

Comprehensive History and Culture  
of Andhra Pradesh, Volume VII

# **MODERN ANDHRA AND HYDERABAD**

AD 1858 - 1956

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## CHAPTER ONE

# Transition

*B Kesava Narayana*

The year 1858 marks the beginning of many new changes in the public life of Indians. It divided two eras almost of equal duration and each one different from the other in terms of goals and achievements. Two crucial decisions immediately followed. First, the first phase of colonial rule was ended by breaking up the rule of the English East India Company (EEIC) which did not do much by way of development. Second, in the place of the English private company a new beginning with parliamentary control was brought into play. During this phase the imperialist nature of colonial rule basically remained unchanged. Nevertheless, the policy of safeguarding colonial vested interests was accompanied by a slew of progressive reforms to bring about changes in different aspects of public life. Indeed, this was an indication of the metamorphosis in the outlook of alien rulers and the spirit in which the administration of India was conducted. Under new leadership the attitude of native people too underwent a perceptible change towards the policies of colonial dispensation, and a new awakening was beginning to dawn in the country, setting new dimensions to the aspirations of not just a few but every section of people.

Obviously, the events of 1857 triggered the changes in the attitudes of the rulers and the ruled. Unlike in North India popular discontent in the Andhra districts (coastal and rayalaseema) which were directly under the English Company's rule, and the Nizam's dominions, a native Muslim State, was evidently at a low pitch. However, the 1857 revolt served as a catalyst. The fate of the English Company which had established its rule in India over the preceding nearly a century was sealed. Its place was assumed by the British Crown. This transition from a purely private, profit-oriented and commercial system of the pre-1858 Company's rule to the rule by the Crown was swift and bloodless. The crucial difference between them lay in their policies and administrative schemes implemented in the region. While the Company's rule concentrated on earning profits by pursuing policies without any regard to the welfare of people and neglected developmental schemes,