



<https://www.facebook.com/aspirewithrramias/> <https://www.instagram.com/aspirewithrramias> <https://rpmias.com/registration>

The Carnatic Wars (1740–1763)

The Carnatic Wars were a series of three conflicts fought between the **British and the French** in South India. Though both came to India for trade, they gradually became involved in **Indian politics and succession disputes**, reflecting their long-standing rivalry in Europe. These wars finally established **British supremacy in India**.

Background

- “Carnatic” referred to the **Coromandel Coast and its hinterland**.
- Anglo-French rivalry in India mirrored their rivalry in Europe.
- Both powers aimed to establish **political dominance**, not just trade.
- Indian rulers’ succession disputes provided opportunities for intervention.

First Carnatic War (1740–1748)

Background

- Extension of the **War of the Austrian Succession** in Europe.
- Triggered in India when British naval actions provoked the French.
- French Governor **Dupleix** sought Nawab Anwar-ud-din’s protection.

Important Events

- The French captured **Madras (1746)** under Admiral **La Bourdonnais**.
- Dispute between **Dupleix and La Bourdonnais** over Madras.
- Nawab Anwar-ud-din sent an army under **Mahfuz Khan**.
- **Battle of St. Thome (Adyar)**: A small French force defeated a larger Indian army.

Result

- Ended by the **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748)**.
- Madras returned to the British.

Significance

- Proved superiority of **European-trained armies**.
- Highlighted the importance of **naval power**.

Second Carnatic War (1749–1754)

Background

- The death of **Nizam-ul-Mulk (1748)** led to succession disputes in Hyderabad.

- The British and French supported rival claimants.
- French Governor **Dupleix** actively interfered in Indian politics.

Rival Claimants

- **Hyderabad:**
 - French → Muzaffar Jang
 - British → Nasir Jang
- **Carnatic:**
 - French → Chanda Sahib
 - British → Anwar-ud-din / Muhammad Ali

Important Events

- **Battle of Ambur (1749):** Anwar-ud-din was killed.
- Muzaffar Jang was installed as Nizam; later replaced by **Salabat Jang**.
- The French gained territories near Pondicherry and **Masulipatnam**.
- **Robert Clive's capture of Arcot** diverted French pressure.
- Chanda Sahib executed; **Muhammad Ali** became Nawab of Carnatic.

Result

- Dupleix recalled in 1754.
- **Treaty of Pondicherry (1754):**
 - Both powers agreed not to interfere in Indian affairs.
 - Status quo maintained.

Implications

- Indian rulers became **dependent on European support**.
- European powers no longer needed Indian legitimacy.

Third Carnatic War (1758–1763)

Background

- Linked to the **Seven Years' War (1756–63)** in Europe.
- Britain and France are again on opposite sides.

Course of War

- French General **Count de Lally** captured Fort St. David.
- British naval superiority weakened French supply lines.

Battle of Wandiwash (1760)

- Fought on **22 January 1760**, Tamil Nadu.
- British General **Eyre Coote** defeated French forces.

- **Marquis de Bussy** captured.
- **Pondicherry fell in 1761.**

Result

- **Treaty of Paris (1763):**
 - The French got back factories, but only for trade.
 - No political power allowed.

Significance

- End of **French political influence** in India.
- British emerged as the **supreme European power.**

MCQs

Q1. The First Carnatic War in India was primarily an extension of which European conflict?

- A. Seven Years' War
- B. War of the Austrian Succession
- C. Napoleonic Wars
- D. War of the Spanish Succession

Answer: B

Q2. The Battle of Wandiwash (1760) is considered decisive because it:

- A. Ended the Anglo-French rivalry in Europe
- B. Established Mughal authority over South India
- C. Eliminated French political ambitions in India
- D. Led to immediate British control over Bengal

Answer: C