

Date 27/May/23 US-History:-

Topic:- Ancient times 1492-1606.

Q Discuss in detail the impact of British advent in USA.
(CBSE-2017)

Britishers step on the New World:-

England was not really keen regarding explorations but when Christopher Columbus (1492) discovered 'America' then it showed interest and she sent 'John Cabot', to find a westward route to East Indies and he succeeded in reaching 'New found land'. The explorations era arrived during the reign of Elizabeth.

It was only after the defeat of the Spanish Armada (1588) that the English could seriously think of trade and to colonize the American continent. After the defeat, the colonizers and explorers were given royal patronage and numerous exploration missions were sent.

The initial 13 colonies:-

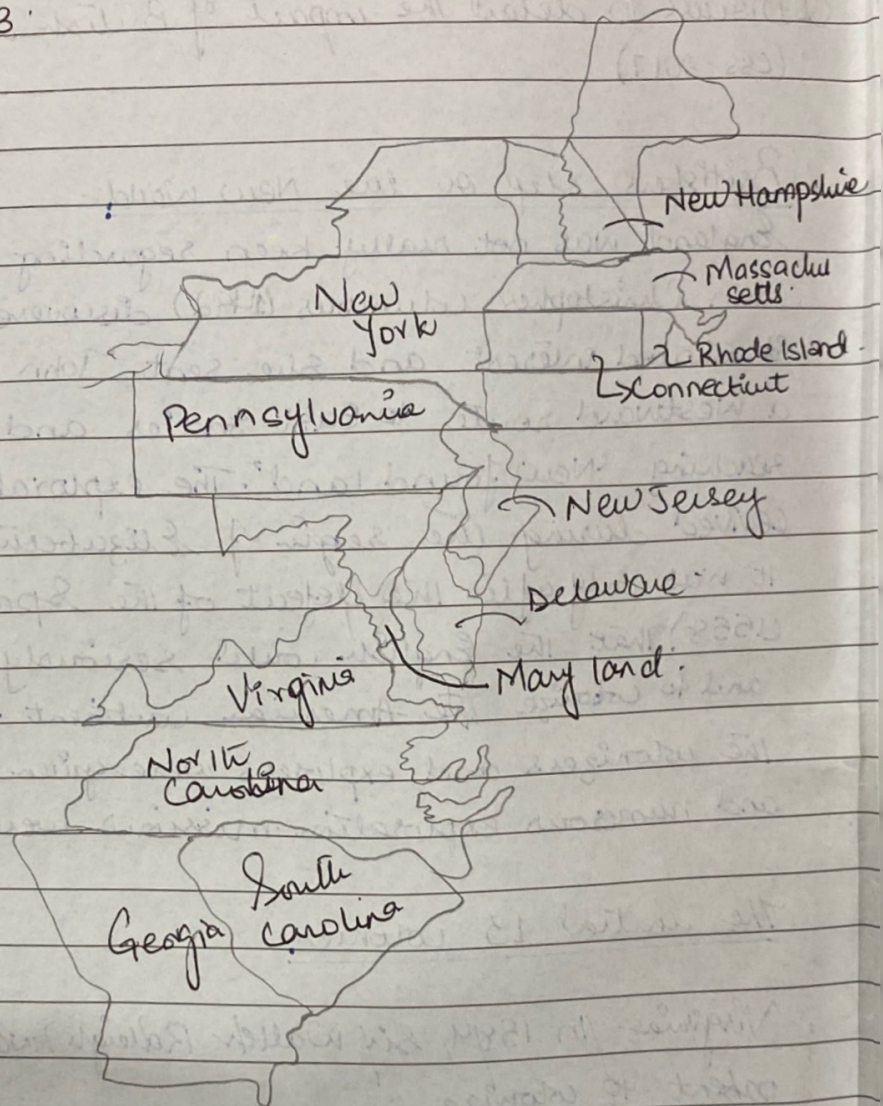
Virginia- In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh was granted patent to colonize.

The initial failures of the English explorations convinced the English that planting of colonies could not be possible by individual efforts. Resultantly, they set out to form companies under the charters from the Queen, so that the colonies may be planted on the un-inhabited American continent. The Government of the colonies were placed in the hands of the king. Initial 13 colonies were:

- 1, Virginia (1607)
- 2, Plymouth and Massachusetts (1691)
- 3, New York
- 4, Delaware
- 5, Connecticut
- 6, Rhode Islands

Date _____

7, Maryland 8, New Hampshire, 9, New Jersey, 10
North Carolina, 11, South Carolina, 12, Pennsylvania, 13,
Georgia - 1733.



→ Map of initial 13 colonies.

Causes of Colonization British Advent in USA 1607-1783:-

During the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries a number of un-inhabited lands were discovered and many European powers encouraged their people to settle there due to multiple reasons.

- Population:- The increasing population led to the migration to newly discovered land.

- New Trade Routes? - The European desire for new trade routes.
- Competition for trade - There was a competition for trade between various countries such as France, Spain, British and others.
- Religious? - Missionaries desire to convert others to Christianity.

Impact of British aduent in USA :-

The huge impact is the existence of USA as the Britishers settled on the land and there was no central body, the Britishers colonized those 13 territories. These eventually later on fought for their freedom and grew to be United what we know today as United States of America comprising of 50 states and Washington DC. Following are the major impacts:

1 POLITICAL IMPACT:-

- i) Colonial Governances - The British established various forms of colonial governance, including proprietary colonies (Maryland), royal colonies (e.g. New York) and self-governing colonies (e.g. Rhode Islands). These systems laid the foundation for the American Political Structures and Institutions that would eventually evolve into the democratic system of government.
- ii) Legal Systems - British legal traditions, such as common law and the concept of individual rights heavily influenced the development of American legal system. Many principles such as trial by jury and habeas corpus, became fundamental to America.

iii) Seeds of Independence:- Over time, British attempts to exert control and impose taxes (Stamp Act, Sugar Act and others) on the American colonies led to increasing tensions. This eventually culminated in the American Revolution, which resulted in the United States gaining independence from Britain in 1776. This became the first country to gain independence from British and becoming a Super Power giving hope to other ~~other~~ British colonies who are suppressed by the British crown. Such as Subcontinent (India).

2. Economic Impacts

i) Trade and Commerce:- The British established a mercantilism system that heavily regulated colonial trade and restricted economic opportunities for the colonies. The Navigation Act (1651), for e.g., limited the colonies' ability to trade with other nations and required them to export certain goods exclusively to Britain. This economic subordination fostered a sense of resentment and eventually contributed to the desire for economic independence which later on resulted in the ~~was~~ American War of Independence.

ii) Agricultural and Industrial development:- British settlers introduced new agricultural practices and crops to the American colonies, including tobacco, indigo, and rice. The establishment of various industries, such as ironworks and textile mills, which laid foundation for the later industrialization of the United States. It opened multiple avenues for employment of the people in United States.

iii) Infrastructure and Transportation:- British investments

and initiatives led to the construction of roads, bridges, canals and ports, which facilitated trade and communication within the colonies and helped to connect them to the British Empire. It paved the way for future trades and advancements.

iv- The Columbian Exchange:- The widespread transfer of plants, animals, culture, human populations, technology, and ideas between the Americas and the Old World in the 15th and 16th centuries, related to European colonization and trade after Christopher Columbus's 1492 voyage. 'This phenomenon is known as the Columbian Exchange'

3. Social and Cultural Impact:-

i- Population and immigration:- The arrival of British settlers led to a significant increase of the European population in the North America. This influx of people brought their customs, traditions and social structure which influenced the emerging American society.

ii- Introduction of Slavery and Negroes:- During this time period when they were growing tobacco and other agricultural products. The demand of man-power rose which eventually resulted in purchasing 20 Negroes/slaves by the colonists from Dutch. This is how slavery came into existence. The concept of Black Americans also came into being.

iii- Religious Diversity:- British colonies provided refuge for various religious groups seeking freedom from persecution. The Puritans from England who fled and settled in America due to religious grounds are known as 'pilgrims'. There were other groups too such as Quakers.

established the religious communities that shaped the religious landscape of America. This contributed to the later enshrinement of religious freedom in the first Amendment of the U.S. constitution.

(v) Education and Intellectual Development: Today, the education system of the US is one of the best in the world. The credit goes to the origin when the British settlers brought with them a tradition of education, establishing universities such as Harvard University (1636) and the college of William and Mary (1693). These institutions did set the base and played a vital role in the development of higher education in the United States. Now, United States is considered as an educational hub producing dozens of new talent every year to name few - the best leading universities belong to USA such as MIT and Yale University. This goes back to colonial era where the seeds of education lie.

4. Language and literatures.

i. English languages: The British advent firmly established the English language as the dominant language in the American colonies, which remains true to this day.

ii. Literary Tradition: The transfer of knowledge, when the British settlers brought their literary traditions, including works by Shakespeare, Milton and other renowned British authors. The literary heritage influenced early American writers, who sought to create a distinct American literary tradition such as William Faulkner and J.K. Rowling to name few made a huge name in the literary industry.

5. Legacy and National Identity:

i) **Founding Principles:** The British advent and subsequent struggle for independence helped shape the core principles upon which the United States was founded, including liberty, self-governance, and individual rights.

ii) **Cultural and Historical ties:** The shared history and cultural connections between the United States and Britain continue to influence diplomatic relations, language, legal systems, and other aspects of American society.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, there were multiple impacts of British advent on the USA. Some proved to be fruitful such as Sea Route discovered to USA, Trade expansion, exploration of resources in USA, Raising Revenue opportunity for British crown by imposing taxes, Vast land for Agriculture - to meet supply and demand of growing population, migration, diversification and innovation and discoveries. On the other hand, there were cons too, such as, Suppression of Native Americans, emergence of slavery, harsh treatment towards black Americans, Deadly war between Europe and America.

One of the major impacts, is the formation of the United States of America and it became a superpower. To become one of the leading country from 13 colonies instills hope in other nations to stand against injustice and fight for their due right and freedom. After America many countries fought for independence.

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Today, the world sees America as the dominating power that can not be ignored.

"There is no doubt that America is a superpower of the world and we cannot ignore them."