

When people rebel - 1857 and after

I Fill in the blanks

- 1) The Governor General of India was given the title of Viceroy.
- 2) Tantia Toppe escaped to the jungle of Central India and continued to fight a guerrilla war against the British. He was supported by many tribal and peasant leaders.
- 3) 'From Sepoy to Subedar' is a memoir written by Sita Ram.

II Answer in brief

- 1) What steps did the British take to end the Mughal Empire?

Ans ★ The name of the Mughal company was removed from the coins minted by the company.

★ In 1849, Governor General Dalhousie announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the family of the king would be shifted out of the Red Fort and given another place in Delhi to reside in.

★ In 1856, Governor General Canning decided that Bahadur would be the last Mughal king and after his death none of his descendants would be recognised as kings - they would be called Princes.

2) Why were the land and property of Muslims confiscated on a large scale after the revolt of 1857?

Ans ★ The British found Muslims to be primarily responsible for spreading the rumours that led to the Great Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

★ So lands and properties of Muslims were confiscated on a large scale, and they began to be treated with suspicion and hostility.

3) Mention the steps taken by the British to reform the Indian society

- Ans
- ~~★ British introduced important social reforms in the country.~~
 - ~~★ The Bengal Sati Regulation act was passed in 1829, declaring the practice of Sati is illegal.~~
 - ~~★ They also passed Widow Remarriage act in 1856.~~
 - ~~★ These reforms recieved mix response from Indians~~
 - ★ The British believed that the Indian society had to be reformed.
 - ★ Laws were passed to stop the practise of sati and to encourage the remarriage of widows
 - ★ English Language education was actively promoted.
 - ★ After 1830, the company allowed christian missionaries to function freely in its domain and even own land and property.

★ In 1850, a new law was passed to make conversion to Christianity easier.

★ This law allowed an Indian who had converted to Christianity to inherit the property of his ancestors.

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4) What were the main provisions of the Act of 1858?

Ans ★ Government of India Act 1858 provided that India was to be governed directly and in the name of the crown.

5) State any 5 leaders of the revolt of 1857 and mention their role in the rebellion.

Ans ★ Begum Hazrat Mahal seized Lucknow from the British.

★ Mangal Pandey attacked British officers at Barrackpore.

★ Rani Lakshmi Bai led the revolt at central India from her kingdom Jhansi.

★ Tardia Tope fought Guerrilla Warfare against the British in Central India.

★ Bahadur Shah Zafar was the commander in chief for the freedom fighters.

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

Ans

★ Bahadur Shah Zafar wrote the letters to all the chiefs and rulers of the country to come forward and organise a confederacy of Indian states to fight the British.

★ This single step ~~by~~ taken by Bahadur Shah Zafar had great implications.

★ The ~~15th~~ Mughal dynasty had ruled over a very large part of the country.

- ★ Most smaller rulers and chieftains controlled different territories on behalf of the Mughal ruler.
- ★ Threatened by the expansion of British rule, many of them felt that if the Mughal ruler could rule again, they too would be able to rule their own territories once more, under Mughal authority.
- ★ The British had not expected this to happen.
- ★ They thought the disturbance caused by the issue of cartridges would die down.
- ★ But Bahadur's ~~dec~~ decision to bless the rebellion changed the entire situation dramatically.

III Answers in Detail

1) Mention the political causes of the rebellion.

Ans ★ The main political cause for the great revolt of 1857 was the DOCTRINE OF LAPSE.

★ It was an annexation policy by Lord Dalhousie.

★ It stated that any state under the British East India Company would automatically be annexed if the ruler died without a ~~male~~ male heir.

2) Explain the steps taken by the British to suppress the revolt in India.

Ans ★ Unruffled by the scale of the upheaval, the company ~~was~~ decided to suppress the revolt with all might.

- ★ It brought reinforcements from England, passed new laws so that the rebels could be convicted with ease, and then moved into the storm centres of the revolt.
- ★ Delhi was recaptured from the rebel forces in September 1857.
- ★ Lucknow was taken in March 1858
- ★ Rani Lakshmi Bai was defeated and killed in June 1858.
- ★ Tantia Tope captured, tried and killed in April 1859.
- ★ The British also tried their best to win back the Loyalty of the people.
- ★ They announced rewards for loyal landholders would be allowed to continue to enjoy traditional rights over their lands.
- ★ Those who rebelled were told that if they submitted to the British, and if they had not killed many people, they would

remain safe and their rights and claims to land would not be denied.

3) What were the causes of discontent among the sepoys of british army. Why did the sepoys ~~of~~ refuse to use the new catridges?

- ★ They sepoy were paid much less than british officers.
- ★ They were also treated unfair.
- ★ The sepoys were not allowed to wear caste and religious marks.
- ★ An act was passed that required the new recruits to travel overseas if needed.
- ★ The new catridges were suspected of being coated with the fat of cow and pig.
- ★ Their religious sentiments were affected.
- ★ They felt the british were trying to insult their religion.