

CLASS-2

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Chapter

04



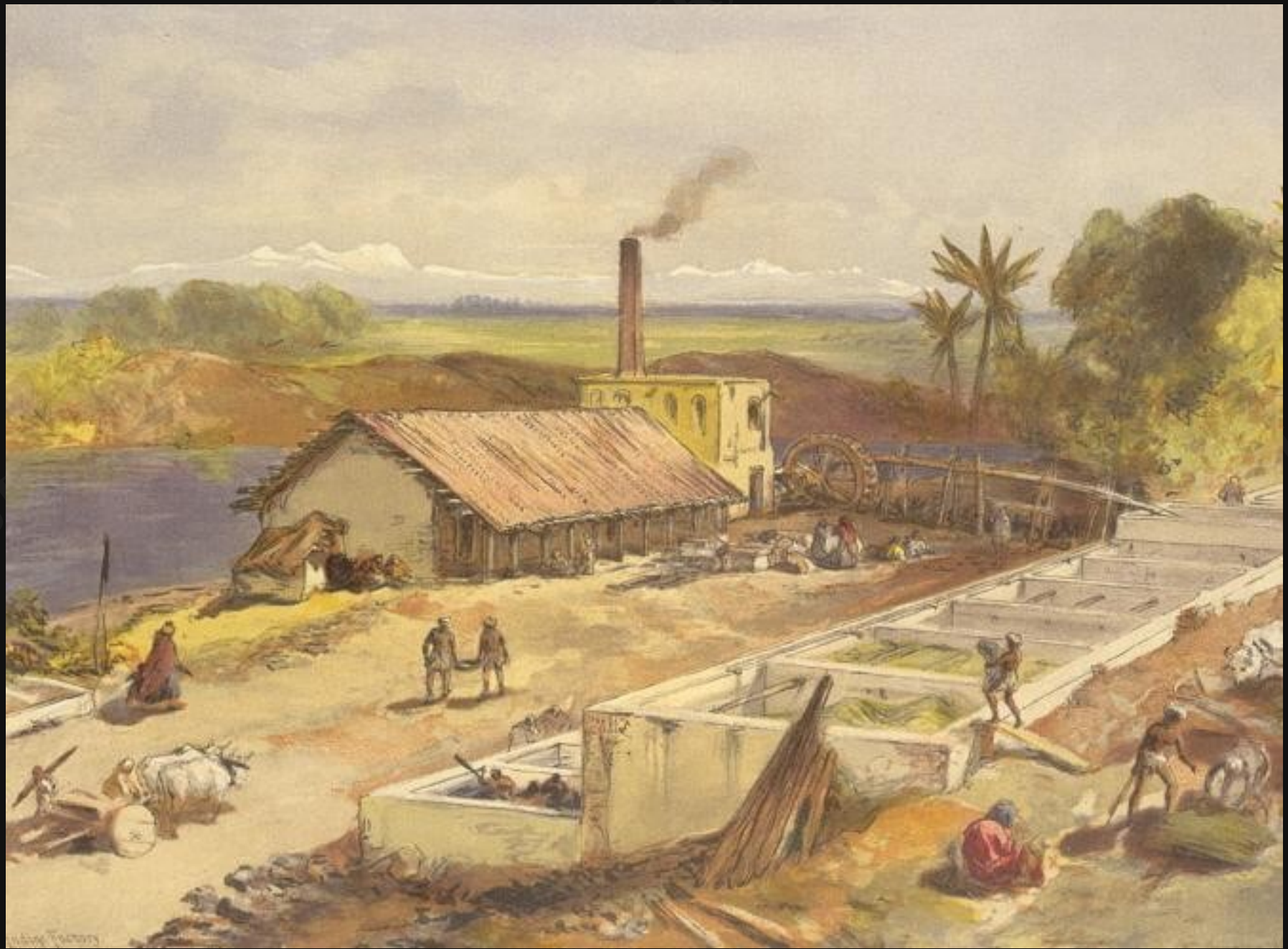
BRITISH EXPLOITATION AND RESISTANCE

PLAY









The miseries of the indigo farmers.

(Analyse the circumstances that led to the Indigo Revolt).

-Indigo was used to colour the fabric.

-With the industrial revolution of the 18th century, textile manufacturing increased and the demand for indigo increased.

-It was necessary for the British industrialists to get indigo plantation spread to more regions in India.

-They gave the farmers a good amount as advance for the cultivation of indigo.

-However, the farmers who started indigo farming instead of food grains got cheaper prices due to British intervention during the harvest.

-Later when artificial colours were invented, indigo became obsolete.

-This made the plight of the farmers more miserable.

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-The exploitation and misery experienced by the indigo farmers prompted them to revolt against the British.

-In 1859 the farmers of Bengal organized themselves and declared that they were giving up indigo cultivation.

-They attacked indigo factories with bows, arrows, swords and spears.

-Several women also participated in the revolt.

-Educated people from Calcutta reached the revolt areas and extended their support.

-The government immediately appointed a commission to study the problems of the indigo farmers.

-The commission found that the indigo farming was uneconomic and proposed to stop it.

Peasant Revolts in Kerala

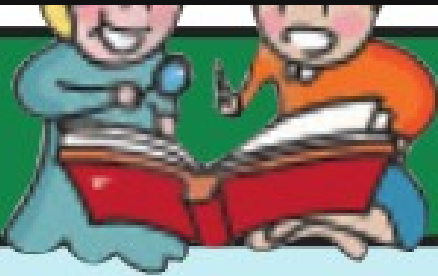
- It was the exploitation and suppression of the landlords and the British that led to the revolt in Malabar.
- The British treated the Janmis (landlords) as owners of the land.
- The revolt was against the atrocities of the landlords including eviction of tenants.
- Such atrocities were carried out with the support of the British.
- Most of the farmers in South Malabar are Mappilas.
- So these struggles that happened in the nineteenth century are known as the Mappila Rebellions.

-Around twenty two peasant revolts took place in Malabar.

-To suppress these revolts the British raised a special armed police battalion named Malabar Special Police (MSP).

-To enquire about the frequent revolts, the British government appointed William Logan Commission.

-The Commission pointed out that the cause of the struggle was the unfair land revenue system of the British.



Conolly

During Mappila riots, the insurgents murdered Conolly, the then District Magistrate of Malabar, at his residence in West hill, Calicut.

Situations led the tribes to fight against the British. (How did the British rule make the Tribal life miserable)

-The major means of livelihood of tribes were gathering forest produce, cattle rearing, shifting cultivation, and hunting.

-The Forest Acts imposed by the British made their life miserable.

-They were prohibited to enter forest when the British declared forests as protected.

-The British widely felled trees from forests to lay railway lines and build ships, and for plantation.

-The British levied tax at higher rates on the forest produce collected by the tribes.

-These situations led the tribes to fight against the British.

-The rhythm of their life was disturbed with the establishment of the British rule.

-Zamindars and moneylenders captured their land.

-The British officers made them work as slaves in laying railway lines.

-When their life became unbearable, they decided to take up arms against the British under the leadership of Sido and Kanhu.



BIJU K K
MALAPPURAM

The Santhal is a tribe inhabiting the valleys of Rajmahal Hills, stretching across the present Bengal, Jharkhand, and Bihar. They lived closely with nature and earned a living by farming and collecting forest produce. They were sturdy and hardworking, and had their own unique culture. The rhythm of their life was disturbed with the establishment of the British rule.

Zamindars and moneylenders captured their land. The British officers made them work as slaves in laying railway lines. When their life became unbearable, they decided to take up arms against the British under the leadership of Sido and Kanhu. The Rajmahal Hills became a battle field against the British. The British were shocked at their fighting spirit. But the Santhals could not keep it going for long. Thousands of Santhals were killed in the struggle.



The Postal stamp issued by Govt of India to honour Sido and Kanhu, who led the Santhal Rebellion

The Santhal Rebellion

- Held in Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar in 1855.
- The Santhals were a tribal people who lived in the valley of the Raj Mahal Hills in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Bihar.
- They lived closely with nature and earned a living by farming and collecting forest produce.
- They were sturdy and hard working, and had their own unique culture.

-The rhythm of their life was disturbed with the establishment of the British rule.

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Kurichya Revolt

- Kurichya Revolt was organized by the Kurichya and the Kurumba tribes of Wayanad in 1812.
- Imposition of excessive tax by the British.
- Compulsion for paying tax in cash.
- Seizing of agricultural land for non payment of tax.
- The revolt was led by the Kurichya leader Rama Nambi.
- The British government suppressed the struggle and killed Rama Nambi.

Important other tribal revolts in India against British.

- Pahariya Rebellio – Himachal Pradesh
- Kol Rebellion - Chottanagpur
- Khasi Rebellion - Meghalaya
- Bhil Rebellion – North west India
- Munda Rebellion - Jarghand

" The anti-British struggles of illiterate tribal communities were more aggressive, intense and continuous than any other sects including peasants."

The words of K.Suresh Singh, a historian, about the tribal struggles in India.

ALL THE BEST

By

BIJU K K,

GHSS TUVVUR

MALAPPURAM

9895695437, 9895695437