



Revolt of 1857

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REVOLT OF 1857

The first expression of organised resistance against the East India Company (EIC), occurred when Lord Canning was Governor General of India (tenure - 1856-62)

Centre of Revolt	Leader	British Officials (suppressed the revolt)
Delhi	Bahadur Shah Zafar	John Nicholson
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Henry Lawrence
Kanpur	Nana Saheb	Sir Colin Campbell
Jhansi & Gwalior	Rani Lakshmbai & Tantia Tope	General Hugh Rose
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan	Sir Colin Campbell
Bihar	Kunwar Singh	William Taylor
Allahabad & Banaras	Maulvi Liyakat Ali	Colonel Oncell

FAILURE OF REVOLT

- Limited uprising - princely states, southern provinces **didn't join**
- No effective leadership
- Limited resources - men, money and arms
- English-educated middle class, rich merchants, traders and zamindars of Bengal **helped suppress the revolt**

CONSEQUENCES

- EIC's rule in India ended
- Direct rule of British crown in India
- Viceroy replaced Governor General
- Doctrine of Lapse abolished - adoptive sons approved as legal heirs
- Ratio of British officers to Indian soldiers increased

CAUSES OF REVOLT

- Political - British expansion policy (Doctrine of Lapse)
- Military - Inferior treatment of Indian soldiers who mainly had farmer background
- Economic - Heavy tax imposition on farmers, stringent revenue collection ways, ruin of local industries by introducing British goods
- Socio-Religious - Rapidly spreading Western Civilisation, abolition of Sati pratha and female infanticide, introduction of western education methods, belief about converting Indians to Christianity
- Immediate Cause - Rumours about cartridges of new enfield rifles being greased with cow and pig fat violating religious beliefs

Books written on the Revolt of 1857

- The Indian War of Independence by Veer Savarkar
- Rebellion, 1857: A Symposium by Puran Chand Joshi
- The Indian Mutiny of 1857 by George Bruce Malleon
- Great Mutiny by Christopher Hibbert
- Religion and Ideology of the Rebels of 1857 by Iqbal Hussain
- Excavation of Truth: Unsung Heroes of 1857 War of Independence by Khan Mohammad Sadiq Khan



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