

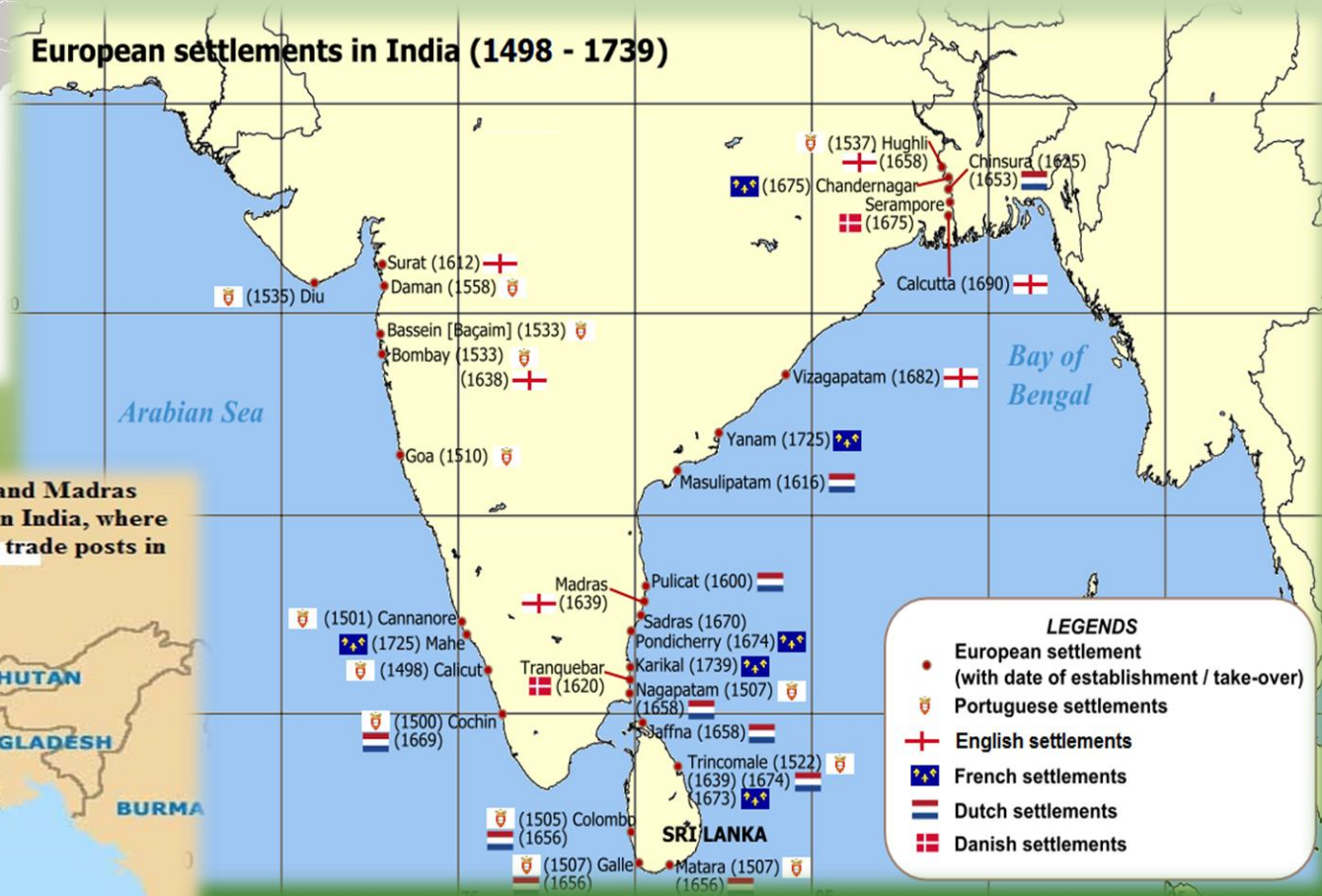
*Lecture no 07*

**WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1857:  
ITS CAUSES & EFFECTS**

# British Occupation of the Subcontinent



## European settlements in India (1498 - 1739)



**LEGENDS**

- European settlement (with date of establishment / take-over)
- Portuguese settlements
- English settlements
- French settlements
- Dutch settlements
- Danish settlements



## British Occupation of the Subcontinent

- 1498, Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, discovered the sea route from Europe to India via Cape of Good Hope.
- Almost a century later, after Portuguese & Dutch, English started to arrive in the subcontinent.
- 1600, East India Company was established.
- 1612, EIC was granted permission by Mughals to initiate trade in India.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Century, EIC established ports in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.
- 1707, Aurangzeb died, provinces gradually became independent. Bengal was ruled by Alivardi Khan, who was succeeded by his grandson Siraj-ud-Daulah.
- In 1757, Battle of Plassey, Siraj-ud-Daulah was defeated by Company forces.
- In 1764, Battle of Buxur, between the joint forces of Mir Kasim, Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Oudh) and Shah Alam (Mughal Emperor of Delhi) v/s Major Munro (British). English won the battle.
- In 1799, Tipu Sultan of Mysore state was killed and Mysore was annexed.
- In 1803, the British entered Delhi and forced the Mughal emperor.
- In 1818 the Marathas were defeated.
- In 1843, Sindh was annexed by Company.
- In 1849, Punjab was annexed.
- Nawab of Oudh deposed.
- By 1857, the frontiers of the British territory included provinces like Bengal, Bihar, Oudh, Maysore, Maharashtra, Sindh, Punjab, Kashmir and North West Frontier.
- In 1857, Indian revolted against Company's rule.

# CAUSES OF WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1857

## (A) Political Causes:

### *1. Dailhousie's Doctrine of Lapse:*

If an Indian prince died without a direct heir, the succession lapsed to the British as the supreme power. Satpara, Jhansi, Nagpur and some minor states were occupied by Company.

### *2. Seize of Oudh (1856):*

### *3. Mistreatment of Mughal Emperors*

## (B) Economic Causes

### **1. Destruction of Local Industry**

### **2. Rise of Unemployment:**

### **3. Domination of trade by the English**

### **4. Exploitation of Indian Resources**

## (C) Religious Causes:

### *1. Propagation of Christianity*

### *2. Interference in Religious Affairs of locals*

- Widows Re-marriage Act
- Abolition of Sutti

## (D) Military Causes:

### *1. Discriminatory attitude against Indian Sepoys*

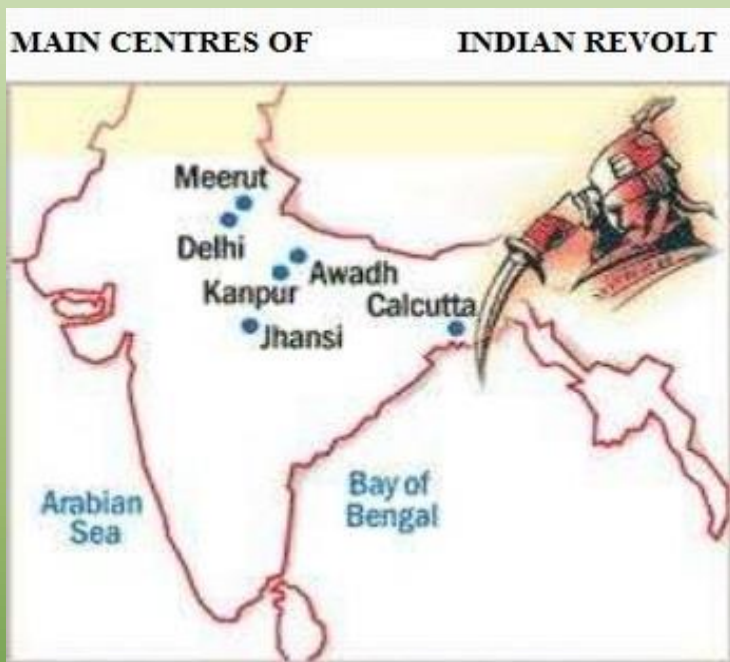
### *2. Introduction of Reforms in Military, that were considered as the interference in religious affairs of Indians*

- Vellore Mutiny (1806)
- Anglo-Afghan War (1839) & Anglo-Sindh War (1843)
- General Service Enlistment Act (1856)
- Introduction of Enfield Rifle (January 1857)

### *3. Disbanded Armies of Annexed States*

# Outbreak of War of Independence 1857

## Events of War of Independence 1857



- 26th February 1857, native soldiers of the 19th Native Infantry at Behrampur refused to use the greased cartridges.
- 19th March 1857, Mangal Pande a native soldier of the 34th native infantry fired at his British officers. His fellows did not join him. As a result he was caught and hanged.

### ➤ **Meerath:**

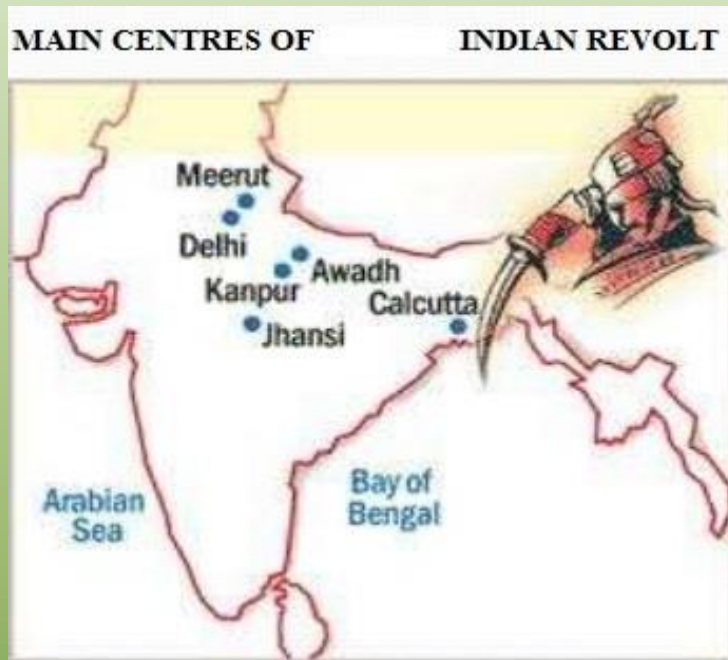
- 23rd April 1857, Meerut, 80 soldiers disobeyed the orders of Colonel Smyth to use the cartridges.
- 8th May 1857, 80 soldiers were sentenced to ten years imprisonment.
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 1857, their colleagues attacked the jail and freed the 80 soldiers. This incident led to a general revolt and the freedom fighter marched to Delhi.

### ➤ **Delhi:**

- 11<sup>th</sup> May 1857, Delhi was occupied.
- Bahadur Shah Zafar declared the king.
- Bakht Khan arrived from Baraill.
- Mughal prince was made in charge of the revolutionaries.
- With the help of Punjabi Sikhs and Muslim Feudals, Delhi recaptured by EIC. Bahadur Shah Zafar was deposed and deported to Rangoon forever. The Mughal princes were shot dead.



# Events of War of Independence 1857



## ➤ Lucknow:

- People of Oudh & disbanded soldiers of the state rose.
- Small British garrison defeated and ten years old prince placed on the throne.
- Queen Hazrat Mahal, widow of the late Nawab became the regent.
- Sometime later the British forces led by General Outram and Havelock succeeded in defeating the revolutionaries at Lucknow.

## ➤ Kanpur:

- Nana Sahib the adopted son of the last Peshwa Baji Rao II revolted, declared himself Peshwa and occupied the city of Kanpur. He massacred the English soldiers. However, the British recovered Kanpur and perpetrated great atrocities on the people.

## ➤ Jhansi:

- Rani Jhansi Bai the widow of Raja Gangadhar Rao led the fight in Jhansi.
- She raised an army of more than 20000 freedom fighters. She captured Gwalior with the help of Tanta Topia. British troops attacked Jhansi and captured the city in June 1858. Rani Jhansi laid down her life while fighting gallantly.

## *Causes of Indians Failure in War*

- I. Lack of Leadership and Discipline:
- II. Lack of unity:
- III. Lack of Resources:
- IV. Lack of Popular Support:
- V. Superior Technology of English troops:
- VI. Non-cooperation of the rulers of the State:
- VII. Role of Traitors:

## *Effects of War of Independence*

- I. EIC occupied territories went under control of British Crown under Government of India Act 1858
- II. Abolition of the Doctrine of Lapse, and the right to adoption was conceded.
- III. Friendly policy towards the landed gentry, such as the talukdars of Oudh, was also adopted

IV. The British mission of improving the socio-religious tone of Indian life was abandoned.

V. Muslims were considered key responsible for the uprising thus English subjected the Muslims to oppression.

VI. Hindus and Muslims turned towards Modern Education.

# Suggested Readings

1. S. M. Burke & Salim Al-Din Qureshi, “The British Raj in India: An Historical Review”, Oxford University Press
2. Nigel Kelly, “The History & Culture of Pakistan”, Peak Publishing London, 2004
3. Ahmed Saeed & Kh Mansoor Sarwar, “Trek to Pakistan”, Al-Fauzi Publishers Lahore
4. Dr. Mubarak Ali, “Bartanvi Raj: Ek Tajziya” (Urdu), Fiction Book House Lahore