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CLASS: VIII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: HISTORY	CH-5
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REVOLT OF 1857

A. Multiple Choice Type Questions.

1. Why was the policy of subsidiary alliance resented ? **All of these.**
2. Which of the following is true? **The government of India was headed by a viceroy by the Act of 1858 .**
3. Who was declared as the Emperor of India by the sepoys? **Bahadur Shah Zafar II .**
4. Which of the following was an economic cause of the revolt of 1857 ? **Indian handicraft industries were ruined due to British policies.**

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. On March 29, 1857 **Mangal Pandey** fired at a British commander & gave a call for revolt .
2. In **Bareilly** , Khan Bahadur Khan was the leader of the rebels .
3. Nana Saheb proclaimed himself as **peshwa** & gathered his forces to expel the British garrison.
4. After the revolt of 1857 , by the act of the British Parliament, all powers were transferred to the **British Crown** .

C. Write “T” for true or “F” for false statements

1. Between 1757 and 1856 , there were many smaller revolts that were easily suppressed by the British. **T**
2. Awadh was annexed by Lord Dalhousie in the year 1858. **F**
3. The grease of the Enfield rifle was not made up of cow’s fat . **F**
4. After the revolt of 1857 , Queen Victoria assured the rulers that the British would not annex their territories. **T**

D. Short Answer Questions.

1. What was the immediate cause of the revolt of 1857 ?

A new rifle was introduced in the army, it was called the Enfield rifle . The soldiers had to bite off the greased wrapper that covered the cartridge before loading it into the rifle . The news that the grease was made up of cow's & pig's fat spread like wildfire . Hindus & Muslims felt that their religious feelings were being deliberately hurt and they refused to use the cartridges.

2. Why did Indian sepoys refuse to go to Burma by sea route ?

Indian sepoys refused to get to Burma by sea route as it was believed that if anyone crossed the sea , they would lose their religion & caste.

3. What were the causes for the failure of the revolt of 1857 ?

- The revolt did not spread to all parts of the country.
- All sections of the society did not support the rebels and many Indian rulers even supported the British.
- The revolt was more like a reaction which lacked organisation & control.
- There was no leader to organise & carry forward the revolt.
- The rebels were not well – equipped & therefore lost the battle.

4. What led the craftsmen & weavers to face unfair competition ?

After the industrial revolution , the goods were produced in bulk. People preferred to buy these machine - made goods which were much cheaper than the hand-made products by Indians which were expensive.

E. Long Answer Questions.

1. Write a short note on the political causes of the revolt of 1857.

- The British took away the power of the nawabs and the kings.
- They introduced policies like the subsidiary alliance, the kings who accepted it had to disband their own armies and keep our British resident at their court who constantly interfered in the administration, moreover these kings had to bear all the expenses of running the Kingdom.
- Another policy which angered the kings and Queens of India was the doctrine of lapse which forced Rani Laxmi Bai to rise against the British, as her adopted son was not allowed to extend the throne as per the doctrine.
- In 1856 , Lord Dalhousie annexed Awadh which was the last territory to be annexed, this annexation was seen as a betrayal on the part of the British this led to resentment among the sepoys who were from Awadh.

- John Canning brought down the Mughal empire by declaring that Bahadur Shah Zafar II would be the last Mughal king and after his death none of his descendants would be acknowledged as king and the name of Mughal king had already been removed from the coins minted by the British.

2. **What was the result of the revolt of 1857 ?**

The Revolt of 1857, though ultimately suppressed, resulted in a complete overhaul of British administration in India.

The two most significant outcomes were:

- **End of the East India Company's Rule:**
- The British Parliament passed the Government of India Act of 1858, which abolished the British East India Company. The governance of India was directly taken over by the British Crown (Queen Victoria). This marked the beginning of the British Raj.
- **Administrative Changes:**
 - The Governor-General was given the new title of Viceroy, becoming the direct representative of the Crown. Lord Canning was the first Viceroy.
 - The British government promised to respect the rights of Indian rulers and abolished the Doctrine of Lapse.
 - The Indian Army was reorganized to increase the number of European soldiers and implement a “divide and rule” policy to prevent future unity among Indian troops.
 - The British adopted a policy of non-interference in the religious and social customs of Indians to avoid provoking another uprising.

3. **Write a short note on the start and spread of the uprising of 1857 .**

The uprising began as a Sepoy Mutiny over the controversial greased cartridges, rumored to be coated with cow and pig fat, which offended both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.

- **THE SPARK:** The rebellion formally started in Meerut on May 10, 1857, when sepoys revolted after their comrades were jailed for refusing to use the cartridges.
- **INITIAL SPREAD:** The Meerut rebels marched to Delhi and declared the last Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, as the leader of the revolt.
- **MAIN CENTERS:** The rebellion quickly spread to major cities across North and Central India, involving both soldiers and local people. Key centers included Kanpur (Nana Saheb), Lucknow (Begum Hazrat Mahal), and Jhansi (Rani Lakshmi Bai).

The uprising was ultimately an armed protest by Indians against the oppressive policies of the British East India Company.

4. **Write about the policies initiated by the British in Khurda. Also, write about their ill-effects on the people of Khurda.**

- **Confiscation Of Paika Lands :** Paika (hereditary soldiers) lost their livelihood and status, leading to mass unemployment and anger.
- **High Land Revenue:** Peasants and landowners were ruined by high, fixed taxes and rigid collection methods, leading to widespread poverty.
- **SALT MONOPOLY:** Local people were forbidden from manufacturing salt and forced to buy expensive British salt, causing distress for the common man.
- **MANDATORY SILVER TAX:** Abolishing the local cowrie currency and demanding tax payments only in silver burdened the poor and disrupted the local economy.