

Comprehensive History and Culture  
of Andhra Pradesh, Volume VI

**EARLY MODERN  
ANDHRA, HYDERABAD  
AND COMPANY RULE**

AD 1724 - 1857

# Contents

	<i>List of Tables Maps, Figures</i>	14
	<i>Preface</i>	15
	Acknowledgements	18
	Contributors	20
1	Transition ADAPA SATYANARAYANA	21
<b>Politics, Administration and Economy</b>		
2	The Founding of Hyderabad State H. RAJENDRA PRASAD	33
3	Political and Administrative Perspectives of Hyderabad State, 1748-1803 A.R. RAMACHANDRA REDDY	47
4	Consolidation and Reorganization of Hyderabad State, 1764-1853 (Pre Salarjung Era) THANGELLAPALLI VIJAY KUMAR	62
5	Anglo – French Rivalry and Ascendancy of British Power in Andhra GUNTURI NAGA SRIDHAR	81
6	British Paramountcy and Hyderabad State : Subsidiary Alliance and the Acquisition of Berar, 1796-1853 GUNTURI NAGA SRIDHAR	96
7	Land Tenures, Revenue Administration and Agriculture V. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY	106
8	Economic Policies, Taxation, Tariff and Customs V. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY	123
9	Irrigation Policies and The Anicuts in Andhra THANGELLAPALLI VIJAY KUMAR	132

10	Handicrafts and Cottage Industries In Andhra THANGELLAPALI VIJAY KUMAR	146
11	Trade and Commerce in 18 <sup>th</sup> Century V. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY	163
12	Trade and Commerce in Early 19 <sup>th</sup> Century V. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY	178

### **Resistance and Revolts**

13	Native Revolts In Northern Circars, 1773-1857 B. KESAVANARAYANA	191
14	Palegar and Peasant Rebellions in Rayalaseema, 1800-1850 Y.A. SUDHAKAR REDDY	209
15	The 1857 Revolt in Hyderabad State V. RAMAKRISHNA	228
16	The 1857 Revolt in Andhra V. RAJAGOPAL	239

### **Education and Society**

17	Christian Missionaries, 1724-1857 CHANDRA MALLAMPALLI	251
18	Education in Andhra under East India Company ARAVIND KUMAR	265
19	European Scholars' Contribution To Telugu Language and Literature PETER L. SCHMITTHENNER	278
20	A note on Nomadic Groups of Andhra Desa V. LALITHA	290
21	i. Social System Under The Asaf Jahis SALMA AHMED FAROOQUI	297
	ii. Social System Under The Asaf Jahis ADAPA SATYANARAYANA	311
22	Religious Sects And Composite Culture Under The Asaf Jahis SALMA AHMED FAROOQUI	322

23	Reform Trends In Medieval And Early Modern Period V. RAMAKRISHNA	338
----	---	-----

**Art, Architecture and Culture**

24	Monuments of the Asaf Jahis B. SUDHA REDDY	345
----	---	-----

25	Scroll Paintings of Telangana – A Brief Study of Caste Narratives B.S. ROHINI IYENGAR	352
----	--	-----

## CHAPTER ONE

# Transition

*A. Satyanarayana*

The transition from medieval Indian society to the modern period has been studied by several historians. The 18<sup>th</sup> century has been considered as an important landmark in the history of the Indian sub-continent. The Mughal Empire witnessed decline in this period. The successors of Aurangzeb in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, known as the later Mughals, were too weak to maintain Mughal authority and failed to prevent the rise of the regional powers including the founding of the Hyderabad State under the Asaf Jahis and later, the English East India Company. Due to the weakening of the Mughal Empire many provincial Governors / Subedars like those of Bengal, Awadh, and Hyderabad established independent kingdoms. Traditionally historians have viewed India's 18<sup>th</sup> century as a Dark Age of warfare, political chaos, and economic decline sandwiched between stable and prosperous Mughal and the British hegemony. The 18<sup>th</sup> century in India was characterized by two crucial transitions which characterized the structure of power relations and initiated important social and economic changes. The first was the transition in the first half of the century from the Mughal Empire to the regional political orders. The second was the transition in the polity, society and economy. The aggressive policies of the British East India Company affected political and economic changes.

In the conventional historiography the 18<sup>th</sup> century has been interpreted as a period of anarchy and economic decay. It was held that the decline of the Mughal state corresponded with an overall decline. Some scholars of the Aligarh school traced the economic decline of India beginning with the downfall of the centralized Mughal Empire, which led to dissension of political, economic and cultural vitality from the strong centres of power. This was manifested in the decay of the imperial capital Delhi. However, C. A. Bayly argues that the 18<sup>th</sup> century witnessed devolution of not only political but also economic dynamics to the lower levels of regional rulers, small potentates and even the little rajahs of small estates. Seema Alavi divides the 18<sup>th</sup> century into two periods of transition: a) gradual decline of the Mughal