

Chapter 6 – People’s Resistance Against British Before 1857

Civil Uprisings & Peasant Movements-

Name of the movement	Main cause(s)	Course of the movement and consequences
Sanyasi Rebellion Area: Bengal Year: 1763-1800	Displaced peasants, Demobilized Soldiers, disposed Zamindars, Participated led By Sanyasis.	It was made famous by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. In his novel: Anandmath
Revolt of Kattambomman Area: Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu Year: 1792-99 Leader: Veerapandya Kattabomman (Ruler of panchalakurichi)	Attempts of the British to force Katabomman to accept their suzerainty and his refusal	Defiance of the British by Kattabomman for 7 years; his final capture and execution by the British (1779); annexation of his territory by the British (1779).
Rebellion of the Paiks Area: Orissa Year: 1804-06 Leader: First under the Raja of the Khurda and later under jagabandhu	British Occupation of Orissa (1803); resentment of the paiks (a militia class occupying rent free lands under the zamindars) against British land and land revenue policies	Unsuccessful attempt of the Raja of Khurd to organize a rebellion with the help of the Paiks, and confiscation of his territory by the British (1804) continuous unrest among the Paiks between 1804 & 1806; rise of the Paiks under Jagabandhu and their occupation of Puri after defeating the British force (1807); final suppression of the movement by force and conciliatory measures by British.

Revolt of Velu Thampi Area: Travancore Year: 1805-09 Leader: Velu Thambi (Dewan of Travancore)	Financial burden imposed on the state by the British through the subsidiary system; the high handedness of the British Resident there; and British demand for the removal of Dewan.	Beginning of war between the two sides (December 1805); fall of Trivendrum (Capital of Travancore) to the British (February 1809); death of Velu Thampi in forest due to serious injuries.
Revolt of Rao Bharmal Area: Cutch and Kathiawar in Gujrat Year: 1861-19 Leader: Rao Bharmal (Rule off Cutch)	Anti-British feeling due to British expansionist policy and their interference in internal affairs of Cutch.	Final defeat and deposal of Rao Bharmal; imposition of Subsidiary treaty on Cutch.
Revolt of Ramosis Area: Poona Year: 1822-29 Leader: Chittur Singh and Umaji	British Annexation of Peshwa's territory (1818), resulting in large scale unemployment among Ramosis (under the Peshwa, they served in inferior ranks of police)	Revolt of the Ramosis under Chittur Singh (1822-24); their revolt under (Umaji (1822-24); establishment of peace by the British by pardoning all the crimes of the Ramosis and also by granting them lands and recruiting them as hill police.
Kittur Rising Area: Kittur (near dharwar in Karnataka) Year: 1824-29 Leader: Channamma and Rayappa	Death of Shivalinga Rudra Desai (chief) of Kittur (1824), leaving no male to recognize the adopted issue; refusal of the British son as the Desai and assumption of administration of Kittur by British	Revolt of Channamma (widow of late Desai) in 1824 and murder of English officers including Thackeray (Collector of Dharwar); conquest of Kittur and its annexation by the British revolt of the people of Kittur under Rayappa who declared independence and set up the adopted boy as the Desai (1829); capture and execution of rayappa by British, and death of Channamma in Dharwar prison.

Sambalpur Outbreaks Area: Sambalpur (Orissa) Year: 1827-40 Leader: Surendra Sai	Frequent interference of British in the internal affairs of Sambalpur such as the issue of succession.	Death of Maharaja Sai (ruler) and outbreak of civil war; succession of Mohan Kumari (widow of the late Raja) with the support of the British and revolt of other claimants under Surendra Sai; final arrest and life imprisonment of Surendra Sai by British (1840).
Satara disturbances Area: Satara (Maharashtra) Year: 1840-41 Leader: Dhar Rao Pawar and Narsing Dattatreya Pettkar	Deposal and banishment of Pratap Singh, the popular ruler of Satara by the British	Revolt of the people of Satara under Dhar Rao in 1840; their revolt under Narsing and seizure of Badami in 1841; defeat and capture of Narsing by the British (he was transported for life).
Bundela Revolt Area: Sagar & Damoh (Bundelkhand) Year: 1842 Leader: Madhukar Shah and Jawahir Singh	Resentment against British land revenue policy	Revolt of the Bundelas under Shah and Singh; murder of police officers and disruption of British administration; capture and execution of madhukar Shah and Singh by British.
Gadkari Rebellion Area: Kolhapur (Maharashtra) Year: 1844-45 Leader: Not Available	Assumption of direct administration of Kolhapur by British and reforms of D.K. Pandit; resentment of the Gadkaris (a militia class who had earlier held revenue free lands in return for their services to the ruler against the revenue reforms.	Revolt of the Gadkaris, followed by a popular revolt in the city of Kolhapur and all other parts of the state of Kolhapur; final suppression of the movement by the British.

<p>Satavandi Revolt Area: Satavandi (Maharashtra) Year: 1839-45 Leader: Phond Savant- (leading noble) and Anna Sahib (heir apparent)</p>	<p>Deposal of Khen Savant (ruler of satavandi) and appointment of a British officer to administer to administer the state; resentment of the people against British system of administration.</p>	<p>Revolt of the nobles and their attempts to drive away the British; transformation of the revolt into a popular movement with the common people all over the state rising in arms against the British; proclamation of martial law and suppression of the movement by the British.</p>
<p>Raju Rebellion Area: Visakhapatnam (A.P.) Year: 1827-33 Leader: Birabhadra Raju</p>	<p>Birabhadra was dispossessed of his estate by the British in return for a small amount of pension</p>	<p>Revolt of Birabhadra and his defiance of British authority till he was captured</p>
<p>Palakonda Outbreak Area: Palakonda (Andhra Pardesh) Year: 1831-32 Leader: Zamindar of Palakonda</p>	<p>Attachment of the property of the zamindar for non-payment of revenue</p>	<p>Revolt of the zamindar; suppression of the revolt of forfeiture of Palakonda estate to the British</p>
<p>Gumsur Outbreak Area: Gumsur (Ganjam District) Year: 1835-37 Leader: Dhananjaya Bhanja (Zamindar of Gumsur)</p>	<p>His failure to clear the arrears of revenue to the British</p>	<p>Revolt of zamindar; Appointment of Mr. Russel as the Commissioner; final suppression of the movement after larger scale military campaign in 1837</p>

<p>Parlakimedi Outbreak Area: Parlakimedi (Orissa) Year: 1829-35 Leader: Jagannath Gajapati Narayan Rao</p>	<p>Attachment of his zamindari for arrears by the British in 1827</p>	<p>Revolt of the zamindar, followed by a popular rising of the people; final suppression of the movement.</p>
<p>Movement of the Faraizis (In the later stages it was amalgamated with the Wahabi movement) Area: East Bengal Year: 1838-62 Leader: Shariatullah and Muhammad Mushin (bêtter known as Dudhu Mian)</p>	<p>Degeneration of the Islamic society and loss of power to the British (Hence its aims were to remove abuses from Islamic society as well as to restore Muslim rule by expelling the British from India).</p>	<p>Foundation of the movement by Shariatullah of Faridpur, the movement under him was mainly religious in character, though he had declared British as enemies; his death in 1837; succession of Duhu Mian as the leader of the Movement, under him it became mainly political in nature; his success in mobilizing all the Muslim peasants of East Bengal against zamindars and indigo planters; his arrest and confinement in the Alipore jail.</p>
<p>Wahabi Movement Area: North India and Deccan Year: 1820-70 Leader: Saiyad Ahmad (Founder of the Movement)</p>	<p>Degeneration of Islamic society and loss of power to the British (Aims – same as above)</p>	<p>Fight of the Wahabis against the British for 50 long years, and their final suppression by British after a series of trials in the 1860s.</p>

<p>Movement of Pagal panthis</p> <p>Area: Sherpur (East Bengal)</p> <p>Year: 1825-33</p> <p>Leader: Karam Shah and Tipu</p>	<p>Resentment of the peasants against the oppression of zamindars</p>	<p>Under Karam Shah (founder), It was mainly a religious movement, but under tipu (son of successor of Shah) it became a political movement against the oppressive zamindars and British, its final suppression by British after large scale military operations.</p>
<p>Kuka Movement</p> <p>Area: Punjab</p> <p>Year: 1854-72</p> <p>Leader: Bhagat Jawahar Mal (founder)</p>	<p>Degeneration of Sikh religion and loss of sikh sovereignty</p>	<p>Though it started as a religious reform movement, it became a movement for the restoration of Sikh sovereignty after the annexation of Punjab by the British.</p>
<p>Pabna Movement</p> <p>Area: Bengal</p> <p>Year: 1873</p>	<p>Enhanced rent Beyond the legal Limit & prevention of tenants from acquiring the occupancy rights</p>	<p>Govt. accepted the Demands & promised to protect Tenants. It enacted Bengal tenancy Act 1885.</p>
<p>Deccan Riots</p> <p>Area: Poona & Ahmadnagar</p> <p>Year: 1874</p>	<p>Riots against the moneylenders</p>	<p>Govt. repressed the Movt. It enacted Deccan Agriculture Relief Act, 1879 to protect peasants against the money lenders</p>

Eka movement Area: Harrdoi, Bahraich, Barabanki, Sitapur (U.P.) Year: 1921-22 Leader: Madari pasi	Enhanced rent Oppression of the contractors	Police managed to crush the movt
Mappila, Rebellion Area: Malabar, Kerala Year: 1922	Cultivators of Malabar revolted against the moneylenders & Zamindars against the lack of security of tenure, exorbitant rent and renewal fees.	It later assumed Communal colour Crushed by the Govt. in 1921.
Bardoli Satyagraha Area: Bardoli - Gujarat Year: 1927 Leader: Vallabhbhai patel	Enhancement of the land revenue by 22% even though cotton prices had declined	Govt. tried to suppress the govt. Maxwell Broomfield enquiry Committee set up Govt. which admitted Bardoli assessment was Faulty and enhancement was Cut down.
Tebhaga movement Area: Bengal Year: 1946 Leader: Bengal Provincial Kisan Sabha	By the sharecroppers against the Jotedar's demand of $\frac{1}{2}$ share of crop instead of $\frac{1}{3}$ share	In 1950 congress passed Bargadar's Bill

Tribal Movements-

Name of the Tribe	Course and consequence of revolt
Chuars Area: Nambhum and Barabhum (West Bengal) Year: 1766-68 Leader: Not available	Defiance of British authority by Chuars; suppression of the Revolt by British through use of force as well as conciliatory measures
Bhils Area: Khandesh Year: 1818-48	Beginning of revolt of Bhils with British occupation of Khandesh (1818) and their defiance of British for 30 years; final suppression through military operations combined with conciliatory measures.
Kolis Area: Sahyadri Hills (Gujrat and Maharashtra) Year: 1824,1828,1839 & 1844-48	Repeated revolts of Kalis and their final suppression after the capture of all their leaders.
Khasis Area: Khasi Hills (Assam & Meghalaya) Year: 1829-32 Leader: Tirut Singh and Bar Manik (Chiefs of Nounklow & Molim respectively)	Unsuccessful attempts of the Khasis to drive away the British from their territory; surrender of all Khasi chiefs, including Tirut Singh, to the British in 1832.
Singphos Area: Assam Year: 1830-39	Suppression of 1830 revolt by Captain Neufville; murder of Colonel-White (British Political Agent of Assam) by Singphos in 1839 but their ultimate defeat by British
Kols Area: Chhota Nagpur Year: 1831-32 Leader: Buddho Bhagat	Suppression of the revolt after extensive military operations of British and death of Bhagat

<p>Koyas</p> <p>Area: Rampa Region (Chodavarm in Andhra Pradesh)</p> <p>Year: 1840, 1845, 1858, 1861-62, 1879-80, 1922-24</p> <p>Leader: Alluri Sitaramaraju (1922-24)</p>	<p>Repeated revolts of the Koyas, the major ones being the 1879-80 and 1922-24 revolts; capture and execution of Raju by British in May 1924.</p>
<p>Khonds</p> <p>Area: Khondmals (Orrisa)</p> <p>Year: 1846-48, 1855 and 1914</p> <p>Leader: Chakra Bisayi</p>	<p>The first two revolts, led by Bisayi, were put down with great difficulty by the British.</p>
<p>Santhals</p> <p>Area: Rajmahal Hills (Bihar)</p> <p>Year: 1855-56</p> <p>Leader: Sidhu & Kanhu</p>	<p>Revolt of Santhals and establishment of their own government (July, 1855); defeat of British under Major Burrough by Santhals; transfer of the disturbed area to the military and final suppression of the revolt by the end of 1856; creation of a separate district of Santhal Paraganas to prevent Santhals from revolting again in future.</p>
<p>Mundas</p> <p>Area: Chhota Nagpur</p> <p>Year: 1899-1900</p> <p>Leader: Birsa Munda</p>	<p>Foundation of new religious sect, with Singh Bonga as the only true god, but Birsa (1895); - British fears over Birsa's preachings among Mundas, and arrest and imprisonment of Birsa (1895-97); release of Birsa and revival of his doctrine (1898); revolt of Mundas and their attack of churches and police stations (1899); defeat of Mundas by British (Jan, 1900) and capture of Birsa (he died of cholera in jail in June 1900).</p>

