

HISTORY OF KOLKATA

1690 Calcutta is founded as a trading post of the English East India Company. The history of Calcutta as a British settlement dates from the establishment of a trading post there by Job Charnock, an agent of the English East India Company, in 1690.

1717 Mughal emperor Farrukh-siyar grants the East India Company freedom of trade in return for a yearly payment of 3,000 rupees; this arrangement gives a great impetus to the growth of Calcutta.



1742 The Marathas from the southwest begin incursions against the Mughals in Bengal in 1742, the English obtain permission from Ali Vardi Khan, the newab of Bengal, to dig an entrenchment in the northern and eastern part of the town to form a moat on the landside. This came to be known as the Maratha Ditch. Although it was not completed to the southern end of the settlement, it marked the city's eastern boundary.

1756 The Black Hole of Calcutta. Newab Siraj-ud-Daulah attacks Calcutta with a massive army of 50,000 men with 500 war elephants. He gains control over Fort William and Calcutta. Siraj-ud-Daulah also captures 146 British and on the night of June 20th, locks them in a room. All but 23 suffocated.



1772 Calcutta becomes the capital of British India.
1772 Warren Hastings (1732-1818) is appointed as Governor of Bengal.
1773 Maidan, the park of Calcutta is commissioned.



1801 Fort William College is established.
1804 The Governor House (presently Raj Bhawan) is built.

1813 The Calcutta Town Hall is built.
1814 The Indian Museum is founded. (The oldest in India and is the largest museum of its kind in the country.)
1817 The Hindu College (presently Presidency College) is established with efforts from Ram Mohan Roy, David Hare and Radhakanta Dev. The first English-style school in Calcutta; enrolment: 20 students.



1845 June 1, the East India Railway Company (EIR) is established under a deed of settlement with a capital of 4,000,000 Pound Sterling.
1849 August 17, a contract is signed between the EIR and the East India Company to construct and operate an 'experimental' 100-mile (161-km) line between Calcutta and Rajmahal.

1851 Construction begins of an "experimental" section of track (Howrah-Rajmahal) for the proposed Calcutta-Delhi link via Mirzapur (EIR).
1854 August 15, The first train of EIR Railway is driven from Howrah to Hooghly, a stretch of 15 miles (25 km).
1830 May 26, Cyclone between Calcutta and Rajmahal kills 8-10,000 people.

1696 A fort (Fort William) is built to protect the English post.

By 1696, when a rebellion broke out in the nearby district of Burdwan, the Mughal provincial administration had become friendly to the growing settlement. The servants of the company, who asked for permission to fortify their trading post, or factory, were given permission in general terms to defend themselves.

1698 The English obtained letter that granted them the privilege of purchasing the Zamindari right (the right of revenue collection; in effect, the ownership) of the three villages: Sutanuti, Kalikata, and Gobindapur.

1757 June, Battle of Plassey: The British, under Robert Clive & Charles Watson, return to defeat the Newab at the Battle of Plassey, recapturing Calcutta, and began the systematic conquest of Bengal.

1764 Battle of Buxar: The British defeat Mir Kasim.
1765 Robert Clive signs the Treaty of Allahabad with the Newab of Oudh and Shah Alam II. The treaty effectively legalizes the British East India Company's control over the whole of Bengal.



1781 New Fort William is constructed on a new site overlooking the Hooghly River at Calcutta.

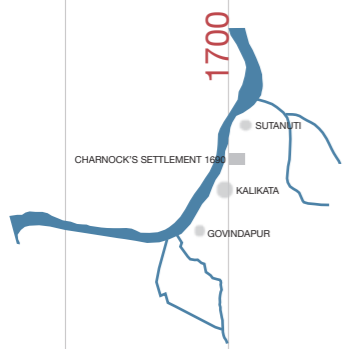


1855 The first Indian Jute mill is constructed at Calcutta.

1857 The University of Calcutta is founded.

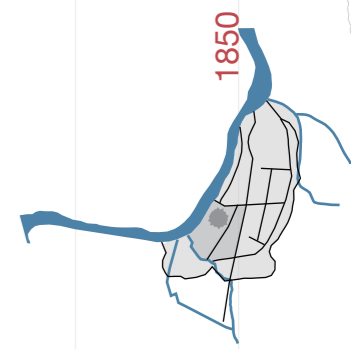
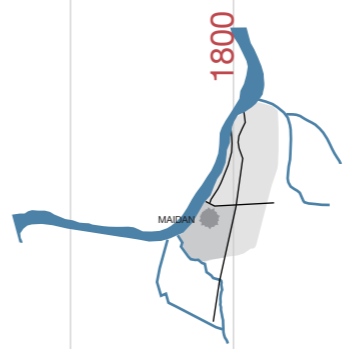
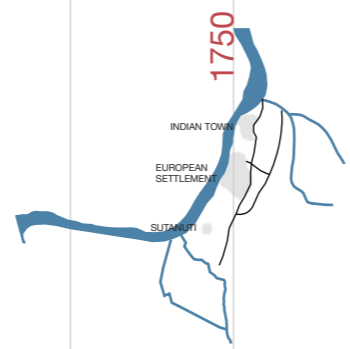
1857 The war of independence: The Sepoy Mutiny started in Calcutta and then reached Meerut. This was the last largest and most organized war against the troops of East India Company.

1858 The East India Company is dissolved by the British Parliament realizing that it is inappropriate for a private company like the East India Company to exercise such enormous powers and control a land the size of India.



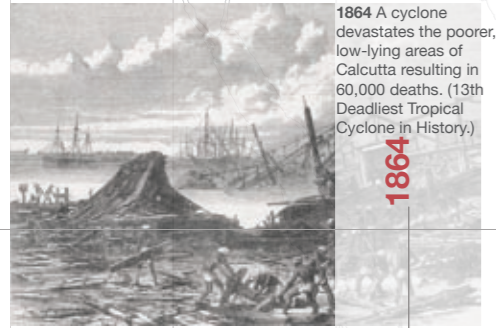
The name Kalikata was mentioned in the rent-roll of the Mughal emperor Akbar (reigned 1556-1605) and also in the Manasa-mangal of the Bengali poet Bipradas as early as 1495.

Moreover, before the coming of the English, three local villages—Sutanuti, Kalikata, and Gobindapur, which were later to become parts of Calcutta—had been chosen as places to settle by Indian merchants who had migrated from the silted-up port of Satgaon, further upstream. The presence of these merchants may have been to some extent responsible for Charnock's choice of the site.



1757-1858 BRITISH RULE

HISTORY OF KOLKATA



1864 A cyclone devastates the poorer, low-lying areas of Calcutta resulting in 60,000 deaths. (13th Deadliest Tropical Cyclone in History.)

1864



1873 First Tramcar (horse drawn) in Calcutta.

1874 Howrah Bridge: Calcutta and Howrah on the opposite banks of Hooghly River had grown up to be the most important economic and cultural centers of British India, and a need for bridging the Hooghly River arose. To address this challenge a floating pontoon bridge was built by Sir Bradford Leslie.

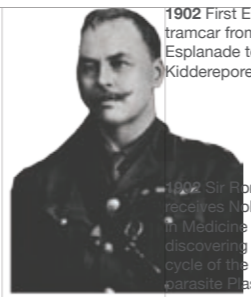
1875 The Indian Museum is built.

1865 A stretch of 1,017 miles (1,636 km) of the rail network is completed, connecting Calcutta on the right bank of the Hooghly to Agra on the left bank of the Jamuna.

1869 Five jute mills operating with 950 looms.

1875 *The Statesman*, leading English Daily newspaper, is founded.

1876 Calcutta Municipal Corporation is established, which is ultimately responsible for the civic infrastructure and administration of the city.



1902 Sir Ronald Ross receives Nobel Prize in Medicine for discovering the life cycle of the malarial parasite Plasmodium.

1902 First Electric tramcar from Esplanade to Kidderpore.

1911 38 Jute companies operating 30,685 looms exported more than a billion yards of cloth and over 450 million bags.

1911 A local football team, Mohan Bagan AC, defeats British, East Yorkshire Regiment, 2 - 1 in IFA shield final to be the first Indian team to win the IFA-Shield Trophy.

1911 Due to the high level of political unrest generated by the partition, the eastern and western parts of Bengal reunite.

1911 Capital of British India moves Calcutta to Delhi.

1921 The Victoria Memorial building is formally opened to the public.

1924 Chittaranjan Das is elected as the first Indian Mayor of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation.

1926 Communal riots in Calcutta.

1929 Agnes Goinxha Bejaxhiu (Mother Teresa) arrives in Calcutta to join Bengal Loreto mission.

1930 Mahatma Gandhi calls for noncompliance with unjust laws (in regards to the 1926 communal riots.), which results in imminent and tensions between Muslims and Hindus reached their height. Official estimate: 4,000 dead and 100,000 injured in the riot.

1930 Chandrasekhar Venkata Raman receives The Nobel Prize in Physics Prize for his work on the molecular scattering of light and for the discovery of the Raman effect, which is named after him. (First Asian scientist to win Nobel Prize.)



1943

1943 The 'man-made' Bengal famine of 1943-1944 kills an estimated 3.5 to 5 million people. Thousands of people are killed in Calcutta.



1962 Sino-Indian War (India-China).

1970-71 The Naxalite Movement hit the city resulting arrests of hundreds of youths and creating enormous tension among city dwellers. The Naxalites gained a strong presence amongst the radical sections of the student's movement in Calcutta.

1984 The first underground railway in India opens: from Tollygunge to Esplanade.



1992 Satyajit Roy receives prestigious "Life Time Achievement" Oscar award and "Bharat Ratna". He dies in the same year.

1995 First cellular phone service starts in the city.



2001

2001 January 1, Calcutta is officially renamed as 'Kolkata'.

1882 Steam tramway line opens.

1885 Indian National Congress forms at Bombay.

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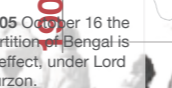
1893 Indian Football Association (IFA) is established.

1896 First motorcar appears on city's street.

1899 Lord Curzon (1859-1925) becomes Governor-General and Viceroy of India.

1905 October 16 the partition of Bengal is in effect, under Lord Curzon.

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1906 King George V, the Prince of Wales, lays the foundation stone for the Victoria Memorial building on January 4.

1906 Rabindranath Tagore writes 'Amar Shonar Bangla' during a time of great national unrest. (In 1972, becomes the national anthem of Bangladesh.)



1913 Rabindranath Tagore, notably a principal exponent of the Bengal Renaissance, wins the Nobel Prize in Literature for a body of his translated texts.

1939 World War II: Japanese air raids upon the Calcutta docks cause damage and loss of life.

1939 The jute industry, now with a total of 68,377 looms, is concentrated mainly on the River Hooghly near Calcutta.



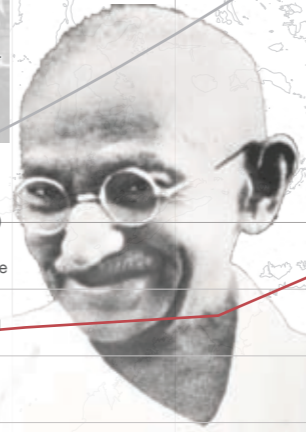
1943 February, New Howrah Bridge.

1947 Partition of Bengal: India gains independence, Bengal is divided; Calcutta becomes the capital of the state of West Bengal in India. Calcutta and surrounding places were flooded with people from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) as a result of the partition. According to official estimates, more than 700,000 people poured into Calcutta.



1948 January 30, Mahatma Gandhi (Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi) dies.

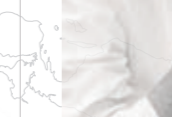
1948 The Order of the Missionaries of Charity, an organization founded by Mother Teresa



1975 August 9, First TV transmission begins in the city.

1978 A major flood hits Calcutta.

1979 Mother Teresa, a permanent resident of Calcutta, is the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress.



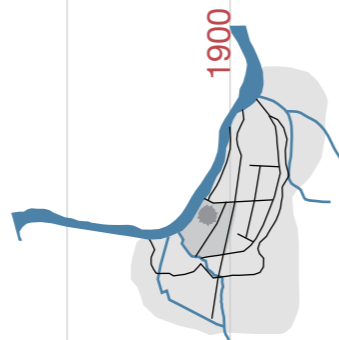
1997 September 5, Mother Teresa dies in Calcutta.

1998 Amartya Sen (grew up in Shantiniketan and studied at Calcutta) receives Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics for his work in welfare economics.



1858-1947 BRITISH RAJ

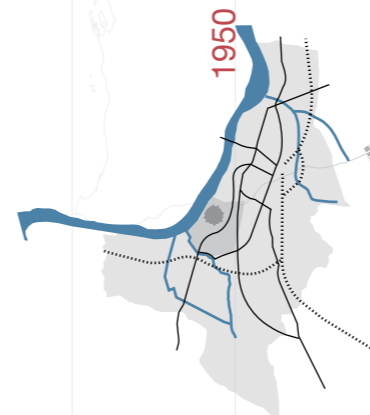
After the British East India Company gained control of much of India during the 18th and 19th centuries, Calcutta became the capital both under Company rule and under the British Raj.



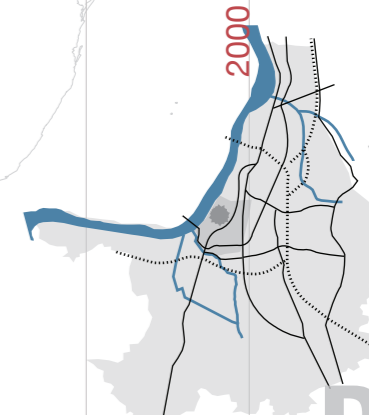
1900

1947 Partition of Bengal: India gains independence. Bengal is divided; Calcutta becomes the capital city of the state of West Bengal in India. Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh is the first Chief Minister of West Bengal, followed by Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy. Calcutta and surrounding places were flooded with people from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) as a result of the partition. According to official estimates, more than seven hundred thousand people poured into Calcutta.

SINCE 1947 REPUBLIC OF INDIA



1950



2000