Revolt of 1857

The Revolt of 1857 consists of the series of revolts that took place in different parts of our country. It is considered as the first war of Indian Independence. On 29th March, 1857, Mangal Pandey attacked and fired at his senior at Barrackpur (Bengal). On 10th May, the Sepoys of 3rd native regiment of Meerut raised the slogan of 'Dilli Chalo'. On reaching Delhi they declared Bahadur Shah Zafar (the last Mughal Emperor) as the leader of the revolt.

Causes of Revolt

 There are many socio, economic, political, religious factors, which were responsible for the outbreak of this revolt.

- These causes include: British Policy of Heavy Taxation, Spread of Modern Education, Propaganda by Christian Missionaries, Destruction of Taditional Handicrafts, Policy of 'Doctrine of Lapse' etc.
- The immediate cause of the Revolt of 1857, was the introduction of new Enfield Rifles. To load the rifle, sepoys had to bite the cartridge open to release the powder. The grease used on these cartridges was believed to be made of beef and pork fat, which angered the Hindus and the Muslims.

Centre of Revolt	Leader	British Commander	Important Facts					
Delhi (11th May, 1857-20th September, 1857)	Bahadur Shah Zafar and Bakht Khan (Commander)	John Nicolson	Revolt of 1857 began here. Bahadur Shah got the title of 'Shahenshah-Hindustan.' He escaped to Rangoon.					
Kanpur (4th June, 1857-6th December, 1857)	Nana Sahib and Tantiya Tope (Commander), Azimullah	Colin Campbell	Nana Saheb rose in revolt against the British because he was denied the pension as he was the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II.					
Lucknow (4th June, 1857-21st March, 1857)	Begum Hazarat Mahal	Colin Campbell	Lucknow was annexed in 1856, on the charges of mal-administration.					
Jhansi (4th June, 1857-18th June, 1858)	Rani Laxmi Bai	Hugh Rose	Jhansi was annexed by the British owing to the Policy of Doctrine of Lapse.					
Allahabad (5th June, 1857-March, 1858	Liyaqat Ali	Colonel Neil	During the mutiny, Liyaqat Ali declared Allahabad as independent region, but soon lost to British.					

Centre of Revolt	Leader	British Commander	Important Facts				
Jagdishpur (August, 1857-December, 1857)	Kunwar Singh and Amar Singh	William Taylor and Vincet Eyre	Kunwar Singh was, the zamindar of Arrah (Bihar), where he commanded the group of soldiers.				
Bareily (Captured in 1858)	Khan Bahadur Khan	Sir Colin Campbell	Khan Bahadur Khan proclaimed himself as Nawab and led the revolt here.				

The Revolt of 1857 failed due to many reasons which includes lack of organisation, centralised leadership, coordination and nationalism. Many rulers like Scindias (Gwalior), Holkars (Indor), Nizam (Hyderabad), Ruler of Kashmir, Rana (Nepal), Raja of Jodhpur gave active support to the British.

British Policies After the Revolt of 1857

After the Revolt of 1857, the British Government introduced many reforms in its administrative policies in order to prevent the occurrence of any such revolt in future. The new British policies include the following

- 1. **Changes in Administration** By the Act of Parliament of 1858, the power to govern India was transferred from East India Company to the British crown.
- 2. **Provincial Administration** Provincial decentralisation began during this time. Lord Mayo separated the Central and Provincial finances.

- 3. **Local Bodies** Financial difficulties led the government to further decentralise administration by promoting local government through Municipalities and District Boards.
- 4. **Changes in Army** The domination of the army by its European branch was carefully guaranteed. Indians were strictly excluded from the higher positions. A new section of army like Punjabis, Gurkhas and Pathans were recruited in large numbers. British created the divide between Hindu and Muslim sepoys in order to prevent them from uniting against them.
- 5. **Public Service** Indians were excluded from the bureaucracy. The maximum age for entry into civil services was reduced from 23 to 19 in 1878.



- **1.** Under whose Governor Generalship, the Revolt of 1857 occurred?
 - (a) Lord Canning
- (b) Lord Irwin
- (c) Lord Lytton
- (d) Lord Willington
- **2.** Who was declared the leader of the Revolt of 1857?
 - (a) Rani Laxmi Bai
 - (b) Bahadur Shah Zafar
 - (c) Begum Hazrat Mahal
 - (d) Kunwar Singh
- **3.** Which among the following was not an economic cause of the Revolt of 1857?

- (a) Heavy taxation
- (b) Break down on major patronage for artisans and handicrafts
- (c) Increasing availability of market for Indian cotton
- (d) Increased pressure on agricultural land
- **4.** What were the socio-religious causes that caused unrest among the people and lead to the Revolt of 1857?
 - (a) Activities of Christian Missionaries
 - (b) Attempts to bring social reforms
 - (c) Taxation of Mosques and Temple lands
 - (d) Racial Superiority Complex of Britishers

- **5**. Where did the Revolt of 1857, started?
 - (a) Delhi
- (b) Meerut
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Jhansi
- **6.** Which of the following was the main reason for outbreak of the Revolt of 1857?
 - (a) Introduction of Enfield Rifle
 - (b) Introduction of Doctrine of Lapse
 - (c) Introduction of Subsidiary Alliances
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)
- **7.** What caused discontent among the Indian sepoys?
 - (a) They had to cross seas to serve.
 - (b) Lesser emoluments compared to the British Counterpart.
 - (c) Racial discrimination.
 - (d) All of the above
- **8.** The sepoys of the third native Regiment at Meerut revolt on
 - (a) 10th May, 1857
- (b) 21st June, 1832
- (c) 22nd April, 1833
- (d) 1st October, 1856
- **9.** Choose the incorrect match for the centre of the revolt and British Commanders.

(a) Jhansi: Huge Rose

(b) Allahabad: Colonel Neil

(c) Jagdishpur: John Nicolson

(d) Bareily: Colin Campbell

- **10.** Who was prominent leader in Lucknow during the Revolt of 1857?
 - (a) Begum Hazrat Mahal
 - (b) Rani Laxmi Bai
 - (c) Kunwar Singh
 - (d) Bahadur Shah Zafar
- **11.** Find the incorrect match for the centre of the revolt and leaders associated with them.

(a) Delhi: General Bakhat Khan

(b) Kanpur: Nana Saheb

(c) Lucknow: Begum Hazarat Mahal

(d) Bareily : Kunwar Singh

- **12**. Jhansi was recovered by
 - (a) Sleeman
- (b) Watsan
- (c) Hugh Rose
- (d) Campbell
- 13. Who led the rebels in Bihar?
 - (a) Laxmi Bai
- (b) Kunwar Singh
- (c) Tantia Tope
- (d) Nana Saheb
- 14. Who recaptured Delhi?
 - (a) Campbell
- (b) Nicolson
- (c) Hugh Rose
- (d) Hudsan
- **15.** Who led the revolt in Kanpur?
 - (a) Nana Saheb
 - (b) Tantia Tope
 - (c) Azimulla Khan
 - (d) All of the above
- 16. The Revolt of Jhansi was led by
 - (a) Rani Laxmi Bai
 - (b) Bahadur Shah
 - (c) Kunwar Singh
 - (d) All of the above
- **17**. Who led the revolt in Delhi?
 - (a) Kunwar Singh
 - (b) Ahmad Shah
 - (c) Laxmi Bai
 - (d) Bahadur Shah II and General Bakht Khan
- **18.** As per the Parliament Act of 1858
 - (a) East India Company was abolished
 - (b) Power to govern India was transferred to British crown
 - (c) Only (b)
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)
- **19.** The maximum age for entry into civil services was reduced from 23 to
 - (a) 20
- (b) 22
- (c) 19
- (d) 18
- **20.** After the Revolt of 1857, the British recruited the soldiers from the
 - (a) Brahmins of UP and Bihar
 - (b) Bengalis and Orrias from the East
 - (c) Gurkhas, Sikhs and Punjabis in the North
 - (d) Madras Presidency and Maratha

Answers

1	(a)	2	(b)	3	(c)	4	(d)	5	(b)	6	(d)	7	(d)	8	(a)	9	(c)	10	(a)
11	(d)	12	(c)	13	(b)	14	(b)	15	(d)	16	(a)	17	(d)	18	(d)	19	(c)	20	(c)