

THE REVOLT OF 1857:

CAUSES, CENTERS, LEADERS,
AND CONSEQUENCES



CAUSES



CENTERS



LEADERS



CONSEQUENCES





The Revolt of 1857:

Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



INTRODUCTION



1. Meaning

- The Revolt of 1857 was a widespread uprising against the British East India Company's rule in India.
- It is also known as the First War of Independence by many Indian historians.



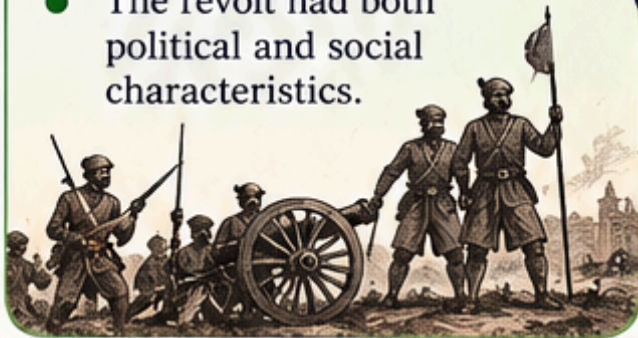
2. Time Period

- Began in May 1857 from Meerut.
- Spread to many parts of North and Central India.
- Gradually weakened after 1858.
- Marked a major turning point in Indian history.



3. Nature of the Revolt

- It was a military uprising that soon turned into a mass popular movement.
- Involved soldiers, peasants, zamindars, rulers, and common people.
- The revolt had both political and social characteristics.



Introduction



4. Geographical Extent

- Spread across a large part of North and Central India.
- Major centers included Meerut, Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Bareilly and others.
- Did not cover the entire country, but it was the most extensive uprising against the British till then.



6. Root Causes

- Political – annexation policies, deposition of Indian rulers.
- Economic – heavy taxes, exploitation, decline of traditional industries.
- Social – interference in religious and social practices.
- Military – discriminatory treatment of Indian soldiers.



5. Immediate Cause

- Introduction of the new Enfield rifle cartridges, rumoured to be greased with cow and pig fat.
- This hurt the religious sentiments of both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- The revolt began at Meerut on 10th May 1857 after the punishment of sepoys who refused to use the cartridges.



7. Significance

- It shook the foundations of the British rule in India.
- Led to the end of the East India Company's rule in 1858.
- Paved the way for direct control of India by the British Crown.
- United people from different regions, religions and backgrounds in a common struggle.
- Inspired future freedom movements in India.





The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



1. CAUSES OF THE REVOLT



1. Political Causes

- Annexation policy under Lord Dalhousie (Doctrine of Lapse).
- Deposition of Indian rulers and interference in their internal affairs.
- End of the Mughal Empire and loss of traditional power centers.
- Growing feeling of political insecurity among Indian princes and nobles.



2. Economic Causes

- Heavy land revenue and exploitative taxation system.
- Destruction of traditional industries like handicrafts due to British goods.
- Monopoly of British traders and unequal trade policies.
- Impoverishment of peasants, artisans and local rulers.
- Drain of wealth from India to Britain.



3. Social Causes

- Discrimination between Indians and Europeans.
- Racial arrogance and insult to Indian culture and traditions.
- Changes in social laws such as abolition of sati and encouragement of widow remarriage (seen as interference).
- Fear of loss of social status among rulers, landlords and common people.



Causes of the Revolt of 1857



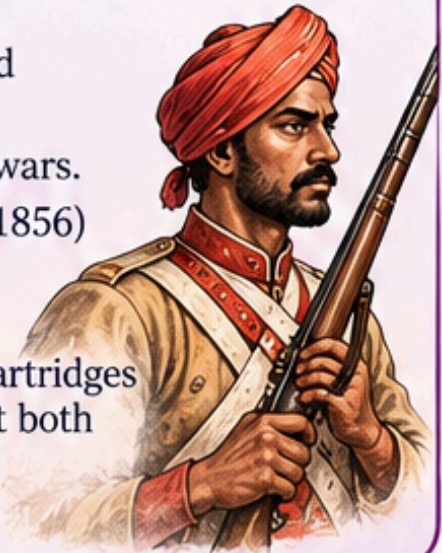
4. Religious Causes

- Fear of forced conversion to Christianity.
- Missionary activities and attempts to spread Christianity.
- Interference in religious practices and customs.
- Introduction of Western education, which was seen as a threat to Indian religion and culture.



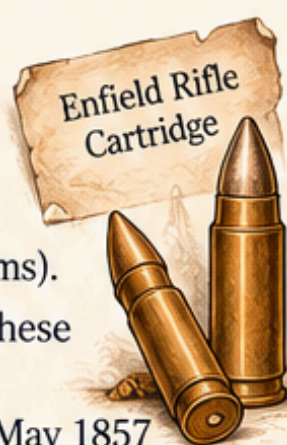
5. Military Causes

- Discrimination in pay, promotion and facilities between Indian and British soldiers.
- Use of Indian soldiers in foreign wars.
- General Service Enlistment Act (1856) which required soldiers to serve overseas.
- Introduction of the Enfield rifle cartridges greased with cow and pig fat (hurt both Hindu and Muslim sentiments).



6. Immediate Cause

- Introduction of the new Enfield rifle.
- Rumours that cartridges were greased with cow fat (offensive to Hindus) and pig fat (offensive to Muslims).
- Refusal of sepoys to use these cartridges led to unrest.
- The revolt began on 10th May 1857 at Meerut after the punishment of sepoys who refused to use the cartridges.





The Revolt of 1857:

Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



1. Causes of the Revolt

A. Political Causes

1 Expansionist Policy of the British

- British followed an aggressive policy of territorial expansion in India.
- Defeated major Indian powers like Mysore, Marathas and Sikhs.
- Many independent states were brought under British control through wars, treaties and annexations.



2 Doctrine of Lapse (Lord Dalhousie)

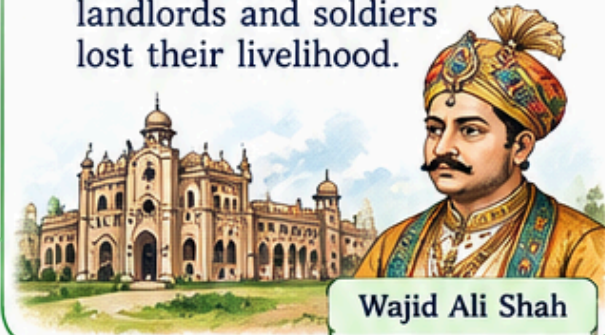
- Annexation of states where the ruler died without a natural male heir.
- Denied the right to adopt an heir.
- Major states annexed: Satara (1848), Jhansi (1853), Nagpur (1854), Sambalpur (1849) etc.



Lord Dalhousie

3 Annexation of Oudh (Awadh) (1856)

- Oudh was annexed on the grounds of misrule.
- Its ruler, Wajid Ali Shah, was deposed and exiled to Calcutta.
- This created widespread discontent among the nobility, soldiers and common people of Oudh.
- Many former officials, landlords and soldiers lost their livelihood.



Wajid Ali Shah

4 Deposition and Humiliation of Indian Rulers

- Many traditional rulers were deposed, pensioned off or reduced to nominal power.
- Indian rulers lost their political autonomy and dignity.
- Examples: Nana Sahib (Peshwa), Rani Lakshmibai (of Jhansi), and the King of Oudh.



Rani Lakshmibai

Nana Sahib

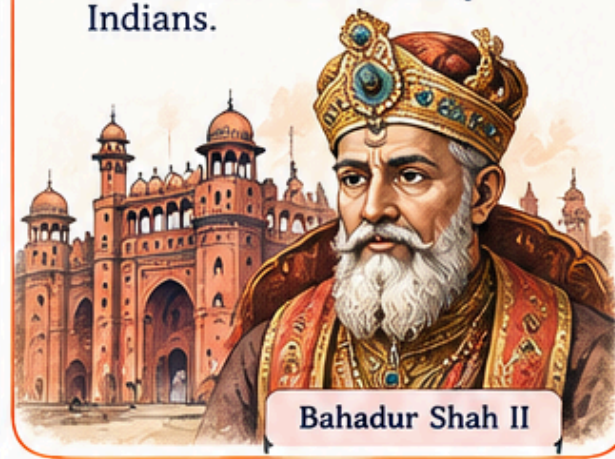
5 Interference in the Affairs of States

- British Resident system interfered in the internal affairs of Indian states.
- Forced unfavorable treaties and controlled their diplomatic relations, military and finances.
- Indian rulers were treated as mere dependents, which created resentment.



6 End of the Mughal Empire

- The Mughal Emperor had become a symbol of Indian sovereignty, though he had no real power.
- The British reduced his status, pension and privileges.
- Bahadur Shah II, the last Mughal ruler, was treated disrespectfully, which hurt the sentiments of many Indians.



Bahadur Shah II



Overall Impact

- British political policies led to the loss of power, prestige and independence of Indian rulers.
- Created a sense of insecurity and resentment among rulers, nobility, soldiers and common people.
- These grievances united different sections of Indian society against the British and became an important political cause of the Revolt of 1857.





The Revolt of 1857:

Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



1. Causes of the Revolt

B. Economic Causes

1 Heavy Land Revenue Demands

- British imposed high and rigid land revenue, which burdened the peasants.
- Revenue had to be paid in cash irrespective of crop failure.
- Led to indebtedness and poverty among peasants.
- Traditional village economy was disrupted.



2 Destruction of Indian Industries

- British manufactured goods flooded the Indian market.
- Indian handicrafts and cottage industries (textile, metal, etc.) declined.
- Artisans and weavers lost their livelihood.



3 Monopoly of British Trade

- British East India Company enjoyed a monopoly over trade and commerce.
- Indian traders and merchants were faced with severe restrictions.
- Traditional trade routes were disrupted.
- Local markets suffered due to unfair trade policies.



4 Exploitation of Peasants

- Introduction of new revenue systems (Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari, Mahalwari) increased the burden on peasants.
- Land was auctioned in case of non-payment of revenue.
- Peasants lost their land and became landless laborers.
- Famines and poor economic conditions further deepened their misery.



5 Impoverishment of Traditional Elites

- Indian rulers, zamindars, talqadars and jagirdars lost their traditional sources of income.
- Their estates were annexed or brought under British control.
- Pensions and allowances of deposed rulers were reduced or stopped.
- This led to economic insecurity and discontent among the erstwhile elites.



6 Drain of Wealth to Britain

- Huge wealth was extracted from India in the form of revenue, profits and home charges.
- Indian resources were used for British economic interests.
- This led to a decline in the economic condition of India.
- Wealth that could have been used for India's development was transferred to Britain.



Economic Causes



Overall Impact

- Severe economic exploitation created widespread discontent among peasants, artisans, traders, rulers and other sections of society.
- Led to loss of livelihood, poverty and economic insecurity.
- These grievances became an important cause of the Revolt of 1857.





The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences

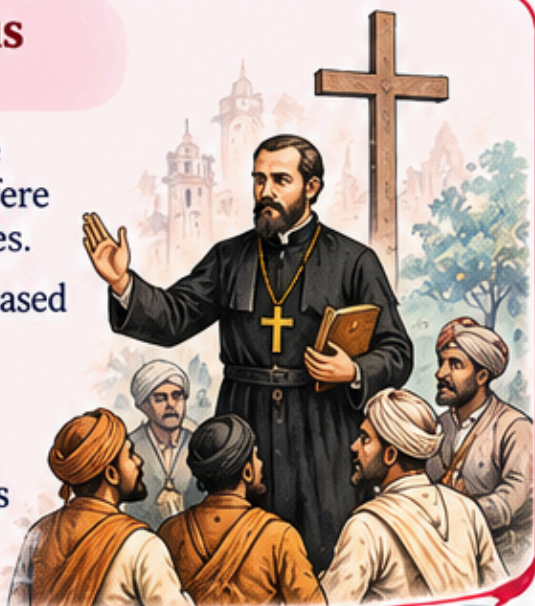


1. Causes of the Revolt

C. Socio-Religious Causes

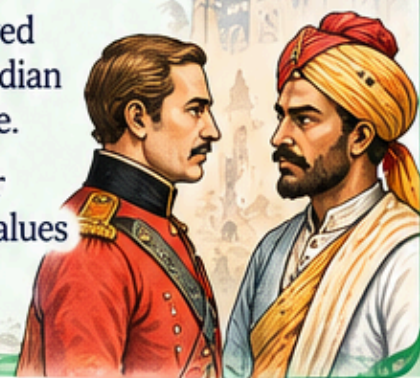
1 Fear of Religious Interference

- Indians believed that the British intended to interfere in their religious practices.
- Missionary activities increased under British rule.
- Introduction of Western education was seen as a means to convert Indians to Christianity.



2 Social and Cultural Differences

- Differences in social customs, food habits, dress and lifestyle created a sense of alienation.
- British officials showed arrogance towards Indian traditions and culture.
- Indians felt that their religious and social values were not respected.



3 Abolition of Traditional Practices

- Abolition of sati (1829), which was seen by many Indians as interference in Hindu religious practices.
- Discouragement of polygamy and other social customs.
- These reforms, though intended for social good, created suspicion and fear among the traditional sections of Indian society.



Socio-Religious Causes

4 Perception of a Threat to Religion

- Many Indians believed that the British wanted to destroy Hinduism and Islam.
- Use of English education, Christian missionaries and legal reforms strengthened this belief.
- Rumours spread that the British would force Indians to adopt Christianity.



5 Impact on Religious Leaders and Institutions

- Loss of privileges and patronage of religious leaders, priests, and scholars.
- Confiscation of temple and mosque lands in some regions.
- Disrespect towards Indian religious institutions hurt the sentiments of people.



6 Overall Impact

- Created a deep sense of insecurity and resentment among Indians.
- United people from different religious and social backgrounds against the British.
- Became an important socio-religious cause of the Revolt of 1857.





The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



1. Causes of the Revolt

D. Military Grievances

1 Discrimination in Pay and Allowances

- Indian soldiers were paid less than European soldiers for the same work.
- They did not get equal allowances, benefits and promotional opportunities.
- This created a strong sense of inequality and resentment among Indian soldiers.



Indian Soldier

European Soldier

2 Limited Promotion Opportunities

- Indian soldiers could not reach higher ranks.
- Important military posts were reserved for Europeans.
- Even experienced and brave Indian soldiers were not given leadership positions.



3 Racial Discrimination and Ill-Treatment

- Indian soldiers were treated with contempt and insult by British officers.
- Use of abusive language and racial slurs was common.
- They were not given equal respect, which hurt their self-respect and morale.



Military Grievances



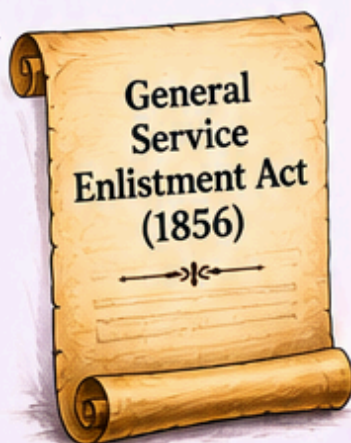
4 Foreign Service Enlistment Act (1856)

- Required Indian soldiers to serve overseas, even in regions beyond India.
- Many soldiers, especially high-caste Hindus, were reluctant to cross the seas (kalapani) as it was against their religious beliefs.
- Seen as an attack on their religious and social customs.



5 General Service Enlistment Act (1856)

- Removed the earlier restriction that Indian soldiers would be serving only within India.
- Allowed their deployment anywhere in the world.
- Created fear and resentment among Indian soldiers regarding loss of caste and religious identity.



6 Introduction of Enfield Rifle and Greased Cartridges

- The new Enfield rifle cartridges were rumoured to be greased with the fat of cow (offensive to Hindus) and pig (offensive to Muslims).
- Soldiers had to bite the cartridges, which hurt the religious sentiments of both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- This issue became the immediate trigger for the outbreak of the revolt in 1857.





The Revolt of 1857:

Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



1. Causes of the Revolt

E. The Immediate Cause: The Greased Cartridge Affair

1 Introduction of the New Enfield Rifle

- In 1856, the British introduced the new Enfield rifle for the Indian army.
- It used paper cartridges containing gunpowder.
- The cartridges had to be bitten open with the teeth before use.



2 Rumours about Greased Cartridges

- Rumours spread that the cartridges were greased with the fat of cow (offensive to Hindus) and pig (offensive to Muslims).
- This created deep anger and resentment among Indian soldiers of both Hindu and Muslim communities.



3 Religious Sentiments Hurt

- Hindus considered the cow sacred, so using cow fat defiled their religion and caste.
- Muslims considered pork impure, so using pig fat violated their religious beliefs.
- It was seen as a deliberate attempt by the British to destroy the religious faith of Indians.



The Greased Cartridge Affair

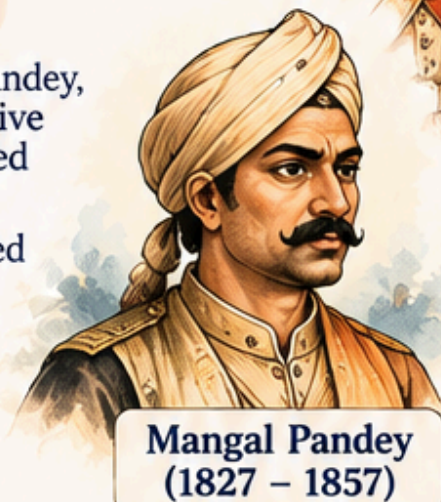
4 Refusal to Use Cartridges

- Indian soldiers refused to use the cartridges.
- Their concerns were ignored by the British authorities.
- This led to growing discontent and a sense of betrayal among the soldiers.



5 Immediate Trigger

- On 29th March 1857, Mangal Pandey, a sepoy of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry at Barrackpore, attacked British officers in protest.
- He was later arrested and hanged on 8th April 1857.
- This incident further inflamed the sentiments of the soldiers and marked the beginning of the rebellion.



Mangal Pandey
(1827 – 1857)

6 Spread of Discontent

- News of the incident spread rapidly among soldiers in different cantonments.
- It intensified the existing grievances related to pay, discrimination and British policies.
- Finally, it acted as the immediate cause for the outbreak of the Revolt of 1857.



Key Timeline

1856

Introduction of the Enfield rifle and new cartridges

29 March 1857

Mangal Pandey's attack at Barrackpore

8 April 1857

Mangal Pandey hanged

May 1857

Discontent spread and the revolt began





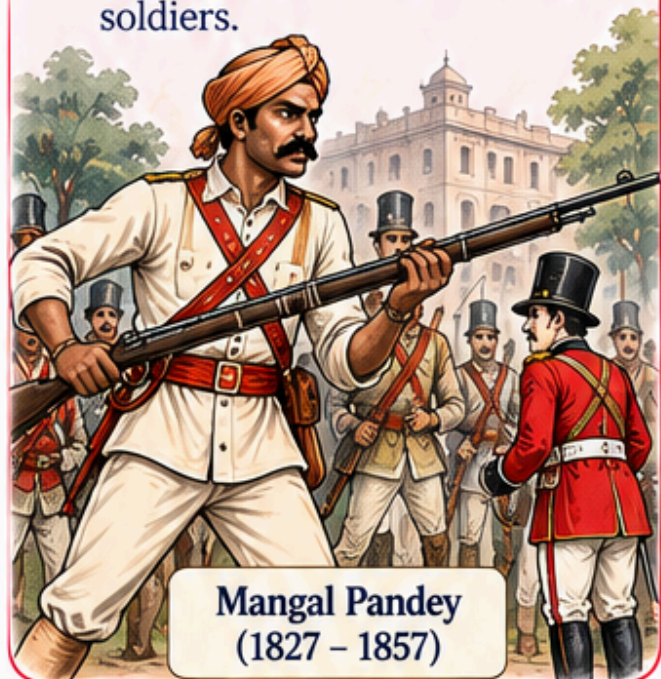
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2. The Outbreak of the Rebellion

1 The Spark at Barrackpore (March 29, 1857 CE)

- **Mangal Pandey**, a sepoy of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry, attacked British officers at Barrackpore on **29th March 1857**.
- He was angered by the use of **greased cartridges** and general grievances of soldiers.
- He was overpowered, arrested and later **hanged** on **8th April 1857**.
- His act became a **symbol** of resistance and inspired other soldiers.



Mangal Pandey
(1827 – 1857)

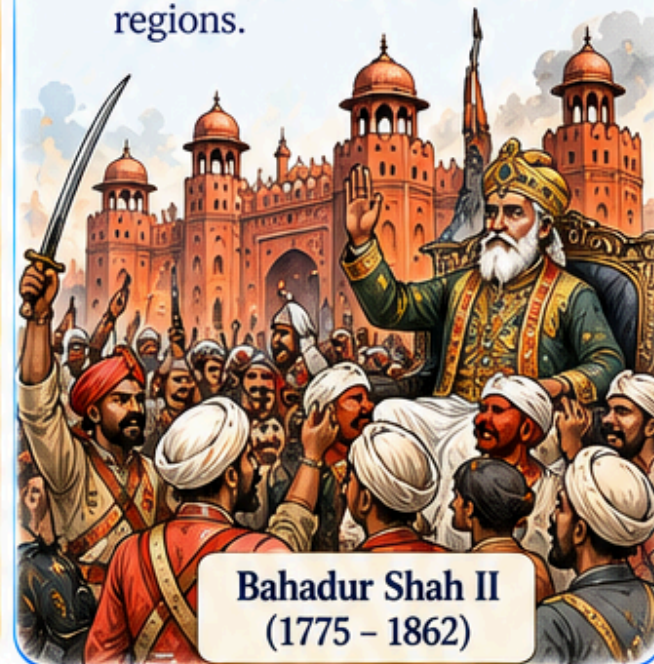
2 The Outbreak at Meerut (May 10, 1857 CE)

- On **9th May 1857**, 85 sepoys of the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry were court-martialled and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for refusing to use the greased cartridges.
- On **10th May 1857**, fellow soldiers revolted, freed the imprisoned sepoys, killed British officers and set fire to British establishments at Meerut.
- The rebels then marched towards Delhi (about 60 km away) on the same night.



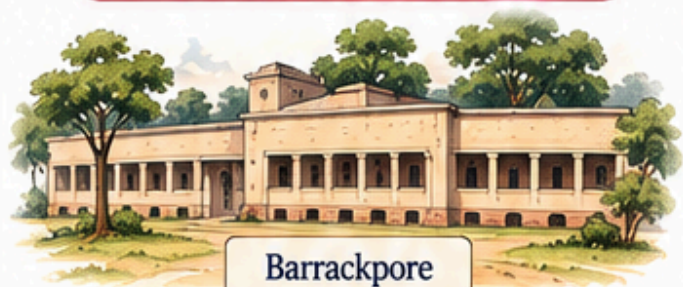
3 Capture of Delhi and Proclamation (May 11–12, 1857 CE)

- On **11th May 1857**, the rebels reached Delhi and took control of the city.
- They proclaimed **Bahadur Shah II**, the last Mughal emperor, as the leader of the revolt.
- On **12th May 1857**, Bahadur Shah II accepted the leadership.
- Delhi became the symbolic centre of the rebellion, giving it political legitimacy and inspiring its spread to other regions.



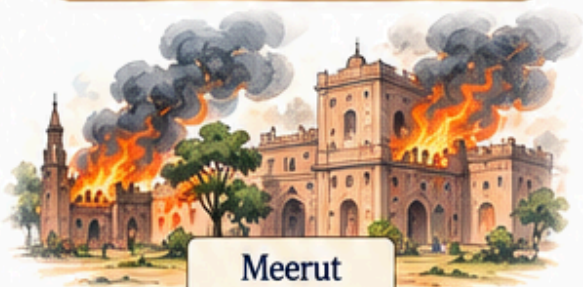
Bahadur Shah II
(1775 – 1862)

Barrackpore
(29 March 1857)



Barrackpore

Meerut
(10 May 1857)



Meerut

Delhi
(11–12 May 1857)



Delhi



Significance

- The events at Barrackpore and Meerut acted as the immediate trigger for the uprising.
- The capture of Delhi provided a political symbol and united the rebels under the nominal leadership of Bahadur Shah II.
- These early events quickly spread the rebellion to other parts of North and Central India.





The Revolt of 1857:

Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



3. Major Storm Centers, Leaders, and British Suppressors

Delhi

- **Leader:** Bahadur Shah II (last Mughal emperor)
- **British Suppressor:** General Archdale Wilson
- **Significance:** Became the symbolic centre of the revolt.



Bahadur Shah II
(1775 – 1862)

Meerut

- **Leaders:** Indian sepoy of 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry
- **British Suppressor:** General Hewitt
- **Significance:** The revolt began on 10th May 1857 here.



Lucknow

- **Leader:** Begum Hazrat Mahal (on behalf of Birjis Qadr)
- **British Suppressor:** Sir Colin Campbell
- **Significance:** One of the major centres with prolonged resistance.



Begum Hazrat Mahal
(? – 1879)

Kanpur

- **Leader:** Nana Saheb (Peshwa Baji Rao II's adopted son)
- **British Suppressor:** General Havelock and Sir Colin Campbell
- **Significance:** Fierce fighting and massacre of British civilians.



Nana Saheb
(1824 – c. 1859)

Bareilly

- **Leader:** Khan Bahadur Khan Rohilla
- **British Suppressor:** Brigadier Campbell
- **Significance:** Important centre in Rohilkhand region.



Khan Bahadur Khan
(? – 1860)



Major Storm Centers
of 1857

Jhansi

- **Leader:** Rani Lakshmibai
- **British Suppressor:** Sir Hugh Rose
- **Significance:** Fought bravely and became a symbol of resistance.



Rani Lakshmibai
(1828 – 1858)

Gwalior

- **Leader:** Tantia Tope (with Rani Lakshmibai)
- **British Suppressor:** Sir Hugh Rose
- **Significance:** Last major centre; captured by the British in June 1858.



Tantia Tope
(c. 1814 – 1859)

Arrah (Bihar)

- **Leader:** Kunwar Singh
- **British Suppressor:** Major Vincent Eyre
- **Significance:** Important centre in Bihar; Kunwar Singh, an elderly zamindar, fought bravely.



Kunwar Singh
(c. 1777 – 1858)

Key Takeaways



- The revolt spread across North and Central India, with several regional centres.
- Both rulers, zamindars and common people participated.
- British suppression was led by experienced generals and was brutal.
- Leaders like Rani Lakshmibai, Tantia Tope and Kunwar Singh became symbols of resistance.





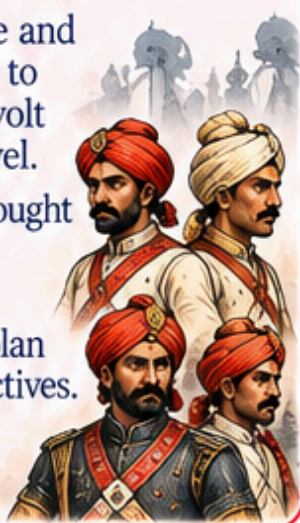
The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



4. Causes of the Failure of the Revolt

1 Lack of Unity and Central Leadership

- No single, capable and recognized leader to coordinate the revolt at the national level.
- Different regions fought for their own local interests.
- Lack of a unified plan and common objectives.



2 Limited Geographical Spread

- The revolt was mainly confined to North and Central India.
- Large parts of the country such as South India, East India and Punjab remained largely peaceful.
- It did not become a truly pan-Indian movement.



3 Lack of Support from Important Sections

- Many Indian princes and rulers (e.g., Scindia of Gwalior, Nizam of Hyderabad, rulers of Patiala, etc.) supported the British.
- The educated middle class remained largely aloof.
- Business communities also did not actively support the revolt.



4 Superior Military Strength of the British

- The British had better training, discipline and organization.
- They had superior weapons, modern communication and transport facilities (railways, telegraph).
- They received reinforcements from other parts of India and from Britain.



Causes of the Failure of the Revolt



5 Better Resources and Finances of the British

- The British had greater financial resources to sustain a long war.
- They could recruit more soldiers and purchase arms and ammunition from abroad.
- The rebels faced shortage of funds, weapons and supplies.



6 Divisions among the Rebels

- There were contradictions among the rebel leaders regarding goals and strategies.
- Differences based on region, caste, religion and personal interests weakened the movement.
- Jealousy and lack of mutual trust affected coordination.



7 Brutal Repression by the British

- The British adopted a policy of ruthless suppression.
- They used brutal methods, including mass executions, destruction of villages and harsh punishments.
- This created fear and demoralized the rebels.



8 Lack of a Clear Vision for the Future

- The rebels fought to restore old rulers and traditional systems.
- There was no clear and progressive vision of a new political order to unite all sections of society.
- This limited its appeal among the common people and other important groups.



Key Takeaway



- The Revolt of 1857 failed due to disunity, limited support, superior British resources and ruthless repression.
- Despite its failure, it exposed the deep dissatisfaction against British rule and laid the foundation for future national movement.



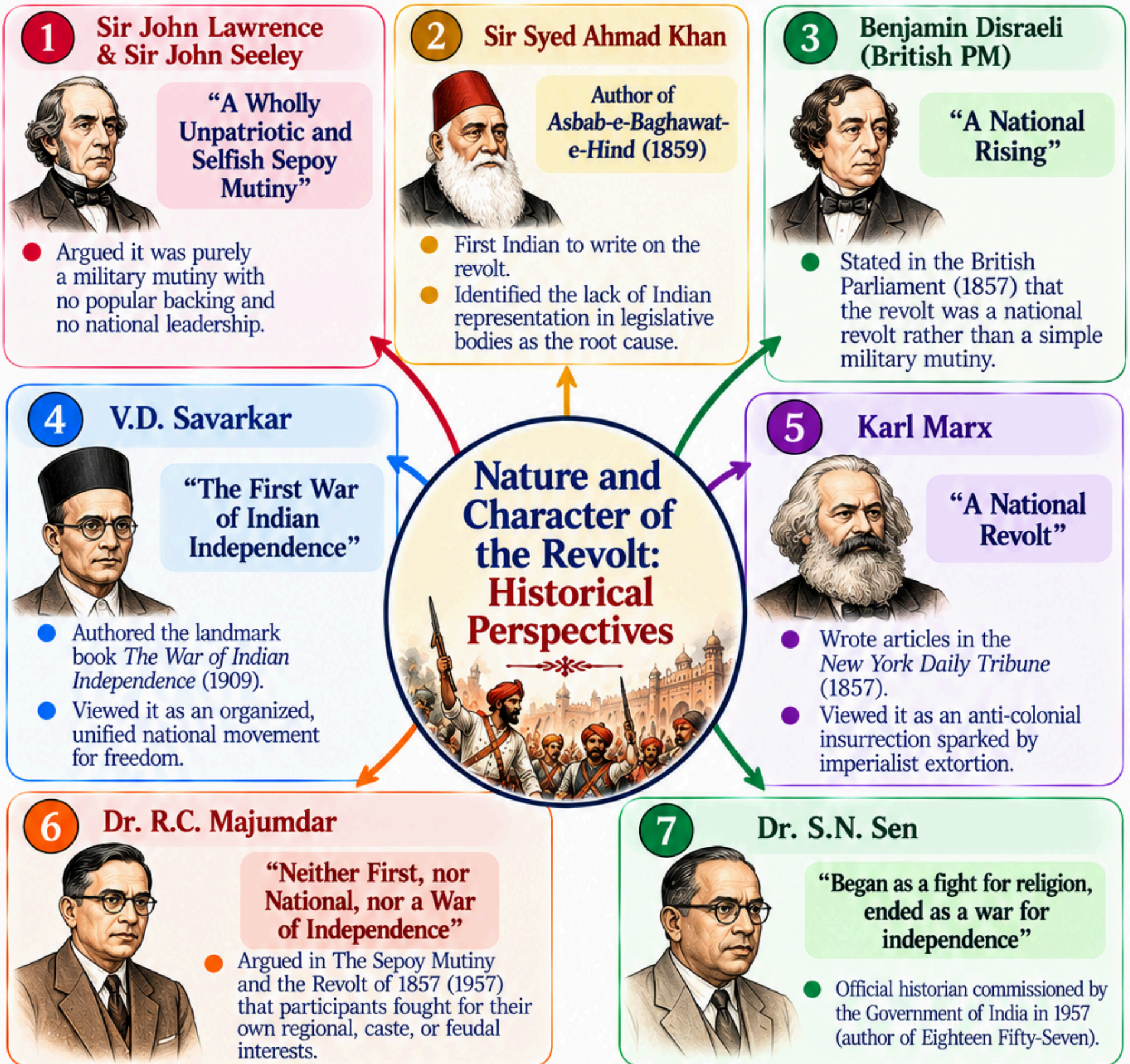


The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



5. Nature and Character of the Revolt: Historical Perspectives

Historians hold widely divergent perspectives on the true nature of the 1857 uprising:



Key Takeaways



- Historians have different interpretations ranging from a sepoy mutiny to a national war of independence.
- The revolt had multiple dimensions – military, political, economic, socio-religious and popular.
- It reflects the complexity of the event and the limitations of a single interpretation.





The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



6. Consequences and Aftermath: The New Imperial Order

CONSEQUENCES OF THE 1857 REVOLT

End of Company Rule



- Crown assumes direct control of India.
- Viceroy replaces Governor-General.
- Secretary of State for India appointed in Britain.

Queen's Proclamation 1858



- "Magna Carta of India"
- End of territorial expansion.
- Religious non-interference.
- Recognition of adopted heirs.
- Equality under law.

Military Reorganization



- Peel Commission (1859).
- 1:2 European-to-Indian ratio (Bengal Army).
- Martial vs. Non-Martial races.
- Artillery monopoly in British hands.

Policy of Divide and Rule



- Deliberate communal divisions.
- Repression of Muslims after the revolt.
- Encouragement of regional, caste and religious differences.

1 End of the East India Company

- **The revolt exposed the inefficiency and failure of the East India Company in governing India.**
The widespread uprising showed that the Company was no longer capable of maintaining law and order in India.
- **The Government of India Act, 1858 abolished the Company's rule.**
The British Parliament formally dissolved the Company's administration and transferred the sovereign governance of India directly to the British Crown under Queen Victoria.
- **All powers and responsibilities** were transferred from the East India Company to the British Crown, marking the end of over 100 years of Company rule in India.





The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



2

Queen Victoria's Proclamation (November 1, 1858)

- Read by **Lord Canning** at a grand imperial Durbar in **Allahabad**.
- Declared by the Indian public as the "**Magna Carta of the People of India**".
- **End of Territorial Annexations**
Renounced further expansion and promised to respect the rights, dignity and treaties of native princely states.
- **Recognition of Adopted Heirs**
Doctrine of Lapse was abandoned; native rulers were permitted to adopt heirs to their titles and private property.
- **Religious Non-Interference**
Pledged strict non-interference in the religious beliefs, rituals and customs of the Indian people.
- **Equality under Law**
Promised equal protection under the law and non-discriminatory access to public services based on merit, regardless of caste, color or creed.



3

Reorganization of the British Indian Army (The Peel Commission of 1859)

- **Altering Racial Ratios**
 - ▶ Bengal Army – 1 : 2 (1 European for every 2 Indians).
 - ▶ Madras and Bombay Armies – 1 : 2.5 or 1 : 3.
- **Artillery Monopoly**
 - ▶ Control of all heavy artillery, advanced armaments, communications and ammunition arsenals was placed strictly in the hands of European officers.
- **Martial and Non-Martial Races**
 - ▶ Sepoy regiments from **Awadh**, Bihar, Central India and Bengal were branded as "**Non-Martial**" and scaled down. Groups like **Gorkhas**, **Sikhs**, **Pathans** and **Punjabi Muslims** were designated as "**Martial Races**" and recruited in large numbers.
- **Caste and Community Separation**
 - ▶ Regiments were separated on the basis of caste, religion and ethnicity to prevent a sense of unity among soldiers.



4

Policy of "Divide and Rule" in Civil Governance

- Recognizing the extraordinary Hindu-Muslim unity displayed during the 1857 uprising, British administrators deliberately adopted a policy of communal division.
- Initial post-revolt repression fell heavily upon the Muslim community (viewed as the instigators behind Bahadur Shah Zafar's restoration).
- Later, colonial strategy cultivated communal rifts across society to impede the emergence of a secular nationalist movement.





The Revolt of 1857:

Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS

1 Governor-General during 1857 Revolt
Lord Canning (1856 – 1862 CE)



2 British Prime Minister during 1857 Revolt
Lord Palmerston
(Henry John Temple)



3 First Sepoy to Revolt at Barrackpore
Mangal Pandey
(March 29, 1857; 34th Bengal Native Infantry)



4 Official Date of Outbreak at Meerut
May 10, 1857 CE
(3rd Native Cavalry)



5 Emperor Proclaimed Leader of the Revolt
Bahadur Shah II 'Zafar'
(Title: Shahenshah-e-Hindustan)



6 Real Military Commander at Delhi
General Bakht Khan
(Bareilly artillery commander)



7 Commander who Captured Delhi
John Nicholson
(mortally wounded) & Captain Hodson



8 Leader at Kanpur & Advisor
Nana Saheb (Dhondu Pant) and Azimullah Khan



9 Real Name of Tantia Tope
Ramchandra Pandurang
(executed April 1859 after betrayal by Man Singh)



10 British General who Defeated Rani of Jhansi
Sir Hugh Rose
(Battle of Kotah-ki-Serai near Gwalior, June 1858)



11 Octogenarian Rebel Leader of Bihar
Babu Kunwar Singh
(Zamindar of Jagdishpur, Arrah)



12 Rebel Leader Known as "Danka Shah"
Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah
(operated in Faizabad / Rohilkhand)



13 First Indian to Author a Book on the Revolt
Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
(Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind, 1859)



14 First to Call it "First War of Independence"
V.D. Sawarkar
(In his 1909 book The War of Indian Independence)



15 Commission for Army Reorganization
Peel Commission
(1859 CE, fixed Bengal army ratio at 1 : 2)



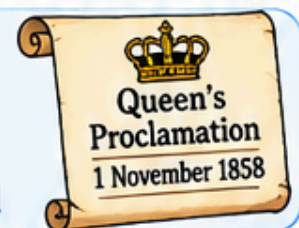
16 Act Ending East India Company Rule
Government of India Act 1858
(Crown Rule instituted)



17 First Viceroy of India
Lord Canning (1858 CE)



18 Date & Venue of Queen's Proclamation
November 1, 1858 CE,
read by Canning at Allahabad





The Revolt of 1857:

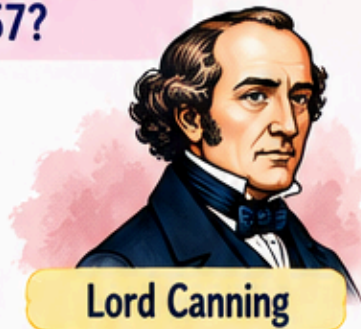
Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



MCQs

1 Who was the Governor-General of India at the time of the Revolt of 1857?

- A Lord Dalhousie
- B Lord Canning
- C Lord Ellenborough
- D Lord Wellesley



Lord Canning

Answer: B Lord Canning



Explanation:

Lord Canning was the Governor-General of India from 1856 to 1862. The Revolt of 1857 took place during his tenure. He later became the first Viceroy of India in 1858.

2 The immediate cause of the Revolt of 1857 was the issue of:

- A Subsidiary Alliance
- B Doctrine of Lapse
- C Greased cartridges
- D High land revenue



Greased Cartridges

Answer: C Greased cartridges



Explanation:

The use of greased cartridges in Enfield rifles, believed to be coated with the fat of cow and pig, hurt the religious sentiments of both Hindus and Muslims and acted as the immediate cause of the Revolt of 1857.

3 Who was the first sepoy to openly rebel against the British?

- A Mangal Pandey
- B Nana Saheb
- C Tantia Tope
- D Bahadur Shah II



Mangal Pandey

Answer: A Mangal Pandey



Explanation:

Mangal Pandey, a sepoy of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry, revolted at Barrackpore on 29 March 1857. His act is considered the first open act of rebellion.

4 At which place did the Revolt of 1857 formally begin?

- A Delhi
- B Kanpur
- C Meerut
- D Lucknow



Meerut

Answer: C Meerut

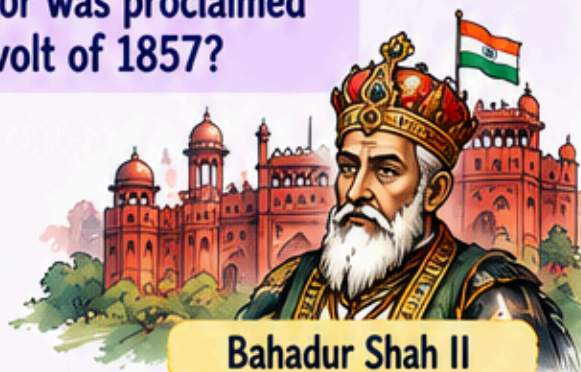


Explanation:

The Revolt of 1857 formally began on 10 May 1857 at Meerut, when sepoys of the 3rd Native Cavalry revolted against the British after being punished for refusing to use greased cartridges.

5 Which Mughal emperor was proclaimed the leader of the Revolt of 1857?

- A Akbar II
- B Bahadur Shah II
- C Shah Alam II
- D Humayun



Bahadur Shah II

Answer: B Bahadur Shah II



Explanation:

Bahadur Shah II, the last Mughal emperor, was proclaimed the symbolic leader of the Revolt of 1857 at Delhi. He was given the title "Shahenshah-e-Hindustan" by the rebels.



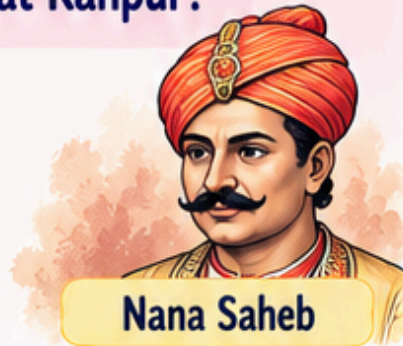


The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



6 Who led the Revolt of 1857 at Kanpur?

- A Tantia Tope
- B Nana Saheb
- C Kunwar Singh
- D Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah



Nana Saheb

Answer: B Nana Saheb

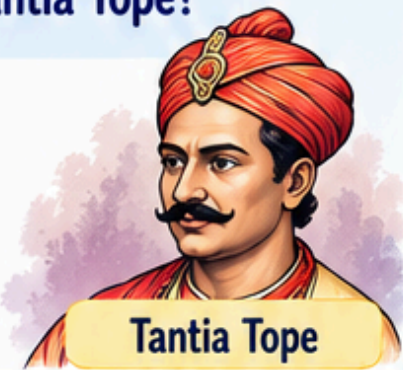


Explanation:

Nana Saheb (Dhondu Pant) led the revolt at Kanpur. He was adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II and opposed the British due to denial of his pension.

7 Who was the real name of Tantia Tope?

- A Ramchandra Pandurang
- B Tatya Vinayak
- C Pandit Ramnath
- D Govind Rao



Tantia Tope

Answer: A Ramchandra Pandurang



Explanation:

Tantia Tope's real name was Ramchandra Pandurang. He was a close associate of Nana Saheb and continued the resistance even after 1858. He was captured in 1859 and executed after being betrayed by Man Singh.

8 Who was the British Prime Minister during the Revolt of 1857?

- A Lord Canning
- B Lord Palmerston
- C Lord Dalhousie
- D William Gladstone



Lord Palmerston

Answer: B Lord Palmerston



Explanation:

Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston, was the British Prime Minister during the Revolt of 1857. He strongly supported suppressing the revolt.

9 Where did Rani Lakshmibai die?

- A Jhansi
- B Gwalior
- C Kanpur
- D Kalpi



Rani Lakshmibai

Answer: B Gwalior



Explanation:

Rani Lakshmibai died in June 1858 during the Battle of Kotah-ki-Serai near Gwalior while fighting against the British under Sir Hugh Rose.

10 Which Act ended the rule of the East India Company?

- A Regulating Act, 1773
- B Pitts India Act, 1784
- C Charter Act, 1833
- D Government of India Act, 1858



Answer: D Government of India Act, 1858



Explanation:

The Government of India Act, 1858 ended the rule of the East India Company and transferred the administration of India to the British Crown.





The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



11

Which commission was appointed for the reorganization of the Indian Army after the Revolt of 1857?

- A Hunter Commission
- B Peel Commission
- C Simon Commission
- D Rowlatt Commission



Answer: **B** Peel Commission



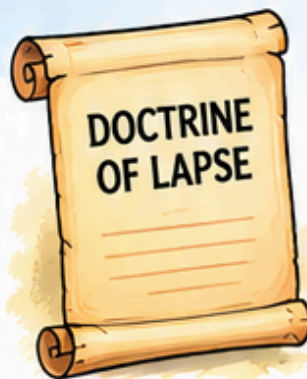
Explanation:

The Peel Commission (1859) was appointed to reorganize the Indian Army. It recommended a ratio of 1 European to 2 Indian soldiers and reduced the strength of Bengal Army.

12

Which of the following was NOT a cause of the Revolt of 1857?

- A Doctrine of Lapse
- B Heavy land revenue
- C Annexation of Awadh
- D Introduction of English education



Answer: **D** Introduction of English education



Explanation:

Introduction of English education was not a direct cause of the Revolt of 1857. The main causes included political annexations (Doctrine of Lapse), heavy land revenue, and annexation of Awadh.

13

Who among the following was known as the "Danka Shah" during the Revolt of 1857?

- A Nana Saheb
- B Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah
- C Khan Bahadur Khan
- D Begum Hazrat Mahal



Answer: **B** Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah



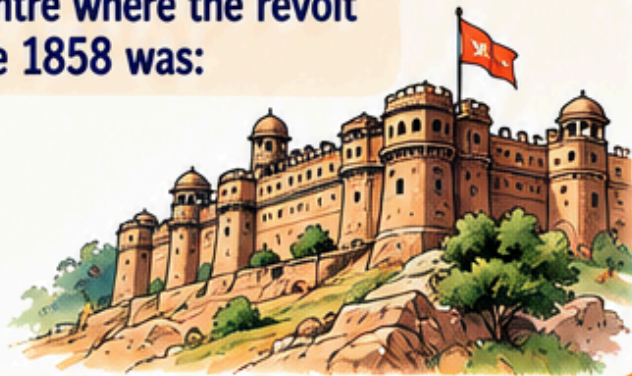
Explanation:

Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah, a charismatic leader, was known as "Danka Shah". He operated mainly in Faizabad and Rohilkhand and played a prominent role in the revolt.

14

The last major centre where the revolt continued till June 1858 was:

- A Delhi
- B Kanpur
- C Lucknow
- D Gwalior



Answer: **D** Gwalior



Explanation:

After the recapture of Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow, Gwalior remained the last major centre of resistance. It was captured by the British in June 1858.

15

Who wrote the book 'Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind' on the Revolt of 1857?

- A V.D. Savarkar
- B Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
- C R.C. Majumdar
- D K.M. Panikkar



Answer: **B** Sir Syed Ahmad Khan



Explanation:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan wrote the book 'Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind' in 1859, in which he analysed the causes of the Revolt of 1857 from an Indian perspective.





The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



16

Which of the following was a socio-religious cause of the Revolt of 1857?

- A Subsidiary Alliance
- B Annexation of Awadh
- C Fear of conversion to Christianity
- D Doctrine of Lapse



Answer: **C** Fear of conversion to Christianity



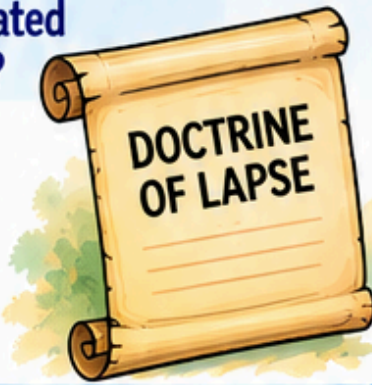
Explanation:

The British activities of Christian missionaries and measures like the introduction of Western education created fear among Indians that the British intended to convert them to Christianity.

17

Which British policy led to the annexation of several Indian states and created discontent among Indian rulers?

- A Subsidiary Alliance
- B Doctrine of Lapse
- C Ryotwari System
- D Permanent Settlement



Answer: **B** Doctrine of Lapse



Explanation:

Under the Doctrine of Lapse, the British annexed the states whose rulers died without a natural heir. This policy created deep discontent among Indian rulers and was one of the important causes of the Revolt.

18

Which region did NOT witness significant uprising during the Revolt of 1857?

- A Delhi
- B Kanpur
- C Punjab
- D Jhansi



Answer: **C** Punjab



Explanation:

Punjab remained largely peaceful during the Revolt of 1857. The loyal attitude of the Sikh chiefs and effective British administration helped the British to keep Punjab under control.

19

Which battle marked the final defeat of Rani Lakshmibai?

- A Battle of Bithoor
- B Battle of Kalpi
- C Battle of Gwalior (Kotah-ki-Serai)
- D Battle of Lucknow



Answer: **C** Battle of Gwalior (Kotah-ki-Serai)



Explanation:

Rani Lakshmibai died in June 1858 during the Battle of Kotah-ki-Serai near Gwalior while fighting against the British under Sir Hugh Rose. This battle marked her final defeat.

20

Which of the following was a consequence of the Revolt of 1857?

- A Expansion of East India Company rule
- B End of East India Company rule
- C Introduction of Ryotwari System
- D Establishment of Subsidiary Alliance



Answer: **B** End of East India Company rule



Explanation:

The Revolt of 1857 led to the end of the rule of the East India Company. The Government of India Act, 1858 transferred the administration of India to the British Crown.





The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



21

Who was the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces during the Revolt of 1857?

- A Lord Canning
- B Sir Hugh Rose
- C General Anson
- D General Colin Campbell



General Colin Campbell

Answer: **D** General Colin Campbell



Explanation:

General Colin Campbell was the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces during the Revolt of 1857. He played a key role in recapturing Delhi and suppressing the revolt in North India.

22

Which Indian state actively supported the British during the Revolt of 1857?

- A Awadh
- B Jhansi
- C Hyderabad
- D Kanpur



Hyderabad

Answer: **C** Hyderabad



Explanation:

The Nizam of Hyderabad supported the British during the Revolt of 1857. Hyderabad remained largely loyal to the British and provided them with crucial military and logistic support.

23

Which of the following was a major economic cause of the Revolt of 1857?

- A High land revenue
- B Greased cartridges
- C Annexation of Awadh
- D Introduction of railways



Answer: **A** High land revenue



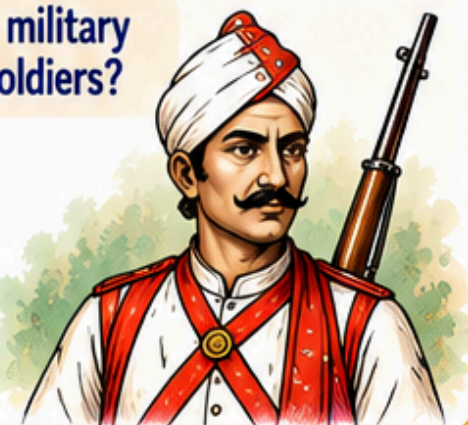
Explanation:

The high land revenue demand and exploitative revenue policies of the British disrupted the traditional agrarian economy, leading to widespread economic distress, which was a major cause of the Revolt of 1857.

24

Which of the following was a military grievance among the Indian soldiers?

- A Low salary
- B Overseas service (Kala Pani)
- C Use of greased cartridges
- D All of the above



Answer: **D** All of the above



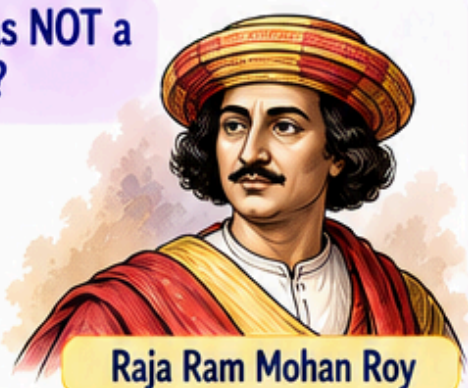
Explanation:

Indian soldiers faced several grievances including low salary, discrimination, overseas service (Kala Pani), and the use of greased cartridges, all of which contributed to their discontent and rebellion.

25

Who among the following was NOT a leader of the Revolt of 1857?

- A Rani Lakshmibai
- B Nana Saheb
- C Begum Hazrat Mahal
- D Raja Ram Mohan Roy



Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Answer: **D** Raja Ram Mohan Roy



Explanation:

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a social and religious reformer of the early 19th century. He died in 1833, long before the Revolt of 1857, and was not a leader of the revolt.





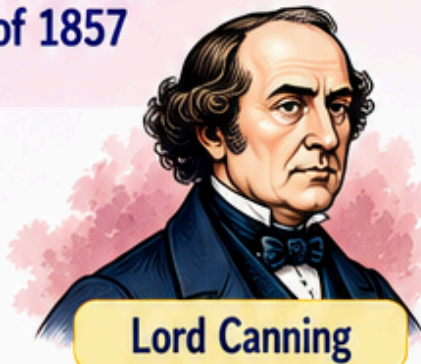
The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Centers, Leaders, and Consequences



26

Who was the British Governor-General at the time when the Revolt of 1857 broke out?

- A Lord Wellesley
- B Lord Dalhousie
- C Lord Canning
- D Lord Ripon



Lord Canning

Answer: **C** Lord Canning



Explanation:

Lord Canning was the Governor-General of India from 1856 to 1862. The Revolt of 1857 occurred during his tenure. He later became the first Viceroy of India in 1858.

27

Which event is considered the immediate cause of the Revolt of 1857?

- A Annexation of Awadh
- B Doctrine of Lapse
- C Greased cartridge affair
- D Imposition of land revenue



Greased Cartridges

Answer: **C** Greased cartridge affair



Explanation:

The use of greased cartridges in Enfield rifles, believed to be coated with the fat of cow and pig, hurt the religious sentiments of both Hindus and Muslims and acted as the immediate cause of the Revolt of 1857.

28

Who was the real military commander of the rebel forces at Delhi?

- A Mangal Pandey
- B Nana Saheb
- C General Bakht Khan
- D Tantia Tope



General Bakht Khan

Answer: **C** General Bakht Khan



Explanation:

General Bakht Khan, a former artillery subedar from Bareilly, was the real military commander of the rebel forces at Delhi. He organized the defence of Delhi and played a significant role during the revolt.

29

The Queen's Proclamation of 1858 was issued on which date?

- A 1 August 1858
- B 1 November 1858
- C 31 December 1858
- D 26 January 1859



Answer: **B** 1 November 1858



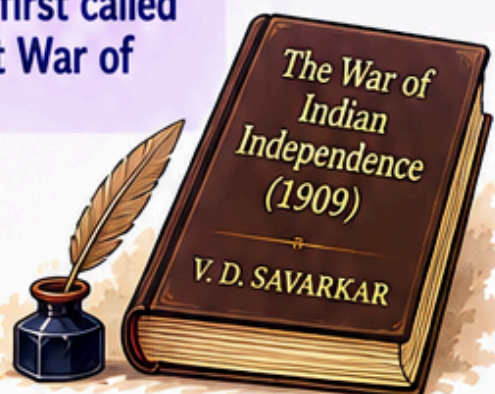
Explanation:

The Queen's Proclamation was issued on 1 November 1858 and was read by Lord Canning at Allahabad. It declared the end of the East India Company's rule and promised equal treatment to all subjects.

30

Who among the following first called the Revolt of 1857 a 'First War of Independence'?

- A R.C. Majumdar
- B V.D. Savarkar
- C Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
- D Jawaharlal Nehru



Answer: **B** V.D. Savarkar



Explanation:

V.D. Savarkar was the first to call the Revolt of 1857 a "First War of Independence" in his 1909 book The War of Indian Independence. He viewed it as a national struggle against British rule.





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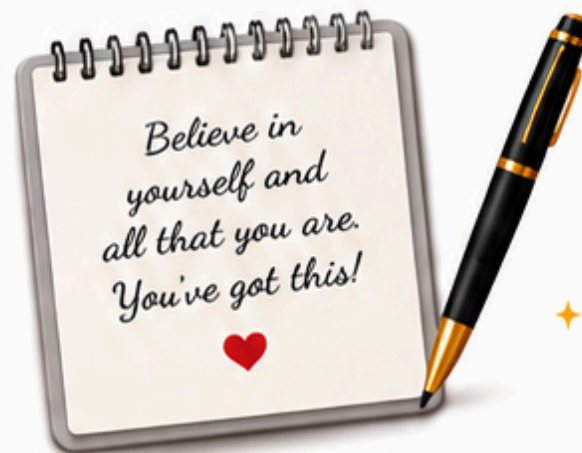
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