

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MANDLA ROAD, JABALPUR
CLASS NOTES ON HISTORY

CHAPTER 6 - THE REVOLT OF 1857

BASIC CONCEPTS



I. CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION.

1. c. 1854
2. b. Nana Saheb
3. d. 1770–1857
4. c. Bahadur Shah Zafar
5. b. 1858

II. WRITE WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE.

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. False

III. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

1. royal titles
2. peasants
3. missionaries
4. Mangal Pandey
5. Rangoon

IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES.

1. What is a revolt?
A revolt is an expression of people's discontent and anger against those who exert power and influence.
2. How did the Subsidiary Alliance System became a reason for the outbreak of the Revolt of 1857?
According to the policy of Subsidiary Alliance, a number of local rulers were forced to sign a treaty with the British. The British interfered in the political affairs of the local kingdoms and stationed their troops in their territories in return of giving protection. In the cases of non-payment for British troops, the kingdoms were annexed by the British.
3. How did the British disrespect the Mughal emperor?
The EEIC announced in 1856 that after Bahadur Shah Zafar's death, his successors would lose their royal titles and would be known as mere princes. They would also have to leave their royal residences at the Red Fort and move to the outskirts of Delhi.
4. Give one example to show that the sepoys in the British army were treated in an unequal manner?
The Indian sepoys were treated in an unequal manner. No Indian sepoy was promoted above the rank of a subedar.
5. Which act was passed after the Revolt of 1857?
Government of India Act of 1858 was passed after the Revolt of 1857 which abolished the rule of the EEIC and brought India directly under the British Crown.

V. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF.

1. How did the Doctrine of Lapse and the Subsidiary Alliance System contributed towards the outbreak of the Revolt of 1857?

Lord Dalhousie's policy of Doctrine of Lapse subordinated many Indian rulers as the British annexed the kingdom of a ruler who died without leaving a natural male heir.

According to the policy of Subsidiary Alliance, a number of local rulers were forced to sign a treaty with the British. The British interfered in the political affairs of the local kingdoms and stationed their troops in their territories in return of giving protection. In the cases of non-payment of the British troops, the kingdoms were annexed by the British.

2. Discuss the economic causes of the Revolt of 1857?

The economic policies of the British affected many sections of people. The following are some instances which led to the Revolt of 1857.

- i. *Land Revenue Policies:*

The peasants were subjected to payment of very high land revenues and were forced to take loan at high rates of interest from the moneylenders. As the debt kept increasing, most peasants sold their lands and became landless labourers or they fled to the forests.

- ii. *Abolition of Zamindars:*

The zamindari rights were taken from the zamindars, if they were unable to meet high land revenue demands made by the EEIC.

- iii. *Famines:*

Numerous famines occurred between 1770–1857 CE which added to people's miseries, to which the government paid no heed.

- iv. *Loss of Wages and Employment:*

The loss of wages, jobs and means of livelihood was triggered by the annexation of local kingdoms by the EEIC. Many craftspersons, artisans and soldiers lost their jobs.

3. Why were the sepoys in the British army discontented with the EEIC?

The sepoys in the army were discontented with the EIC in the following ways:

- i. Most sepoys were actually peasants who had joined the army because of the better pay it offered. However, they still had their families in the villages and the policies of the British which affected the peasants in the rural areas also affected the sepoys.
- ii. The British were not sensitive towards the religious beliefs and customs of the sepoys.
- iii. The sepoys were often discriminated against and treated with contempt by the British officers. They were paid lower salaries and made to stay in poor housing conditions. No Indian sepoy was promoted above the rank of a subedar.
- iv. The growing discontent and dissatisfaction among the sepoys was sparked by the introduction of the Enfield Rifle in the army in 1856 CE, whose cartridge was said to be greased with cow and pig fat.

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

The growing discontent and dissatisfaction among the sepoys was sparked by the introduction of the Enfield Rifle in the army in 1856 CE. The cartridges of this new rifle had a greased paper cover, the end of which had to be bitten off before the cartridge was loaded in the rifle. The sepoys were convinced that the grease used on the paper cover was made of cow and pig fat. This left the Hindu and Muslim sepoys in the army enraged since they felt that this was a deliberate attempt by the British to defile their religion and convert them to Christianity.

5. Discuss the impact of the Revolt of 1857?

The Revolt of 1857 impacted the Indian socio-political fabric to a great extent.

- i. It marked the formal end of the Mughal dynasty.
- ii. The Government of India Act of 1858 which came out after the revolt abolished the rule of the EIC and brought India directly under the British Crown.

- iii. The reorganisation of the army led to the sepoys being recruited from various regions to prevent a feeling of unity among the soldiers. In addition, the number of Indian sepoys in the army was decreased and the number of European soldiers was increased.
- iv. The support and help extended by a number of Indian princes in the revolt was appreciated and they were assured that there would be no further annexation of their territories.

I Do, I Understand (Page No. 61) – Map to be done by the students.

This will be discussed during the online classes as well.