

Impact of Colonial Rule on Indian Society

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Abstract

In India colonialism affects the native culture in different ways, and concentrated their own in order to control the management and supremacy. The establishment of British rule in the late 18th century encouraged British officials, missionaries and scholars to obtain knowledge of the customary languages and organization of Indian society and of main beliefs and behavior of her people. In this paper the impact of colonialism on Indian society is highlighted.

Introduction

Colonial rule is the policy of nation in search to expand or hold its right over other people or territories generally with the aim of developing or exploiting them in the profit of the colonizing country and helping the colonies modernize in terms defined by the colonizers, especially economic, religion and health. Colonial rule was the part of the Indian subcontinent which was under the control of Europe colonial powers. During the age of discovery European power was exerted both by conquest and trade, especially in spices. The search for the wealth and prosperity of India led to the discovery of America's by Christopher Columbus 1492. Only a few years later near the end of the 15th century. Portuguese sailor Vasco da Gama became the first European to renovate direct trade links with India. Trading rivalries among powers to India. The Dutch Republic, England, France and Denmark, Norway all establishing trading post in India in the early 17th century. In the latter 18th century Great Britain and France struggled for power partly through proxy Indian rulers but also but direct military involvement. The defeat of the redoubled Indian ruler Tipu Sultan in 1799 marginalized the French influence. This was followed by quick increase of British power through the greater part of the Indian subcontinent in the early 19th century. By the middle of the century the British had already gained direct or indirect control over almost all of British presidencies and provinces, controlled the most populous and valuable parts of the British Empire and thus back known as the Jewel in the British crown.

Objective

To study the impact of colonial rule on Indian society

Methodology

The information for this paper has been primarily collected from secondary sources I-e journals, books, government reports. Websites

Impact on Indian society

The establishment of British rule in the late 18th century encouraged British officials, missionaries and scholars to acquire knowledge of the traditional language of India, of the structure of the Indian society and of principles and behavior of her people. The British rule introduced the railways, the press, and the western system of education, clubs and associations all of which shook the prevalent socio-economic order. But the process of exploitation unleashed by them destroyed the possibilities of development of industries and a modern economic system in India. The British rule rather analytically destroyed the local industries of India for the benefit of industries in Britain and their market in India. It gave birth to a spirit of inquiry in the minds of intellectuals who came in contact with western education. Both the social reformists and the conservatives took a fresh and serious look at their own society and culture as a reaction to western understanding of the same. Indian society undergoes many changes after the British came to India. In the 19th century, certain social practices like female infanticides, child marriage, sati, polygamy and a rigid caste system become more common. These practices were against human pride and values. Women were discriminated against at all stages of life. They did not access to any development opportunities to improve their status. Education was limited of men belonging to the upper caste. When the British came to India they brought new ideas such as liberty, equality, freedom and human rights from the Renaissance, the reformation movement and the various revolutions that took place in Europe. These ideas appealed to some sections of our society and led to several reform movements in different parts of the country. At the front of these movements were visionary. Indian such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Aruna Asaf Ali and Ramabai. Many legal events were introduced to improve the status of women. For example the practice of Sati was banned in 1829 by Lord Bentinck and then governor general. Widow Remarriage was permitted by a new law passed in 1856; Shradha Act was passed in 1929 preventing child

marriage. Further, the undermining of caste and sex distinctions were certain other admirable measures of the British which encouraged the Indians to include all these ideas while framing their constitution. Thus many social evils had come to their rational end long before India became independent. Thus, catholicity was introduced to Indian society by the British authorities.

Perhaps the most inflexible problem in the recent history of Indian society remains a sufficient understanding of the processes of social change which took place under colonialism. As the lifelong controversies within, as much as between, the traditions of modernization theory, Marxism, and the underdevelopment theory make plain, the Indian historical record is curiously difficult to grab with straight sociological concepts. In the study of Western European society, a focus on the development of legal ideas and institutions has proved a useful entry point to social history

The main changes which the British made in Indian society were at the top. They replaced inefficient warlord aristocracy by a bureaucratic- military establishment, carefully designed by useful technocrats, which was very well-organized in maintaining law and order.

Conclusion

To conclude we can say that the western impact produced essential and lasting changes in Indian society. The new technologies, institutions, values and anger with the British people had brought with them transformed the Indian society. Due to western impact, India was more progressive in outlook and attitude. In every possible way, the western impact uplifted the Indian society

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