

Q-1 What problems were germane to the decolonization process of Malay peninsula.

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about decolonization process of Malay peninsula and what problems germane had about it .

Introduction -

Malay peninsula was under British influence since late 18 th century . the decolonization of Malaya peninsula was part of series of decolonization movements going across Asia and Africa after world war 2 and got full independence by late 1950s.

Body -

Malaya was liberated from Japanese occupation in 1945 but there were some problems to be faced before British were prepare to withdraw

- It was complex area which would be difficult to organize
- It consisted nine states each ruled by sultan , two British settlements ,Malacca and penang and Singapore a small island less than mile of mainland
- The population was multiracial mostly malayas and Chinese but with some Indians and Europeans as well .
- In preparation for independence it was decided to group the states and settlements into federation of malayas while Singapore remained separate colony .
- Each state had its own legislature for local affairs ,the sultans retained the power but the central government had firm overall control
- All adults had the vote and this meant that the malays ,the largest group usually dominated the affairs .

Economic problems -

- Malayas roads and infrastructure were greatly damaged by second world war they had to be rebuilt .
- International commodity prices and exchange rate were in a constant state of flux due to the post ww2 reorganization across the world
- 1/3 of Malaysian jobs and majority of its foreign exchange earning come from rubber plantation but with the invention of synthetic rubber ,the owners were gradually cutting down the wages and workforce .the resultant unemployment was a breeding ground for communist insurgency and political unrest .
- Therefore govt of Malaysia lacked fiscal resources to carry out developmental activities .
- Chinese communists guerrillas led by chin peng who had played leading role in resistance to the Japanese now began to stir up strikes and violence against the British In support of an independent communist state

- The British decided to declare state of emergency in 1948 and in the end they with the with the communists successfully though it took time and state of emergency remained till 1960
- Their tactics were to resettle into special guarded villages all Chinese suspended of helping the guerrillas it was made clear that independence would follow as soon as country was ready for it this ensured that the malayas remained firmly pro British and gave very little help to communist who were Chinese
- The move towards independence was accelerated when The Malay party under their able leader Tunku Abdul Rahman join forces with main Chinese group and Indian group to form alliance party which won 51 out of 52 in 1955 elections
- This seem to suggest stability and the British were persuaded to grant full independence in 1957 when Malaya was admitted to commonwealth

Formation and collapse of federation

- The federation of Malaya was set up in 1963
- Malaya was running well under Tunku's leadership and its economy based on export of rubber and tin was the most prosperous in south Asia
- In 1961 when Tunku proposed that Singapore and three British colonies north Borneo, Brunei, and Sarawak should join Malaya to form the federation Britain agreed
- After United Nations investigation team reported that huge majority of population concerned was in favour of union federation of Malaysia was officially proclaimed
- But Brunei decided not to join and eventually became an independent state within commonwealth
- Although Singapore decided to leave federation to become independent republic in 1965 the rest of federation continued successfully

Conclusion -

To conclude poverty removal, economic development, racial integration, communist insurgency and merger of Singapore were the prominent challenges germane with the decolonization of Malay peninsula.

Q.2 Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. Analyse.

Approach

Start with basic intro with referring to the scramble of Africa try to analyze how it led to the competition among European powers.

Introduction

The Scramble for Africa also called the Partition of Africa, or the Conquest of Africa due to invasion and annexation the map of Africa looked like a huge jigsaw puzzle, with most of the boundary lines having been drawn in a sort of game of give-and-take played in the foreign offices of the leading European powers.

Body

- African nations continue to feel the effects of the colonial presence more than 100 years later. African states were the colonies of various colonial powers like Portugal, Belgium, British, Spain and France.
- No European power wanted to be left out of the race to acquire territories in Africa. The competition was so fierce that there was a fear of war between the European countries.
- To avoid the war, Bismarck called together representatives of major European countries to deal with rival colonial claims. This was called Berlin Conference. However, this Berlin conference is called the starting point for Scramble for Africa.
- The Berlin Conference of 1884, which regulated European colonization and trade in Africa, is usually accepted as the beginning.
- In the last quarter of the 19th century, there were considerable political rivalries among the empires of the European continent, leading to the African continent being partitioned without wars between European nations.
- All these colonial powers were exploiting African states only in their selfish interest and for this they were involved themselves in ethnic cleansing and system like Apartheid.
- The 10 per cent of Africa that was under formal European control in 1870 increased to almost 90 per cent by 1914, with only Ethiopia (Abyssinia) and Liberia remaining independent, though Ethiopia would later be invaded and occupied by Italy from 1936 to 1941.
- The later years of the 19th century saw a transition from "informal imperialism" — military influence and economic dominance — to direct rule.
- By 1914, 90% of Africa had been divided between seven European countries with only Liberia and Ethiopia remaining independent nations.

Conclusion

The colonial powers were not only exaggerating the problem of African states but also giving new problems. Because of colonial problems, African states are yet to become stable.

Q.3 "Latecomer" Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experience.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by basic definition of industrial revolution. And then simply highlight the difference based on features of Japan industrial revolution with European IR.

Introduction

In Western Europe, industrialization was basically an economic programme but Japan's industrialization was guided mainly by a political project the reason Japan is known to be latecomer.

Body

Different from the west industrialization:

- Japan was resistant to Industrial Revolution, Industrial Revolution in Japan was government based, Industrial Revolution in Europe was more individual.
- Japan's industrialization was intentional, Europe's industrialization was unintentional, industrialization in Japan led by government under more feudal set up.
- Among the reasons given were a large and accessible supply of domestic coal and an existing overseas empire. Japan had neither of these things, but it was the first Asian nation to industrialize. Indeed, it industrialized faster than many European countries.
- Japan's leaders developed a new form of government that mixed Western industrial styles with their own traditions and needs. It was part of the modernization programme that had started with the Meiji restoration.
- They built even more schools and changed the curriculum to train people to work in and run factories. They re-organized the army and trained it with new weapons.
- So, in Japan, it was banking capital itself that was converted into industrial capital. Marriage between industrial capital and banking capital culminated in the rise of monopoly capital.
- In Western Europe, this tendency appeared during the late phase but in Japan, it appeared very early. It was monopoly capitalism that added militarist flavour to Japanese foreign policy.

Conclusion

In this way application of controlled efficient industrial techniques with high standard of education. And good relations between labour and management led Japan to become the Asian superpower.