

Lecture 03

Historical Background of Pakistan

Historical Movement

- Basis of historical movement for creation of Pakistan may be said to begin with the outbreak of the War of Independence in 1857.
- The War of Independence started on 10th May, 1857 in Meerut, a remote and small city of the United Province of the subcontinent.
- Though unsuccessful, it brought many changes, particularly in the political strategies of three parties:
 - British
 - Hindus
 - Muslims

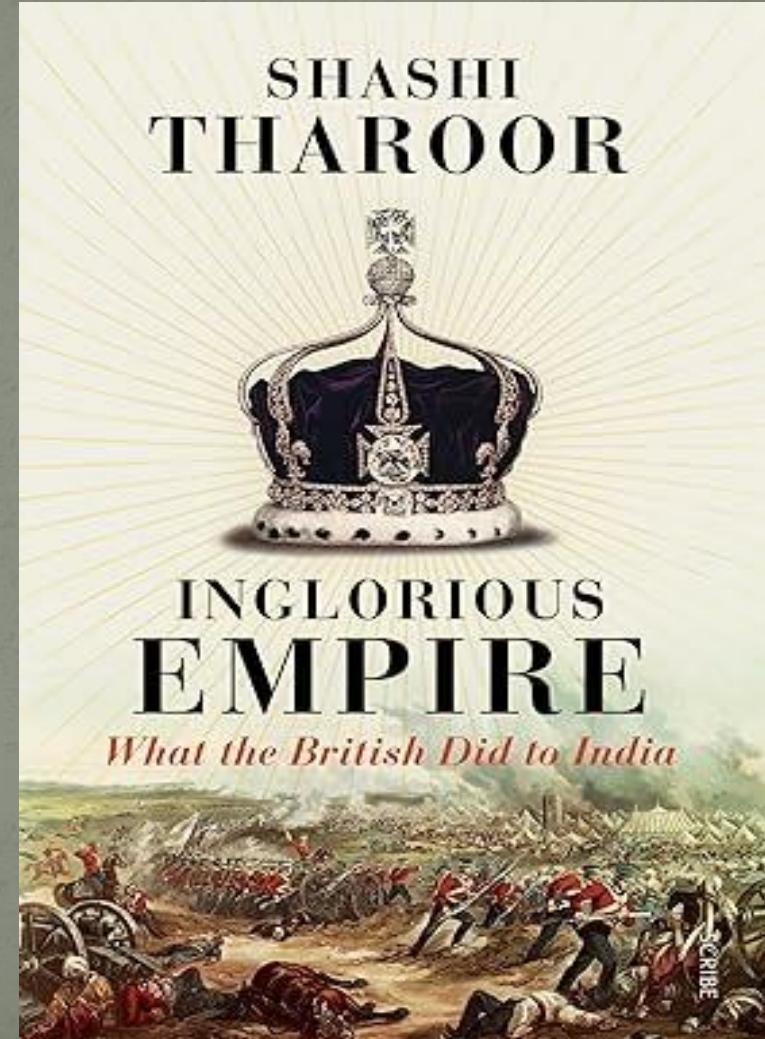
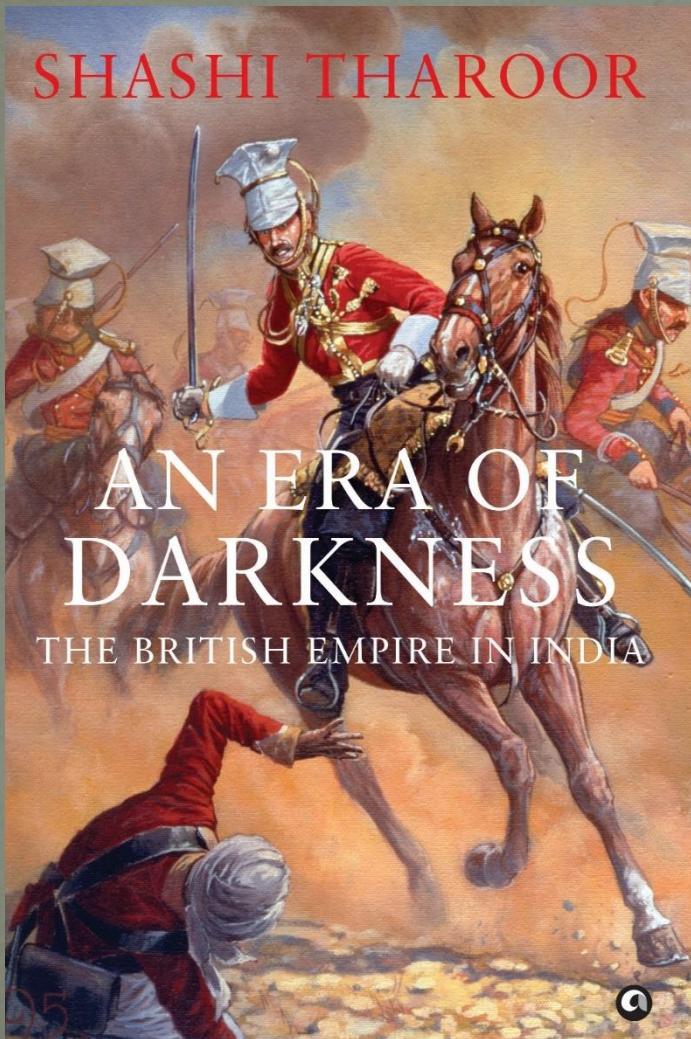
Causes of the revolt in 1857

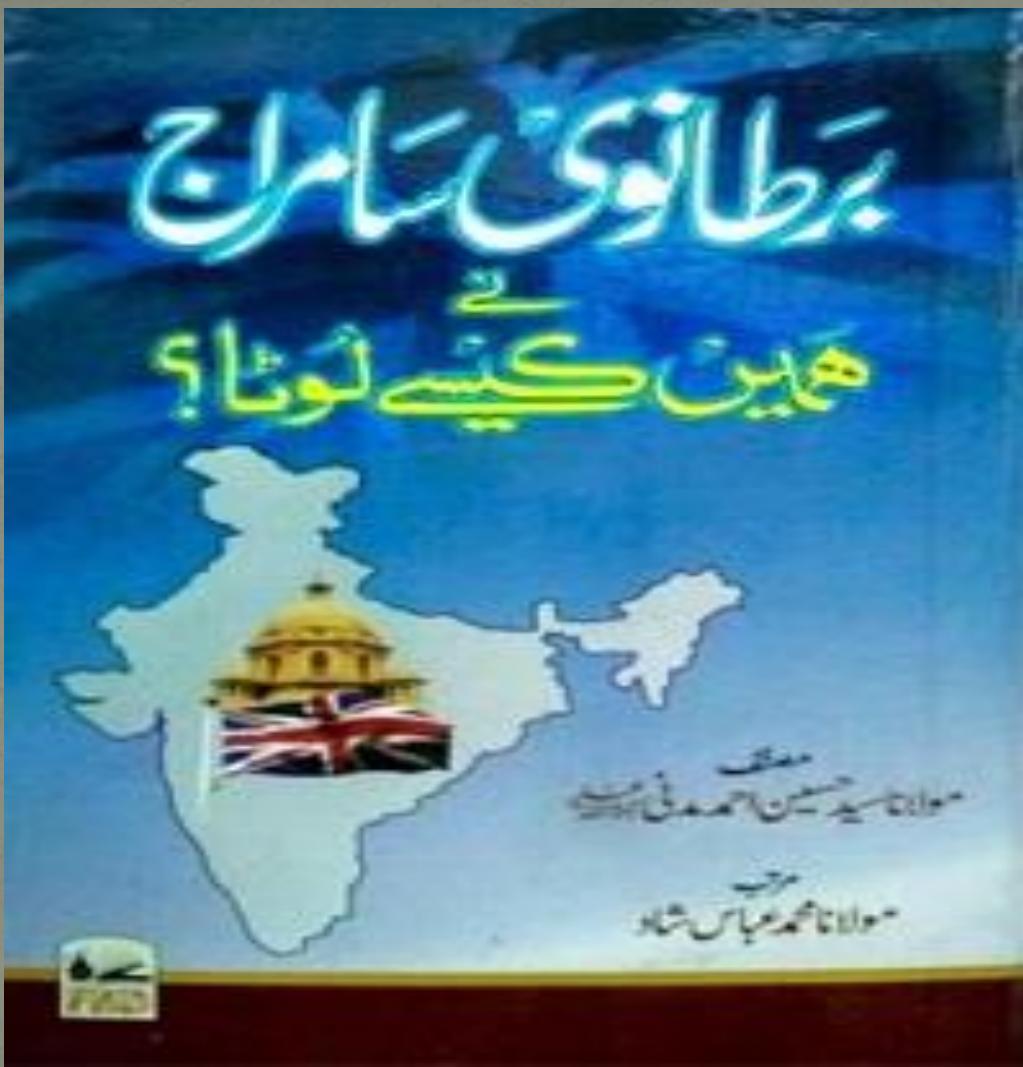
- Economic
- Administrative
- Political
- Religious
- Social
- Military
 - ☞ Immediate Cause

Economic Causes

- Before the East India Company's (EIC) rule, India's agricultural industry and trade was flourishing.
- The British tried to exploit India for their economic gains and fulfill demands of their industrial revolution.
- Indian exports to Britain i.e. cotton, tea etc. ended up in India as finished goods and or were further exported to other countries.
- After gaining right to collect revenue in Bengal in 1757, the EIC used the money raised through revenue in Bengal for fighting wars in other parts of India.
- The policies of EIC badly affected landlords, middle income groups, traders, labourers etc.

Highly Recommended Book





Administrative Causes

- Inefficient and insufficient administrative machinery.
- Annexation of Indian states as part of their expansionist policies under the Doctrine of Lapse.
- All high posts; civil or military were given to Europeans rather than locals.
- Unjust and exploitative revenue policies.

Political Causes

- British expansionist policies.
- Order of the Lord Canning to the Mughal Emperor to leave Red Fort Delhi and stay at Qutub Minar.
- Lord Canning ordered that after the demise of Bahadur Shah Zafar the Mughal rule will come to an end and all the property of the Mughal ruler will be snatched away.

Social/Religious Causes

- Support to Christian missionaries after 1813 was extended. They were not allowed to come to India before that year.
- The Religious Disability Act announced many incentives for those Indians who would convert to Christianity.
- Reforms in Hindu customs were made by law, however, they were considered as distortion of the teaching of Hinduism.
- It was widely believed after 1813 that the actual mandate of EIC was to convert Indians especially Hindus to Christianity.

Military Causes

- Great disparity between the salaries of Indian and European soldiers.
- Sepoys were sent to distant overseas parts of the empire, but were not given extra salaries.
- Indian Sepoys were treated with contempt by their English officers.
- Indian Sepoys were refused promotions in services as like their English counterparts. Out of such discontent the Indian Sepoys led to mutiny.
- General Services Enlistment Act 1856 by Lord Canning for the soldiers from Bengal to be recruited and posted wherever the Empire needed them, was greatly resented by the Hindus, as traveling by the sea for some Hindus meant leaving the fold of Hinduism.

Immediate Cause

- Enfield rifles were introduced in the military.
- The bullets of these rifles were covered by paper with grease like substances. The Sepoys were to cut the cover with teeth before using it.
- Rumour spread that the grease substance is made up of the fats of pigs and cows.
- Both Hindu and Muslim Sepoys refused to cut the cover. They protested against the introduction of this new ammunition and were arrested. It ultimately ignited the fire of mutiny all over India.
- The mutiny was suppressed and the British govt. officially took over the rule of India from EIC.

Causes of Failure of Revolt

- Lack of definite aim by the Indians.
- Every group and faction fought for personal reasons without a central Indian command.
- Some had problem with job insecurity, some had problem with high taxes, while others were concerned with preserving their rule in their states etc.
- Lack of Unity.
- The revolt was not pre-decided. It could not start at one time in the whole of India. Therefore, EIC effectively crushed it.

- Lack of public support: Educated groups (mainly converts to Christianity), many traders, and lots of peasants did not participate in it because they were blossoming in the rule of EIC.
- Lack of national spirit. Laknow, Jhansi and Bihar just revolted to safeguard their rulers' narrow interests rather than safeguarding the larger interests of India.
- No efficient war tactics: the Mughal and other local rulers had quite weak armies which had no match for the English officers and their war tactics.
- The efficient English officials were able to suppress the mutiny in 1857.

Nature of the War of Independence

- It was not religious.
- It was more economic and socio-cultural.
- It was blamed by the Hindus to be the act of Muslims alone as religious conspiracy against the British.

Urdu-Hindi Controversy

- Advent of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
 - Language is a fundamental means of socio-cultural interaction.
 - It may lead to disintegration of societies with cultural diversities.
 - Urdu was born in India.
 - India was considered to be a golden sparrow in terms of its fertile land and manpower. That is why lots of invaders came to occupy it for different purposes.
 - Arab, Turks etc. mingled with the native people, language exchange, a new language emerged called Urdu, “language of troops”.
 - Musalmani language

- Urdu language – not only Muslims but others also used to speak Urdu
- Emergence of Urdu literature and literary works
- 1837 – Urdu replaced Persian as a court language – no objection from any quarter.
- Fall of Mughals – Hindus started considering Urdu as a language of invaders. British adopted same attitude.
- Both intentionally started their efforts to get rid of the language of Muslims.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Raja Shiv Prashad, Lakshman Singh, Haresh Chandra, Binkam Chatterji

- First Effort: Start of 19th Century, a new language was introduced called Hindi by removing Arabic, Persian and Turkish words and replacing those by Sanskrit.
- 1809 – First Hindi Novel, Prem Sagar
- Failure of War of Independence – ripe moment for Hindu
- Combined organized efforts: 1867, Hindus of Banars requested for replacing Urdu by Hindi and its Persian script with Devnagri script.
- Opinion of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan: Its unwise to live with a nation where one's language is insecure.
- Role of “Scientific Society Gazette”, Noor Ul Absar and Banaras Gazette

- 1871 – G. Cambell, Governor of Bengal banned Urdu at all levels
- Boosted Hindu support in NWFP, Punjab, Bihar, Sindh etc. to counter Urdu.
- Thousands of Hindus signed memorial supporting elimination of Urdu.
- Anthony McDonnell, Governor of UP in 1900, Pro-Hindi and anti-Muslim. Dismissal of Urdu as official language. Declared Hindi as official language.
- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Nawab Nasir Ul Mulk, secretary of Aligarh trust.
- Foundation of Urdu Defence Association
- Consequently, Urdu was declared official language along with Hindi
- Mohsin Ul Mulk dissatisfaction led to foundation of Anjuman-i-Tarrqai-i-Urdu.

Partition of Bengal

- In 1905, the provinces of Bengal and Assam were reconstituted to form two provinces of manageable size.
 - Bengal: 42 million Hindu and 9 million Muslims
 - East Bengal: 18 million Muslims and 12 million Hindus
- The scheme was sent to London in February 1905. The Province of East Bengal and Assam officially came into being on 16 October 1905.

Annulment of the Partition of Bengal

- In 1911, East and West Bengal were reunited.
- The aim was to combine appeasement of Bengali sentiment with administrative convenience
- This end was achieved for a brief time but the Bengali Muslims, having benefitted from the partition, were angry and disappointed.
- This resentment remained throughout the rest of the British period.
- The final division of Bengal was done at the partitioning of the subcontinent in 1947, which divided Bengal into India in the West and East Pakistan (later Bangladesh) in the East, intense violence also accompanied it.

Recommended for understanding the nature of communal violence in India

