

## II. THE REVOLT OF 1857

### 1. OTHER NAMES

	HISTORIANS	NAMES of BATTLES/BOOKS
i.	Early Stanley, TR Holmes	Sepoy Mutiny
ii.	TR Holmes	Conflict b/w Barbarism & Civilization
iii.	Sir James Outram, W Taylor	Revolt of Hindu Muslim conspiracy
iv.	Benjamin Disraeli	National Revolt
v.	<b>V D Savarkar</b>	<b>Book – “The Indian War of Independence”</b> Book → “The first Indian war of independence” – Karl Marx
vi.	R C Majumdar	Neither first, nor National, not a war of Independence  Not First – before also fought wars against British Not National – not everyone was involved Not a war of Independence – did not gain freedom
vii.	<b>Sir Sayyad Ahmad Khan</b>	Book → “ <b>Asbab-i-Bhagwat-i-Hind</b> ” on Revolt of 1857 Said “there was <b>no political party</b> which could have worked <b>as a link b/w govt &amp; common people</b> ”

### 2. REASONS

#### a. Administrative

- Rampant Corruption in the Company Administration
- English officers misbehaved with Indians everywhere.

#### b. Influence of Outside events

- Wars before 1857 where Indians defeated British royally, which gained confidence in Indians that they can defeat the British by war (British suffered serious losses in these wars)
  - First Afghan War (1838-1842)
  - First Anglo War
  - Santhal Rebellion
  - Crimen War (1854-56)
  - Punjab War (1849-49)

#### c. Military

- Discrimination by British against Indian soldiers
- Salary differences b/w Indian & British soldiers
- Indians called demeaning names such as “suar”
- Slow promotions of Indian soldiers
- Indians posted outside India, were not welcomed by their family after they came from abroad. (Enlistment Act, 1856, said Indians can be posted outside India, many were sent)
- Cow & Pig grease on cartridges → IMMEDIATE CAUSE**
  - Use of chapattis to spread message about these cartridges to other Indian soldiers

#### d. Economical

- High Tax on items, making it difficult to buy common essentials very costly for common man.
- De-industrialization → British provided cheap textile (made used with machines) against local textile industries causing a huge loss to them, destroyed local market.

#### **e. Political**

- i. Doctrine of Lapse, 1848 → Lord Dalhousie (Youngest GG)
  1. Capture of Kingdoms with no legitimate heir(son) from King, such territories were automatically came under British
  2. 1<sup>st</sup> place to be captured → Satara, Maharashtra
- ii. Subsidiary Alliance, 1798 → Lord Wellesley
- iii. Mis-governance of Awadh – King of Awadh was framed by the British, image ruined in front of people and took over Awadh

#### **f. Social & Cultural**

- i. Hindi/Urdu status dropped and English was promoted, our language was attacked
- ii. Sati was abolished, widow remarriage was promoted, which at that time it was frowned as British were messing up Hindu religion
- iii. Promotion and conversion of Hindu/Muslims to Christianity, because Indians could not tolerate others mingling with their religion, made them unite together.
- iv. Tax on going to temples/mosques
- v. Religious Disabilities Act, 1856 → Property of a Hindu father will not go to his Hindu son, it will only go when the Hindu son converts to Christianity. → Lord Canning

### **3. REVOLT**

- a. 1856 – Lord Canning took office as last Governor General of India under EEIC**
- b.** Mutiny started with Mangal Pandey of Bengal Army fired upon Sergeant Major at Barrackpore on 29 Mar, 1857.
- c.** Supported on 10 May 1857 from Meerut(some Indian soldiers killed British soldiers)
- d.** These soldiers then went to Delhi (Mughal King Bahadur Shah Zafar), request him to be the leader for revolt.
- e. A British Spy name Simon Frazer** was killed during the revolt by Indians
- f.** Spread to Punjab, Narmada River, Bihar etc.
- g.** Soldiers Behrampur (WB) refused to use Enfield Rifles.
- h.** With Bahadur Shah as leader, all other leaders in various regions were informed about the Revolt and asked to fight from their area.
- i.** There was civil participation also by peasants, laborers, shopkeepers etc.
- j.** Indians gave a good fight, but lacked advanced weaponry and skills, but lost in end.

### **4. FAILURE**

- a.** Lack of Leadership – Not everyone (Begum especially) accepted Bahadur Shah Zafar as leader, Bahadur Shah was weak and old.
- b.** Lack of Arms & Ammunitions
- c.** Not well trained
- d.** No proper planning
- e.** Mutual Differences Among Leaders – No Unity
  - i. Reasons different for leaders → Soldiers – Cow & pig, Rani Lakshmi Bai – Doctrine of Lapse
  - ii. All only wanted to save their place, did not think of uniting together and attack British. No feeling of nationalism.
  - iii. Reason for no unity – Lack of Education
- f.** Absence of all India participation (Western & Southern)
- g.** Some Indian Kings supported British, provided arms to them.

**Revolt was fought for a year and ended in 1858**

## 5. AREAS – LEADERS (Hindu – Muslim Unity)

a.	PLACE	LEADER	SUPPRESSED BY
b.	Barrakpore	Mangal Pandey	
c.	Delhi	Bahadur Shah Zafar – Leader of Revolt <b>Gen Bhaktawar Khan – Actual leader</b> Zeenat Mahal	
d.	Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	
e.	Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan	
f.	Meerut Cant. (Started from here)	Soldiers	
g.	Faizabad	Maulvi Ahmadullah (Danka Shah/Nakkar Shah) He is known as the Lighthouse of the Rebellion in Awadh Region	
h.	Kanpur	Nana Saheb, Rao Sahib (nephew), Tantya Tope, Azimullah	Colin Campbell
i.	Arrah (Bihar)	Maharaj Kunwar Singh	
j.	Jhansi	Rani Lakshmi Bai	
k.	Mathura	Sevi Singh, Kadam Singh	
l.	Rajasthan	Jaidayal Singh, Hardayal Singh	
m.	Allahabad & Banaras	Maulvi Liyakat Ali	
n.	Muradabad	Abdul Ali Khan	
o.	Bijnapur	Mohammad Khan	
p.	Gorakpur	Gajadhar Singh	

6. According to British, the **bravest & most fierce** among all was **Rani Lakshmi Bai**

## 7. AFTERMATH

### a. Queen Victoria's Proclamation, 1858 → Magna carta of People of India

- Was declared in eloquent style to be in consonance with principle of justice and religious toleration.
- Lord Canning on 1 Nov, sent forth the royal proclamation in a grand durbar at Allahabad via Queen Victoria intimated that she had assumed direct control of govt of India
- Principles on which India was to be governed
- All treaties & engagement of EIC with princely state would be maintained & honored
- No further extension of territories
- Rights, dignity & honor of native princes would be respected
- Admission of services/offices of the govt without discrimination on race or creed.
- Internal peace & good governance

**b. Govt of India Act, 1858**

- ix. Abolished EIC – EIC was liquidated.
- x. Indian territories were to be governed in the name of the British Queen
- xi. The Court of Directors & Board of Control were scrapped.
  - 1. Power was now vested with the Secretary of State for India
- xii. Post of GG of India converted to Viceroy
  - 1. India was divided into 2 parts
    - a. Princely States → kings ruling under British
    - b. British India → Area under British India (British ruling directly)
  - 2. GG was responsible for British India before 1858.
  - 3. Viceroy will handle British India + Princely States
- xiii. 1<sup>st</sup> Viceroy of India → Lord Canning, reported to SoS
- xiv. Secretary of State (SoS) was to a British MP & member of the Prime Minister's cabinet, assisted by a council of 15 members, SoS sits in London.
- xv. First SoS, 1858 → Lord Stanley – communication channel between Indian and Britain
- xvi. Act made India directly a British Colony**
- xvii. Ended Doctrine of Lapse
- xviii. Abolished dual govt of Pitt's India Act
- xix. ICS to be instituted for the administration of country, provision for Indians to be admitted to the service.

After the revolt of 1857, British realized it was dangerous for them to mingle with religions of Indians is bad for trade/business. The sole aim of British in India was trade, and not converting them to Christianity, so after rebellion by Indians, British realized it was not worth converting them by compromising on trade.