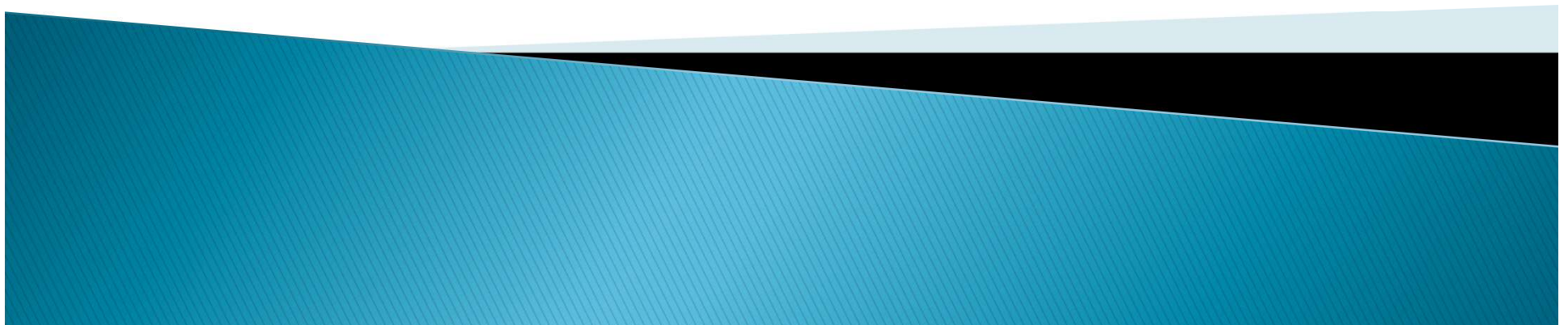


**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:
HISTORY OF TUDORS AND STUARTS
MODULE-1
MARITIME ACTIVITIES OF TUDOR PERIOD**

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Maritime activities of Britain

- ▶ Up to the 16th century England had been backward in the maritime enterprise.
- ▶ Continental countries such as Spain, Portugal and Holland were far ahead of British in this respect. They patronised navigators and explorers. Master sailors were Italians or Portuguese.
- ▶ Pioneers in the fields of geographical discoveries, colonisation and trans-oceanic commerce were Europeans other than the English.



Shift in the policy of Britain

- ▶ But the situation changed in 16th century.
- ▶ The Tudor monarchs , especially Henry VIII th and Elizabeth encouraged the sailors and traders.
- ▶ Henry VII– by Navigation Act gave a fillip to ship building industry.
- ▶ During his reign, John Cabot , an Italian navigator living in England , discovered Newfoundland(North America)
- ▶ Henry VIII gave greater encouragement to maritime activities– He is considered as “the Father of English Navy”– He made a permanent fleet of warships . Along with standing army, Navy also. Fleet of 53 ships carrying more than 2000 guns.



Maritime activities under Queen Elizabeth

- ▶ During the reign of Elizabeth, maritime activities received an impetus.
- ▶ Propaganda for overseas colonisation made by Richard Hakluyt the younger.
- ▶ The pioneers of English maritime enterprise– Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Hamphry Gilbert, & Sir Richard Grenville.
- ▶ The other great navigators were Francis Drake & John Hawkins.
- ▶ Drake was the first English man to accomplish circumnavigation.
- ▶ Sir Walter Raleigh in his attempt to discover the fabulous land of gold, El Dorado, found Florida & Virginia. Virginia was named in honour of “the virgin queen of England”.



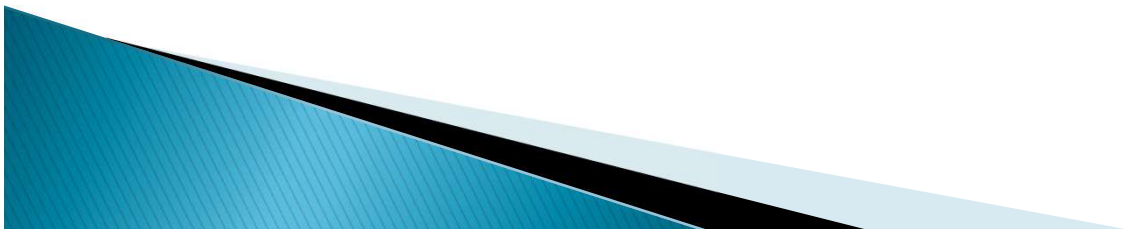
Overseas settlements by Britain

- ▶ Colonisation also was undertaken in the new world . Growth of population& unemployment at home were a spur for the movement.
- ▶ First attempt of colonisation was not successful.
- ▶ It was only in the Stuart period that England came to have organised overseas settlements.
- ▶ Elizabethan England had a host of adventurous sailors like Francis Drake . Circumstances make them pirates– Spaniards called them English Sea–dogs– They defeated Spain–Spanish Armada. They laid the foundation of future maritime greatness of Great Britain.



Trading companies:-

- ▶ By the end of the 16th century trade with East and West began to flourish- trading companies started.
- ▶ East India Company was chartered in 1600.
- ▶ Muscovy company traded with Russia.
- ▶ Levant Company traded with Turkey & the near East.
- ▶ The development of trade & commerce began to widen the middle classes.
- ▶ The inflow of foreign articles of consumption and luxuries began to change the life of the people.



THE BRITISH EMPIRE, COLONIZATION, AND OVERSEAS TRADE

- ▶ The English East India Company made headway only in the Stuart period though it was chartered in 1600.
- ▶ 17th century– laid the foundation of far-flung British Empire.
- ▶ Geographical discoveries– compete with each other for the establishment of colonies and monopoly of trans-oceanic trade.
- ▶ The European governments other than England were directly involved in maritime activities.
- ▶ English colonisation & commerce were originally the result of private enterprise undertaken by individuals and companies–eg: Indian Empire, American colonies.



East India Company

- ▶ The East India Company which established the vast Indian Empire was originally a small joint stock company of some London merchants.
- ▶ At first they had to face competition from Dutch & Portuguese
- ▶ The first factory or depot was founded at Surat in 1612.
- ▶ After the massacre at Amboya in 1623 the English gave up their trade with far east and concentrated in India.
- ▶ Depot established at Madras(Fort St. George), Bombay and Calcutta(Fort William).
- ▶ Charles II got the island of Bombay as part of his dowry from Portugal. It was handed over to East India Company in 1668.



Trade policies of Britain in India

- ▶ English had no ambition in the beginning to attain political power in India.
- ▶ Their policy was to concentrate on trade– make maximum profit– Break down of Mughal Empire– circumstances became favourable– make themselves rulers of India.
- ▶ Trade provided more wealth–powerful middle class emerged in England– England engaged in the affairs of the company–establishment of Imperial Government in India.



American colonisation by Britain

- ▶ Simultaneously colonisation movement in America progressed.
- ▶ In 1607 some hundred English men and women under the auspices of the Virginia company(London) settled down in Virginia in North America and christened their settlement as James town in honour of King James– they become forerunners.
- ▶ Some English puritans who found it difficult to practice their religion at home settled in the New World–worship God without any fear of persecution– In 1620 Pilgrim Fathers set sail from Plymouth on board the May Flower, a small ship of 180 tons, established Puritan settlement of new Plymouth in Massachusetts.



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- ▶ Other puritan groups also emigrated to this place . In 1628, an important group of puritans formed the Massachusetts Bay Company and founded the colony of Massachusetts. Other puritan colonies– Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire were established– The puritan colonies including Massachusetts came to be known as ‘New England’– extreme puritans– fled from home land fearing of persecution– become more intolerant–religious freedom only to puritans.
- ▶ Maryland, a catholic colony founded by Lord Baltimore, religious freedom granted to all.
- ▶ North and South Carolina and Pennsylvania were established during the reign of Charles II.



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- ▶ New Amsterdam, New Jersey & Delaware were obtained from the Dutch after the Dutch war.
- ▶ New Amsterdam was renamed New York in honour of the Duke of York who led the English navy against the Dutch.
- ▶ 13 colonies except Georgia(1733) were established during the Stuart period.
- ▶ Trade with new world & Eastern countries were expanded.
- ▶ English manufactured woollen clothes found new markets in colonies – led to material advancement



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- ▶ The wealth and comfort of the Europeans increased.
- ▶ New commodities like tea, coffee, potato, cane-sugar and tobacco were brought into European countries from the colonies of East and West.
- ▶ A new prosperous class of merchants came into being.
- ▶ They began to play important roles in the socio-political life of their country.





THANK YOU

