

Chapter-5 When People Rebel

- Important Dates:-

- i. Subsidiary alliance was posed on Awadh in 1801.*
 - ii. Sepoys refused to go Burma by sea route in 1824.*
 - iii. Awadh annexed on 1856.*
 - iv. On march 29, 1857, Sepoy Mangal Pandey hanged for attacking his officer in Barrakpore.*
 - v. A massive rebellion started in 1857 at Meerut by sepoys.*
 - vi. On 10 may sepoy reached delhi to choose Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader in the war of Independence.*
 - vii. In 1858 the powers of the East India Company passed to the British crown.*
 - viii. In october 1858 Bahadur Shah Zafar sent to prison in Rangoon and died in 1864.*
-

- Question & Answer

1. *What was the demand of Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi that was refused by the British?*

Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi demanded that her adopted son be allowed to become the heir of the kingdom after her husband died.

2. *What did the British do to protect the interests of those who converted to Christianity?*

To help the interests of those who converted to Christianity, the company passed a new law in 1850. It allowed any Indian who converted to christianity to inherit the property of his ancestors.

3. *What objections did the sepoys have to the new cartridges that they were asked to use?*

The sepoys objected to use the new bullets because they were coated with the fat of cows and pigs.

4. *How did the last Mughal emperor live the last years of his life?*

The Mughal emperor was imprisoned in Rangoon in the last years of his life.

5. *What could be the reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857?*

The British were confident of their position in India due to their superiority and military powers before 1857.

6. *What impact did Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion have on the people and the ruling families?*

Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion fueled it. Many ruling families felt that if Mughal could rule again, they too would be able to rule under the Mughal authority. Many rulers who rose up in rebellion and defeated the British declared they were ruling under the authority of the Mughals. Ultimately this convinced the people that the rule of British had collapsed for good reasons and gave them confidence to actively take part in the rebellion.

7. *How did the British succeed in securing the submission of the rebel landowners of Awadh?*

British succeeded in securing the submission of the landowners of Awadh by announcing rewards for loyal landholders and declared that they would be able to enjoy traditional rights over their lands. British

also, declared those who rebelled if submitted to British and had not killed any white people would remain safe.

8. In what ways did the British change their policies as a result of the rebellion of 1857?

The British changed their policies after 1857 in the following ways:-.

- i. The powers of the East India Company were passed to the British crown for better management of Indian affairs. A member of the British cabinet was appointed as the Secretary of the state of India who was responsible for all matters related to the governance of India.*
 - ii. All ruling chiefs were assured that their territory would never be annexed in future, but they have to hold the kingdom as subordinates of the British crown.*
 - iii. The number of Indian soldiers were decreased and the number of European soldiers increased in the Army.*
 - iv. The British seized land and properties of Muslims on a large scale as the British believed they were responsible for rebellion in a large way.*
 - v. The British decided to respect social and cultural practices in India.*
 - vi. Policies were made to protect landlords and zamindars.*
-

• *Extra Questions:-*

1. Give important cause of the revolt of 1857?

Important causes of the revolt of 1857 were:

- i. British law that interfered with the religion and customs of peoples.*
- ii. Indignities faced by Indians.*
- iii. Ruin of trade and handicrafts.*
- iv. Humiliation of Nawabs.*

v. *Introduction of Doctrine of Lapse.*

2. *Where was the revolt started from and by whom?*

The revolution was first started in Meerut by sepoys.

3. *Name three prominent leaders of the revolt of 1857?*

Three prominent leaders of the revolt of 1857 were:

- i. Begum Hazrat Mahal.*
 - ii. Bahadur Shah Zafar.*
 - iii. Mangal Pandey.*
-

4. *Who was the leader of the revolt at Awadh?*

Begum Hazrat Mahal was the leader at Awadh in the revolt of 1857.

5. *Who called the revolt of 1857 the first war of Independence?*

V.D.Savarkar was the first Indian to call the revolt of 1857 as the first war of Independence.

6. *Give two important consequences of the revolt of 1857?*

Two important consequences of the revolt of 1857 were:

- i. End of Companies Rule and changes introduced in the administrative settings.*
 - ii. Rise of nationalism in India.*
-

7. *What additional title was given to governor general by the act of 1858?*

Governor-General received the title of viceroy by the law of 1858.

8. *Discuss the reasons for the discontent of the sepoys?*

The reason for the discontent of the sepoys were:

- i. Low Salary and poor prospects of Promotions.*
 - ii. glut of unemployed soldiers previously employed by states.*
 - iii. General Services Enlistment act which forced sepoys to serve in the army anywhere required.*
-

9. *What was the immediate cause of the revolt of 1857. Do you think the revolt of 1857 have taken place in the absence of this event?*

Immediate cause of the revolt was the introduction of Enfield rifle.

When eighty-five sepoys refused to perform drills using these rifle and were reward 10 years imprisonment. This made other sepoys very furious and they revolted.

I think the absence of this event would had delayed the revolt.

10. *Discuss the causes of the failure of the revolt?*

The primary cause of the failure of the revolt was lack of coordination and planning among the rebels, some other major causes were the lack of any central leadership, superior equipments and resources of the British and non-partition of several sections of the society.

11. *What is your view regarding the nature of the revolt of 1857?*

The revolt of 1857 was a sepoy revolt against the British. Many other kings and queens who had lost their kingdoms saw an opportunity to regain their kingdoms. This revolt did not support the idea of a

democratic country but different leaders revolted for their own kingdoms and throne. The revolt of 1857 led to some changes which were in interests of Indians. And it led to a rise of nationalism in peoples.
