

HISTORY -Chapter – 17

THE FIRST WAR OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE (1857)

2) What were the Political Causes for the First War of Independence?

Ans: Many kingdoms lost their rights due to the promulgation of Doctrine of Lapse brought about by the British. Satara, Jaipur, Jhansi, Udaipur and other kingdoms came under British control. Dalhousie cancelled the princely titles of the Nawabs of Tanjore and Carnatic kingdoms. The Mughal sultans, the Nawab of Oudh and other kings were dethroned. Consequently, lakhs of soldiers who were dependent on these kings, became unemployed. This became a strong cause for the protest of 1857 against the British.

OR

What were the effects of 'Doctrine of Lapse'? Discuss.

Ans. The effects of the Doctrine of Lapse:

- (i) Many Indian kings were forced to lose their kingdoms.
- (ii) As a result of this policy, Satara, Jaipur, Jhansi, Udaipur and various other Indian states were occupied by the British.
- (ii) Dalhousie abolished the kingship of Tanjavore and Carnatic Nawabs and dethroned the Mughal kings and various other kings. As a result of this, many soldiers dependent on these kings became unemployed.

3) What were the Economic causes for the First War of Independence?

Ans: Due to the industrial revolution in England, Indian handicrafts and cottage industries suffered heavily. England, instead of being a trading country, became a hub of industries. The Indian craftsmen became unemployed. Primarily, the textile and wool industries became sick and people lost their jobs. The cottage industries too suffered a death blow. The British imposed a heavy tax on sale of Indian goods in England. Because of the zamindari system, the landlords, acting as commission agents between the Government and the farmers, exploited the farmers. The right given to the taluks to collect tax was withdrawn. An 'Inam Commission' was appointed and all the gifted lands without documents ('Inam lands') were taken back. Due to this, the farmers felt insulted and experienced many financial problems. This too led to the revolt of farmers against the government.

OR

The economic changes of the time were responsible for the 1857 revolt. How?

Ans.(i) Due to the development of industrialization in England, many Indian handicrafts and industries declined.

(ii) The artisans and weavers of India became unemployed.

(iii) The British levied heavy custom duty on the Indian goods entering England's market.

(iv) The farmers were exploited due to the zamindari system implemented by the British.

(v) Land tax rights were withdrawn from the Talukdars and Inam Commissions were formed and Inam lands were also withdrawn. The farmers protested against all this and thus the economic policies resulted in the mutiny of 1857.

4) What were the Administrative causes for the First War of Independence?

Ans: The British brought into force new civil and criminal laws. These were applicable only to Indians. English became the language of the courts. Most of the time the British judges favoured the British. The aspirations of new rules were not understood by the common people.

5) What are Military causes for the First War of Independence?

Ans: The condition of the Indian soldiers in the British army was pathetic. The status, salary and opportunities for promotion that British soldiers enjoyed were not given to Indian soldiers. The religious sentiments of the Indian soldiers were disturbed when they were forced to cross the oceans to serve on a foreign land.

6) . What were the factors that disturbed the religious sentiments of the soldiers during the 1857 revolt?

Ans. (1) A rumour spread that the bullets which were used in the new Royal Enfield gun provided by the British to the Indian soldiers was plated with cow and pig fat.

(ii) The cow was sacred for the Hindus and pig, was prohibited for the Muslims.

(iii) This rumour caused extreme unrest among the Indian soldiers and outraged their religious feelings.

7) Write about Eruption of the Revolt and its spread

Ans:-Most of the Indian soldiers in the British army believed that if they fought together, they could drive away the British from India. In this situation, the soldiers were being given new rifles called 'Royal Enfield'. A rumour spread among the soldiers that the cartridges used in these rifles were greased with the fat of cow and pigs. While cows were sacred to the Hindus, pigs were blasphemous for Muslims. This incident became the immediate cause for the revolt. The rumour that spread in the army troops at Barrackpur led to severe dissatisfaction.

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