



CHAPTER-5 (HISTORY)

WHEN PEOPLE REBEL, 1857 AND AFTER {REVOLT OF 1857}

DATE: 5/10/20-9/10/20

NO OF BLOCKS: 03

GENERAL GUIDELINES: (E-MODULE)

- Watch the videos related to the topic. (Link attached in the module)
- Read the content carefully. (Not to be copied in the notebook)
- Attempt all the given questions and assignment in the Social Science notebook.
- Do refer to the NCERT History textbook.

NCERT TEXTBOOK LINK: <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm>

Chapter link: <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?hess2=5-10>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PW38U5cb1H8>

SUB TOPIC:

- MEANING OF REBELLION
- CAUSES OF FOR PEOPLE'S RESENTMENT AGAINST COLONIAL RULE OR REVOLT OF 1857
- THE MUTINY BECAME A POPULAR REBELLION
- CONTRIBUTION OF THE LEADERS TO THE REVOLT OF 1857
- EVENTS OF THE SEPOY MUTINY AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE REVOLT (Aftermath)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Each student will be able to:

- Understand the nature of revolt.
- Examine the various causes which led to the revolt of 1857.
- Identify the important centers and the leaders of the revolt.
- Enumerate the steps taken by the British to suppress the revolt.
- Results of the revolt.

LESSON DEVELOPMENT

BLOCK 1

MEANING OF REBELLION:-An organized revolt against established authority when people are disappointed and dissatisfied.

OTHER NAMES GIVEN TO THE REVOLT OF 1857

➤ THE FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE:-

- ✚ The revolt of 1857 is known as the first war of independence as before this war, Indians were not so united against the British.
- ✚ In this battle many social groups of the country came together to fight. For example-Nawabs, rajas, zamindars, peasants etc.
- ✚ The rebellion of May 1857 threatened the Company's presence in India.
- ✚ The mutiny (open rebellion against the proper authorities) which started from the cantonment (a military garrison or camp) in Meerut submerged a large part of northern and central India.
- ✚ People from different sections of society rose up in rebellion.
- ✚ Many historians regard it as the biggest armed resistance to colonialism in the nineteenth century anywhere in the world.

➤ THE REVOLT IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE SEPOY MUTINY

- ✚ Sepoy means soldiers and mutiny means 'March'. In this revolt, all the sepoys marched to the British buildings, houses, police station and burnt them.
- ✚ They killed the British. The main role in these actions was of the sepoys.

- ✚ Therefore, the Revolt 1857 is also called sepoy uprising.

CAUSES OF PEOPLE'S RESENTMENT AGAINST COLONIAL RULE OR REVOLT OF 1857

1] POLITICAL CAUSES

✓ NAWABS LOST THEIR POWERS

- Since the mid-eighteenth century, the power of nawabs and rajas had been eroding.
- The authority and the honour which they earlier commanded were gradually fading away.
- The British had appointed Residents in many courts.
- The freedom of the Indian rulers was reduced and their armed forces were disbanded.
- The Company also took away their revenues and territories in stages.

✓ FAILED NEGOTIATIONS OF RULING FAMILIES

- ✚ Many ruling families tried to negotiate with the Company to protect their interests but they failed.
- ✚ Example: After the death of her husband, Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi wanted her adopted son to be recognized as the successor to the kingdom.
- ✚ Nana Saheb of Kanpur who was the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II, wanted his father's pension when the Peshwa died. But the Company always turned down his requests.

✓ ANNEXATION OF AWADH

- ✚ A subsidiary alliance was imposed on Awadh in 1801 and it was fully taken over in 1856.
- ✚ Governor-General Dalhousie declared that the territory was being misgoverned and British rule was needed to ensure proper administration.

✓ END OF THE MUGHAL DYNASTY

- The Company was also working on its plan to bring the Mughal reign to an end.
- It removed the name of the Mughal king from the coins.
- In 1849, it was announced by Governor General Dalhousie that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar the family of the king would be shifted out of the Red Fort and they would be given another place in Delhi to live.
- In 1856, it was decided by Governor General Canning that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal king.

2] ECONOMIC CAUSES

- ✚ In the countryside peasants and zamindars resented and faced high taxes and harsh methods of revenue collection.
- ✚ Many failed to pay back their loans to the money lenders.
- ✚ Peasants gradually lost the lands they had tilled for generations.

3] SOCIAL CAUSES [RESPONSES TO REFORMS]

- ✚ The British believed that Indian society had to be reformed so many new laws were passed to stop:
 - Practice of sati Child marriage
- ✚ British encouraged the widow remarriage.
- ✚ The British took several steps to reform and educate the society through western type of education.
- ✚ The Company officially promoted the English language and western education in India.
- ✚ After 1830, Christian missionaries were allowed to function freely and they could even own land and property.
- ✚ In 1850, a new law allowed an Indian who had converted to Christianity to inherit property of his ancestors.
- ✚ This new law made the procedure to convert to Christianity easier.

4] RELIGIOUS CAUSES

- ✚ Some of the new rules violated the religious feelings and beliefs of Hindus and Muslims.
- ✚ Promotion of Christianity outraged the orthodox Hindus and Muslims.
- ✚ Indians thought that the British were trying to destroy their religion, social customs and traditional way of life.
- ✚ However, there were also some people who wanted to get rid of many of the social evils and supported and welcomed these changes.

5] MILITARY CAUSES

- ✚ The Indian sepoy were unhappy with their pay, allowances and conditions of service in the EEIC army.
- ✚ The Hindu sepoy believed that crossing the sea would destroy their religion and caste.
- ✚ In 1824, when the sepoy were told to go to Burma by the sea route they refused to follow the orders.
- ✚ They agreed to go by land route but for this, the sepoy were severely punished.
- ✚ The Company passed a new law in 1856 which made it mandatory for a sepoy to agree to serve overseas if required.
- ✚ Many Sepoy were peasants and had families living in the villages but they were not allowed to return to their villages at the time of harvest and festivities.

6] IMMEDIATE CAUSE

- ✚ New cartridges coated with the fat of cows and pigs were given to the soldiers which the Indians were reluctant (unwilling) to use as they thought it would destroy their tradition and culture.
- ✚ Some sepoy of the regiment at Meerut refused to use the new cartridges during an army drill.
- ✚ For their refusal, eighty five sepoy were dismissed from service and were sentenced to ten years in jail.

BLOCK II

THE MUTINY BECAME A POPULAR REBELLION

- ✚ A very large number of people saw British as their common enemy and rose up against them.
- ✚ Sepoy mutinied in several places beginning from Meerut.
- ✚ A large number of people from different sections of society rose up in rebellion.
- ✚ After a hundred years of conquest and administration, the English East India Company faced a massive rebellion that started in May 1857.
- ✚ This revolt threatened the Company's existence in India.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE LEADERS IN THE REVOLT OF 1857

<u>Rani Lakshmibai [Jhansi,UP]</u>	Joined the rebel sepoy and fought the British along with Tantia Tope.
<u>Bakht Khan [Bareilly,UP]</u>	As a soldier, he took charge of a large force of fighters who came to Delhi and became a key military leader of the rebellion.
<u>Babu Kunwar Singh [Aarah,Bihar]</u>	Joined the rebel sepoy, and battled with the British for many months.
<u>MangalPandey[Bairakpore,Calcutta]</u>	Fought the British for the rifles.
<u>Nana Saheb[Kanpur,UP]</u>	Adopted son of the late Peshwa Baji Rao II who lived near Kanpur, gathered armed forces and expelled the British garrison from the city. He proclaimed himself as Peshwa.
<u>Tantiya Tope[UP]</u>	Joined the rebel sepoy and fought the British with Rani Lakshmibai. He was the general of Nana Saheb.
<u>Begum Hazrat Mahal [Awadh,United Province]</u>	Mother of Wajid Ali Shah, took an active part in organizing the uprising against the British in Lucknow.

➤ EVENTS OF THE SEPOY MUTINY

✓ 29 MARCH 1857 [EXECUTION OF MANGAL PANDEY]

- ✚ Mangal Pandey was a young soldier at the cantonment in Barrackpore in Calcutta.
- ✚ He was the culprit of attacking his British officers.
- ✚ On 29 March 1857, Mangal Pandey was hanged to death for his crime.

✓ 9TH MAY 1857

- ✚ Some sepoys 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.
- ✚ As a result Eighty –five sepoys were dismissed from service and sentenced to ten years in jail for disobeying their officers.

✓ 10TH MAY [THE BACKLASH]

- ✚ The other sepoys in Meerut reacted in an extraordinary way.
- ✚ The soldiers marched to the jail and released the imprisoned sepoys.
- ✚ They attacked and killed British officers and captured guns and ammunition.
- ✚ By setting fire to the buildings and properties of the British they declared a war on the Firangis.

✓ 11TH MAY [AN APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW LEADER]

- ✚ After creating distresses in Meerut, the soldiers rode throughout the night of 10th May and reached Delhi the next morning.
- ✚ When the regiments in Delhi heard the news, they also rose up in rebellion.
- ✚ Victorious soldiers gathered around the walls of the Red –Fort where the Emperor lived, demanding to meet him.
- ✚ The soldiers themselves proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader.
- ✚ The emperor had no choice but to agree to their demand.
- ✚ He wrote letters to all the chiefs and rulers of the country to unite against the British.
- ✚ He asked them to form a confederacy (alliance) of Indian states to fight the British.
- ✚ This step of the emperor had great implications.

➤ POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR

- ✚ The Mughal dynasty had ruled over a very large part of the country for a long period.
- ✚ Most of the small rulers and chieftains had been ruling over their territories on behalf of the Mughal ruler.
- ✚ They hoped that if the Mughal ruler could once again resume power, they would also be able to rule their own territories once again.
- ✚ The British had initially taken the revolt at Meerut quite lightly.
- ✚ But the decision by Bahadur Shah Zafar to support the rebellion had dramatically changed the entire situation.
- ✚ People became confident by an alternative possibility with Zafar as their leader.

➤ THE COMPANY FIGHTS BACK {THE REVOLT WAS SUPPRESSED BY THE EEIC}

- ✚ The Company decided to suppress the revolt with all its strength and power.
- ✚ Reinforcements were brought in from England.
- ✚ It took almost two years to completely control the situation.
- ✚ The Company then moved forces into the storm centers of revolt and Delhi was recaptured from the

rebel forces in September 1857.

- ✚ Lucknow was recaptured in March 1858.
- ✚ Rani Lakshmibai was killed in a battle in June 1858.
- ✚ Tantia Toppe escaped to the jungles of central India and continued guerilla war with tribal and peasant leaders. He was captured, tried and killed in April 1859.

BLOCK III

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE REVOLT (Aftermath)

SHIFTING LOYALTIES

- ✚ The defeat of the rebel forces encouraged desertions from the ranks.
- ✚ New laws were passed to make it easy to convict the rebels.
- ✚ The British also tried to win back people's loyalty.
- ✚ Rewards were announced for loyal landholders. They were allowed to enjoy their traditional rights over the land.
- ✚ The rebels were asked to submit to the British and they would remain safe as their claims and rights would not be denied.
- ✚ But only with a condition that they had not killed any white during the revolt.
- ✚ Hundreds of sepoys, rebels, nawabs and rajas were tried and hanged.

1] POLITICAL CHANGES

- ✚ After the revolt, the British had to change some rules and laws.
- ✚ The British Parliament passed a new Act in 1858 and transferred the powers of the East Indian Company to the British Crown to ensure a more responsible management of Indian affairs.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ The secretary of state was given a council to advise him, called the Indian Council.
- ✚ The Governor –General of India was given the title of Viceroy, who was a personal representative of the British crown.
- ✚ Through these measures, the British Government accepted direct responsibility of ruling India.

2] POLICY TOWARDS THE INDIAN RULERS AND NAWABS

- ✚ 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 kingdom as subordinates of the British Crown.

3] CHANGES IN THE ARMY

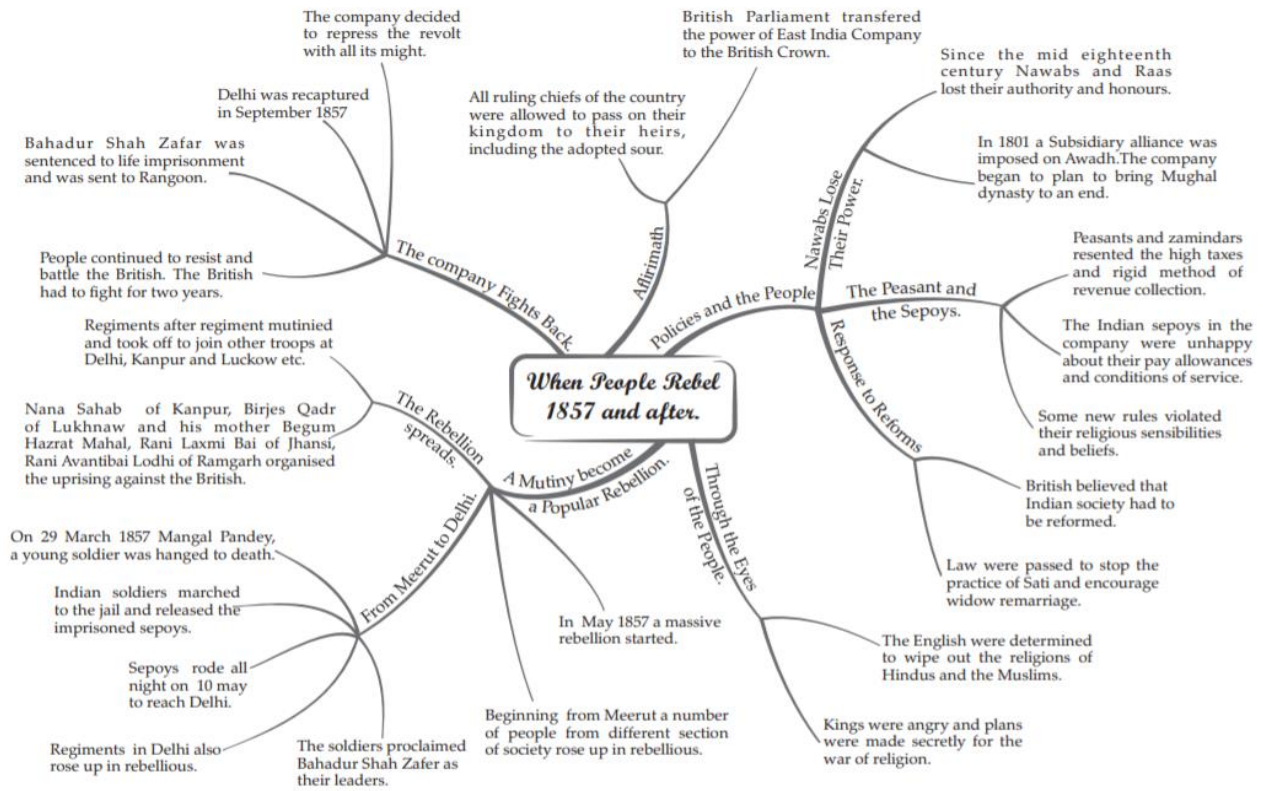
- ✚ It was decided that the proportion of Indian soldiers in the army would be reduced and the number of European soldiers would be increased.
- ✚ It was also decided that instead of recruiting soldiers from Awadh, Bihar, Central India and South India, more soldiers would be recruited from among the Gurkhas, Sikhs and Pathans.

4] CHANGES TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY

- ✚ The land and property of Muslims was confiscated on a large scale and they were treated with suspicion and hostility.
- ✚ The British believed that the Muslims were responsible for the rebellion.
- ✚ 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 land.

Figure 1 MIND MAP



ASSIGNMENT

Q1. Match the columns.

Arrah	Bahadur Shah Zafar
Kanpur	Begum Hazrat Mahal
Jhansi	Tantia Tope
Delhi	Kunwar Singh
Awadh	Rani Lakshmbibai

Q2. Give three reasons for the discontent among the sepoy.

Q3. What role did Bahadur Shah Zafar play in the rebellion?

Q4. What was the impact of the rebellion on 1857?

Q5. What was the demand of Rani Lakshmbibai of Jhansi that was refused by the British?

Q6. What did the British do to protect the interests of those who converted to Christianity?

Centres of the Revolt

