

Colonialism and the Decline of the Cotton Industry in British India (1763-1863)

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Abstract: Before 1763, India's cotton textile industry benefited from its superior natural conditions and the wide application of sufficient labor force and production tools. However, the British first conquered the northwest, the northeast and the DecPlateau; secondly, the use of the steam engine and the establishment of the large factory system; and finally, the British exploited the Indian cotton textile industry through industrial policies on trade ban, tariffs, plantations and tax rights. This not only brought about the rise of the cotton textile industry and the vigorous development of the industrial revolution, but also made India from the center to the edge and become a vassal of Britain. The impact and plunder of colonialism are the root causes of China's chronic poverty and backwardness in India today.

Keywords: Indian Cotton; Textile Industry; Colonialism; British Industrial Revolution.

1. The State of the Indian Textile Industry before 1763

India's cotton textiles maintained high yields in the mid-18th century, the export quantity of cotton textiles is huge. According to statistics, "In 1727, Europe imported a total of about 30 million yards of cotton cloth from India, but in the 1790s, it increased to about 80 million yards per year"[1,2]. Moreover, the quality of Indian cotton textiles is also very excellent compared with that of British textiles. Cotton expert Edward Baines reports that the best Indian cloth is "almost incredibly perfect... some Indian gauze is so skilled that it suggests that it is either a fairy or an insect, but never a human hand". Not only for the British cotton textiles, cotton textiles, India also compressed the British wool textile, wool textile living space "in 1678, a book called" ancient industry decline, and reconstruction (The Ancient Trades Decayed, Repaired Again) "pamphlet warned people that the wool industry" the biggest obstacle is our own people, they wear many foreign goods, but don't wear our own production ". We can see the high quality of Indian cotton cloth. In 1708, Daniel Defoe (Daniel Defoe) published an editorial in "Defoe Review (Defoe's Review)" The real reason for the decline of China's manufacturing industry ", blaming the increasing import of more and more" rolled prints and printed pure color cloth by the East India Company ". Defoe said the influx of Indian cotton had not only weakened British manufacturing, but also caused the unemployment of textile workers. Why the Indian cotton textile industry was relatively mature and leading before the mid-18th century, and was in the central position in the world textile industry, the author summarized the following reasons:

1.1. Sufficient in Labor Force and Raw Materials

By the mid-18th century, the cotton textile industry in India had developed to a considerable height, and " every village has textile machines. The cities are more everywhere; from Surat to the Ganges, weaving factories produce or take orders from large exporters." It can be seen that the industry, both

urban and rural, India's cotton textile industry has made great development. At the same time, there are also many employees". In 1776, there were 80,000 spinners and 25,000 weavers in the Dhaka region alone ". The richness of the labor force can be seen.

Thanks to the unique natural conditions of India, India has a subtropical monsoon climate, with obvious dry and wet seasons, and sufficient heat. Generally speaking, it has the characteristics of wet year. This is very suitable for cotton growth.

1.2. Advanced Production Technology

India is a traditional cotton textile industry big country, is the first country to grow cotton. The South Asian subcontinent has always been the world-renowned cotton textile center. The Indian cotton textile industry not only has a large number of participants, but also has a widely used production tools. Handmade tools such as looms are also widely used in India's cotton textile industry, and hand spinning trucks and simple looms have gained popularized in rural and urban areas. In the 17th century, the division of professional steps in the textile industry was more detailed. "[3] The original bleaching and printing and dyeing processes became independent specialties, and full-time bleaching and printing and dyeing workers appeared, and silk reeling in the silk industry". This makes the production steps more professional and refined, further improves the standardization of production, is conducive to the improvement of product quality, but also enables the rapid growth of output.

2. The Impact of Colonialism

At the Battle of Plassey in 1757, Clive of the East India Company, with the help of local aristocrat Mir Jafar, defeated the troops of the Mughal Kingdom and successfully conquered Bengal at the time of the Seven Years' War. By 1763, through the three Carnatic Wars, the British East India Company had successfully defeated the French colonists. In the same year, the French forced the Treaty of Paris to withdraw the power from India, leaving only a few commercial points along the coast. At this point, Britain was able to monopolize India and began to conquer and colonize

the South Asian subcontinent. Through these colonial conquests and the unfair trade policies and the industrial revolution within Britain, India's cotton textile industry was greatly impacted.

2.1. Further Expansion

In 1767-1769, the first British-Mysore War broke out, and Britain did not get much Warring States in this war, thanks to the Mysore Sultan Haider Ali was a very good ruler, but also an excellent tactician. So the British can only sign a peace treaty. During 1775-1784, the First British-Malata Alliance War (1775-1782) was intertwined with the Second British-Mysore War (1780-1784). The British Empire provoked the internal contradictions among the princes of India. On 17 May 1782, the Mughal Empire and the British signed the Treaty of Salpei, marking the end of the War of the First British – Malata Alliance. By the treaty the British took possession of Salsette, but returned the other territories. In the fourth British-Mysore War (1799), under the command of the famous general Wellesley Wellington, the British army severely defeated the Indian army. The Mysore state was carved up, and large areas of the west, southeast and east were annexed by the British. The territory of about two and a half counties to the northeast was ceded to Hyderabad. The rest was governed by the British descendants of the old Hindu royal family. The five-year-old new king signed a "supplementary gold treaty" with the British. A British army was stationed in Mysore and supported by the local government.

Through these wars, the British Empire conquered the northeast region of India, and then extended its sphere of influence to the Deccan region. In the early 19th century, Britain completely conquered India. The East India Company became the spokesman of the British ruling order in India and the agent of colonial affairs. And this also gives the British to the Indian region cotton textile industry pressure and impact to provide practical conditions.

2.2. The British Industrial Revolution

While Klewu and other colonists started war after war in India, the industrial revolution began within Britain, which greatly increased British productivity, especially in the field of cotton textiles. In the mid-18th century, Britain began the Industrial Revolution. In 1733, Kay invented the flying shuttle, in 1768, Hargreaves invented the Jenny machine, and in 1769, the Scottish engineer Watt had improved the steam engine. In the same year that Hargreaves invented the Jenny machine, Acklater invented the hydraulic loom and opened the first modern factory, the — Cromford Textile Mill. According to statistics, "in the early 19th century, the field of cotton textile had 39 new patents in the field, 51 in the 1820s, 86 in the 1830s, and 156 in the 1840 s"[4].

Hargreaves' Jenny machine soon went into every household and the city and the countryside. " Cotton, cotton, cotton, it is now the only commodity, which works for everyone.... The old spinning wheel has been thrown into the waste pile. Now people only use multiaxial spinning machines. "But Jane has not changed the economic model of cottage. Acklet's large factory system greatly changed the way of the British textile industry. The creation of the great factory system not only increased the efficiency of production, but soon popularized the British counties " south of Lancashire, north of Derbyshire and the Basin of Cyde between Lanark and Paisley in Scotland. The first area was extremely

important, and in 1788 it already had more than forty cotton mills.[5] "And many dignitaries praised Accray, and invested heavily in factories to make profits. Sir Robert Peel said, " All our eyes are on him." Peel also invested heavily in factories." The implementation of the large factory system has greatly changed the mode of production, changed the weakness of the cottage industry, making mass production possible. The subsequent invention of assembly line production mode also improved production efficiency." In India in the 18th century, they spent 50,000 hours to spin 100 pounds of raw cotton; by 1795, it took only 300 hours to do it."

And Watt improved steam engine, steam engine as the new machine is also widely used in the production of machinery "according to statistics: "before 1800, Manchester has 32 steam engines, power 430 horsepower; Leeds 20 steam engines, power 270 horsepower." Like Table 1 the innovation of production tools, the use of steam engines, and the implementation of the large factory system have greatly increased the production of British cotton textiles. As Cartwright said, " Ten children and a foreman using three machines can produce a pack of two hundred and forty pounds of wool in twelve hours.

Table 1. The distribution, equipment and workers of British cotton textile mills [6]

area	Number of plant (seats)	horsepower		Number of workers (first name)
		Steam engine (platform)	Hydraulic machine (platform)	
Lancashire	657	21,387	2831	137,352
Yorkshire	140	956	1,429	9,453
Cheshire County	71	3,21	847	20,736
Derbyshire et al	56	676	921	5,851
North Staffordshire,, Denbighshire, Flintshire	10	284	65	1,876
amount to	934	26,513	6,093	175268

In 1779, Samuel Crompton invented the spindle finishing spinning machine (also known as the mule machine), which absorbed the advantages of Jenny on the basis of the hydraulic spinning machine. It able British craftsmen to make finer yarn, which greatly improved the quality of British cotton cloth." The spindle finishing machine (mule machine) makes the yarn both firm and extreme fine"." In 1788, Britain had 50,000 'mule machines' " spindles, and 33 years later this number increased to seven million. The development of chemistry also improved the bleaching and dyeing of the British cotton textile industry. " Bersolle discovered the bleaching properties of chlorine in 1785; James Watt almost immediately recognized and published it in Britain, which were the last important processes in the production of cotton textiles. The development of the development of chemistry enables the British to improve their cotton textile industry from beginning to end, so that the quality of British cotton cloth can be compared with that of Indian cotton cloth.

Before 1780 it was cheaper and of better quality in India, but since then British manufacturers were able to compete with Indian cotton in the European and Atlantic markets. After 1830, they even started competing with Indian manufacturers locally in India." Visible to the great progress of its quality. British cotton textile exports "increased from £355,060 in 1780 to £5,854,057 in 1800"

With the progress of the industrial revolution, the

production tools of the British textile industry were updated and improved, which improved the production efficiency, and greatly improved the quality of the products, and even competed with the local cotton cloth of India. At the same time, the improved steam engine was quickly applied to the production of the textile industry, which greatly improved the production efficiency. The modern large factory system invented by Acklet changed the traditional mode of family workshop and made mass production the general trend, thus making Britain replaced India as the central position in the field of cotton textile. On the one hand, industrial mass production increased the production of British cotton cloth and accelerated the production efficiency, which reduced its production cost; on the other hand, British cotton cloth gradually exceeds Indian cotton cloth in quality. This also provides a realistic basis for the dumping of British cotton cloth in India, and the production of handicraft cotton cloth in India is also quite impacted, gradually weakening, and gradually becoming a raw material provider, from the central position to the edge.

2.3. Industrial Policy

With the deepening of the British conquest of India, Britain's unfair industrial policy is increasingly playing its role. As early as 1621, British wool textile complained with the increasing number of Indian cotton cloth. By 1685, Britain had imposed a 10% tax on "all chintz duty, Indian linen and all silk products made in India". In 1690, the tariffs were doubled. In 1701, parliament made it illegal to import Chinese cotton cloth, and the Calico Act (the Calico Act) of 1720 prohibited the import of cotton textiles from India, China, Persia and other places. By 1721, it had even banned people from wearing printed cotton cloth dyed with white cloth from India. In the end, the sale of Indian cotton cloth became completely illegal. In 1774, the parliament issued a decree requiring that the cotton cloth sold in Britain must be made entirely in Britain. Only those East India cotton cloth ready for re-export were allowed to enter Britain. Indian cotton that is not imported will be subject to high tariffs.

As the conquest progressed, more and more unequal, oppressive policies were imposed on the people of India. In terms of tariffs, the British set up unequal tariffs on Indian cotton cloth: "British cotton pays only 2.5% for its imports in India, 5% for the original cotton and 2.5% for the finished yarn; if the original license is white cloth, 2.5% after dyeing, the total consumption of Indian cotton is 17.5%". "Our wool goods are not paid import tax, our cotton goods import duty is only 2.5%. Import duties on other goods can be very similar. And in the same period. The tariffs we impose on goods produced in India are almost prohibitive, ranging from 10 to 20,30,50,100,500 to 1000 percent." [7] Trade bans and highly unequal tariffs have wiped out India's cotton textile industry. The then governor of India lamented, "This disaster is unique in the history of industry and commerce. The bones of the cotton weaver made the Indian plains white."

Not only tariffs, the East India Company in India, a large number of tax rights. Those blamed the poor and even raised the tax rate during the famine, which was a great disaster for the Indian people. This was the governor of Hastings, Bombay, he Officially reported to London: "Although a third of the population of the province died at least and the arable land was reduced, the net tax in 1771 even exceeded that in 1768." Governor Coovillis admitted in 1789: "I can indeed claim that a third of the company's territory in Hindustan has

now become a forest for wildlife." See the cool oppression of the East India Company. [8]

In order to tie the Indians to the land and make them their own industrial revolution, the British introduced the plantation system in the Indian region. The introduction of plantations has not only hindered the mobility of labor in India, but also made India's economy highly tied to cotton farming. In 1793, a report by the East India Company said: "If the makers of Bangladesh encounter any raw material bottleneck and lead to a major recession in the cotton industry, the country's revenues will fall and its population will decline unstoppable. The plantation system has made India a raw material supplier for the British cotton textile industry. This similarly prevented the regional industrialization of India because the slavery state was "notoriously slow and weak in supporting the political and economic interests of domestic industrialists". Through the plantation system, the British plundered a large number of raw materials. " In 1813, raw cotton from India to Britain was 40,000 tons, 638 raw silk was exported from Calcutta in 1813, and in 1828, it was 10,431 tons, an increase of nearly 17 times. The total value of raw materials exported to England in 1858 was £28.27 million. In 1868, about 73% of total cotton exports entered the British market ". [9]

After the Seven Years' War, Britain replaced France as the largest western colonizer in the Indian region. After the Battle of Plasi in 1757, the British officially began to conquer India on a large scale. With the conquest war, extreme inequality, strong colonial trade policies were imposed on the Indian people, and the conquest of the colonists. This caused considerable damage to the traditional Indian cotton textile industry, completely leaving the central position and slipped to the edge.

At the same time, the industrial revolution within the British itself also greatly reformed the means of production and improved productivity and efficiency. The emergence of the large factory system has also greatly changed the characteristics of the textile industry concentrated in the family, small and scattered. This has allowed British cotton cloth to outperform India in both quality and output.

3. The Impact of the Colonial Policy

3.1. The United Kingdom

Table 2. 1790-1859 (thousand pieces per year) [10]

a particular year	Exports to the UK		total export	
	Bengal	A total of India	Bengal	A total of India
1790-99	787	2200		4500
1800-09	1331	1824		
1810-19		1358		
1820-29		431		
1830-39	6	271	478	3000
1840-49		304		2606
1850-59				2279

Source: Twomey, Michael J. "Employment in Nineteenth Century Indian Textiles," *Explorations in Economic History*, 20 (1983), pp.42-44.

Through the colonial plunder and the internal industrial revolution, the British cotton textile industry developed rapidly, and according to Wallerstein's "center-edge" theory, Britain replaced India as the center of the cotton textile industry. "At the same time, the number of British cloth entering India increased from 900,000 yards to 51 million. By

1857, like the Table 2 show the value of British cotton goods imported into India had increased 14 times since 1832." From a cotton textile product importer to a raw material importer, finished product exporter.

And with the deep development of the industrial revolution and the increasing convenience of transportation and communication, the British cotton textile industry has also become a global economic system, occupying a dominant position in the world cotton textile system. Britain is far better than other countries in the field of cotton textile, other countries can not see the British items." [11]

Those countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America (including India) have become the UK's raw material industrial base. By the mid-19th century, Britain had extended its tentacles to Egypt, taken control of the local rulers, and made Egypt a supplier of cotton. "Egyptian cotton exports had increased from 1,181,888 in 1863 to 2,001,169 in 1865, and production had nearly doubled in two years." So Egypt has become a British cotton plantation.

Britain also had more ambitions, to grow opium in India and to transport it to China. "A full one-seventh of the revenue of the British authorities came from the sale of opium to the Chinese." [12]

Through these measures, the UK achieved enormous wealth, with national income increasing substantially "averaging £515 million in 1835-41 to £646 million in 1851 and £961 million in 1867; from £4 billion or £143 or 140 per person in 1845 to £10 billion or £270 per person in 1885". These figures show how fast the British income grew in the 19th century." In 1679, the official value of the British cotton textile exports was £5915. Since the 1760s, the value of cotton textile exports began to grow steadily and climbed to £200,354; in 1785, the cotton textile exports reached 864,710 pounds; by the end of the 18th century, the export value increased to £2,580,568". [13]

3.2. For India

Due to the weakness of the Mughal Empire, the British took the opportunity to invade and conquer India on a large scale. India became the colony of the British, and the British colonial rule was the root of the long-term poverty and backwardness in India.

The originally developed cotton textile industry completely became the British attachment, from the center to the edge in the world system. "India's export of cotton cloth to Britain was 1.26 million in 1814, down to 300,000 in 1835. "India changed from an exporter of finished products to an exporter of raw materials. India contributed only 16% of Britain's raw cotton imports in 1860, 1.1% of France's imports in 1857 and 75% in 1862." India went from an exporter of cotton textiles to an exporter of raw materials and became a dependent. In Bangladesh, "Indian manufactured goods are fading away due to the widespread use of cheaper and better, although not always more durable manufactured goods from Europe". In the Paranas district, "weavers were largely forced to leave their traditional profession and switch to farming". [14] 1850, Indian cotton cultivation had expanded to 8 million acres, with about half spread in western India, near..... to the central city of Mumbai. With the expansion of the Indian railway network, cotton cultivation reached 17 million acres in the last 10 years of the 19th century ". In addition, large exports of raw cotton will lead farmers to over-reliance on the market for food. "A poor harvest will lead to food scarcity, or even famine, which will lead to rural poverty and the collapse of

national finances." has also caused a frequent famine in India. In order to fix Indian farmers on the land and implement the plantation system besides cotton, With the help of the East India Company, the British plantation in India forced Indian farmers to enter the plantation and become slave workers with strong personal attachment. The farmers were firmly fixed on the land and lacked personal freedom. They could leave without completing the designated work, and once they left without permission, they would face severe punishment.

Britain became the leading cotton textile power in the 19th century, and its advanced productivity was beyond any country. And with the deepening of the industrial revolution, the cotton textile economy in Britain has become a global economic system. Asia, Africa and Latin America became the provider of its raw materials and the buyer of its finished products. The British took the opportunity to get a lot of money and capital.

For the countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the British colonial means not only made them the attachment of their economic system, but also made them a marginal position in the world economic system. For India, the British colonialist invasion was a disaster for its originally proud cotton textile industry. India, once the world's cotton textile center, gradually became a marginal position.

4. Summary

In 2018, western countries (represented by the United States) launched a trade war against China, and today by 2023, China has gained a firm foothold in the trade war. Historically, it is very common for western countries to achieve their goals through trade wars for their own development. The destruction caused by colonialism has left deep suffering and imprint on Asia, Africa and Latin America. Even if many countries are independent, they have suffered too much damage and are subject to the unreasonable international political and economic system, even if they are independent, they will inevitably become the attachments of western developed countries.

Britain was the first country in the world to start the industrial revolution. The industrial revolution began with the cotton textile industry. The Industrial Revolution has rapidly boosted Britain's productivity. However, Britain's industrialization was based on the plunder of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America represented by India. The modernization of Britain was based on the colonial plunder of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, earning its own development through the backwardness and poverty of other countries. As General Secretary Xi Jinping has said, "The development of western countries is based on the plunder of other countries." Western modernization is a kind of modernization at the expense of others and should be criticized. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Western countries led by the United States stepped up their political propaganda on China, and promoted colonialism in a subtle way, especially among intellectuals. So, the criticism of colonialism has practical significance.

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