

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ruling the Countryside

Q1. What were the terms of the Permanent Settlement?

Ans. _____

Q2. Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?

Ans. _____

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Q1. What were the terms of the Permanent Settlement?

Ans. Main features of the Permanent Settlement

- i. The Company finally introduced the Permanent Settlement in 1793.
- ii. By the terms of the settlement, the rajas and taluqdars were recognized as zamindars.
- iii. They were asked to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the Company.
- iv. The amount to be paid was fixed permanently, that is, it was not to be increased ever in future.
- v. It was felt that this would ensure a regular flow of revenue into the Company's coffers and at the same time encourage the zamindars to invest in improving the land.
- vi. Since the revenue demand of the state would not be increased, the zamindar would benefit from increased production from the land.

Q2. Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?

Ans. Ryots were reluctant to grow indigo because of the following reasons.

- i. Under the ryoti system, the planters forced the ryots to sign a contract, an agreement (satta).
- ii. Those who signed the contract got cash advances from the planters at low rates of interest to produce indigo.
- iii. But the loan committed the ryot to cultivating indigo on at least 25 per cent of the area under his holding.
- iv. When the crop was delivered to the planter after the harvest, a new loan was given to the ryot, and the cycle started all over again.
- v. The price they got for the indigo they produced was very low and the cycle of loans never ended.
- vi. The planters usually insisted that indigo be cultivated on the best soils in which peasants preferred to cultivate rice.
- vii. Indigo, moreover, had deep roots and it exhausted the soil rapidly. After an indigo harvest the land could not be sown with rice.