

Chapter 6

The Revolt of 1857

Q. Answer these questions in brief.

Q1. What was the significance of the Revolt of 1857?

Ans The Revolt of 1857 was an extremely important event in Indian history. In this revolt many provincial rulers and their people revolted against British rule.

Q2. Which policy was adopted by Dalhousie to extend the British Empire in India?

Ans Lord Dalhousie introduced an oppressive annexation policy called the Doctrine of Lapse to extend the British Empire in India.

Q3. What was the immediate cause of the Revolt of 1857?

Ans The introduction of the Enfield Rifles is considered as the immediate cause of the Revolt of 1857.

Q4. What methods were used by the British to suppress the Revolt of 1857?

Ans British used divide and rule policy against to divide the strength of

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Hindus and Muslims.

They continue the exploitation of peasant and recaptured of Delhi to suppress the Revolt of 1857.

Q5 Why did the General Enlistment Act 1856 causes resentment amongst the Bengal Army?

Ans The General Service Enlistment Act called for the same from Bengal Army as well that faced great resentment because they were initially exempted from overseas operations. It espoused that the Bengal Army shall serve overseas if needed.

Q. Answer these questions in detail.

Q1. Explain the social, Political and Military causes of the Revolt of 1857.

Ans
 Social Causes: Lord William Bentinck made the practise of sati punishable. Widow remarriage was made legal. Female infanticide, child marriage and polygamy were banned. The common people did not like this transformation of their society as they considered these reformers to be threat to their social system.

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Political Causes: The main political cause for the great revolt of 1857 was the policy of Doctrine of Lapse. It was an annexation policy introduced by Lord Dalhousie as per which any princely state or territory under the British east India company would automatically be annexed if the ruler died without a male heir.

Military causes:- The plight of the Indian soldiers in the army was also one of the causes of the Revolt of 1857. The British officers were given all the important posts in the army, while the Indians were given the lower ranks.

Q2 What were the main centres of the Revolt of 1857?

Ans The main centres of the Revolt of 1857 were Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Jhansi, Gwalior and Arrah.

Kanpur: The revolt was led by Nana Sahab, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II.

Lucknow: Begum Hazrat Mahal took an

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active part in the uprising

Bareilly: The uprising was led by Khan Bahadur Khan Rohilla. When the revolt failed he escaped to Nepal.

Jhansi: The revolt in Jhansi was led by Rani Lakshmbai, as the British were not accepting her adopted son Damodar Rao as the heir throne.

Awrah: In Awrah, Bihar an elderly zamindar, Kunwar Singh, led the revolt.

Q3. What were the reasons of failure of the Revolt of 1857?

Ans Following were the reasons of failure of the Revolt of 1857

- The leadership of the movement was weak. Most of its leaders were motivated by narrow and personal gains.
- The revolt did not spread to all parts of India. The regions in the south and north did not participate in the revolt.
- Many groups and large sections of the Indian society did not support the revolt.
- The revolt was largely unorganized and the rebels lacked any ideology.

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- The rebels lacked resources. They were short of finances and weapons.
- The Indian rebels lacked planning and had no clear direction.

Q4. Explain the consequences of the Revolt of 1857.

Ans The Revolt of 1857 brought far-reaching changes in both political and social aspects of the Indian society. The British East India Company's rule ended in India and the country was placed under the direct rule of Queen Victoria of England. The designation of the Governor-General of India was changed to viceroy. Lord Canning became the first viceroy of India.

Q5. What were the main features of the Government of India Act 1858?

Ans The main features of the Government of India Act 1858 were:

- The social customs and traditions of the people of India would be respected and no discrimination would be made on the basis of caste or religion.
- The people of India would be given jobs in public offices based on their

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Qualification.

- The policy of annexation and expansion along with the Doctrine of Lapse was discontinued.
- Promises were also made regarding industrial and public welfare development.

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Work out

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

- The Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah was exiled to
a. Malaysia b. Ceylon c. Indonesia d. Rangoon
- The greased cartridge first became a source of disturbance in
a. Meerut b. Lucknow c. Jhansi d. Barrackpore
- A popular name associated with the 1857 uprising was
a. Bhagat Singh b. Chandrasekhar Azad
c. Sukhdev d. Mangal Pandey
- In Bareilly, the uprising was led by
a. Kunwar Singh b. Khand Bahadur Khan Rohilla
c. Bahadur Shah Zafar d. Mangal Pandey
- The General Service Enlistment Act was passed in the year
a. 1857 b. 1859 c. 1906 d. 1856

B. Fill in the blanks.

- Annexation policies of the British led to discontentment among people.
- According to an Act in 1858, India came under the rule of the Queen Victoria.
- Rani Lakshmbai's son was not recognized as the heir under the British policy of annexation.
- Agricultural conditions in India led to famines.
- The Governor-General of India was proclaimed as the viceroy under the act of 1858.

C. Write T for true and F for false.

- The Revolt of 1857 was initiated by Mangal Pandey.
- The Doctrine of Lapse was started by Lord Bentinck.
- Bahadur Shah Zafar was the last Mughal ruler.
- Nana Saheb was the adopted son of the Rani Lakshmbai.
- The Revolt ended the Company rule in India.

