



Directive:

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we must look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start with brief history of the American war of Independence.

Body:

The answer body must have the following aspects covered:

Briefly first explain how Britain started ruling America. Discuss the causes of the American war of Independence

Explain then the significance of the war – The main significance is that the war ended the “Divine Right of Kingship”. America overturned Monarchy (rule by kings) and it became a Republic (head of the state is not hereditary).

Examine the steps taken by the British to consolidate its hold over India and the learning that British took from American Revolution which enabled it to take these steps. E.g. Pitts India act 1784, posting experience people in India like Cornwallis, Lord Wellesley’s policy of territorial expansion etc.

Mention that post American declaration of independence we lived in the era of pax Britannica which meant that Britain took learnings.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance.

Introduction

The American war of independence (1776-1783) was concluded by which the British had to recognize the freedom of the 13 American colonies. British had lost their territories and market for their factory goods, especially the monopoly of Tea etc. They also lost their source of raw materials like cotton in America.

Body

Britain’s defeat in the American War of Independence meant the loss of the American colonies and the end of the ‘first British Empire’.

So they shifted their focus towards the east. Britain’s defeat in the American War of Independence meant the loss of the American colonies and the end of the ‘first British Empire’.

Steps taken by the British to consolidate its hold over India:

1. Britain regarded itself as ‘ruler of the waves’. The songs ‘Rule Britannia’ and ‘Land of Hope and Glory’ show this. Many British people at the time thought that they were doing the right thing by taking the British government and Christianity to the rest of the world, ending slavery and barbaric traditions and bringing ‘civilisation’ and an international ‘Pax Britannica’, or ‘British peace’. The British generally felt that the way they lived their lives was the right way.
2. Empire was now more than just about discovering new lands and building them up. Most of the world was now known and belonged to someone. Therefore, the British had to colonise established countries with populations and leadership systems of their own.
3. Great Britain’s attitude toward how to build its empire changed as well. Britons began to think of colonization more in terms of conquest and annexation and, as a result, it governed its colonies in a more authoritarian manner.