented by the East India Company struggled for political supremacy in India triumphantly. It remarkably exhibited its superiority due to advanced mode of living that West had already adopted. Modern means of communication, modern means of production, modern means of universal education and modern uniform system of administration were the common features that triumphed over India in the natural process of historical growth. In other words modern science of the 19th century West victoriously emerged as undeterred force over the isolated attempts of tradition-bound socio-economic and administrative attempts of Indian rulers.

By the time East India Company had emerged powerful in India the Parliamentary democracy had gathered enough strength in the Great Britain so as to control every individual's or

association's activities both in Great Britain or even outside Great Britain of its citizens.

It is an unparalleled example in the whole history of mankind that in India a traders' association or company could build up an empire in the subcontinent. It is a matter again worth noting that East India Company rulers in India did not revolt against the power of their native political sovereign power. In 19th century English parliament had assumed power which could be said that English parliament could do no wrong. This being the case the parliament intervened in the affairs of the company in India whenever it thought fit.

The rule of East India Company in India represented the combination of liberalism and conservatism of Great Britain of first half of the 19th century. The Company introduced new changes in society by introducing English education as a means to rationalise Indians to meet the needs of East India Company's commerce and administration. The East India Company's Governor generals were remarkably the qualified men. For example Warren Hastings, Wellesley, Bentinck and Lord Dalhousie were the men comparable only with Napoleon or Shivaji but they never entertained idea of establishing an independent empire of their own in India though they were remarkably away from their native power in England.

This was so because the time had advanced in Europe. After the French revolution in 1789 in Europe there emerged a force of nationalism, inspiring nationalism for the cause of nation as a new political religion that influenced enormously the citizens of every European country of 19th century. Nationalism was not the result of the geographical expression but it was the result of the ideal of individual liberty and democracy because of this ideal that even military generals of East India company who enjoyed supreme power in sub-continent went back to England whenever called without any grudge.

The East India Company, which was of traders ultimately did not meet with the needs of the Indians of mid 19th century, as milking the trade of India was its prime motive, it was finally overthrown by the British Parliament by taking over its reigns. Thus a trading company of merchants which had gone in the history of man as empire builder ended in disaster only by handing over its power to its parent body, the English Parliament in 1857. It is worth noting that the English Parliament which maintained its nationalistic hegemony over East India Company right from Regulating Act of 1773 very early got Indian Power transformed from East India Company to British Parliamentary sovereignty of English people. It is this idea idea of sovereignty of British people invested in British parliament that gave Indian people the idea of people's sovereignty in India in course of time in subsequent years.

It must also be remembered that though governor-generals of India ruled the country as representatives of the British crown, the distance between Great Britain and India is a matter worth remembering. Therefore a political concept 'Man on the spot' was accepted in the governance of Indian state. It is because of this factor that the governors like Lord Wellesly, Lord Bentinck and Lord Dalhousie etc. went ahead to implement programme of their choice during their tenures. Power of the parliament due to the geographical distance was not always effective. It was only workable because of British nationalism and East India Company's headquarters in Great Britain. The issues have been graphically discussed in this dissertation with the help of the Charters that British parliament issued from time to time.

I must say that the copies of the charter acts that British parliament passed from time to time are not available so easily in Indian libraries. Whatever the texts of the charter acts that were available were issued meticulously. Those texts which were not available in their cases I had to rely upon the secondary sources that I have used in connection with the charter acts which can be categorised in the manner mentioned below.

The primary sources that proved to be of utmost importance were the different editions of the scholars' works that have been laboriously collected and edited and the original documents of the charters. The important among them were:

- 1 **The English Factories in India, 1618-69 ed.**
 W. Foster, 13 volumes.

- 2 **The English Factories in India (New series) 1670-84 ed.**
 Sir C. Fawcett, Volume I, 1670-77, The Western Presidency.
 Oxford, 1936, Volume III, 1678-84, Bombay, Surat and
 Malabar coast, Oxford, 1954.

- 3 **Letters received by the East India Company from its**
 servants in the East, ed. F.C. Danvers. Vol. I and
 W. Foster (Vol.II to VI), London, 1896-1902.

- 4 **A sketch of the history of the East-India Company from**
 its first formation to the passing of the Regulating Act
 of 1773.

- 5 **A sketch of the history of the East India Company from**
 its first formation to the passing of the Regulating Act
 of 1813.

- 6 **A sketch of the history of the East India Company from**
 its first formation to the passing of the Regulating Act
 of 1833.

- 7 **Charter Act of 1853.**
 Parliamentary Paper of Great Britain:

- 8 **East India Affairs, Government of Agra, 1830, Vol. V.**

- 9 **Report from Committee on East India Affairs**
 Judicial, 1831-32, Vol. IX.

- 10 Report from Committee on East India Affairs
Judicial 1831-32, Vol. XII.
- 11 Report from Committee on Indian Territories,
1852, Vol. X.
- 12 Report from Committee on Indian Affairs, 1852, Vol. XXXI.

Contemporary Travel Accounts

- 13 Thomas Best, The Voyage of Thomas Best to the East
Indies 1612-14 ed. W. Foster.
- 14 Thomas Row, The embassy of Sir Thomas Roe to the East
Indies 1615-19 ed. W. Foster, London, 1925.
- 15 Francois Bernier, The travels in the Moghal Empire
1656-68.

It is these original sources which have proved to be of importance to me. Whenever filling in the gap was not possible there I have used secondary sources in which authors have copied the original sources.

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S.M. Rashid