



GS संपूर्ण Free Batch Modern History (आधुनिक इतिहास)

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Class- 12 The Revolution of 1857 (1857 की क्रांति)

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The Great Revolution of 1857

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Major Causes
- ❖ The Revolution of 1857 : The Beginning
- ❖ Spread of Revolution
- ❖ The Revolution of 1857 : Consequences
- ❖ The Nature of Revolution
- ❖ Reasons for failure
- ❖ Other facts

1857 : The First War of

- 1. 10 May 1857:** Commencement of the Revolution
- 2. Immediate Cause:-** Use of greased cartridges in the army
- 3. 12 May 1857:-** Capture of Delhi
 - Bahadur Shah Zafar as the Leader
 - Military Commander - General Bakht Khan + Assassination of Colonel Ripley
 - 1. British Prime Minister : Palmerston
 - 2. Queen of Britain : Victoria
 - 3. Governor General: Canning
 - 4. Commander-in-Chief: George Anson
 - 5. Indian Emperor: Bahadur Shah Zafar (II)
 - 6. Symbols: Lotus and Bread
 - 7. Council: Bakht Khan (Bareilly) - demise in 1859
 - 8. British Emergency Headquarters: Allahabad
- 4. 20 September 1857:-** Recapture of Delhi by Henry Bernard, Wilson, and John Nicholson (deceased)
 - Bahadur Shah + Zinat Mahal: Burma (demise on 7 November 1862)
 - Zafar's two sons were shot at the Red Fort (by Hodson)
- 5. Before me lies a vast ocean of blood**
 - Lord Elphinstone: "The massacre of Delhi was more dreadful than even Nadir Shah's invasion"
 - Limited Participation: Punjab, Bengal, Madras, Kashmir, Rajputana, Hyderabad, Indore, Gwalior, Baroda, Bhopal

1857: Principal Causes

Company's policies over the preceding century

1. Political and Administrative Policies
2. Social and Religious Cause
3. Military Reasons
4. British Colonial Economic Policies
5. Immediate Cause : Greased Cartridges

1. Political and Administrative Policies

- ❖ British Imperialist Policies
 - Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance
 - Dalhousie's Doctrine of Lapse
 - Annexation of Awadh on grounds of maladministration
 - Annexation through warfare
 - ◆ Dalhousie: "This cherry will fall into our mouth one day")
- ❖ In 1852, the annual pension of 8 lakh rupees of Nana Saheb "Dhondu Pant," successor and adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II, was discontinued.
- ❖ Humiliation of Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II
 - Termination of the title 'Emperor' after his death
 - Evacuation of Red Fort, relocated to Mehrauli
 - Removal of the Emperor's insignia from coins
 - In 1849 Dalhousie (Red Fort) and in 1856 Canning (Emperor to King)

- ❖ Titles of Carnatic + Tanjore + Surat were confiscated

2. Social and Religious Causes:-

- ❖ Opposition to social reforms by conservative Indians
 - Sati Practice - 1829 - William Bentinck
 - Human Sacrifice - 1844 - Lord Hardinge I
 - Female Infanticide - Lord Wellesley - Regulations of 1795 and 1804
 - Slavery - 1843 - Lord Ellenborough
 - Widow Remarriage - 1856 (Canning)
- ❖ Dalhousie : Religious Disabilities Act or Lex Loci Act 1850 (Act Number 21)
 - A person converting religion shall not be deprived of rights to ancestral property
 - Repealed on 8 January 2018
- ❖ Charter Act of 1813 - Christian missionaries were permitted to propagate religion in India
 - Tirunelveli (Madras) riots in 1845)
- ❖ R.D. Mangles (EIC Chairman) = "God has given us the empire of India so that we may unfurl the banner of Jesus Christ here"

3. Military Causes:-

- ❖ Discrimination against Indian soldiers
 - Highest rank - Maximum Subedar
 - Minimum salary - ₹7 per month
 - Discrimination in salary and promotions
 - Humiliating treatment & racism
- ❖ Indian Post Office Act 1854
 - Dalhousie
 - Imposition of charges even on military postal services
- ❖ General Service Enlistment Act, 1856
 - Lord Canning
 - Soldiers would have to undertake overseas voyages
 - Religious sentiments wounded

4. British Colonial Economic Policies:-

- ❖ Exploitation of peasants through land revenue systems
 - Permanent Settlement, Mahalwari, and Ryotwari
 - High rates & exploitation by zamindars and moneylenders
- ❖ Commercialization of agriculture
- ❖ Deindustrialization and discriminatory taxation system
- ❖ Discontented landlords - Confiscation of approximately 20,000 estates by the Inam Commission established by Dalhousie in 1852

5. Immediate Cause: Greased Cartridges (Enfield Rifle, Woolwich Arsenal, London)

- ❖ In 1856, soldiers were provided with the new Enfield rifle in place of the Brown Bess
- ❖ The outer covering of the cartridge used in it was greased with fat, which had to be bitten off with the mouth before loading into the rifle
- ❖ This grease was made from the fat of cows and pigs
 - It wounded the religious sentiments of both Hindu and Muslim soldiers

The Revolution of 1857

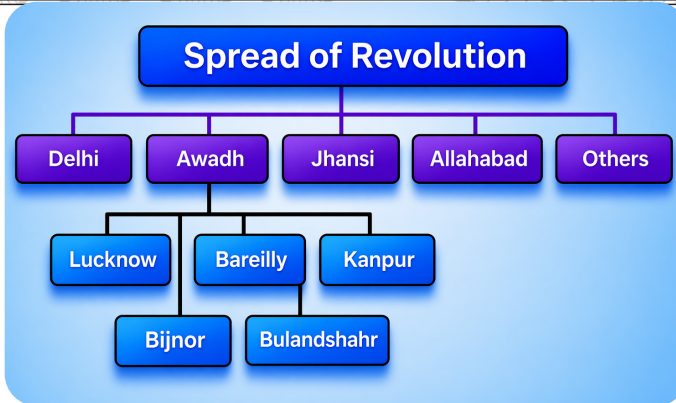
- ❖ 23 January 1857 = Dum Dum Cantonment (Calcutta)
 - First information about greased cartridges
- ❖ 26 January 1857 = Barrackpore (Bengal) - 19th Infantry
 - Refusal to use greased cartridges
- ❖ 29 March 1857 = Barrackpore (Bengal) -- 34th Native Infantry
 - Mangal Pandey refused to use them
 - Assassination of Sergeant Major Hewson and Lieutenant Baugh
 - Arrest of Mangal Pandey: Havildar Sheikh Paltu



- 8 April 1857 = Execution of Mangal Pandey
- 21 April 1857 = Execution of Ishwari Prasad Pandey
- ❖ 24 April 1857 = Soldiers of Meerut's cavalry battalion refused
- 85 soldiers were imprisoned
- ❖ 10 May 1857
- Soldiers of Meerut launched an open mutiny
- Formal commencement of the Revolution
- ❖ 12 May 1857
- Delhi came completely under the control of soldiers

31 May 1857 - Proposed date of the Revolution

Nana Saheb and Azimullah Khan had planned it systematically in Bithoor



Principal Centers and Leaders

Duration	Center	Leader	Suppression by
May 11, 1857 - Sep 20, 1858	Delhi	Bahadur Shah II	Nicholson, Hudson, Lawrence
June 4, 1857 - March 1, 1858	Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Colin Campbell, Havelock
June 5, 1857 - March 15, 1858	Kanpur	Nana Sahib	Colin Campbell, Havelock
June 5, 1857 - April 4, 1858	Jhansi	Rani Lakshmibai	General Hughrose
June 20, 1857 - June 10, 1858	Allahabad	Liaquat Ali	Colonel Neill
July 2, 1857 - June 15, 1858	Banaras	Army, Common people	Colonel Neill
July 15, 1857 - June 20, 1858	Jagdishpur, Bihar	Kunwar Singh	William Taylor, Vincent Eyre
July 20, 1857 - June 20, 1858	Punjab Army	Common people	John Lawrence
June 1857	Fatehpur	Azimullah	Renard and Campbell
June 1857	Faizabad	Maulvi Ahmadullah	General Renard
June 1857	Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan, Bakht Khan	Vincent Eyre, Campbell

- In Faizabad, Maulvi Ahmadullah also led the rebellion in June 1857. He attempted to unite followers of various religions in the name of Jihad. He proclaimed, "Let all people rise against the English infidels and drive them out of India."
 - Distressed by Ahmadullah's actions, the British announced a cash reward of 50,000 rupees on him, yet they could not capture him alive.
 - General Renard crushed the rebellion on June 5, 1858, and Ahmadullah was shot at Powayan on the Rohilkhand border.
- In Rohilkhand (Bareilly), Khan Bahadur Khan (Bakht Khan) assumed command, and soon the entire Rohilkhand was engulfed in the flames of rebellion. However, in 1858, Vincent Eyre and Campbell suppressed this rebellion, and Bahadur Khan was hanged.
- In Mandsaur (Madhya Pradesh), Prince Firoz Shah of the Mughal dynasty led the rebellion, but was subsequently exiled to Rangoon, where he died.

Delhi

- May 12, 1857** → Revolutionaries seized control
 - Bahadur Shah Zafar II (82 years old)** → Emperor (reluctant)
 - Commander and Chief of the 10-member committee - **Bakht Khan**
 - Awadh Artillery
 - Revolution in Bareilly
 - Title: Sahib-e-Alam
 - British authority restored - **September 20, 1857 : Lord Canning**
 - Major William Hudson
 - Nicholson (killed)
- Mirza Ghalib (Dastamb): "Before me was an ocean of blood; I know not what more remains for me to witness."
 • The Governor of Bombay, Elphinstone, remarked that Hudson's cruelty was "akin to the barbarism of Nadir Shah."
- Betrayal of Zafar - Ilahi Bakhsh
 ► Hudson: Arrest of Zafar and Zinat Mahal from Humayun's Tomb
 ► Hudson: Shot Prince Mirza Mughal, Khwaja Sultan, and grandson Abu Bakr in front of the Red Fort
 ► Judge Harriett's court - In 1858, he was sent to Rangoon, where he died on November 7, 1862.

Lucknow

- Wajid Ali Shah (Akhtar Piya: 1847-1856) - Annexation of Awadh on charges of 'misgovernance'
- June 30, 1857 = Battle of Chinhat/Chinhut = Death of Henry Lawrence

- The most well-planned and decisive victory of the revolutionaries in 1857.
 - Defeated by Barkat Ahmad Ali Khan and Ahmadullah Khan.
- Defeated by Barkat Ahmad Ali Khan and Ahmadullah Khan.
 - Commander Campbell (November 1857) - Liberated Havelock and Outram
 - Awadh was recaptured in March 1858.
 - Begum Hazrat Mahal: Died in Nepal in 1879



Kanpur (June 5, 1857)

- Nana Sahib - Adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II
 - Tatya Tope (Commander), Vakil Azimullah (Revolutionary emissary)
- June 25, 1857 - General Hugh Wheeler's surrender
- On June 25, Commander Wheeler surrendered on the condition that "he would be safely escorted to Allahabad."
 - June 1857 - Massacre of 150 British at Satichaura Ghat.
 - A reward of one lakh rupees on Nana Sahib
- December 6, 1857 - Colin Campbell recaptured Kanpur
 - Azizan Bai (courtesan) - Aided the Revolutionary
- Nana Sahib went to Nepal

Jhansi Rebellion

- Rani Lakshmibai = Manikarnika (Manu Bai)
 - Birth: Varanasi, 1828
 - Husband: Gangadhar Rao Newalkar (1842)
 - Adopted son: Damodar Rao
 - Nana Sahib - Chhabili Bahan (sister)
- Cause :- Dalhousie's Doctrine of Lapse
- Kalpi (May 23, 1858, UP) = Defeated by Hugh Rose
- June 18, 1858 (Gwalior) = Death

5. Associates = Ramchandra Pandurang (Tatya Tope), Jhalkari Bai (wife of Puran Kori), Gundara and Kashi
6. Hugh Rose :- "The Rani of Jhansi was the only man among the rebels"

Tatya Tope

1. Pioneer hero of the 1857 Revolution and Commander of Nana Sahib
2. Birth :- 1814, Nashik
3. Original name :- Ramchandra Pandurang
4. Gunner in the Bengal branch of the East India Company
5. Captured Gwalior by assisting the Rani of Jhansi
6. Rebellion suppressed by Gwalior's ruler Jayaji Rao Scindia and Hugh Rose
7. Guerrilla warfare tactics
8. A reward of 50 thousand rupees by the British
9. Betrayed by Man Singh

10. April 18, 1859 : Tatya Tope was hanged at Shivpuri
Subhadra Kumari Chauhan's poem "Khoob Ladi Mardani"

Vrindavan Lal's novel: 'Jhansi Ki Rani'

Jhansi's gunner Ghulam Ghaus inflicted heavy damage on the British army with Jhansi's cannon 'Ghanghar' (also known as Ghanghor/ Ghangarjan).

At that time, Jayajirao Scindia ruled Gwalior, who was a loyalist (British supporter).

Kunwar Singh

1. Leadership of the 1857 Revolution by 80-year-old Kunwar Singh in Jagdishpur (Bihar)
2. Guerrilla warfare tactics
3. Guerrilla warfare tactics
4. Death : April 26, 1858, Jagdishpur
5. Birth: 1777, Bhojpur (descendant of Malwa ruler Bhoj Parmar)

Kunwar Singh wished to hand over management of his zamindari to Board of Revenue with help of British officials.

Kunwar Singh first liberated his district Shahabad then , reached Atrulia in Azamgarh district (U.P.) where he defeated the British army led by Millman.

Kunwar Singh raised the flag of his rebellion beyond Bihar, extending to Mirzapur, Rewa, Banda, and Lucknow.

A combined army of Millman and Dames was sent to defeat Kunwar Singh, but it too was defeated.

Canning again sent an army under Mark's leadership. Kunwar Singh defeated this too, but was wounded by a bullet in his arm. To prevent the poison from spreading through his body, he severed his arm and offered it to the Ganges.

1. Other Leaders

- Shahadat Khan: Indore (1 July 1857)
- Rani Avanti Bai: Ramgarh (Madhya Pradesh)
- Fazil Mohammad Khan: Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
- Badaut (U.P.): Shahmal

2. British Officers Killed

- Hugheson and Baugh: Killed by Mangal Pandey at Barrackpore
- Brigadier General John Nicholson: Delhi
- Major General Henry Lawrence: Lucknow
- Major General Neill: Lucknow
- Colonel Finnis: Kanpur
- General Reynolds and Major Henry Walker

3. W. Russell = The white man's carriage is not viewed with a friendly eye

4. The Enfield rifle was introduced in December 1856, replacing the old Brown Bess rifle

- Recommendation = Henry Hardinge

5. After the revolution, the British first captured Delhi

6. The British Army had the largest number of soldiers from Awadh

7. The British had completely suppressed the 1857 revolt by the end of 1859.

8. Azamgarh Proclamation (25 August, 1857) = Condemnation of British rule atrocities

Consequences of the 1857 Revolution

1. 1 November 1858 - Queen Victoria's Proclamation :-

- Lord Canning publicly read Queen Victoria's Proclamation in Allahabad.
- Queen Victoria = Title of Kaiser-e-Hind (1876)
- Clement Canning = Lenient policy towards the revolutionaries of 1857
- Competitive examination instituted through the Act of 1861 to eliminate discrimination

2. Government of India Act 1858 terminated Company rule and inaugurated British Crown (Queen Victoria) governance

- Establishment of Secretary of State for India and a 15-member council in Britain
- Transformation of Governor-General into Viceroy
 - ◆ First Viceroy - Lord Canning (Representative of Crown)

3. Reorganization of the Army based on Peel Commission's recommendations :-

- Reduction in number of Indian soldiers
- Artillery and crucial divisions exclusively under British control
- Recruitment decreased from Awadh, Eastern Upper India, and Bengal Army
- Sikhs, Gurkhas, and Pathans were rewarded

4. Other Consequences :-

- Liberal policy towards princely states - abandonment of annexation policies
- Racial discrimination and communalism
- Divide and rule policy
- Policy of non-interference in socio-religious life
- End of the Mughal Emperor in India

Causes of Failure

1. Personal objectives instead of shared national purpose
2. Absence of robust central organization
3. Lack of definite plan in the revolution - the revolt was scheduled to commence on 31 May 1857, but erupted on 10 May itself
4. Absence of competent leadership
5. Support of princely states and feudal lords to British rule :-
 - Scindia (Gwalior), Holkar (Indore), Nizam of Hyderabad, Patiala.
 - "Gulab Singh issued orders that any revolutionary appearing in Kashmir should be shot"
 - Canning :- "If Scindia also joins the rebellion, I shall have to leave India tomorrow"
6. Lack of modern weaponry and technology :-

- Nana Saheb - "This blue-capped rifle kills before the bullet is even fired."
- British control over transportation and communication systems
- Economic and logistical weaknesses

7. Lack of support from the following classes :-

- Moneylenders and mercantile community
- Zamindars of Bengal
- Educated class
- Middle class

Nature of the 1857 Revolution

Military Character

- Sir John Seeley = "An unpatriotic, selfish military mutiny lacking local leadership"
- Charles Raikes = "The rebellion commenced as a military mutiny"
- J. W. Kaye = "Sepoy Mutiny"
- P. Robertson = "It was a sepoy mutiny whose immediate cause was the greased cartridges."

Religious Character

- L.E.R. Reese = "War of religious fanatics against Christians"
- T.R. Holmes = "Conflict between civilization and barbarism"
- John Kaye = "Struggle of coloured people against whites"
- G.B. Malleson and Taylor = "Rebellion of joint Hindu-Muslim efforts"

Feudal Character

- Percival Spear = "Final attempt by princely states to restore the archaic order"
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru = It was a rebellion led by local feudal lords

National Character

- Benjamin Disraeli: It was not merely a military rebellion, it had profound national underpinnings.
- Ernest Jones: It was absolutely justified, legitimate and necessary against colonial exploitation.
- Ashok Mehta and Karl Marx: National Revolution

India's First War of Independence

- Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Book - The Indian War of Independence, 1909 in Marathi language)
 - Despite British prohibition, this book was clandestinely delivered to India.
 - Translation = M.P.T. Acharya and Madam Bhikaji Cama
- Supporters: Patabhi Sitaramayya, Dr. S.N. Sen
- Dr. S.N. Sen - Indian War of Independence despite absence of nationalism
- R.C. Majumdar: "This so-called First National War of Independence was neither first, nor national, nor a war of independence."
- Shashi Bhushan Chaudhary = First war of independence, which was initiated by the people and advanced by the army."