

Class-VIII

History, Chapter-6

A. Fill in the blanks:-

1. **Nana Saheb** led the revolt in Kanpur.
2. The British suppressed the Revolt of 1857 by the beginning of **1859**.
3. The **middle** class or **intellectual** class kept away from the revolt.
4. The British economic policies ruined the **artisans** and **craftsman**.
5. In 1858, the Indian administration was taken over by **The British Crown**.

B. Tick (✓) the correct option:-

1. What is the term used by the British of describe the Revolt of 1857?
 - a. Sepoy Mutiny
2. Who issued the General Service Enlightenment Act in 1856?
 - c. Lord Canning
3. Who led the sepoys to revolt in Lucknow?
 - b. Begum Hazrat Mahal
4. Who led the revolt in Bihar?
 - b. Kunwar Singh
5. Which territory was ruled by Rani Lakshmi Bai?
 - a. Jhansi

C. Write (T) for true and (F) for false:-

1. The revolt did not result in any change in administration of India. **(False)**
2. The Revolt in 1857 had great impact on India's freedom struggle. **(True)**
3. Rani Laxmibai led the revolt in Jhansi. **(True)**
4. The Rajputs participate in the Revolt of 1857. **(False)**
5. The Indians had no avenues of promotion beyond the rank of subedar. **(True)**

D. Answer the following questions:-

1. What were the main centers of the revolt and who were the leaders?

Ans.1 Lucknow-Begum Hazrat Mahal, Birjis Qadir, Ahmadullah (advisor of the ex-Nawab of Awadh, Kanpur-Nana Sahib, Rao Sahib (nephew of Nana), Tantia Tope, Azimullah Khan (advisor of Nana Sahib), Jhansi-Rani Laxmibai, Bihar-Kunwar Singh, Amar Singh.

2. Describe the social and religious causes that resulted in the revolt.

Ans.2 **Social causes**:-Christianity arose in India as the Britishers had been established there. So there were many Hindus who transformed themselves into Christians. This hurt the Hindus as they left their own natural caste. Also the abolition of certain reforms such as sati, child marriage, etc.

Religious Causes:-One of the major reasons for the revolt was religious policies of the British which included racial superiority and discrimination, missionary activities and deliberate efforts to subvert the religious beliefs of the people in India.

3. Why were the kings and zamindars unhappy with the British?

Ans.3 in the process of expansion of their empire, the British deposed a large number of traditional ruling classes, the zamindars, nobles and a number of other people who were their dependents. The discontentment and poverty provokes them to revolt. However, most of these revolts were localised and they were easily suppressed.

4. What were the economic causes for the discontent of the sepoys.

Ans.4 British economic policies ruined the artisans and craftsman, while the introduction of the new land revenue system, which allowed confiscation of land and payment of taxes essentially in cash, worsened the condition of the peasants. The influx of British manufactured goods into India ruined industries, particularly the textile industry and benefited British industries. All those people who previously depended upon royal patronage for their livelihood, were rendered unemployed. Soldiers, poets, musicians and artists lost their jobs.

5. What State the causes for the discontent of sepoys.

Ans.5 The sepoys were paid much less than the British soldiers. They were also treated unfairly by the British officers. All high posts in the army were reserved for the British. Hence, the scope of promotion was very limited for a sepoy.

6. What was the the immediate cause for the Revolt of 1857?

Ans.6 The immediate cause of the Indian Revolt of 1857 was a seemingly minor change in the weapons used by the British East India Company's troops. The East India Company upgraded to the new Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle, which used greased paper cartridges.

7. Discuss a few causes for the failure of Revolt of 1857.

Ans.7 These were the main causes for the failure of revolt of 1857:-

Lack of Planning and Co-ordination.

Weak Leadership of the 1857 Mutiny.

- i. Superior British Army.
- ii. Limited Supplies and Lack of Modern Communication.
- iii. Lack of Societal Alternative.
- iv. The Princes and Educated Classes did not participate.
- v. Limited Spread of the Revolt.

8. The Revolt of 1857 cannot be considered as the 'First War of Independence'. Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons to substantiate your answer.

Ans.8 The revolt of 1857 lasted for more than a year. Wherever it spread, the rebels looted the Government treasury, set a blaze barracks and British residents and freed prisoners from the jails. There was complete disorder as the administration collapsed. The revolt was suppressed by the beginning of 1859. The suppression of the revolt was followed by inhuman atrocities of the British troops on leaders and soldiers. As the majority of the people who participated in the revolt was a porous and mass participation was lacking it cannot be called India's first war of independence.

9. How were the British affected by the revolt?

Ans.9 Undoubtedly, the revolt shook the British rule in India and brought about changes in their administrative policies. The revolt marked the end of the English East India Company's rule. By issuing a proclamation in 1858, the Indian administration was taken over by Queen Victoria and the British parliament the queen became the Empress of India.

10. What was the impact of the revolt on the political scenario of our nation?



Ans.10 The Revolt led to the transfer of the political control of India from the East India Company to the British crown. Although the revolt was crushed, it is one of the major landmarks in history. It paved the way for the future nationalist movements and the freedom struggle of India.

E. Photo study questions:-

1. Queen Victoria.

2. Great Britain.

3. After the suppression of the revolt of 1857, the charge of the Indian subcontinent was transferred from the East India Company to the British crown in 1858.