

**After his accession to the throne, British relations with Siraj-ud-daula deteriorated due to several reasons.**

1).When Sirajuddaula became the Nawab of Bengal, as per the custom of Mughal India, the French, Dutch Company and the zamindars of Bengal congratulated the new Nawab with gifts but the English authorities in Calcutta did not.

2).Rajavallab's son Krishna Das embezzled 53 lakh rupees from the government treasury and fled to Calcutta and took refuge with the English company.On 10 April 1756, Sirajuddaula instructed Drake, the English governor of Calcutta, to hand over Krishna Das to him.But Drake disobeyed the Nawab's orders.

3).In 1717, the Mughal Emperor Farrukh siyar issued a decree granting the English Company the right to trade duty-free throughout India.The license given to the company for free import and export facility is known as 'Dastak'.In return for free trade throughout India, the company pledged to pay 3,000 rupees annually to the Mughal government.But the company's employees soon misused "Dastak"and became embroiled in private business.Murshid Quli Khan opposed it, seeing the ominous portents in the trade gains of the British with the abolition of tariffs.

Finally, the British reached an agreement with Murshid Quli Khan and it was decided that the Company's employees would not use the license for private trade even though the Company would enjoy customs clearance for its export trade.But Sirajuddaula came to power and noticed that the employees of the company were violating the rules and doing private business and evading taxes to the Nawab.This caused considerable loss to the Nawab's exchequer.The Nawab ordered the English governor Drake to stop abusing the concession. But Drake ignored it.

As a result, the relationship between the Nawab and the British East India Company deteriorated.

4).Nawab Alivardi Khan did not allow European merchants to build forts in his kingdom. After Ali vardi Khan's death, the British East India Company started building forts at Calcutta and the French at Chandannagar, without the permission of the Nawab, fearing a seven-year war in Europe.The Nawab immediately ordered the British East India Company and the French to stop the construction of the fort and demolish the built portion.Although the French obeyed the orders of the Nawab, the English authorities in Calcutta disobeyed the orders of the Nawab and rebuilt Fort William to make it more impregnable. Each of the incidents described above was a blatant interference by the British on the sovereign power of the Nawab.

## Causes of Sirajuddaula's defeat:

Sirajuddaula with about fifty thousand soldiers assembled in the wilderness of Palashi. On the other hand, the British army was very small compared to Siraj, but with this small number of men, Clive won the war against the Nawab. The Nawab's defeat in the desert of Palashi and his removal from the throne were due to various reasons.

1). Sirajuddaula, who was brought up with great affection by his maternal grandfather Alivardi Khan, lacked mental fortitude. He was of a volatile nature. It is true that within a few months of his accession to the throne, he thwarted the plot of Ghoseti Begum and imprisoned her. Siraj's suppression of the revolt of Shaukat Jang, the ruler of Purnia, defeating him in battle and capturing Calcutta is truly commendable. But he showed short-sightedness by handing Calcutta over to a corrupt general like Manik Chand without taking Calcutta and securing it properly.

2). The Nawab lost his temper during the second Calcutta campaign. Although the Nawab had enough troops to conquer Calcutta, he did not fight the British and was bound by the Treaty of Alinagar with them. Perhaps the Nawab had doubts about the loyalty of his generals. If the Nawab had taken punitive measures against his dishonest soldiers, they would have been frightened. A second attack at Calcutta, like the first, would have forced the British to flee again. The Nawab did not understand Clive's trickery.

3). Taking advantage of the Seven Years' War in Europe, the British attacked the French at Chandannagar, and the Nawab made a big mistake by not helping the French. The fall of Chandannagar weakened the French power in Bengal. As a result, the Nawab was deprived of the help of the French in future conflicts with the British.

4). Soon after Murshidabad's return from Calcutta, the Nawab came to know about the palace conspiracy. If he had arrested Mir Jafar, Jagatsheth and other conspirators as soon as he knew about this conspiracy, the plot would not have progressed far. But the Nawab kept Mir Jafar as the commander-in-chief despite being informed about everything. The Nawab made a serious mistake by trusting Mir Jafar.

5). One of the reasons for Nawab's defeat in the Battle of Palashi was the death of Mir Madan, Nawab's trusted commander on the battlefield.

The author of Riyaz-us-Salatin says, "victory was secured for the Nawab. But when Mir Madan, one of the Nawab's best generals, was suddenly killed by cannon fire, the course of the war changed."

British author Luke Srafton, who was present at Plassey, also wrote "one great cause of our success was that.....We had the good fortune to kill Mir Madan"

6).Even after Mir Madan's death, the pace of war was in Nawab's favor due to the single-minded efforts of Mohanlal, another loyal commander of Nawab. But the short-sighted Nawab ordered Mohanlal to leave the battlefield on the advice of Mirzafar. The Nawab made a big mistake by giving orders to stop the war.

7).In the latter part of the eighteenth century, a crisis of character arose everywhere in Bengal. Narrow mindedness, corruption and treachery corrupt the Bengali character.No one was willing to sacrifice national interest for personal interest.The impression of this degradation is more visible among the upper caste Hindus and Muslims of the society.Mirzafar, Khadem Hossain, Manik Chand, Nandkumar, Umi Chand, Ghesheti Begum etc had to sacrifice the freedom of Bengal for their personal interests.

8).Another reason for Sirajuddaula's downfall in the war against the British was his lack of naval power. On the contrary, the British had a strong fleet. It was with the help of this fleet that Clive and Watson were able to capture Calcutta. If the Nawab had a strong navy it would have been possible for him to fight the British.

9).After the death of his maternal grandfather, Sirajuddaula was installed as the Nawab of Bengal on 10 April 1756. At this time Siraj was only 23 years old. He was a bright and independent young man. But the masnad of Bengal was not a bed of roses for him. Soon after ascending the throne, the young Nawab was surrounded by enemies from all sides.Shaukat Jung, the ruler of Purnia, cherished the masnad of Bengal. Siraj's aunt Ghesheti Begum was also hostile to Siraj. He tried in various ways to dethrone Siraj and install Shaukat Jung on the throne.Alivardi Khan's commander-in-chief, Mir Jafar, was also hostile to Siraj. Even the members of the Murshidabad palace council could not accept Siraj's nomination as Nawab.

The historian Melleon says,"Plassey, though decisive,can never be considered a great battle "In fact, judging by the number of casualties and the magnitude of the battle, the Battle of Plasce cannot be classified as a major war.But even so, the results of the Battle of Plasce were more far-reaching than many famous battles in history.

## **Consequences/Results of the Battle of Palashi:**

- 1). As a result of the Battle of Palashi, the power of the last independent Nawab of Bengal, Sirajuddaula, came to an end and Mirzafar ascended the throne of Bengal as a vassal of the British.
  
- 2).As a result of the victory in the Battle of Palashi, the status and prestige of the British increased manifold in this country. Admittedly, the Battle of Palashi did not establish the country's sovereignty but there is no doubt that the war transformed the Company from a commercial institution into a political power. The company which before the Battle of Palashi was a beggar of the Indian ruling class, later acquired the power to control the state system based on various events.
  
- 3).The economic consequences of the Battle of Palashi were far-reaching. As a result of this war, the control that the native government had over the company ended. The employees of the company owned a lot of financial resources in the field of trade and commerce. For which the Nawab suffered financial losses, the native industries and merchants were buried.
  
- 4).After the Battle of Palashi, Mirzafar paid the Company his dues 2,34,000 to Clive and 50,000 to 80,000 to each member of the Calcutta Council as a reward for his accession to the throne of Bengal. The company received zamindari rights of 24 parganas from the new Nawab. From this zamindari, the company earned about one and a half million pounds a year. As a result of this, the British East India Company acquired a lot of money. But the treasury of the Nawab became empty.
  
- 5).Gaining immense wealth in Bengal made it much easier for the British to expand their empire to other parts of India. That is why it is said that the Battle of Palashi not only marked the beginning of the British Empire in Bengal, but also paved the way for British imperialism in India.