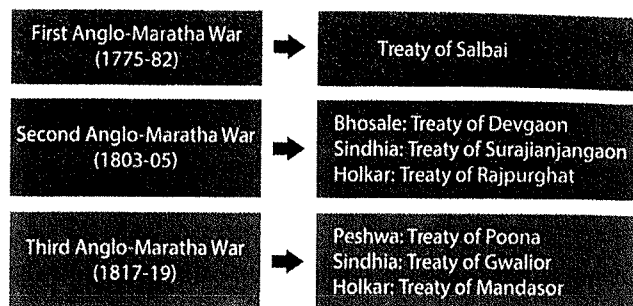


Maratha Empire, in which the British established control over many of the Indian territories. These treaties were Treaty of Deogaon with Bhonsle (1803), Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon with Scindia (1803) and Treaty of Rajghat with Holkar (1805).

- As a result, large parts of Central India came under British control.

Anglo Maratha Wars



Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-18)

- The third Anglo-Maratha war (1817-18) was the result of an invasion of Maratha territory by the British Governor-General, Lord Hastings, during operations against Pindari robber bands.
- The Peshwa forces rose against the British, followed by those of the Bhonsle and Holkar, but the Scindia remained neutral.
- The Battle of Koregaon-Bhima was fought on 1st January 1818 between British East India Company and the Peshwa section of the Maratha Confederacy, at Koregaon Bhima. Mahar Community played an important role in the Battle of Bhima Koregaon. From the year 1927, Mahar community started to visit the place and celebrate the victory as their victory against Peshwa. After centuries of desultory treatment, this battle was the first time where Mahars had been included in a battle in which they won. To commemorate its fallen soldiers, the East India Company commissioned a "victory pillar" in Koregaon.
- This battle was part of Third Anglo Maratha war.
- Marathas were defeated by the British, Peshwa was imprisoned and all his territories were annexed. As such, completing the supremacy of the British in India.

Views

The treaty of Bassein, in the words of Dean Hutton "a step which changed the footing in which we (the English) stood in Western India. It trebled the English responsibilities in an instant"

"As a result of the Second Anglo-Maratha War, the British became the complete masters of India, and nothing can shake our power, if we take proper measure to confirm it".

—Munro

Why did the Marathas lose?

- **Leadership:** The Maratha rule was dictatorial in nature. This means weak and selfish rulers, Daulatrao Scindia and Jaswantrao Holkar were no match to the English disciplined leadership such as Elphinstone and Arthur Wellesley.
- **Lack of cohesive unity:** Maratha kingdoms were not united through organic means say education or community improvement. Their rise was religio-nationalist with little emphasis on the day to day improvement and administration.
- **Lack of central leadership:** Powerful chiefs such as the Gaikwad, the Holkar, the Sindhia and the Bhonsle carved out semi-independent kingdoms for themselves. The lack of a cooperation among the Maratha chiefs proved detrimental to the Maratha state.
- **Inferior military:** The Marathas lacked in organisation, weapons and leadership.