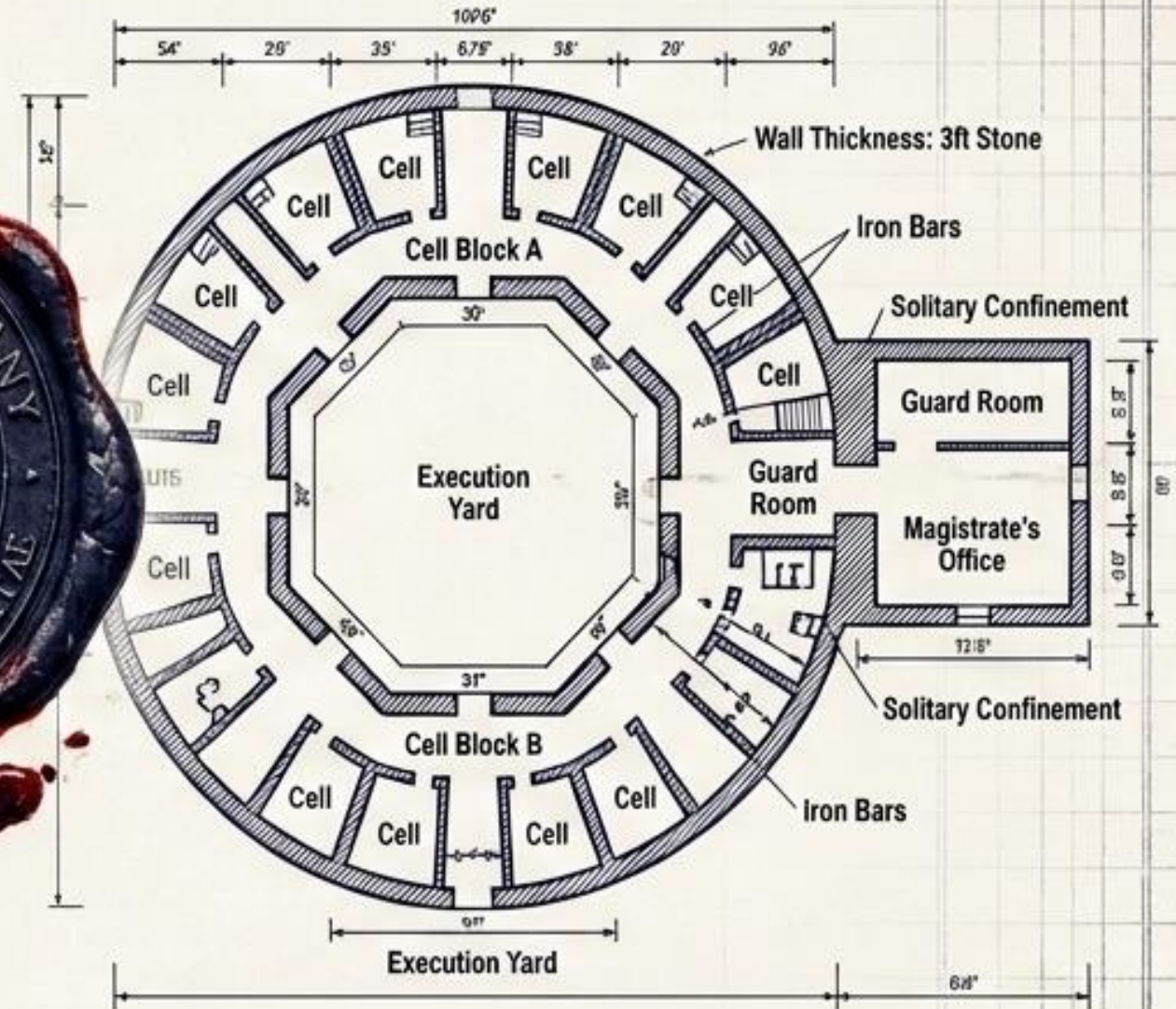


Criminological Insights

Dr. Mridul Srivastava, Ph.D., FISC, D.Litt., Assistant Registrar and Faculty in Criminology,
 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, Mobile: 9453015679, Email: srivastavamridullko@gmail.com

Date	Item	Dr.,	Item	Cr.
18 th 20	To Fort St. George	£1,450	By Silk Sales	£3,200
	Expences	1,450	By Silk Sales	450
	To Mem	£1,200	By Prison	
	To Expences Placement	2,500		
	Totals	£1,450		
		8,000	By Diwani Office	
May 20	To Military Disbursements		By Diwani Revenues,	
	Expences	£8,700	Bengal	£250,000
		8,450		
	Totals	£8,900	Totals	£250,000
	Cl. i. Totals	£3,200 *		
			By Magistrate's Office	£1,700
			By Guard Revenues	200
			Totals	£15,300



From Traders to Rulers: The Company's Rise in Bengal (1698–1790)

1698–1765: The Acquisition of Power



1698: The Zemindari Purchase



The Company purchased the rights to three villages for 1,200 rupees.



1757–1764: Decisive Military Victories

Battles at Plassey and Buxar transformed the Company from merchants into a formidable political force.



1765: The Grant of Diwani



The Mughal Emperor granted the Company the right to conduct civil administration in Bengal.

1766–1790: Consolidation and Justice



Failure of "Dual Government"

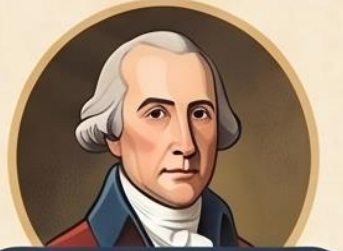


Divided responsibility between the Nawab and Company led to corruption and systemic administrative instability.

Mandates to Warren Hastings

Increase Company Revenue
 Redesign of the revenue collection system in 1772.

Free Ryots from Oppression
 Appointment of committees to supervise local judicial officers.



1772: Direct Administration

Warren Hastings redesigned revenue collection, placing fiscal administration directly into the Company's hands.



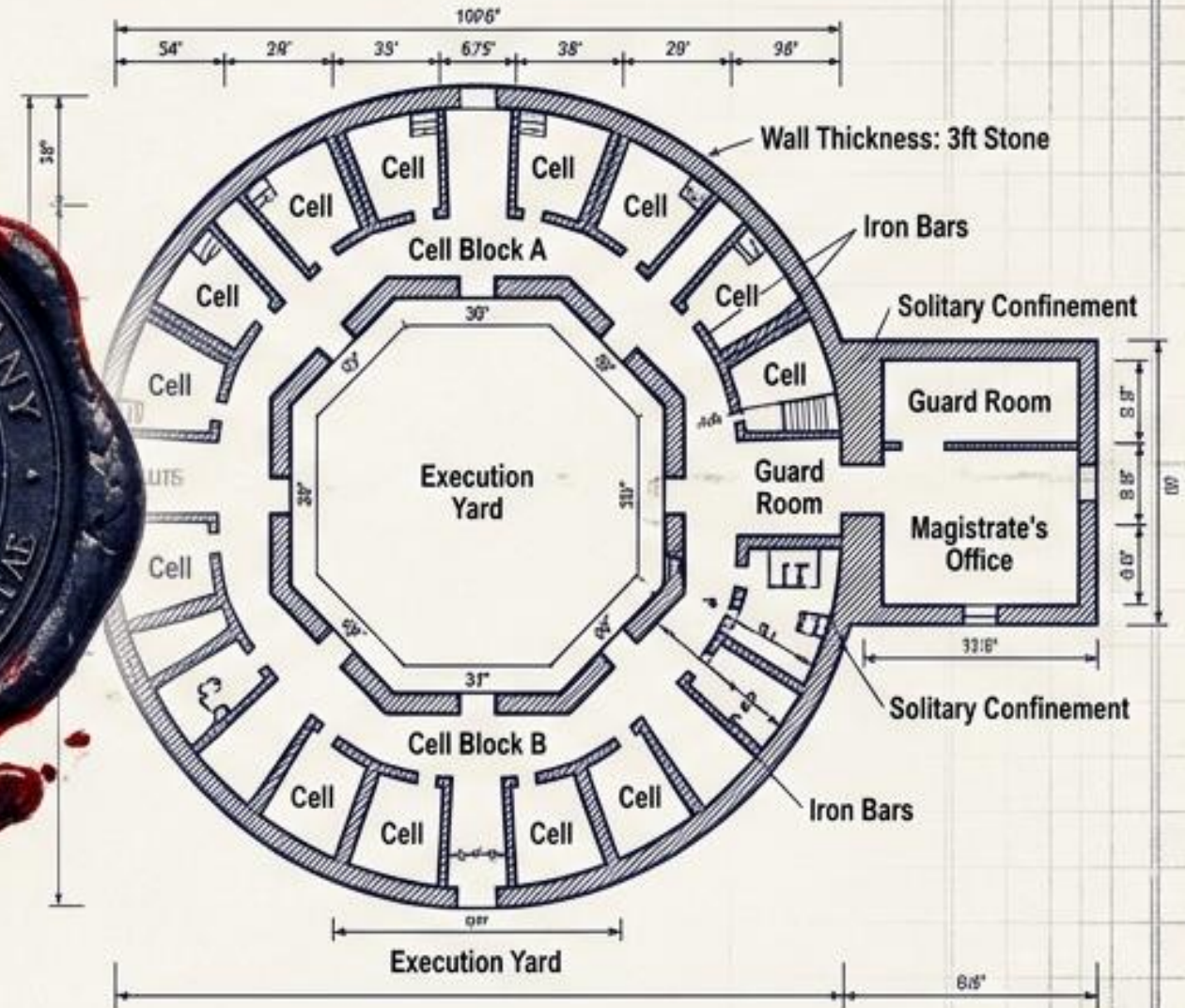
The State of the Gaols

Provincial prisons were often mere mud huts, with 444 prisoners once suffocating in a single fire. **444**

Between 1698 and 1790, the East India Company transitioned from purchasing local land rights to exercising full 'Diwani' administration. This period saw the Company move from a 'Dual Government' system of influence without responsibility to a direct, centralised sovereign authority over Bengal.

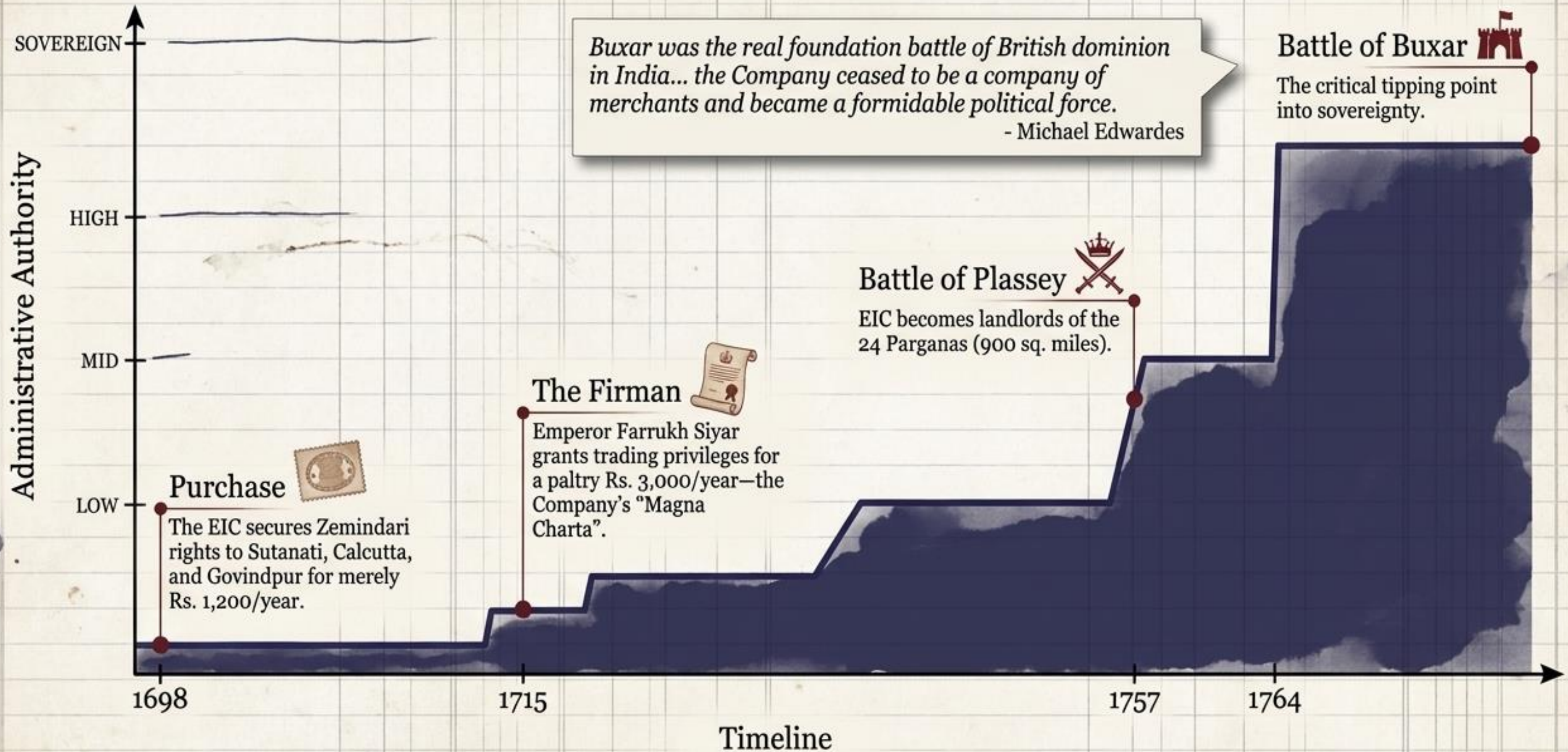
The Ledger and the Gavel: How a Corporation Became a Sovereign State

Date	Item	Dr.,	Item	Cr.
18 th 20	To Fort St. George	£1,450	By Silk Sales	£3,200
	Expences	1,450	By Silk Sales	4,000
	To Mem	£1,200	By Prison	
	To Expences Placement	2,500		
	Totals	£1,450		
			By Diwani Office	
	Totals	8,000		
May 20	To Military Disbursements		By Diwani Revenues,	
	Expences	£8,700	Bengal	£250,000
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Tracing the East India Company, the Diwani of Bengal, and the collapse of criminal justice (1698–1790).

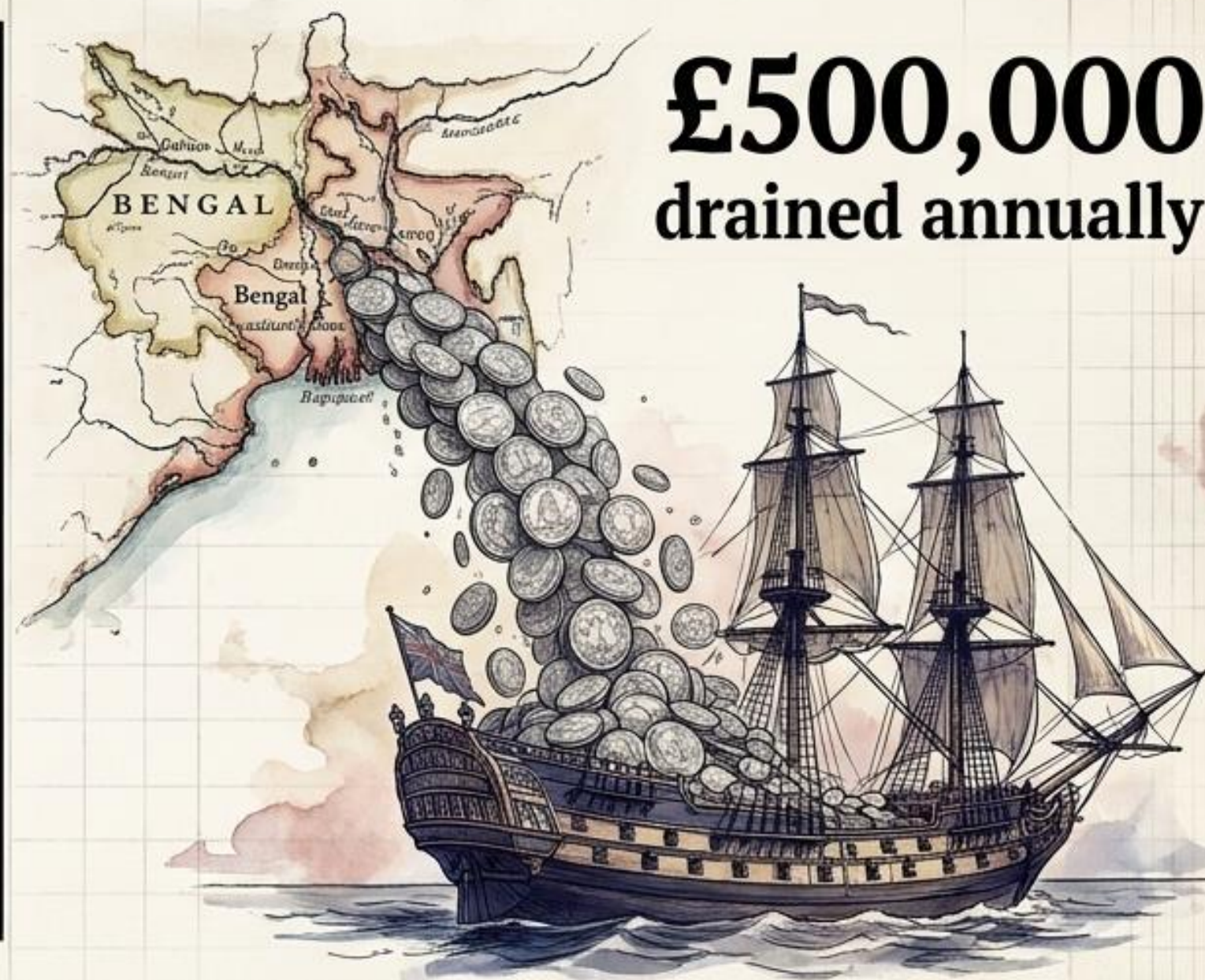
From Three Villages to a Formidable Political Force



The Mathematics of Usurpation and Personal Plunder

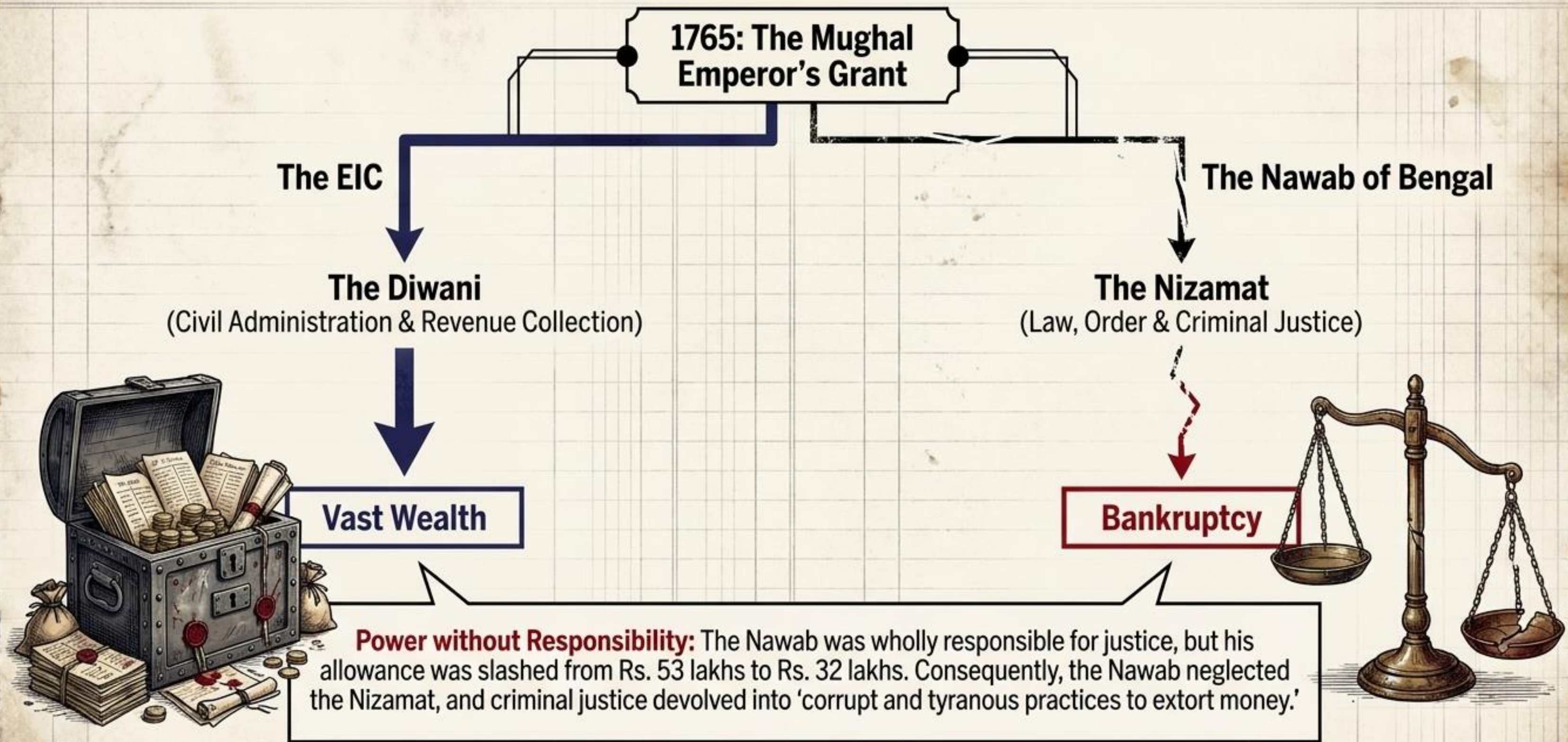
£234,000
+ £30,000/year

Lord Clive's immediate personal fortune
and annual rent from the 1757 coup.



Company servants now operated with “power without responsibility,” fanning out into the hinterlands to trade at enormous personal profit without **paying a single rupee in taxes**, turning the nominal sovereign into a mere banker for British ambitions.

Clive's 'Dual Government': A Fractured Feedback Loop



The Catalyst for Change: Insolvency, Not Morality

The plight of the Indian peasantry and
“swashbuckling bullying.”

The Company’s shock insolvency:
EIC confesses inability to pay
promised annual tax of £400,000 to
the treasury in 1767.



The sheer scale of easily won wealth flowing to individuals offended the territorial magnates in the House of Commons. Parliament intervened to secure its own share of the plunder and save the imperial balance sheet.

Warren Hastings and the Impossible Dual Mandate

The Commercial Mandate

"At once ensure us every possible advantage."

- **Action:** Redesigned revenue collection, cut the Nawab's stipend in half, and stopped the annual tribute.
- **Result:** Saved over £500,000 annually.

The Moral Mandate

"Free the ryots from the oppression of zemindars and petty tyrants."

- **Action:** To a budget-conscious Hastings, this remained a "pious wish." Unprofitable expenditure on justice was strictly avoided.

Synthesis Insight: The fundamental need to save the Company meant justice was treated as an unaffordable line item. A dividend-seeking body was in direct conflict with the welfare of its subjects.

1772: “We Traded; We Conquered; We Governed”

Calcutta: Sadr Nizamat Adawlat

Function: Revise proceedings and approve final death sentences and property forfeitures.

The Mofussil (Districts)

Dewanny Adawlat (Civil Cases)

Governed directly by EIC English Collectors.

Foujdari Adawlat (Criminal Cases)

Administered by Muslim law officers (Kazis, Muftis, Moulvis) applying Islamic law, under the “general supervision” of English Collectors.

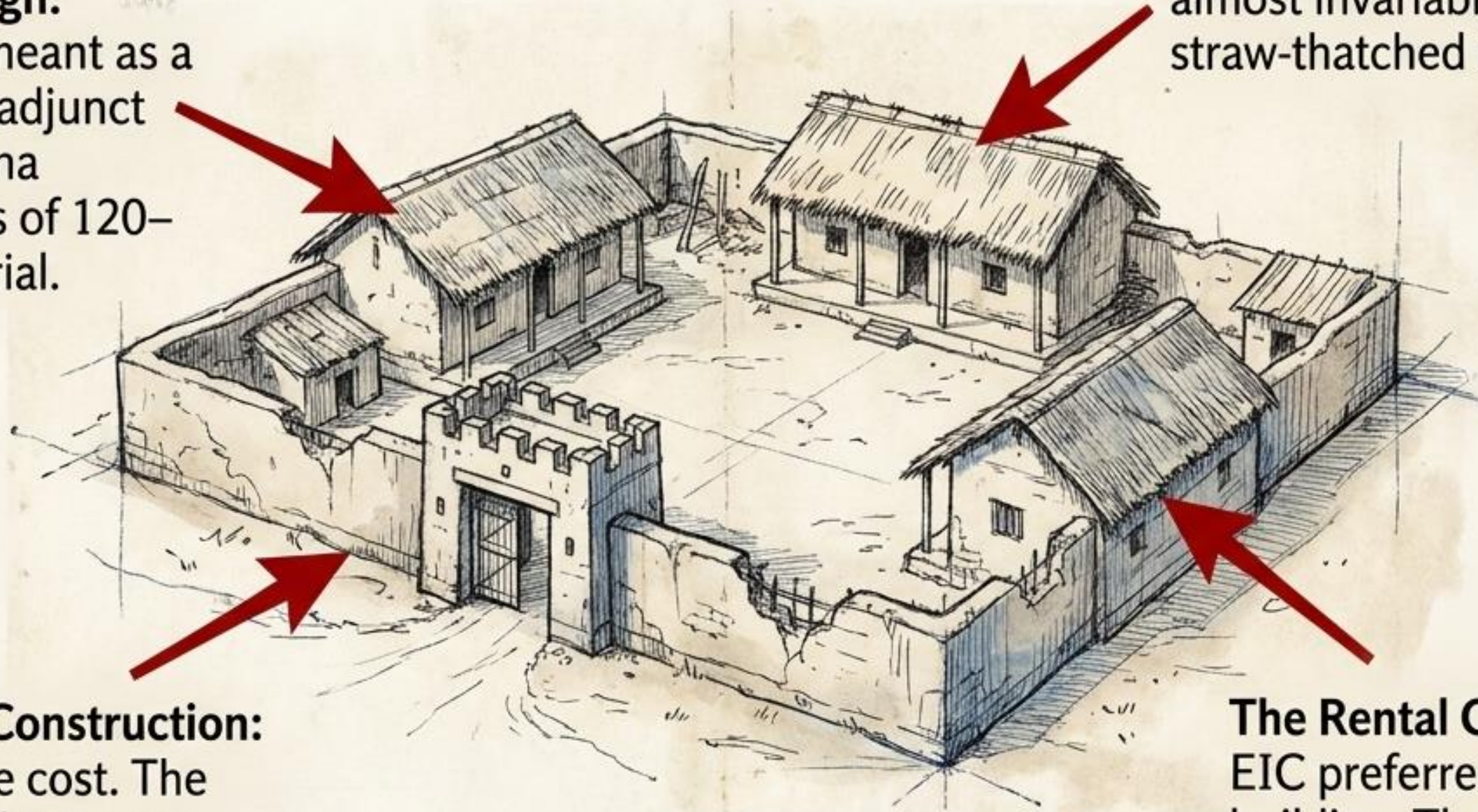
The British took **total control of revenue (Civil)**, but **outsourced the messy, expensive reality of criminal justice** to underfunded local officers.

The Architecture of Neglect: The *Foujdari* Gaols

Temporary by Design:

Prisons were only meant as a temporary holding adjunct to the Foujdari Thana (covering vast areas of 120–140 miles) before trial.

Flimsy Materials: Consisted almost invariably of mud walls and straw-thatched roofs.



Budget-Driven Construction:

Built at negligible cost. The Diwani gaol at Chittra was rebuilt for a mere Rs. 142.

The Rental Compromise: The EIC preferred renting to building. The Dacca gaol was hired for Rs. 30 a month; Murshidabad for Rs. 15.

Reading the Ledger: Mr Evelyn's Account (Dacca, 1778)

Date		Rs.
1777	August	To a mohrar
		Book binder
		Gaol tent
		Flahonary
		House tent
		Candles (3 Maund)
		Oil, Matta, etc.
		Total: 47
1777	September	To a mohrar
1777	October	Book binder
1777	November	Gaol tent
1777	November	Flahonary
1777	Decembes	To a mohrar
1778	January	Candles (3 Maund)
1778	February	Book binder
1778	March	A Portuguese writer:
1777	April	
1778	May	To a mohrar
1778	June	Candles (3 Maund)
1778	July	Book binder
1778	August	Gaol tent
1777	September	To a mohrar
1777	September	To a mohrar
		Book binder
		Flahonary
		Flous
		C
		Total: 10179.11.6

Gaol tent: 30 Rs
Candles (3 Maund): 80 Rs
Book binder: 4 Rs
A Portuguese writer: 30 Rs

The Human Toll

"...a bad state of health rendered me unequal to the business and lays me under the necessity of requesting your permission to resign the office."

Even British superintendents broke under the administrative strain of a chronically under-resourced system.

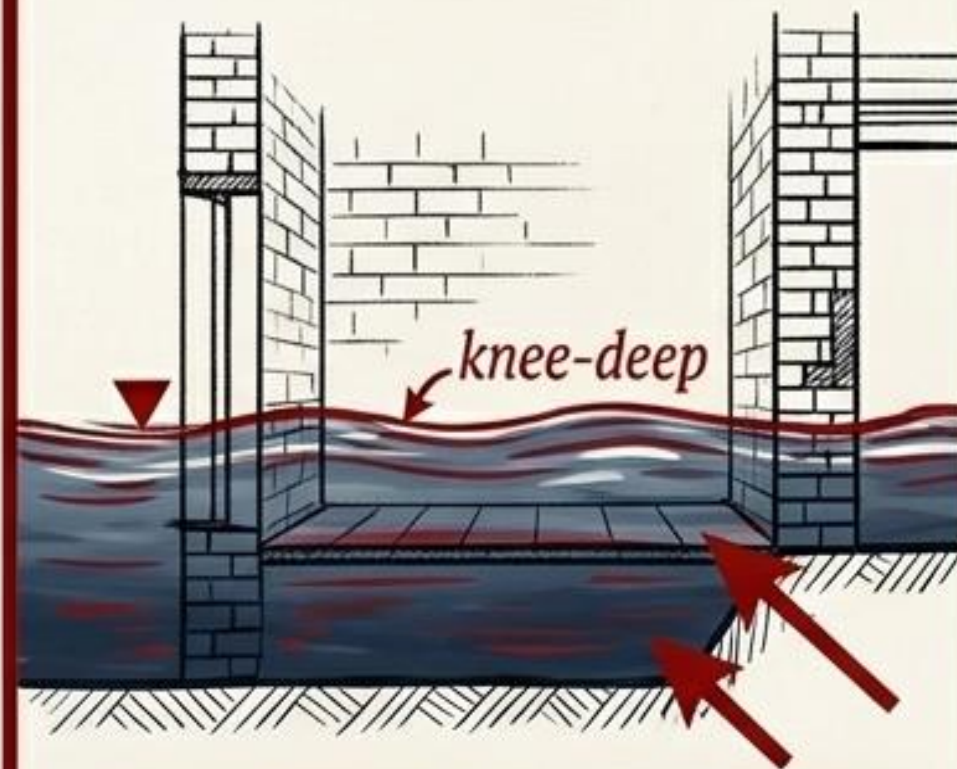
'A Ruinous State': The Collapse of the *Mofussil* Gaols

Wind (May 1790)



The Rangpur Diwani gaol blew down entirely in a violent gale because the walls were built on rotting posts in marshy ground.

Water (June 1785)



The Calcutta Town-Gaol rooms were "knee-deep in water," as floors were built on a lower level than the surrounding land.

Fire (1789)



A disastrous fire broke out in the straw-roofed Chapila gaol. Driven by a strong breeze, it became a roaring furnace. 211 prisoners suffocated or roasted to death.

Systemic Collapse: Architectural Neglect Meets Catastrophic Reality

The 18th-Century Baseline: Bengal vs. England



Bengal Gaols

- **Conditions:** Overcrowded, mud walls, collapsed in storms, rampant disease.
- **Economics:** Designed for extreme cost-saving by a corporate state. Rented, flimsy structures.

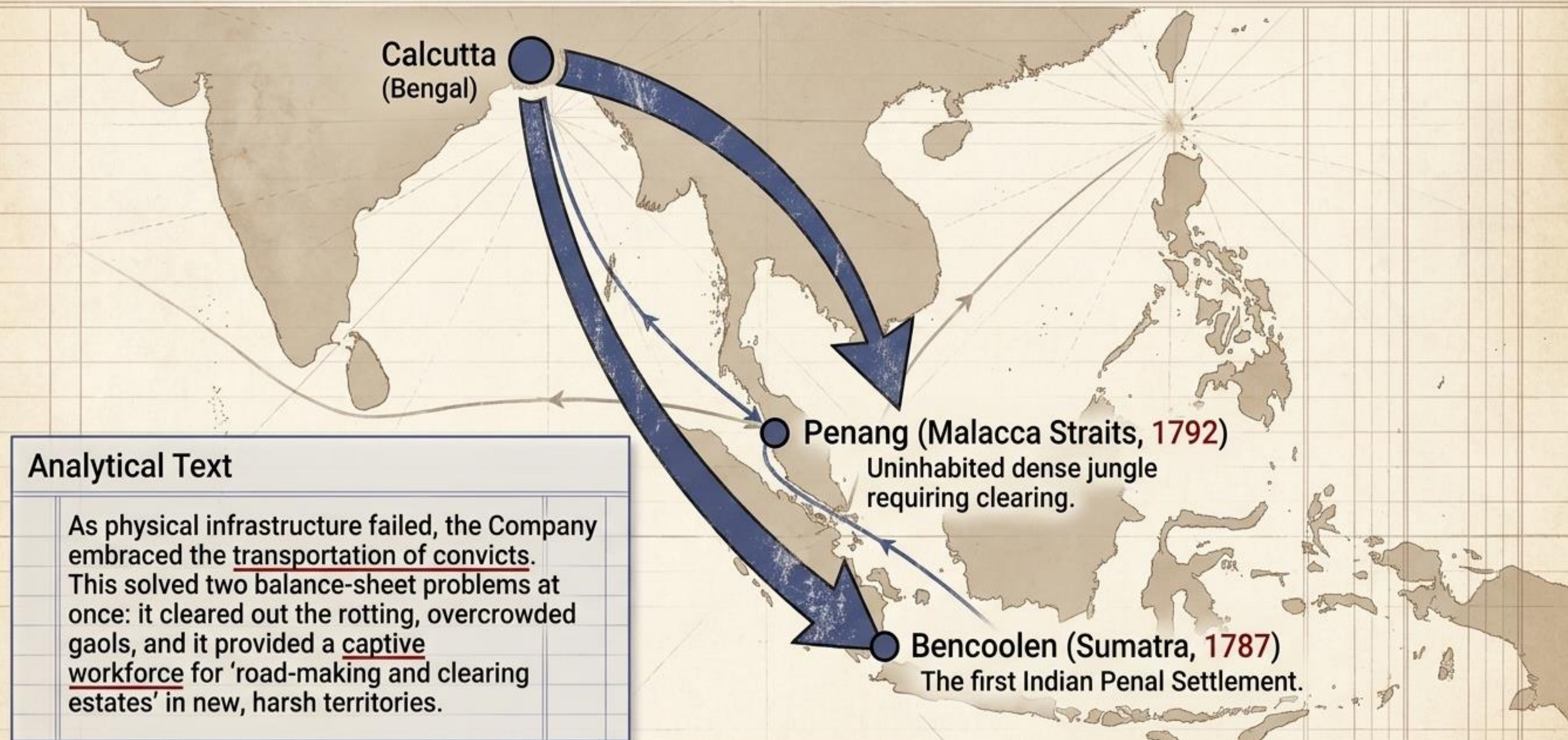


English Gaols

- **Conditions:** Underground cellars, deep in water, no fireplaces, reeking of foul exhalations. Prisoners fought with rats for food.
- **Economics:** Private profit centres. Chesterfield Gaol rented out for 18 guineas/year. Rampant sale of spirits (120 gallons of gin sold weekly in Kings Bench).

The horrors of Bengal's gaols were not an aberration; they were an extension of English penal philosophy, exacerbated by a tropical climate and absolute corporate penny-pinching.

The Spatial Solution: Exporting 'Abandoned Characters'



Sir Stamford Raffles and the Pyramid of Penal Utility

The Colonist

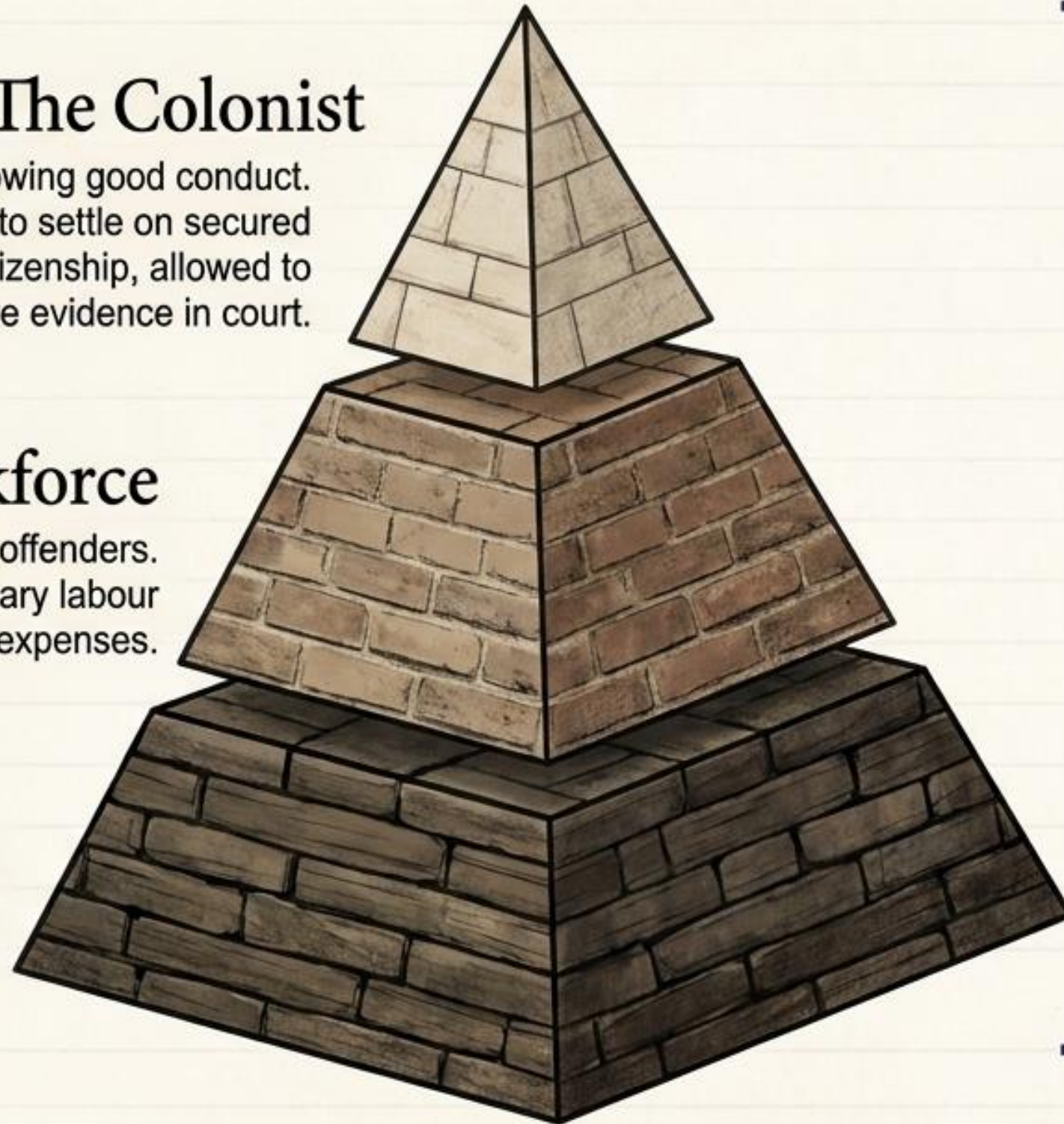
Target: Convicts showing good conduct.
Treatment: Permitted to settle on secured land, privileges of citizenship, allowed to give evidence in court.

The Workforce

Target: Moderate offenders.
Treatment: Employed in ordinary labour to diminish Company expenses.

Hard Servitude

Target: Men of 'abandoned and profligate character.'
Treatment: Hard labour, confined strictly at night.



“Under Raffles, the goal shifted from mere punishment to extracting “useful and industrious” behaviour, embedding the penal system directly into the colonial economy.”

1790: The Sovereign Ascendant



December 3, 1790.

- **Event:** Lord Cornwallis enacts a new scheme that entirely abolishes the last lingering vestiges of the Nawab's authority in criminal justice.
- **Outcome:** The administration of criminal law is stripped from Muslim law officers and transferred exclusively into the hands of the Company's English servants.
- **Key Takeaway:** The East India Company completes its century-long metamorphosis. The Nawab is reduced to a shadow; the corporation is now officially the State.

The Corporate Justice Paradox



Core Synthesis Text:

The 90-year evolution from Zemindar to Dewan reveals a grim historical truth: A system designed solely for dividend extraction cannot effectively administer justice.

The mud-wall gaols of Bengal did not collapse in storms and fire by accident. They collapsed because justice and human welfare were viewed as unprofitable line items on the East India Company's balance sheet. When a corporation rules a state, **humanity** is always the **first expense to be cut**.