

War of Independence or Sepoy Mutiny 1857

Short notes.

Introduction:

Your notes are fine
Avoid writing details
Just headings and 2 to 3
points

The Sepoy mutiny, ^{the first war of independence} was a widespread uprising against the rule of the British East India Company in India.

It began as military mutiny in Meerut on 10 May 1857, but soon transformed into a widespread rebellion involving peasants, rulers, soldiers & religious leaders.

British recognize it or termed it as "Sepoy Mutiny" but Indian recognize it as the "first war of Independence", because it was the first organized attempt to overthrow foreign rule.

Background:

Gradual expansion of East India Company. ^{In start} it was just a company but in mid of 18C it had transformed into political & military

Date:

Power, defeating rebels like in French
& local rulers in battles of Plassey
(1757) & Buxar (1764). This led to

the company to control various territories
of India & taking taxes, making deals
with king & having their own army.
→ India used to be ruled by Mughal Empire
but with passage of time mughals
became weaker due to fight inside in
family & invasion from outside. The British
took advantage & said them they helped
in Indian rulers but in return they will
pay money or give land. This was

called "Subsidiary alliance" system.

which made the king poor & weak.

→ Doctrine of Lapse in most regions

like Satara (1848) Jhanjti in (1853)

Nagpur (1854)

Annexation of Oudh

Causes of Indian rebellion of 1857 :

(1) Multifaceted Buildup of Grievances
Across Social, political, Religious,
Economic Spheres.

Social causes contributing to
the rebellion.

- (1) Racial discrimination → introduce Education
- (2) Social reform by British → introduction of widow marriage

Political causes fueling the uprising.

- (1) Doctrine of Lapse → Jhansi, Satara, Nagpur.
- (2) Annexation of Oudh / Awadh (1856)
- (3) Decline of Mughal Empire

Subsidiary alliances.

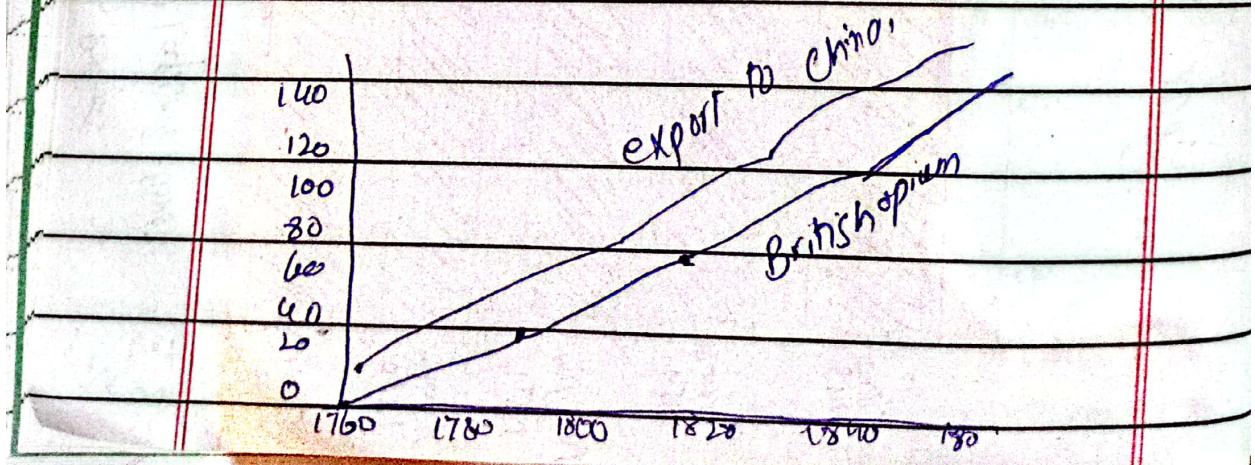
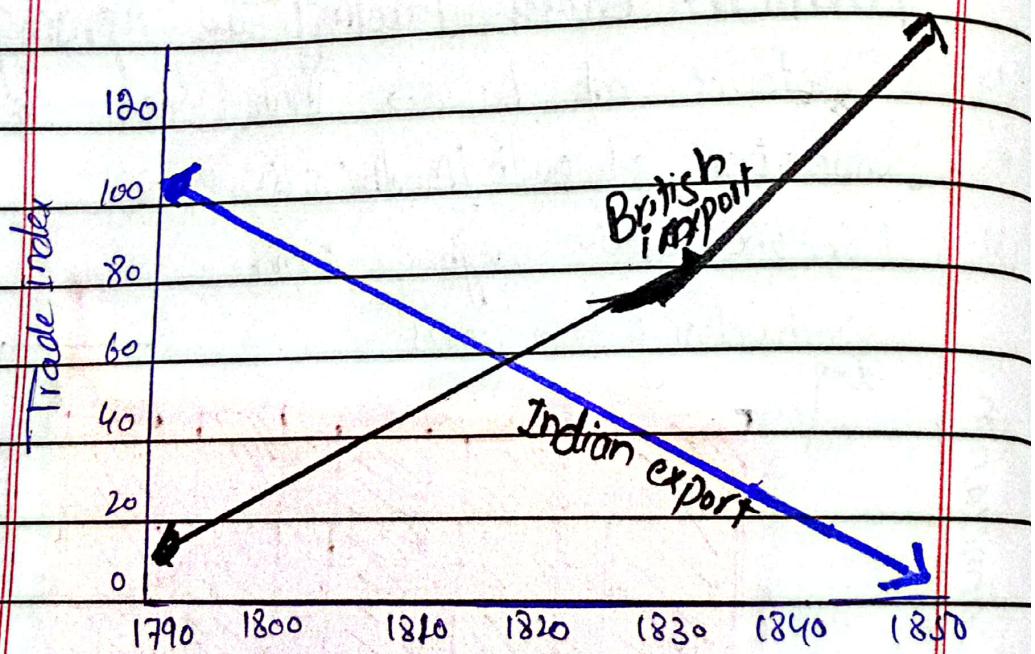


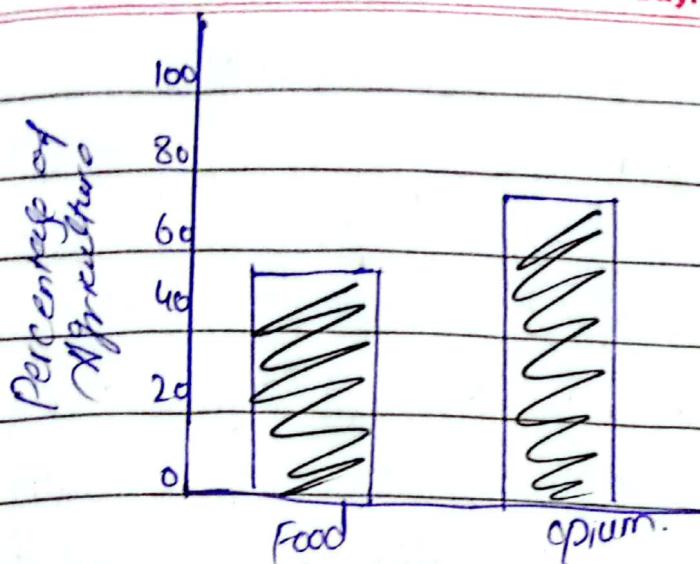
Religious Causes igniting Tensions

- (1) Christian missionary activities → Enfield rifle
- (2) Violation of religious taboos → Catridge

Economic Causes underlying in discontent:

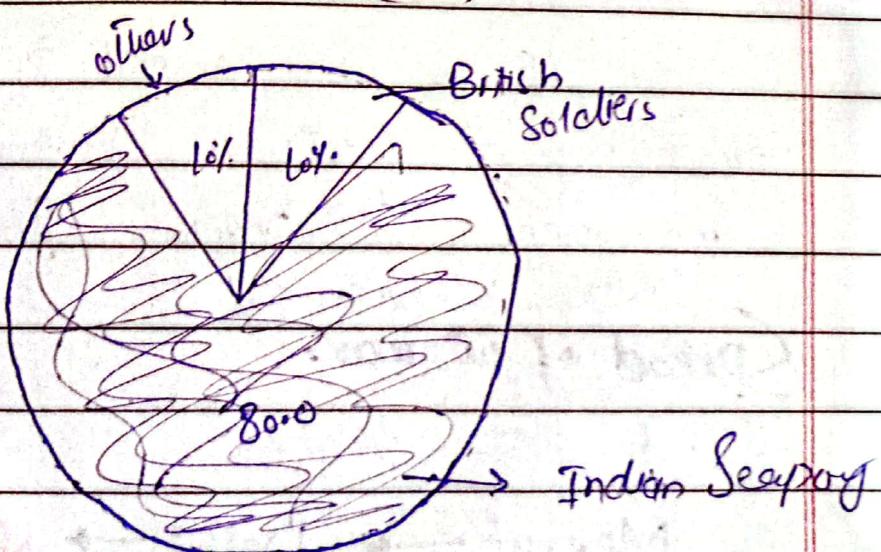
- Drain of wealth through taxes → in permanent settlement (1793) (1820)
- Unemployment
- Peasants in Misery.
- Opium trade Policies.
- Economic impact





Military Causes leading to the Sepoy Mutiny:

- ① lower Pay / Discrimination in Army
- ② Promotion Postponed
- ③ Overseas Service act (1856)



Composition of Bengal Army before 1857

Immediate Cause of war or
Triggering Event that sparked the
outbreak of the war

introduction of in New pattern of Enfield rifle whose cartridge were greased with animal fat & pig.

- offend both Muslims & Hindus.
- on March 29, 1857, Mangal Panday a Sepoy, refused to use the cartridge & attacked the officers, leading to his execution on 8 April.
- Later 9 May, in Meerut 85 Sepoy were court martialed & imprisoned for not refusing to use cartridge.
- 10 May, fellow Sepoy freed the prisoners killed officers & marched to Delhi - proclaiming Bahadur Shah as emperor.
- This event transformed grievance into rebellion.

Spread of the war:

Revolt Spread from:

Meerut → Delhi → Kanpur

Sepoy

Raja
Ghanshyam

Nana
Sahib



Gwalior ← Jhansi ← Lucknow

Rani
Lakshmi Bai

Begum
Habibullah
Maharani

Kunwar
Singh

Bihar

Reasons for the failure of Indian Rebellion of 1857:

- (1) Lack of unified leadership & coordination.
- (2) Limited geographical spread
- (3) Military disadvantages & inferior technology
- (4) Lack of unity b/w Hindu & Muslim
- (5) British Strength & Superiority
- (6) Divide & Rule Strategy used by British.

Effects of Rebellion on different Groups:

Effects on British:

- (1) End of EIC abolished 1858
- (2) Crown Rule Established Queen Victoria 1876
- (3) Army Reorganization
- (4) ^{ending} Doctrine of Lapse

Effect on Muslims:

Suspicious Community → ^{blame them for} instigating revolt.

Muslim elite lost lands & titles.

British withdrew funding from Muslim Schools

Muslim objected to British education

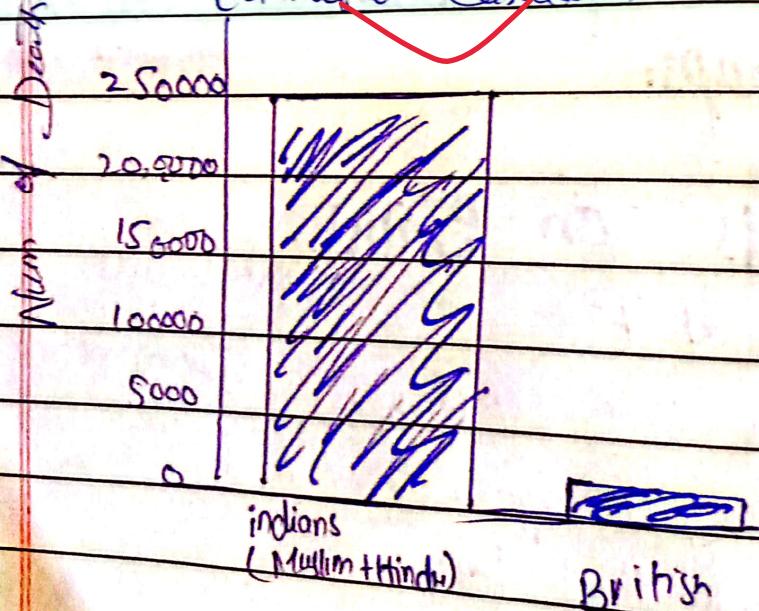
Effects on Hindus

Mixed outcome with some gains & loss.

① Loyal Hindus rewarded with titles & autonomy

- Casualties in Indian Rebellion of 1857.

Estimated Casualties in war.



Indian \rightarrow B/w 2000,000 to 300,000
(M+H)

British \rightarrow Around 6000 to 8000