**11th May, 2020 JESUS AND MARY SCHOOL & COLLEGE MODULE 1**

**CLASS- 10**

**HISTORY**

**THE FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE (THE GREAT UPRISING OF 1857)**

By 1856, the English became the masters of the whole of India. They deprived the Indians of their political rights, annexed the Indian states and followed the policy of economic exploitation. The discontent burst forth into a mighty popular revolt in 1857.The British historians called it a purely military revolt while the Indians regard it as “The first war of independence” Though it began with the mutiny of the sepoys, it soon engulfed wide regions and people, taking the shape of a national struggle for freedom.

**Causes of the Great Uprising of 1857:**

The great Uprising of 1857 was not the result of any one particular cause. But many causes were responsible for the same.

**1.Political Causes**

Many political causes were responsible which antagonised the Indian rulers against the British rule.

**a) Policy of annexation followed by Lord Dalhousie***:* English East India Company which was ruling in India at that time was playing intrigues to establish and expand its empire in India. Lord Dalhousie’s policies added fuel to the fire. The Doctrine of Lapse, all-round annexation of Indian states, abolition of titles and pensions etc. had made most of the Indian princes and ruler’s staunch enemies of the British. Lord Dalhousie annexed the states of Satara, Jhansi, Nagpur and many other small states by the Doctrine of Lapse. According to this Doctrine if the ruler of a subordinate state died without an heir, his adopted son was not allowed to occupy the throne and the state was annexed to the British Empire in India. Because of this unlawful Doctrine many Indian rulers and princes who didn't have any real son and they wanted to adopt a son became hostile to the English.

**b) Disrespect shown to the mughal emperor Bahadur Shah:** The house of the mughals was also humbled when the English announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah, The mughals would lose the title of kings and his successors would have to vacate the Red Fort. It hurt the sentiments of the Muslims and they started to look for the opportunity so that they could take a revenge from the British for this disrespect.

**c) ILL-Treatment of Nana Sahib and Rani of Jhansi:**

Nana Sahib was the adopted son of Peshwa, Baji Rao II. After the death of the Peshwa,the English refused to acknowledge Nana Sahib as the ruler of the Marathas and his pension was stopped. The Rani of Jhansi, Laxmi Bai, was also not allowed to adopt a son and her state Jhansi was annexed to the British Empire. All such rulers became sworn enemies of the English. This policy created resentment among the Indians.

**d) The annexation of Awadh:** Lord Dalhausi annexed Awadh to the British Empire in India under the pretext of mis-governance. It threw thousands of nobles, gentlemen, officers and soldiers out of job. It created dissatisfaction among all classes of the people of Awadh. They rose in anger and became enemies to the British.

**2. Social and Religious Causes:**

The interference in the social and religious life of the Indians also led to the great Uprising of 1857. The practice of Sati was abolished. Child marriage, infanticide, and polygamy was forbidden. The people thought that the British unnecessarily interfering in the social and cultural and religious customs of Indians.

a. Social and religious reforms.

b. Introduction of western education.

c. Rude and arrogant behaviour of the Britishers towards Indians.

**Economic Cause:**

The most important cause of the popular discontent was the policy of economic exploitation followed by the English.

1. British economic policy was responsible for ruining trade and handicrafts.
2. India was made agricultural colony.
3. Because of high taxes, famine, fewer job opportunities etc. Poverty was at its peak. This motivated masses to join the revolt.
4. Collapse of Indian Handicrafts.
5. Unemployment among the people.

**Military Causes: Discontent among Indian soldiers**

The above causes had prepared the ground for a rising but it could not erupt as long as the Indian Soldiers were loyal to the English.

**a .ILL-treatment of Indian sepoys**: There were no fellow feelings among the English and the Indian soldiers. The Indian soldiers were considered inferior to the English soldiers. During their training they were abused and kicked as if they were animals.

**b. General service enlistment Act:** Lord cunning passed this act. It created bitterness among the sepoys as it bound them to be sent to fight even to an overseas front. The sepoys opposed this act because it was contrary to their religious beliefs.

**c. Inferior status and low salaries:** The wages of the Indian soldiers were too less to support their families. English was paid eight times an Indian sepoy while their duties were of a similar nature. They were not appointed to high post in the army. No Indian could rise higher than the post of a ‘Subedar’.

**d. Loss of British prestige in the first Afghan war**: A myth prevailed among the soldiers that the English were invincible. But the defeat of English in the first Afghan war broke this myth and the Indian sepoys felt that the British could also be defeated. So they gathered courage to take up arms against them.

**Immediate Cause: Greased cartridges**

A new type of rifle (Enfield rifle) was introduced in the army. A rumour spread that they were greased with the fat of the cows and the pigs. Sepoys had to bite the tip of the cartridges with their teeth before fitting them into the rifles. Both the Hindu and the Muslim sepoys were enraged and thought that the English government wanted to defile their religions. So, they refused to use these cartridges and when forced was used against them, they became infuriated and rose in revolt. Mangal Pandey was the first soldier refused to use greased cartridges and killed to English Officer. He was hanged and thus revolt started.

**Main events of the war**

The rumour about the greased cartridges spread like wild fire. The great rising started from Barrackpore in Bengal. This resulted in general uprising in Meerut, Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Bihar(Ara), Benaras and Allahabad etc. Finally the revolt was badly crushed by the East India Company. The great heroes of this revolt were Rani of Jhansi, Nana Sahib, Tantya Tope, Begum Hazrat Mahal, Kunwar Singh, Maulvi Azimullah etc.

**Results/consequences of the Great Uprising:**

Though the Uprising of 1857 failed and was firmly suppressed, yet it proved very important in respect of its results. It produced deep and far reaching effects on the social and political life of India.

**Results pertaining to constitutional and political field:**

**a. End of the companies rule:** The first and most important result of the Uprising was that the hundred years old companies rule in India came to an end. Now the government of India passed into the hands of the British Queen and the parliament, who appointed Secretary of State for India to look after the administration of India. His office was in London but all his expenditures were met by the Indian government.

**b. Change in The Designation of the Governor General:** With the transfer of the government from the hands of the company to those of the crown, the designation of the governor general was also changed. He came to be known as the Viceroy while dealing with the nawabs and Rajas and other native princes.

**c. Change in the policy towards Indian states:** To win back the confidence of the native princes many promises were made to them.

**\***Indian princes were assured that their kingdoms would never be annexed.

**\***The Doctrine of Lapse was given a final goodbye and the Indian rulers were allowed the right of adoption

**\*** Indian princes were also assured that there would be no interference in their internal matters except in case of mis governance.

**\*** All those princes who had helped the British during this Uprising were decorated with

big honours and rewarded fabulously to seek their appeasement.

**d. Abolition of peshwaship and the Mughal line:** The office of the pesewa was abolished. With he abolition of peshwaship one of the chief worries of the English ended. In the same way the title of the Mughal Emperor was abolished following the death of Bahadur Shah II, who had been actively associated with the Great Uprising. Thus ended the line of the great Mughals founded by Babur in 1526.

**Policy of divide and rule:**

During this revolution there were ample instances of the Hindu Muslim unity and also of the people supporting their princes against the British such a thing was not good for the British Empire in India. So, they alienated the rulers from the subjects by according them special protections and by allowing the rulers several concessions Thus the British followed the policy of Divide and rule by encouraging hatred and Ill feeling among the various sections specially the Hindus and the Muslims, so that they would never unite again to pose a threat to the British rule in India.

**Rise of Nationalism: A** far reaching effect of Uprising of 1857 was that the sacrifices of the Indian leaders have given birth to the nationalist movement in India.

**Results pertaining to the army:**

1. **Amalgamation of the troops of the crown and the company:**

Both types of troops that were recruited from among the European settlers in India and by the company itself were mixed up in one.

1. **Increase in the number of European troops:**

At the time of the great Uprising the number of European soldiers was far less than the number of Indian troops. It had been a factor that encouraged the Indian sepoys to break out in open revolt. The new army consisted of about 72000 Europeans and 1, 35, 000 Indian troops.

**3. Placing artillery and other effective weapons Exclusively in European hands:** After the Uprising the Indian officers were never placed in charge of ammunition, nor were the y allowed to use more sophisticated weapons of war.

**4. Increase in expenditure of the army:**

A European soldier got salary 4 to 5 times more than an Indian sepoy. It was, therefore, natural that an increase in the number of European soldiers resulted in a proportionate increase in the expenditure.

**Results pertaining to the Religious Social and Economic fields:**

**1. Promise of Religious Freedom:**

It was clearly stated in the Queen's Declaration of 1858 that there would be no interference in the religious beliefs and practices of the people and all would enjoy full freedom in this respect.

1. **Straining of Relations between the European and the Indians:**

Both the Indians and the Europeans committed such atrocities against each other that the relations among the people of both the races became bitter and strained. The Indians hated the British while the British suspected the Indians and doubted their loyalty and integrity.

1. **Economic Exploitation:**

The wealth of India had already been plundered by the traders and the officials of the Company, but with the introduction of the Crown's Rule it became more serious and much wider.

**WORKSHEET**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:**

1. By what other name is India's ‘First war of Independence ‘known as?

2. Name the policy of annexation followed by Lord Dalhousie.

3. Give reasons as to why Nana Sahib was angry with the British.

4. What was the General Service Enlistment Act?

5. Why is the ‘War of 1857’ hailed as the First War of Independence?

6. What is meant by the ‘Doctrine of Lapse’? Who introduced it?

7. Under what pretext was Awadh annexed by the British?

8. What was the immediate cause of the Great Uprising of 1857?

9. What was the main complain of the Mughal Emperor against the British?

10. Mention any two social reforms advocated by the British which affected the religious

traditions of the Indian people.

11. Give two results of the Great Uprising of 1857.

12. Give one change brought by the British in the army after the Great Uprising of 1857.

13. What the impact of the Revolt of 1857 on the East India Company?

14. Mention one reason for the unhappiness of the Indian soldiers in the British army?

15. Name the last Mughal Emperor of India who fought against the British during the

revolt.

**Note:** Please do all this work in your old copies which will be checked when the school

reopens.Please consider this important.