

When People Rebel - 1857 and After

Q1. What was the demand of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi that was refused by the British?

Answer. Rani Lakshmibai was the queen of Jhansi. She had adopted a son. Therefore, she wanted her son to become the ruler of Jhansi. However, according to Lord Dalhousie's doctrine of default policy, an adopted heir will not be allowed to take over the kingdom after the father dies and the same will be annexed by the British. Therefore, the demand of Rani Lakshmibai to recognize her adopted son as the male heir of the kingdom was rejected by the British.

Q2. What did the British do to protect the interests of those who converted to Christianity?

Answer. After 1830, the company allowed Christian missionaries to function independently in their domains and even land and property. In 1850, a new law was passed to make conversion to Christianity easier. This law allowed an Indian who had converted to Christianity to obtain the property of his ancestors. Many Indians felt that the British were destroying their religion, their social customs and their traditional way of life.

Q3. What objections did the sepoys have to the new cartridges that they were asked to use?

Answer. The new soldiers were rejected by the Indian soldiers because they believed that they were wrapped in cow and pig fat. The soldiers have to cut the cartridges but the religion of the Indian soldiers did not allow them to touch these cartridges. He therefore refused to use the new cartridge.

Q4. How did the last Mughal emperor live the last years of his life?

Answer. The last Mughal emperor was Bahadur Shah Zafar. His title of Mughal emperor was symbolic, after the death of Aurangzeb, the Mughal rulers lost their power and led only to symbolic stature. Zafar was also the symbolic head of the 1857 rebellion. However, once the rebellion was crushed, an attempt was made to bring Bahadur Shah Zafar to court. He was blinded and imprisoned by the British. Later in 1858, he was sent to Rangoon with his wife where he died in 1862.

Q5. What could be the reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857?

Answer. The British became convinced about their position in India for the following reasons:

- a.** After the death of Aurangzeb, the Mughal rulers were not strong and powerful, so it was easy for them to annex the states.
- b.** The disunity among nawabs and the Mughal ruler helped the British have a firm stronghold in the Indian society, starting from Bengal.
- c.** Policies such as the Subsidiary Alliance helped the British Annexes use one military force after another.
- d.** Although the Revolt of 1857 was unique but was crushed by the British Domination over Indian society.

Q6. What impact did Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion have on the people and the ruling families?

Answer.

However, after the death of Aurangzeb, he is considered as the last powerful and powerful Mughal ruler India, the Mughal ruler still had a symbolic presence. Therefore, even after Aurangzeb, there was a presence of Mughal rulers. The revolt of 1857 began only when Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last ruler of the Mughals gave his permission. His support for the rebellion convinced the leaders of various places. Zafar asked all the leaders to form a union to fight the British. After the rebellion of Bahadur Shah Zafar, many small, big states, rulers and chieftains supported the rebellion. Therefore, his support for the rebellion had a wide impact on the people and ruling families.

Q7. How did the British succeed in securing the submission of the rebel landowners of Awadh?

Answer. The British took a two-pronged approach to suppress the rebellious landowners of Awadh.

- a. The first way was to hang rebel landlords who killed British personnel
Threaten the people of Awadh for the consequences of their rebellion in the future.
- b. The second approach was to reward the loyal zamindars of Awadh by saying that if they have not killed the British personnel and they present themselves to the British, they will be safe and may have part of their lands.

Q8. In what ways did the British change their policies as a result of the rebellion of 1857?

Answer. After the Revolt of 1857, the British Crown took over the Indian administration. The powers of the East India Company were transferred to the Crown. The following changes were made:

- a. Doctrine of Lapse policy was abolished
- b. The number of Indian soldiers in the army was reduced so that in future they could not revolt against the British.
- c. Rights of Zamindars and Zamindars were further enhanced
- d. The Crown promised that it would not interfere with the religion of the people.
- e. The Viceroy and Secretary of State were appointed to administer Indian society.