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Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33 B, Chandigarh

11/11/24

Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhadnagar

Chapter 11

The Great Uprising of AD 1857

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about the most important event in the history of India in the nineteenth century - The Revolt of 1857. It was because of its character and spread that the revolt was also termed as the First War of Independence. Let us look into the factors that led to rebellion in 1857.

1. Economic Causes - The peasants suffered due to high revenue demands and strict policy of collection by the British. Most often it led to starvation of the peasant's family. They had to depend upon the moneylender for payment of tax if there was crop failure. All these factors at times made the peasants landless and their survival difficult. The artisans had to face unfair competition from the machine made goods. As the old ruling class was displaced, so the people who earned a living under ruler's patronage lost their source of livelihood.
2. Political Causes:- The British policy of annexing territories led to displacement of ruling class. The terms of Subsidiary Alliance and Doctrine

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of Lapse took away their independence. The annexation of Awadh was resented by the people as it was annexed on false grounds of misgovernance.

3. Social and religious Causes:- The British attempt to bring reforms in society by doing away with social evils through legislation was not welcome by the orthodox section of the society. The abolishment of Sati, introduction of Widow Remarriage through an Act was taken as interference in social customs by the British. People feared that British had come to convert them to Christianity.

4. Military Causes:- Indian soldiers or sepoys formed the bulk of Company's army in India. They had many grievances against the British. The sepoys were paid much less than the British soldiers. They were treated roughly and not given promotion. The sepoys were not allowed to wear caste or religious marks. An Act stopped the foreign service allowance or batta. As this stage was set for revolt, the spark was provided by the introduction of the Enfield Rifle. The cartridge of this rifle was covered with greased paper which it was believed contained the fat of cows and pigs. As it had to be removed from mouth, it hurt the religious sentiments of both Hindus and Muslims.

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The first soldier to protest against use of Enfield Rifle was Mangal Pandey. On 29 March 1857 he fired at his British commander and asked the other sepoys to join him to end the rule of the British East India Company. The revolt started from Meerut on 10 May 1857 with major centres at Delhi, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gwalior, Kanpur, Jhansi and Arrah. Earlier it seemed that the British rule was over. But they soon reorganized and fought back. The British defeated all major Indian powers. A number of factors were responsible for the defeat of the Indians.

1. The Uprising did not spread to all parts of the country. It was also not supported by all.
2. The Uprising was not organized properly.
3. The movement suffered from weak leadership as most of the leaders fought to liberate their territories.
4. The sepoys were also short of weapons and finances.

MCQ

Fill in the blanks.

2. Uprising of 1857
3. Arrah
4. Lord Wellesley
5. Lord Dalhousie
7. Greased Cartridges

1. Lord Wellesley
2. Enfield Rifle
3. 24th
5. South