

History Civics

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Chapter - 1

The Revolt of 1857

Scope of syllabus

- Causes (political, socio religious, economic and military)
- Consequences (changes in the administration, Queen Victoria's proclamation, Relation with princely states and changes in Army)

Lets go!

General overview (Not in syllabus)

After the disintegration of Mughal empire, British East India Company came to India's political scenes. EIC strengthened their position with battles like Battle of Plassey and Battle of Buxar. Many people resented the rising control of EIC over India. The discontent of people came out as the Revolt of 1857

Causes of the Revolt

(2)

- Social causes

- Abolition of Sati $\Rightarrow$ Britishers abolished Sati (1829) and promoted widow remarriage but people were not ready to accept this suggestion.
- Britishers spreaded English education, constructed railways and telephone lines, but Indians felt endangered as they thought Britishers wanted to convert people to Christianity.
- Modern people like the introduction of railways but back then it was resented as people of all castes would have to travel in same compartment.
- Educated Indians were not given high posts.
- ★ the highest post for an Indian was a Sadar with Annual salary of ₹500. This was really painful for Indians.

- Economic causes

- Industrial revolution in England reduced the need of Indian handloom industry as same thing could be achieved faster with low costs.
- the handloom industry in India died out and many people became jobless.

- ③
- Taking advantage of the situation Britishers made peasants, weavers, craftsmen to work very hard and at very low wages.
 - Slowly people stopped getting enough money for food which caused famines.

★ Britishers also changed the entire agriculture system. Earlier farmers were self sufficient. They owned the lands, and only had to pay small part of their produce as revenue. In case of floods or droughts that was waived off. But under Britishers they had to work under strict systems like

- i) Permanent settlements
- ii) Ryotwari system
- iii) Mahalwari system

these are discussed later.

— Political causes



Wars

- i) Anglo-Mysore war
- ii) Anglo-Maratha war
- iii) Anglo-Sikh war
- iv) Battle of Plassey
- v) Battle of Buxar



Policies

- i) Subsidiary alliance
- ii) Doctrine of Lapse
- iii) Claim to Paramountcy

o Britishers used tactics like Annexation wars and policies to gain control over Indian politics.

i) Policy of Subsidiary Alliances (Lord Wellesly)

- 1) A British official was appointed in Indian States
- 2) Indian Rulers were not allowed to have their independent army.
- 3) The territories were protected by Britishers and the maintenance was paid by ruler.
- 4) Failure in payment resulted in losing a part of their territory to Britishers
- 5) Many States like Awadh and Hyderabad were annexed this way.

With this Britishers killed two Birds with One Stone. They got paid by Indian rulers for maintenance and secondly they got control over the States.

ii) Doctrine of Lapse

- 1) This policy didn't allow anyone to sit on the throne other than the biological son of the current ruler. If the ruler had no biological son, the kingdom passed onto the hands of Britishers.

- 2) This challenged the authority of rulers to appoint a heir of their own choice. ⑤
- 3) States annexed under this policy include Satara, Udaipur, Nagpur, Jhansi etc.

iii) Policy of Paramountcy (Lord Hastings)

- 1) The company claimed that its authority was supreme than that of states, so it was justified to annex any Indian ~~kingdom~~ kingdom
eg $\Rightarrow$ Punjab and Chittoor

iv) Policy of outright war

- 1) Britishers declared that if anyone refused to accept their authority then they resorted to wars for annexation
eg $\Rightarrow$ Anglo Sikh, Mysore and Marathe wars.

~~Disrespect~~ Disrespect of Mughal emperor.

- ① Britishers disrespected Bahadur Shah Zafar
- ② His name was removed from coins
- ③ He was kicked out of Red fort
- ④ His successors came to be known as peulce, not kings.

This hurted the sentiments of many people

(vi) Religious causes

(6)

- ① People feared that Britishers will convert them to Christians as they openly criticized Hindu-Muslim practices.
- ② Tax was imposed on lands where temples and mosques were made
- ③ They passed laws that allowed converts from Hindu to Christians to inherit their ancestral properties.

(v) Military cause

- (1) Indians officials were not paid well
- (2) Indian soldiers faced discrimination, they were given low ranks irrespective of merit.
- (3) There was no retirement age and they were mostly overseas for fighting.

(vi) Immediate Cause $\Rightarrow$ The Introduction of Enfield Rifles was the final nail in the coffin. Rumours were spread that cartridges were greased with fats of cows and pigs. Sepoys had to remove the cartridge with their teeth before loading. Both Hindus and Muslims denied as cows were sacred for Hindus and pigs were un auspicious for Muslims.

(7)

comment down if you want the causes
for failure of revolt (NOT in ICSE syllabus)

Consequences of the Revolt

(1) End of company's rule

(i) The British Crown took direct responsibility of governance in India and company's rule came to an end

(ii) A Secretary of State of India was to be made responsible for all matters related to governance of India

(iii) He was given a council for advisory purpose

(2) Policy of divide and Rule $\Rightarrow$

(i) After the Revolt of 1857 Britishers realised that Hindu-Muslim unity was not good for them. Britishers started to divide them. They confiscated Muslim properties on large scale to ignite hatred towards Hindus.

(3) Reorganisation of Army

(i) After the revolt number of Indian soldiers were reduced and European soldiers were increased.

(ii) they recruited soldiers among Gurkhas & Sikhs instead of from Awadh, Bihar & South India.

(4) Change of attitude towards rulers.

(8)

- (i) Every kingdom was assured that their kingdom would not be annexed.
- ii) they were also allowed to choose heir of their own choice.
- iii) However all the rulers were supposed to accept the rule of British Crown.

(5) Rise of Nationalism $\Rightarrow$

- (i) The result aroused a feeling of nationalism amongst the people of India because for the first time the entire country stood up for themselves.

Land Revenue Systems (Not in Syllabus)

- 1) Permanent Settlement - Lord Cornwallis
- $\Rightarrow$ Ryotwari System - Thomas Munro
- 3) Mahalwari $\rightarrow$ Helt Mackenzie

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