

STRUCTURAL CHANGE

1. Introduction: Structural Change

Structural change means a fundamental transformation in the organization of society. It refers to changes in social institutions, relationships, and arrangements which affect the entire social order.

Examples of Structural Change

1. Caste System to Class System – In ancient India, society was organized around caste; today, social mobility and class relations have gained importance.

2. Agrarian to Industrial Economy – Earlier, people mainly depended on agriculture; later, industrialization changed occupations and social relations.

3. Joint Family to Nuclear Family – Traditional large joint families gradually gave way to smaller nuclear families.

4. Economic Changes



5. Law of the Land & Land Ownership – British introduced private ownership of land, replacing traditional systems.



6. Cash Crops – They decided what crops peasants should grow (e.g., indigo, cotton) for British industries.



7. Manufacturing Decline – Traditional industries were disrupted; British controlled production and distribution.



8. Deindustrialization – Decline of India's handicraft and textile industries due to British imports.



9. Forest Areas – Forests were cleared for plantations; forest tax imposed; tribals lost access to resources.

10. Social Changes

11. Legal & Cultural Changes – New legal codes, emphasis on “rule of law,” and cultural interventions.

12. Architecture – Blend of Western and Indian styles in cities, buildings, and monuments.

13. Western Education – English education introduced; created a new middle class.

14. Urbanization – Development of towns and cities due to trade, administration, and industry.

15. Rise of Nationalism – Colonial exploitation unintentionally encouraged anti-colonial and nationalist consciousness.

16. Understanding Colonialism

Colonialism = Political, economic, and social control of one country over another through domination and exploitation.

Key Points:

- ✓ Rule of one nation (Britain) over another (India).
- ✓ Domination of weaker by stronger.
- ✓ Segregation existed before, but colonialism was more systematic.
- ✓ Pre-capitalist empires: for land/tribute; Capitalist colonialism: for profit/trade/industry.
- ✓ Based on capitalism, interfering in land, trade, and industry.
- ✓ All policies strengthened British capitalism.

5. Capitalism Meaning

Capitalism is an economic system where production and distribution are controlled by private individuals for profit, not by the government.

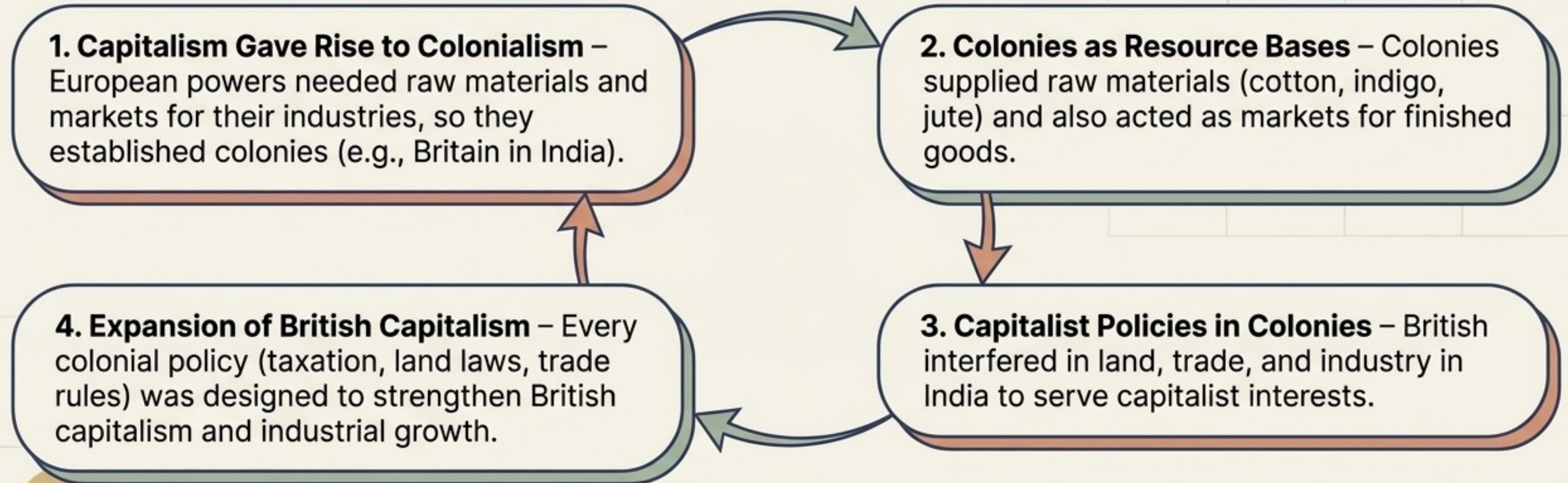
Key Idea

Based on privatization and non-interference of government (**laissez-faire**).

Example

British textile industry was privately owned and grew rapidly under capitalist principles.

Colonialism and Capitalism: The Connection



👉 **In short: Capitalism created the need for colonialism, and colonialism expanded capitalism.**

6. Urbanization and Industrialization: The Colonial Experience

Industrialization

- Industrialization = Machine production using steam/electric power.
- Majority population shifted to factories, shops, offices (instead of agriculture).

- Industrialization and urbanization went hand in hand → rise of towns and cities.
- Example: Growth of Bombay and Calcutta with industrial activities.

7. Role of Cities

Colonial cities were the economic engines and links between empire and world markets.



Calcutta: Export of jute to Dundee.



Madras: Export of coffee, sugar, indigo, and dyes.

Colonial cities became showcases of colonial wealth and capitalist expansion.

8. Impact of Industrialization in India

9. De-industrialization – Decline of Indian handicrafts and industries due to British imports.

10. Decline of Old Urban Centres – Cities like Surat, Masulipatnam, and Madras declined; Manchester dominated European Indian textile trade.

11. Shift Back to Agriculture – Exploitation + cheap British imports forced artisans back to agriculture → led to backwardness.

12. Destruction of Village Industries – Import of cheap goods ruined local crafts; artisans abandoned many craft activities.

13. Tea Plantations

Tea plantations began in 1851, mainly in Assam.

Example of British exploitation of resources and labour.

Transport of Native Labourers Act (1859), Bengal-Assam, controlled movement of workers, making labour conditions exploitative.

Labourers lived in misery, while planters and owners enjoyed British profits.

14. Industrialization in India

Nationalists saw **colonial exploitation** as the root of poverty.

They **proposed rapid industrialization** for growth, equality, and social development.

Focus: heavy industries, machine-making, and public sector expansion.

Aim: Achieve economic independence and social progress.

15. Urbanization and Independence in India

Definition

Urbanization = The process by which more people live and work in towns and cities, leading to their growth and expansion.

Key Points

After Independence, India saw fast-paced urbanization, further accelerated by globalization. Expansion of cities included smart city schemes and new urban planning projects.

M.S.A. Rao's View

Even villages came under urban influence. He explained three ways urbanization transformed society:

Migration

People moved from villages to cities in search of jobs and opportunities.

Industrial Impact

Villages near industrial towns developed new occupations, classes, and cultures.

Metropolitan Growth

Large cities expanded, and some nearby villages were fully merged into them.

12. Conclusion

Colonialism is not just a topic in history — it continues to shape our economy, society, and urban life in complex ways even today.