

**VII. Answer in detail:**

**1. Discuss the causes and consequences of the Revolt of 1857?**

**The causes and consequences of the Revolt of 1857**

**Introduction:**

- In 1857, the East India Company rule witnessed a mutiny in the Bengal presidency.
- It began with Sepoy mutiny.
- Later it involved large number of civilians, especially peasants.

**Causes of the Revolt:**

**1. Annexation policy of the British:**

**a) The Doctrine of Paramountcy:**

- The British annexed new territories on the ground that the native rulers were corrupt and inept.

**b) The Doctrine of Lapse:**

- According to the Doctrine, if a native ruler failed to produce a Biological male heir to the throne, the territory lapsed to the British.
- Thus Satara, Sambalpur, parts of Punjab, Jhansi and Nagpur were annexed by the British.

**2. British interference in Indian cultural sentiments:**

- The new dress code introduced by the Britishers in 1806, prohibited the Indians from wearing religious marks on their foreheads and whiskers on their chin.
- The turbans were replaced with a round hat.
- The soldiers feared that the Britishers were taking efforts to convert them to Christianity.
- In 1824, Sepoys at Barrackpore refused to go to Burma.
- The reason was crossing the sea meant loss of their caste.
- The Sepoys were upset due to discrimination in salary and promotion.
- Indian Sepoys were paid much less than the European Sepoys.
- The Indian Sepoys were humiliated and racially abused by the senior Europeans.

**3. Introduction of new Enfield rifle:**

- A rumour got spread that the new cartridges of the Enfield rifle had been greased with fats of cow and pig.
- The cartridge had to be bitten off before loading.
- As pork is forbidden to the Muslims and cow is sacred to the Hindus, the Sepoys refused to use them.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> March, Mangal Pandey a Sepoy assaulted his European officer.
- Mangal Pandey and fellow soldiers were Court martialled and hanged.
- It fuelled the anger.

- It led to burning and arson in the army cantonments in Ambala, Lucknow and Meerut.

### Consequences of the Revolt of 1857:

- Queen Victoria proclamation was issued in 1858.
- India became a crown colony.
- The power was transferred from the East India Company to the British crown.
- Secretary of state was created.
- Queen Victoria proclaimed that the British would not interfere in traditional institutions and religious matters.
- Promise was made that Indians would be absorbed in government services.
- Changes were made in the Indian army.
- The number of Indians in the army was reduced.
- Indians were restrained from holding important ranks and positions.
- British took control of the artillery.
- British turned away from the Rajputs, Brahmins and North Indian Muslims and included non-Hindu groups like Gorkhas, Sikhs and Pathans in the army.

### Conclusion:

- The revolt was brutally suppressed.
- The Britishers exploited the caste, religion linguistic and regional difference in the Indian society and thus followed the policy of Divide and Rule.

## **2. How did the people of Bengal respond to the Partition of Bengal (1905)?**

### Partition of Bengal (1905)

#### Introduction:

- Lord Curzon announced the partition of Bengal on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1905.
- It was officially partitioned on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1905.
- The idea of partition was to suppress the political activities against the British rule in Bengal and to divide the Hindus and Muslims.

#### Bengal People's response to the partition:

- The partition led to widespread protest all over India.
- The leaders of the Indian National Congress protested through prayers, press Campaign, Petitions and Public meetings.
- The day of partition ( 16<sup>th</sup> October 1905) was declared as day of mourning.
- Thousands of people took bath in Ganga.
- The people marched on the streets of Calcutta singing "Bande Mataram".
- It led to Bengal Boycott movement and Swadeshi Movement.
- The leaders started making propaganda for Swaraj or Self-rule across India.
- The people boycotted foreign goods, government schools and colleges, courts, titles and government services.
- Swadeshi shops sprang all over the place selling textiles, handlooms, soaps, earthenware, match and leather goods.
- Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab, Bala Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra and Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal became the three prominent leaders during the Swadeshi period.
- In south India V.O Chidambaram started the Swadeshi steam Navigation Company

### Conclusion:

- The British brutally crushed the Swadeshi Movement
- Jailed the prominent leaders for long spells of imprisonment.
- Revolutionaries were hanged to death.
- The press was crushed.