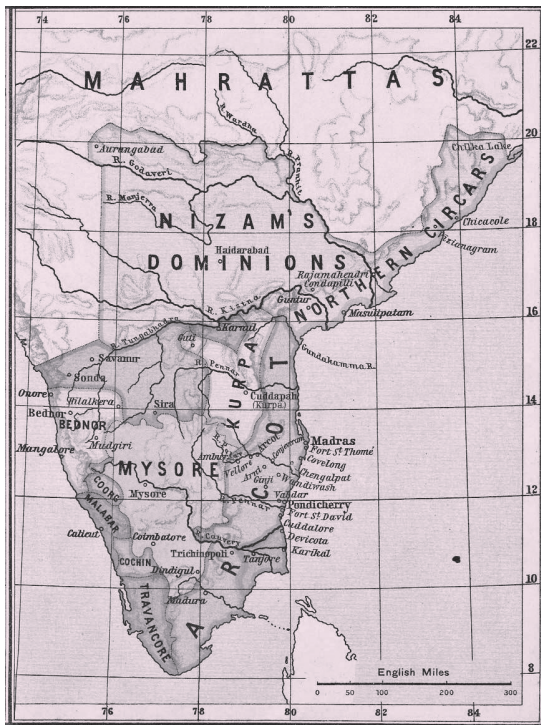




# BRITISH CONQUEST AND CONSOLIDATION

## ENGLISH AND FRENCH

### South India



- Expansion of British in south India was basically the outcome of the hostilities between English and French East India Companies.
- South India - main arena for French activities. **Pondicherry** - their capital
- French wielded greater influence in neighbouring Princely States like, Hyderabad and Mysore.

### Strengths and Weakness of English and French in India

- **English Company** had a vastly superior infrastructure with much larger fleets.
- **French** were deficient even in their knowledge of commerce.
- **English Company:** wealthier body and conducted more frequent voyages.

- **Nature of origins:**
  - **English Company** - a private corporation founded and maintained by individual enterprise - not dependent in any way on the state. In fact, State was in its debt.
  - **French Company** - the offspring of State patronage whose revenues were largely drawn from monopoly of tobacco trade.
- Pondicherry was a rival to Madras - but could not match the latter in extent and variety of commerce.
- Chandernagore in East proved no Challenge to English settlement in Calcutta.

### Fortunes of French EIC

- Declined in the beginning of 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Factories at **Surat, Bantam and Masulipatam** had to be abandoned.
- Revival of French after 1720 when the reconstitution of company took place under new name '**Perpetual Company of India**'.
- French naval power improved; a base being established at Mauritius.

### Relations between the Two in Europe

- In 1740, England was involved in European war known as **War of Austrian Succession (1740 - 48)**.
- France and England took opposite sides and fought in the Netherlands for nearly 8 years.
- Outbreak of war placed the two mercantile companies in India technically in state of war.
- French authorities, both in Europe and India at first tried hard to maintain neutrality in this country.
- **Dupleix**, Governor of Pondicherry, opened direct negotiations with English authorities in India.
- English authorities declined to accept any proposal.

## FIRST CARNATIC WAR (1746-1748)

- Hostilities started when English Navy under **Barnett** captured French ships.
- **French had no fleet in Indian waters.**
- So on **Dupleix** appeal, Admiral **La Bourdonnais, Governor of Mauritius**, reached the Indian seas with 8 ships.
- **Course of war changed in French favour**
  - Commander of English ships sailed to Hughli leaving the whole Madras coast at the mercy of French squadron.
  - French besieged Madras *both* by land and sea.
  - Within a week **Madras surrendered to French.**

### Role of Nawab of Carnatic

- **Anwaruddin**, newly appointed **Nawab of Carnatic**, was not a silent spectator.
- At the outbreak of hostilities, Dupleix appealed to the Nawab to protect the French ships; but English did not respect his authority.
- When French besieged Madras, English sought the protection of the Nawab. French refused to accede to his request.
- Nawab felt that he could teach the French a lesson.
- Dupleix sought to pacify Nawab by diplomacy, telling that he was taking Madras only to place it in his hands.
- But, Nawab sent an army against French force.
- **Battle of San Thome between Nawab and French**
  - On the bank of Audiyar river (October 24, 1746).
  - Nawab's **troops suffered defeat.**

- Nawab was forced to retire to San Thome.

### ● **Repercussion of defeat:**

- An eye opener for the Europeans in India.
- It revealed that even a small disciplined European force could easily defeat a much larger Indian army.

### Defiance of Dupleix by French Admiral

- Initial seizure of Madras was helped by **Admiral La Bourdonnais'** fleet from Mauritius.
- Admiral refused to co-operate with Dupleix since he felt that he held independent charge and took orders only from French Government.
- Despite Dupleix's opposition, Admiral struck a deal with the English.
- Madras to be returned on the payment of a ransom of £400,000.
- After a prolonged quarrel, Dupleix seemed ready to submit, when **Hurricane** caused severe damage to the French fleet and forced La Bourdonnais to retire with his ships from Indian seas.

### Renewal of Conflict with English

- Dupleix denounced the treaty which La Bourdonnais made with the English.
- Made a fresh attack on Madras in September 1746.
- Took English prisoners to Pondicherry.
- Attacked **Fort St. David**, a minor English possession (south of Pondicherry).
- French besieged the fort for 18 month but failed to capture it.
- In June 1748, a large squadron under **Rear Admiral Boscawen** was sent from England to take revenge of the capture of Madras.
- English besieged Pondicherry, both by land and sea.