

# War of Independence or Sepoy Mutiny 1857

## Short notes.

### Introduction:

The Sepoy mutiny, also known as the War of Independence, was a widespread & significant armed uprising against the rule of the British East India Company in India.

It began as a 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

Your notes are fine

Avoid writing details

Just headings and

points

2 to 3



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Power, defeating rivals 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 the passage of time Mughals became weaker due to fight inside the family & invasion from outside. The British took advantage & said them they helped the Indian rulers but in return they will pay money or give land. This was called the "Subsidiary alliance" system which made the king poor & weak.

→ Doctrine of Lapse in most regions like Satara (1848) Jhansi in (1853) Nagpur (1854) Annexation of Oudh



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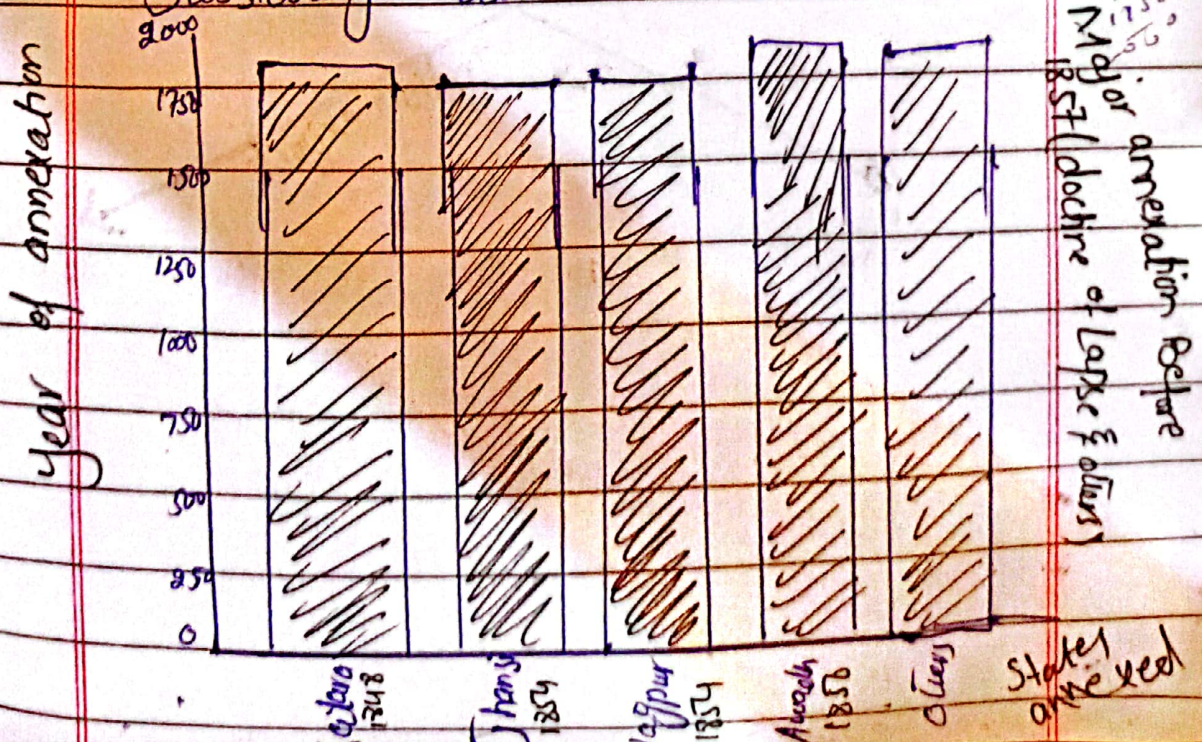
Cause of Indian rebellion of 1857:  
A Multifaceted Buildup of Grievances  
Across Social, political, Religious,  
Economic Spheres.

Social causes contributing to  
in Rebellion.

- 1 Racial discrimination
- (2) Social reform by British → introduce Education  
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 the Mughal Empire  
Subsidiary alliances.





# Religious Causes igniting Tensions:

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

## Economic Causes underlying in discontent:

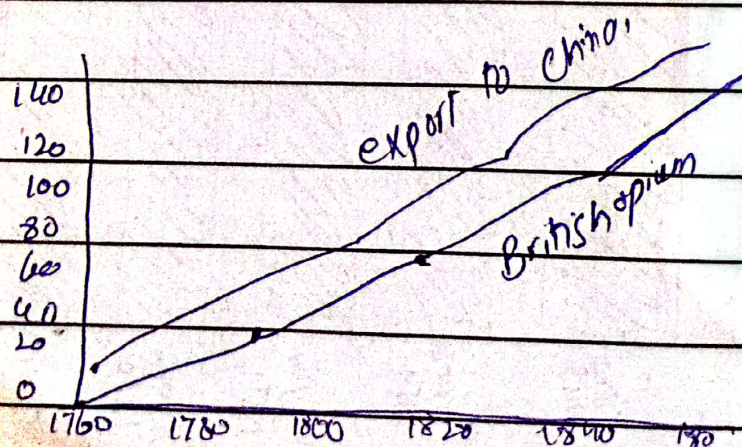
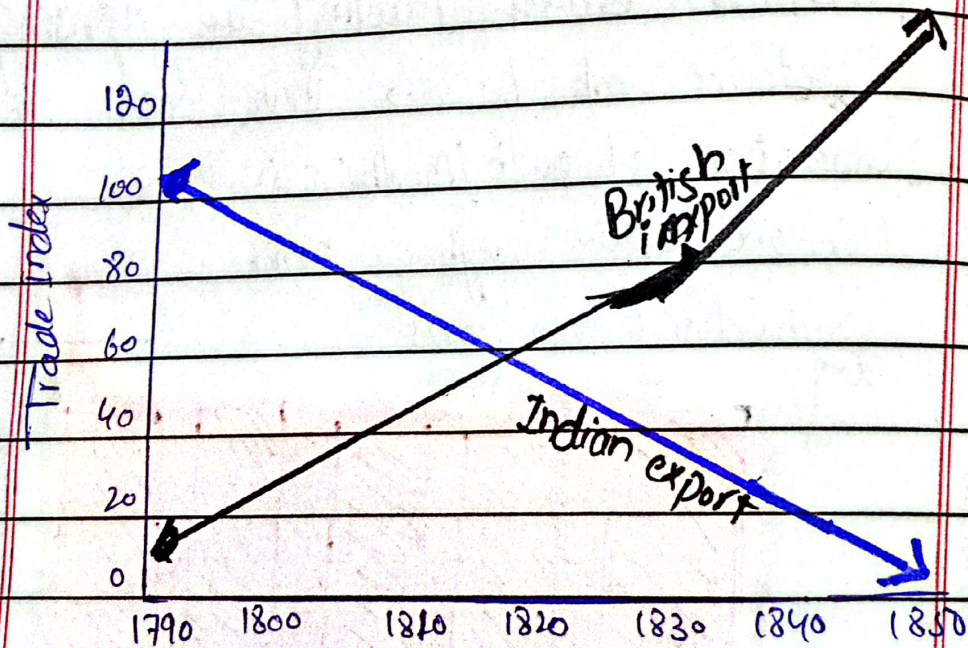
Drain of wealth Through taxes → The Ryotwari Settlement (1793-1850)

Unemployment

Peasants in Misery.

Opium trade policies.

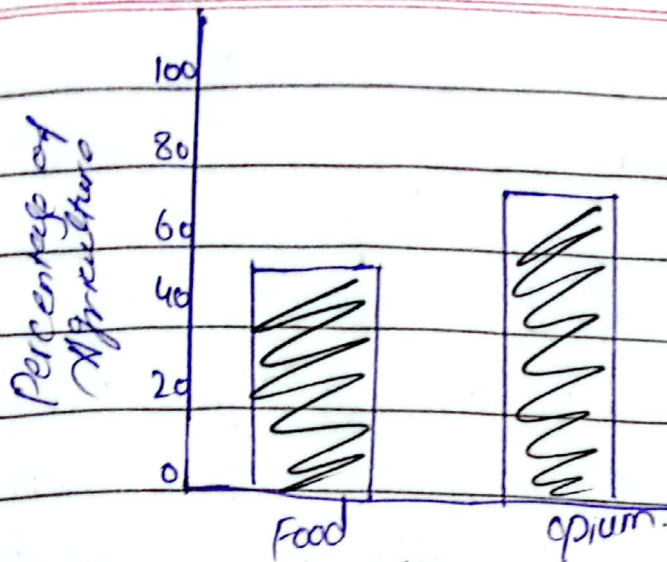
Economic impact.





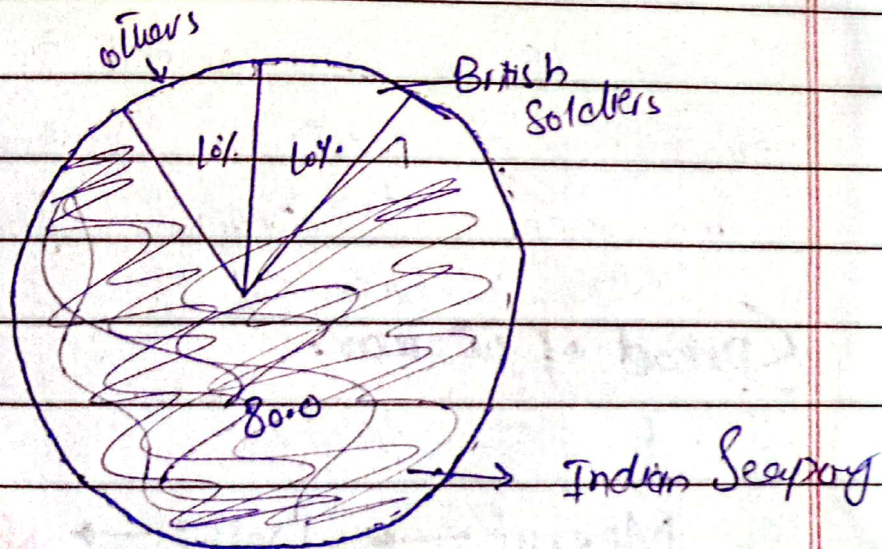
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## Military Causes leading to the Sepoy Mutiny:

- ① lower Pay / Discrimination in Army
- ② Promotion posted
- 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 <sup>whose</sup> cartridge were greased  
 with animal fat & pig.

→ offend both Muslims & Hindus.  
 on March 29, 1857, Mangal Pandey  
 a Sepoy, refused to use the cartridge  
 & attacked his officers, leading to  
 his execution on 8 April.

→ Later 9 May, in Meerut 85 Sepoy  
 were Court martialed & imprisoned  
 for ~~not~~ refusing in cartridge.

→ 10 May, fellow Sepoy freed the prisoners  
 killed officers & marched to Delhi -  
 proclaiming Bahadur II as emperor.

→ This event transformed grievance  
 into rebellion.

### Spread of the war:

Revolt Spread from:





Date:

Day:

## Reasons for the failure of Indian Rebellion of 1857:

- (1) Lack of united 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) <sup>end of</sup> 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

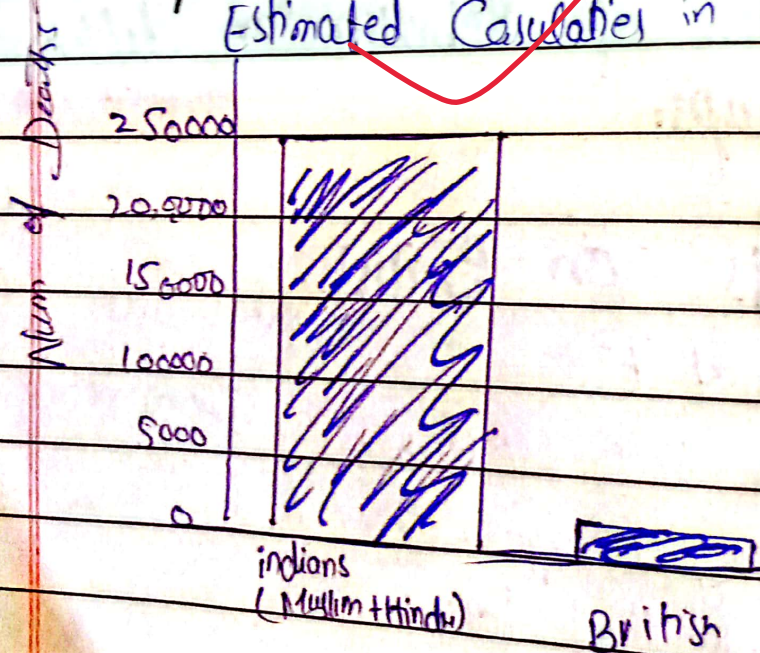
Mixed outcome with some gains &

loss.

- ① Loyal Hindu rewarded with titles & autonomy

## Casualties in the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

Estimated Casualties in the war.



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

British → Around 6000 to 10,000