

❖ THE BATTLE OF PLASSEY (1757 A.D)

The Battle of Plassey in 1757 is a landmark event in the history of India. This war was of immense importance in the social, political and economic evolution of India. Because it was through the battle of Plassey that the sun of India's independence set for almost 200 years.

➤ What is the Battle of Plassey?

The Battle of Plassey (Palashir Juddha) was a battle that took place on June 23, 1757, on the banks of the Bhagirathi River, about 150 km north of Calcutta. It is near Murshidabad, then the capital of the Nawab of Bengal in India. The battle was between Siraj Ud Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, and the forces of the British East India Company. The battle occurred during the late reign of Mughal empire (called later Mughal Period). Mughal emperor Alamgir-II was ruling the empire when the Battle of Plassey took place.



The Battle of Plassey in 1757

➤ Siraj-Ud-Daulah

Mirza Muhammad Siraj-ud-Daulah commonly known as Siraj-Ud-Daulah or Siraj-Ud-Daula, was the last independent Nawab of Bengal. He was the grandson of Alivardi Khan. The end of his reign marked the start of the rule of the East India Company over Bengal and later almost all of the Indian subcontinent. Siraj succeeded his maternal grandfather, Alivardi Khan as the Nawab of Bengal in April 1756 at the age of 23. Betrayed by Mir Jafar, the commander of Nawab's army, Siraj lost the Battle of Plassey on 23 June 1757. The forces of the East India Company under Robert Clive invaded and the administration of Bengal fell into the hands of the company.



➤ The Causes of the Battle of Plassey

The battle of Plassey was such an event for the people of this region as can cause fearful disaster in the fate of the people of a country. The causes of this event are mentioned below:

- According to the rule in vogue, the English did not send any gift to new Nawab after Sirjuddoula ascended to the throne of Bengal and did not pay a courtesy visit. Nawab became very angry at such misdemeanor of the English.
- The English company having abused the summons, the national merchants started to be losers. Nawab forbade abusing the summons and ordered to abide by the condition of trade and business. The company also defied that order.
- The English refused to pay tax by infringing the conditions of the agreement with Alivardi Khan. Besides, they also showed arrogance to oppress the public.
- Additional fortifications with mounted guns had been placed on Fort William without the consent of the Nawab.
- British interference in the Nawab's court, and particularly their support for one of his aunts, Ghaseti Begum. The son of Ghaseti's treasurer had sought refuge in Fort William and Siraj demanded his return.
- Krishnodas, son of Raja Rajballab together with the family members taking a lot of riches took shelter to the English in Kolkata. Nawab sent messenger to the English to send him back but English governor insulted the messenger of Nawab and drove him away. Before that during the rebellion of Shawkat Jang the English supported the rebels against Nawab.

➤ **The Event of the Battle of Plassey**

The battle of Plassey is an important event for Bengal even the subcontinent. This battle took place in the mango garden of Plassey on the bank of the Bhagirathi. By this time, Robert Clive steadied his condition and declared battle against Siraj-Ud-Douhah on the excuse of infringing the treaty. At the battle of Plassey, the British had only 3,000 troops, while the Nawab had 35,000 infantry and 15,000 cavalry. Patriot Mirmadan Mohonlal and French chief of army Sean Frey fought heart and soul in favour of Nawab. Mirmadan was killed in the battle. Mirzafar intriguingly stopped fighting sensing the imminent victory of Nawab. The death of Mirmadan and non-cooperation of Mirzafar tensed Nawab. The army chief of Nawab Mirzafar acted like a silent spectator with his non-cooperation in the battle field. Mirzafar did not stop conspiring despite Nawab getting him swear by touching the holy Quran. When the soldiers of Nawab were taking rest, the English soldiers descended on them at the gesticulation of Mirzafar the inevitable result of which was the defeat of Nawab.

➤ **The results of the battle of Plassey**

- The defeat and the death of Siraj Ud-Daulah eased the way to the direct colonial rule.
- As a result of the battle though Mirzafar was made to ascend to the throne, he was mere a Nawab; Robert Clive held the actual power.

- As a result of the battle of Plassey the English got the right of conducting monopoly business in Bengal. The French was bound to leave this country.
- After this battle socio-economic and political changes of this country started to take place in favor of the interest of the English.
- The far-reaching effect of the battle of Plassey was the establishment of the rule of the company in the subcontinent. Thus the independence of Bengal even India wallowed on the ground. Therefore, it is seen that the battle of Plassey though a partial battle has unlimited importance in the politics of Bengal even the whole subcontinent.
- The defeat of the Nawab at the Battle of Plassey marked the end of the Middle Ages in India, and the Indians improved in every field of epistemology, including Western education, through exposure to the British. As a result, the modern era began in India.
- Robert Clive was titled “Lord Clive”, Baron of Plassey and also obtained a seat in the British House of Commons.
- As per their agreement, Clive collected 2.5 million pound for the company, and 234,000 pound for himself from the Nawab's treasury. In addition, Watts collected 114,000 pound for his efforts. The annual rent of 30,000 pound payable by the Company for use of the land around Fort William was also transferred to Clive for life.

➤ The causes of the fall of Nawab

- Treachery and non-cooperation of army chief of Nawab and their abettors in the battle field.
- All from the army chief of Nawab from his courtiers sacrificed the interest of the country for their own interest.
- Young Nawab was deficient of experience, prudence, intelligence and steadiness. He failed to take quick decision in the battle field.
- He depended on Mirzafar time and again despite his knowledge about the conspiracy of Mirzafar.
- Siraj-Ud-Daulah did not evaluate the warning and advice of Alivardi Khan about the conspiracy of the English and the French.
- The enemies of Nawab were united and their fighting strategy was developed.
- One of the reasons for the Nawab's defeat at the Battle of Plassey was the cleverness of Lord Clive. On the one hand Clive talks of reconciliation with the Nawab through letters, on the other hand he secretly communicates with the traitors and wins the war against the Nawab.

➤ Frequently Asked Questions related to The Battle of Plassey.

What is the reason for the Battle of Plassey?

The Battle of Plassey took place when Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-Daulah did not like the uncontrolled use of privileges by the East

India Company's officials. Also, the workers of the company stopped paying the taxes that became one of the reasons for the Battle of Plassey.

Who fought the Battle of Plassey?

The Battle of Plassey was fought between Siraj-Ud-Daulah who was then the Bengal Nawab and East India Company forces headed by Robert Clive.

When did the Battle of Plassey take place?

The Battle of Plassey took place in 1757.

Thank You