

The Battle Of Plassey

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Short History of England from the Earliest Times to the Death of Queen Victoria An Introductory History of England: The great European war [1792-1815] - - v. 5. From Waterloo to 1800 An Introductory History of England: The great European war [1792-1815] 4th impression. 1920 An Introductory History of England: The great European war [1792]-1815 The Imperial Gazetteer of India A Short History of England from the Earliest Times to the Present Day The Battle of Plassey and the Conquest of Bengal An advanced history of England Epochs and Episodes of History *Stuart Reid Michael Edwardes Golu Kumar Michael Edwards Peter Harrington Sudeep Chakravarti Shakeeb-ur-Rehman Hares Sayed William Henry Davenport Adams Samuel Charles Hill Cyril Ransome Cyril Ransome Charles Robert Leslie Fletcher Charles Robert Leslie Fletcher Charles Robert Leslie Fletcher William Wilson Hunter Cyril Ransome Michael Edwardes Cyril Ransome*

britain was rapidly emerging as the most powerful european nation a position france long believed to be her own yet with france still commanding the largest continental army britain saw its best opportunities for expansion lay in the east yet as britains influence increased through its official trading arm the east india company the ruler of bengal nawab siraj ud daulah sought to drive the british out of the subcontinent and turned to france for help the ensuing conflict saw intimate campaigns fought by captains and occasionally colonels and by small companies rather than big battalions they were campaigns fought by individuals rather than anonymous masses some were heroes some were cowards and most of them were rogues on the make the story is not only about robert clive a clerk from shropshire who became to all intents and purposes an emperor but also about eyre coote an irishman who fought with everyone he met about alexander grant a jacobite who first escaped from culloden and then flashman like was literally the last man into the last boat to escape calcutta and the infamous black hole the fighting culminated in robert clives astonishing victory at plassey where just 3

000 british and sepoy troops defeated siraj ud daulahs franco bengali army of 18 000 in the space of only forty minutes the victory at plassey in 1757 established britain as the dominant force in india the whole of which gradually come under british control and became the most prized possession in its empire few battles in history have ever had such profound consequences

britain was quickly overtaking france as the most powerful country in europe a position france had long thought to be hers however because france still controlled the strongest continental force britain believed its best chances for growth were in the east nawab siraj ud daulah the ruler of bengal attempted to expel the british from the subcontinent as britain s power grew through its official commercial arm the east india company and he turned to france for assistance intimate campaigns were conducted during the ensuing conflict by captains occasionally colonels and small companies rather than large battalions individuals not anonymous hordes fought in these conflicts some were heroes others were cowards and the majority were rogues in the making alexander grant a jacobite who first escaped from culloden and then flashman like was literally the last man into the last boat to escape calcutta and the infamous black hole are also featured in the story in addition to robert clive a clerk from shropshire who became effectively an emperor eyre coote an irishman who engaged in combat with everyone he met and alexander grant a jacobite who first escaped from cull robert clive s astounding victory at plassey where 3 000 british and sepoy troops destroyed siraj ud 18 000 strong daulah s franco bengali army in about 40 minutes marked the end of the fighting following the victory at plassey in 1757 britain assumed a dominant position in india

after relatively lowly beginnings as a writer in the east india company robert clive rose to be perhaps the most important

single figure in the history of british involvement in india at plassey on june 23 1757 clive s 3 500 native and east india company troops faced an army of 50 000 under the french supported nawab siraj ud daula having succeeded in keeping his powder dry in a torrential rainstorm clive s guns were able to open a murderous fire on the enemy siraj ud daula s attack was beaten off and the counter attack which clive launched swept the field with only the french gunners fighting to the last

the battle of plassey fought on 23 june 1757 changed the course of indian history forever when the short sharp hostilities between the forces of the nawab of bengal siraj ud daulah and east india company troops led by robert clive an ambitious soldier of fortune ended britain was on its way to becoming the dominant force in the region the eighteenth century was a time of great political churn in the subcontinent after the death of emperor aurangzeb the mughal empire began to slowly fracture in the east the nawabs of bengal who ruled in the name of the mughals took the opportunity to break free by the middle of the century siraj ud daulah succeeded his grandfather alivardi khan to the throne of bengal the young nawab clashed frequently with the company as it looked to aggressively expand and safeguard its interests their skirmishes led inexorably to plassey a decisive battle in a mango orchard by the banks of the bhagirathi hugli but what was plassey all about besides a young nawab who stood in the way of a company s business plans and a country s dreams of conquest was it really a battle or was it won before it began what were the politics of the time that permitted plassey why did the british so desperately want bengal who were the faces beyond a callow siraj and a crafty clive the two main combatants what are the stories behind the spurned general the ambitious and hateful aunt the rude and covetous cousin the insulted banker the grasping merchant and how was plassey seen by the victors and the vanquished the colonizer and the colonized why does plassey remain such a fascinating story even today using multilingual sources and a multidisciplinary

approach sudeep chakravarti answers all these questions and a myriad others with great insight and nuance impeccably researched and brilliantly told plassey is the best account yet of one of the turning points in indian history

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