

Class: X

Date 15.04.2024

Ch.1. The First War of Independence, 1857

Subject: History and Civics [Continued] Ms. Rameet

- (7) Fears Regarding Western Education:- Missionaries and Government schools introduced the teaching of English in their institutions. The Pandits and Mullahs resented this change, as they saw in it an attempt to discourage the study of Islamic and Hindu literatures. The new schools provided education to all, irrespective of caste and religion. This was not liked by the orthodox and the Upper class Hindus.

8. Taxing Religious Places:-

The British policy of taxing property belonging to temples and mosques strongly hurt the feelings of Indians. Earlier Indian rulers did not take any revenue from the religious places.

9. Law of Property:-

The Britishers changed the Hindu Property Law. It made the converts to inherit their ancestral property. The Hindus regarded it as an incentive to convert to Christianity.

Economic Causes:-

The most important cause of discontentment among the Indians was the economic exploitation of India by the British. Some of the main economic causes are the following:-

1. Exploitation of Economic Resources:-

The British exploited the economic resources of India and enriched themselves at the cost of the Indians. All trade and commerce had gone into the hands of the English, due to which the Indian industries suffered a setback.

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While they carried away India's wealth to their country. The economic condition of the people became miserable.

(2) Drain of Wealth:-

The English Company and her officials carried away India's wealth to England in different ways. They sent a large amount of their salaries home as savings. The Company officials collected huge wealth through interest on debts, bribes and gifts from Indian rulers, businessmen and others, which they carried away with them on return to England.

(3) Decay of Cottage Industries and Handicrafts:-

There was a sudden and quick collapse of Indian handicrafts. It created poverty and misery among the craftsmen. The British policy of exporting raw materials also proved very harmful for the Indian handicrafts. Important industrial towns such as Dhaka and Surat declined.

(4) Economic Decline of Peasantry:-

The peasants suffered due to high revenue demands and strict revenue collection policy. The peasants faced heavy burden of taxes. But not even a fraction of the revenue collected was spent on the development of agriculture. They ultimately lost their lands that they had for generations.

5. Growing Unemployment:-

After annexations many civil and military officers and other employees of the Kingdom lost their jobs.

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Some people had to starve when they were deprived of their means of livelihood.

6. Inhuman Treatment of Indigo Cultivators.

The British planters controlled plantation industries such as indigo and tea. The peasants were forced to grow these crops only. The cruel treatment of the indigo cultivators by the European plantation owners became one of the important reasons for the revolt of 1857.

7. Poverty and Famines:-

The English did nothing to encourage trade and industry. It led to poverty among the people. Poverty and famines spread dissatisfaction among the Indians. They thought that their condition could be improved only when the English left India.

8. Annexation of Rent-free Lands and Estates:-

The British confiscated the land and properties of many landlords and taluqdars. The Inam Commission passed by them asked the owners of land to show the papers or documents of title-deeds as proof of their ownership. Many of them could not produce these documents due to which Britishers confiscated their lands.

Children with this explanation, I am ending today's interactive session. I hope you have understood the chapter. Please do the following questions given below in your note-book.

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- Q1. In the 19th Century, the Britishers began to interfere with the local religious and social Customs. In this context, briefly describe:-
- (a) Fear regarding mass conversions to christianity and loss of religion and caste.
 - (b) Interference in Social Customs.
 - (c) The introduction of Railways and Telegraphs.
 - (d) Policy of racial discrimination.

Thank You Students.

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