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Pakistan Affairs.

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Q: Explain War of Independence 1857.
What are the effects and Causes of War of Independence.

Introduction War of Independence also called as Sepoy Mutiny was the final attempt of removing British from Indian sub-continent through armed forces. However it failed, because of several reasons and the parties that were involved in this war faced very severe consequences.

Muslims have anger for the British because they remove them from their kingship, however Hindus do not have any proclamation, because for them only their ruler is changed from Muslim to British. But both Hindus and Muslim participate in this war, as they both claim Bahadur Shah Zafar as their emperor and they want to get him back as their ruler. This shows that both Hindus and Muslims were not only fighting with the same enemy, however their cause was also the same.

Causes of War of Independence Sepoy Mutiny starts in Meerut, therefore it is also called as Meerut Mutiny. British when introduce Rifles to their soldiers, rumours spread that the greased Cartridges used in the rifles were greased with Cow and Pig fat. And these soldiers have to bite these cartridges before loading them in the rifles and both cows and Pigs are forbidden by Hindus and Muslims, due to which they forbid the British to use them. However British enforce them to use it and killed Mangal Pandey, which cause a disrupt among the soldiers. This ~~independ~~ incidence was the trigger point to the War of Independence. Other causes include Political, Religious, Military and Economic aspects.

① Political Causes

↳ Lord Dalhousie's introduce a doctrine named as "**Doctrine of Lapse**", according to which the ruler of the princely states if die without leaving behind any male heir, so the state will directly come under the British East India Company. This

doctrine was opposed by many Indians especially ~~Thani~~ Rani of Thansi, who was the daughter of Maharaja of Thansi, and she fought several times against British because of this doctrine.

2, Indians & the Mutineers realise that their Emperors were treated very badly and unlawfully and this mistreatment with their rulers assert rebellions among them.

3, Persian language was the official language in the Indian administration for more than 600 years, however British replaced it with English.

4, The Books and Lectures were conducted in English language, which was not accepted by the public.

② Economic Causes

1, Palwaris and Tehildars who were the revenue officers were so corrupt, that they want **30%-40%** of the total agriculture production for the British government and **5%-10%** for their own selves, which create a sense of money laundering between the land lords and Peasants.

- 2, Increased Taxation effect the Indians lives very much, as they were already facing financial disorders.
- 3, Exclusion of Muslims from trade both domestically and internationally create a huge disturbance in the social lives of the Muslims.
- 4, Loss of Local Industries especially cotton, gems, silk and carpet industries which create economic exploitation among Indian Subcontinent.

Military Causes

- 1, Soldiers and armed forces have to live in the Cantonment areas, where all the British high officials and their families reside. So there was a great of Conversion to Christianity as they were surrounded by all Christians, practicing their religious and cultural believes.
- 2, Priests and the Christian Missionaries start Propagations - to the untouchables of hindus - to convert their religion to Christianity, so they will have a prosperous and honoured life styles.

3, Indians soldiers were forced to fight for East Indian Company overseas, like Anglo-Afghan war, which was fought in Afghanistan.

4, Indians feel that European soldiers were given high salaries and benefits which create a sort of Indiscrimination.

5, Another source of discontent was the way of Pension distribution and the lands given to the deceased and injured soldiers, which was not given to Indians.

Religious Causes

1, British create reforms like Sati (widow burning), stopping child marriages and allowing widows to remarry create a dislike in Indians that Britians were promoting their Christianity by interfering in their religious and social practices.

2, This suspicion will become more prominent when Lord Canning brought a reform that only those were inherited with lands of their parents and Ancestors who were converted to Christianity.

- 3, Ethnocentrism British consider themselves superior and illiterate from every aspect and consider their literature dominant upon the whole subcontinent.
- 4, Missionaries start propagating their religion, by propagation of Christianity to the untouchable to convert to Christianity so they will become superior from others.

Effects Failure of War of Independence

- 1, Lack of Unity among the Mutineers
- 2, Lack of Communication and coordination, because of their ineffective communication skills their secrets were revealed.
- 3, No Planning strategies result in the failure of War of Independence.
- 4, British have the access of Posts and Ammunition, which gave them victory.
- 5, Aims are different, as they don't have any national perspectives. Muslims were fighting for their rule and Hindus were fighting for revenge.
- 6, British get the support of Marathas and Sikhs against the Mutineers, and they were martial fighters.

which weaken the strength of Sepoy Mutiny.
7 British have a perfect battle front and advanced weapons, along with they have the support of several rulers of the Princely states, like ruler of Kashmir give them 2000 troops against the rebellions.

Effect of War of Independence

Queen Elizabeth works according to the Parliament Will. When King's Prime Minister assume that East India Company is addressing the mail of Bahadur Shah Zafar II, he assumes that it was a constitutional matter. Therefore the East India Company rule was abolished, and Indian Subcontinent came under the direct control of British Government. Lord Canning travelled across the whole India, giving assurance to the 565 rulers of the Princely states that British Crown had no intention of acquiring these states, as a result 565 Princely states remained separate from the British autonomy. And these states will only

recognize British-British authority in defense and foreign affairs but no direct intervention of the British government.

Effects on Muslims British consider Muslims

- to be the main reason of this war, as they ~~gap~~ acquire their kingship.
1. Therefore they hate Muslims and they overthrow Muslims from their territories, by forming a reform called "**Inam Commission**" according to which the lands that were granted to the Muslims during Muslim rule were taken over from more than 20,000 families.
 2. Muslims were taken aside from jobs and working in the government sectors. In fact if they were given any job, that will be of ink pot filler or messenger. They were excluded from getting jobs in army & revenue departments.
 3. The education system introduced by the English does not have religious education; therefore Muslims were kept aside from acquiring English education.
 4. British consider Muslims as a nation rare as they were courageous and brave.

fighters, therefore they were replaced by Sikhs and Gurkhas which were also martial soldiers.

Conclusion War of Independence also called as First Sepoy Mutiny was lead the stone for the Independence of 1947. Because Indians were treated very unjustly, by discriminating them according to their ethnicities and races, there and especially when the greased cartridges were introduced, which create a sense of independence from British rule. Especially after killing two sons and one grandson of Bahadur Shah Zafar II, which Hindus and Muslims consider their Emperor, create a sort of revenge among Indians. Due to which they killed more than 600 English prisoners including elderly, women and children. But due to lack of unity, and no certain planning strategies, the Mutineers were defeated and they have to face severe consequences. This War of Independence effects more on the Muslims lives, as they were kept backward as they were considered as the main reason of this war.