

Causes of Battle of Buxar

The Battle of Buxar followed an earlier Battle of Plassey that helped the British find their footing better in the Bengal province. The Battle of Plassey was fought in June 1757 between the British forces and the Nawab of Bengal with his French allies. This battle resulted in the dethroning of Siraj-Ud-Daulah as the Nawab of Bengal. Mir Jafar replaced him.

Mir Jafar was appointed as the puppet of the EIC. However, when he got involved with the Dutch East India Company, he was replaced by his son-in-law Mir Qasim. A pension of Rs 1,500 was sanctioned to Mir Jafar when he resigned in favour of Qasim.

Some of the reasons that proved to be key for the Battle of Buxar are listed below:

- Mir Qasim was driven by selfish goals when he shifted his capital to Munger Fort from Calcutta.
- He started building an army by providing foreign training from experts; some were in direct conflict with the British.
- There was no special treatment granted to the English merchants. To him, Indian and British merchants occupied the same ground.
- The English decided to overthrow him as he was not the puppet that they had hoped for when they appointed him. He made it difficult for the British to indirectly rule and reap the benefits of a province like Bengal. A war broke out between Qasim and the British in 1763.
- Qasim wanted to streamline his administration by functioning as an independent monarch, free from British influence and indirect control. He did not like the use and misuse of Dastak and Farman done by the British EIC. He also worked toward reducing the expenditure on palaces and administrative activities, which did not sit well with the British.
- Shah Alam II of the Mughal Empire and Shuja-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Oudh, were not happy with the EIC's expansion in the province of Bengal and their subsequent misuse of trade liberties which was hurting their commerce. This led to an alliance between their forces with Qasim for their mutual benefit and interest.
- The British wanted a preferential treatment that would favour their commerce over their competitors. This was not provided by Mir Qasim, who treated the British merchants the same as the Indian merchants. The British started incurring huge losses because of this. This made the conquering of Bengal a necessity.