

HISTORY

Chapter 6: When People Rebel



Important Questions

Multiple Choice Questions-

1. Name the rebel who taught guerilla war against British with support of several peasant leaders:
 - a. Tantia Tope
 - b. Mangal Pandey
 - c. Bahadur Shah
 - d. Nana Saheb
2. Name the son of Begum Hazart Mahal from Lucknow
 - a. Birjis Qadr
 - b. Nana Saheb
 - c. Kunwar Singh
 - d. Baji Rao
3. The place where Bahadur Shah Zafar was sent under the life imprisonment sentence by the British.
 - a. Lucknow
 - b. Meerut
 - c. Delhi
 - d. Rangoon.
4. Who wanted to recognise his/her adopted son as the heir of his/her Jhansi kingdom?
 - a. Nana Saheb
 - b. Kunwar Singh
 - c. Birjis Qadr
 - d. Rani Lakshmibai
5. Who was proclaimed leader of the Revolt of 1857 from Mughal Empire?
 - a. Tantia Tope
 - b. Kunwar Singh
 - c. Bahadur Shah Zafar
 - d. Nana Saheb
6. Who was Nana Saheb?

- a. Son of Peshwa Baji Rao II
 - b. Son of Rani Lakshmi Bai
 - c. Son of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah
 - d. None of these
7. What do you mean by Sepoy?
- a. Tribals
 - b. Peasant
 - c. Soldier
 - d. None of these
8. Which revolt is led by Nana Saheb the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II?
- a. Kanpur
 - b. Awadh
 - c. Jagdishpur
 - d. Bithur
9. The greased cartridges given to the Indian soldiers was made of what?
- a. Fat of the hen
 - b. Fat of the dog
 - c. Fat of the goat and the sheep
 - d. Fat of cow and pig
10. Who was the Indian rulers under the Doctrine of Lapse introduced by Lord Dalhousie?
- a. They are not allowed to go out of their states.
 - b. They could not have relations with foreign powers.
 - c. They are not allowed to adopt an heir to the throne.
 - d. could not keep an army.
11. When did Gangadhar Rao died?
- a. 1864
 - b. 1845
 - c. 1834
 - d. 1853
12. When did the revolt of Meerut break out?
- a. 1863

- b. 1825
- c. 1874
- d. 1857

13. Who led the Revolt in Awadh?

- a. Zinat Mahal
- b. Lakshmibai
- c. Hazrat Mahal
- d. None of these

14. When was Gwalior recaptured by British?

- a. 1863
- b. 1842
- c. 1825
- d. 1858

15. Who was Gangadhar Rao?

- a. king of Banaras
- b. King of Jhansi
- c. King of Mewar
- d. None of these

Very Short:

1. What was the plea of Nana Saheb, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao-II?
2. What was the first step taken by the Company towards ending the Mughal dynasty?
3. Why were the Indian sepoys unhappy with the British rule? Give any one reason.
4. What rumour spread among the sepoys of the Meerut regiment about the new cartridges?
5. What did the ageing Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar do after he was declared the leader of the rebels?
6. Name any two smaller rulers who acknowledged the suzerainty of Bahadur Shah Zafar.
7. Who was Tantia Tope?
8. Who was Ahmadullah Shah? What was his prophesy?
9. Who was Bakht Khan?
10. When did the British recapture Delhi?

11. Why were the powers of the East India Company transferred to the British Crown?

Short Questions:

1. Under what pretext did the Company take over Awadh?
2. How did the Company plan to bring an end to the Mughal dynasty?
3. Why were the Indian sepoys in the employ of the Company discontented? Give sufficient reasons.
4. What reforms did the British introduce in the Indian society? How did the people of India respond to them?
5. Why did the chiefs and rulers support the Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar in the revolt?
6. How did the British try to win back the loyalty of the people after they recaptured Delhi?
7. What was the condition after recapturing of Delhi by the British?

Long Questions:

1. How did other Indian soldiers in Meerut participate in the Revolt of 1857? How did the regiments stationed in Delhi respond when they came to know about the arrival of the Meerut sepoys in the city?
2. How did the rebellion spread to other regions of the country?
3. How did the Company suppress the revolt?
4. How did the Company plan to end the Mughal Dynasty?
5. What was the reason behind the discontent of Indian sepoys of the Company?

Answer Key:

MCQ:

1. (a) Tantia Tope
2. (a) Birjis Qadr
3. (d) Rangoon
4. (d) Rani Lakshmbai
5. (c) Bahadur Shah Zafar
6. (a) Son of Peshwa Baji Rao II
7. (c) Soldier
8. (a) Kanpur

9. (d) Fat of cow and pig
- 10.(c) They are not allowed to adopt an heir to the throne.
- 11.(d) 1853
- 12.(d) 1857
- 13.(c) Hazrat Mahal
- 14.(d) 1858
- 15.(b) King of Jhansi

Very Short Answer:

1. Nana Saheb pleaded that he be given his father's pension when the latter died.
2. The name of the Mughal king was removed from the coins minted by the Company.
3. The Indian sepoys were underpaid.
4. The rumour spread that the new cartridges were coated with the fat of cows and pigs.
5. He wrote letters to all the chiefs and rulers of the country to come forward and organize a confederacy of Indian states to fight the British.
6. Nana Saheb and Bijiis Qadr.
7. He was the General of Nana Saheb.
8. Ahmadullah Shah was a Maulvi from Faizabad. His prophesy was that the rule of the British would soon come to an end.
9. Bakht Khan was a soldier from Bareilly. He took charge of a large force of fighters who came to Delhi.
10. The British recaptured Delhi in September 1857.
11. The powers of the East India Company were transferred to the British Crown in order to ensure a more responsible management of Indian affairs.

Short Answer:

Ans: 1. In 1801, a subsidiary alliance was imposed on Awadh, and in 1856, it was taken over. Governor-General Dalhousie declared that the territory was being misgoverned and British rule was needed to ensure proper administration.

Ans: 2. (a) First of all the name of the Mughal king was removed from the coins minted by the Company.

(b) In 1849, Governor-General Dalhousie announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the family of the king would be shifted out of the Red Fort and given another place in Delhi to live in.

(c) In 1856, Governor-General "Canning decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the

last Mughal king and after his death his descendants would be known as princes.

Ans: 3. Reasons for their discontentment:

(a) The Indian sepoys were given poor salaries and allowances.

(b) The conditions of service also made them unhappy.

(c) Some of the new rules even violated their religious sentiments and beliefs.

(d) Those were the days when many people in the country believed that if they crossed the sea they would lose their religion and caste. So when in 1824 the sepoys were told to go to Burma by the sea route to fight for the Company, they refused to follow this order. As a result, they were given severe punishment. What is more, in 1856, the Company passed a new law which stated that every new person who took up employment in the Company's army had to agree to serve overseas if required.

Ans: 4. The British introduced several reforms:

(a) They passed laws to stop the practice of sati and to encourage the remarriage of widows.

(b) They promoted English language education.

(c) In 1850, the Company passed a new law that made the conversion to Christianity easier.

Many Indians began to feel that the British were destroying their religion, their social customs and their traditional way of life. But at the same time there were other Indians who readily accepted the reforms introduced by the British. In fact, they wanted to change existing social practices.

Ans: 5. The Mughal dynasty had ruled over a large part of the country. Most smaller rulers and chieftains controlled different territories on behalf of the Mughal ruler. Threatened by the expansion of British rule, many of them felt that if the Mughal emperor could rule again, they too would be able to rule their own territories once more, under the Mughal authority.

Ans: 6. (a) The British announced rewards for loyal landholders by allowing them to continue to enjoy traditional rights over their lands.

(b) Those who had rebelled were told that if they submitted to the British and if they had not killed any white people, they would remain safe and their rights and claims to land would not be denied.

Ans: 7. The recapturing of Delhi did not mean that the rebellion died down, people still continued with the resistance and battle with the British. The British had to fight for two years in this manner to suppress the massive forces of popular rebellion.

Long Answer:

Ans: 1. The other Indian soldiers in Meerut participated in the uprising wholeheartedly.

On 10 May 1857 they marched to the jail in Meerut and released the sepoys who were sentenced to ten years' jail for disobeying their officers. They attacked and killed British officers. They captured guns and ammunition and set fire to the buildings and properties of the British and declared war on the firangis. The soldiers were determined to bring an end to the British rule in the country.

The sepoys of Meerut rushed to Delhi in the early hours on 11 May. As news of their arrival spread, the regiments stationed in Delhi also rose up in rebellion.

Again, British officers were killed, arms and ammunition were seized, buildings were set on fire. Triumphant soldiers gathered around the walls of the Red Fort where the Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar lived, demanding to meet him. The emperor was not willing to challenge the mighty British power, but the soldiers persisted. They forced their way into the palace and proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leaders. The emperor finally accepted this demand. After getting the leader, the soldiers began to plan for further action.

Ans: 2. The position of the British became very weak in Delhi, and they were almost defeated by the rebel force. Therefore, there was no uprising for almost a week. Afterwards a spurt of mutinies began in several parts of India. Regiment after regiment mutinied and took to join other troops at nodal points like Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. After them, the people of the towns and villages also" rose up in rebellion. They rallied around local leaders, zamindars and chiefs who were prepared to establish their authority and fight the British.

Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the late Peshwa Baji Rao who lived near Kanpur, gathered armed forces and expelled the British Garrison from the city. He proclaimed himself Peshwa. He declared that he was a Governor under emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar. In Lucknow, Birjis Qadr, the son of the deposed Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, was proclaimed the new Nawab. He too acknowledged the suzerainty of Bahadur Shah Zafar.

In Jhansi, Rani Lakshmibai joined the rebel sepoys and fought the British along with Tantia Tope, the General of Nana Saheb.

A situation of widespread rebellion also developed in the region of Awadh. Many new leaders also came up and joined the revolt. Ahmadullah Shah, a Maulvi from Faizabad, raised a large force of supporters. He came to Lucknow to fight the British.

In Delhi, a large number of religious warriors came together to wipe out the white people. Bakht Khan, a soldier from Bareilly, took charge of a large force of fighters who came to Delhi. In Bihar, an old zamindar, Kunwar Singh, joined the rebel sepoys and battled with the British for several months.

Ans: 3. The Company did not get nervous to see the strength of the rebel forces. Instead, it decided to suppress the revolt with all its might. It brought reinforcements from England, passed new laws so that the rebels could be convicted with ease, and then

moved into the storm centres of the revolt. Delhi was recaptured from the rebel forces in September 1857. The last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment. He and his wife were sent to prison in Rangoon in October 1858.

The recapture of Delhi did not mean that the rebellion died down completely. People continued to resist and battle the British. So, the British had to fight for two years to suppress the massive forces of popular rebellion.

The British took Lucknow in 1858. Rani Lakshmibai was defeated and killed in June 1858. Tantia Tope, who fought a guerrilla war, was finally captured, tried and killed in April 1859.

Ans: 4. The Company began planning on how to end the Mughal dynasty in the following ways:

The name of the Mughal kings was removed from the coins minted by the Company.

In 1849, Governor-General Dalhousie announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah II, his family would be shifted out of Red Fort and given another place in Delhi to reside in.

In 1856, Governor-General Canning decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal king and after his death none of his descendants would be recognized as the king.

Ans: 5. The reason behind discontent of Indian sepoys were as follows:

The Indian sepoys in the employment of the Company were unhappy about the pay, allowances and conditions of their services.

New rules violated their religious sentiments and beliefs.

It was believed during that time that by crossing the sea one loses his religion and caste.

The sepoys were told to go Burma in 1824 by the sea route to fight for the Company and the sepoys refused to follow the order though they agreed to go through land route.

The refusal resulted in punishment.

The Company passed a law that stated that every new person who took up employment in the Company army had to agree to serve overseas if required.