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## THE REVOLT OF 1857: A CRITICAL STUDY

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### **Abstract:**

*In the freedom struggle of India the revolt of 1857 was an enormous revolution as compared to the other regional revolution, in which princes of the provinces, soldiers and also the common people from all sector participated. The revolt of 1857 spread throughout the country and it proves that it was the mutiny of common people in which the belonging to different classes caste made their efforts to expel the British from India. It is true that many rulers did not take part in the revolt but they were waiting for proper and suitable time to revolt against the mighty British power in India. Therefore the main objectives of the study are to study the different causes of the Revolt of 1857 to study the Nature of the revolt of 1857, to discuss the reasons behind the failure of the revolt of 1857 and to find out the results of the revolt of 1857.*

### **Introduction:**

All the revolts that took place before 1857 were from small provinces, due to this the revolts were not completely successful and they used to end in a small form till the province. All the revolts that took place before 1837 were from small provinces, due to this the revolts were not completely successful and they used to end in a small form till the province. Before the eighteen hundred and fifty such as the Divine Rebellion of Sanyasi Rebellion 1770, Chuar Rebellion 1768,

Ahom Rebellion 1828, Pagalpanthis and Farazi's Rebellion 1840, Baghera Rebellion, 1818-19, Salt Movement of Surat 1844 Ramosi Rebellion 1822 Diwan Veluthampi Rebellion in 1805. In whatever rebellions were taking place after 1837, the kings of every state or their subjects were taking full participation in it, in which many dissatisfied prince soldiers and the British were taking many tricks to disconnect the disillusioned element, but all the measures of the East India Company were being dashed.



Peasants and religious places of work remained livable and unorganized an example was presented by tribal groups in the West. The numbers of Algar large and local revolts that were sold out were mostly violent but localized much of that movement popular dissatisfaction with the British Parliament. originated because of but some of them due to personal reasons for almost 1 year the people of India had seen the loot of money between India tried to get back their lost land with the support of their politics on the way a section of bullets were made Tribals made peace and revolted in anger against

the system Tribals revolted in anger against unrest and disorder, and this was exploited by non-tribals. The revolt of 18-57 was shown to set water in the colonial history of India, and the politics of East India in the Battle of Plassey in 1757. The beginning of 1828 introduced an influence which of India. The rule was established a decade after India's historical site of India was revolted by peasants and tribals The Revolt of 1857 became important for many reasons or was a differentiator from the other revolts, unlike the Jodhpur Recruitment Rebellion, the Rebellion, which was limited to a

relatively small area or on a large scale; all the people took part together in the whole country.

**Objectives:**

The study has been carried out with the objectives-

1. To study the different causes of the Revolt of 1857.
2. To study the Nature of the revolt of 1857.
3. To discuss the reasons behind the failure of the revolt of 1857.
4. To find out the results of the revolt of 1857.

**Discussion:**

The historians have divergent opinion regarding the nature of uprising . The British considered it just a 'A Military Revolt' which had neither the leadership of any of the Indian leaders , nor the cooperation of the people. The Indian patriots considered that uprising as National War of Independence.

- (1) A Military Revolt
- (2) An Attempt for establishing the Mughal Power
- (3) Aristocratic Reaction
- (4) A Peasant Reaction
- (5) A National Revolution
- (6) Rivalry struggle began between the black skinned and the white skinned for gaining supremacy.
- (7) The oriental and the Occidental civilization started to compete within themselves.
- (8) A National War of Independence

**Causes of the Revolt**

**Political Cause**

1. British policy of expansion: The British tried to expand by Introducing the Doctrine of Lapse which in practical was that the British would acquire the province if the lord of the province had not any heir.
2. Many Indian rulers were banished from the right of the province through the implantation of the Doctrine of Lapse. There were so many Indian rulers who were going to face the same fate
3. By the Doctrine of Lapse it was implemented that the hindu rullers could not adopt anyone as a successor to his property.
4. Besides all this the Brahmins were much dissatisfied with the British they were dispossessed from their positions.

**Social and Religious Cause**

1. There was a rapid spread of western culture to which the Indians were not habituated and it became a headache to most of the Indians.
2. An act was passed in 1850 according to which the hindus were converted to Christians for the inheritance of the property.

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3. Orthodox Indians believed that the abolition of the social customs like sati, female infanticide are a great threat to the Indian culture.
4. Introduction of the western education supported by Rammohon Roy and many others were believed to be putting a nail to the orthodox culture of the Indians.
5. Indian people did not accept the set up the Railways and the introduction of the Telegram.

**Military Causes**

**The Revolt of 1857 began as a sepoy mutiny:**

1. The Indian soldiers were treated with inferiority as compared to the British soldiers though the Indians constituted almost 87% in the British toops.
2. The Indian soldiers were paid les than that of the British soldiers.
3. The Indians were sent to the far away places to serve the company which created a great resent among the soldiers.
4. General services Enlistment Act was passed by Lord Canning according to which the Indian soldiers were bound to serve the British in the foreign land whenever necessary.

**Immediate Cause:**

The revolt of 1857 popularly known as the sepoy revolution broke out in the country due to the rumor about the greased cartridges- The soldiers broke out in ager with a great disgust as there was a rumor that the cartridges of the rifle were prepared with the fat of cows and Pigs. It was agains the religious policy of both the Hindus and the Muslims. For loading the cartridges the soldiers had to tear the cartridge in the mouth. So both the hindus and the Muslims protested against it bitterly.

As the situation was going out of control, Lord canning came up for damage control and he immediately withdrew the cartridges but it had already done enough damages. In the Barrack pore regiment an Indian soldier named Mangal Pandey in outrageousness attacked his senior officers.

**Causes of the Failure of the Revolt of 1857 :**

The main reason for the failure of the revolt of 1857 was that its leader was not able to do well, all were happening in small areas, due to which its success could not be achieved due to weak leadership, with the central leadership coming in this regard. The main rebel leaders of the organized were Nanasaheb Tatyta Tope, Kuwar Singh and Laxmibai. They were no match for their British adversaries in generalship. Indian soldiers were physically poorly equipped,

usually armed with swords and spears, fought with very few guns and cartridges. They were not like the well-trained and well-equipped British soldiers. The latest in warfare like the Enfield rifle Armed rebel groups were being fought for different reasons, to serve their leaders, each demanded the restoration of the old order to their leaders, and the reason for replacing Hindustan with an alternative power by calling them emperor Calling Bahadur Shah the Emperor of Hindustan, the rebels replaced it with an alternative political power. Reverting to the medieval political system, mother's mother Nanasahab and Taty Tope sought to revive Maratha power. Thinking had been controlled.

#### **Results of the Revolt:**

In view of the revolt of 1857, the British East India Company issued an act for better government of India in which by 1858 Queen Victoria was declared sovereign by the British Government of India; the administration of India was taken over directly by the British Crown. The military power had a higher proportion of Europeans and was responsible for the management of the two territories regardless of race and creed. In the executive legislature area, more changes were made in the administration of Indians or changes were made in the Indian Council Act of 1861, which proclaimed that all Indians would be given chances to take part in the administrative services according to their educational qualification. the beginning of the vacancy representation of Indians in politics i.e participation in the election led to a completion between different communities. An economic crisis spread out in India as the damages caused due to the revolution was to spend from the Indian economy. As a result the debt became almost 98 million. Office of the secretary of state for India was introduced instead of the board of directors with a new additional title of Viceroy. The board was assisted by a council consisting of fifteen members.

#### **Conclusion:**

In spite of the failure the revolt of 1857 left a significant mark in the Indian history. It was not limited to a particular section but also spread out in all section both violently and non violently. It had also created a feeling of nationalism among the Indians stirring the wrong notion of the British that they are supreme power. Indeed they got understood that they are not the supreme power and everything is not in their hand. The mass movement of the revolution made them feels about the strength of the Indians.

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