

Indian Press Act, 1910 - This Act revived the worst features of the VPA - local government was empowered to demand a security at registration from the printer/publisher and forfeit/deregister if it was an offending newspaper, and the printer of a newspaper was required to submit two copies of each issue to local government free of charge.

During and After the First World War

Defence of India Rules was imposed for repression of political agitation and free public criticism during the First World War. In 1921, on the recommendations of a Press Committee chaired by Tej Bahadur Sapru, the Press Acts of 1908 and 1910 were repealed.

Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931 - This Act gave sweeping powers to provincial governments to suppress propaganda for the Civil Disobedience Movement. It was further amplified in 1932 to include all activities calculated to undermine government authority.

During the Second World War - Under the Defence of India Rules, pre-censorship was imposed and amendments made in the Press Emergency Act and Official Secrets Act. At one time, the publication of all news related to Congress activity was declared illegal.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.
2. It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years but for the experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss.
3. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate.
4. State the various regulations imposed by the British Government to curtail the Freedom of the Press.
5. Trace the Growth of Indian Press and analyse its contribution to the growth of the nationalist consciousness.
6. Discuss the basic features of the judicial administration under the East India Company. Did the British introduce the modern concept of the rule of law in India?
7. "What kind of administrative change was introduced in India under the East India Company?"
8. "The object of the Act (Regulating) was good, but system that it established was imperfect." Comment.
9. "The Charter Act of 1833 rung down the curtain on the Company's trade and introduced a new concept of government in India." Substantiate.
10. "The need to impose greater parliamentary control over the Company's affairs increased during the decades (1773 – 1853) after Plassey." Elucidate.
11. Assess the impact of the utilitarian ideas in moulding the British attitude towards India. How did the Utilitarianists try to solve the problem of land revenue?
12. "The British Indian State experienced the 'winds of change' with the arrival of Lord William Bentinck." Comment.
13. "Sprung from paternalism, the English Utilitarian philosophy as introduced in India rejected its human warmth between rulers and the ruled." Comment.
14. Review the educational policy of the English East India Company. To what extent did it serve the imperial interests of Great Britain?