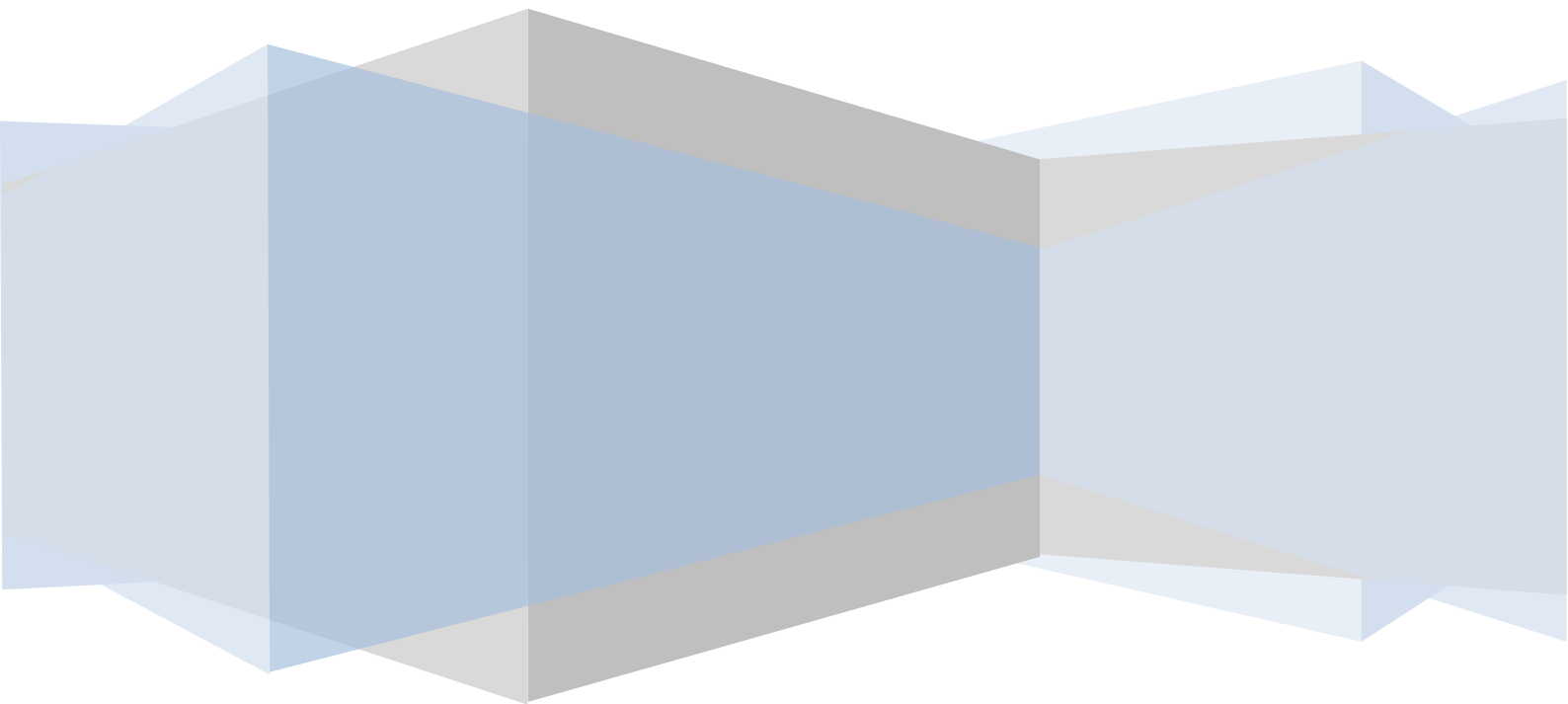


# Chapter 2: Revolt of 1857

## Short Answers

### CSM 02: History of India and Indian National Movement

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**This chapter contains:**

- Revolt of 1857
- Causes of Revolt
- Economic Causes of Revolt
- Political Causes of Revolt
- Consequences of Revolt
- Causes of Failure of Revolt
- Nana Saheb
- Kisan Sabha movement
- Namdhari Movement

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# 1. Revolt of 1857

The **Revolt of 1857** was a significant rebellion in India between 1857 and 1858 against the government of the **British East India Company**, which acted as a sovereign power on behalf of the British Crown. The uprising began on May 10, 1857, with a mutiny of Company army sepoys at the garrison town of Meerut, 40 miles northeast of Delhi. It eventually burst into further mutinies and civilian rebellions, primarily in the **upper Gangetic plain and central India**, though there were also incidents of insurrection in the north and east. This article will explain to you about the **Revolt of 1857** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

## 1.1 Background

- Following the **Battle of Plassey in 1757**, the British took the first step toward gaining control of northern India.
- And in 1857, there was a great '**Revolt**,' which was a result of the character and practices of colonial administration after 1757, and which resulted in significant changes in British policy toward India.
- Over time, the **cumulative effect of British expansionist tactics, economic exploitation, and administrative innovations** had harmed all—rulers of Indian states, sepoys, zamindars, peasants, traders, craftsmen, gurus, maulvis, and so on.
- In 1857, the simmering anger erupted in a violent storm that rocked the British empire in India to its very core.
- However, there were **intermittent public eruptions** in the form of **religiopolitical violence, tribal movements, peasant uprisings, agrarian riots, and civil rebellions** between 1757 and 1857.
- **Even in famine years**, increased revenue expectations sparked resentment.
- Because the moneylenders had the **protection of the police**, many protests against local moneylenders escalated into rebellions against the Company's control.
- Interference by the British in native religious/traditional rituals sparked discontent and led to rebellions.
- **Rebellions and uprisings** happened almost from the beginning of the **East India Company's** reign, for various reasons in various places.
- Even after the 1857 Revolt, some of the movements persisted.
- Major revolts broke out in the south, east, west, and north-eastern districts, which the Company brutally repressed.

## 1.2 The Revolt

- The incidence of **greased cartridges finally** sparked the **Revolt of 1857**.
- There was a rumor that the new Enfield rifles' cartridges were lubricated with cow and pig fat.
- The **sepoys had to nibble** off the paper on the cartridges before loading these guns.
- They were rebuffed by both **Hindu and Muslim sepoys**.

- **Lord Canning** attempted to right the wrong by withdrawing the **problematic cartridges**, but the harm had already been done. There was rioting in several locations.
- The revolt began on **May 10, 1857**, at Meerut, 58 kilometers from Delhi, and quickly spread across a large territory, encompassing **Punjab in the north** and the **Narmada in the south**, as well **Bihar in the east** and **Rajputana in the west**.
- There were **rumblings of dissatisfaction** in many cantonments even before the Meerut tragedy.
- In February 1857, the **19th Native Infantry at Berhampore** (West Bengal), which refused to use the newly imported **Enfield rifle** and mutinied, was dissolved.
- **Mangal Pande**, a young sepoy in the 34th Native Infantry, went a step further and shot at his unit's sergeant major at Barrackpore.
- On April 8, he was overcome and hanged, and his unit was dissolved in May.
- Then there was the **blast in Meerut**. The lubricated cartridges were declined by **90 troops** of the **3rd Native Cavalry** on April 24.
- On May 9, 85 of them were **found guilty**, condemned to ten years in jail, and placed in shackles.
- The Indian soldiers **stationed at Meerut** erupted in a widespread mutiny as a result of this.
- **They liberated** their imprisoned friends the next day, May 10, executed their superiors, and raised the insurrection flag. After sunset, they left for Delhi.
- The **greased cartridges** did not establish a new source of dissatisfaction in the Army; rather, they provided the catalyst for **long-simmering resentment to surface**.

### 1.3 Bahadur Shah - Head of the Revolt

- The Great Revolt's epicenter would soon be Delhi, and **Bahadur Shah** would be its emblem.
- This spontaneous elevation of the last Mughal ruler to the throne of India was a recognition that the **Mughal dynasty's lengthy** reign had become the traditional emblem of India's political unity.
- The sepoys had turned a military mutiny into a revolutionary war with this one deed, and all Indian chiefs who took part in the insurrection rushed to declare their allegiance to the **Mughal emperor**.
- It also implied that the insurgents were acting for political reasons
- Though religion had a role, the rebels' overall worldview was shaped more by their image of the British as the common enemy than by their religious identity.

### 1.4 Leaders of the Revolt and Storm Centres

- The uprising expanded over the whole region, from Patna's outskirts to Rajasthan's borders.
- **Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Jhansi, Gwalior, and Arrah in Bihar** are the primary centers of insurrection in these areas.
- Lucknow was the capital of the Awadh state. **Begum Hazrat Mahal**, one of the ex-king of Awadh's Begum, assumed command of the insurrection.
- **Nana Saheb**, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II, led the mutiny at Kanpur.

- He joined the insurrection largely because the British had taken away his pension.
- The victory was fleeting. After further forces came, the British were able to regain **Kanpur**. The uprising was put down with fury.
- **Nana Saheb** managed to flee, but his superb leader **Tantia Tope** fought on. Tantia Tope was defeated, jailed, and hung in the end.
- When the British refused to acknowledge her adopted son's claim to the kingdom of **Jhansi**, the twenty-two-year-old **Rani Lakshmi Bai** commanded the rebels.
  - She battled valiantly against the British army, but the English eventually overpowered her.
- After **Rani Lakshmi Bai** fled, she was joined by **Tantia Tope**, and the two marched to Gwalior, where they were arrested.
- There was a fierce battle, and the Rani of Jhansi fought like a tigress till she perished, battling until the last.
- The British were able to **retake Gwalior**.
- **Kunwar Singh**, a member of a royal family from Jagdispur, Bihar, spearheaded the insurrection.

## 1.5 Contributions of Civilians

- The sepoy revolt was accompanied by a civil populace uprising, mainly in the north-western regions and **Awadh**.
- Their long-held complaints were quickly expressed, and they rose in force to voice their resistance to **British authority**.
- The **farmers, craftsmen, shopkeepers, day laborers, zamindars, religious mendicants, priests, and public servants** all participated in the insurrection, giving it actual power and the appearance of a popular uprising.
- Peasants and petty zamindars vented their frustrations here by assaulting the moneylenders and zamindars who had evicted them from their land.
- They took advantage of the uprising to destroy the accounts and debt records of the moneylenders.
- They also targeted law courts, revenue offices (tehsils), tax records, and police stations, all of which were founded by the British.
- Within a month after the rebels captured Delhi, the uprising had spread to other regions of the country.

## 1.6 Suppression of the Revolt

- After a lengthy and **bloody battle**, the British finally took Delhi on September 20, 1857, and the uprising was eventually put down.
- The siege's commander, **John Nicholson**, was severely wounded and died as a result of his injuries.
- **Bahadur Shah** was apprehended and imprisoned.
- The royal princes were apprehended and killed on the spot by Lieutenant Hudson, who shot them at **point-blank range**.
- In 1862, the emperor was **banished to Rangoon**, where he died. As a result, the mighty Mughal dynasty was ultimately and **totally destroyed**.
- All of the revolt's major leaders fell one by one.

- The **military operations** to retake Kanpur were intertwined with those to reclaim Lucknow.
- British control over India was largely restored by the end of 1859.
- The **British government** had to send massive amounts of soldiers, money, and guns into the nation, albeit the Indians had to pay for it all afterward by suppressing themselves.

## 1.7 Causes of Failure of the Revolt

- **All-India participation was absent - One cause was the revolt's limited geographical extension.**
- It lacked an all-India veneer; India's eastern, southern, and western regions were mostly unharmed.
- This was most likely due to the Company's harsh suppression of previous uprisings in those areas.
- **All classes did not join** - Even **Awadh taluqdars** backed off after pledges of land restoration were spelled out, and big zamindars served as storm breakers.'
- **Moneylenders and merchants** were particularly vulnerable to the mutineers' rage, and their interests were better safeguarded under **British patronage**.
- **Educated Indians** saw the insurrection as backward-looking, pro-feudal, and a backlash to modernity by old conservative forces; **these individuals** had great hopes that the **British would** usher in a period of modernization.
- The majority of **Indian kings declined** to join and frequently aided the British.
- **Poor Arms and Equipment** - The Indian forces were inadequately armed, fighting mostly with swords and spears, with **few cannons and muskets**.
- European soldiers, on the other hand, were armed with cutting-edge weaponry such as the **Enfield rifle**.
- The **electric telegraph** kept the commander-in-chief up to date on the rebels' movements and plans.
- **Uncoordinated and Poorly Organised** - The uprising was poorly organized, with no central leadership or coordination.
- In terms of generalship, the main rebel commanders - **Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope, Kunwar Singh, and Laxmibai** - were no match for their British opponents.
- The East India Company, on the other hand, was lucky to have persons of remarkable ability such as the **Lawrence brothers, John Nicholson, James Outram, Henry Havelock**, and others.
- **No Unified Ideology** - The mutineers lacked a thorough knowledge of colonial control, as well as a future-oriented agenda, a cohesive philosophy, a political vision, and a sociological alternative.
- The insurgents represented a variety of forces with varying grievances and political ideologies.
- At this point in **Indian history**, a **lack of unity among Indians** was probably inescapable.
- In India, **modern nationalism** was unheard of. In reality, the insurrection of 1857 was essential in drawing the Indian people together and instilling in them a sense of belonging to a **single country**.



## 1.8 Nature and Consequences of the Revolt

- The uprising of 1857 was a watershed moment in Indian history.
- It resulted in significant changes in the British government's administrative system and policy.
- The revolt was described by British historians as a sepoy mutiny.
- The **British historians** believed that the sepoys, as well as some landholders and princes with vested interests, **organized the insurrection, ignoring the local people's concerns** and involvement in the movement.
- **Self-interested reasons**, according to a recent study in 1857, did not play a significant role prior to the concerted opposition to the unpopular British administration.
- The **Revolt of 1857** is considered by some historians to be the first struggle for Indian independence.
- Those who disagree with this perspective say that the rebel leaders did not try to create a new social order.
- The dissatisfied devotion and intentions were shattered, and they frequently looked back to society and policies that were no longer feasible." As a result, it was a restoration rather than a revolution.
- **Rural peasants**, in addition to **sepoys and Taluqdars**, took part in the revolution in considerable numbers.
- In the **instance of Awadh**, it has been shown that the attack was undertaken jointly by taluqdars and peasants.
- **Peasants continued** to relocate even after taluqdars made peace with the British in several locations.
- The sepoys had ties to their **kinsmen in the countryside**, and their insurrection inspired the civilian populace to air their concerns against British authority.
- As a result, the **1857 Revolt** took on the appearance of a popular revolt.

## 1.9 Significance of the Revolt

- Even though the British were able to put down the uprising, they were aware of the intensity of the people's discontent.
- The events of **1857 forced the British** to reconsider their stance toward India in the aftermath of the uprising; as a result, they devised a plan to prevent future revolts.
- The British issued a pledge that they would not extend their existing geographical conquests in order to regain the trust of local princes.
- The loyal princes received special honors. To check troops' **cohesion, community, caste, tribal, and regional loyalty** were fostered during army recruiting.
- By subtly exploiting the **caste, religious, and regional identities** of Indians, the British used the '**divide and rule strategy**.'
- The proclamation of **Royal Proclamation in 1858** was another key result of the Revolt of 1857.
- The **British Crown** took complete control of India's government with this proclamation, thereby ending the **East India Company's** dominion.
- Even though the rebels were defeated, their valiant fight against the British Raj made a lasting impact on the public.

- This **Revolt had a significant impact** on the spirit of Indian nationalism during its formative years in the second half of the nineteenth century.

### 1.10 Hindu - Muslim Unity

- At all levels of the revolt - people, troops, and leaders - there was the perfect collaboration between Hindus and Muslims.
- All rebels recognized Bahadur Shah Zafar, a Muslim, as emperor, and the Hindu sepoys in Meerut immediately began marching to Delhi, the Mughal imperial capital.
- "Two things stand out plainly in the middle of the complex tale of the **Rising of 1857**," **Maulana Azad** writes.
  - The first is the incredible sense of oneness that existed in India during this time between **Hindus and Muslims**.
  - The **other is** the people's great devotion to the **Mughal Crown**." Both Hindus and Muslims, rebels and sepoys acknowledged each other's feelings.
- Once the insurrection was successful in a given location, an immediate ban on cow slaughter was **imposed**.
- Both **Hindus and Muslims** were well-represented in the leadership; for example, **Nana Saheb had Azimullah**, a Muslim who specialized in political advertising, as an advisor, while **Laxmibai had Afghan warriors** on her side.
- Thus, the **events of 1857** revealed that, prior to 1858, India's people and politics were not fundamentally communal or sectarian.

### 1.11 Conclusion

For the first time in 1857, peasant dissatisfaction, along with protests from other areas of society, united disparate elements of society together in a coherent campaign against the British takeover. Many parts of Indian society were brought together for a similar purpose, although in a limited fashion. Despite the fact that the revolution failed to achieve its aim, it did sow the seeds of Indian nationalism. Many historians see the events of 1857 as an early indication of nationalism.

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## 2. Causes of Revolt of 1857

The **root causes of the revolt of 1857**, like earlier revolutions, were based on all facts. The problem of **greased cartridges and military discontent** has been exaggerated as a driving force for the 1857 Revolt. Recent studies, however, have revealed that the cartridge was not the only cause of the uprising. In actuality, a number of factors, including **social, religious, political, and economic factors**, conspired to bring about the uprising. This article will explain to you the **Causes of the Revolt of 1857** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

### 2.1 Revolt of 1857

- The **1857-59 Indian Revolt** was a large but ultimately failed revolt against the **British East India Company's** control in India, which served as a sovereign power on behalf of the British crown.
- It was the first organized act of opposition to the **British East India Company**.
- It began as an uprising of the sepoys of the British East India Company's army, but the masses gradually joined in.
- The first disturbances occurred in March 1857, when **Mangal Pandey**, a sepoy, called for fellow sepoys to rise against **British military** commanders at Barrackpore, near Calcutta and murdered the British Adjutant.
- **Mangal Pandey** was eventually captured and executed.
- Following that, in **May 1857, in Meerut**, Indian sepoy battalions shot down British officials, broke open jails, liberated their companions, and crossed across to Delhi to petition **Bahadur Shah II, the retired Mughal emperor**, to become their leader.
- Many local leaders, peasants, craftsmen, civil officials, and religious medics joined this revolution out of dissatisfaction and disillusionment with the British Raj.
- **Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Benaras, Rohilkhand, Bundelkhand, Gwalior, Jhansi, and Bihar** were all affected by the insurrection in Awadh.
- The civil populace in various places reacted violently to the uprising.

### 2.2 Causes

The origins of the 1857 revolt, like those of previous uprisings, arose from all facts - **sociocultural, economic, and political** - of the Indian population's everyday existence, cutting across all sectors and classes.

#### Economic Causes

- The **East India Company's** colonial practices shattered Indian society's conventional economic foundation.
- Due to **severe taxes**, peasants were forced to take out loans from moneylenders/traders at exorbitant interest rates, with the latter frequently evicting the former from their property for non-payment of debt dues.

- While the issue of **landless peasants and rural indebtedness** has plagued Indian society to this day, these moneylenders and businessmen emerged as the new landlords.
- The **zamindari system**, which had been in place for a long time, had to be dismantled.
- The artists and handicrafts people suffered during the British administration as well.
- Furthermore, British **policies discouraged Indian handicrafts** while emphasizing British items.
- At the same time, imports of British products into India were subject to cheap duties, which encouraged their admission.
- **Cotton and silk textile exports** from India had virtually ceased by the mid-nineteenth century.
- With the frequent use of a status quo by the state, **Zamindars, the traditional landed nobility**, had their property rights confiscated.
- The sepoy revolution provided a chance for these dispossessed taluqdars to confront the British and reclaim what they had lost.
- The **collapse of Indian industry** exacerbated the burden on agriculture and land, which could no longer sustain all of the country's inhabitants; the country's uneven development led to pauperization in general.

### Political Causes

- Through policies like '**Effective Control**,' '**Subsidiary Alliance**,' and '**Doctrine of Lapse**,' the **East India Company's** greedy policy of aggrandizement accompanied by broken pledges and promises resulted in contempt for the Company
- And the loss of **political prestige**, as well as caused suspicion in the minds of almost all the ruling princes in India.
- Hindu princes were denied the right of succession.
- The **Mughals** were mortified when, following **Prince Faqiruddin's death** in 1856, **Lord Canning** declared that, in addition to the renunciations agreed to by Prince Faqiruddin, the next prince on succession would have to surrender the royal title and the ancestral **Mughal palaces**.
- The **fall of rulers - the old aristocracy** - had a negative impact on those sectors of Indian society that relied on cultural and religious pursuits for their livelihood.

### Administrative Causes

- **Corruption** was rampant in the **Company's administration**, particularly among the police, **minor officials**, and subordinate courts, which was a major source of dissatisfaction.
- Many historians believe that the current levels of **corruption in India** are a result of the Company's control.
- Furthermore, the nature of **British rule** gave it a distant and alien appearance in the view of Indians: a form of absentee sovereignty.

### Socio-Religious Causes

- The **British administration's** attitude toward the native Indian population had racial overtones and a superiority mentality.
- Indians viewed the activity of Christian missionaries in India who flew the British flag with distrust.
- A **considerable segment** of the populace saw initiatives at socio-religious change, such as the elimination of **sati**, support for **widow-marriage**, and **women's education**, as outsiders interfering in the social and religious spheres of Indian culture.
- These fears were exacerbated by the government's decision to tax mosque and temple lands and the passage of laws like the **Religious Disabilities Act of 1856**, which altered Hindu customs by declaring, for example, that a change of religion did not prevent a son from inheriting his **'heathen' father's property**.

### 2.3 Influence of Outside Events

- The revolt of 1857 occurred during the **First Afghan War (1838–42)**, the **Punjab Wars (1845–49)**, and the **Crimean Wars (1854–56)**, all of which cost the British a lot of money.
- These have clear **psychological ramifications**. The British were perceived as being weak, and it was thought that they might be vanquished.

### 2.4 Dissatisfaction Among the Sepoys

- The **sepoys' religious views** and biases increasingly clashed with the circumstances of duty in the Company's Army and cantonments.
- **Indian sepoys**, who were generally conservative by nature, interpreted restrictions on wearing caste and sectarian marks, as well as secret rumors of chaplains' **proselytizing activities** (often maintained on the Company's expense, which meant at Indian expense) as interference in their religious affairs.
- Crossing the seas meant losing one's caste to the devout Hindus of the period.
- The **General Service Enlistment Act**, passed by **Lord Canning's** administration in 1856, compelled all future recruits to the Bengal Army to submit a promise to serve wherever the government wanted their services.
- There was animosity as a result of this.
- In comparison to his **British colleague**, the Indian sepoy was equally dissatisfied with his pay.
- The edict that they would not be awarded the foreign service **allowance (bhatta)** when serving in **Sindh or Punjab** was a more immediate source of displeasure for the sepoys.
- The **acquisition of Awadh**, the home of numerous sepoys, aggravated their emotions even more.
- At every turn, the **Indian sepoy** was treated as a second-class citizen, discriminated against ethnically and in issues of advancement and privileges.
- The **sepoys' unhappiness** was not restricted to military problems; it expressed a broader dissatisfaction with and hostility to **British authority**.
- In truth, the sepoy was a **"peasant in uniform"** whose mindset was not separated from that of the rural populace.

## 2.5 Conclusion

The revolt was mostly feudal in nature, with some nationalist components thrown in for good measure. The Government of India Act of 1858 transferred the power of the Indian government to the British Crown. To avoid a repeat of the incident, the army was meticulously reformed. The Indian Revolt of 1857 was a watershed moment in Indian history. It wasn't just a Sepoy product; it was a culmination of the people's frustrations against the Company's management as well as their hate for the foreign rule.

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### 3. Economic Cause of Revolt of 1857

**Economic factors** were important since they impacted a big portion of Indian culture. Since the British were granted **Diwani in 1765**, land income has been a major source of concern. The British government implemented "**pocket area transformation**," which included the establishment of **Permanent Settlements in Bengal**, **Mahalwari settlements in Central India**, and **Ryotwari settlements** in southern India. Peasants were poor as a result of the '**Drain of Wealth**,' and they took part in the 1857 revolt. This article will explain to you the **Economic Cause of the Revolt of 1857** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

#### 3.1 Economic Causes

- The **East India Company's** colonial practices shattered Indian society's conventional economic foundation.
- Due to **severe taxes**, peasants were forced to take out loans from moneylenders/traders at exorbitant interest rates, with the latter frequently evicting the former from their property for non-payment of debt dues.
- While the issue of **landless peasants and rural indebtedness** has plagued Indian society to this day, these moneylenders and businessmen emerged as the new landlords.
- The **zamindari system**, which had been in place for a long time, had to be dismantled.
- The artists and handicrafts people suffered during the British administration as well.
- Furthermore, British **policies discouraged Indian handicrafts** while emphasizing British items.

#### 3.2 Economic Exploitation of all sections

- The **Company's sole objective** was to gather as much money as possible with the least amount of work.
- **Industry, trade, commerce, and agriculture** declined as a result of their colonial practices of **economic exploitation**, and India became de-industrialized, poor, and debt-ridden.
- The annexation of Indian states resulted in the loss of employment and authority for Indian aristocrats, as well as their **economic and social standing** and advantages.
- The ancient economic fabric of Indian society was undermined by British colonial policy.
- The British policies affected **peasants, Taluqdars, artisans, traders, and ordinary people**.
- "The Indians were victims of both physical and economic kinds of class oppression by the British," Karl Marx notes.

#### 3.3 Ruin of the Mercantile Class

- The **British purposefully hampered Indian trade** and commerce by levying hefty tariffs on Indian commodities.

- They, on the other hand, supported the importation of British products into India.
- As a result, by the **mid-nineteenth century**, Indian exports of cotton and silk textiles had all but vanished.

### 3.4 Discontent among the Zamindars and a New Land Revenue System

- The English administrators had brought the **peasants and the British government** into touch with one another by introducing a **new land revenue system** in the newly acquired States, thereby removing the **middlemen** between the two parties.
- As a result, the great **Talukdars and Zamindars**, who used to collect land tax before that, lost both their income and their position.
- Those who had **land freeships** were required to produce the letters of grant issued to them to the government in order to confirm the validity of their proprietary rights in that area.
- In 1852, **Lord Dalhousie** ordered the Inam Commission to investigate the landlords' title papers.
- Those who failed to **present documentary** proof of their property rights, on the other hand, were stripped of their rights.
- Their lands were stolen and auctioned off to the highest bidder. 20,000 properties were therefore seized in **Western India alone**.
- In **Awadh, the epicenter of the Revolt**, **21,000 Taluqdars** had their estates stolen, leaving them without a means of income.
- Removing **Indian soldiers from the army** and the British government's severe reliance on documentation proof to justify their ownership rights in the country, Oudh became a hotbed of resistance to the British.
- The newly **implemented land revenue system** in freshly acquired regions drove aristocratic households to **abject poverty**.

### 3.5 Destruction of Indian Manufacturers

- The **British strategy** of promoting the **import of cotton goods** from England to India destroyed all **Indian cotton textile businesses**.
- Prior to **British domination in India**, communities were self-sufficient in all fields. Villagers used to create their commodities to meet their wants and requirements.
- When **British goods began** to flood the Indian market, it **threatened to destroy Indian manufacturing**. Because the things produced in the industries of England were both beautiful and inexpensive, Indians began to utilize them.
- India's handicrafts could not compete with those of England. It **annihilated India's small-scale** and handicraft industries.
- The **East India Company's** administration made no steps to avoid the disaster. It eventually resulted in the demise of Indian manufacturers as well as the devastation of local economies.
- It believed that **free trade** and the failure to apply protective duties on **English-made machine-made** items destroyed Indian manufacturing.

### 3.6 Pressure on Land



- The **collapse of Indian industry** and trade rendered many people unemployed, and a lack of other occupational opportunities forced a **huge portion of the urban population** to rely on the rural economy.
- As a result, millions of **bankrupt artisans and craftsmen, spinners, weavers, smelters, smiths**, and others from towns and villages had no choice but to **engage in agricultural activities**, putting a strain on the land.
- India was turned from an agricultural country to a **British Empire agricultural colony**.

### 3.7 Exploitation on European Plantations

- They were in need of raw materials as a result of the **Industrial Revolution** in England, which could not be met by the **English industry**.
- As a result, **British colonists in India** monopolized plantation businesses such as **indigo, jute, tea, and coffee**.
- In addition, they used various land revenue strategies to maximize their profits. As a result, the **British administration** in India made life more difficult for the planters.
- Farmers found it more difficult to make ends meet. The **lives of Indigo planters**, in particular.
- Indigo producers' lives were made more difficult by the inhumane treatment and persecution they received from **European plantation owners**.

### 3.8 Economic Drain

The British government's colonial control in India had a policy that drained India's wealth to England by fair or unfair means or methods:

- British servants and officials enjoyed all of India's advantages and utilized all legal and illegal ways to amass the country's wealth.
- British **soldiers, civil servants, and employees** who worked in India used to receive the highest pay.
- Their savings, **pensions, and other profits** from India were being sent to England in the **form of wealth**.
- In every way imaginable, the drain of Indian riches was transmitted to England.
- The majority of the gold, diamonds, silver, and silk had been carried to England as tax and occasionally sold in open auctions, depleting India's formerly vast treasure in precious stones.
- The British's continuous **agenda of economic exploitation** had a negative impact on the average man.
- Furthermore, **poverty, unemployment, famines, sickness, malnutrition, and economic despair** have deteriorated the economic situation.

### 3.9 Conclusion

The British strategy of economically exploiting India was the most significant source of public resentment. This harmed people from all walks of life. Due to heavy tax expectations and a stringent revenue collection program, peasants suffered. The large-scale inflow of inexpensive British manufactured products into India devastated artisans and craftsmen,

making their hand-made goods uneconomical to create. People who made a living via religious and cultural interests lost their source of income as a result of the relocation of the old governing elites, which resulted in the removal of royal patronage.

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## 4. Political Causes of Revolt of 1857

**Political causes** of the revolt were the British policy of expansion through the Doctrine of Lapse and direct annexation. A huge number of Indian rulers and chiefs were deposed, instilling dread in other leading families who feared a similar fate. Because of British expansionist ambitions, most **Rajas, Nawabs, and zamindars** were either dispossessed of their states or became subservient to the British. This article will explain to you the **Political Cause of the Revolt of 1857** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

### 4.1 Political Causes

- The **East India Company's** greedy policy of aggrandizement, followed by unfulfilled vows and promises, resulted in disdain for the Company via policies such as '**Effective Control,**' '**Subsidiary Alliance,**' and '**Doctrine of Lapse.**'
- And the loss of political status, as well as distrust in the minds of practically all of India's reigning lords.
- The power of succession was denied to Hindu princes.
- Following Prince **Faqiruddin's** death in 1856, **Lord Canning** ruled that in addition to the renunciations agreed to by **Prince Faqiruddin,** the next prince in succession would have to give up the royal title and the ancient **Mughal palaces.**
- The collapse of rulers - **the ancient nobility** - had a severe influence on parts of Indian society that relied on cultural and religious activities for a living.

### 4.2 Wars and Conquests

- By invasion, the **East India Company** caused a great deal of unhappiness and disaffection among the dispossessed reigning families and their descendants.
- A vast number of **dependents** on ruling families who had lost their means of subsistence, as well as other common people, were disillusioned and dissatisfied with the alien rule.
- **Lord Dalhousie** conquered Punjab, further humiliating the reigning family.
- **Dalip Singh, Ranjit Singh's** minor son and the founder of the Sikh Kingdom of Punjab was ousted and banished to England.
- The **Lahore Darbar's** properties were auctioned off.

### 4.3 Subsidiary Alliance

- The British policy of **territory acquisition** resulted in the displacement of many **rulers and chiefs.**
- The strong implementation of **Subsidiary Alliance and Doctrine of Lapse** policies enraged the ruling classes.
- **Lord Wellesley's subsidiary alliance** played a significant role in British expansion in India.
- Indian rulers were not permitted to have their **own armed forces** under the terms of this alliance.

- They were to be **safeguarded by the firm**, but they had to pay for the subsidiary troops' that the company was supposed to have for this reason.
- As a result, several **Indian kings** who were under British protection relinquished control of their foreign affairs to the British.
- Most **subordinate armies** were abolished, with British troops stationed within their territories to safeguard them from assault.
- **Discontent and unhappiness** were especially prominent in regions seen to have lost their independence.
- As a result of the **Subsidiary Alliance**, lakhs of soldiers and officers lost their hereditary livelihood, spreading despair and degradation throughout the country.
- With the development of the **Subsidiary Alliance** System under **Lord Wellesley**, the **East India Company's** policy of 'Effective control and progressive extinction of the Indian native governments acquired solid shape.

#### 4.4 Doctrine of Lapse

- The actual execution of **Lord Dalhousie's Doctrine of Lapse** caused extraordinary resentment in the states immediately impacted.
- As a result, a lot of kings were prohibited from adopting any son for religious rites after their death.
- The British were seen as infringing directly on their religious customs.
- The **British Empire** conquered and annexed the Punjab, Pegu, and Sikkim.
- Dalhousie seized the kingdoms of **Satara, Jaipur, Sambalpur, Bhagat, Udaipur, Jhansi, and Nagpur** using the **Doctrine of Lapse**.
- Lord Dalhousie seized the kingdom of Oudh in 1856 solely on the grounds of mismanagement.
- Wajid Ali Shah's dethronement sparked a wave of hatred and indignation across the country.
- The kingdom was economically abused, and the Nawabs were relegated to a position of administration of the state, which **Dalhousie** used as a justification to unite it with the **British Empire**.
- The dignities and royal titles of the rulers of **Carnatic and Tanjore** were confiscated, and **Nana Sahib**, Bajirao II's adoptive son, was denied the stipend originally awarded to Peshwa Bajirao II.
- Thus, in the perspective of the Indians, all of the governing princes were in **jeopardy**, and the annexation of all of India's states was just a matter of time.
- The native states were often believed to be gobbled up by the Indian people.
- All of these activities demonstrated the **British's insensitivity** to the Indian rulers.

#### 4.5 Humiliating and Rush Policy

- The British never maintained their **written or verbal** promises.
- Consequently, it was inevitable to result in hatred and revolts. Since 1803, the **Mughal rulers** have been protected by the British.
- His claims to honor and authority were acknowledged.
- The words humble servant appeared on the seal of the Governor's General.

- The relationship between the **Mughal emperor** and the governors-general, on the other hand, gradually shifted.
- Made it clear to the emperor that his Kingship was only ceremonial; he was called King only out of respect.
- **Lord Dalhousie** said in 1849 that his successor would have to abandon the **Red Fort** and stay near the **Qutub Minar**.
- By this time, **Bahadur Shah**, the Mughal emperor, who had grown elderly and was about to die, was not in favor of the construction of an imperium imperio; yet, he had recognized **Fakir Uddin as the Mughal emperor's** successor under extremely tight terms.
- **Fakruddin** died in 1856, pleasantly or sadly. On his death, Viceroy **Lord Canning** declared that **Fakiruddin's successors** would be stripped of their nominal dignity and shadow of sovereignty in Delhi and that they would not be permitted to sit in the royal palaces.
- This meant that the **Mughals' title sovereignty** was also coming to an end.
- **Lord Canning's** statement dealt a devastating blow to the Indian Muslims' goals, and they grew panicked.
- They came to the conclusion that the British were hell-bent on humiliating the princes of the **Timur dynasty**.
- As a result, they regarded the destruction of the British administration in India as a holy obligation that they wished to fulfill in honor of their predecessors as well as their faith.
- As a **result of the Muslims and Hindus'** resentment at the nominal **Mughal emperors'** humiliation in India as a result of **Dalhousie, Canning,** and the East India Company's attitude, they chose to form an alliance with the rebels.

#### 4.6 Governed from Foreign Land

- India was ruled by a **foreign nation**, which meant that the rulers of India were administering the country hundreds of miles away; this was another major political issue that infuriated Indians **against the British**.
- The **Turkish and Mughal** empires had established themselves in India and had settled down.
- They used the money they gathered from the people in **India to fund administration, the military, public works,** and the **construction of monuments,** all of which produced jobs for Indians.
- As a result, any fortune they accumulated over time was squandered in India.
- The British, on the other hand, dominated India from **England and siphoned** India's resources into their own nation.
- India's riches were being used to benefit the **English people** in both England and India.
- As a result, the Indians could not help but feel irritated by the Britishers, and as a result, they joined the rebels in the **Mutiny of 1857**.

#### 4.7 Suspension of Pension

- The company's directors wanted their **dividends to rise**, and they wanted the company's management in **India to follow the economy**.
- As a result, several Indian chiefs' pensions were reduced or suspended, and the firm was forced to sell them.
- **Rani Jindan, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's** Queen, has had her annual pension lowered from 15,000 pounds to 1,200 pounds. Nana Sahib's and Lakshmi Bai's pensions in Jhansi were suspended.
- The **Nawab of Carnatic** and Tanjore's nominal sovereignty was likewise dissolved. As a result, they began to oppose the British.

#### **4.8 Conclusion**

The policy of Doctrine of Lapse was the fundamental political reason of the **Great Revolt of 1857**. Any princely state or area under the **British East India Company** would be automatically annexed if the king died without a male successor, according to an annexation strategy supposedly implemented by **Lord Dalhousie**. Most Rajas, Nawabs, and zamindars were dispossessed of their states or became British subjects as a result of the British expansionist policy.

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## 5. Consequences of Revolt of 1857

The **Revolt of 1857** was a watershed moment in modern Indian history. It had a significant impact on British policies in India. The revolt's widespread popularity and the threat it represented to British authority in India during the year 1857 led the British to reconsider their entire relationship with India. The **consequences of the revolt of 1857** may be divided into two categories: **positive and negative impacts**. This article will explain to you the **Consequences of the Revolt of 1857** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

### 5.1 Consequences of the Revolt

- The **1857 rebellion** marked a turning point in Indian history.
- It led to considerable changes in the administrative system and policies of the British government.
- British historians referred to the uprising as a **sepoy mutiny**.
- The insurgency was organized by the sepoys, as well as some landowners and princes with vested interests, according to **British historians**, who ignored the local people's concerns and participation in the movement.
- According to new research from 1857, **self-interested considerations** did not play a large role prior to the organized opposition to the unpopular British authority.
- Some historians regard the 1857 Revolt to be the first battle for **Indian independence**.

### 5.2 Positive Consequences

#### Transfer of power

- The **Act for the Good Government of India**, passed in 1858, transferred political and administrative control from the East India Company to the British crown.
- India will be **ruled directly** by the Queen through a Secretary of State under this Act. He was given direct authority over the British Parliament.
- A council known as the **India Council** was established to help and advise him in conducting the affairs of this kingdom.
- The **India Council** was to be made up of fifteen members, with at least nine of them having spent at least 10 years in India.
- The **Secretary of State** was to preside over the India Council.

#### The Queen's Proclamation, 1858

- At a Durbar held in **Allahabad on November 1, 1858**, **Queen Victoria** issued a proclamation, which was read out by **Lord Canning**, the Governor-General of India, who declared the acquisition of the Indian administration by the British crown.
- They have resolved to take up the government of the Indian territory, according to the document.
- In her proclamation, **the Queen** urged all of her people in British India to be loyal and devoted to the British government.

- The **Governor-General** was renamed **Viceroy** under the new system.
- As a result, the last Governor-General, **Lord George Canning**, became the first Viceroy of the British holdings in India.
- The **Queen** promised the local princes in her proclamation that all contracts and engagements established by the **East India Company** with the native princes would be properly preserved by the British Government, and that they would, in turn, respect the same.
- The proclamation guaranteed India's citizens religious freedom.
- They would be free to follow their **own religious views, customs, and worship** without interference from the British government.

### Home Government for India

- The **Crown's power** was to be exerted by the Home Government in England, which consisted of the secretary of state for India, aided by the Council of India, also known as the **Indian Council**, under the **Act for good Government of India**.
- The **Council of India** was a permanent body of civil servants with extensive knowledge of Indian conditions and administration.
- Although the **Secretary of State** could override the Council's majority decision in some cases by recording reasons for doing so, the Council's majority decision was binding on him in others.
- Such as the grant or appropriation of any part of Indian revenues, patronage division and distribution, contracting, sales and purchases for and on behalf of the **Indian Government**, and all matters relating to Government of India property.
- This was the era of direct authority over British India.
- Its lofty emotions and **sparkling goals** conveyed in **rich and dignified language** went a long way toward pacifying the Indian people and establishing a favorable environment for the **British Government's** efficient functioning in India.
- For the next sixty years, it laid the groundwork for a new British policy in India.

### Reorganisation of the Indian Army

- Following the uprising, the **British attitude** toward the Indian army shifted dramatically.
- The British could no longer expect that the Indian people would support their government in its hour of need.
- To ensure loyalty and **effectiveness**, the British element in the Indian army was reinforced.
- These **British troops** were constantly stationed alongside Indian battalions in all of India's major cities as a kind of internal security and to **prevent disruption** among Indian soldiers and civilians.
- As a result of all of these efforts, the Indian army acquired a strong feeling of **loyalty and discipline**.

### The Annexation Policy was Abandoned



- The Queen stated that she had no ambition to expand the **British Empire** by annexing new lands.
- The **British rulers recognized the Princely States'** importance and desired their support for British control in India.
- The Queen committed to preserving the **tribal rulers' rights**.
- As a result, the **British dominion's strategy** of annexing the princely state was abandoned, and many other local monarchs who were loyal to the British were made free and independent.
- Many Indians who **supported the British authority** in India were also awarded feoffees.
- The union and the **British administration**, as well as the rulers of the native states, made efforts to improve contacts and develop connections.

### **Equal Treatment and Religious Freedom are Protected**

- The queen's proclamation stated that we should strongly depend on the **truth to renounce** both the **right and desire to develop** our conviction on any of our subjects.
- It declared to be our royal will and pleasure that none shall be favored or disturbed because of their religious faith and observance, but that all **shall enjoy the equal and impartial protection of the law**.
- Charge and enjoin all those who may be in authority under us to abstain from all interference with the religious belief or worship of any of our subjects in pain of our greatest displeasure.
- As a result of the **Queen's Proclamation**, all people in India were allowed **religious freedom**, and the government committed not to hurt the religious sensitivities and **sensibilities of any community**.

## **5.3 Negative Consequences**

### **Increase in Racial Animosity**

- The **revolt left a legacy** of racial enmity in its wake. Indians were seen as untrustworthy by the British.
- As a result, the **Indians were humiliated and degraded**. As a result, there was racial tension between the English and the Indians.
- The social division between the races in this country began on this date.
- During the **suppression of the Mutiny**, English officers performed innumerable and terrible oppressions throughout Punjab and North India.
- As a result of this campaign of terror, great emotions of enmity developed between the English and the Indians in post-mutiny India.
- In India, the **British** had established a distinct community.
- During the **Revolt of 1857**, the British were astonished and shocked to see the loyal sepoys suddenly become rebellious.
- As a result, the British believed that safety could only be found among their own countrymen.

### **Setback to Social Reforms**

- **The 1857 Revolt** persuaded the British that tampering with India's established **socio-religious** practices was futile.
- **The British** were forced on the defensive by considerable resistance to social regulation, particularly from conservative sections in both the Hindu and Muslim communities.
- The **British's self-confidence** was destroyed, as were their hopes for quick westernization of India through social reforms.
- Following the **Revolt of 1857**, the British opted to focus on establishing a strong and efficient administration rather than imposing Western ideals and changing into a **traditional Asian culture**.

### **The Policy of Divide and Rule**

- Following the **Revolt of 1857**, the British patronized and implemented the most heinous policies to separate Indians into castes and classes.
- The British pitted one social class against another.
- Muslims were forced to combat Hindus, while Hindus of higher castes were enraged against Hindus of lower castes.
- As a result, the overall state of the country deteriorated.

### **Misunderstanding between Hindus and the Muslims**

- The **Mutiny's failure** resulted in a misunderstanding between Hindus and Muslims.
- Muslims have shown stronger and more widespread support for the insurgents.
- Between 1857 and 1859, even in **South India**, where their numbers were modest, various plots against the British were organized among them.
- Both **Hindus and Muslims** participated in the insurrection in considerable numbers when it began.
- Muslims, on the other hand, were more aggressive toward the British than Hindus.
- Muslims were a **greater threat** to the British than Hindus. As a result, the Muslims were targeted more than the Hindus in terms of repression.
- The majority of the attacks were concentrated on Muslim neighborhoods. Property belonging to Muslims was extensively seized.
- This sparked animosity and **misunderstanding between Muslims and Hindus**.

### **Economic Loot**

- With the collapse of the **Great Rebellion**, the age of British territorial conquest came to an end, and the **Britishers turned their** attention to the economic exploitation of Indians.
- The British administration no longer **feared feudal India in any way**. Economically, the **English exploited India** to a large extent.
- The **British administration** now faced a fresh challenge from **progressive forces in Indian society**, a challenge that was being met positively thanks to John Stuart Mill's and other progressive components in England's progressive ideas.

### **The Muslim Renaissance received a set-back**

- Another **negative consequence** of the Mutiny was that the Muslim renaissance in Delhi, which had been blossoming before the **Mutiny**, suffered an irreversible setback.
- The **cultural blossoming** had been stifled. It's not difficult to see how one year of Mutiny wreaked havoc on the nascent spiritual life.
- The resurgence of learning in Delhi was quickly overtaken by decay, from which it never recovered.
- Calcutta, the **epicenter of Hindu revival**, was rescued from the Mutiny's atrocities.

## 5.4 Conclusion

The Revolt of 1857 was a watershed moment in modern Indian history. It had a significant impact on British policies in India. The events of 1857 affected the nature of the Indian empire in the latter decades of the nineteenth century to a great extent. The revolt's widespread popularity and the threat it represented to British authority in India during the year 1857 led the British to reconsider their entire relationship with India.

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## 6. Causes of Failure

The **Revolt of 1857** in India was a massive but short-lived uprising against the rule of the British East India Company, which acted as an autonomous entity on behalf of the British crown. A year after it erupted, it was put down. Many factors contributed to the failure of this great revolt, including the lack of a single leader, unity, and backing from all rulers and castes in India. One of the **key reasons** for the revolt's failure was that it was poorly coordinated. The success of the British was due to a number of causes. This article will explain to you the **Causes of the Failure of the Revolt of 1857** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

### 6.1 Causes of Failure of Revolt of 1857

- The **Revolt of 1857** lasted almost a year. By the middle of 1858, it had been put down.
- **Lord Canning** declared peace on July 8, 1858, fourteen months after the uprising at Meerut.
- Despite the fact that the revolution was extremely broad, a substantial portion of the country remained unscathed.
- The insurgents lacked a strong commander. Despite the fact that **Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope, and Rani Lakshmi Bai** were courageous leaders, they were unable to provide effective leadership to the movement as a whole.
- The insurgents lacked resources, both in terms of soldiers and money. In India, on the other hand, the English got a regular supply of soldiers, money, and weaponry.
- The affluent merchants, businessmen, and **zamindars of Bengal**, as well as the **English-educated middle class**, aided the British in suppressing the insurrection.

### 6.2 All-India participation was absent

- Even though the revolt was massive and widespread, it was mostly localized, confined, and poorly organized.
- The **Mutiny was not widespread**. It was never a pan-India character, but rather a regional, confined, and poorly organized one.
- The **Punjab, the United Provinces, Rohilkhand, Oudh**, the Territory between the **Narmada and the Chambal**, and the Western sections of Bengal, as well as Bihar in the northeast, were all devastated.
- Under **Dost Mohammad**, **Afghanistan** was a friendly country. Sindh was quiet, and Rajputana was devoted.
- Though local regiments mutinied at **Kolhapur in the Southern Maratha area**, and there were numerous violent eruptions of sentiments in Hyderabad, the Nizam's Capital, there was no significant movement south of the **Narmada River**.
- Central and Eastern Bengal were unaffected, and Nepal aided the British in putting down the rebellion.
- As a result, the uprising was limited to a local level rather than a national one.

### 6.3 All classes did not join

- Certain classes and groups refused to join the uprising and, in fact, worked against it.
- Even **Awadh taluqdars** backed off after pledges of land restoration were spelled out, and big **zamindars** served as storm breakers.'
- Moneylenders and merchants were particularly vulnerable to the mutineers' rage, and their interests were better safeguarded under British patronage.
- **Educated Indians** saw the revolt as backward-looking, pro-feudal, and response to modernity by old conservative forces; they had great hopes that the British would usher in a period of modernization.
- The majority of Indian kings declined to join and frequently aided the British.
- The **Scindia of Gwalior, the Holkar of Indore, the rulers of Patiala, Sindh, and other Sikh chieftains**, and the **Maharaja of Kashmir** were among those who did not participate.
- According to one estimate, the area impacted was less than one-fourth of the entire area, while the population was less than one-tenth of the total population.

#### 6.4 English Superiority in a Variety of Fields

- The resources of **British Imperialism** were limitless.
- Fortunately for them, the **Crimean War** and other wars in which Britishers were participating had ended by 1856, allowing them to return to their homeland.
- The **British army** was excessive in size, having been transported into India in vast numbers from many parts of the world, and many more men were recruited in India itself to put down the Mutiny.
- The **British possessed** better weapons than the insurgents.
- The British possessed sophisticated rifles and cannons. The Indians had canons, but they were ancient and scarce in number. They were usually using swords and spears to combat.
- The **British Navy** was superior.
- The **Electric System** also contributed to the success of the British. The British Commander-in-Chief obtained full information about the rebels' preparations through this mechanism, allowing him to make appropriate arrangements.
- The Indians were unable to succeed as a result of the **British's superiority**.

#### 6.5 Lack of Unity and Organisation

- The **Indian rebels** were poorly organized, or if they were organized at all, their central command was ineffective.
- There was no shortage of daring and audacity among its leaders, but one thing that stood out was their lack of expertise in organizing and coordinated action.
- It was impossible for them to reclaim their **lost freedom through small-scale depredations** and surprise attacks, which are particularly noticeable in **Gorilla warfare** techniques.
- The **British Crown** and provincial governments conducted an investigation into the mutiny through commissions and boards, but these commissions and boards were unable to find any clues that would allow them to determine the genesis of any organized plot of mutiny.

- Rather, the lawsuit was brought against **Bahadur Shah II, the Mughal emperor**, who claimed that the rebellion had come as a surprise to him as it did to the Britishers.
- To put it another way, there was no organization among the rebellion's leaders. Then there was a lack of unity of purpose among the mutineers.
- The rebellion had sprung out of nowhere, and no one could have predicted the course it would take; there was no understanding between the Hindus and the Muslims.
- They were split in their goals, and there was **no unifying political goal**. There was no unity among them, and they were unable to work together effectively to carry out the joint plan or achieve the same goal.
- In terms of generalship, the main insurgent leaders - **Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope, Kunwar Singh, and Laxmibai** - were no match for their British opponents.
- The **East India Company**, on the other hand, was lucky to have persons of remarkable ability such as the **Lawrence brothers, John Nicholson, James Outram, Henry Havelock**, and others.

## 6.6 No Common Goal

- The revolt had no overarching ideology or objective. After seizing control of numerous provinces, leaders and rebels had no long-term strategy for India.
- Every rebellion joined it for its own reasons: rulers joined because they were losing power in the region, Sepoys because they felt inferior and wanted to restore the glory of the **Mughals**, **civilians** because of **religious interference**, peasants because they wanted to remove zamindars and moneylenders, and so on.
- This made it simple for the British to put down the rebellion.

## 6.7 Lack of leadership

- Another major factor that contributed to the mutiny's failure was a lack of leadership among the rebels.
- The **Rani of Jhansi, Tatya Tope and Nana Sahib** were the only qualified commanders of the mutineers. With the exception of a few noble individuals, the most notable of whom was **Ahmed Ullah and Tatya Tope**, most of the leaders that participated in the war did so for personal reasons.
- They did not revolt against the British until their personal interests were jeopardized by the British government's policies.
- There were no masterminds behind the 1857 insurrection, nor was it the result of meticulous preparation.
- Aside from indigenous spying for the **British**, there were other natives working within and outside the fort, the most well-known of whom was **Molvi Raza Ali**.
- The English, on the other hand, had the benefit of having extremely skilled commanders such as **Lord Lawrence, Outram, Havelock, Nicholson Neil, and Edwards** who were successful in defeating the revolt in every manner conceivable.
- These **British leaders** and generals were the ones that stood firm against the mutineers in the early phases of the mutiny, allowing them to maintain control of the situation.

- In the final phases of **the rebellion**, they had received significant assistance from their homeland.
- They were also significantly superior to the Indian leaders in terms of military and political abilities.
- All of them had just one goal in mind: to understand the **differences between the British and Indian governments**.

## 6.8 Personal rivalries exist among the mutineers

- They were always jealous of one another. In truth, these people's jealousies were primarily to blame for the Indian defeat.
- **Personal jealousies** of Indian leaders have always stood in the way of collective effort under a single supreme leader.
- In contrast, the **English** had the benefit of a supreme commander who was no less heroic and unfazed than the rebel leaders.
- Thus, the **mutual jealousy** among the native leaders was another factor that greatly damaged their unity and finally contributed to their downfall.
- The leaders of the revolt were united solely by a shared hatred for the alien authority.
- They **ousted British power** and established new institutions in their stead. Every leader battled for their own domain rather than a consolidated power for the entire country.
- The rebels lacked a viable alternative to the **East India Company**.

## 6.9 Bahadur Shah, a shattered Reed

- The **Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah**, was unprepared for the magnitude of the upheaval that had occurred throughout the kingdom.
- One of the most crucial reasons for the mutiny's failure was **Bahadur Shah's** inability to adequately lead the country due to his mental unpreparedness for such a huge upheaval.

## 6.10 Efforts of Lord Canning

- Another important factor that contributed to the **English's success** in the mutiny was the noble efforts of Lord Canning and **Sir John Lawrence** in the early stages to quell the **outcry both in England and in India** for their ruthless and indiscriminate vengeance policy that the English in England and India advocated.
- Thus, **Lord Canning's** restraining effect during and after the war was a significant contributory cause to British triumph.
- Throughout the frenzy of the rebellion, **Lord Canning** never lost his sense of equilibrium.
- As a result, his policy of **mercy and moderation** contributed significantly to the cessation of hostilities and the restoration of order.

## 6.11 Conclusion

The character and practices of colonial control, the peoples' accumulated resentments against the management of society, and their dislike to the foreign ruler all contributed to the revolution. However, the insurrection was put down by the British, but the revolt of 1857 was essential in unifying the Indian people and instilling in them a sense of belonging to a single country.

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## 7. Nana Saheb

The First War of Independence (1857-58) was the most violent uprising against the British East India Company. The Doctrine of Lapse, issue of cartridges lubed with animal fat to Indian officers, presentation of British arrangement of training and various social changes had angered an extremely wide part of the Indian public, who rose up at various places all over India. The East India Company was brought under the immediate control of the British Crown because of this uprising. There were several leaders of this revolt at different locations. Nana Saheb was one among them who led the revolt in Kanpur, Awadh. He was a Maratha. Nana Saheb was born in 1824 to Narayan Bhatt and Ganga Bai. In 1827 he was adopted by the last Peshwa Baji Rao.

### 7.1 Background

- He was born in Bithoor of Kanpur District in present day Uttar Pradesh in May 1824.
- He was initially named as Nana Govinda Dhondu Pant.
- His father travelled to the court of the Peshwa Baji Rao II in Pune and became his court official.
- He and his brother were adopted by the last Peshwa who in 1827. Nana Saheb's mother was Peshwa's sister-in-law.
- Tatyapa Tope and Manikarnika Tambe (later Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi) were his childhood friends.
- Peshwa Baji Rao II then lived in an estate in Bithoor after the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
- He was given an annual pension by the British government.
- The Doctrine of Lapse established by Lord Dalhousie had the rule that any Indian State under the control of the British or any vassal of the British without its ruler having an heir would be annexed by the British.
- Hence after the death of Peshwa, the British stopped giving pension to his adopted son Nana Saheb and refused to accept him as the heir (since he was adopted).
- Britishers refused the claim of Nana Saheb to be the next peshwa, despite being stated as the heir in the will of Baji Rao II.
- This incident led Nana Saheb to take part in the revolt of 1857.

### 7.2 Role of Nana Saheb in the Revolt of 1857

- During the earlier phases of the First War of Independence in 1857, Nana Sahib pronounced his devotion to the British.
- He won the confidence of Charles Hillersdon, the governor of Kanpur.
- Nana Sahib promised to protect British with his 1,500 fighters, on the chance that the resistance spread to Kanpur.
- On June 5, 1857, at the hour of resistance by powers of the East India Company at Kanpur, the British had taken shelter at an entrenchment.
- In the midst of the overall disarray in Kanpur, Nana Sahib and his force entered the British safehouse.

- The warriors of the 53rd Native Infantry, which was guarding it, believed that Nana Sahib had come to watch them for the benefit of the British.
- When he entered there, Nana Sahib declared that he was a member in the disobedience to the British.

### **7.3 Attack on Wheeler's Entrenchment**

- On 5 June 1857, Nana Saheb sent a letter to General Wheeler warning him to expect an assault next morning at 10 am.
- On 6 June, his force assaulted the Company entrenchment at 10:30 am.
- The Company powers were not enough ready for the assault however figured out how to protect themselves as the assaulting powers were hesitant to enter the entrenchment.

### **7.4 Satichaura Ghat Massacre**

- The victims of the Assault were asked to go to Allahabad which was safe at that time.
- Boats were arranged on the Ganges, and they were asked to enter into the boats one by one to go to Allahabad.
- While they were going on board, men of Nana Saheb started to fire on them indiscriminately killing men, women, and children.
- Those who were not killed were later taken to Bibighar.
- This incident is known as the Satichaura Ghat massacre.

### **7.5 Bibighar Massacre**

- Ladies and children who survived were taken to Bibighar.
- They had to be used as a bait against the British. However, when this plan by nana Saheb failed, he ordered his forces to execute them.
- These women and children were killed because of those orders.
- Dead bodies of these women and children were thrown into a nearby well.
- It became one of the darkest blotches in the First War of Independence.

### **7.6 Role of Nana Saheb in the Revolt**

- In June 1857, Nana Saheb attacked the British entrenchment at Kanpur and captured it.
- In July 1857, the British successfully recaptured Kanpur by defeating Nana Saheb's forces.
- It is said that Nana Saheb escaped to Nepal after this.
- There is no information about his death even today.

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## 8. Kisan Sabha Movement (1857)

**Kisan Sabha Movement** was a peasant movement which happened in the Awadh region of the erstwhile United Provinces (U.P). The main cause of this movement was the miserable conditions of the U.P peasants because of the policies of the **British Government** and the **Awadh Taluqdars**. There was a progressive rise in the land revenue of the whole of India, after the political transfer of India from the East India Company to the British Crown. In this article, we will discuss the **Kisan Sabha Movement (1857)**, which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

### 8.1 Background

- The Awadh taluqdars reclaimed their lands following the 1857 revolt. This strengthened the taluqdars' or big landlords' grip on the province's agrarian society.
- The vast majority of cultivators faced high rents, summary evictions (bedakhali), illegal levies, renewal fees, or nazrana.
- Food and other necessities had become more expensive as a result of the First World War. This exacerbated the plight of the UP peasants.
- The districts of Rai Bareilly, Faizabad, and Sultanpur were the main hubs of activity.
- The movement faded quickly, owing in part to government repression and in part to the passage of the Awadh Rent (Amendment) Act.

### 8.2 Causes

- Following the annexation of Avadh in 1856, the taluqdars, or big landlords, strengthened their grip on the province's agrarian society in the second half of the nineteenth century.
- Exorbitant rents, illegal levies, renewal fees or nazrana, and arbitrary evictions or bedakhli had resulted, making life miserable for the majority of cultivators.
- The high cost of food and other necessities that accompanied and followed World War I exacerbated the oppression, and the tenants of Avadh were primed for a message of resistance.

### 8.3 Outcome

- Kisan Sabhas were organised in UP primarily as a result of the efforts of Home Rule activists. Gauri Shankar Mishra and Indra Narayan Dwivedi founded the United Provinces Kisan Sabha in February 1918.
- Madan Mohan Malaviya backed them up in their endeavours. The UP Kisan Sabha had 450 branches by June 1919.
- Jhinguri Singh, Durgapal Singh, and Baba Ramchandra were among the other prominent leaders. Baba Ramchandra urged Nehru to visit these villages in June 1920. During these visits, Nehru made close friends with the villagers.
- Because of disagreements among nationalists, the Awadh Kisan Sabha was formed in October 1920.

- The Awadh Kisan Sabha urged kisans to refuse till bedakhali land, to refrain from offering hari and begar (forms of unpaid labour), to boycott those who refused to accept these conditions, and to settle their disputes through panchayats.
- In January 1921, the patterns of activity shifted rapidly from earlier forms of mass meetings and mobilisation to looting of bazaars, houses, and granaries, as well as clashes with police.

#### **8.4 Conclusion**

Farmers have often agitated for their demands even during colonial rule. The presence of kisans from both the upper and lower castes were a distinguishing feature of the Kisan Sabha movement. The Kisan Sabha Movement died out quickly, owing to government repression. The passage of the Awadh Rent (Amendment) Act also suppressed the movement.

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## 9. Namdhari Movement

The **Namdhari Movement** was founded by **Baba Ram Singh (1816-1885)** in **1857** after becoming a disciple of **Balak Singh of the Kuka movement in 1841**. The movement was founded on a set of rituals modeled after Guru Gobind Singh's founding of the Khalsa, with the requirement of **wearing the five symbols** but carrying a stick instead of a sword. The followers of the movement were required to abandon their worship of gods, idols, tombs, trees, snakes, and so on, as well as to refrain from drinking, stealing, falsehood, slandering, backbiting, and so on. Furthermore, because cattle protection was important, **beef consumption was strictly prohibited**. This article will explain to you about the **Namdhari Movement** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

### 9.1 Background

- **After the fall of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's kingdom**, several attempts were made to restore the Khalsa's former glory. Several reform movements were launched in order to reform Sikhism.
- The first was the Namdhari movement, which was founded by Baba Ram Singh Namdhari following the Anglo-Sikh wars. He was a Khalsa army soldier.
- The Namdhari movement was also referred to as the **Kuka movement**.
- The Namdhari movement **arose in the north-west corner of the Sikh kingdom**, away from the places of royal pomp and grandeur.
- The movement grew into a **potent tool of socio-religious awakening** among Sikhs under **Baba Ram Singh**.
- Its main goal was to spread the true spirit of Sikhism, free of the tawdry customs and mannerism that had grown on it since the beginning of Sikh monarchy.
- This movement extolled the religious obligation for a pious and simple life in the midst of national pride born of military glory and political power.
- Namdhari Khalsas were dubbed '**Kukas**' because of their unique way of reciting the Gurbani (Sayings of the Gurus). They spoke in a high pitched voice, known as Kook in Punjabi.

### 9.2 Origin and Foundations of Namdharis

- According to some sources, **on the day of Baisakhi in 1857**, Baba Ram Singh founded the Namdhari sect in **village Bheni**.
- He established 22 preaching centres in various parts of the country, each of which was overseen by a deputy named **Suba**.
- These Subas began spreading Baba Ram Singh's teachings in places such as Gwalior, Banaras, Lucknow, Kabul, and Hyderabad.
- As a result, by the 1860s, the Namdhari sect had begun to take on a political form. Parts of today's Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces were important centres for this sect.
- The movement began to attract not only Sikhs, but also Hindus. The number of followers increased by lakhs, with many of them working in government, business, and trading.

- This was followed by a rise in Baba Ram Singh's pomp and splendor to the point where he was widely regarded as Guru Nanak Dev's successor, despite Baba Ram Singh's protests.
- His supporters have also produced a "**Pothi**" that was most likely written during Guru Gobind Singh's reign, in which it was written that one Ram Singh would appear, who would become the spiritual leader of the Sikhs and establish his rule in the country.
- This was later condemned by Baba Ram Singh, who was in exile in Rangoon at the time.

### 9.3 Features

- Baba Ram Singh founded the Namdhari movement in 1857 as one of the most influential and transitional socio-religious movements in Punjab.
- Initially, the movement followed a set of rituals modeled after Guru Gobind Singh's founding of Khalsa.
- For entry into the new community, he recited Gurbani (hymns from the Granth Sahib), Ardas (the Sikh prayer), a flag, and baptism.
- With the **exception of the Kripan**, the Namdharis were required to wear the **five Sikhism symbols** (sword). They were, however, required to carry a **Lathi**.
- The Namdharis rejected the worship of gods, goddesses, idols, graves, tombs, trees, and snakes, as well as popular saints and rituals performed by Brahman priests.
- The Namdharis also rejected the authority of the hereditary custodians of Sikh Gurdwaras (places of worship).
- The Namdharis were instructed to refrain from drinking, stealing, adultery, falsehood, slandering, backbiting, and cheating, and beef consumption was strictly prohibited.
- Cattle protection was one of the Namdharis' most fervently held values.
- The Namdharis treated women as equals, initiating them through baptism and allowing widows to remarry.
- Dowries were frowned upon by the Namdharis, and child marriage was also prohibited.
- They emphasized strength and martial qualities in the men, drawing on Guru Gobind Singh's teachings.
- Namdhari's vision of restructured Sikhism called for a complete transformation of the Sikh community into a militant and religious-political dominion.

### 9.4 Beliefs

- The sect considers **Adi Granth** to be the only true holy book of their religion.
- The only Guru is Gobind Singh.
- Anyone, regardless of caste or religion, can become a Namdhari convert.
- Sodhis, Bedis, Mahants, Brahmins, and others are forgeries, as are all Gurus except Gobind Singh. It's worth noting that during those times, Sikhs began to worship the Sodhis and Bedis.
- **Devidwaras, Shivdwaras, and Mandirs** are a form of extortion that should be avoided at all costs.

- Idols and idolatry are an affront to God and will not be forgiven. The Namdharis were rebels.
- Converts are only permitted to read Gobind Singh's Grantha.
- **Vegetarianism** at its purest. It was against the slaughter of cattle and kine.
- There is **no caste system**.
- Namdharis are not permitted to drink tap water; instead, water must be drawn from a lake or captured from rain or a well.
- **Only white clothes** are permitted; no other colors are permitted.

## 9.5 Role of Namdharis in Indian Freedom Movement

- Some Namdharis are recognised as freedom fighters for their attacks on cow slaughters, which resulted in the deaths of many innocent Muslims in Amritsar and Ludhiana in Vikrami Samvat 1928 at midnight on July 15, 1871.
- On May 5, 1849, the British established a slaughterhouse near Amritsar's Golden Temple.
- Namdhari Sikhs - **Bhai Lehna Singh, Bhai Fateh Singh, Bhai Hakam Singh Patwari, and Bhai Beehla Singh**- took it upon themselves to murder Muslims in retaliation for cow slaughter.
- As a result, the aforementioned Namdharis were sentenced to death by hanging at **Ram Bagh in Amritsar**, where a **Namdhari Shaheedi Samarak** (memorial) is now located in their honor.
- They attempted to blame **Nihang Panth** for the incident by erecting a Blue Dummala and Chakrams outside the scene of the crime.
- On the 17th and 18th of January 1872, 66 Namdhari Sikhs were executed by cannons for the murder of two British policemen and a soldier. There is a memorial for them at **Namdhari Shidi Smarg Malerkotla** in Indian Punjab.
- **Satguru Ram Singh** and his servant (Nanu Singh) were sent to Allahabad by special train from Ludhiana on January 18, 1872.
  - Satguru Ram Singh was transferred to Calcutta on March 10, 1872.
  - On March 11, 1872, he was transferred to Rangoon, British Burma.
  - Satguru Ram Singh was kept there until 18 September 1880, when he was transferred to Megui, Burma, to make contact with him more difficult.
  - Even in exile, Satguru Ram Singh worked tirelessly to keep the freedom struggle alive, even sending his **Suba (Lieutenant) Bishan Singh** to Moscow to gain Czar Nicholas II of Russia's support in removing British rule in India.
  - Suba Bishan had made contact with Maharaja Duleep Singh, who was also in Moscow at the time, in order to gain the Russian Czar's support in order to expel the British from India and re-establish the once-thriving Sikh Empire.
  - However, because of the **Russian-Turkish War (1877-1878)**, the Russians were hesitant to support any Indian nationalist who went to war against the British Empire.

## 9.6 Conclusion

Despite the fact that Baba Ram Singh's mission was notable for its teachings of righteous living, tolerance, and mercy, some of his followers became out of control and, in a religious

frenzy, committed excesses that resulted in a clash with the government. Some of his more zealous followers, enraged by the slaughter of cows, murdered butchers in Amritsar, Rajkot, and Malerkotla. They were blown off the cannon's mouth as a punishment. Scholars disagree on whether the movement was social or political, but the official action against the Kukas undoubtedly instilled a strong dislike of British rule in the minds of the people of Punjab. This aided in preparing the ground for the Akalis' subsequent struggle in the early twentieth century.

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