

ABSTRACT

IMPACT OF FAMINES IN DECLINE OF TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES DURING MYSORE WODEYARS PERIOD

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Famines were caused by many factors, physical as well as economic. The physical causes include drought or excessive rainfall, lack of irrigation facilities and transportation network. The important economic causes that led to famines in 19th century were commercialization of agriculture decline of cottage industries and traditional handicrafts, heavy land revenue burden, growing rural indebtedness and export of food grains.

The British blamed the physical factors and particularly the rainfall for the famines. They gave a wide propaganda to this aspect during the great famine of 1876-78, which embraced the whole of Karnataka. But economic aspects and the policy of British were equally important in causing famines during this period. The British encouraged commercialization of agriculture, particularly the cultivation of cotton in Bombay Karnataka and Bellary.

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