

Topic Rebellion of 1857

First war of independence

Short answer type questions:

Q.1. Why did the Indian rulers oppose the British?

Ans. The Indian rulers opposed the British because many Indian rulers lost their authority and honour with the annexation by British. They lost their freedom, their armed forces were disbanded and their territories were taken away. Subsidiary alliance and Doctrine of Lapse also made Indian rulers to oppose British as these laws affected their economy.

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

Ans. Britishers did a lot to protect the interests of those who converted to Christianity. After 1830, the company allowed Christian missionaries to function freely in its domain in 1850, a new law was passed allowing an Indian who had converted to Christianity to inherit the property of his ancestors. They were given more facilities as compared to other Indians.

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

Ans. In 1856 A.D, Indian soldiers were given greeced cartridges which were to be bitten with ones teeth before they could be fired it was suspected that these cartridges were coated with fat of cows and pigs. This enraged Hindu and Muslim soldiers in Indian army and they refused to use those cartridges.

Q.4. How did the last Mughal emperor suffer in the last years of his life?

Ans. The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zaffar suffered a lot in last years of his life. He was captured and tried in court. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. He and his wife Begum Zinat Mahal were sent to prison in Rangoon in October 1858. He died in Rangoon jail in November 1862.

Long Answer Type Questions:

Q.5. Find out the social causes of the revolt of 1857?

Ans. The social causes of the Revolt of 1857 are:

1. The British introduced a number of social reforms in India like prohibition of sati, widow remarriage, which Indians thought of interfering in their social customs.
2. In India, Christian Missionaries, along with British started to propagate Christianity which became one of the social causes of Revolt of 1857.
3. Many Indians began to feel that British were destroying their religion, their social customs and traditional way of life. It also led to resentment among the Indians.

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

Ans. When the soldiers captured Delhi and proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zaffar as their leader, the ageing emperor after accepting the demand wrote letters to all the chiefs and rulers of the country, to come forward and organize a confederacy of Indian states to fight the British. This single step taken by Bahadur Shah Zaffar had created implications. Bahadur Shah's decision to press the rebellion changed the entire situation dramatically. The people felt inspired by the participation of their emperor. It gave them hope, courage and confidence to act.

Q.7. How did the British succeeded in securing the submission of the rebel landowners of Awadh government?

Ans. British tried to win back the loyalty of people in every possible manner. They announced rewards that loyal land holders would be allowed to continue to enjoy their hereditary rights over their lands. Those who had rebelled were told that if they would submit to British and they had not killed any white people, they would remain safe and their rights over land would not be denied in this way British succeeded in securing the submission of the land owners of Awadh.

Q.8. State the changes the British introduced as a result of the rebellion of 1857?

Ans. Accordingly, an act for the better government of India was passed on August 2nd 1858. The act transferred the government of India from the company to crown in order to ensure a more responsible management of Indian affairs.

- 1. Reorganization of the army:** The policy of balance and counter check was adopted regarding military administration. The proportion of the British to Indian soldiers was increased. The Sepoys belonging to different castes and creeds were mixed in a manner that no sentiments of unity could arise among them.
- 2. Policy towards the Indian Princes and Chiefs:** Queen Victoria declared in her proclamation of 1858 that the British government would annex the Indian states. All the treaties that the princess had concluded with the company would be honoured.
- 3. Solemn promises made to Indian people:** Queen Victoria in her proclamation of 1858 promised to obtain from all interference in the religions beliefs and social practices of people of India. The queen also promised equal treatment to all her subjects irrespective of their race or creed.