

# The War of Independence (1857)

04 September 2022 00:12

By Mannan Ul Haq (BDS-1A)

- **Introduction:**

War of Independence is an important landmark in the history of Sub-Continent. This War was fought in 1857 by Indians against the British in order to get rid of their domination. Britishers called it Mutiny (when soldiers refuse to obey orders) while Hindus and Muslims called it Revolt (people try to change the way their country is governed). It was an extreme effort made by Indians, but they failed due to certain reasons and Muslims were held responsible for cause of the war.

- **Causes of the War:**

The main causes of the War were:

- Political
- Social
- Economical
- Military (Sepoys Revolt)
- Religious

## 1. Political and Administrative:

The main political cause for the great revolt of 1857 was the policy of Doctrine of Lapse. The 'Doctrine of Lapse' caused great unrest because any local kingdom not having a direct male heir was taken over by the British.

Because of the Doctrine of Lapse, the local Indian leaders saw them in decline. The Mistreatment with the Mug Hal Emperor and disrespect that Lord Dalhousie made by moving the royal family from Delhi to Qutb Shah. In Civil service jobs were given to fewer Indians, adding fuel to the fire the British replaced Persian and declared English as the official language.

## 2. Religious:

A new type of rifle with a paper cartridge was introduced by the British which was coated in both cow and pig fat. Because the soldiers had to chew the fat, this caused great resentment since pig fat was forbidden by the Muslims while the cow was a sacred animal in the eyes of the Hindus.

Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism were under threat from the British rule as the Christian Missionaries used to come to India and promote their religion. Missionaries established schools and taught Christianity. A number of social reforms had been imposed by the British without consultation or care for local feelings which caused much unrest.

## 3. Social Causes:

Indians were treated as an inferior race. British and Indians weren't socially equal. The British considered themselves as a superior race and thought that it was their duty to take India away from slavery, cannibalism, superstition and to make it a civilization. They want to spread British culture.

## 4. Economic Causes:

The most important cause of popular discontent was the British policy of economically exploiting India. This hurt all sections of society. The peasants suffered due to high revenue demands and the strict revenue

collection policy. They imposed high taxes. Due to this peasants and landowners were unable to pay taxes. British made profits from India's wealth and taxes were kept by Britishers. India was forced to export raw materials like raw cotton and raw silk at cheaper rates.

## 5. Military:

Most of the soldiers in the army were Indians and were usually low-paid. The officer class included British. Regular rumors were there that the Muslims and Sikh soldiers are forced to convert to Christianity.

- **Failure of War of Independence :**

- There was no central leadership to lead the war
- Lack of Unity
- Didn't get support from all rulers and classes of India
- Lack of Man power
- Lack of Communication
- Hindu-Muslim division

- **Impacts:**

- Fall of Mughal Empire
- The rule of the East India Company came to an end and India came under the British Parliament
- British authority tightened its grip over people, and passed strict laws to punish the people of India