



RAS

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Volume - 4

History of Modern India & The World



HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA & THE WORLD

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1 CHAPTER

British policies and important events (mid 18th century to the present)

- **Factors contributed:**
 - **Charter of Queen Elizabeth I** → **Francis Drake's** voyage the world in **1580**
 - **English victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588**
- In 1599, a group of English merchants a.k.a. '**Merchant Adventurers**' formed a company.
- **On December 31, 1600, Queen Elizabeth I** issued a charter with **rights of exclusive trading** to the company named the '**Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies**'.
- Initially, a **monopoly of 15 years** was granted, extended indefinitely in **May 1609**
- Shifting **Dutch focus to the East Indies**, the English turned to India for trade.

Expansion of the English Company

Expansion in West and South

1609	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Captain Hawkins arrived at Jahangir court to establish a factory at Surat but, didn't succeed ● Faced opposition from the Portuguese ● Left Agra in November 1611.
1611	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Started trading at Masulipatnam and later established a factory in 1616.
1612	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Captain Thomas Best defeated the Portuguese in the sea off Surat; ● Received permission from Jahangir to establish a factory at Surat under Thomas Aldworth in 1613.
1615	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sir Thomas Roe, an accredited ambassador of James I, came to the court of Jahangir, staying there till February 1619.
1632	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Received 'Golden Farman' issued by the Sultan of Golconda
1662	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bombay had been gifted to King Charles II by the King of Portugal as dowry when Charles married the Portuguese princess Catherine
1687	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seat of the Western Presidency shifted from Surat to Bombay

Expansion in Bengal

- **Shah Shuja, the subahdar of Bengal in 1651**, allowed the **English to trade in Bengal** in return for an annual payment of Rs 3,000, in lieu of all duties.
- **Factories in Bengal: Hooghly (1651)**, Kasimbazar, Patna and Rajmahal.
- **William Hedges**, the first governor of the Company in Bengal, **appealed to Shayista Khan**, the Mughal governor of Bengal in **August 1682, for redressal of the grievance**.
 - Resulted in **hostilities b/w the English and the Mughals**.
- The English captured the **imperial forts at Thana** (modern Garden Reach), **raided Hijli in east Midnapur** and the **Mughal fortifications at Balasore**.
- English bought the **zamindari of the three villages of Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikata (Kalighat)** from their owners on payment of Rs 1,200.
- Established **Fort William in 1700**,
 - **Seat of the eastern presidency** (Calcutta)
 - First President: **Sir Charles Eyre**

Farrukhsiyar's Farmans

- In 1715, John Surman secured farmans from Farrukhsiyar giving the Company **privileges in Bengal, Gujarat and Hyderabad.**
- **Magna Carta of the Company** and its important terms are:
 - **In Bengal:**
 - **Imports and exports were exempted** from additional customs duties in Bengal accepting the annual payment of 3,000 rupees as settled earlier.
 - **Permitted to issue dastaks** for the transportation of such goods.
 - **Permitted to rent more lands** around Calcutta.
 - **In Hyderabad, privilege of freedom** from duties in trade
 - Had to **pay** the prevailing **rent only for Madras.**
 - **In Surat**, for an annual payment of 10,000 rupees, **exempted from levy of all duties.**
 - Coins of **Company minted at Bombay** to have currency throughout the Mughal Empire.

Emergence of New States

- States that arose in India **during the phase of Mughal decline** and the following century (b/w c.1700 and 1850 CE) varied greatly in terms of their essential character, state resources, and their life span.



MAP : India in the 18th Century

- Each of the contenders in the regions, in proportion to their strength, looked for and seized opportunities to establish their dominance over the others in the neighbourhood.
- **Thus the regional states of this period can be divided into three categories**

Successor States

- **Mughal provinces that turned into states** after breaking away from the empire.
- Though **they did not challenge the sovereignty of the Mughal ruler**, the establishment of virtually independent and hereditary authority by their governors.




- Some of the prominent states in this category were **Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad**.
- The founder of the **Awadh state was Saadat Khan**, whereas the founder of **Bengal was Murshid Quli Khan** and the founder of **Hyderabad state was Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah**.

Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Founder: Murshid Kuli Khan. ● In 1727, he was succeeded by his son Shujaud- din. ● In 1740, Shujaud-din's successor Sarfaraz Khan, killed by Alivardi Khan ● Alivardi Khan assumed power and made himself independent of the Mughal emperor by giving yearly tribute. ● From c.1756 to 1757 CE, the successor of Alivardi Khan, Siraj-ud-daulah fought against the English EIC over the trading rights. ● Siraj-ud-daulah's defeat at the Battle of Plassey in c.1757 CE paved the way for the subjugation of Bengal as well as India by the British.
Awadh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Founder: Saadat Khan (k/a Burhan-ul-Mulk). ● Maintained a well-paid, armed and well-trained army. ● His successors, Safdar Jung and Asaf ud Daulah gave a long-term administrative stability to the Awadh province. ● Faizabad and Lucknow emerged as centres of cultural excellence in the spheres of arts, literature, and crafts. ● Regional architecture reflected in Imambargahs and other buildings. ● Evolution of dance form Kathak was outcome of the cultural synthesis.
Hyderabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Founder: Kilich Khan (k/a Nizam-ul-Mulk). ● Disgusted with the Mughal emperor who had appointed Mubariz Khan as a full-fledged viceroys of the Deccan, decided to fight Mubariz Khan. ● Defeated and killed Mubariz Khan in the Battle of Shakar-Kheda (1724). ● In 1725, he became the viceroy and conferred the title of Asaf-Jah and assumed the control of Deccan.

Warrior States

- Established by rebels against Mughal Empire, Ex: **Maratha, the Sikh and the Jat states**.

The Sikhs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guru Gobind Singh transformed the Sikhs into a militant sect ● organised into 12 misls or confederacies ● Strong kingdom of Punjab established by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. ● Culmination of Sikh rebellions against Mughal rule. ● Applied principles of statecraft intelligently and used great trading city to his economic advantage. ● Brought under control area extending from Sutlej to the Jhelum, conquered Lahore in 1799 and Amritsar in 1802. ● By Treaty of Amritsar with British, acknowledged British control over cis-Sutlej territories. ● English forced him to sign Tripartite Treaty in 1838 with Shah Shuja and agreed to provide passage to the British troops through Punjab. ● Ranjit Singh died in 1839, His successors could not keep the state intact and the British took control over it. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maratha Soldiers expert in guerilla tactics. ● Held important positions in the administrative and military systems of Deccan Sultanates of Bijapur and Ahmadnagar. ● Bhakti movement in Maharashtra under the influence of spiritual leaders like Tukaram, Ramdas, Vaman Pandit, and Eknath fostered social unity. ● Political unity was conferred by Shahji Bhonsle and his son Shivaji. ● Began their northward expansion and uprooted the Mughal authority from Malwa and Gujarat and established their rule. ● Lost the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) against Ahmed Shah Abdali. ● quickly recovered from defeat and offered a great challenge to English EIC
The Jats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agriculturist and pastoral caste inhabiting the Delhi-Mathura region. ● Began to revolt against the Mughal state from the time of Jahangir. ● Revolted against the oppressive policies of Aurangzeb. ● Under Suraj Mal Jat power reached its zenith. ● His state included territories from Ganga in the east to Chambal in the south and included the Subahs of Agra, Mathura, Meerut and Aligarh. ● Jat state suffered a decline after the death of Suraj Mal in 1763.

Independent States

- Enjoyed a lot of independence during the Mughal rule as watan jagirs such as the **Rajput, Mysore and Travancore states**.



The Rajputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great support to the Mughal, in controlling the peripheral areas. ● Mughal relations suffered, due to Aurangzeb's interference in the succession dispute of Marwar. ● Tried to re-establish their independence in the 18th century. Forced Bahadur Shah I to march against Ajit Singh (1708), who had formed an alliance with Jai Singh II and Durgadas Rathor. ● But the alliance was broken and the situation was saved for the Mughals. ● Most of the larger Rajput states were constantly involved in conflicts.
Mysore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ruled by the Wodeyars. ● Various powers, interested in this territory, turned the area into a constant battlefield. ● In the end the Mysore state was brought under the rule of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan who ruled the state but not without trouble.
Travancore (Kerala)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Founder: Martanda Varma (Travancore as capital) ● He extended the boundaries of his state from Kanyakumari to Cochin. Organised army along the Western model. ● Extended patronage to the Syrian Christians, a large trading community within his domains. ● He declared many goods as royal monopoly items, requiring a license for trade, such as pepper. ● After Martanda Varma, Rama Varma (c.1758–98 CE) succeeded

Characteristics of British Expansion in India

Territorial and commercial ambitions of the Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Company followed aggressive mercantilist policy in India ● Aim was to find a solution to its payment problem as trade imbalance was a continuous threat to EIC's solvency.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plunder and territorial acquisition emerged over time as the means to address the solvency issue
Growing boldness of the Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decline of Mughal power → empowered EIC to confront weaker rulers. ● EIC misused the privileges in Bengal given by Farrukhsiyar. ● Company not afraid of flouting state regulations.
Lack of unity in the Indian powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the absence of an economic transformation of the country the indigenous powers fought unending wars of expansion. ● Gave Europeans the opportunity to interfere in Indian affairs.
Company's superior alliance diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EIC forged alliances with the Portuguese and later with Peshwa (1756) to defeat Tulajee Angre based in Vijaydurg. ● In Bengal EIC isolated Siraj-ud-daula by buying his rivals; ● Meddling in internal affairs & involved Nizams of Hyderabad in war against Tipu Sultan. ● EIVC leaders proved skillful diplomats. They made sure that a lasting alliance of Indian powers against the British never materialized.
Resources of Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conquest of Bengal (1757-65) provided EIC money, men and material needed to conquer other regions of India. ● gave EIC easy access to the large military labour market
Vision, cohesion and discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Well trained and drilled Company troops were regularly paid in cash and were better disciplined. ● EIC officers, all Englishmen, created social cohesion under pressure. ● EIC represented a mercantile capitalist system different from the feudal Indian kingdoms.
Insufficient modernization & institutional weaknesses of Indian Rulers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impressed by European military technology and training methods, several Indian states modernized their armies by hiring European military experts. ● However, these modernization attempts had several noticeable weaknesses. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indian states failed to evolve a system of military finance like the Company did. 2. Shinde state of Gwalior raised battalions led by English, European and Anglo-Indian officers who were paid in the jayedad system. i.e. revenue of a particular area was marked as payment to these foreign officers. 3. the excessive reliance on European mercenaries proved fatal in certain cases. Ex: before Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05) all the European officers of Daulat Rao Shinde defected to the EIC under Lord Wellesley. 4. native rulers could not develop a corps of Indian officers because they trusted European commanders>their own relatives due to the constant court intrigue they faced.
Alienation of masses from the Indian rulers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indian states fell to the advancing Company during the 18th and 19th centuries or became part of Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance treaty system. ● Indian states did not try to convert their resistance to mass resistance because the Indian peasants did not sympathize with their rulers. ● Marathas, and the Pindaris which usually accompanied their armies as scouts and raiders, did not endear themselves to the people in many parts of India.

Bengal

- **Commercial interests in trading in Bengal**, as nearly **60% of the British imports from Asia** consisted of goods from **Bengal**.
- In 1700, **Murshid Quli Khan became the Dewan of Bengal** and ruled till his death in 1727. He was succeeded by his son-in-law, **Shujauddin** who ruled till 1739. After that, for a year (1739-40), **Sarfraz Khan, an incapable son of Murshid Quli Khan, became the ruler; he was killed by Alivardi Khan**.
- Alivardi Khan ruled till 1756 and also stopped paying tributes to the Mughal emperor. Under the rule of these rulers, Bengal made unprecedented progress.
- The friction b/w the **English commercial interests and the Bengal government became the chief cause for conflict b/w the two**.
- During a short period b/w 1757 and 1765, the power gradually got transferred from the Nawabs of Bengal to the British with the latter defeating the former.



Nawabs of Bengal and the British

- **Murshid Quli Khan** was appointed as the **Diwan of Bengal by Aurangzeb**.
- **Shujauddin Khan, annexed Suba of Bihar** to become a part of Bengal.
- **Sarfraz Khan took the title of Alam-ud—daula Haider Jung**.
- Alivardi Khan nominated **Siraj-ud-daula** as his successor.
- **Siraj-ud-daula prohibited the English from fortifying** their factories at Calcutta which led to the **Battle of Plassey in 1757**.
- **Mir Qasim granted Zamindari of Burdman, Midnapore and Chittagong to the British**.
- **Mir Jafar granted the right to free trade** in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and the Zamindar of 24 parganas to the British. He is aka the **Jackal of Clive**.
- **Najm-ud-daula** was the son of Mir Jafar and **made Nawab** British puppet ruler during the period of '**Dual System of Government**'.



Black Hole Tragedy (1756)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Siraj-ud-daula sieged Fort William. ● 146 British people were compelled to surrender. ● Stuffed for a night in a room of 18 square feet, with only two windows and 123 people (Including natives) suffocated to death. ● Clive relieved Calcutta survivors & recovered the city on January 2, 1757 ● An indecisive engagement led to a treaty with Sirāj ud-Daula on February 9, which restored the company's privileges.
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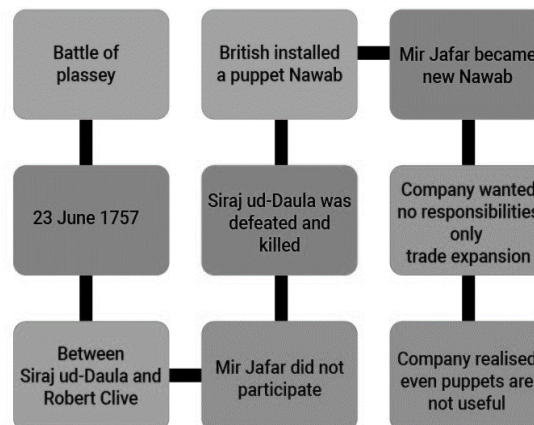
Dual Government in Bengal (1765-72)

- **Robert Clive introduced the dual system of government in bengal, i.e. the rule of the two—the Company and the Nawab** in which the **diwani**, i.e. collecting revenues, and **nizamat**, i.e. Police and judicial functions, **came under the control of the Company**.
- Company acquired the **diwani functions from the emperor** and **nizamat functions from the subahdar** of Bengal
- **Nawab was responsible for maintaining peace and order**, but he depended both for funds and forces upon the Company.
- For the exercise of diwani functions, the Company appointed **two deputy diwans, Mohammad Reza Khan for Bengal and Raja Sitab Roy for Bihar**.
- **Warren Hastings did away with the dual system in 1772**.



Battle of Plassey (1757)

- Clive forged a secret alliance with the traitors of the nawab—**Mir Jafar, Rai Durlabh, Jagat Seth (an influential banker of Bengal) and Omi Chand.**
- On 23 June 1757, the armies of Siraj-ud-Daulah and the EIC met at Plassey (Palasi).
- Mir Jafar, the Commander in Chief of the Siraj-ud-Daulah did not take part in the battle.
- Jagat Seth, the richest banker of Bengal, also refused to help the Siraj-ud-Daulah
- **Siraj-ud-Daulah was defeated, imprisoned and later killed.**
- **The British made Mir Jafar the nawab of Bengal.**
- After Plassey, the **English virtually monopolised the trade and commerce of Bengal.**



Impacts of Battle of Plassey

- British made **Mir Jafar a puppet** and constantly demanded money from him.
- **Obtained a grant of territories for maintenance of a properly equipped military force**
- **Supreme control of affairs passed to Clive.**
- **Sovereignty of English over Calcutta was recognised**, and posted a Resident at nawab's court.

Mir Kasim

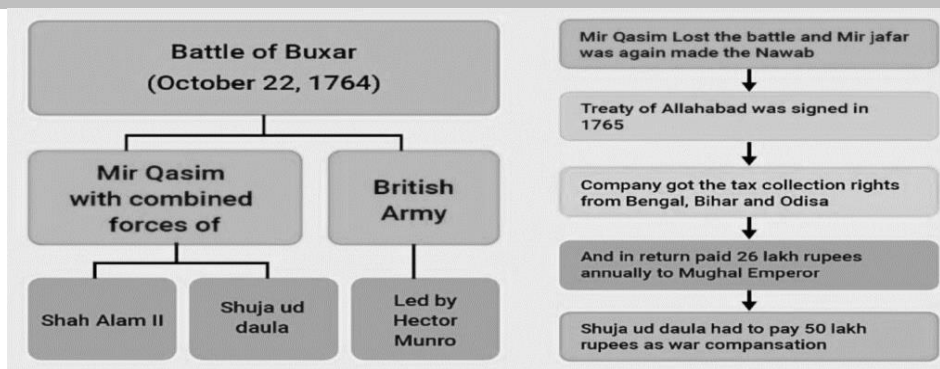
- **Mir Jafar was irritated by the interference of Clive and entered into a conspiracy with the Dutch at Chinsura.**
- But the **Dutch were defeated by the English forces at Bedara** in November 1759.
- **Treachery of Mir Jafar and his failure annoyed the English.**
- **Vansittart**, the new Governor of Calcutta, **supported Mir Kasim & signed a treaty in 1760.**
 - **Mir Kasim agreed to cede** to the Company the districts of **Burdwan, Midnapur and Chittagong.**
 - **Mir Kasim promised to pay a sum of rupees five lakh** towards financing the Company's war efforts in southern India.
 - **Mir Kasim's enemies = Company's enemies**, and his friends, = Company's friends.
- **Mir Jafar resigned in favour of Mir Kasim & a pension of Rs 1,500 per annum was fixed.**



Administration of Mir Kasim

- Mir Kasim was the **ablest nawab** among the successors of Alivardi Khan.
- After assuming power, he **shifted the capital from Murshidabad to Munger in Bihar.**
- He **reorganised the bureaucracy** with the men of his own choice and **remodeled the army** to enhance its skill and efficiency.

Battle of Buxar



- **Mir Qasim tried to free himself** from British control.
- He **dismissed the British officials** and hired European experts to train his army.
- He **abolished all duties on internal trade** and made Indian and British merchants to trade on equal terms.
- The **British decided to depose Mir Qasim**.
- **Mir Qasim fled to Awadh** and **formed an alliance with Shuja-ud-Daulah**, the Nawab of Awadh and **Shah Alam II**, the Mughal Emperor.
- **Combined armies** that met the British forces at Buxar on 22 October 1764 were **defeated by the English forces** under Major Hector Munro.

Outcomes of the Battle

- **Mir Qasim was deposed** and **Mir Jafar was made the nawab**.
- **English were permitted duty-free trade in Bengal**, except for a **duty of 2% on salt**.
- **Treaty of Allahabad** was signed with Shuja-ud-Daula and Shah Alam II

The Treaty of Allahabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Robert Clive concluded two important treaties at Allahabad in August 1765—one with the Nawab of Awadh and the other with the Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam II. <p>Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● surrender Allahabad and Kara to Emperor Shah Alam II; ● Rs 50 lakh to the Company as war indemnity; ● Give Balwant Singh, Zamindar of Banaras, full possession of his estate. <p>Shah Alam II agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reside at Allahabad, to be ceded to him by the Nawab of Awadh, under the Company's protection; ● issue a farman granting the diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the EIC in lieu of an annual payment of Rs 26 lakh; ● A provision of Rs 53 lakh to the Company in return for nizam functions (military defence, police, and administration of justice) of the said provinces.
Impact of Battle of Buxar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awadh turned into a buffer state. ● Shah Alam II = 'rubber stamp' ● Company position strengthened in Bengal and northern India.

British Acts in India

Regulating Act, 1773	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● laid the foundation of Central Administration in India. ● Governor of Bengal → Governor-General of Bengal. (Lord Warren Hastings) ● Executive Council of 4 members to assist the GGB. ● Governors of Madras & Bombay presidencies subordinate to GGB. ● Set up the SC of Calcutta with 1 Chief justice and 3 other judges. ● Court of Directors of the Company to report the British Government regarding Company's revenue, civil and military affairs in India.
Act of Settlement, 1781	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safeguarded the GGB and its council from the jurisdiction of the SC. ● provided immunity to the servants for their official actions. ● Exempted revenue matters of Company from jurisdiction of the SC ● SC to administer the personal law of the defendant. ● GGB to frame regulations for Provincial Courts and Councils.

Pitt's India Act, 1784	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Established a system of Double Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Court of Director to manage Company's commercial affairs ○ Board of Control to manage its political affairs. ● Board of Control to supervise and direct civil and military operations and revenues of the British possessions in India. (First time acknowledged)
Charter Act, 1813	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abolished the trade monopoly of the Company in India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ exceptions: trade in tea and trade with China. ● Authorized Local Governments to levy taxes
Charter Act, 1833	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GGB = Governor-General of India (Lord William Bentinck) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vested all civil and military powers ○ exclusive legislative powers of the entire British India. ● Company → purely administrative body.
Charter Act, 1853	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Separated legislative and executive functions of the GGI's Council. ● 6 members Indian Legislative Council to function as mini parliament. ● open competition system for Indian Civil Services for Indians also. ● Introduced local representation in the Indian (Central) Legislative Council. (out of 6 members 4 to be appointed by the local governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal and Agra)

Revolt of 1857

- **Revolt:** a **rebellion of people against established authority and power**. The terms 'revolt' and 'rebellion' can be used synonymously.
- **Mutiny:** a **collective disobedience of rules and regulations** within the armed forces.
- **Uprising:** A violent outburst against established authority.
- **Revolt refers primarily with the uprising of the civilian population** (peasants, zamindars, rajas, jagirdars).
- The **mutiny was related with the sepoys**.
- The revolt of 1857 plays an important role in the history of India's struggle for independence.

Significance of revolt of 1857

- It **shook the foundations of the British Empire** in India and at some points it seemed as though British rule would end for all time to come.
- **What started merely as a sepoy mutiny soon engulfed the peasantry and other civilian population** over wide areas in northern India.
- The upsurge was so **widespread that some of the contemporary observers called it - a first war of national movement**.

Background

- **The main reason:** The **ruthless exploitation** of the Indian people by the British.
- **1757: Battle of Plassey** formally established the British in Bengal.
- **1600:** The Company was formed and was given a **Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth** with the main aim to **assume a trade monopoly in India** and earn profits.
- The **British successfully imposed their trade monopoly** over the area under their control, eliminated competition and forced the artisans to sell their products to them. The artisans were paid so low that they could hardly survive.



Causes of Revolt of 1857

Political Causes

- The **British policy of expansion** through the Doctrine of Lapse and direct annexation.
- The **last major extension of the British Indian territory took place during the time of Dalhousie.**
- **1849:** Dalhousie announced that the **successor of Bahadur Shah II would have to leave the Red Fort.**
- **Rani Lakshmi Bai's adopted son was not permitted to sit on the throne** of Jhansi.
- **The annexation of Awadh by Lord Dalhousie on the pretext of maladministration left thousands of nobles, officials, retainers and soldiers jobless.**
- This measure **converted Awadh, a loyal state, into a hotbed of discontent and intrigue.**
- The **British officers were hated and considered aliens** in the land of Hindus and Muslims.
- The people were loathful of the oppressive loot of the officers, including British appointed **Indian Daroghas.**



Economic Causes

- **Company was asking heavy tax** from the locals. This included an increase in the taxation on land.
- Dalhousie had also appointed the **Inam Commission with powers to confiscate land.**
- **Lord William Bentinck had attacked several jagirs in western Bengal.**
- **Lands were confiscated from the landlords and auctioned.**
- **The peasants & farmers were forced to pay heavy taxes & the ones that were unable to pay the taxes or loans had to surrender their lands to the Britishers.**
- The **ruin of Indian handicraft industries** due to colonial policies impoverished millions of artisans.



Administrative Causes

- **Rampant corruption** in the Company's administration, especially **among the police, petty officials and lower law courts**, was a major cause of discontent among the masses.
- Also, the **character of British rule imparted a foreign and alien look** to it in the eyes of Indians: a kind of absentee sovereignty.



Socio-Religious Causes

- The rapidly **spreading Western Civilisation** in India was alarming concerns all over the country.
- **An act in 1850 changed the Hindu law** of inheritance enabling a Hindu who had converted into Christianity to inherit his ancestral properties.
- Even the **introduction of the railways and telegraph** was viewed with suspicion.
- The **priestly classes instigated hatred and rebellion against alien rule**, because the religious preachers, priests, pundits, maulvis, etc., **had been dependent on the traditional landed and bureaucratic elite.**
- The **fall of zamindars and feudal lords** directly affected the priestly class.
- The **increased activities of the Christian missionaries were seen with suspicion and mistrust.**
- The **Padris were appointed in the army** to "teach" the sepoys about Christianity.
- The abolition of practices like **sati and female infanticide**, and the legislation legalizing **widow remarriage**, were believed as threats to the established social structure.
- **Introducing western methods of education** was directly challenging the orthodoxy for Hindus as well as Muslims
- **The sepoys also had religious or caste grievances of their own.** The Indians of those days were very strict in observing caste rules, etc.



Military Causes

- **Immediate cause:** The use of **the greased cartridge**.
- **The grease used was tallow, probably containing both cow and pig fat which hampers the religious sentiment of Hindu and Muslims both.**
- **The extension of British dominion in India** had adversely affected the service condition of the Sepoys.
- They were **required to serve in an area away from their homes** without the payment of extra Bhatta.
- An **important cause of Military discontent was the General Service Enlistment Act, 1856**, which made it compulsory for the sepoy to cross the seas, whenever required.
- **Hindu believed that the crossing of the seas will make them lose their caste.**
- **The Indian sepoy were paid Less than European sepoy.**
- **Indian sepoy were considered menial & European sepoy were given much importance in terms of salary, pension & promotion.**
- **The Indian Sepoy could never rise above the rank of a Subedar.**



Influence of Outside Events

- **The revolt of 1857 coincided with certain outside events** in which the British suffered serious losses—the **First Afghan War (1838-42), Punjab Wars (1845-49), and the Crimean Wars (1854-56)**.
- **These had obvious psychological repercussions.**



The Immediate Cause

- **The episode of greased cartridges was a big enough issue to start the rebellion** on its own.
- **Cartridges of the new Enfield rifle had a greased paper cover whose end had to be bitten off before the cartridge was loaded into the rifle.**
- **The grease was in some instances made of beef and pig fat.**
- This **completely enraged the Hindu and Muslim sepoy** and made them believe that the government was deliberately trying to destroy their religion.



The Course of Revolt

Sepoy Mutiny

- **29th March, 1857:** A young soldier, **Mangal Pandey**, stationed at Barrackpore, **revolted single-handedly attacking his British officers.**
- **He was hanged and not much notice was taken** of this event. But it showed the **resentment and anger aroused among the Indian sepoy.**
- **24th April: 90 men** of the Third Native Cavalry, stationed at **Meerut, refused to use the greased cartridges.**
 - **9 May:** 85 of them were dismissed and sentenced to ten years imprisonment.
- **10 May:** The entire Indian garrison revolted and decided to march on to Delhi.
- Reached Delhi and proclaimed the old **Bahadur Shah, as the Emperor of India.**
- **Bahadur Shah** wrote letters to all the chiefs and rulers of India urging them **to organise a confederacy of Indian states to fight and replace the British regime.**
- **The entire Bengal Army soon rose in revolt which spread quickly.**
- **Whole of North and North West India was up in arms against the British.**
- In **central India also, where the rulers remained loyal to the British, the army revolted and joined the rebels.**



Civil Uprising

- The Revolt was immediately **followed by a rebellion in the city and countryside.**
- Wherever revolt broke out, the **government treasury was plundered, the magazine sacked, barracks and court houses were burnt and prison gates flung open.**
- The **revolt witnessed the wide range of participation** by the peasants, the artisans, shopkeepers, day labourers, zamindars, religious mendicants, priests etc.
- The **peasants and petty zamindars gave free expression to their grievances by attacking the money-lenders and zamindars** who had displaced them from the land.
- **People took advantage** of the revolt to **destroy the money-lenders account books and debt records.**
- **Telegraph wires were cut and horsemen with warning messages to Delhi were intercepted.**
- **One of the most remarkable thing** about the rebellion was its solid **Hindu-Muslim unity.**
- **All the sepoys, whether Hindu or Muslim. Accepted the suzerainty of the Emperor** Bahadur Shah Zafar and gave the call "**chalo Delhi**" (onward to Delhi).
- **Cow-slaughter was banned as a mark of respect to the sentiments of the Hindus.**



Main Centres of the Revolt

- The revolt **spread over the entire area** from the neighborhood of **Patna to the borders of Rajasthan.**
- The **storm-centres** of the revolt were **Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Jhansi and Arrah.**
- All these places threw up their own leaders for all practical purposes and accepted the suzerainty of **Emperor Bahadur Shah.**



Regional Leaders during 1857 Revolt

Leader Name	Place of Revolt	Role Played in 1857 Revolt
Bakht Khan	Bareilly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bakht Khan: Led the revolt of the soldiers at Bareilly, arrived in Delhi on 3rd July, 1857. ● Bakht Khan exercised real authority and he formed a Court of soldiers composed of both Hindu and Muslim rebels. ● He initiated democratic reforms by establishing the 'Greater Administrative Council' and formulated the Special Constitutional Policy.
Nana Saheb and Tantya Tope	Kanpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nana Saheb, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II with the help of Tantya Tope. ● They expelled the British from Kanpur and declared Nana Saheb as Peshwa who acknowledged Bahadur Shah as the Emperor of India. ● Tatya Tope was the great fighter who helped Rani Laxmi Bai to capture Gwalior. A friend betrayed Tatya Tope and he was imprisoned and later hanged in Shivpuri. ● Nana Saheb was believed to have escaped to Nepal by 1859. It is not known how, when or where he died.
Begum Hazrat Mahal	Lucknow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Begum of Awadh provided the leadership and proclaimed her son, Birjis Kadr, as the Nawab of Awadh. ● During the revolt she worked with Nana Saheb, Tantya Tope, etc. against the britishers. ● She fought as long as she could and finally found asylum in Nepal, where she died in 1879.

Rani Lakshmi Bai	Jhansi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● She was against the Policy of Doctrine of Lapse and fought for her adopted son to the throne of Jhansi. ● March 1858: British forces attacked Jhansi, Laxmibai escaped from the fort with her son. ● She fled to Kalpi, where she joined Tatya Tope. ● Together, they captured Gwalior. But the British gained the upper hand yet again. ● June 17, 1858: During the fighting at Kotah-ki-Serai, five miles southeast of Gwalior, the Rani, dressed in male attire, was shot at and fell from her horse and died.
Kunwar Singh	Arrah, Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most representative and outstanding leader of Arrah, Bihar. ● Under his leadership the military and civil rebellion were so completely fused that the British dreaded him most. ● March 1858: Kunwar Singh occupied Azamgarh. Pursued by Brigadier Douglas, he retreated towards his home arrah. ● 23rd April 1858: He fought bravely and drove away the British Army. But due to injuries encountered in a fight he soon died on 26 April 1858.
Shah Mal	Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organised the headmen and peasants of 84 villages (referred as chaurasi desh), marching at night from village to village, urging people to rebel against the British hegemony. ● Under his leadership people attacked government buildings, destroyed the bridges over the rivers and dug up metalled roads. ● He established a "hall of justice", resolving disputes and dispensing judgments. ● July 185:, Shah Mal was killed by an English officer, Dunlap.

The Unknown Martyrs



Place	Leader/s
Barrackpore	Mangal Pandey
Delhi	Bahadur Shah II, General Bakht Khan, Hakim Ahsanullah (Chief advisor to Bahadur Shah II)
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal, Birjis Qadir, Maulavi Ahmadullah
Kanpur	Nana Sahib, Rao Sahib (nephew of Nana), Tantia Tope, Azimullah Khan (advisor of Nana Sahib)
Jhansi	Rani Laxmibai
Bihar (Jagdishpur)	Kunwar Singh, Amar Singh
Allahabad and Banaras	Maulvi Liyakat Ali
Faizabad	Maulvi Ahmadullah (He declared the Revolt as Jihad against English)
Farrukhabad	Tufzal Hasan Khan
Bijnor	Mohammad Khan
Moradabad	Abdul Ali Khan
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan

Gwalior/Kanpur	Tantia Tope
Assam	Kandapareshwar Singh, Manirama Datta
Orissa	Surendra Shahi, Ujjwal Shahi
Kullu	Raja Pratap Singh
Rajasthan	Jaidayal Singh and Hardayal Singh
Gorakhpur	Gajadhar Singh
Mathura	Sevi Singh, Kadam Singh

Suppression of the Revolt

- The **rebels were dealt an early blow** when the **British captured Delhi on 20 September 1857** after prolonged and bitter fighting.
- The **aged Emperor Bahadur Shah was taken prisoner and exiled to Rangoon** where he died in 1862.
- The **Royal Princes were captured and butchered on the spot.**
- The **House of Mughals was finally and completely extinguished.**
- **By the end of 1859, British authority over India was fully re-established.**
- **Positive Outcome:** The **Revolt failed but had not been in vain.** It was the first great struggle of the Indian people for freedom from British imperialism. **It paved the way for the rise of the modern national movement.**



British Army Officials Associated with Revolt

General John Nicholson	Captured Delhi on 20th September 1857 (Nicholson died soon due to a mortal wound received during the fighting).
Major Hudson	Killed Bahadur Shah's sons and grandsons in Delhi.
Sir Hugh Wheeler	Defense against Nana Sahib's forces till 26th June 1857. British forces surrendered on 27th on the promise of safe conduct to Allahabad.
General Neil	Recaptured Banaras and Allahabad in June 1857. At Kanpur, he killed Indians as revenge against the killing of English by Nana Sahib's forces. Died at Lucknow while fighting against the rebels.
Sir Colin Campbell	Final recovery of Kanpur on 6th December, 1857. Final reoccupation of Lucknow on 21st March, 1858. Recapture of Bareilly on 5th May, 1858.
Henry Lawrence	Chief Commissioner of Awadh. Who died during the seizure of British residency by rebels at Lucknow on 2nd July, 1857.
Major General Havelock	Defeated the rebels (Nana Sahib's force) on 17th July, 1857. Died at Lucknow in December 1857.
William Taylor and Eye	Suppressed the revolt at Arrah in August 1857.
Hugh Rose	Suppressed the revolt at Jhansi and recaptured Gwalior on 20th June, 1858. The whole of Central India and Bundelkhand was brought under British control by him.
Colonel Ocell	Captured Banaras

Causes of failure of Revolt

- **Lack of a Unified Programme and Ideology**
 - **The rebellion swept off the British system of government and administration in India. But the rebels did not know what to create** in its place.
 - They had **no forward-looking plan in mind.**



- The prominent leaders of rebellion like **Nana Saheb, Begum of Awadh, Rani of Jhansi, etc were also representatives of the old feudal world.**
- **This system had lost its vitality** and was unable to withstand the onslaught of the British.
- **Reliance on these elements made it difficult for the rebel forces to create a new sense of unity** among the Indian people which alone could have created a viable alternative to British rule.
- **Lack of Unity Among Indians**
 - **Revolt of 1857 was more localised** as different Indian leaders fought for their own personal problems.
 - While **sepoys of the Bengal army were revolting, some soldiers in Punjab and south India fought on the side of the British** to crush these rebellions.
 - Similarly, **there were no accompanying rebellions** in most of eastern and southern India.
 - **Some sections of society supported the British during the revolt.**
- **Lack of Support from the Educated Indians**
 - The **modern educated Indians also did not support the revolt** since they thought that the revolt was backward-looking.
 - The **educated middle class believed mistakenly that the British would lead the country towards modernisation.**
 - **They were supportive of the feudal order and as a reaction of traditional conservative forces to modernity.**
- **Disunity Among the Leaders**
 - **The main problem was lack of unity** in the ranks of rebels themselves.
 - The leaders were **suspicious and jealous** of each other and often indulged in petty quarrels.
 - **Selfishness and the narrow perspective of the leaders** sapped the strength of the revolt and prevented its consolidation.
- **Military Superiority of the British**
 - **Another major factor for the defeat of the rebels was the British superiority** in arms.
 - The **rebels lacked discipline and a central command** whereas the British continued to have a constant supply of disciplined soldiers, war materials and money from the British.

Impact of the Revolt

- Despite the fact that the revolt of 1857 failed, **it gave a severe jolt to the British administration in India.**
- The **structure and policies** of the re-established British rule **were, in many respects, drastically changed.**
- The **British Crown took over the Company through an Act of 1858.**



Changes in Military Organisation

- The **number of European soldiers was increased** and fixed at one European to two Indian soldiers in the Bengal Army and two to five in Bombay and Madras armies.
- **The crucial branches of the army like artillery were put exclusively in European hands.**
- **Regiments were created on the basis of caste, community, religion and region** to prevent the development of any nationalistic feeling among the soldiers.

Divide and Rule

- The policy of "**divide and rule**" was also **introduced in the civilian population.**
 - **Muslims were severely punished** and discriminations made against them in public appointments and in other areas.
 - The **policy was later reversed** and a **belated appeasement of Muslims began.**
 - **Policy of Divide and Rule** contributed to the growth of communalism in India.
-