

## 2. Historiography: Indian Tradition

**Q. 1 Complete the sentences by choosing a correct option: (1 mark each)**

**1. ....was the first Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India.**

**(a) Sir Alexander Cunningham**

(b) Sir William Jones

(c) Sir John Marshall

(d) Friedrich Max Muller

**(2) .....translated the Sanskrit text of Hitopadesh.**

(a) James Mill

**(b) Friedrich Max Muller**

(c) Mountstuart Elphinstone

(d) Sir John Marshall

**B) Identify the wrong pair in the following, correct it and rewrite**

(1) 'Who were the Shudras' - Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar

(2) 'Stri-Purush Tulana' - Feminist writing

(3) The Indian War of Independence 1857' - Marxist History

(4) Grant Duff - Colonial History.

**Ans. Wrong pair:** Discovery of Harappan Civilization - James Mill

**Corrected pair:** Discovery of Harappan Civilization - John Marshall.

**2. Explain the following with reasons:**

**(1) Writing of the regional history received # momentum.**

**Ans.** (1) Indian historians trained in the British educational system showed an inclination to restore the self-esteem of Indians. They started writing Nationalistic historiography.

(2) Historians from the different regions of India criticised the prejudiced history of India written by the British officers.

(3) Their attention was drawn towards geographic conditions and history of different regions of India.



(4) The nationalistic historiography helped in triggering the independence movement. Nationalistic writings in Maharashtra were inspired by Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar. It provided a momentum to the writing of regional histories too. Hence, writing of the regional history received momentum.

## **2) Bakhar is an important type of historical documents.**

**Ans:** (1) 'Bakhar' is an important type of historical documents of medieval times. It contains eulogies of the heroes and stories of historic events, battles, lives of great men

(2) Marathi bakhars are of various types. Sabhasad Bakhar was written by Krishnaji Anant Sabhasad during the reign of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj. It is an important bakhar for getting information about the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

(3) Bhausahebanchi Bakhar describes the Battle of Panipat. Another Bakhar, entitled Panipat Chi Bakhar, is also about the same event. Holkaranchi Bakhar provides information about the Holkars and their contributions to the Maratha rule.

(4) Bakhars can be divided into various types such as biographies of kings, dynastic history, descriptions of events, history of a sect, autobiographies, regarding grievances, based on mythologies and state administration by a king.

## **3. Answer the following in 25-30 words.**

### **1) Which things are included in the description by Emperor Babur in his autobiography?**

**Ans:** Babur, the founder of the Mughal empire, in his autobiography entitled Tuzuk-i-Babari describes (1) The battles fought by him.

(2) Recordings of minute observations of various regions and cities visited by him noting minute observations.

(3) Observation of the local customs, economy, fauna and flora of the region travelled by him.

### **(2) What is the contribution of Swatantryaveer Savarkar to nationalistic historiography?**

**Ans.** (1) The writings of Swatantryaveer Savarkar were infused with nationalistic ideas.

(2) He looked at the revolt of 1857 as the First War of Independence and wrote the book "The Indian War of Independence, 1857".

(3) His book gave inspiration to Nationalistic historiography which helped in triggering independence movement of the Indian people against the British. Even the writing of regional history got momentum.

## **4. Write detailed answers to the following questions.**

### **(1) What is Marxist History?**

**Ans.** In the post-independence era, new trends emerged in writing Indian historiography. Marxist historiography is prominent among them.

(1) Historiography which is based on ideas of Karl Marx is known as Marxist Historiography. In Marxist Historiography, more importance was given to class struggles.



- (2) Marxist Historiography reflects concerns for means and modes of production as well as the industrial relations. These became centre of writings of the Marxist historians.
- (4) How every social event affects the life of people was analysed and it became the theme of Marxist historians. Marxist historians studied the transitions that took place in the caste system.
- (5) Notable Indian historians who adopted Marxist ideologies were Damodar Kosambi, Comrade Shripad Dange, Sharad Patil and Ram Sharan Sharma. Their writings reflected Marxist ideology. Comrade Dange was the founder member of the Indian Communist Party.

## 2) What is the contribution of Itihasacharya .K. Rajwade to historiography?

**Ans.** V.K. Rajwade is well-known for his writings in Marathi on subjects like history, linguistics, etymology and grammar. His contributions are as follows:

- (1) He compiled and edited 22 volumes of Marathyancho Itihasachi Sadhane. He stated that history is the all-inclusive image of the past societies.
- (2) V. K. Rajwade was of the view that history does not include only the stories of political images, conspiracies and wars for seizing power.
- (3) He was of the firm opinion that we should write our own history and insisted that history should be written only using the authentic sources.
- (4) He was of the opinion that description of any human event in historiography should have balanced combination of three factors namely - Time, Space and Personalities.
- (4) The attention of historians was drawn towards the history and geographic conditions and variations in the South Indian region.

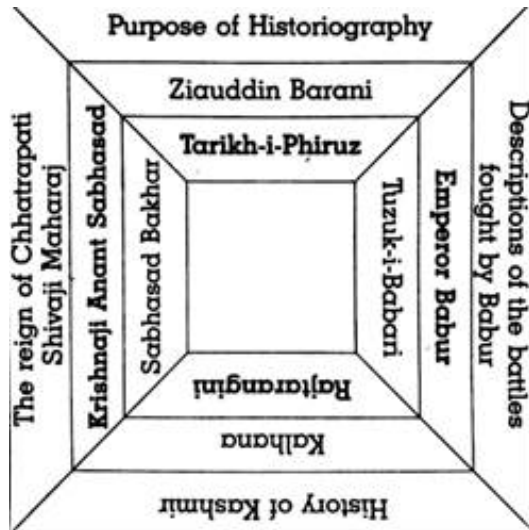
## 5. (a) complete the following chart.

<b>James Mill</b>	<b>'The History of British india'</b>
James Grant Duff	<b><u>A history of Mahrattas</u></b>
<b>Mount Stuart Eiphistone</b>	'The history of india'
.S.A. Danga	<b><u>Primitive Communism of Slavery.</u></b>
<b>Dr. babasahed Ambedkar</b>	'Who were the Shudras'

## (b) Complete the following concept chart



Ans.



## 6. Explain the concept;

### (1) Orientalist historiography:

**Ans.** (1) In the later part of the eighteenth century many European scholars felt curious to know about civilization and countries of the East.

(2) These scholars who studied the Indian Civilization had respect and admiration for it. They were known as 'Orientalists'.

(3) They studied similarities between Sanskrit and some of the European languages, focussing more on Vedic tradition and Sanskrit literature. It resulted in the notion that an ancient language could be the mother of all Indo-European languages.

(4) Notable Orientalist scholars are Friedrich Max Mueller and William Jones.

### (2) Nationalistic Historiography:

**Ans.** (1) English education started in India in the nineteenth century. The Indian historians who were trained in English education system realised the glory of their past.

(2) They showed an inclination to restore the pride in the ancient glory of India and the self esteem of the Indian readers. They laid the foundation of Nationalistic writing.

(3) These Nationalistic historians opposed the prejudiced history written by the British officers. They tried to seek the golden era of Indian history and write about it.

(4) Nationalistic historiography inspired freedom struggle against the Britishers and gave momentum to write about regional history. While glorifying the past, at times they are blamed for ignoring to critically analyse the truth.

### (3)-Subaltern History:

**Ans.** (1) History of deprived classes or communities who were deprived of all rights is known as subaltern history.

(2) The seeds of subaltern history can be traced in the Marxist history. Italian historian Antonio

Gramsci has special importance in writing the subaltern history. He presented the idea that history should be written starting from the bottommost ranks of people in the society.

(3) Ranajit Guha, an Indian historian, has given prominence to subaltern history and played a major role in establishing it as an important academic school of historiography.

(4) Similar thoughts were expressed by Mahatma Phule and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar which can be found in their writings.