

# Warren Hastings

When Lord Warren Hastings came to India in 1772, he realised that the situation of the East India Company was extremely non-ideal. Bengal's dual administration was a colossal flop. Irrespective of having Diwani authority over wealthy states like Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa for many years, the EIC was on the edge of bankruptcy. Officials were highly corrupt, the administration was indeed a failure in its entirety.

To improve such constraints, Warren Hastings developed a method of revenue administration in 1772, as well as a new judicial system plan, which ultimately laid the groundwork for India's Adalat system.

Warren Hastings was appointed as the first Governor of the Bengal Presidency in 1772. Warren Hastings was appointed as the first Governor-General of Bengal later on, in 1774

## Lord Warren Hastings Time Period In India

In 1750, Warren Hastings joined the East India Company (EIC) in Calcutta as a clerk. Hastings began his career as a member of the company's servants, working in the company's commercial operation. However, the prognosis for both the company as well as its workers changed dramatically after 1756. Under Robert Clive's command, the company's army was capable of dethroning the nawab of Bengal at the Battle of Plassey in 1757, where the Marathas led by Mahadji Shinde had beaten back the English.

- When Mir Jafar was appointed Nawab of Bengal following the Battle of Plassey in 1757, Warren Hastings was made the resident of Murshidabad (Bengal's capital) in 1758.
- In 1772, Warren Hastings was appointed as the very first Governor of the Bengal Presidency.
- Warren Hastings became the first governor-general of Bengal in 1774, following the passage of the Regulating Act 1773.
- The English were compelled to sign a humiliating Treaty of Wadgaon with the Marathas in Wadgaon in 1779.
- In 1785, Warren Hastings quit his position as Governor-General of Bengal.

## Warren Hastings Policies in India

The Company's financial situation deteriorated, and the challenges were exacerbated by famine. When Warren Hastings took over the administration of Bengal in 1772, it was

in complete disarray. Warren Hastings recognised the urgent need to implement reforms. The **Warren Hastings policies in India** have been illustrated here in detail, take a look to gain complete cognizance of all the factors.

### Dual System Abolition

The East India Company chose to act as Diwan and collect the taxes via its own agents. As a result, Robert Clive's Dual System was repealed. To improve the Company's finances, Hastings cut the grants of the Nawab in half and ceased the annual payment for the Mughal Ruler.

### Revenue Reforms

Due to the elimination of the Dual system, the obligation for revenue collection was transferred to the Company. To that end, a Board of Revenue was set up in Calcutta to oversee revenue collection. Each district was assigned an English Collector.

### Judicial Reforms of Warren Hastings or Judicial System Reorganisation

The Nawab, who was previously the chief administrator of justice, abused his position. His decisions were frequently rash. The zamindars who served as lower-level judges in their respective areas were extremely corrupt and judgemental. Overall, the judicial system was plagued by mass corruption.

There were numerous judicial reforms of Warren Hastings that were executed in his reign. Each district was given a civil court presided over by the Collector as well as a criminal court presided over by an Indian Judge. Calcutta established two appellate courts, one for civil cases and one for criminal cases. The highest civil court of appeal was known as Sadar Diwani Adalat, and it was to be overseen by the Governor and 2 different judges chosen from his council. Likewise, the highest appellate criminal court, Sadar Nizamat Adalat, was to be presided over by an Indian judge appointed by the Governor-in-Council. Experts in Hindu law and also Muslim law were brought in to help the judges.

### Trade Regulations

Warren Hastings repealed the dastak, or freebees, system and controlled internal trade. He lowered the number of customs houses and imposed a uniform 2.5 percent tariff on both Indian and non-Indian commodities. Private trade by Company servants persisted, but only within legal binding limits.

## Major Wars under Lord Warren Hastings

Under Lord Warren Hastings, the first and the second Anglo-Mysore wars were fought. Hastings' strategy was to eliminate additional expansion and war by forming a series of alliances with neighbouring states. These wars along with important events and treaties are detailed in the section below:

## First Anglo-Mysore War

Between 1775 and 1782, the British East India Company and the Maratha Empire fought the First Anglo-Maratha War. The agreement reached between Raghunathrao and the Bombay Presidency was cancelled by the British Calcutta Council, led by Warren Hastings.

- In 1776, the British Calcutta Council signed a new Purandar Agreement with Maratha Ministers.
- Raghunathrao was given the only pension, while the British kept Salsette.
- The British establishment in Bombay violated the Purandar Agreement 1776 by protecting Raghunathrao.
- On the other hand, Nana Phadnavis granted the French permission to build a port on the west coast.
- Above conflict resulted in a battle of Wadgaon, near Pune, which saw the Marathas, spearheaded by Mahadji Shinde, destroy the English.
- The English were compelled to sign a humiliating agreement (Treaty of Wadgaon) with the Marathas in Wadgaon in 1779.

## Second Anglo Mysore War

The Treaty of Madras was violated, resulting in the 2nd Anglo-Mysore War. This caused major disagreements between the British and Haider Ali. One thing led to another, and the result was the 2nd Anglo-Mysore war.

- When Maratha troops attacked Mysore in 1771, the British violated the Madras Treaty.
- Haider Ali confronted them, accusing them of betraying his trust.
- Furthermore, Haider Ali discovered the French to be extremely diligent in meeting the army's requirements for guns, lead, and saltpetre.
- As a result, he began importing French military supplies to Mysore through Mahe, a French possession on the Malabar Coast.
- The British were concerned about the growing friendship between the two.
- As a result, the British attempted to arrest Mahe, who was under Haider Ali's protection. Along with the Marathas and Nizam, Haidar Ali formed a coalition against the British.