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Q6(c)**Why was the category of 'criminal tribe' created by law during the colonial period in India? Discuss its implications**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Impact of colonial rule on Indian society

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Impact of colonial rule on Indian society: Social background of Indian nationalism; Modernization of Indian tradition; Protests and movements during the colonial period; Social reforms.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

Criminal Tribes Act, 1871

Enacted by the British colonial government to register, surveillance, and control communities deemed systematically criminal by birth.

Habitual Offenders Act, 1952

Replaced the colonial-era **Criminal Tribes Act** in independent India, shifting the legal focus from hereditary group criminality to individual habitual offences.

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