

10 Rebels and the Raj (The Revolt of 1857 and Its Representations)

Fastrack Revision

► Happening of Mutiny of 1857

- The mutiny of 1857 was started as the rebellion of Indian sepoys. They gathered in the Cantt area of Meerut.
- The mutiny took place with native infantry, cavalry and local people supported and joined them.
- The Indian soldiers captured the Army armoury and magazine.
- They also attacked British people, record offices, governmental buildings, post offices etc.

Knowledge BOOSTER



Mutiny: A collective disobedience of rules and regulations within the armed forces.

► March towards Delhi

- Then after mutiny rebellious marched towards Delhi, the capital of British India.
- Sepoys entered the gates of Red Fort on 11th of May 1857.
- Many European people were massacred.
- The Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah supported these soldiers.
- The year 1857 has a great importance in the Indian history.
- The events came to be known as the great uprising of 1857. It also came to be known as the First War of Indian Independence.

► Beginning of the Mutiny

- Sepoys of Meerut Cantonment started mutiny in the daylight of 10th May 1857. On next day i.e 11th May, they reached Delhi and killed a large number of British people.
- Sepoys went from place to place and people started supporting them.
- The Awadh cavalry also refused to use the cartridge and also gathered support from the 48th Native Infantry.

► Native Leaders and their Support

- The Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah supported the mutiny and also accepted to lead them.
- Nana Sahib, the successor to Peshwa Baji Rao the second, in Kanpur became leader of these sepoys.
- The Rani Jhansi Lakshmi Bai assumed the leadership of this uprising in her territory.
- Kunwar Singh, the Zamindar of Arrah from Bihar was the leader in this region.
- In Awadh Birjis Qadr, the son of Nawab took the responsibility of leadership.

► Awadh in Revolt

- The annexation of Awadh created grievances among the taluqdars, peasants and sepoys. British had destroyed their forts.

- The bigger taluqdars among them had about 12,000 Infantry soldiers and the small taluqdars had about 200.
- Exploitation of peasants were done. The revenue demand in many regions was increased from 30% to 70%.
- The soldiers and taluqdars were loyal to the Nawab of Awadh. They joined Begum Hazrat Mahal, the queen of Nawab, in Lucknow, and in her leadership fought the British.

Knowledge BOOSTER



Taluqdar is an Indian landholder in the Mughal Empire and British Raj, responsible for collecting taxes from a district.



Peasant is a poor small landholder or agricultural labour of low social status.

► Objectives of the Sepoy Revolt

The objectives of the revolt was incorporated in the proclamation and notification issued by rebels in 1857 :

- They appealed to all sections of society irrespective of caste and religion.
- Bahadur Shah appealed to the mass to join the fight under the standards of both Muhammad and Mahavir.
- Hindus and Muslims both joined together despite British attempts to create divisions between them.
- The revolt was against everything which was related to British rule i.e., 'Firangi Raj'.
- The British were destroying caste and religious feelings of Hindus and Muslims. They were trying to convert them into Christianity.
- So, people were urged to join together and fight for common cause.

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Dishonouring of Hindu women was not an issue that contribute in spread of revolt of 1857.

► The Search for Alternative Power

- Once British rule had collapsed, the rebels in places like Delhi, Lucknow and Kanpur tried to establish a authority and administration.
- The way by which they tried to restore the pre-British situation of the 18th century were:
 - The leader went back to the culture of court.
 - Appointments were made to various posts.
 - Arrangements made for the collection of land revenue and the payments of troops.
 - Orders were issued to stop loot and plunder.
 - Chains of command were laid down in the army.

Knowledge BOOSTER



Plunder means the violent and dishonest acquisition of property.

► Repression of the Revolt of 1857

The British adopted harsh measures to suppress the revolt:

- The British government enacted new laws to strengthen the troops. A number of acts were enacted in May and June of 1857.
- The army officers were empowered to try and punish Indians.
- The city of Delhi was recaptured by British loyal forces in late September 1857.
- The British government used military power in a very large scale.
- The area of Awadh was recaptured by British forces in March 1858.
- At last, the rebel landholders were dispossessed and loyal rewarded.

► Sources to Know About the Mutiny

There are various sources to know about the happening of the Mutiny of 1857:

- **Written Documents:** Many documents and reports were presented which speak about the revolt. There

are many mutiny records. They all say about the fears and anxieties of British officials and their perception of the rebels.

- Many stories were published in magazines and newspapers.

- **Pictorial Panoramas:** The panoramas produced by British and some Indians are important record of mutiny. These include paintings, drawings, sketches, posters, cartoons etc. They are helpful documents to have a view of revolt of 1857. British press is also helpful in peeping inside the aspect of mutiny British journals gave comic satire on the British armed officials.

► Nationalist Imageries

- The revolt of 1857 had a great impact on the nationalist imagination. Its memory was kept alive through art and literature. The famous lines of **Subhadra Kumari Chauhan** "Khoob Ladi Mardani Woh To Jhansi Wali Rani Thi" is one of the example of that memory about Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi.

► Importance of Visual Representations

The visual representations indicates the feelings of the painters. The paintings, not only reflects the emotions and feelings of the times but also shapes sensibilities.



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. Which one of the following statements was not a justified reason for the annexation of Awadh by British in 1857?

- a. Wajid Ali Shah was unpopular ruler.
- b. Subsidiary Alliance System was accepted by Wajid Ali Shah at ease.
- c. Mangal Pandey initiated the revolt from Awadh.
- d. Material benefits were given to the taluqdars by the British.

Q 2. Identify the name of the personality from the information given below:

- (i) He lived in a large village in Pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh.
- (ii) He belonged to a clan of Jat cultivators whose kinship ties extended over chaurasi des.

- a. Shah Mal
- b. Nana Sahib
- c. Kunwar Singh
- d. None of these

Q 3. Who among the following had initiated the Revolt of 1857?

- a. Money Lenders
- b. Mughal Rulers
- c. Sepoys
- d. Village Panchayats

Q 4. Who among the following is correctly matched?

List I (CENTRE)	List II (LEADER)
a. Delhi	Nana Saheb
b. Kanpur	Kunwar Singh
c. Arrah	Bahadur Shah
d. Lucknow	Birjis Qadr

Q 5. With which fruit did Lord Dalhousie compare the kingdom of Awadh with?

- a. Apple
- b. Pineapple
- c. Cherry
- d. Strawberry

Q 6. Find out the following pairs which one is not correctly matched? (CBSE 2022)

- a. Lord Wellesley : Subsidiary Alliance
- b. Lord Dalhousie : Doctrine of Lapse
- c. Lord Henry Hardinge : Introduced the Enfield Rifles
- d. Lord Canning : Religious Disabilities Act

Q 7. At which place mutiny broke out on 10th May, 1857

- a. Meerut
- b. Barrackpore
- c. Kanpur
- d. Delhi

Q 8. Captain Hearsey was given protection by:

- a. Bengal Military Police
- b. Sikh Military Police
- c. Gorkha Forces
- d. Awadh Military Police

Q 9. Who among the following led the flag of the Revolt of 1857 against the British in Bihar?

- a. Nana Sahib
- b. Maulvi Ahmadullah
- c. Kunwar Singh
- d. Birjis Qadr

Q 10. Distribution of chapattis in villages were perceived as:

- a. signal of an upheaval
- b. sign of solidarity among people
- c. sign of resisting inequality
- d. invitation to join British Army



Q 27. Assertion (A): Despite severe suppression of revolt, common process of law and trial were not suspended.

Reason (R): The army officers as well as the common Englishmen were empowered to try and punish Indians on mere suspicion.

Q 28. Assertion (A): To fight the British, leadership and organisation were required

Reason (R): Rumours and prophecies played a part in moving people to action.

Q 29. Assertion (A): Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah was popularly called 'Danka Shah'.

Reason (R): This is because he always moved in a palanquin, with drumbeaters in front and followers at the rear.



Fill in the Blank Type Questions

Q 30. The first British revenue settlement known as the

- Settler
- Summary Settlement
- Jotedar
- None of these

Q 31. The Summary Settlement proceeded to remove the wherever possible.

- Zamindar
- Ryots
- Taluqdars
- Jotedar

Q 32. The dispossession of taluqdars meant the break-down of an entire order.

- economic
- social
- political
- None of these

Q 33. In Lucknow, people celebrated the fall of British rule by hailing, the young son of the Nawab, as their leader.

- Ahmadullah Shah
- Danka Shah
- Abul Faiz
- Birjis Qadr

Q 34. term is used in Urdu and Hindi to designate foreigners in a derogatory sense.

- Firangi
- Nawab
- Zamindar
- Ryots

Q 35. mobilised the headmen and the cultivators of *chaurasi des*.

- Birjis Qadr
- Shah Mal
- Abul Faiz
- Danka Shah



Correct and Rewrite Type Questions

Q 36. During the Revolt of 1850, there was communication between the sepoy lines of various cantonments.

Q 37. To fight the British, leadership and organisation were required. For these the rebels always turned to rebellious elements in the force.

Q 38. In Delhi, after the annexation of Rajasthan, there were many religious leaders and self-styled prophets who preached the destruction of British rule.

Q 39. Abul Faiz fought in the famous Battle of Chinhat in which British forces under Henry Lawrence were defeated.

Q 40. The Subsidiary Alliance was a system devised by Lord Wellesley in 1852 to expand British suzerainty over Indian rulers.



Match the Following Type Questions

Q 41. Match the following.

Column I (Place)	Column II (Leader of Revolt)
A. Kanpur	1. Shah Mal
B. Pargana Barout	2. Nana Sahib
C. Singhbhum	3. Maulvi Ahmadullah
D. Faizabad	4. Gonoo

Codes:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A B C D | A B C D |
| a. 2 1 4 3 | b. 4 3 2 1 |
| c. 2 1 3 4 | d. 4 2 3 1 |

Q 42. Match the following.

Column I	Column II
A. Delhi	1. Hazrat Mahal
B. Kanpur	2. Kunwar Singh
C. Arrah	3. Bahadur Shah
D. Lucknow	4. Nana Sahib

Codes:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A B C D | A B C D |
| a. 2 3 1 4 | b. 3 4 2 1 |
| c. 1 2 3 4 | d. 4 2 3 1 |

Q 43. Match the following.

Column I	Column II
A. Lord Wellesley	1. Commander of British forces in India
B. Lord Dalhousie	2. Introduced Doctrine of Lapse
C. Lord Canning	3. Introduced Subsidiary Alliance
D. Colin Campbell	4. Governor General during revolt of 1857

Codes:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A B C D | A B C D |
| a. 1 2 3 4 | b. 2 1 3 4 |
| c. 4 1 3 2 | d. 3 2 4 1 |

Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (a) | 3. (c) | 4. (d) | 5. (c) |
| 6. (d) | 7. (a) | 8. (d) | 9. (c) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (d) | 12. (a) | 13. (c) | 14. (d) | 15. (c) |
| 16. (c) | 17. (c) | 18. (c) | 19. (b) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (a) | 23. (a) | 24. (a) | 25. (a) |
| 26. (a) | 27. (d) | 28. (b) | 29. (a) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (b) | 33. (d) | 34. (a) | 35. (b) |

36. During the Revolt of 1857, there was communication between the sepoy lines of various Cantonments.
37. To fight the British, leadership and organisation were required. For these the rebels sometimes turned to those who had been leaders before the British conquests.
38. In Lucknow, after the annexation of Awadh, there were many religious leaders and self-style prophets who preached the destruction of British rule.
39. Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah fought in the famous Battle of Chinhat in which British forces under Henry Lawrence were defeated.
40. The Subsidiary Alliance was a system devised by Lord Wellesley in 1798 to expand British suzerainty over Indian rulers.
41. (a) 42. (b) 43. (d)



Source Based Type Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Rumours and prophecies played a part in moving people to action. The Sepoys who had arrived in Delhi from Meerut had told Bahadur Shah II about the bullets coated with the fat of cow and pigs and that biting those bullets would corrupt their caste and religion. They were referring to the cartridges of the Enfield Rifles that had just been given to them. The British tried to explain to the Sepoys that this was not the case but the rumour of greased cartridge spread like wild fire across the Sepoy lines of North India. (CBSE 2021 Term-1)

Q 1. Why did the Sepoys marched to Delhi from Meerut?

- The Governor General of East India company lived in Delhi.
- Delhi was the seat and symbol of Mughal authority
- Rani Laxmi Bai urged the sepoy to move to Delhi.
- The greased cartridges were being made in Delhi.

Q 2. How did the rumour of greased cartridges spread like wild fire across the cantonments?

- The cantonments were connected through the Telegraph Lines.
- The cantonments published their own newspapers, in which this was reported.
- This news was broadcasted on the Television.
- All of the above

Q 3. Choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): According to the rumour, the cartridges were greased with the fat of cows and pigs.

Reason (R): The Sepoys refused to use these cartridges because for Hindu Sepoys, cow was a revered animal and for the Muslims the pig was a hated animal.

Codes:

- Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.
- (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

Q 4. Consider the following statements:

(i) The greased cartridges were to be used in the new Enfield Rifles.

(ii) The British officers tried to explain to the Sepoys that cartridges were not greased. It was just a rumour.

Choose the correct option:

- Only (i) is correct
- Both (i) and (ii) are correct.
- Only (ii) is correct.
- Neither (i) nor (ii) is correct.

Answers

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (b)

Source 2

Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follows:

Shah Mal lived in a large village in Pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh. He belonged to a clan of Jat cultivators whose kinship ties extended over chaurasee des (eighty-four villages). The lands in the region were irrigated and fertile, with rich dark loam soil. Many of the villagers were prosperous and saw the British land revenue system as oppressive: the revenue demand was high and its collection inflexible. Consequently cultivators were losing land to outsiders, to traders and moneylenders who were coming into the area. Shah Mal mobilised the headmen and cultivators of chaurasee des, moving at night from village to village, urging people to rebel against the British. As in many other places, the revolt against the British turned into a general rebellion against all signs of oppression and injustice. Cultivators left their fields and plundered the houses of moneylenders and traders.

Displaced proprietors took possession of the lands they had lost. Shah Mal's men attacked government buildings, destroyed the bridge over the river, and dug up metalled roads -partly to

prevent government forces from coming into the area, and partly because bridges and roads were seen as symbols of British rule. They sent supplies to the sepoys who had mutinied in Delhi and stopped all official communication between British headquarters and Meerut. Locally acknowledged as the Raja, Shah Mal took over the bungalow of an English officer, turned it into a "hall of justice", settling disputes and dispensing judgements.

He also set up an amazingly effective network of intelligence. For a period the people of the area felt that firangi raj was over and their raj had come. Shah Mal was killed in battle in July 1857.

Q 1. Who was Shah Mal?

Ans. Shah Mal lived in a large village in Pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh. He belonged to a clan of Jat cultivators whose kinship ties extended over chaurasee des.

Q 2. Why villagers found the British land revenue system as oppressive?

Ans. The revenue demand was high and collection system was inflexible. Hence, cultivators were losing land to outsiders, to traders and many moneylenders.

Q 3. What did Shah Mal do against the British?

Ans. Shah Mal mobilised the headmen and cultivators of chaurasee des. moving at night from village to village, urging people to rebel against the British.

Source 3

Read the following source and answer the questions that follows:

A newspaper report

The following report, titled 'The ryot and the moneylender', appeared in the Native Opinion (6 June, 1876), and was quoted in *Report of the Native Newspapers of Bombay*:

They (the ryots) first place spies on the boundaries of their villages to see if any Government officers come and to give timely intimation of their arrival to the offenders. They then assemble in a body and go to the houses of their creditors, and demand from them a surrender of their bonds and other documents, and threaten them in case of refusal with assault and plunder. If any Government officer happens to approach the villages where the above is taking place, the spies give intimation to the offenders and the latter disperse in time.

Q 1. What does the given report of newspaper show about the Deccan Countryside?

Ans. The given report of newspaper shows that the Deccan Countryside was facing a situation of conflict between the ryots and moneylenders.

Q 2. Examine the causes of revolt by the ryots against moneylender. (CBSE 2023)

Ans. Ryots revolted because moneylenders charged them exorbitant interest on their land and crops. The moneylenders were socially ostracised.

Q 3. Examine the ways through which ryots spied the British.

Ans. During the colonial period in India, ryots or peasants, often played a role in spying on the British. Some ways through which they did:

- Spying on troop movements
- Gathering Intelligence on British officials.
- Disrupting British supply lines.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Who wrote the lines: "Khoob Ladi Mardani Woh To Jhansi Wali Rani Thi"?

Ans. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan.

Q 2. When was Rani Jhansi killed in the battle?

Ans. June 1858.

Q 3. Name any two official accounts that provide us information about the Revolt of 1857.

Ans. Letters, diaries, autobiographies by colonial administrators and military men.

Q 4. How did Governor General Lord Dalhousie describe the kingdom of Awadh?

Ans. "A cherry that will drop into our mouth one day."

Q 5. When was the Subsidiary Alliance imposed on Awadh?

Ans. 1801.

Q 6. What was the result of annexation of Awadh?

Ans. The annexation displaced not just the Nawab. It also dispossessed the taluqdars of the region.

Q 7. Describe the Martial Law.

Ans. Martial Law was introduced post the revolt of 1857. According to the law, Military officers and ordinary Britons were given the authority to try and punish Indians suspected of rebellion.

Q 8. What was the highlight of the rebel proclamations in 1857?

Ans. The proclamations completely rejected everything associated with British rule or Firangi raj as they called it.

Q 9. What name was given to the storeroom in which weapon are kept?

Ans. Bell of arms.

Q 10. Define a mutiny.

Ans. A mutiny is a collective disobedience of rules and regulations within the armed forces.

Q 11. Who was assigned the responsibility of leading the Revolt of 1857?

Ans. The last Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah II.

Q 12. Who was designated as a Resident?

Ans. Resident was the designation of a representative of the Governor General who lived in a state which was not under direct British rule.

Q 13. What was Subsidiary Alliance?

Ans. Subsidiary Alliance was a system of political alliance devised by Lord Wellesley in 1798.

Q 14. Name the leaders of the Revolt of 1857?

Ans. Rani of Jhansi, Nana Saheb, Bahadur Shah Zafar and Zamindar Kunwar Singh.

Q 15. What was the immediate cause of the revolt of 1857?

Ans. The immediate cause of the revolt of 1857 was the issue of cartridges that was believed to be made up of fat of cows and pigs.

Q 16. What were the British policies adopted to reform Indian society?

Ans. The British adopted policies aimed at 'reforming' Indian society by introducing Western education, Western ideas and Western institutions.

Q 17. When and under whom the Sati law was introduced?

Ans. Sati law was introduced in 1829 under the Governor General Lord William Bentinck.

Q 18. On what pretext British started annexing the Indian states?

Ans. The British started annexing the Indian states on issues like misgovernment and the refusal to recognise adoption.

Q 19. Why Awadh was known as the 'nursery of the Bengal Army'?

Ans. The large majority of the sepoys of the Bengal Army were recruited from the villages of Awadh and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Hence, Awadh was known as the 'nursery of the Bengal Army'.

Q 20. Who was Kunwar Singh?

Ans. Kunwar Singh was a local zamindar of Arrah, in Bihar who became the leader of the revolt in Bihar.

Q 21. Who were the leaders of revolt of 1857 in Kanpur and Jhansi?

Ans. Nana Sahib, the successor of Peshwa Bajji Rao II was the leader of Kanpur and Rani Lakshmi Bai was the leader of Jhansi during the revolt of 1857.

Q 22. Who became the leader of Awadh during revolt?

Ans. Birjis Qadr, the young son of the Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, became the leader of the revolt in Awadh.

Q 23. Name the local leaders who led the Revolt of 1857 in Pargana Barout.

Ans. Shah Mal became the leader of Pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh.

Q 24. Name any five centres of the revolt of 1857.

Ans. Five centres of the revolt of 1857 were Delhi, Meerut, Lucknow, Jhansi and Kanpur.

Q 25. On what date and where mutiny was started against the British?

Ans. In the afternoon of 10th May, 1857, the sepoys in the Cantonment of Meerut broke out mutiny.

Q 26. How did the sepoys begin the revolt?

Ans. The sepoys began the revolt with a signal. In many places it was started by the firing of the evening gun or the sounding of the bugle.

Q 27. Give one example to show that the British attempted to create division among Hindus and Muslims.

Ans. The British spent ₹ 50,000 to outrage the Hindus population against the Muslims in Bareilly, Western Uttar Pradesh in December 1857 but the attempt failed.

Q 28. What written documents were available about the revolt of 1857?

Ans. The colonial administrators, military officers and other officers as well have written their own accounts in their letters, diaries, autobiographies and official histories. Along with this, many memos and notes also issued.

Q 29. Who was Charles Ball?

Ans. Charles Ball was one of the earliest historians who wrote the histories on the revolt of 1857.

Q 30. What does pictorial sources consist of?

Ans. The pictorial sources include paintings, pencil drawings, posters, sketches, cartoons, bazaar prints, etc.

Q 31. How Lord Canning was depicted in 'Punch'?

Ans. In cartoon published in 'Punch', a British journal of comic satire, Canning has been depicted as a looming father figure with his protective hand over the head of a sepoy who still holds a sword in one hand and a dagger in the other both dripping with blood.

Q 32. What do the rumours reflect?

Ans. Rumours reflect the mind of the people. They indicate the fears and apprehension, faiths and convictions of the common people.

Q 33. Why Awadh was regarded an important market?

Ans. The British found the soil of Awadh good for producing Indigo and cotton. Thus, the region was regarded to be developed into the principal market of upper India.

Q 34. When did the sepoys arrive at the gate of Red Fort in 1857?

Ans. On 11th May, 1857, the sepoys arrived at the gate of Red Fort to meet the Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah.

Q 35. How is Rani Lakshmi Bai usually portrayed?

Ans. Rani Lakshmi Bai queen of Jhansi is usually portrayed as one of the bravest women of early phase of modern India.

Q 36. Define 'Firangi'.

Ans. 'Firangi', a term of Persian origin, possibly derived from Rank (from which France gets its name), is used in Urdu and Hindi, often in a derogatory sense, to designate foreigners.

Q 37. Why did the British intend to remove the 'Taluqdars' wherever possible?

Ans. The British intend to remove the 'Taluqdars' wherever possible because they believed that by removing Taluqdars, they would be able to settle the land with the actual owners of the soil and thus reduce the level of exploitation of peasants while increasing revenue returns for the state.

Q 38. Who painted "Relief of Lucknow" and when?

Ans. Thomas Jones Barker in 1859.



Identify the Image Type Questions

Q 1. Where is this mosque shown in the photograph located?



Ans. Mosque is on the Delhi Ridge

Q 2. Identify and name the building shown in the photograph.



Ans. Secundrah Bagh, Lucknow

Q 3. Identify the name of this painting and its painter.



Ans. "Relief of Lucknow", painted by Thomas Jones Barker, 1859.

Q 4. Identify and name of the painting and its painter.



Ans. "In Memoriam", by Joseph Noel Paton, 1859.

Q 5. Identify and name of this famous leader.



Ans. Nana Sahib

Q 6. Identify and name this famous leader under whose banner the Revolt of 1857 was organised.



Ans. Bahadur Shah II

Q 7. Identify and name this Governor General.



Ans. Henry Hardings

Q 8. Which event has been portrayed in this painting?



Ans. Miss Wheeler defending herself against sepoys in Kanpur.

Q 9. Which event is shown in this painting?



Ans. Execution of mutineers in Peshawar: Blowing from the guns.

Q 10. Which Indian historical event has been depicted in this picture?



Ans. Execution of mutinous sepoys in Peshawar. Illustrated London News, 3 October, 1857.

Q 11. Which class of society is shown in this painting of 1880?



Ans. A Zamindar from Awadh, 1880.



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Examine the provisions of 'Subsidiary Alliance System' devised by Lord Wellesley in 1798 for India. (CBSE 2022, Term-2)

- Ans. (i) Subsidiary Alliance was a system devised by Lord Wellesley in 1798.
 (ii) All those who entered into such an alliance had to accept certain terms and conditions.
 (a) The British would be responsible for protecting their ally from external and internal threats to power.
 (b) In the territory of the ally, a British armed contingent would be stationed.
 (c) The ally would have to provide the resources for maintaining this contingent.
 (d) The ally could enter into agreements with other rulers or engage in warfare only with the permission of the British.

Q 2. Explain the circumstances under which the rebels of 1857 acquired legitimacy from Bahadur Shah Zafar.

Ans. Bahadur Shah Zafar is best known for his role in the revolt of 1857 and subsequent happenings to him. During the revolt, when Indian soldiers mutinied against the East India Company, they turned towards Delhi. After reaching Delhi, they requested Zafar to lead them and declared him their King.

Q 3. Examine any three changes brought into the colonial cities after the Revolt of 1857.

Ans. The changes brought into the colonial cities after the Revolt of 1857 given below:

- (i) The British felt the need of security for white elites. So, they developed civil lines, which were secure and segregated enclaves, away from the threat of the natives.
- (ii) Cantonments places where Indian troops under European command were stationed and were also developed as safe enclaves.
- (iii) Underground piped water supply, sewerage and drainage systems were put in place around this time. Sanitary System were improved in Indian towns.

Q 4. Describe summary settlement. What was its impact?

Ans. Summary Settlement:

- (i) The British introduced a land revenue policy known as 'Summary Settlement' in 1856.
- (ii) It was believed that the 'Talukdars' had established their hold over land through force and fraud with no permanent stakes in land. The summary settlement proceeded to remove the Talukdars wherever possible.

Result Impact of Summary Settlement:

- (i) Talukdars who held 67 per cent of the total number of villages in Awadh in the pre-British times had come down to 38 per cent after the summary settlement.

- (ii) The Taluqdars of Southern Awadh were hardest hit and some lost more than half of the total number of villages they held previously.

Q 5. The relationship of the sepoys with the superior white officers underwent a significant change in the years preceding the uprising of 1857' Support the statement with examples. (CBSE SQP 2023-2024)

OR

Explain the grievances of the Indian sepoys against the British rule before the Revolt of 1857 with examples. (CBSE 2019)

OR

'Chain of grievances of taluqdars and peasants led them to join the revolt of 1857' Elucidate the statement.

Ans. The grievances of Indian sepoys against the British rule before the Revolt of 1857 are given below:

- (i) The sepoys were given low Level of pay.
- (ii) They did not get adequate amount of leaves.
- (iii) Increasing misbehaviour and racial abuse on the part of their white officers.
- (iv) Increased suspicion on white officers e.g. episode of greased cartridges. This suspicion replaced the trust that existed earlier between the white officers and the sepoys.
- (v) Growing physical violence by white officers on the sepoys.
- (vi) Discriminatory policies adopted by white superiors in giving promotions, pensions and in terms of service of Indian sepoys.
- (vii) Rumours that the British had mixed bone dust of cows and pigs into the flour that was sold in the market so sepoys and common people both refused to touch the atta.

Q 6. Through proclamations, the rebels of 1857 completely rejected everything associated with the British rule or Firangi raj. Cite any three aspects to support this statements. (CBSE 2018)

Ans. The three aspects to support above statement are:

- (i) The proclamations condemned the British for the annexations they had carried out and the treaties they had broken.
- (ii) Every aspect of British rule was attacked and the Firangi accused of destroying a way of life that was familiar and cherished. The rebels wanted to restore that world.
- (iii) The proclamations expressed the widespread fear that the British went on destroying the caste and religions of Hindus and Muslims and converting them to Christianity.

Q 7. 'Rumours and prophecies played an important role in the Revolt of 1857' Explain the statement with examples. (CBSE SQP 2022-2023)

OR

'Rumours circulate only when they resonate, with the deep fears and suspicion of the people.' How was this statement true in the context of the Revolt of 1857? (CBSE 2020)

OR

Why did people believe in the rumours and prophecies that circulated in North India at the beginning of 1857? Explain. (CBSE 2020)

OR

'Rumours and prophecies played an important part in moving people to action.' Support the statement with reference to the Revolt of 1857. (CBSE 2016)

OR

'Rumours and prophecies played a part in moving people to action.' Explain the statement in the context of the revolt of 1857. (CBSE 2022, Term-2)

Ans. Rumours circulate only when they resonate with the deep fear and suspicion of the people:

- (i) Foremost was the rumour of greased cartridges itself that infuriated the sepoys and became the final trigger of discontent.
- (ii) The rumours about the British trying to pollute the religion of Indians by mixing the bone dust of cows and pigs into the flour led people to avoid touching the flour and bred animosity towards the British.
- (iii) The rumour about the British rule coming to an end on the centenary to the Battle of Plassey also reinforced the call for the revolt against the masters.
- (iv) The people formed a connection between the recent British policies of introducing Western education and social reform that targeted cultural practices.
- (v) The annexations on the pretext of the Doctrine of Lapse also made the masses suspicious of the British intentions.
- (vi) Introduction of British system of administration, their own laws and land revenue collection.
- (vii) The activities of the Christians missionaries also bred doubt and discomfort.

Q 8. 'British did not have an easy time in putting down the rebellion of 1857' Support the statement. (CBSE 2016)

OR

'The British used military power on gigantic scale and passed number of Acts to suppress the Revolt of 1857' Elucidate the statement with suitable examples.

Ans. The British did not have easy time in putting down the rebellion of 1857 because of the following reasons:

- (i) Sepoys turned against the British and thus army of British was reduced.
- (ii) The revolt broke-out at various places such as Awadh, Kanpur, Lucknow, Arrah, Jhansi, etc.

Use of Military Power on Gigantic Scale

With the help of these newly enacted laws and the reinforcements brought in from Britain, the British began suppressing the revolt in different regions which are explained below:

(i) **Two Pronged Attack on Delhi:** The British moved two forces. One from Calcutta into North India other from Punjab to reconquer Delhi.

Attempt to recover Delhi began in early June 1857 but the city was captured in late September.

(ii) **Reconquest of Gangetic Plains:**

(a) The forces had to reconquer the area village by village as the uprising had huge popular support. e.g. In Awadh, it was estimated that 3/4ths of the adult male population was in rebellion.

(b) The area was brought under control only in March 1858.

Q 9. With the help of specific examples, examine the nature of Indian leadership that emerged against the British in the Revolt of 1857.

OR

Describe the role of any six prominent leaders of northern India who fought against the British in the Revolt of 1857. (CBSE SQP 2022, Term-2)

Ans. To fight the British, leadership and organisation were required. The nature of Indian leadership that emerged against the British in the Revolt of 1857 comprised of a blend of people from different walks of life like the Ranis, the Rajas, the Nawabs, the Taluqdars, ordinary men and women religious men, local leaders etc.

They are described as under:

(i) **Bahadur Shah II :** The sepoys of Meerut who rushed to Delhi appealed to the old Mughal emperor to accept the leadership of the revolt. Some of them moved into the Mughal Court within the Red Fort in defiance of normal court etiquette.

Thus, Bahadur Shah II had no other option but to agree to be the nominal leader of the rebellion.

(ii) **Nana Sahib :** In Kanpur, the sepoys and the people of the town gave Nana Sahib no choice than to join the revolt as their leader.

(iii) **Rani Lakshmi Bai :** She was forced by popular pressure around her to assume the leadership of the uprising in Jhansi.

(iv) **Birjis Qadr :** In Awadh, Birjis Qadr (the young son of popular displaced Nawab Wajid Ali Shah) was considered as their leader by the people of Awadh.

(v) **Kunwar Singh :** Kunwar Singh was a local Zamindar in Arrah in Bihar who was considered as their leader by the people of that region.

(vi) **A Fakir Riding on an Elephant :** There were reports that a fakir had appeared in Meerut riding on an elephant and that the sepoys were visiting him frequently.

(vii) **Shah Mal :** He mobilised the people/ villagers of Pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh.

(viii) **Gonoo :** He was a tribal cultivator of Singhbhum in Chota Nagpur. He became a rebel leader of the kol tribals of the regions.

(ix) **Maulvi Ahamadullah Shah :** Popularly known as Danka Shah, he was elected by the mutinous 22nd Native Infantry as their leader. He fought in the famous Battle of Chinhat in which the British forces under Henry Lawrence were defeated.

Q 10. What was the impact of the Revolt of 1857 on the nationalist imagery?

Ans. The impact of the Revolt of 1857 on the nationalist Imagery was:

(i) As opposed to the images that circulated in Britain, the nationalist imageries of the revolt helped shape the nationalist imagination.

(ii) The nationalist movement in the twentieth century drew its inspiration from the events of 1857.

(iii) It was celebrated as the First war of Independence in which all sections of the people of India came together to fight against the Imperial rule. The memory of 1857 was kept alive due to art and literature.

(iv) The leaders of the revolt were presented as heroic figures leading the country into battle against the oppressive imperial rule.

(v) Heroic poems were written about the valour of the Rani of Jhansi who with a sword in one hand and the reins of her horse in the other, fought for the freedom of the motherland.

e.g. Children in many parts of India grew up reading the lines of Subhadra Kumari Chauhan: "Khoob Ladi Mardaani Woh To Jhansi Wali Rani Thi".

(vi) In Popular prints, Rani Laxmi Bai was portrayed as a symbol of the determination to resist injustice and alien rule.

(vii) Images indicate how the painters who produced them perceived those events, what they felt, and what they sought to convey.

How the public looked at the paintings i.e. appreciated or criticised the images.

(a) Reflect the emotions and feelings of the times in which they were produced.

(b) Shaped sensibilities.

Thus nationalist imageries of the revolt played a positive pivotal role in shaping the nationalist imagination and upcoming national movement of the 20th century.



TIP

Students should write detail about the harmonious relationship between British and Indian sepoys.

Q 11. Describe about the alternative authority established by the rebels.

- Ans.** (i) Once British rule had collapsed, the rebels in places like Delhi, Lucknow and Kanpur tried to establish some kind of structure of authority and administration.
- (ii) This was shortlived but the rebel leadership wanted to restore the pre-British world of the 18th century.
- (iii) The leaders went back to the culture of the court.
- (iv) Appointments were made to various posts, arrangements made for the collection of land revenue and the payment of troops, orders issued to stop loot and plunder.
- (v) The administrative structures established by rebels were primarily aimed at meeting the demand of the war as:
- (a) Plans were made to fight battles against the British.
- (b) Chains of command were laid down in the army.
- e.g. In Awadh, where resistance to the British lasted longest plans of counter attack were being drawn up by the Lucknow court and hierarchies of command were in place.
- But, unfortunately in most of the cases, these structures could not survive the British onslaught.

Q 12. Discuss the nature of the revolt of 1857.

- Ans.** Revolt of 1857 was one of the most extraordinary event in the history of India.

Nature of the revolt of 1857:

Sepoy Mutiny

- (i) Most of the British historians describe the events of 1857-58, as a mutiny by the sepoys.
- (ii) Incidentally, history of the uprising of 1857 is largely understood through the writings of British. Large material of Indian side suffered destruction during the uprising of 1857.
- (iii) British always wanted to portray themselves as superior in the history, so they began camouflaging the formidable war of 1857 by propagating it as a mutiny.

Popular Revolt

- (i) Though the revolt was started by the sepoys but was joined in large number by the civilian population.
- (ii) The participation of peasants and artisans made the revolt a widespread and popular event.
- (iii) In some areas, the common people revolted even before the sepoys.

War of Independence

- (i) There is no evidence to show that the revolt of 1857 was a planned conspiracy to drive the British out of the country.
- (ii) The civil population that revolted thought more of plunder and other means of attaining wealth

and/ or power than anything else, at least there is no evidence to show that with the probable exception of a very few individuals the people were inspired by the idea of regaining freedom of India.

- (iii) In fact, a large section of Indians were friendly to the British and even sided with them in the revolt.
- (iv) It will be an exaggeration to call the revolt of 1857 as national war of independence.

National Element

- (i) The British termed the 1857 revolt as the unpatriotic and selfish sepoy mutiny.
- (ii) Dr. R.C. Majumdar also did not find any nationalist element in the rebellion.
- (iii) Many others did not concur with these views. e.g. Jawaharlal Nehru, in his Discovery of India terms the revolt of 1857 as essentially a feudal uprising, though there were some nationalistic elements in it.
- (iv) V.D. Savarkar called it as the first war of independence.

Unity across Religions and Regions

- (i) The revolt was characterised by unity between:
- (a) Different religions i.e. Hindu-Muslim unity in particular.
- (b) Different regions i.e. Rebels in one part of the country helped people fighting in other areas.
- (ii) However, the rebel forces were unable to inspire a sense of unity among Indian population during the revolt which is reflected in the fact that a large number of people sided with the British in the war or did not participate in the war at all.

Different Grievances, Common Foe

- (i) Everyone who participated in the revolt whether it be sepoys, peasants, zamindars, artisans, traders, local rulers, etc. had different grievances.
- (ii) However, all these classes of Indians were fighting together against a common foe.

Conclusion : The revolt of 1857 definitely had some seeds of nationalism and anti-imperialism and it was much more than a mutiny of disgruntled sepoys which is reflected in the widespread participation of the civilian population. However, one cannot go so far to call it a war of independence.

Q 13. Discuss the events that indicate planning and coordination on the part of the rebels.

- Ans.** There are following two evidences that shows about the coordination in the revolt:

- (i) In early May, the 7th Awadh irregular cavalry refused to use the new cartridges. They wrote to the 48th Native Infantry that they had acted for

the faith and awaited the 48th orders. Sepoys or their emissaries moved from one station to another. People were thus planning and talking about the rebellion.

- (ii) Captain Hearsey of the Awadh military police had been given protection by his Indian subordinates during the mutiny. The 41st Infantry was also stationed at the same place. They argued with the Awadh military police that as they had killed all their white officers, the Awadh military should either put Hearsey to death or hand him over to 41st Infantry or prisoner. But the military police refused to do either.

Thus, it was decided that the matter would be solved by a Panchayat composed of native officers drawn from each regiment. Charles Ball, one of the earliest historians states that such Panchayats were convened at night in the sepoy lines of Kanpur.

Thus, it becomes clear that some decisions were taken collectively.

Q 14. What did the rebels want? To what extent did the vision of different social groups differ?

Ans. The rebels wanted the following:

- (i) The rebels wanted to uproot the rule of the Britishers.
- (ii) They did not want their rulers, nawabs, taluqdars and zamindars to be uprooted. Apart from this, they also did not want the princely rulers to be annexed to the company empire.
- (iii) The rebels wanted unity among Hindus and Muslims. They wanted good wishes of Mughal emperor as well as other kings and rulers for the success of Revolt.
- (iv) They were against imposing English language and Western civilisation on their country. They did not like to disturb their social tradition, customs and life.

The vision of different social groups and their differences are as follows:

- (i) **Zamindars:** The zamindars did not like the putting up of their land estate for public auctions just for arrears of rent. They did not like their summon into court time to time due to some case filed against them by the ryot or a slave.
- (ii) **Merchants:** This section of the society did not like British Government monopoly over the trade, particularly all the fine and valuable merchandise such as indigo cloth and other articles of shipping. Besides this, the profits of the traders were taxed with postage, tolls and subscriptions for schools etc.
- (iii) **Public Servants:** Natives employed in the civil and military services have little respect, low pay and no manner of influence. All the posts of dignity and evolvment in both the departments were exclusively bestowed on Englishmen.

(iv) **Artisans:** The Europeans, by the introduction of English articles into India, have thrown the weavers, the cotton dressers, the carpenters, the blacksmiths and the shoemakers, etc. of India out of employment. But it was believed that under the Badshahi government they will no doubt ensure their prosperity.

(v) **Pandits, Fakirs and Other Learned Persons:** The Pandits and Fakirs being the guardians of the Hindu and the Muslim religions respectively viewed the Europeans as the enemies of both the religions. Hence, they thought to take part in the holy war against their enemy.

Q 15. 'A cherry that will drop into our mouth one day,' who made this remark?

Explain the series of events that eventually led the cherry to fall into the mouth of the British.

(CBSE SQP 2023-2024)

OR

Why did the British annex Awadh in 1856? On what pretext did they carry out the annexation? Explain.

OR

(CBSE 2020)

Examine why the British annexed the territory of Awadh.

Ans. Lord Dalhousie described the Kingdom of Awadh as 'a cherry that will drop into our mouth one day,' he said this in 1851. In 1856 the Kingdom was formally annexed to the British Empire.

The British annexed Awadh in 1856 due to the following reasons:

- (i) The soil of Awadh was good for producing Indigo and cotton.
- (ii) The region was ideally located to be developed into the principal market of upper India.
- (iii) The takeover of Awadh in 1856 was expected to complete the process of territorial annexation that had begun with the conquest of Bengal almost a century earlier.

The pretext on which they carried out such annexation is given below:

- (i) The British claimed that the region was being misgoverned and maladministered.
- (ii) The British wrongly assumed that Wajid Ali Shah, the Nawab of Awadh was an unpopular ruler.
- (iii) Subsidiary Alliance was imposed on Awadh in 1801.

Q 16. Critically examine Lord Dalhousie's policy of annexation of Awadh.

- Ans.**
- (i) In 1851, Governor General Lord Dalhousie described the kingdom of Awadh as "A cherry that will drop into our mouth one day".
 - (ii) In 1856, the kingdom was formally annexed to the British empire.
 - (iii) This conquest happened in following stages:

Stage 1: Implementation of Subsidiary Alliance in 1801 Under Wellesley

- (i) Under this, the Nawab had to disband his military force, allow the British to position their troops within the kingdom and act in accordance with the advice of the British Resident who was now to be attached to the court.
- (ii) The Nawab became increasingly dependent on the British to maintain law and order within the kingdom. He could no longer assert control over rebellious chiefs and taluqdars.

Stage 2: Disposing the Nawab of Awadh off the Throne and Sending him to Exile

- (i) The British wrongly assessed that the Nawab of Awadh named Wajid Ali Shah was an unpopular ruler and accused him of maladministration.
- (ii) They dethroned him and he was exiled to Calcutta.
- (iii) Thus, Lord Dalhousie annexed Awadh in stages.

Q 17. 'The rebel proclamations of 1857 appealed to all the sections of the population for unity' Explain the statement with examples. (CBSE 2023)

OR

Examine why were the religious divisions between Hindus and Muslims hardly noticeable during the uprising of 1857. (CBSE 2019)

OR

Highlight the measures taken to ensure unity among the rebels of 1857. (CBSE 2017)

Ans. The religious divisions between Hindus and Muslims were hardly noticeable during the uprising of 1857 as various measures were taken to ensure the unity among the rebels. These measures are given as under:

- (i) The rebel proclamations in 1857 repeatedly appealed to all sections of the population, irrespective of their caste and creed.
- (ii) Many of the proclamations were issued by Muslim princes or in their names but even these took care to address the sentiments of Hindus.
- (iii) The rebellion was seen as a war in which both Hindus and Muslims had equally to lose or gain.
- (iv) The ishtahars took back to the pre British Hindu-Muslim past and glorified the co-existence of different communities under the Mughal empire.
- (v) The proclamation that was issued under the name of Bahadur Shah II appealed to the people to join the fight under the standards of both Muhammad and Mahavir.

The British spent 50,000 rupees to incite the Hindu population against the Muslims in Bareilly, in Western Uttar Pradesh in December 1857, but the attempt failed.

Q 18. Why did taluqdars and sepoys of Awadh join the Revolt of 1857? Explain.

Ans. The taluqdars and the sepoys of Awadh both had different reasons for joining the revolt of 1857. These are explained one by one below:

Explanation of the reason cited from the point of view of taluqdars for joining the Revolt of 1857

Disarmament and destruction of the forts of taluqdars:

- (i) In the pre British period, talauqdars maintained armed retainers, built forts and enjoyed a degree of autonomy, as long as they accepted the suzerainty of the Nawab and paid the revenue of their taluqs.
- (ii) They controlled the land and power in the countryside.
- (iii) They had as many as 12,000 foot soldiers and even the smaller ones had about 200.
- (iv) The British unwilling to tolerate the power of taluqdars disarmed them and destroyed their forts.

Thus, the taluqdars were aggrieved and enraged.

Introduction of Summary Settlement of 1856:

- (i) **Year of introduction:** 1856.
- (ii) **Assumption:** It was based on the assumption that the taluqdars were interlopers with no permanent stakes in land and who have established their hold over land through force and fraud.
- (iii) **Aim:** It proceeded to remove the taluqdars wherever possible. e.g., After introduction of summary settlement, the total number of villages under the taluqdars in Awadh came down to 38 percent from 67 percent.
- (iv) **Reason of Introduction of Summary Settlement:** British land revenue officers believed that by removing taluqdars, they would be able to settle the land with actual owners of the soil and reduce the exploitation of the peasants.
- (v) **Result:** In practice, it did not reduce the burden of the peasants and annoyed the taluqdars.

So, due to above cited reasons, taluqdars joined the revolt of 1857.

Explanation of the reasons cited from the point of view of sepoys for joining the Revolt of 1857

- (i) The sepoys were given low levels of pay.
- (ii) They did not get adequate amount of leaves.
- (iii) Increasing misbehaviour and racial abuse on the part of their white officers.
- (iv) Increased suspicion on white officers e.g. episode of greased cartridges. This suspicion replaced the trust that existed earlier between the white officers and the sepoys.
- (v) Growing physical violence by white officers on the sepoys.

(vi) Discriminatory policies adopted by white superiors in giving promotions, pensions and in terms of service of Indian sepoys.

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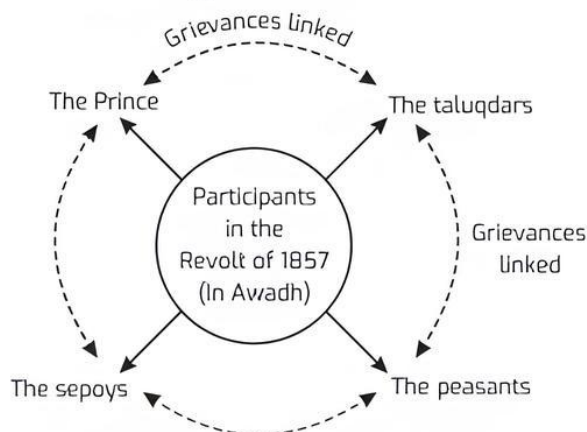
Thus, due to all of the reasons cited above, the sepoys joined the Revolt of 1857.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. "A chain of grievances in Awadh linked the Prince, taluqdars, peasants and sepoys to join hands in the revolt of 1857 against the British." Examine the statement. (CBSE 2017)

Ans. A chain of grievances in Awadh linked the Prince, taluqdars, peasants and sepoys to join hands in the revolt of 1857 against the British.



The grievances of each of these parties were linked to each other in some or the other way. The disposition of the king (Prince) affected the interests of taluqdars in an adverse manner. In turn, the disarmament of taluqdars adversely affected the interests of the peasants.

Lets examine their grievances one by one and how they were linked to each other.

Annexation of Awadh and dethronement of the king:

The British annexed Awadh in 2 Stages:

Stage 1: Imposition of Subsidiary Alliance in Awadh in 1801

Under this, the Nawab had to:

- disband his military force.
- allow the British to position their troops within the kingdom and;
- act in accordance with the advice of the British Resident who was now to be attached to the court.

The Nawab became increasingly dependent on the British to maintain law and order within the kingdom. He could no longer assert control over rebellious chiefs and taluqdars.

Stage 2: Disposing the Nawab of Awadh off the throne and Sending him to Exile

- The British wrongly assessed that the Nawab of Awadh named Wajid Ali Shah was an unpopular ruler and accused him of maladministration.
- They dethroned him and he was exiled to Calcutta.

This annexation of Awadh and dethronement of the king adversely affected the taluqdars and thus the grievance of the king got linked to the grievances of taluqdars.

Disarmament and destruction of the forts of taluqdars:

- In the pre British period taluqdars maintained armed retainers, built forts and enjoyed a degree of autonomy, as long as they accepted the suzerainty of the Nawab and paid the revenue of their taluqs.
- They controlled the land and power in the countryside.
- They had as many as 12,000 foot soldiers and even the smaller ones had about 200.
- The British unwilling to tolerate the power of taluqdars disarmed them and destroyed their forts.

Thus, the taluqdars were aggrieved and enraged.

Introduction of Summary Settlement of 1856:

- Year of Introduction:** 1856.
- Assumption:** It was based on the assumption that the taluqdars were interlopers with no permanent stakes in land and who have established their hold over land through force and fraud.
- Aim:** It proceeded to remove the taluqdars wherever possible. e.g. After introduction of summary settlement, the total number of villages under the taluqdars in Awadh come down to 38 percent from 67 percent.
- Reason of Introduction of Summary Settlement:** British land revenue officers believed that by removing taluqdars, they would be able to settle the land with actual owners of the soil and reduce the exploitation of the peasants.
- Result:** In practice it did not reduce the burden of the peasants and annoyed the taluqdars.

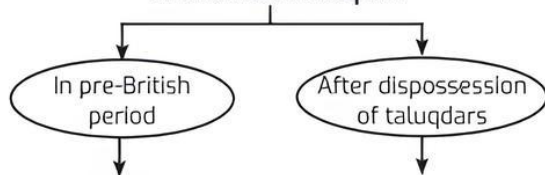
Thus, the taluqdars joined the revolt and their grievances also got linked to the grievances of peasants.

Suppression of the Peasants

Due to dispossession of taluqdars adversely affected the peasants. The ties of loyalty and patronage that had bound the peasant to the taluqdar were disrupted.

Thus, the grievance of the taluqdars was linked to the grievance of the peasants. This is explained below in the form of comparison of the conditions of peasants and their relations with the taluqdars in the pre British times and now (after the dispossession of taluqdars).

Comparison: Condition of Peasants and their Relation with Taluqdars



- The taluqdars were oppressors but many of them also appeared to be generous father figures.
- They extracted a variety of dues from the peasant but were often considerate in times of need.
- The peasant was directly exposed to over assessment of revenue and inflexible methods of collection.
- There was no longer any guarantee that in times of hardship or crop failure, the revenue demand of the state would be reduced or collection postponed or that in times of festivities, the peasant would get the loan and support that the taluqdar had earlier provided.

Thus, the condition of the peasants got deteriorated instead of showing any improvement.

The grievances of the peasants were carried over into the sepoy lines since a vast majority of the sepoys were recruited from the villages of Awadh. Thus, the grievances of the peasants were linked with the grievances of the sepoys.

The grievances of sepoys are explained as under.

Q 2. What were the social, economic religious and military causes of the 1857 Revolt? Examine.

Ans. The social and religious causes of the Revolt are described below:

- (i) The people feared that the British rule endangered their religion. The Christian missionaries that were provided police protection tried to convert people and made violent and vulgar public attacks on Hinduism and Islam.
- (ii) In 1850, the government enacted a law which enabled a convert to Christianity to inherit his ancestral property.
- (iii) The government maintained at its cost chaplains or Christian priests in the army.
- (iv) Many officials civil as well as military encouraged missionary propaganda and provision of instruction of Christianity in govt. schools and even in jails.
- (v) The conservative religious and social sentiments of many people were also hurt by some of the humanitarian measures which the govt. had undertaken on the advice of Indian reformers. e.g. The abolition of custom of Sati, the legislation of widow remarriage, the opening of western education to girls.
- (vi) Religious sentiments were also hurt by the official policy of taxing mosques and temple

lands which had been exempted from taxation by previous Indian rulers.

- (vii) Making of laws such as the Religious Disabilities Act, 1856, which modified Hindu customs, for instance, declaring that a change of religion did not debar a son from inheriting the property of his father, also angered the people.

The economic causes of the war are described as under:

The colonial policies of the East India Company destroyed the traditional economic fabric of the Indian society.

- (i) **Economic Decline of Peasants:** The new land revenue settlements subjected the peasants to exorbitant land revenue demands.

The economic decline of the peasantry found expression in 12 major and numerous minor famines from 1770 to 1857.

- (ii) **Economic Decline of Zamindars:** Zamindars were harassed by demands for higher land revenue and threatened for forfeiture of their zamindari lands and right and loss of their status in the villages with frequent use of a quo warranto by the administration.

E.g. In Awadh, 21,000 taluqdars had their estates confiscated and thus they took the opportunity presented by the sepoy revolt to rebel against the British forces.

- (iii) **Economic Decline of Indian Trade Industry:**

British rule brought misery to artisans and handicrafts people as:

Reason 1. The annexation of Indian states by the company cut off their major source of patronage to the native rulers and nobles.

Reason 2. British discouraged Indian handicrafts and promoted British goods.

- (i) High tariff duties were imposed on Indian goods. Whereas British goods entering into India attracted Low tariffs. e.g. By mid 19th century exports of cotton and silk textiles from India practically come to an end.

- (ii) This ruin of industry had put pressure on agriculture which could not suffice/cater well to the needs of people of the country.

The military causes of the revolt are described as under:

- (i) **Fear of Challenge to their Religion:** Sepoys were affected by the general belief that the British were interfering in their religions and were determined to convert Indians to Christianity.

- (ii) **Clash between Conditions of Service and Religion:** The conditions of service in the Co's army came into conflict with the religious beliefs and prejudices of the sepoys.

e.g. Restrictions on wearing caste and sectarian marks, secret rumours of proselytising activities of the chaplains or Christian.

- (iii) **General Service Enlistment Act 1856:** In 1856, Lord Canning's govt. passed the General Service

Enlistment Act 1856, which decreed that all future recruits to the Bengal Army would have to give an undertaking to serve anywhere their services might be required by the government. This caused resentment as the religious Hindus of the time considered crossing the seas as a loss of their caste.

- (iv) **Meagre Emoluments:** Indian sepoy were unhappy with their emoluments as compared to the British counterparts.

Moreover, their dissatisfaction rose when an official order came that stated that they would not be given the foreign service allowance (Bhatta) when serving in Sind or in Punjab.

- (v) **Annexation of Awadh:** Annexation of Awadh, home of 75,000 sepoys, inflamed their feelings further.

- (vi) **Discrimination (both Racial and Professional):** The Indian sepoy felt subordinate at every step and was discriminate against racially and in matters of promotions and privileges.

- (vii) **General Disenchantment with the British Rule:** The Indian sepoy was a 'peasant in uniform' whose consciousness was not divorced from that of the rural population.

- (viii) **History of Earlier Revolts :** There had been a long history of revolts in the British Indian Army:

- (a) **In Bengal (1764):** It was suppressed by blowing away 30 sepoys from the mouth of guns.

- (b) **In Vellore (1806):** It was crushed with terrible violence with several hundred men dying in the battle.

- (c) **In Barrackpore (1825):** Reason: The 47th Regiment of sepoys refused to go to Burma by sea route. It was suppressed as the regiment was disbanded, unarmed men were fired upon by artillery and leaders of sepoys were hanged.

- (d) **In 1844:** Seven battalions revolted in the question of salaries and Bhatta.

- (e) **1838-42 (Afghan wars):** Two Subedars a Muslim and a Hindu were shot dead for giving expression to discontent in the army.

Q 3. Art and Literature helped in keeping alive the memory of 1857. Explain with examples from Indian perspective. (CBSE SQP 2022-2023)

OR

'Art and Literature as much as the writing of history have helped in keeping alive the memory of 1857'. Explain the statement in reference to Rani Laxmi Bai. (CBSE 2023)

OR

Examine the visual representation of the revolt of 1857 that provoked a range of different emotions and reactions. (CBSE 2017)

Ans. Visual Representation of the Revolt of 1857.

- (i) One important record of the mutiny is the pictorial images produced by the British and Indians: paintings, pencil drawings, etchings, posters, cartoons, bazaar prints.
- (ii) Artists expressed as well as shaped these sentiments through their visual representations of trauma and suffering which were published in the newspapers of Britain.

Celebrating the Saviours

British Painters Views:

- (i) For example 'Relief of Lucknow', painted by Thomas Jones Barker in 1859.
- (ii) Barker's painting celebrates the moment of Campbell's entry.
- (iii) At the centre of the canvas are the British heroes - Campbell, Outram and Havelock.
- (iv) The gestures of the hands of those around lead the spectator's eyes towards the centre.
- (v) The heroes stand on a ground that is well lit, with the shadows in the foreground and the damaged Residency in the background.
- (vi) The dead and injured in the foreground are testimony to the suffering during the siege, while the triumphant figures of horses in the middle ground emphasised the fact that British power and control had been re-established.

Joseph Noel Paton:

- (i) "In Memoriam" was painted by Joseph Noel Paton two years after the mutiny.
- (ii) "In Memoriam" does not show violence; it only suggests it.
- (iii) It stirs up the spectator's imagination and seeks to provoke anger and fury.
- (iv) It represents the rebels as violent and brutal, even though they remain invisible in the picture. In the background one can see the British rescue forces arriving as saviours.

Sketches Published in British Newspaper:

- (i) Depiction of English Women: British Women appear heroic, defending themselves against the attack of rebels.
- (ii) For example, Miss Wheeler stands firmly at the centre, defending her honour, single handedly killing the attacking rebels.
- (iii) The woman's struggle to save her honour and her life, in fact, is represented as having a deeper religious connotation: it is a battle to save the honour of Christianity.
- (iv) The book lying on the floor is the Bible.

Vengeance and Retribution:

- (i) In one such image Justice, published in Punch, 1857 we see an allegorical female figure of justice with a sword in one hand and a shield in the other.
- (ii) Her posture is aggressive; her face expresses rage and the desire for revenge.
- (iii) She is trampling sepoys under her feet while a mass of Indian women with children cover with fear.
- (iv) There were innumerable other pictures and cartoons in the British press that sanctioned brutal repression and violent reprisal.
- (v) The urge for vengeance and retribution was expressed in the brutal way in which the rebels were executed. 'The British Lion's Vengeance on the Bengal Tiger', was published in Punch, 1857.
- (vi) The Execution of mutineers in Peshawar: Blowing from the guns, was illustrated in London News, 1857. The scene of execution appears to be a stage where a drama is being performed - an enactment of brutal power.
- (vii) Mounted soldiers and sepoys in uniform dominate the scene.
- (viii) They have to watch the execution of their fellow sepoys and experience the chilling consequences of rebellion.

Benevolent Hand:

In one Punch, a British Journal of comic satire Canning is shown as a looming father figure, with his protective hand over the head of a sepoy.

Nationalist Imageries:

- (i) Films and posters have helped create the image of Rani Lakshmi Bai as a masculine warrior.
- (ii) In popular prints, Rani Lakshmi Bai is usually portrayed in battle armour, with a sword in hand and riding a horse. A symbol of the determination to resist injustice and alien rule.
- (iii) Subhadra Kumari Chauhan wrote 'Khoob Lari Mardani Who To Jhansi Wali Rani thi'

Conclusion:

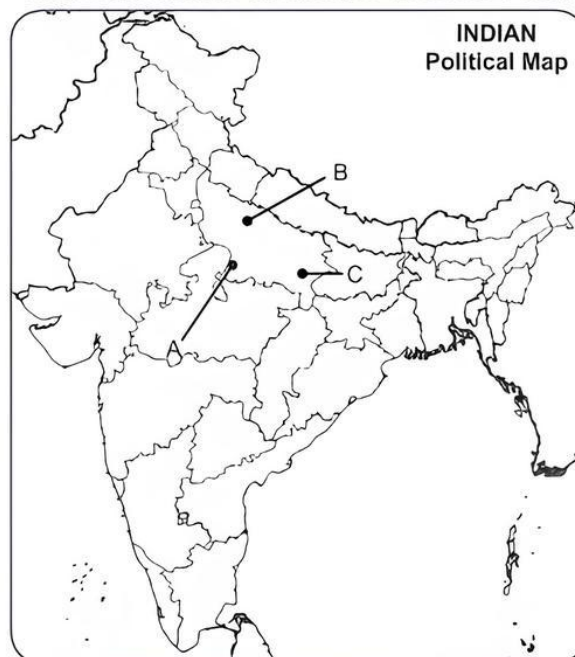
- (i) The images indicate how the painters who produced them perceived those events, what they felt and what they sought to convey.
- (ii) Through the paintings and cartoons, we know about the public that looked at the paintings, appreciated or criticised the images and brought copies and reproductions to put up in their homes.
- (iii) These images did not only reflect the emotions and feelings of the times in which they were produced. They also shaped sensibilities.
- (iv) Fed by the images that circulate in Britain, the public sanctioned the most brutal forms of repression of the rebels.

- (v) On the other hand, nationalist imageries of the revolt helped shape the nationalist imagination.

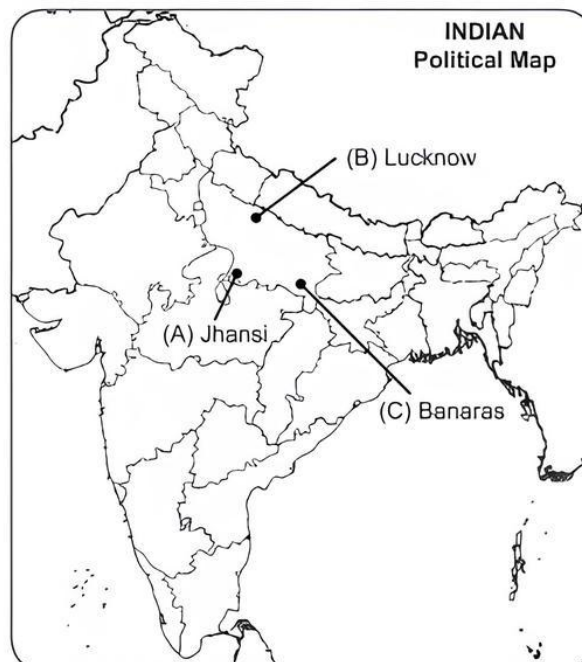


Map Based Questions

- Q 1. On the political outline map of India three places related to the centres of the revolt of 1857 have been marked as A, B and C. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.



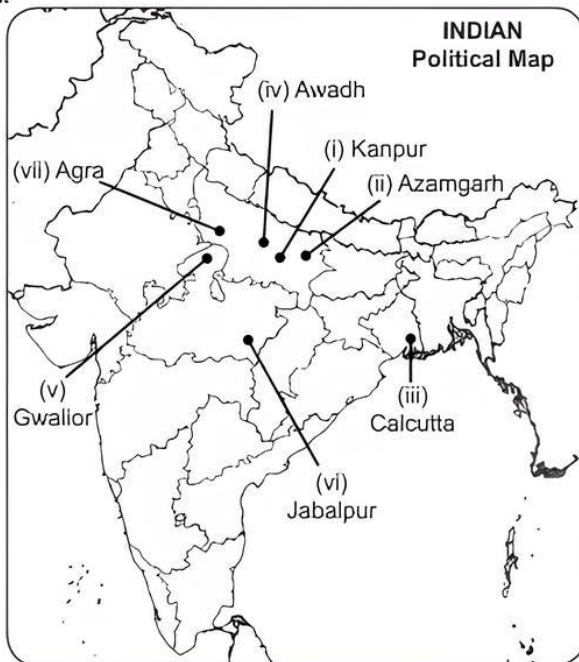
Ans. A. Jhansi B. Lucknow C. Banaras.



- Q 2. On the given outline map of India, mark the following:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (i) Kanpur | (ii) Azamgarh |
| (iii) Calcutta | (iv) Awadh |
| (v) Gwalior | (vi) Jabalpur |
| (vii) Agra | |

Ans.



Q 3. On the given political map of India, three important centres of Indian National Movement have been marked as A, B and C. Identify them and write their names on the lines drawn near them. (CBSE 2015)

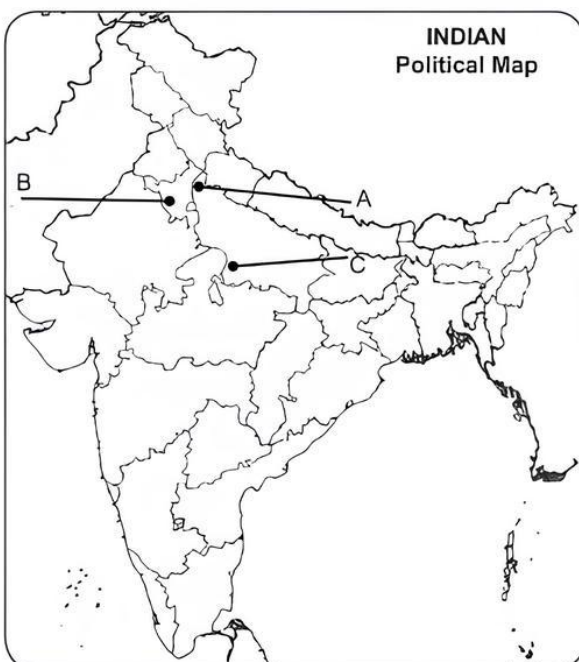
OR

On the given political map of India, locate and label any two centres of the revolt of 1857.

OR

On the map 3 centres of the Revolt of 1857 have been marked as A, B and C. Identify them and write their names on the lines drawn near them.

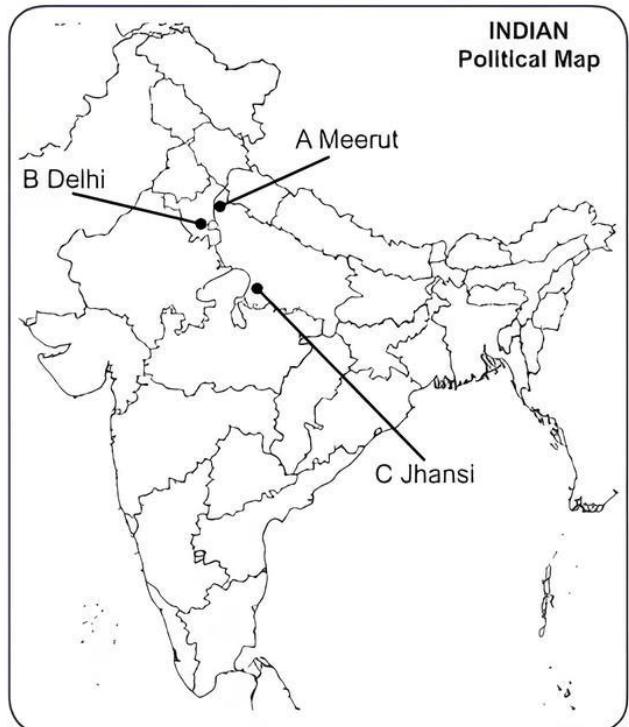
On the given political outline map of India, locate and label the following with appropriate symbol 'The place where mutiny started in 1857'.



Ans. A. Meerut

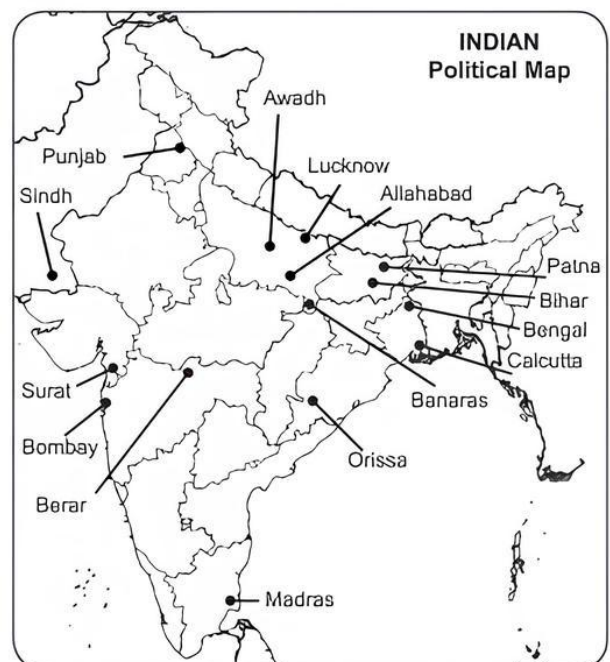
B. Delhi

C. Jhansi



Q 4. On the given political map of India, locate and label Territories/Cities under British control in 1857.

Ans.





Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. Who led the revolt at Kanpur?
- Bahadur Shah
 - Nana Saheb
 - Shah Mal
 - Maulavi Ahmadulla Shah
- Q 2. Apart from ishtahars, the 1857 rebels spread their views through:
- newspapers
 - letters
 - proclamations
 - speeches

Assertion and Reason Type Question

- Q 3. In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): In towns and cantonments, sepoys and common people refused to touch the atta.

Reason (R): There were rumours that the British had mixed the bone dust of cows and pigs into flour that was sold in the market.

- Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Fill in the Blank Type Questions

- Q 4. The first British revenue settlement known as the
 - Settler
 - Summary Settlement
 - Jotedar
 - None of these
- Q 5. The Summary Settlement proceeded to remove the wherever possible.
 - Zamindar
 - Ryots
 - Taluqdars
 - Jotedar

Correct and Rewrite Type Question

- Q 6. To fight the British, leadership and organisation were required. For these the rebels always turned to rebellious elements in the military.

Source Based Question

- Q 7. Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:
The Azamgarh Proclamation, 25th August 1857.

Section III- Regarding Public Servants. It is not a secret thing, that under the British Government, natives employed in the civil and military services have little respect, low pay and no manner of influence and all the posts of dignity and emolument in both the departments are exclusively bestowed on Englishmen, ... Therefore, all the natives in the British service ought to be alive to their religion and interest and abjuring their loyalty to the English, side with the Badshahi Government and obtain salaries of 200 and 300 Rupees a month for the present and be entitled to high posts in the future.

Section IV-Regarding Artisans. It is evident that the Europeans, by the introduction of English articles into India, have thrown the weavers, the cotton dressers, the carpenters, the blacksmiths, and the shoemakers etc. out of employment and have engrossed their occupations, so that every description of native artisan has been reduced to beggary. But under the Badshahi Government the native artisans will exclusively be employed in the service of the kings, the rajahs and the rich; and this will no doubt ensure their prosperity. Therefore these artisans ought to renounce the English services,

- How did the introduction of English affect the artisans?
- How would the condition of the artisans improve under the Badshahi Government?
- Why were the public servants dissatisfied with the British Government?

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 8. Who was Danka Shah?
- Q 9. What were the complaints of sepoys?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 10. Examine why the British annexed the territory of Awadh.
- Q 11. Examine the repressive measures adopted by the British to subdue the rebels of 1857.

Long Answer Type Question

- Q 12. Explain the participation of the taluqdars of Awadh in the Revolt of 1857.