

Generic Elective (GE-19): Economy of Colonial India

Semester	Course title & Code	Credits	Duration (per week)			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite
			Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
IV/VI/VIII	Economy of Colonial India – ECON069	4	3	1	0	Class 12th Pass	NIL

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- This course Final Examples some key spheres and trends of India’s economy under colonial rule and situates them in the realms of land, labour, capital and state policy as they emerged from the shadows of the Mughal decline and moved into the colonial era.
- A special focus will be given on the peasants, artisans, migrants and their changing relationships with state power.
- The course will revisit some influential debates of Indian economic history: deindustrialisation, the nature of growth under colonial conditions, forced commercialization, the modernity of its industrialisation, working classes, drain of wealth and the role of the colonialstate.

Learning outcomes

The Learning outcomes of this course are as follows:

- The students will be able to learn economic transformation from pre-colonial period to the British colonial regime that paved the way of distorted path of growth and development.
- They will understand the nature of colonial economy and how resources of colonies were exploited by the colonial power.
- They will acquire skill to critically engagewithideasofoeconomicchangesinthelasttwo centuries.

Syllabus

UNIT I: Economic transformation from pre-colonial to colonial regime (12 hours)

Economic transition, Colonial exploitation and resultant tyranny affected the trend of population, national income; occupational structure, merchandise trade, emergence of state with the East India Company and nature of its rule.

UNIT II: Agrarian Transformation (12 hours)

Colonial Rule on Indian Soil affected land revenue settlements, commercialization of agriculture, changing cropping pattern, land market, rural credit and indebtedness. It further influenced agrarian relations that includes agricultural labour, regional variations, peasant commodity production and generated debates on the ‘mode of production in Indian agriculture’, the ‘invisible’ women of India’s agrarian history.

UNIT III: The de-industrialisation debate (12 hours)

Role of infrastructure for merchandise trade, evolution of entrepreneurial and industrial structure; constraints on industrial growth; labourrelations; drain of wealth; international trade and Balance of Payments

UNIT IV: Evolution of State and Financial Market (9 hours)

Evolution of state and its function for social welfare and relief under famine and starvation; Public Finance, Government revenue, expenditure and investment over the years; Emergence of Modern Banking in India and its role in economy; Overall assessment of colonial economy: stagnation and decline with regional variations.

Recommended readings

- Guha, S., 1991, Mortality decline in early 20th century India, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, vol. 28
- Roy, T., 2011, *The Economic History of India 1857-1947*, 3rd edn, Orient Longman, Delhi.
- Irfan Habib, 2006, Indian Economy 1858-1914, *A People's History of India*, vol. 28, Tulika, Delhi
- Chaudhary, L., B. Gupta, T Roy and A. V. Swami (eds.), *A New Economic History of Colonial India*, Routledge, London and New York.
- Parthasarathi, P. 2009, Historical Issues of Deindustrialization in Nineteenth Century South India, in T Roy and Giorgio Riello (eds) *How India Clothed the World: The World of South Asian Textiles, 1500-1850*, Brill, Leiden
- Morris, M.D., 1965, *Summary and Conclusions in Emergence of an Industrial Labour Force in India*, OUP, Delhi
- Roy, T., 2018, *Capital and Empire (1850-1930): Trade and Finance in A Business History of India: Enterprise and the Emergence of Capitalism from 1700*, Cambridge University Press, Delhi
- Chatterjee, B., 1992, *Trade, Tariffs and Empire*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Epilogue.
- Washbrook, D., 2012, *The Indian Economy and the British Empire* in Douglas M Peers and Nandini Gooptu (ed.) *India and the British Empire*, OUP, Delhi.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.