

FAQs

Explain the organization and function of a cantonment in British town.

At this time, in part because of the Sepoy Rebellion, part because of the new official rule over India, the British attitude shifted.

The British citizens in India became more detached and exclusive. Families lived in cantonments (basically a fort) away from Indian settlements.

By the end of 1859, the Mughal emperor was exiled to Burma, bringing an end to the Mughal Dynasty.

The cantonments and civil lines both were generally laid out as grid iron planned communities with central thoroughfares (the famous 'Mall Roads'), with tree-lined streets, regularly divided building plots and bungalows as the main housing type.

- Churches and cemeteries, clubs, race and golf courses, and other trappings of an easy civil life were soon to follow. The Cantonment was a British military settlement which was to spread out all over India wherever the British were present in sizable numbers.
- Originally conceived as a military base for British troops, the cantonment also began to house civilians who were associated with servicing the military, and developed into a full-fledged mini-city of its own.
- Bangalore cantonment had, for example, a population of 100,000 by the early 20th century and consisted of public offices, churches, parks, shops and schools. It was an entity distinct from the old city – traffic between the two had to stop at a toll-gate and pay entry tax.
- The cantonment thus developed into a European town in India, whose main house type was the bungalow.

Explain the process of early colonialization in India.

A group of British traders called the East India Company first came to India at the beginning of the 17th century.

At this time, India was ruled by the Muslim Mughal Empire, who ruled from Delhi, in northern India.

Portugal had already established colonies in Goa and Bombay by then and other European countries like France, Sweden, and the Netherlands were already actively trading with India.

By the middle of the 17th century, the authority of the Mughal leaders had weakened, and therefore, easily manipulated.

End of the 17th century it had effective authority over the three principal ports in India: Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta. The power of the British spread across India and by the 1850's almost the entire country was under its total control.

With headquarters in Madras, the British Governor-general ruled over the country.

Explain the architecture of Princely States.

The term 'princely states' applies to those regions not under direct control of the British, but which continued to be ruled by their traditional rulers.

When the British replaced the Mughals as the controlling group, the inspiration for much of Indian architecture became English in origin, closely tied with what was happening in Britain.

As for the princes, they were educated along British lines, taken on tours of Europe and introduced to Western manners and norms. In their palaces, old reception rooms gave way to durbar halls, rooms for European guests were built and ways to entertain guests were provided.

Dining and drawing rooms were introduced; fireplaces, marble fountains and statues, oil paintings and stuffed animals began to be displayed in the halls and drawing rooms.

Briefly explain the architecture of the Indian cities – Madras and Calcutta.

Calcutta

Calcutta was stamped with the hallmark of authority like the era's classic European capitals – indeed contemporaries likened it to St. Petersburg.

- 2 main axis
- Writers' Building to the Fort William.
- Council House, the Courts and the Town Hall.

Madras

At Triplicane, however, much lighter colonnaded verandahs, elegant if not exactly following set 'rules' of spacing, were erected around much of the side as well as the front.

The whole complex is dominated by the Doric banqueting hall, which, even in its original form without the lower arcading – was as remote from its ostensible model, the Parthenon, as the main house is from Academic Classical principle.