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## A Period of Transition



### Learning objectives

After reading the lesson, you will be able to:

- create a general idea of events and changes that occurred all over the world during the period under study;
- identify the basic differences between primary and secondary sources;
- recognize, understand and reflect on the important movements such as renaissance, reformation;
- analyse the radical changes brought about by the industrial revolution; evaluate the impact of imperialism on the world.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

To know about the past we have to depend on some 'evidence', or 'clues'. That is, we can know something of the past only if we have some information about it. In history, the evidence is called source material. The source material or clues or evidence is divided into two categories. These are called literary sources and archaeological sources.

There are two main types of historical sources: **primary sources** and **secondary sources**. A primary source is something that originates from the past. A primary source is the evidence of an eye witness or mechanical device which was present at the time of the occurrence of an event. Historians utilize primary sources to understand the past.

A secondary source is a work that comments on the past. By and large, secondary source is a recently written book that describes past events. The secondary source is the evidence of someone who was not present at the time of occurrence of the event, such as the books written by historians.

### MODERN EUROPE

#### The period of transition

History is an overflowing stream of events and ideas and changes. Transformations occur through historical developments. Between any two periods of history there is a turning point. Fifteenth century has some distinct features. In Europe, the modern period started in the fifteenth century. The fourteenth to the seventeenth century period (Renaissance) is marked by the transformation that made it different from the preceding (Medieval) era. The (Italian) Renaissance is the turning that marks the transition from Medieval to Early Modern.

#### The Renaissance

Literally, Renaissance means 'rebirth', the rebirth of a civilization that was dissimilar from and 'superior' to medieval culture and civilization. The term 'Renaissance' signified 'temperamental change'.

The Renaissance pioneered change in attitude



The ruler of Jaipur was the second most important Rajput chief. Sawai Jai Singh (1699–1743) did not participate in imperial politics. He built the city and fort of Jaipur. He was a distinguished statesman, diplomat, law-maker, social reformer, and man of science. He built five observatories and made special arrangements for the study of astronomy.



Swai Jai Singh



Jantar Mantar observatory at Jaipur

## The Marathas

Expansion of Maratha power is the major development of the first half of the eighteenth century. The Maratha people were simple, sturdy, and brave. They lived in the hilly areas of Maharashtra. Some of them had worked for the Sultans of Bijapur and Golconda and later even for the Mughals.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Shivaji had succeeded in founding an independent Maratha state during the reign of Aurangzeb. The Marathas under him posed serious threat to the Mughal Empire. Shivaji united the Marathas and trained them in guerrilla warfare. Adopting the title of **Chhatrapati**, he became a king and founder of an independent Maratha state.



i) Shivaji's kingdom



ii) Maratha Empire at its height