

DECODE
HISTORY

WORLD HISTORY
&
POST INDEPENDENCE

UPSC MAINS GS PAPER 1

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM



MUDIT JAIN, IRS | AMRITA JAIN

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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He is also the author of “Decode Ethics” book for UPSC and State PSCs.

He bring this *Exam Oriented & Concise Book* for aspirants so that they do not waste time reading 400 odd pages for a topic that is asked for only 30 marks.

He has been guiding 50000+ CSE Aspirants across various platforms and can be reached at:

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PREFACE

11 Questions worth 122.5 Marks and 11 Questions worth 120 Marks have been asked from World History and Post Independence respectively in UPSC Mains from 2013 to 2020.

You definitely can not leave the topics itself because even 1 mark can make a difference as huge as being selected or being out of the final list!

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It covers every single topic of syllabus. Every topic is structured in headings and bullets for easy understanding-learning & answer writing.

Highlights of book include:

85 Diagrams, 56 Tables, 100 Sample Questions & PYQs Solved By History Toppers.

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WORLD HISTORY

1. EVENTS FROM 18th CENTURY

The Scientific Revolution (1550-1700)

What & Why:

- During Middle Ages (5th-15th Century) Church was a powerful force & dominated everyday life of majority of people.
- This period was marked by unthinkable levels of cruelty, injustices and persecutions of those who went 'against' Church.
- Church followed the Aristotelian system which had defined the laws of physics erroneously in many cases.
- With the rise of the Renaissance, Church's authority was questioned by many Europeans. This is especially true for field of science, that was used to explain 'miracles' and questioned Church's ideas.
- Renaissance was marked by explorations, experiments, artists & thinkers. It gave birth to Scientific Revolution which opened the doors to modern science.

Who/Thinker	Area
Nicolas Copernicus	Astronomy
Galileo Galilei	Laws of Physics
Johannes Kepler	Planetary Studies
Isaac Newton	Gravitation
Andreas Vesalius	Anatomy

Table 1 – The Scientific Revolution

Impact:

- Scientific Revolution improved popular understanding of physics, laws of motion, gravity and led to many inventions.
- Field of Astronomy witnessed new developments; for example, Newton's explanations about the motions of heavenly bodies.
- Experiments conducted during this period furthered the understanding of the human body and found cures for illnesses.

| Decode History

- Led to spread of independent thoughts, discussions, knowledge & intellect.
- It led to individualism & rationalism-based age of Enlightenment, which applied scientific method to human behavior & society during 18th century & decreased reliance on traditional teachings of Church.

Current Relevance:

- It transformed views of society & led to origin of modern sciences.
- Hence, a lot of what exists today is because of scientific revolution.



Figure 1 – Scientific Revolution

Sample Question 1: What is scientific revolution? Why did it take place? Also, discuss the contribution of famous personalities during this phase of history.

The Enlightenment (1650–1800)

What:

- Enlightenment, also known as Age of Reason, was an intellectual, philosophical, cultural & social movement that spread through Europe during the 1700s.
- It emphasized on reason and individualism and presented a challenge to traditional religious views. Its thinkers were the liberals of their day.

Why:

- It overlapped with Scientific Revolution and marked a departure from the Middle Ages during which science was regarded as

heresy, 'free-thinkers' who tried to explain matters of faith were persecuted, serfdom was widespread and personal liberties or rights were curtailed.

- Also, 30 Years' War was criticized due to sheer destruction it caused and this laid a road towards enlightenment.
- There was growing support for individual freedoms, skepticism toward monarchy-religious authorities etc.

Who/Thinker	Where	Area
Hugo Grotius	Netherlands	Write-ups
Cesare Beccaria	Italy	Politics + Philosophy
Francis Bacon	England	Scientific Investigation
Johann Sebastian Bach	Germany	Music
Benjamin Franklin	America	Socio-Political Thoughts
John Comenius	Czech Republic	Social Reform
Rene Descartes	France	Math + Logic

Table 2 – The Enlightenment

How:

- It led the struggle for independent thought, science, mathematics, physics etc.
- Intellectual-philosophical discussions, reading books etc. were promoted.
- But many uneducated and rural citizens could not participate in this movement until Industrial Revolution provided them with jobs.

Impact:

- It transformed West into an intelligent & self-aware civilization.
- It inspired ideas of America - French Revolutions.
- However, it was questioned by Romanticism, a movement that was inspired by Rousseau's emphasis on emotion instead of reason.
- Similarly, **Skepticism** also questioned the use of reason and eventually led to end of enlightenment.

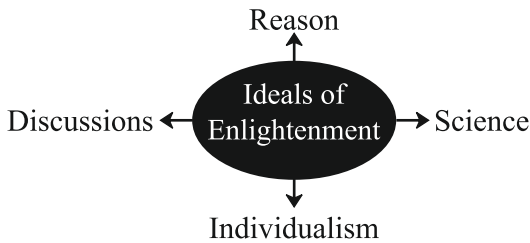


Figure 2 – The Enlightenment

- Enlightenment was blamed for attacks on tradition and for inducing anarchy as productive changes took time to show. People were persecuted for their new ideas.
- But, soon it, led to strengthening of women's rights and scientific creations like steam engines and increased educational and job opportunities.

Current Relevance:

- Enlightenment laid foundation of modern science. Its tenets of individualism and reasoning hold importance in 21st century as well.
- It shaped concepts of freedom, especially freedom of expression to what it is today.

Sample Question 2: What is Enlightenment? Critically analyze its main impact.

The French & Indian War (1754-1763)

What:

- Conflict between French & Britain over colonial dominance in North America, led to the Seven Years' War (1756 to 1763).
- Indians, generally, sided with French & hence war is known as it is.

Why:

- Tensions between British and French in America had been rising for some time, as each side wanted to increase its land holdings.

Who & How:

- American colonists fought alongside British soldiers.
- Undeclared war began in 1754 when George Washington demanded that French troops withdraw from the territory. Washington's troops clashed with local French forces but tasted failure.
- France and Britain formally declared war in May 1756.
- Indians allied with the French and France dominated the war initially.
- However, by 1758, Britain began to make peace with Indians & gained major ground in war. By September 1760, British controlled entire North American frontier including major Canadian cities, Ohio etc.

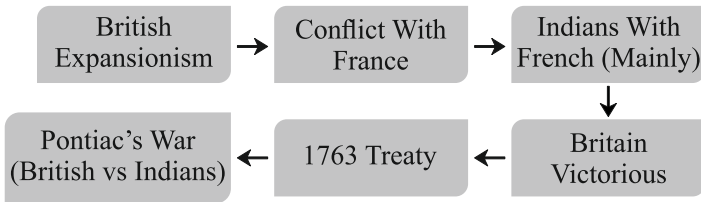


Figure 3 – Seven Years War

- 1763 Treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years War & France was forced to surrender its American possessions to Britain & Spain.

Pontiac's War:

- Post war, British fought with the Indians over land claims.
- A force of Native American tribes led by Chief Pontiac attempted to stop British encroachment on their territory in an armed rebellion.
- British retaliated fiercely and Indians lost.

Impact:

- War ended French influence in North America.
- Britain gained land & strengthened its hold on continent.
- Colonists wanted to expand westward to gain more land, but

POST
INDEPENDENCE

10. NATION BUILDING & CHALLENGES

Partition

Partition & Boundary Demarcation:

While two nation states came into existence on 14–15 August 1947, an important task of demarcation of boundaries was still incomplete. British jurist Radcliff was given the task. On 17th August, 1947 he announced his award which had following limitations:

- Radcliff had no prior knowledge about India.
- He had no specialized knowledge that was needed for the task of demarcation.
- He had no advisors and experts.
- Deadline that he had was too skewed for such a mammoth task.
- It followed the principle of religious majorities i.e. areas where the Muslims were in majority would make up the territory of Pakistan. The remaining was to stay with India. This principle had its own limitations like:
 - o Two areas of concentration with Muslim majority meant that Pakistan will comprise two territories, West and East Pakistan.
 - All the Muslims and Muslim majority regions were not in favour joining Pakistan. For example, North West Frontier Province under Khan Abdul Gaffar opposed the two-nation theory.
 - Punjab and Bengal, though Muslim majority provinces, had very large areas with non-Muslim population in the majority and hence were to be bifurcated according to the religious majority at the district or even lower level, causing immediate confusion and prolonged trauma.

Sample Question 56: Although the principle of religious majorities was followed for the partition of India, yet it was full of practical problems. Examine.

Consequences of Partition:

- Abrupt and tragic transfer of approximately 80 lakhs people.
- The minorities on both sides became easy targets of attack and this led to 5-10 lakh killings, atrocities, rapes. In many cases women were killed by their own family members to preserve the 'family honor'.
- Everything was divided including financial assets, tables, chairs, administrative apparatus, government officials etc.
- A department of rehabilitation was created which carried out resettlement and rehabilitation of nearly 60 lakh refugees from Pakistan. Various refugee camps were set up, for example at Kurukshetra and Mumbai.
- Even after partition and consequent migration, the Muslim population in India accounted for 12% of the total population in 1951. Ensuring secular character of country was a challenge in traumatic times.

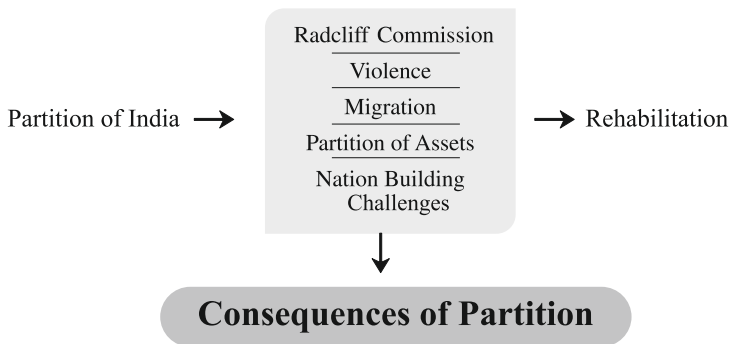


Figure 58 – Partition's Consequences

Rehabilitation Post Partition:

- Refugees required land for permanent settlement and hence commenced 'the biggest land resettlement operation in the world'.
- As against 2.7 million hectares abandoned by Hindus and Sikhs in West Punjab, there were only 1.9 million hectares left behind by Muslims in East Punjab.
- Moreover, the areas in the west of the province had richer soils and were abundantly irrigated.

- To begin with, each family of refugee farmers was given an allotment of four hectares.
- Later, applications were invited for permanent allotments. Each family was asked to submit evidence of how much land it had left behind in Pakistan.
- The director general of rehabilitation, Sardar Tarlok Singh of the Indian Civil Service led the operation.
- The claims were verified in open assemblies in villages by government officials and every false claim was punished.
- By 1951, the problem of the rehabilitation of the refugees from West Pakistan had been fully tackled.
- The rehabilitation on East took years and it was more difficult because of constant exodus of Hindus from East Bengal continued for years.

Independent India's Challenges

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first PM of independent India, addressed a special session of the Constituent Assembly midnight on 14-15 August 1947 and gave his famous 'tryst with destiny' speech. After handling immediate effects of Partition, Indian leadership strived to consolidate India from within and look after its internal affairs. The initial years of independent India were full of challenges with respect to national unity and territorial integrity. Partition resulted in large scale communal violence and displacement, which challenged the very idea of a secular India. Independent India faced following challenges:

- To ensure unity and territorial integrity of country and accommodate diversity driven by large landscape, different cultures, religions, languages, regional and sub-national identities etc.
- Many believed that a country with such amount of diversity could not remain together for long.
- To establish democracy and to develop democratic practices in accordance with the constitution.

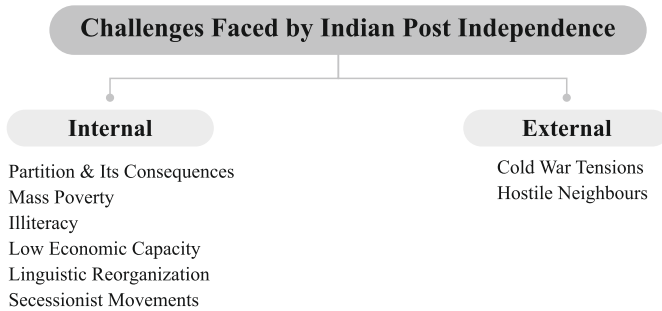


Figure 59 – Challenges Post-Independence

- Mobilization of political and institutional resources.
- To ensure inclusive development, well-being of society, evolve effective policies for economic development and eradication of poverty.
- Integration of princely states into the Indian union.
- Tribal integration and the language question and the inevitable redrawing of the internal boundaries.

Sample Question 57: Examine the early challenges that India faced as a newly independent country.

Integration of Princely States:

- In colonial India, nearly 40% of the territory was occupied by 565 states ruled by princes who enjoyed some degree of autonomy in lieu of acceptance of British supremacy. This was system of British Paramountcy or suzerainty of the British crown.
- Unifying post partition India and princely states under one administration was a mammoth task. Many of 565 princely states claimed independence and also that the paramountcy could not be transferred to the new states of India and Pakistan.
- Princely states of Travancore, Bhopal, and Hyderabad announced their desire to claim an independent status.
- Issues with princely states included unwillingness on part of rulers to give democratic rights to their people and also furtherance to possibility that India would get further divided into many small countries.

Name of State	The Then Ruler
Travancore	C.P. Aiyar (De Facto)
Bhopal	Hamidullah
Hyderabad	Mir Osman Ali Khan
Kashmir	Hari Singh
Jodhpur	Maharaja Hanvant Singh
Manipur	Bodhchandra Singh
Junagadh	Muhammad Mahabat Khanji III

Table 45 – Princely States' Rulers

- The government's approach was guided by three considerations:
 - People of most of the princely states wanted to become part of the Indian Union.
 - Flexibility in giving autonomy and to accommodate plurality & demands of the regions.
 - Integration and consolidation of states were most important.
- With diplomacy and using both persuasion and pressure, Sardar Patel, the then deputy prime minister and the home minister, succeeded in integrating the hundreds of princely states. The rulers of signed a document called the 'Instrument of Accession' which meant that their state agreed to become a part of the Union of India. This integration was preceded by an assurance that after the dissolution of princely rule, the then rulers' families would be allowed to retain certain private property, and given a grant in heredity or government allowance, measured on the basis of the extent, revenue and potential of the merging state. This grant was called the privy purse. At the time of accession, there was little criticism of these privileges since integration and consolidation was the primary aim.
- Patel's approach included following:
 - He requested princely states to help in framing the new constitution for India.

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