

**COMPREHEHNSIVE COURSE ON MODERN  
INDIAN HISTORY**

**INDIAN REACTION  
REVOLT OF 1857-  
1ST WAR OF INDIAN  
NATIONAL  
INDEPENDENCE ?**



**WORKBOOK- CLASS HANDOUT**



***By- Pratik Nayak  
(PNLIVE)***





## Pratik Nayak



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**BE Civil, M. Planning (CEPT University)**

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Sources of Reading-  
Pratik Nayak- Workbook  
Running notes of the class

Comprehensive Coverage-  
Previous Years Questions

Hello Learners- please find this workbook containing topics to covered

This workbook contains the compiled information/facts/analysis sourced from various sources.

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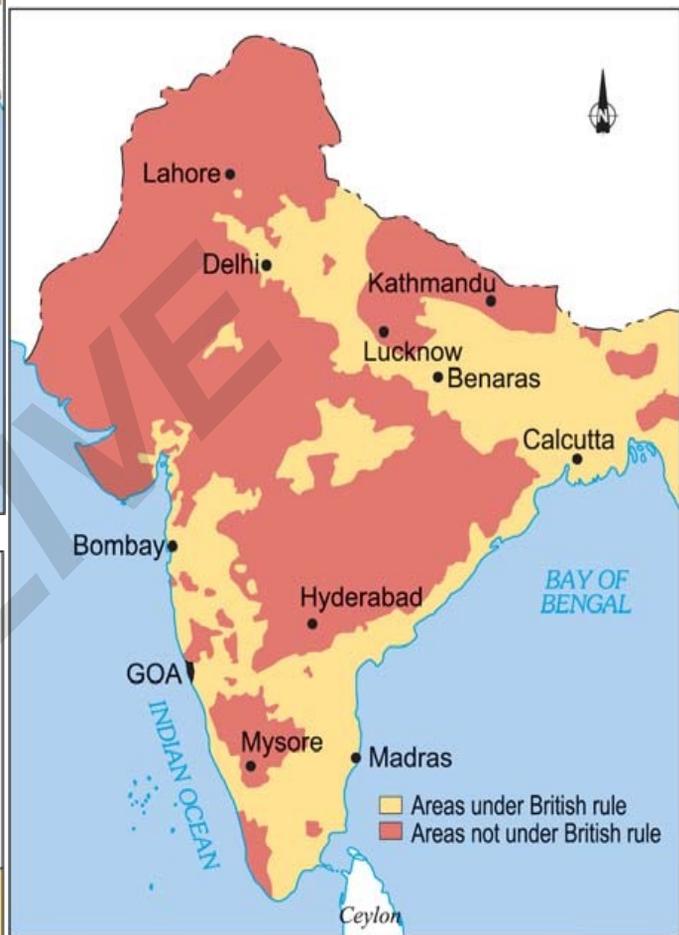
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# Phases of British Conquest



*Sil...Sil....ye British conquest ka Indians ke taraf se koi reaction nahi aaya kya ?*

*Golu.... Tumhe lagta hain Indians chup baithe rahenge.....*





# MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

Q. How the British conquest took place?

केक कटेगा सबमे बाटेगा

ऐसा कैसे

Europeans

Princely states

Portuguese

Dutch

French

Others

Later Mughals (Delhi)

Deccan

Awadh

Sikh

Mysore Marathas

1612

1759

1760

I will Anglicise you.....



हमार जमीन ले ली

ऐसा कैसे

मुझसे तो पूछो मत

जागो रे

हम जीत गए

## Indian Reaction

### Indian Reaction to British Rule

#### Immediate Reaction

Revolts (In traditional form)

- Who
- Where
- How
- Why
- Outcome / Impact

#### Ideological Reaction

- Making of Organisations
- Development of Education
- Role of press
- Creating awareness among masses
- Hence, modern response

Social

Economic

Political



## The Revolt of 1857

- **Origin**
- **How it began**
- **Sepoy Mutiny / Freedom Struggle**
- **Leaders**
- **Revolt location**
- **Causes**
- **Why it failed / Was it a Failure?**



Rani of Jhansi

Mangal Pandey

Tantia Tope

Nana Sahib

### Phase- I- Start & Spread of the revolt

### Phase- II Reaction from the Company

### Phase- III Outcome & Changes

#### Background to Revolt

19th Native Infantry at Berhampur

34<sup>th</sup> Native Infantry → Mangal Pande

On 29 March 1857, a young soldier, Mangal Pandey, was hanged to death for attacking his officers in Barrackpore.

executed on April 6

#### From Meerut to Delhi

Some days later, some sepoy of the regiment at Meerut refused to do the army drill using the new cartridges, which were suspected of being coated with the fat of cows and pigs.

Eighty-five sepoy were dismissed from service and sentenced to ten years in jail for disobeying their officers.

This happened on 9 May 1857.

The response of the other Indian soldiers in Meerut was quite extraordinary.

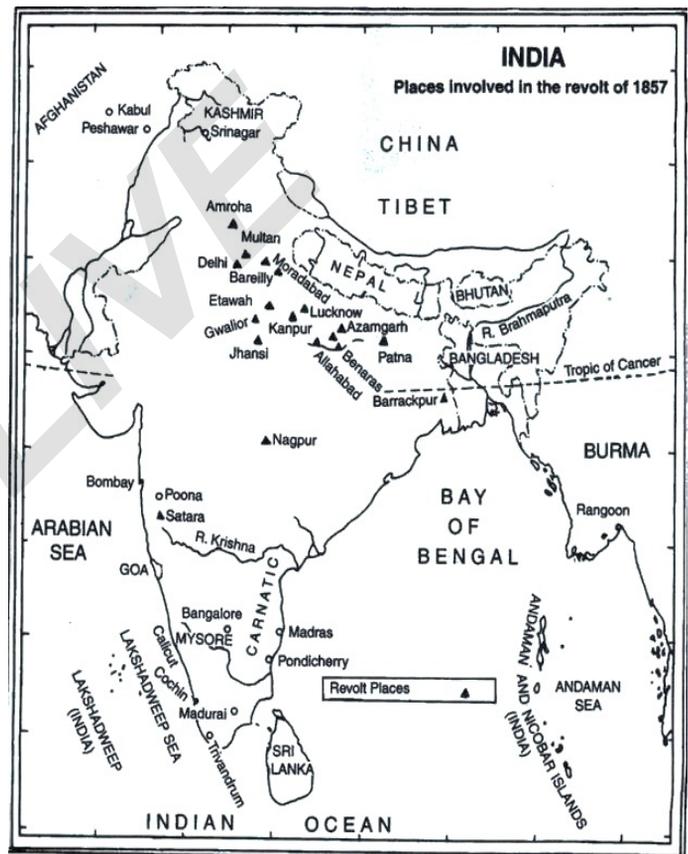
On 10 May, the soldiers marched to the jail in Meerut and released the imprisoned sepoy.

#### Origin

- 10<sup>th</sup> May 1857 – Sepoy @ 3<sup>rd</sup> cavallry meerut
- Revolted – Freed 85 Court martialled comrades
- Joined by 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> native infantry
- Killing of EIC officials col.Finnis
- Marching towards Delhi



- **Why Delhi?**
- Seat of Bahasurshah Zafer.
- No British Army equipment stationed
- 11<sup>th</sup> May – Reached Delhi – massacre of civil officials of EIC
- Delhi magazine – Lt. Willoughby fought initially
- Bahadur shah proclaimed as Emperor
- Bakht khan taking the lead
- Spreading of revolt



Centres of the Revolt of 1857

27 June 1857, Kanpur (then spelled as Cawnpore) saw one of the grimmest stories of Indian history of independence.

Around 300 British men, women and children were slaughtered at the Satti Chaura Ghat, later gaining identification as Massacre Ghat.

Those who escaped the brutal fate that day were later killed at the Bibighar Massacre. The rebellion was believed to be led by Nana Sahib of Peshwa from which the Ghat was renamed as Nana Rao Ghat.



# The Revolt of 1857

## Spreading of Revolt

### Phase- I- Start & Spread of the revolt



4 June 1857

Lucknow – Annexed by Dalhousie

- Begum Hazrat Mahal
- Son Declared as Nawab
- Killing of Henry Lawrence

Bareilly

- Khan Bahadur
- Descendent of Ruhilkhand

**Shah Mal- led the revolt in Baghpat**

5 June 1857

Kanpur

- Nana Saheb & Tatyta Tope
- Azimullah
- Guirella Warfare

Aarah July 1857

- Kunwar singh of Jagdishpur
- Faizabad
- Mullah Ahmadullah

June 1857

Jhansi

Laxmi bai – Gangadhar Rao

- ↓
- Adopted son Damodar Rao
- Doctrine of Laps

Punjab

- Naushera & Hoti Mardan

Patna

- Maulvi Pir ali



Fig. 6 – Bahadur Shah Zafar



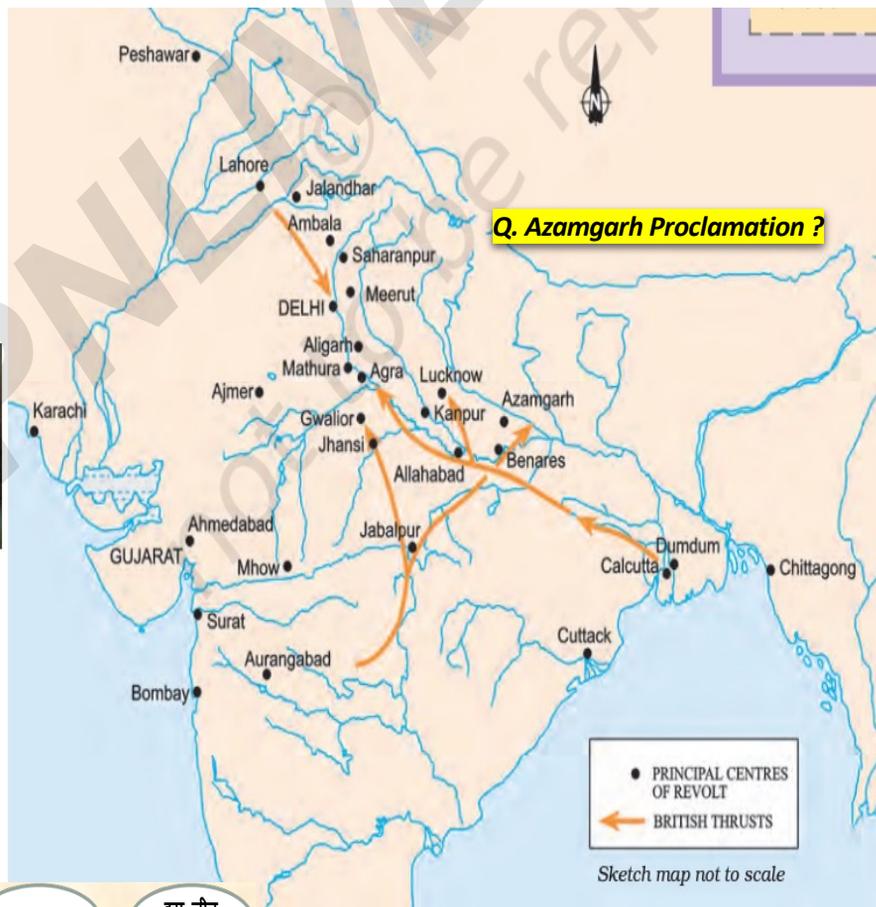
Fig. 5 – Postal stamp issued in commemoration of Mangal Pandey



Fig. 9 – A portrait of Nana Saheb



Fig. 10 – A portrait of Vir Kunwar Singh



**Q. Azamgarh Proclamation ?**

*manifesto provides a detailed list of the different grievances of different sections of the society against the unjust colonial rule, and asserts the ability of the Mughals to establish their suzerainty over India.*

*In the proclamation, the rulers and chieftains are advised to accept the throne of Delhi and stand up for their subjects in times of crisis.*

*The author reasons that, 'both Hindoos and Mohammedans are being ruined under the tyranny and oppression of the infidel and treacherous English'.*

*By making them aware of the injustice done by the English the manifesto appeals to landlords, merchants, public servants, artisans, and people of different religions to accept the Badshahi Government and assures a better economic, social, and cultural future after the defeat of the British.*

*Finally, warnings are made that anyone who accepts Colonial rule even after the circulation of this ishtihar will have his property confiscated and imprisoned with his family, and sentenced to death.*

*The manifesto not only sheds light on the politics of the time but also shows that the struggle for freedom in India transcended religion*

**Q. Was it a Planned revolt or Spontaneous outburst ?**

*red lotuses and chappatis were used as symbols of freedom.*

*Roaming sanyasis and fakirs delivered speeches and mobilised anti-colonial elements. All this helped in stirring up the rebellion.*



# The Revolt of 1857

Why this Revolt → Expanded ?

**Phase- I- Start & Spread of the revolt**

**Causes**

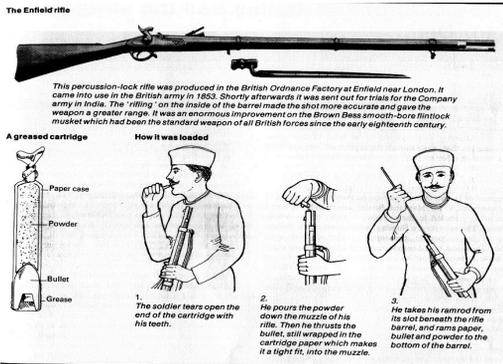
**Immediate Reasons**

- Sepoy Grievances
- Enfield Rifle
- Religion In danger

**Long term Reasons**

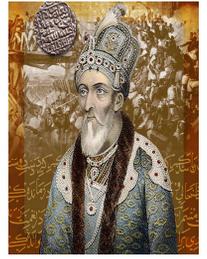
**Grievances Against British Rule**

- |                                     |   |                 |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <b>Political</b><br>- Native Rulers | <b>Social</b><br>- Reforms<br>- Changes<br>- Masses<br><b>Getting Alienated</b> | <b>Economic</b> | <b>Sepoys</b><br><br><b>Outside Factors</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|



Mera Vachan hi Sashan hai....

Aila....Ab no more Shahenshah e Hindustan



**1. Political Causes**

**1) EIC policy of Effective control**

- Subsidiary alliance – Wellesley
  - Paramountcy – Hasting
  - Doctrine of Lapse – Dalhousie
- Lapse of all morals rights to conquest –**
- satara (1848)
  - Jaitpur (1849) - Udaipur (1852)
  - Sambalpur (1849) - Jhansi (1853)
  - Bhagat (1850) - Nagpur (1854)
  - Misgovernance – Awadh (1856)

- Titles of Carnatic, Tanjore also taken
- Muslims feeling Hurt
- House of Timur is being Destroyed.

- Abolition of Regal titles
- Bahadur shah zafar-II humiliated & insulted
- His son not recognised as Shahenshah-E-Hindstan

The name of the Mughal king was removed from the coins minted by the Company.

In 1849, Governor-General Dalhousie announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the family of the king would be shifted out of the Red Fort and given another place in Delhi to reside in.

In 1856, Governor-General Canning decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal king and after his death none of his descendants would be recognised as kings – they would just be called princes

**Absentee Sovereignty**

- Conqueror who came earlier Settled in India, became Indianised
- Conquest → Settled → Expanded → No drain going on
- But British – Stayed in London
- Drain of Wealth
- Alienation Increased

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**Pax Britannica**

- Expansion of rule
- Annexation of states
- Disbanding of army
- Soldiers unemployed
- Full grievance

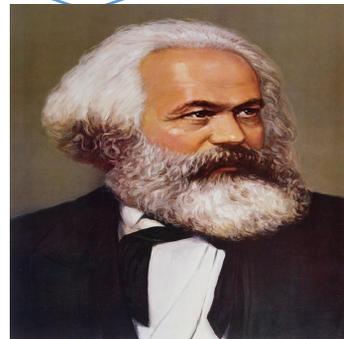


## The Revolt of 1857

### 2. Administrative & Economic Causes:-

- 1) Administration
  - No promotion
  - Indian official salary ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of the European official)
  - Thomas Munro tried to increased employment of Indians
- 2) Economical Causes
  - Land Revenue Settlement → Ryotwari, Mahalwari, Zamindari
  - Judicial System
  - Destruction of trade, Handicraft & Industry – Development of infrastructure
  - Zamindars land getting confiscated → Inam Commission (1852)
  - Talukdars land being dispossessed.

Karl Marx (1853) → It was the British intruder who broke up the Indian Handloom & destroyed the spinning wheel



### 3. Social Reasons :-

- Socio-culture-religion**
- Racial Discriminations
  - White man's burden
  - White race is the purest
  - Even if they commit crime- white man can't be punished
  - Interference in Religion & Culture
  - Charter Act 1813 – Entry of Christianity
  - 1829- Sati abolishment
  - Western Education, Anglicisation – Institute were called as shaitani daftars
  - 1850 – Religious Disabilities Act
  - Change of religion did not Debar son from Inheriting the property of his father
  - 1856 – Widow Remarriage Act.



Bhai....I am back...let's do farming...



Bhai...kaunsi kheti...kaunsi zameen...sab chala gaya....



Ke bola..chote...tane kheti karni se.... Bawil punch...sab angrezon le liya



#### Reaction

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1857 → 19<sup>th</sup> native Infantry
- 29 March 1857 → 34<sup>th</sup> native Infantry Mangal Pande
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 1857 → Boom....Boom....Boom

### 4. Military – Sepoy

- Salary & Allowances
- Racial Discrimination
- Forced serving in Burma & Afghanistan
- 1824 the sepoy were told to go to Burma by the sea route to fight for the Company, they refused to follow the order, though they agreed to go by the land route
- Not gifting land as Jagir like earlier
- With drawing special privileges like free postal services
- 1854- Post Office Act
- 1854- Crimean War & Santhal Rebellion
- 1856 – General Enlistment act → Compulsory service to any region
- By 1857 – Enfield rifle
- 1856 – Bone dust in flour

All work and No pay.....huh



#### Composition

- Hereditary
- Peasants family – Bengal
- Rajput & Zamindars – Awadh
- Royal family members
- In short all were dispossessed
- Soldier Peasant in uniform

∴

## The Revolt of 1857

### Phase- II Reaction from the Company

Unnerved by the scale of the upheaval, the Company decided to repress the revolt with all its might.

It brought reinforcements from England, passed new laws so that the rebels could be convicted with ease, and then moved into the storm centres of the revolt.

Hum karein to karein kya...bole  
toh bole kya....



MAP OF INDIA

### Phase II Revolt Suppression

#### Sep. 1857

- Capture of Delhi
- Effort by John Nicholson – Died
- Vengeance by the British
- Bahadur Shah Zafar capture & sent to Rangoon
- Son & Grandson killed by lt. Hudson some escaped to Nepal (Prince tucy)
- Fall of Delhi
- Impact on other centres as well.

The last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment.

His sons were shot dead before his eyes.

He and his wife Begum Zinat Mahal were sent to prison in Rangoon in October 1858

Bahadur Shah Zafar died in the Rangoon jail in November 1862

अपनी झाँसी  
नहीं दूँगी



Rani Lakshmi Bai was defeated and killed in June 1858.

Tantia Tope escaped to the jungles of central India and continued to fight a guerrilla war with the support of many tribal and peasant leaders.

He was captured, tried and killed in April 1859

#### April 1858

- Fall of Jhansi
- Rani Lakshmi Bai defeated & died.
- "Here lay the women who was the only man among the rebels"
- Tantia escaping Nepal (Gujarat?)
- 1859 Betrayed & Captured executed

Wah Kya  
baat.....  
Behenji

#### May – July 1858

- Capture of Bareilly – Khan Bahadur
- Jagdishpur – Kunwar Singh
- What will be the impact of the leaders getting killed ?



#### Dec. 1857

- Colin Campbell Recaptures Kanpur (Dec 1857)
- Nana Saheb Escaped to Nepal (Gujarat)
- Tatyia Joined Lakshmi Bai
- Lucknow Recaptured (March 1858)

Rani Lakshmi Bai was defeated and killed in June 1858.

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## The Revolt of 1857

**Q. What will be the impact of the leaders getting killed ?**

**the defeat of rebel forces encouraged desertions.**

**The British also tried their best to win back the loyalty of the people.**

**They announced rewards for loyal landholders would be allowed to continue to enjoy traditional rights over their lands.**

**Those who had rebelled were told that if they submitted to the British, and if they had not killed any white people, they would remain safe and their rights and claims to land would not be denied.**

**Nevertheless, hundreds of sepoys, rebels, nawabs and rajas were tried and hanged.**

Aao...kise revolt karna hai....



**End of the Revolt took place by September 1857  
What were the reasons behind the failure ?**

**Q. Leaders of the Revolt & Role of the British ?**

Delhi - General Bakht Khan  
 Kanpur - Nana Saheb  
 Lucknow - Begum Hazrat Mahal  
 Bareilly - Khan Bahadur  
 Bihar - Kunwar Singh  
 Faizabad - Maulvi Ahmadullah  
 Jhansi - Rani Laxmibai  
 Baghpat - Shah Mal

Delhi – Lieutenant Willoughby, John Nicholson,  
 Lieutenant Hudson  
 Kanpur - Sir Hugh Wheeler, Sir Colin Campbell  
 Lucknow - Henry Lawrence, Brigadier Inglis,  
 Henry Havelock, James Outram,  
 Sir Colin Campbell  
 Jhansi - Sir Hugh Rose  
 Benaras - Colonel James Neill

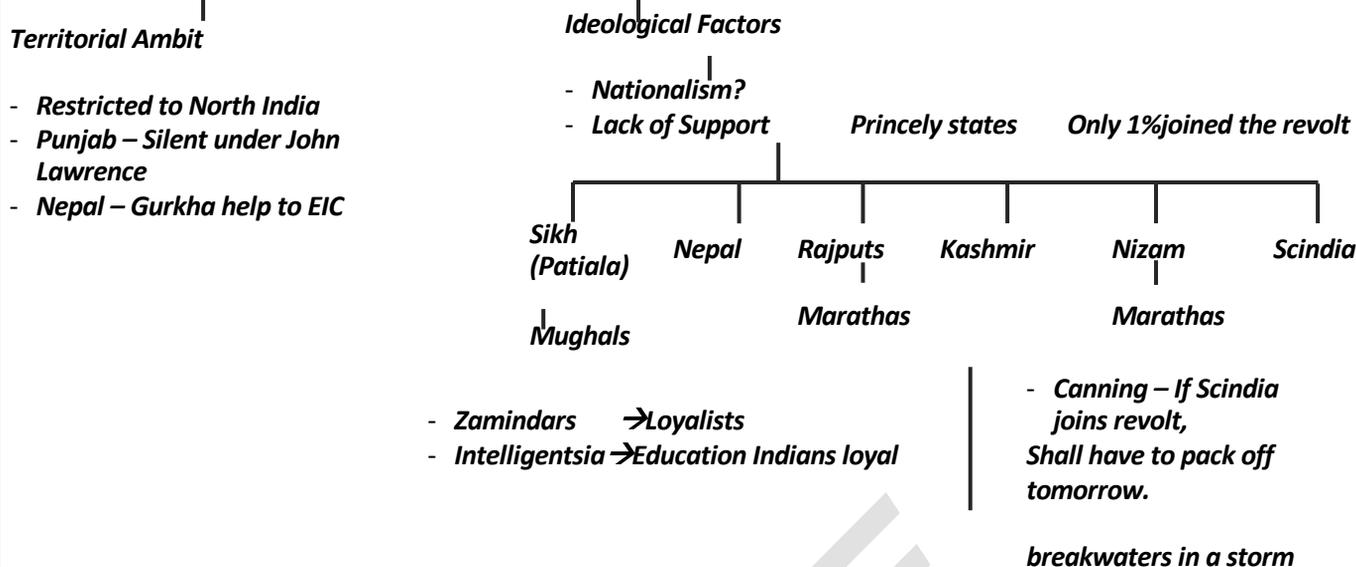
MAP OF INDIA



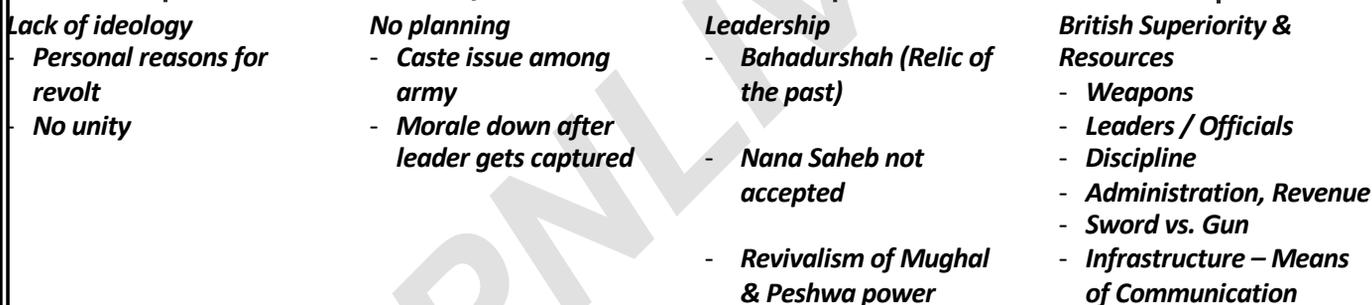


## The Revolt of 1857

Q. Why it Failed?



Q. Why it Failed?



But in the end Q. Comes – Was it a Failure?  
Yes / no ?

- Sepoy Mutiny vs. National war of Independence

Q. Significance.

- Glorious landmark in Indian History
- Hindu Muslim Unity- no communal issues
- Banning of cow slaughter
- Leadership respected- Nana Saheb, Azimullah, Bakht Khan
- Idea of Indian unity Towards nationalism
- British 1<sup>st</sup> big setback after Plassey – white invincibility shattered
- Half of the Indian Sepoys had participated
- Change of policy
- Now favourable towards princely states
- End of EIC rule

Q. Was it a Sepoy mutiny or war of Independence?

- Different opinion Europeans Vs. Indian.

Subhadra Kumari Chauhan: “Khoob lari mardani woh to Jhansi wali rani thi





## The Revolt of 1857

- Sepoy Mutiny vs. National war of Independence

Sir John Lawrence & Seely → Sepoy Mutiny, Over patriotic & Selfish

LER Rees → It was a war of religious fanatics. Both Hindus & Muslims against the Christians

TR Holmes → It was a war between civilisation & barbarism

James Outram- Outbreak was the result of Hindu-Muslim Conspiracy

Benjamin Disraeli- it was national uprising

Percival Spear- the passion of the mutineers were centred on grievance, they had no larger ideals

Stanely Wolpert- it was far more than a mutiny, yet much less than a first war of independence



Sir Syed Ahmed Khan → He held British responsible for the revolt

Accepted general discontent among people

RP Dutt (Marxist POV)- soldier-peasant democratic combine against foreign imperialism as well as indigenous landlordism

VD Savarkar → First war of Indian National Independence

Jawaharlal Nehru- Feudal outburst headed by Feudal chiefs with some nationalistic elements

RC Majumdar → It was neither first nor national nor war of Independence

Surenranath Sen → It was a war which started for the protection of religion but got converted into war of independence  
Why so? - it assumed Political character

SB Chaudhari - first combined attempt of many classes of people to challenge a foreign power. This is a real, if remote, approach to the freedom movement of India of a later age

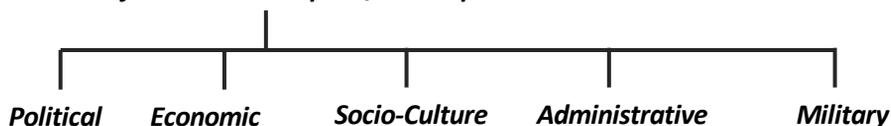


Tarachand- not inspired by any sentiment of nationalism, for in 1857 India was not yet politically a nation. It is a fact that the Hindus and Muslims cooperated, but the leaders and the followers of the two communities were moved by personal loyalties rather than loyalty to a common motherland



## The Revolt of 1857

### Q. Outcome of the Revolt – Impact / Consequences



**The revolt of 1857 led not to the downfall but to the consolidation and permanence of our Empire in the East – Quote by the Sunday review, London.**

#### In changes of power?

- Bill introduced by lord Palmerstone – But couldn't pass
- Edward Henry
- An act for the better government of India.
- August 2, 1858. → "Govt. of India act, 1858"
- EIC → British Crown
- Governor General + Viceroy
- Abolishing Court of Directors & Board of Control
- Secretary of state for India in council (15 members)
- By 1, November 1858 → Queen's proclamation @ Allahabad
- By 1876 queen got title of Kaiser-E-Hind @ Delhi Durbar.

#### Queens proclamation @ Allahabad

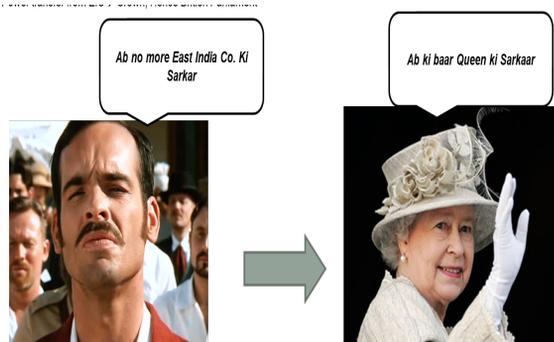
- Making canning the viceroy Salary 2.5 lakh rupees / month
- No more annexations of princely states
- No more direct impositions of social-culture ideas
- Office acceptance for all
- Ancient rights, customs to be paid due respect
- Clemency to those who haven't been convicted of murdering British officials
- Land returned to the Zamindars.

**All ruling chiefs of the country were assured that their territory would never be annexed in future.**

**They were allowed to pass on their kingdoms to their heirs, including adopted sons.**

**However, they were made to acknowledge the British Queen as their Sovereign Paramount.**

**Thus the Indian rulers were to hold their kingdoms as subordinates of the British Crown**

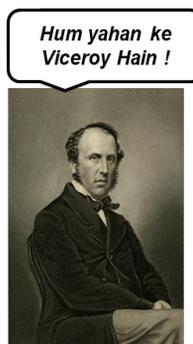


**A member of the British Cabinet was appointed Secretary of State for India and made responsible for all matters related to the governance of India.**

**He was given a council to advise him, called the India Council.**

**The Governor-General of India was given the title of Viceroy, that is, a personal representative of the Crown.**

**Through these measures the British government accepted direct responsibility for ruling India.**



**The land and property of Muslims was confiscated on a large scale and they were treated with suspicion and hostility.**

**The British believed that they were responsible for the rebellion in a big way.**

**The British decided to respect the customary religious and social practices of the people in India.**

**Policies were made to protect landlords and zamindars and give them security of rights over their lands.**



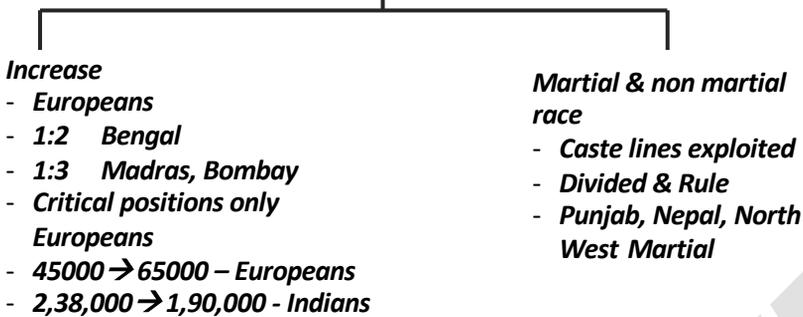
## The Revolt of 1857

### Q. Reorganisation of the Army? Army Amalgamation Scheme, 1861



- It started with the army
- John Lawrence      **Need to break the Homogeneity of the Bengal Army**

#### Causes



### Q. Why Significant?

- Defence
- Expansion @ other places (Crimea, Africa, China Etc. )

### Q. Impact?

- Defence Expenditure Increased
- Hence Drain of Wealth

It was decided that the proportion of Indian soldiers in the army would be reduced and the number of European soldiers would be increased.

It was also decided that instead of recruiting soldiers from Awadh, Bihar, central India and south India, more soldiers would be recruited from among the Gurkhas, Sikhs and Pathans

### White Mutiny- Outcome of Army Amalgamation Scheme ?

Merger of East India Company's Army unit with Queen's Army

EIC troops received extra Bhatta/privileges  
The merger stopeed this

Hence white mutiny- started by European soldiers

ऐसा कैसे



### Q. Princely States.

- Subordination Continued
- Abandoning international status
- Loyal prizes rewarded
- Included into board of privileged
- By 1862 new order      **Star of India**

- Bhopal, Baroda, Gaekwad, Patiala, Rampur
- Punish princely states for mismanagement
- Consolidated partnership with them
- Got help from them in world wars
- 20 Feb 1947, Clement Atlee's Statement.....

Q. Conservatism brand of liberalism- increased

Rise of Indian Nationalism

Q. Racism Increased- Hatred & suspicion between the British & Indians

Promoting orthodox elements  
White man's burden- propagated



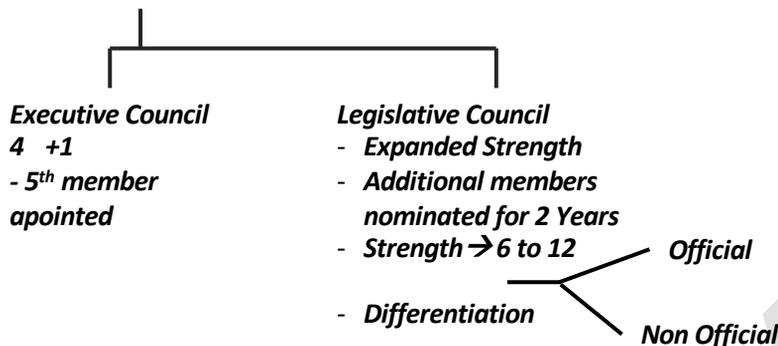
## The Revolt of 1857

### Q. Political Changes

- 1861 Indian Councils Act.
- Leg. Powers for Bombay & Madras Restored
- Leg. Councils Set up Bengal & Bombay – 1862, Up – 1886, Punjab – 1894
- Governor General



- Charles Wood



- 3 Indians appointed as non official members
- Raja Sir Deo Narayan Singh of Benaras (Jan 1862-1866)
- Narendra Singh, Maharaja of Patiala (Jan 1862-1864)
- Dinkar Rao (Jan 1862-1864)
- Gov. General Given Ordinance power
- Members in Executive council given portfolio



- Q. Weakness of the Councils Act, 1861 ?

### Q. Weakness of the Councils Act, 1861 ?

legislative councils possessed no real powers & had weaknesses. not having rights to discuss important matters and Not discussing financial matters at all without previous approval of government. no control over budget. not discuss executive action. Final passing of bill → viceroy's approval. Viceroy passed → Secretary of State → could disallow a law Indians associated only appointed as non-officials members of Indians appointed belonged to the elite sections .

### Q. Administrative Changes post 1860s

#### Q. Creation of Local Bodies

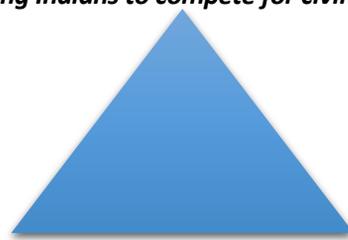
- Acts passing in 1864 for Bengal
- 1865 – Madras, 1867 – Punjab
- By 1870 – Lord Mayo – Local self Govt.
- Setting up of municipal corporations
- By 1881-82 – Lord Ripplon's resolution on local government

Now Q. Even after this changes, the revolt will stop?

- Even from 1857 till early 1900s the revolts continued.

#### Q. Indian civil services

- Reformation
- ICS Act, 1861
- Allowing Indians to compete for civil services



Q. Indian Police Act, 1861  
Reorganisation of Policing system  
Indian Penal Code, 1861



**Q. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. (2016, GS-1)**

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