

# THE STUDY OF REVOLT OF 1857

A Dissertation Submitted to the School of Arts and Language

For the Award of the Degree in Master of History



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**P**ROFESSIONAL  
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*Transforming Education Transforming India*

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## **CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION**

I, Kaliho V Zhimo, hereby declare that the dissertation titled “ The Revolt of 1857” submitted for M.A degree in History which is based on my original work and all ideas and references have been duly acknowledged. It does not contain any work that has been submitted for the award of any degree or diploma from any university.

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## **CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “THE STUDY OF REVOLT OF 1857” is confined and original work done by Kaliho V Zhimo, student of Lovely Professional University, Punjab, under my supervision and guidance.

This subject of this dissertation is an original contribution towards the discipline of History and has not previously formed the basis for the award of the Degree, Diploma, Associated ship and fellowship or other similar title to any candidate.

The Dissertation represents entirely an independent work of the candidate under my guidance.

Date-

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First and foremost, praise and thanks to the god Almighty, for his showers of blessings throughout the work to complete the work successfully

After an intense period of 4 months, today is the day, writing this note of thanks in the finishing touch of my dissertation under the topic “ Revolt of 1857” . It has been a period of intense learning for me. Writing this dissertation has had a big impact on me. I would like to reflect on the people who have supported and helped me so much throughout this period. My deep and sincere gratitude to my supervisor ma’am “ Priyanka Sharma” for giving me the opportunity to do my work and for providing invaluable guidance through this work. Her dynamism, vision, sincerity and motivation have deeply inspired me. She has taught me the methodology to carry out the work and to present the works as clearly as possible.

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# THE STUDY OF REVOLT OF 1857

## ABSTRACT

Many of the landmark events in the history of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent during the British rule have remained subject to grave disagreement and dissents. The uprising of 1857 is among the biggest of these landmarks marred by a number of controversies. There have been many differences among historians and analysis regarding its true nature and character. It has been mentioned as the “War of Independence” by most of the indigenous historians and scholars, while at the same time branded as “mutiny” by almost all British and European writers with a very few exceptions.

This paper is an attempt to find answers to all these questions and controversies regarding the nature and character of the uprising of 1857 in the light of information available about its event and the different players and forces who shaped and influenced this epoch-making landmark in the history of the Indian subcontinent. And also how the Britishers dominated the Indian people on the ground of political, social, economic, and religion. Through this topic we also come to more about the character and role of the Britisher in India on how they annexed the Indian society and used techniques and methods to rule over Indian society. And their treatment towards the Indian peasant and sepoys. Most importantly we also study how many people took part in the revolt and the region where the revolt took place, and the leaders' involvement and their role in the revolt. The uprising of 1857 is perhaps the most written about in Indian history but most of the writing on it is of a descriptive nature, which is of little interest as literature or history. There has always been a need for interpretive writing on this topic to analyze the real causes and the true nature of this mega event in the Indian history. To determine the true nature and character of this event, one has to analyze all the different aspects and controversies regarding this epoch-making event, was it a Mutiny or war of Independence? Was it just a sepoy revolt against their higher ranks or a general popular uprising against the foreign rulers of the subcontinent? Was it pre-planned and an organized movement or just a spontaneous reaction of the sepoys to the ill-advised and unwise policies of the military leadership of the East India Company? Was there a foreign hand involved in the uprising or it was purely indigenous? There are the questions to which the researcher would like to find answers in this paper.

## **INTRODUCTION: REVOLT OF 1857**

The revolt of 1857 is called “mutiny” by the imperial historians and not only that but also claimed by the Indian national movement as first Indian war of independence’. The revolt of 1857 Brought together a good number of force to fought against the colonial rule. For the last 60 years many of the historians tried to shape the 1857 narrative Indian secular state into a very large narrative. Due to this reason many new stories of large scale agrarian and urban disturbance and trouble arises as well as the about the Hindu and Muslim unity. As a result it guide those people and the histories who didn’t quite shape the violent of the nation state, and especially it was Muslim and it was those Muslims who belong to the scholars of Islam. Most of the historians, Britishers as well as the Indians, have describe that the rising of 1857 as a “sepy mutiny” and also as the best “ the Indian mutiny”.

There were two groups one as Indian revolution and the other as the national revolution, were the national minded leader thinkers have describe it as well planned and organised political and military rising for demolishing the British power in the India. The revolt was started to outburst severe resentment against the British rule. And later on it was followed by the battles of Plassey and battle of Buxar, one of the main cause for the revolt of 1857 was also the resentment of setting up the British rule in India. Many scholars have given their views regarding the revolt, the Britishers historian termed it sepy mutiny and another hand Jawaharlal Nehru called it as feudal revolt which is much more than just a sepy mutiny, it has been said that the revolt of 1857 was basically started by the soldiers who had been working in the East India Company but slowly it started to it spread throughout the country and so as a result the peasant, artisans and soldiers also started to take part in the revolt, many of the Indians had also sacrifice their lives for the sake of the nation.

Not only this but Many religions of India came in order to eradicate these causes which had hamper Indian life weather it may politically, socially, economically. Besides the above reasons there were also much reasons for the outbreak of the revolt, namely because of exploitation method by the British on the Indians, and also imposing of their faith forcefully to convert the Indian religion, many of the Indians remain jobless and so the Britishers took advantages on the Indian weakness and so as the result the Britishers captured the whole of the northern states, this act of Britishers become unbearable for Oudh kingdom which had made the Oudh soldiers into

frustrated by the crucial action of the British and so they waited for the right moment to take a revenge over the British, the Britishers tortured Indians in many ways say like the Indians soldiers who were employed under the British were forced to make use of special type of cartridge that has to bit before loading the rifle, this act of Britishers upon Indians rumors spread everywhere that the cartridges were smear with the fats of cows and pigs, the Hindu and Muslim religion got irritated as this act of Britisher is a gesture of insulting their religion this crucial action of Britishers greatly hurt the Indian sentiment of the Hindu and Muslim people.. another method used by the Britishers to destroyed the India was doctrine of lapse and so by this method of annexation policy the Indians were not allowed to rise to the throne if he or she doesn't have any heir of his/her own.

Doctrine of Lapse method was also another steps taken up by the Britishers to destroyed the Indians. The method of Doctrine of Lapse was introduced by Lord Dalhousie in order to destroy the Indian land, factory and industries, the policy of Dalhousie created tension among the Indians, which was not at all happy for the Indians, as a result they started to create bad feeling towards the Britishers , and so because of this new policy, Baji Rao's adopted son Nana Sahib was deprive from receiving pension of his father. He was not allowed to inherit any parental property, this new policy deprive the Indian right to property. The Britisher also made an announcement that Bahadur Zafar doesn't have any right to stay in Red Fort and therefore he was deprive from that place as well as he was also not allow to stay near Qutab Minar. The Britishers also disclose that whoso ever succeeds Bahadur Shah is also not allow to hold the title of king. During the revolt of 1857 the Britishers tried ever method to exploit Indian economic, religion etc to make the Indian stay under their control. The Britisher also play with the religion of the Indians and so they started to impose Christianity to provoke people further. They also started to imposed heavy taxes on the temples and mosques and the Hindu and Muslim were insist to convert their religion, and to forcefully accept the faith of Christianity, the Britisher imposed taxes even on temples and mosque to extract all the Indian resources and to dominate the Indian, the Britisher left no stone unturned to exploit the Indians.

In this revolt the rebellion fought against the British on a very mass scale. As it was the soldiers who took participated in the revolt so it is considered as the sepoy mutiny. It is said that the revolt was took up only by the soldiers, but later it happen to spread and it beacome a massive



form. There were many opinion in regard to the revolt of 1857, there were many views and opinion in regard to the revolt some refer to as the first war of independence and on other side as a sepoy mutiny, since the revolt was took up by the soldiers only. The revolt was started on 10 may 1857 in the town of Meerut. It was said that before the revolt took place some fractional clashes arose. the revolt ended on 20 June 1858. In the revolt the first person who suffered the most or killed was Mangal Pandey. One of the main reason which makes the Britisher attack mangal Pandey was because he attack one of the British sergeant on be 29 March 1857 at Barrackpore. Besides, mangal pandey there were also some of the leaders of the rebellion like the Kunwar Singh, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Nana Saheb, Bahadur Shah, Begum Hazrat Mahal and Tatia Tope. In the revolt there was a rift in central leadership. The revolt outburst because of the greased cartridges. Induction of newly Enfield Rifles in army was also the rift for the start of revolt.

At that period of time of the revolt, Lord Canning was the governor general. Revolt of 1857 is mainly known as one of momentous events in the history of India.. This revolt laid the foundation of the British rule in India . It is said that the revolt was started with the mutiny of the Indian sepoy, but later on a large number of civilian people took part including the non military such as the peasantry, artisans as well as a substantial number of the people. In several part of India local arising and civil disturbances arose, the mutiny of troops also arose in the history of British rule in India. In 1857 the novelty of the mutiny was also extent to a large area which covered military potentiality. Through this revolt the area of India was cover with discontent and also deprivation from ones own land. The revolt also spread resentment and unhappiness in the country and which had brought a lot of hurdles and barriers in the Indian society by the British rule. Many Indian lost their jobs and livelihood, there were full of sorrow and sadness around the society, the revolt bought darkness in the life of the people.

Many Indian grieved over their lost service and livelihood. Many Indian remain jobless which compel them to work under the British control with so much humiliation and discontent, they were given a slave treatment. The Britisher also threaten them with religion which give rise to them into mutiny. All this crucial behavior of the English made the Indian create fear in their mind about their conversion of religion. This conversion idea frighten the Indians which worked as a nightmare. At the starting point, the British did not threat the Indians by any patriotic feeling

or nationalist sentiment. The Indian moved to Firangi without any idea or without understanding were they were threatened with their caste and religious faith. The sepoys strength and number started to increase largely in a sudden manner which was so deep and strong that it took the attention of almost the whole population to accompany them.

There was drastic changes, in transformation of sepoy mutiny into a 'national revolt. There were lots of hatred in Firangi which was so bitter and spontaneous. At first the revolt was started as a mutiny of sepoys by the English army on 10 May 1857 in the town of Meerut, but later on slowly and gradually it started to spread largely towards in the upper Gangetic plain and central India mutinies and civilians rebellions, with the major hostilities confined to the present-day Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, northern Madhya Pradesh, and the Delhi region. The rebellion posed a considerable threat to company power in that region, and it was contained only when the Gwalior fell on 20 June 1858. There were many names given in regard to the revolt of 1857 such as like, Indian's First war of Independence, the Great Rebellion, the Indian mutiny, the Revolt of 1857, the uprising of 1857, the sepoy rebellion and the sepoy mutiny

The revolt of 1857 is known by different names given by different scholars and historians. Some mention as Great rebellion, Indian rebellion of 1857, the Indian sepoy mutiny, the great uprising of 1857, as well as the Indian's First War of Independence to fight against the British rule in India. After the establishment of the British rule the revolt was considered as one of the most landmark events in the history of India. The result behind the revolt was because of century-old British rule in India. Comparing to the previous uprising of the Indians, the Revolt of 1857 was considered as one of the most remarkable wars which is well known to all people around the country and it is also a well-known movement because of the great involvement of the people from various sections of the society.

People from different groups and sections took part, all men, women military or non military, poor or rich, small or big everyone took part in the revolt. Because of the initiation taken by the sepoys in the movement. So it is called the 'Sepoy Mutiny.' But on the other hand it cannot be simply said as a revolt of the sepoy, since this revolt was taken up by a substantial number of people in the later part. The opinion of the British historian was that the outbreak of 1857 as a mutiny, there was no accurate information about the revolt since there were many historians and scholars who give their different viewpoints in regard to this revolt. The fashion was originally set by the

government of the day .Earl Stanley, who was the Secretary of State for India, while broadcasting the event of 1857 to parliament, used the term ”mutiny” and most of the English writers adopt his lead and the writers like Charles of fortune all qualities invaluable for success in intrigue.” It was contended that the circulation of chapattis was originated by the Hindu and the rebellion was successfully engineered by the emissaries of Peshwa under the guidance of Nana Sahib.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

- To understand how the British came in contact with in India.
- To recognized the various policies used by the British to take control over India.
- To understand the participation of the people in the Revolt of 1857 in India.
- To understand the significance of the uprising in the region.
- To explain the contribution of the people in the revolt.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study will be conducted mainly based on the secondary sources. Various books on the concerned topic have been consulted. Also, the research paper from different journal had been used. The data collected from different secondary sources written by different scholars and historians provided abstract idea in the study. The study is mainly focused on the areas where the uprising of 1857 took place in India. The areas where rebellion, conflict, conspiracies and battles had occurred were taken into consideration in this study. Without these sources, this study cannot be conducted in which they were deeply acknowledged.

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The scope of this study is to bring into the limelight the significances of the revolt of 1857 and participation of the people in this revolt. The spirit of the uprising was so intense, that it spread to almost every nook and corner of India. The wave of the uprising reached almost all part of India and the people of this region participated enthusiastically. There were annexation, political interference and subdue of the rajas and the people in this region by the Britishers. The Britishers had done all these for their own political interest but it hurt the sentiment of the people

of this region. Consequently, when the revolt broke out in Meerut on 10th may 1857 and when It reached eastern part the people readily participated in this revolt in their own way. So, this study gives attention to the event that took place the whole of India.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

There is a lot of controversy among the scholars regarding the character of the revolt of 1857. Some historians describe as a well-planned National struggle and First War of Independence, the others described it as a religious war against Christians, a racial struggle between black and white for supremacy, a Hindu, Muslim conspiracy to overthrow the British rule. The English historians have described it as a mutiny of the army which did not command any support of the people in general. It shall be desirable to analysis their views, in some details to determine the character of the revolt. There are many various opinions that have been given by different historians about the revolt, some historian are of views that the revolt in the North Western province was o lawless revolt by a group of sepoy while on the other hand, some are of the view that it was more than just a sepoy mutiny as it had large mass bass. Though in the beginning, it was like sepoy mutiny, but later on it turned out to be a real mass upsurge.

Karle Marx (1975) in his view about the revolt describes this revolt as a Nationalist fight for independence. Whereas Marxist writers looked at this event as the uprising of the peasant against feudal system of exploitation.

DR. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar(1963) wrote in his book entitled’’ Sepoy Mutiny and Revolt of eighteen fifty-seven’’.DR. Majumder thought that this was nothing but the revolt of the sepoy. He also said that in some places few nonmilitary persons came out in support of the sepoy which includes local landlords, talukdars, and feudal leaders. In his opinion, it was nothing better than the feudalistic reaction of the revolt. But many historians are of the opinion that the great movement of 1857A.D cannot be termed as narrow, isolated and reactionary. The sepoys established a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity by electing Bahadur Shah as the Emperor of India. In the Azamgarh, declaration act was given to the people of all classes of mass to unite against the British rule it may be right that they had no idea about national government, but nationalism was there. So it can be called a national movement.

The view of DR. Alexander Duff was that the revolt was Forrest, T.RHolmes, M. Innes, J.W. Kaye, G.F. Mack Munn, G.B. Malleon, C. T. Metcalfe, Earl Robert and other used the term 'mutiny' in this connection. Sir John Lawrence was of the opinion that the mutiny had its origin in the army and its cause was the greased cartridges and nothing else. It was not attributable to any antecedent conspiracy whatsoever, although it was taken advantages of Ball, G.W was that the mutiny was a "wholly unpatriotic and selfish sepoy mutiny with no negative leadership and no popular support." There were also writers who considered the revolt of 1857 the result of Hindu conspiracy. "They possess a power of patience of foreseeing result, of carefully weighing chance ever losing sight of an object desired, taking advent by the mutineers to increased their numbers .The view of Sir John Seeley age of every turn neither Hindu nor Muslim in character. It was the spontaneous outcome of the fraternizing sepoy of all castes and creeds may be considered either as a military revolt or as a bid for recovery of their property and privileges by dispossessed princes and landlord or as an attempt to restore the Mughal Empire or as peasant war.

Professor P.E. Robert accepts the view of John Lawrence and Seeley and observed that the mutiny was mainly military in origin but it occurred at a time when for the various reason there was social and political discontent in the country and the mutineers took advantage of the same.

V.D. Savarkar (1970) wrote in his book called "War of Indian Independence" in which he tried to show how the mutiny was really a war of Indian Independence. Asoka Mehta (1946) has pointed out to the National Character of mutiny in his book entitled "1857, The Great Rebellion." He admits that mutiny was the mainstay of the rebellion and they bore the brunt of the struggle to break the chains that imprisoned India. They gave the backbone to the resistance and became its shield and spear. However, besides the sepoys, millions of Indians took part in the rebellion. They join the struggle to free their country and to redress their grievances. The rapidity with which the revolt spread shows that in some areas at least, the rebellion enjoyed strong mass support.

## CHAPTER 1: CAUSES

During the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Britisher tried to capture a vast area of India under its control. After one hundred years of completion of battle of Plassey, the British Government adopts the method of angry and oppressive in the revolt which was the turning point that laid the foundation of the British rule in India. There were many views and opinion in regard to this revolt, while some British historian called it the sepoy mutiny, while on the other side the Indian historian called it as the revolt of 1857 or the first war of independence.

Due to the revolt it spread a number of disturbances in many parts of the country; the revolt hampered the life of the people. Starting from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards the people started to face a lot of tension, many Indian went through depression for the causes of the revolt. There were several areas where the revolt took place, were chunar rebellion took place in Bihar and Bengal and the Sanyasi rebellion in the North Bengal during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. There was also a peasant rebellion in several places during the mid of 19<sup>th</sup> century, but apart from these movement one of the most momentous movement included were the Fairazi movement took initiated by the Muslim peasants in Bengal and also other movement which was taken by the Moplah peasants of the Malabar. Number of tribal revolt was also observed during the first half of the 19th century. The rebellion of the Santhals of Bihar, the Gonds and Khonds of Orissa and the Bhils of Madhya Pradesh rebellion has been mention. Nevertheless all these problems were not extent and were kept within certain space and time.

Although in some few cases, long drawn, which doesn't poses any kind of serious threat to the British Empire. In the initial stage the revolt start as the revolt of the sepoys army later on slowly it started to get the support of mass people. This revolt fix the people deeply into the grievances which made the Indians society to protect and take care of the British rule. The Indian was tortured in every sphere of life, though it may be politically, socially and economically. In the political sphere the governor general, Lord Dalhousie introduce a new policy Doctrine of Lapse, it is a method of annexation and the expansion of British power. Many of the Indians rulers as well as the chief were forced out of position, thus this fear began in the mind of those other ruling families who comprehend a same destiny. The adopted son of Rani Lakshmi Bai's was not allow to sit on the throne of Jhansi. Many place were capture by using the policy of Doctrine of

Lapse such as the place like Nagapur, Satara and Jhansi. Apart from this places the Udaipur and Jaipur were also captured and came under the control of British. The Britishers refused to continue that the pension of Nana Saheb, by adopting the method of doctrine of lapse .

According to this method of Britishers the adopted sons are not allow or permit to hold any parental properties and since Baji Rao 2 was the adopted son of nana sahib, the Britishers adopt this method to nana sahib, which created bitterness, anger and hatred among the ruling class. Besides this the Britishers also hurt the sentiment of the people for not allowing Bahadur Shah 2 to reside in red fort. When the people heard about this news they were terribly broken down. Another method of Britisher was the annexation which was started by Lord Dalhousie; this policy also hurt the Indian people directly or indirectly. Lord Dalhousie used the annexation policy to annexed Awadhi by giving false excuse that the India's administration is in adequate manner which can be called as mal administration and so as a result of this many thousands of nobles, officials, retainers and soldiers remain jobless.

### **Social and Religious causes;**

The racial discrimination and a superiority complex describe the British administrative behaviour towards the Indian people. The Britishers compel the Indian to adopt the activities of Christian missionaries and so the Indian who followed the British religious method in Indian were looked upon with curious by the native Indian people. The Britisher also find out the way to bring reform in socio religious like the widow remarriage were the widow were allow to remarry and also abolition of sati all these reform hurt the sentiment of those conservative Indian families, and they also work on the upliftment of women educations, all this above mention started to take place in various part of the Indian society which is regarded as intervention of the Britishers in the social and religious domains of Indian society.

The British government also created fear in the mind of the Indian people, the British government also decided to collect taxes from the Indians on the bases of land revenue such as the land for the construction of temple and mosque. The ideas of land revenue taxes on the mosques and temples was adopted by the government's d and also propagate legislative measures, such as the religious disabilities act, 18, according to this act the Hindu was made to change their customs under which the sons are not allow to inherit any parental property after

religion had been changed. It is true that the changes of religion in the Hindu and Muslim society are prohibited as well as a sign of dominating their religion. In the Hindu society the social and religious reforms were considered as interference in the customs and traditions of the Hindus.

Many of the Indians opposed the introduction of western culture in India as it will bring destruction in their religion. The Britisher changed the Hindu law of property to enable a Christian to receive his share of ancestral property. The Britisher created a lot of tension and stress in the Indian society they compel many of Hindu and Muslim people to convert into Christianity. Not only tried to convert them into Christianity but also the Britishers make abused of the Hindu names such as of Ram and Muhammad. Idolatry was also denounced, they make fun of the Indian deities and claimed Hindu deities as ridiculed. All this negative attitude of the Britisher made the Indian realized that they are trying to interfere in their religious law to create disunity among the Indian.

The British East India company tried every technique to demolished their religion .Indians had a lurking suspicion that they would convert to Christianity under the new regime. The fear of the Indian started to increased largely because of the activities some few Christian missionaries who mock openly at the customs and tradition of both the Hindu and Muslims. The Britisher took advantages on the weakness of the Indian and started to make fun of the Indian idol publically with no care and respect. They behavior towards the Indian was beyond limit which was intolerable for the Indians. The government took up all the expenditures of the Britishers for establishing churches at various places around India for opprogating Christianity.

The Britisher also made the civil and military officers to deliver the gospel everywhere they go. They also charge a heavy tax on property held by temple and mosques. In the Hindu law those Hindus who adopt Christianity does not have the right to hold their paternal property .There was also a fear which spread that the government might convert India into Christian country within a short period of time. The enemies of the English spread rumors that the Britishers are trying to destroy religion of the Hindu and so in order to destroy the Hindu religion the Britishers are planning to add the powder of the animals in the salt. Besides this rumours there was also another rumours which spread throughout the India, that the Britishers have drop the flesh of pigs and cows into wells. This rumours critically destroyed the feelings of the Indian people. This crucial act of the Britishers hurt the sentiment of the Muslims and Hindus people. The



Indians were greatly hurt by such stories. A good number of the Indian population was shocked to see the rapid spread of the western civilization in India, as there was a fear in the mind of the Indian people that as the western civilization increase it will gradually affect their religion.

As the western civilization increased in India vice versa the Christian religion will increased which will eventually lead to Christian domination in Indian society which is not acceptable for the Indian people. The British brought changes in the Hindu law under an act in 180 in which the right was given fully to those Hindus who have converted to Christianity to inherit his ancestral properties. Besides, this they also made the missionaries to spread the gospel everywhere to convert all the Indians both the Hindus and Muslims into Christianity. They also spread the news that the government decided to convert all Indians to Christianity which hurt the Hindu and Muslim people, and also alarmed the Hindu and Muslim people. Moreover, the British considered them as superiors.

The Britisher adopted a judicial system based on the principle of equality but in actual practice it was biased this basically to show there sympathy outwardly to the Indians. Though discrimination there was a between the Indians and the British soldiers. The Britisher also used Indians in the field of military. The Britisher considered Indian sepoys as inferior and looked down in every field of life. Though the Indians soldiers and the British soldiers were of the same rank in the army the Indian soldiers were treated differently such as like the payment of salaries, the Indians were paid low salaries as compared to his British counterpart the British considered India as inferior to them and themselves as superior, the Indian were not allowed to hold a high rank, the Indian highest rank was subedars, the Indian were not allow to rise above the rank of subedars and were badly mocked and insulted. The Indian military were paid less salary besides that the Britsher also resist to pay foreign service allowances to the Indians for which the Indians grieved because of it, as the British block all the ways of Indians income.

The large section of Indians conservative society look with great furious upon the introduction of new social reform of the Britishers in the Indian society such as abolition of “sati” as it hurt to those conservative Indians and also encouraged the widow remarriage and also for the upliftment of western education to the Indian women these are all the steps undertaken by the British to create problem in India and to produce misunderstanding amongst the Indian unity, and also it is also determine as examples of intervention in Indian custom and tradition of the country which is

not acceptable for the Indians. The abolition of practices like sati and female infanticides, were threats to the established social structure. The Indians especially the Hindus were very strict in their beliefs and customs, they didn't change it for anyone, but when the British government interfered with many sacred social beliefs of the Indians like widow remarriage, inter marriages, female marriages, sati outlaw, religious neutrality etc.

Indian face a lot of social discrimination, they were treated equal as to the Britishers. They were considered as inferior, they dominate Indians on the bases of caste, religion and race, which create much resentment. There were lot of conflict arises on the bases of religious belief and prejudice in the service of company's army. The Indian were also prohibited to wear caste and sectarian marks and secret rumors of proselytizing activities of chaplains were made to interpreted by Indian sepoys, who generally belong from a conservative family, this is basically to disturb their religious affairs. In the Hindu law, passing across a seas means a sign of losing caste. The government Lord Canning passed the general service enlistment act in 18 were all the army in Bengal those who were appointed were order to serve their service anywhere were the government assign the place. This cause resentment.

The Indian was under full depression, as the British pay less salary to the them under heavy working conditions. The Indian sepoy were not at all satisfied with their salary, fees or profit from the employment, as though they belong to the same rank of the British, the Indians were paid less salary as compare to British counterpart. Even in the areas like Sindh and Punjab the Indians were also not given the foreign service allowances. All methods and techniques were used by the Britishers to exploit the Indian and to bring the Indian to the grass root levels, the condition of the Indian began to get worse and worse after the invention of British in India. After the British annexed the Awadh, number of sepoy families started to established a strong feeling of anger towards the Britshers. The English looked down at Indians and made them realize that they were inferior to them in every step, they were also terribly discriminated on the ground of promotion and privileges, all the good privileges were given and taken by the Britsher.

They made them to work under heavy condition, they made them feel as their slaves, Indian were not give any special treatment, though they belong to the native states. The Indian were not at all happy to see the British rule in India and they continuously oppose the British rule in India. The sepoy who took part in the Revolt was a group of peasant, whose thought was not to deviate

from the rural population. A number of army raised their voice for the grievances in the society and gradually they started to spread their movement for the betterment of the society. Though it was Indians society, the Britsher tried to cover the society by spreading the gospel, and many missionaries also started take root in India Educated Indians. The Britisher also did not accept the proposal of Indian promotion and made them to hold the same post throughout the year of their job. Some Indian who were highly educated were also not permit to hold the post of high office. And so the Indian raise voice against the British for the act of discrimination and inequality.

Another fear that distract the Indian mind was the conversion policy of the Britishers, as the rumours spread the British Government is trying to destroy the Indian religion to bring up the Christian religion in India. Many Indian were force to convert their religion, and in order to promote the Christian religion the British used every trick and methods. Say like the mixing of cow and pig fats in the salt and also by throwing the fats on many of the wells. Day by day the number of Christian missionaries increase in India which create fear in the mind of the Indian, thinking that the Christian may cover up the Indian society.

And besides that the compulsion and force nature of the Britishers to convert their religion create discontent towards the Britishers. The activities of spreading the gospel began to take place in many areas. Missionaries established schools and taught Christianity. Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism were under threat from the British rule as the Christian missionaries used to come to India and promote their religion. Not only they try to convert their religion but they also use the new type of rifle with paper cartridges covered with greased in order to destroyed the sentiment of Hindu and Muslim people. They also adopted a new methods of extracting the resources of the Indian, The policy was to impose taxes on the land of temples and mosques.

They threaten the Indian people that the religion is under their belief, and tried to bring all section of the society under one religion roof. The Indians were not only discriminated on the ground of the political and administrative but as well as on the ground of the economic and social and religious, the Indians were miserably exploitated. Discrimination was all around. The English considered superior in every sphere of life weather it is economic, social, religion or political. All these activities of the British made the Indians feel and view that the Indians are racially inferior and culturally backward. They started to think that god had created them to

civilized by the white men. The Britishers also mock at the idols of the Indians which created a feeling of hatred and discontent between the native and the British. The British also adopt the nature of arrogant and haughty, they made an announcement at Agra which states that including all high or low officers of Indians, all should show respect and give salaam to all the English gentlemen who so ever passes in the streets, and even if the native people happens to be on the horseback or in carriage, he should stand and pay respect until the European passes by. Further, the missionary also show their charitable nature towards the Indians which shock the Indians as the missionaries used to disturb and interrupt the Hindus for worshipping many gods and goddess, they did a lot of efforts to convert the Indians to Christianity, and so as result of their efforts many of the people those who were economically and socially belongs to a backward community they started the paints which display the life of Christianity and it started even in their educational institutions.

All these activities made the Indians feels that their religion is in precarious side. Slowly their fear began to increase which hurt the sentiment of Hindus against the British. Sis Syed Ahmed Khan also stated that because of the famines that arouse in 1837 left many people under depression, and so many people were compel to convert their religion out of poverty. Mr. Edmund, stated that through a missionary many Hindus anxiety and worry has been strengthened. He also send a letter which read as “since all Indians are under the control of one Governments in several part of the country it create a constant communication with the other through with the help of electric telegraph and, so it will be also good if all the people formed one religion and so therefore everyone should except Christianity. There is also another saying by Rev. Kennedy he stated that ” As long as we are in India, we will not forget our main work of promoting christainity in whatever circumstances. And will also continue to put all effort to bring up the Christianity and hold the religion of Christ until we condemns the Muslim religion. Therefore, to work on this, we should put all our efforts in whatever we can by utilizing all the power, to bring all the authority of the India under our control.

After the invention of British in India there were lots of changes in the Indian society , they prohibited the practice of Sati in the year 1829 and also passes the law relating to the succession of property in the year 1832 and allow the remarriage of widow which was passed in the year 18 and lastly but not the least the religious disabilities act passed in 18.The intervention of the

British in social tradition by prohibiting the practice of sati in 1829, passing laws relating to succession of property in 1832 and 18, widow remarriage act in 18 and the religious disabilities act of 18. The British tried to bring disunity among the Indian society and so due to this reason they adopted all the ideas and methods which is against the law of Hindu and Muslim religion. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan says that ” the government is trying to interfere in the religion and customs of the Indians by converting them all into christainity, whether it is Hindus or Muslims, he also said that A Muslim religion Muhammadans was forcefully converted into christainity and insisting to embrace the Europeans lifestyles. And this is how the revolt outburst against the arrogant British. It said because of the conservation of religion the revolt outburst which is known as the war of by the sepoys and later on it started to take part by a good number of people but to some extent religious grievances is not only the reason behind the cause of revolt, there were many other great points to relay on the revolt.

Many Indians were shocked and mesmerized to see the growing population of western civilization in India. In 180 an act was passed by the Britishers regarding the inheritance policy, according to this act the Indian who have converted his religion have the full authority to embrace his ancestral properties. The Britishers also spread the missionaries all around the country to spread the gospel the convert all the Indian people into Christianity. The people also heard the news about the British government policy in regards to conversion of religion. They also break the laws and customs of the Indians by abolishing the practices like Sati and female infanticide, and gave full right to the Indian widow to remarry, which is totally against their law. They adopted all the method which is against their laws and customs. Even the introduction and telegraph was viewed with suspicion. In every sphere the Indians were looked down by the British and was racially discriminated the Indians and segregate themselves from the Indians, as to show their superiority. They did not interact with the Indians and humiliated them. When the queen gave scholarships to international students in London the Indians were discriminated as dirty and filthy. but not Indians were treated like this.

The Indians who would work for the queen, who converted to Christianity and the Indians who were rich in London were treated with honour. Apart from destroying the Indian service condition, there was also a factor inflamed the feelings of the Indian sepoys. There was also a feeling of destroying their religion by the Britisher in the mind of the Indians. This belief made

them to share among the Indian by the general civilian population. The energetic attempt and zeal of British missionaries to convert the Indians created fear among the Indian to convert their religion by instilling fear in the mind of the Indians that their religion was in danger.

The Britisher spread the Christian religion at every places and conversion to Christianity was made compulsion at all places. In order to promote the Christian religion the British government also took up the responsibility to maintain the chaplains at their own cost besides that the missionaries were also provided a special police protection. Even the military maintain chaplain at state cost and Christian propaganda was carried among the sepoy. The Britisher did not allow to wear a caste marks and in the year 18 an act was passed under which the newly recruited were made to work overseas if necessary. The conservative beliefs of the Indian sepoy were shaken by the British. There is an example of 1824, when the 47<sup>th</sup> regiment of the sepoy at Barrackpore doesn't agree to go to Burma by the ship because according to their religion law it is forbade to cross the black water, so as a result this attitude of the sepoy made the British to react ruthlessly, and so the Britishers disbanded the regiment and put some of the sepoy leaders to death.

**ECONOMIC CAUSES;** Although the policy of trade monopoly improve and raise Britishers continuously, they started to obtain their sources even from the land. The Britishers after establishing itself in Bengal, they started to expand its power in India through the process of war and treaties. In order to extract as much as money as possible from the Indians the Britishers introduced a new system of land settlement; such as the permanent settlement, Ryotwari settlement, and Mahalwari settlement this three settlement is each more harsh and cruel than other. The system permanent settlement was prevalent and more effective in Bengal presidency this settlement did not give any hereditary right and mostly in large part of north India did not recognized the hereditary right of peasants on lands, which they had earlier enjoyed. This permanent settlement enables the loyal zamindars and the revenue collector to enjoy the full right they were also now given the rights to control over land. The Britisher give the full right to the money lender and the zamindars to own and sell the land, provided that they should collect the revenue from the peasant.

The Britisher considered the peasants labourers. And so the cultivators were given the status of simple tenants. The Britishers also did not provide an absolute rights to the newly landlords. Their situation of newly landlords was also intentionally left very danger. they had to pay to the

British East India Company 10/11 of the entire rent derived from the cultivators and if the landlord failed to pay the revenue on time to the British the land of the landlord come under the control of Britishers and if not their properties were sold to others. Nevertheless the other land settlement were no better than other settlement. In all of these the peasants had to pay heavy revenue to Britisher beyond their expectation and if there is any natural shift like flood or drought it compelled the peasant to take loans from the money lenders who charged high interest. As a result of high revenue imposed on the peasant this made the peasants remain heavily indebted and so in order to pay their debts they were compelled to sell their lands to the money lenders. The crucial steps taken by the Britishers, which ultimately were forced to sell their lands to these money lenders. It is because of these cruel activities of money lenders there arose hatred in the rural society towards the money lenders. The activities of the money lender was not acceptable at all in the rural society. The peasant was not only exploited by the money lenders but was also oppressed and abused by the officials. Many of the Indians were looked down by the Britishers officials in administration and they also retrieved cash by making false excuses. No peasant have the right to stand for justice, there was no equality of justice, though in peasant rights, the Britishers pretend to give deaf ears, there was no such words equality exists. And if the peasants happen to go to the law court to seek justice for their problems, then they took up such steps that could destroy the life of the peasant.

The life of the peasant were completely destroyed by the Britishers. The condition of the peasant was miserable. The peasant repay back all their past debt to the Britishers when crops turns out to be good but if incase it happens to be bad harvest then they remain as in debtor again. There was a strong relation between the low court, the lower officials and money lender and thus they together oppressed a peasant and so this treatment towards the peasant was intolerable, so they accepted all the decision made by them. The Britishers also separated the middle and upper strata of Indians. Indian of all classes weather lower or higher serves at several places during the time of Mughals. Many of the Indians left their native country to serve in other places as a result the British took control over the Indian administrative taking the advantages of their disappearance and many of the high posts was also occupied by them in their absence.

Many poets dramatist, writer, cultural personnel and dramatist who were working in the native states was also deprived from their states. Apart from this, number of pundits and mauves also

were deprived from their past power and prestige. The East India Company did not spare even the past allies and capture all the princely states. Lord Dalhousie captured the Awadh in 18 by giving false excuse that Nawab Wazid Ali Shah is not a capable ruler and therefore he is misruling the states. But before capturing the Awadh, he had already captured the Satara in 1848 as well as Nagpur and Jansi in 184 by giving false excuse that these states had no heir to succeed after their death. And so after hearing the rumours many rulers of these states began to be discontent towards the Britishers, like Rani of Jansi and begums of Awadh. The British also took up the step of stop giving the pension to the Indian people who doesn't have their own heir, and so they stop the pension of Nana Sahib who was the adopted son of Peshwa Bajirao II. Many of the sepoys feel bitterness for the annexation of Awadh as many of them arrive from there. Their sense of dignity and patriotic loyalty were hurt by their action. Since their relatives receive a good number of taxes from land, it affected the life of sepoys.

The British rule the native states separately, they segregate from the Indian people and at the same time they also treat the upper class as inferior. They never mixed with the Indians and always stay away from Indians. They underestimated the power of the Indians. The main purpose of British invasion to India was to extract the resources and money to their country and to ruin the Indian administration, industries, agriculture etc. with the Indian resources the British developed their country. Since the Britishers used every method for the development of their own country, so the Indians were not happy at all with them and never tried to make any close relation with them. They also used many policies to destroy Indian economic and their traditional structure, this resulted to widespread of resentment among the Indian people. The British receive a handsome amount of rent free land and a cash whenever a princely state was captured. The common people faced unemployment and poverty. When Awadh was occupied by the British, Nawab's officials were dismissed and his army was disbanded. Around 10,000 professionals lost their livelihood. The Indian traditional fabric was ruined by the policy of East India Company.

The Britishers' new form of policy to retrieve the Indian economy, they impose unnecessary taxes through the revenue settlement. Indian society came in the line of poverty, the society became worse and worse day by day, there was no such sign of improvement, the Britishers extract the Indian economy through the heavy taxation. In order to pay their taxes the peasants take loans from the moneylender or traders at very high interest rates. When the peasants fail to pay the taxes, the



money take control over the land of the peasant and chase the farmer from their land. The moneylender and the traders become the owner of the land. The British rule in India also brought lots misery in artisans and handicraftsmen.

The Britisher destroy the Indian industry to sell out their goods, which effect the life of many Indian artisans and handicraftmen, since the artisans and handicraftmen depend their livelihood on industry, so as soon as the industry decline they were compel to work under the control of Britishers, under heavy working condition with less pay. After the British took control over the Indian society, the Indians relation with kings were also started to fail and so they stop receiving support or sponsorship from them. Inorder to promote the British goods, the Britisher started to criticize the Indian goods and also close all the Indian industry in other Europeans countries. As the Indian industry decline many Indian aritsan and professional handicraftsmen remain jobless, so the British insist the Indians to search for other job that rarely existed. In 183 Karl Mark the great philosopher stated that “it was the british who brought problem in Indian handloom and hamper the spinning wheel. He also said that the England rejected Indian cotton from the European market; it then introduced twist into Hindustan and in the end inundated the very mother country of cotton with cottons.”.The Zamindars who was the traditional landed aristocracy, said that the administration always deprive the land right with continues use of quo warranto. As a result it effected the status of the Indians in the village. In the storm center of the revolt, around 21,000 Taluqdars land were seized which effect the income and livelihood of the taluqdars , as they are notable to work, as well as ashamed to beg. To regain the land the taluqdars took the opportunities given to them by the sepoy to fight against the British for their lost lands. Because of the Heavy taxation on the peasant and also discrimination on the Indian handicrafts products the life of the peasant, artisans and small Zamindars were destroyed.

Many of the Indians remain unemployment after the British took control over the Indians states. One of the main reason for the Indian discontent was the policy of exploiting the Indian economic. The Britishers want the Indian to come under their country, so that they can rule over the whole Indian society. This was the crucial act of the Britishers which deeply hurt the feelings of the Indian people in various section of the society. During the British rule the peasant was the main victim, which suffers alots. The Britisher main on the peasant was to exploit them by imposing heavy taxes. The peasant was also given a heavy work with less wages. They were

treated like slaves. They suffer a bad life during the British rule. Besides the peasant, the Britishers also enter in the life of Artisans and craftsmen, in order to ruin the life of artisans and craftsmen, they close all the Indian industries even in the European states. They manufactured a similar goods like the Indians and sells at cheap rate. They also impose taxes on the Indians goods were as on the other side they freely import their good in India. Due to British misrule, the Indians who depend their living by adopting religious and cultural began to lose their income, as their relation with relation with the royal patronage was disconnected. During those period their was maladministration and alots of corruption which create miseries in the life of the people. Due to the British policies of economic, industry, trade and commerce and agriculture destruction, the Indian society was completely demolished and came in the poverty line and remain indebt. Lord William Bentinck stated himself that during between 1833 to 1834 “the misery hardly finds a parallel in the history of commerce. The bones of cotton weavers are bleaching the plains of India.”

According to the parliamentary report of 1840 it is said that the British goods like the cotton and silk which imported to India paid a duty of VA percent and only 2 percent for the woolen goods while on the other hand the Indian good which exported to the British colony was paid a high tax, they charge 10 percent for cotton, 20 percent for silk and 30 percent for the woolens goods. Further in order to deindustrialized the India, they also abolished the policy of monopoly of trade in 1813 and introduced a new policy of free trade in 1833, the reason behind the introduction of free trade is to freely import the British goods in India without paying any taxes to the Indians and to exploit the Indian goods and resources. The Britisher exploited the Indians in such a way that they will never ever able to recover their losses. Seeing the terrible exploitation of the Indian economic by them that atlast they also feel so bad to themselves and noted “ India is most manufacturing country, and their various goods have existed for ages and there is no such Nation that could compete with them. And now to destroy India and reduce to an agriculture country be injustice act to India.” The above mention statement was the opinion of a Britishers Mr. Martin. Besides Mr. Martin, there was also another statement given by the Britisher Mr. Cope in 1840 before the parliamentary committee “I have great sympathy towards the East India labourers but at time I also have a great feelings of love and care for my family rather than to the East India labourers family. And it will be wrong on my part if I sacrifice the comforts of my family for the

sake of the East India Labourers.” Due to the above mention reason the Britishers took up the steps to exploited all the economic of the Indians.

The Britishers exploited all the classes of people, the peasants, labourers and the middle class of India, landlords, traders, industrialists. Because of the steps taken by the Britishers it terribly affected all section of the society and the poverty enveloped the whole society and made India an underdeveloped country. In the rural area, peasant and zamindars was made to pay a high taxes on land and also strict regulation, requirement and condition were used in the revenue collection by the company. Many of the peasant and zamindars fail to pay the heavy taxation revenue demand and to pay the taxes to the company, the peasant took a high interest of loan from the moneylender. A good number of sepoy relinquished from the peasantry and lived with their families in the village, so this is how the grievances of the peasant effected the life of sepoy.

The exploitation made by the British and the widespread of destruction in the traditional economic structure caused bitterness and irritation among all the section of the people. But when the Industrial Revolution began in England, the British started to sell their goods India which affected the Indian industries, mainly the textile industry in India. The Indian handicraft industries were in a deplorable condition, the handicraft industry was made to compete with the cheap machine made goods of British. There was drastically change in India, the Indians were force to supply the raw materials and to be a consumer of Britain manufactured goods. A large number of people depend their livelihood on the royal patronage and as soon as their relation with royal patronage got disconnect they remained unemployed.

**MILITARY CAUSES:** is also considered as one of reason for the outbreak of the revolt of 187. During the time of the revolt there were many discontentment among the Indian soldiers. The highest paid rank to the Indian soldiers were not more than the subedars. The Indian soldier were discriminated even in the flied of the military, there were treated as the British slaves, there is no such part to say that the Britisher were good towards the Indians. Many a time there was no promotion for an Indian soldiers, the Indian promotion was rare, though the Indian soldiers work hard there is no change of holding high post nor a vacant place were reserved for the Indians. The Indian were recruit as Risalder and also resign as Risalder.

Moreover the British Government does not trust the Indian soldiers. The self respect of the soldiers of the soldiers was trampled upon at every steps. Though there were less British troops in India nevertheless the British East India company was able to recruit without any difficulties from the native Indians. The ratio of the troops had been fixed by the former governor general as one british soldiers to three native soldiers and had never been less than one to four. Basically the native soldiers were the low cost Afghans or Turkish mercenaries. Inorder to make the army national, the sons of the landlords and peasant were intentionally recruited. In the army of Bengal 3/4 army serving as the infantry regiment basically came from the Awadh. The army of Awadh enjoy all the rights and privileges before the annexation of the Awadh in 18. The people of Awadh also treated with contempt as their slaves. It is very true that inspite of been loyal to the Britisher the Indians were provided with lots of troubles and hardships, which created tension among the Indians. In 182, 38<sup>th</sup> native infantry disagree to cross the sea to go to Burma.

However in 18, the General Service Enlistment act was passed which give complete permission to take the soldiers out of the India. the number of Indian troops were large as compare to the british troops which gave the Indian troops a self confidence, there were also small mutinies and near mutinies at different places. There were also a signs of hatred between the white and the coloured people. The Indian had a fear of breaking their caste by the Britishers. The rumours of conversion circulated among the native soldiers, and also all the all the armies of the company had been killed in Burma and all the Britisher are in the Crimean war. Inorder to convert the Indian religion the Britshers also English women were to India to marry the Indian prince whose children would then became Christians. Substantial number of Indians were murder under the parade ground. The Brithers mixed ground bullock bones with sugar and compel the Indian sepoy to eat cow's flesh, all these are the filthy bahaviour of the britishers towards the Indians. Even after hearing all the filthy work of the britisher the Government did not pay any attention towards the Indians inspite they tried to ignore the problem .During the time revolt the Government was also corrupt and the native society was misgoverned. Although outwardly the situation seemed to be calm but there was highly inflammable situation and some of the common cause was to unite the different religions against the British and that is through the process of the greased cartridges .In this revolt Indian soldiers formed 7/8 on the side of British. The Indian people face a lot of discrimination and hardship during the British rule as were also a part of integral Indian society. Besides, this they had also other grievances. Indian were underestimated

and always considered as inferior in every part and they were treated more or less like slaves, by many high official Britishers. Though of the same rank of the Britisher the Indians were paid much less than the British soldiers. In the military field the Indian were looked upon as contempt and were considered as weak and fragile.

All the good opportunity was given and hold by the Britishers and also the higher army posts were booked only for the British though the Britisher were not highly qualified they were given good opportunity to hold good post were as on the other hand the Indian were treated as inferior to them to make Indian stay under their control. Besides There were also many other important and many immediate causes which brought bad feelings among the sepoys. After the British captured Awadh the fear arose in the mind of the Indian, they seems their religion be in precarious. They order and forbade the sepoys from wearing caste and sectarian marks which terribly and deeply hurt their sentiments. And also the act of 181 which stated that the newly recruits were allow to travel overseas, if needed. But this act hurt the sentiment of the Hindu sepoys as according to the popular Hindu belief and law, the travel across the seas is prohibited in their law, which mean a sign of discriminating their caste. There was also another problem created by the Britishers to the Indians, that was to stop the foreign service allowance, which made the Indian sepoy to fought outside the Country. Though the revolt of 1857 was started by the sepoy mutiny but later on it is said that the other element joins the revolt. It is said that more than 87 of Indian sepoy was formed as the British troop in India. the Britisher was bias in the military they did not treat the Indians as equal to the British. there was no law of equality in the military field. Though the Indian sepoy belongs to the same rank of the European sepoy, the Indian sepoy was paid less as compared to the European sepoy, besides this the Indian sepoy was not allotted to raise their rank higher than the Subedar, the maximum rank hold by the Indians were the subedars. The Indian were not allow or permit to raise higher nor lower than the suborder rank they always remain in the same rank, beside even if the Indian belong to the same rank of the European sepoy the Indians were paid less salary.

One of the main causes which affected the service of the Indian sepoys was the expansion of empire by the Britishers..Because of British expansion of their empire in India, the India sepoy service was adversely affected. The British rule in India extracted all the Indian resources. And also during the British rule in India, the Indian had to undergo many grievances, the Indians

faced many ups and downs, the Indian condition was deplorable, the Indians were treated more or less like the slaves. The Britishers also made the Indian sepoy to serve in the areas where there will be less communication with their family.. And in the year 1856 Lord Canning adapted the General Service Act, according to the act the sepoys must accept to serve in any of the British land across the sea. And the Britisher in Awadh also appointed the high caste Bengal army communities only. But were as the Bengal army was not ready to cross the ocean called Kala Pan, as per according to their religious law it is considered as the sin. This method of British made the Bengal army to create suspicious in their mind that the Government was trying to convert the Indians to Christianity.

The Britishers conquered the whole of Awadh so the Nawab's army was disbanded, and so as they lost their livelihood they became the worse enemies of the Britishers. The Indian consist of 7/8 of the total British troops in Indian were also the integral part of the Indian society, they too suffered the consequences of the oppressive rule. The Indian were also looked as an inferior to Britishers and they treated the Indian with contempt by the British soldiers. All the platform of the promotion were closed for the Indians as the higher posts were reserved for the Britishers. The Indians were also influenced by the general fear that their religion was in danger. they also order the Indians sepoys to forbade from wearing the caste and sectarian marks, all these act hurts the sentiment of the Indian deeply. Another causes that arose ten month prior to the outbreak of the rebellion was the General Service Enlistment Act of July 18. It has been broadcast that the men of the Bengal Army had been exempted from overseas service. Specifically they were enrolled only for service in territories to which they could march. The governor general Lord Dalhousie saw this act as an peculiarity, since all the sepoys of the Madras and Bombay Armies had accepted responsibilities to serve overseas if required. As the result the work of sending contingents for active service in Burma and China had fallen disproportionately on the two smaller presidency Armies.

As signed into effect by Lord Canning, Dalhousie's successors as Governor General, the act required only new recruit to the Bengal Army to accept a commitment for general service, however to serve high caste sepoys were fearful that can be extended to them, as well as prevention sons from following the foot steps of Fathers to join army with strong tradition of family service. There was also deprivation of foreign service allowances to the Indians sepoys

and a mal treatment to the Indian soldiers in the East India Company, there were also tension on the issue of the promotion, based on seniority. Another reason for the slow progress for the promotion of the Indian sepoy were because of the increasing number of the European officers in the battalions, which effect many Indians officers to reach commissioned rank until they were too old to be effective.

**Political causes:** The British policy of effective control and gradual extinctive of the Indian native states took a definite shape with the perfection of the Subsidiary Alliance System under Lord Wellesley. Its logical culmination was reached under Dalhousie who threw all codes of morality and political conduct to the winds and perfected the infamous Doctrine of Lapse. Dalhousie annexation and the Doctrine of Lapse had caused suspicion and uneasiness in the minds of the almost all ruling princes in India. The right of succession was denied to the Hindu princes. The guarantee of adoption to the throne “ did not extent to any person in whose veins the blood of the founder of the dynasty did not run”. The distinction between dependent states and protected allies was very thin and looked more alike hair splitting.

In case of disputed interpretation, the decision of the East India Company was binding and that the court of Directions final. There was no supreme court to give an impartial verdict on questions of right and wrong. While the Punjab, pegu, Sikkim had been annexed by the application of the Doctrine of Lapse. Oudh was annexed on the pretext of “the good of the governed’. Regal titles of the Nawabs of carnatic and tanjor were abolished and the pension of Peshwa Baji Rao2’s adopted son was stopped. The Indians held that the existences of all states was threatened and absorption of all states was a question of time. The common belief current was that annexation were not because of the doctrine of Lapse, but due to the lapse of all morals on the part of the East India Company. That the fear of the people were not without foundation is clear from the correspondence of one of the architects of British India, Sir Charles Napier, who wrote “ were 1 emperor of India foe twelve years...no India prince should exist. The Nizam should no more be heard of....Nepal would be ours....”. Malleson has rightly stated that the policy of Dalhousie and the utterance and writing of other high official had created ‘ bad faith and Indians got the feeling that the British were ‘ playing the wolf in the grab of the lamb’. The Muslims feelings had been grievously hurt. Bahadur Shah 2, the Mughals Emperor, was an old man and might die any moment. Lord Dalhousie who was in favour of retaining an imperium in

imperio had recognized the succession of prince Faqir ul Di, but imposed many strict condition on him. After Faqir ud Din's death in 18 ,Lord Canning announced that the prince next in succession would have to renoun the regal title and the ancestral Mughal places in addition to the renunciation agreed upon by Prince Faqir ul Din.

These acts greatly unnerved the Indian Muslims who thought that the English wanted to humble to house of Timur. In other words of Alexander Duff: “ The Mohammadans have for the last hundred years not ceased to pray, like privately in their house and publicly in their mosques throughout India for the prosperity of the house of Timur or Taimurlane, whose lineal representative is the titular emperor of Delhi. But the prosperity of the house of Timur, is their estimation, undoubtedly implies neither more nor less than downfall of the British power, and the reestablishment of their own instead. In their case, therefore, disaffection towards the British Government with an intense longing for it speedy overthrow is sedulously nurtured as a sort of sacred duty which they owe alike to their Faiths and the memory of their ancestors”. The absentee sovereignty of the British rule in India was an equally important political factor which worked on the minds of the Indian people against the British. The pathans and the Mughals who had conquered India had, in course of time, settled in India and become Indians. The revenue collected from the people were spend this very country. In the case of the British, the Indians felt they were being ruled from England from a distance of thousand of miles and the country as being drained of her wealth. Besides, the policy of pax Britanncia by the British during the past four decades had led the disbanding of Pindaris, thugs, and irregular soldiers who formed the bulk of the native armies. These people had lived mostly on plunder, and when deprived of the means of livelihood by the British, they formed the nucleus of antisocial element in different areas. When in 187, there occurred some disturbances they swelled the rank of the rebels.

**IMMEDIATE CAUSE;** there are many reason behind the revolt of 187 but one of the main reason behind the revolt of 1857 was also the incident of greased cartridges. During the war the rumors spread all over that the cartridges of the new Enfield rifles were smear with the fats of cows and pigs, this rumours basically hurt the sentiment of the Hindu and Muslim people, they started to have negative thoughts about the britishers, they think that the britisher are trying to convert their religion. The rumours spread that during the war before loading these rifles the



sepoys had to bit off the paper on the cartridges, so after hearing the rumors the Hindu and Muslim was alarmed and therefore they refuse to use the cartridges. But it was Lord Canning who tried to make minor changes for the mistake and offending cartridges were withdrawn, but nevertheless it was too late by then the damage had been taken.

The conflict started in several places. On March 1857, Mangal Pandey, who was the sepoy in Barrackpore, had refused to use the cartridges and so he attack his senior British officers ,and as a result, he was hanged to death on 8th April. Besides Mangal Pandey there was also many Indian soldiers who refuse to use cartridges as the rumour spread that the rifle was smear with the fats of cows and pigs Followed by this on 9th May,85 soldiers in Meerut refused to use the new rifle and so 85 of them was sentenced to ten years of imprisonment. The refusal act of the Indian sepoy describe by the British as an act of the insubordination and due to their refusal act the Indian sepoy was given several punished.

The English make an attack in return for their refusal act and cause to break up the regiment and impose heavy punishment to the guilty sepoy. The Britisher not only punished the Indian sepoy but also imprisoned 8 Indian sepoy on may 187 for refusing to use the greased cartridges, this act greatly hurt the sentiment of the Indian sepoy, and so inorder to show their Indian power they began to target the britisher for their inhuman act towards them and so on May 10, 1857, they attack the Britisher officer and shot to dead and also released their fellow sepoy who were under the British control. And later on they started to march towards Delhi. The European forces who were under the command of General Hewitt, who were present in Meerut failed to deal with the issues. The revolt had also began in Delhi on May 12,187 and capture the same after encountering same resistance from Lieutenant Willoughby, the officers in charge. At Delhi, a number of European inhabitants was shot to death by the Indian sepoy. They also declared Bahadur Shah 11, who was the Mughal Emperor as the emperor of India. The britisher were very disappointed as the sepoy invaded Delhi. The capture of Delhi by the rebels gave a serious issues to the prestige of English. Not only Delhi they soon started to capture the cities like Lucknow, Bareilly, Kanpur, Agra, Jhansi, central India and several other places.

The Indian sepoy not only captured the cities but also put to death to many of the Europeans in almost many of the places and free many Indian who were imprisoned. Some of the momentous Indian Leaders who led the Mutineers were such as Nana Sahib, Rani Laxmi Bai, Tantia Tope,

Kunwar Singh, Aimullah Khan and Ahmad Shah etc. During the beginning period of Mutiny, the English were on the safe side. But subsequently, they made sufficient arrangement to deal with the situation effectively. In addition to recruiting about 3,10,000 they requisitioned 1,12,000 soldiers in India. Luckily, for the English, the Mutiny did not spread beyond Narbada.

The Sikhs in Punjab and Salarjang in Hyderabad provide great service to the English in overpowering the revolt. In September 187 the English with the support of the Sikh soldiers from Punjab was easily able to captured Delhi from the rebel. The britisher killed a good number of inhabitants as well as they arrested the Emperor. This is how the Englishmen succeeded to overpower the revolt. During the revolt the British government also took active part to suppress the Indians in the revolt, they put all their forces to overtake the power in the revolt. For four month the sepoy fought with their limited strengths. Then, the sepoy had to withdraw. On 2th September British troops overtook the power of Delhi. The britishers arrested Bahadur Shah. And at the same time Nana Saheb lost the battle of Kanpur. But one of his commander TantiaTopi did not give up the fight and continued the fight up to April 1859A.D, and surrendered to the British force. Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi also lost her life in the battleground. And simultaneously all the kings started to lost their life one after the other followed by Kunwar Singh, Bakht Khan of Bihar, Bahadur khan, Moulavi Ahmed of Faizabad. And by the end of 1859 A.D, the British power was reestablished in trouble areas.

## **CHAPTER 2: FAILURE OF THE REVOLT**

It is said that the revolt was a failure because of some inhuman act of the Britisher towards the Indian sepoys. It was on April 27 1857 the British east India company posted 8 soldiers of the Bengal regiment at Meerut, the Britishers also made the Indian to use the newly enfield rifles which was smeared with the fats of cows and pig, this inhuman act of Britisher is a gesture of underestimating the religion of the Indians which deeply hurt the feelings of the Indians, the decision of newly Enfield rifles was not expected by the Indian and therefore they did not agree the plan and decision enforce to them by the British senior officers. As a result the harsh punishment was imposed to those Indian soldiers who did not except their decision and that was also punished publically in front of their colleagues, as the result the war broke out by the mutiny and slowly many Indian peoples started to take part. There were many reasons behind the failure of the Revolt.

Firstly, the revolt of 1857 was localized, restricted and poorly organized. The Bombay and the madras armies remained loyal. Indian South of the Narbadda was very little disturbed. Sind and Rajasthan remained quiet and Nepal's help proved of great avail in the suppression of the Revolt. Dost Mohammad, the ruler of Afghanistan, remained friendly. The Punjab was effectively controlled by John Lawrence. The worst affected areas were Western Bihar, Oudh, Rohilkhand, Delhi, and the territory between the Chambal and the Narbada.

Secondly, the resources of the Britishers Empire were far superior to those of the rebels. Luckily for the British the Crimean and the Chinese wars had been concluded by 1856, and British troops numbering 1,12,000 poured into Indian from all part of the world. About 3,10,000 additional Indian soldiers were recruited in India. The Indians soldiers had a few guns and muskets and mostly fought with swords and spears. On the other hand, the Europeans soldiers were equipped with the latest weapons of war like the Enfield rifle about which Nana Sahib said "The blue caps kills before they fire". The electric telegraph kept the commander in chief informed about the movement of the Indian rebels and their strategy. A concerted plan was formed to suppress the rebellion. Russell, the correspondent of the times of London, summed up the advantages of electric telegraph thus, "Never since its discovery has the electric telegraph played so important and daring a role as it now does in India, without it the commander in chief would lose the effect of half his force. It has served him better than his right arms". Considering the vast resources of

the British Empire and her naval superiority, it may be said that even if the English had been driven back to the coastal areas or into the sea, before long she would have conquered India by her superior military strength.

Thirdly, the revolt of 1857 was mainly feudal in character carrying with it some nationalistic elements. The feudal element of Oudh, Rohilkhand and some other parts of Northern India led the rebellion; other feudal princes like the Rajas of Patiala, Jhind, Gwalior, and Hyderabad helped in its suppression. European historians have greatly praised Sir Dinkar Rao, the minister of Gwalior, and Salar Jung, the Wazir of Hyderabad, for their loyalty. In the movement of crisis Canning said; "if the Sindhia join the Mutiny, I shall have to pack off tomorrow". Canning acted very wisely when he gave solemn assurances to the Indian princes and thus won over their support. The Indian princes were amply rewarded after the suppression of the rebellion. The districts of Berar were restored to the Nizam and his debts remitted. Nepal was rewarded by the cession of some Oudh territory. The Sindhia, the Gaikwar and the Rajput princes also received some rewards or concessions. The revolt was poorly organized. The leaders of the revolt were not lacking in bravery, but were deficient in experiences, organizing ability and concerted operations. Surprise attacks and guerilla tactics could not win them their lost Independence. The various commissions and boards appointed by the Government of India and provincial government after the suppression of the rebellion could not find any plan behind the rebellion or any scheme on which the movement was launched. The trail of Bahadur Shah 2 proved that the rebellion was as much a surprise to him as to the British.

Fourthly, the rebels had no common ideal before them except the anti-foreign sentiments. Bahadur Shah 2 was declared the emperor at Delhi, while at Kanpur and Gwalior Nana Sahib was proclaimed the Peshwa. Hindu and Muslim differences lay dormant against the common enemy, but in the Bombay and Madras armies were recruited from the lower castes and they remained loyal.

Fifthly, the East India Company was fortunate in having the services of men of exceptional abilities in the Lawrence brothers, Nicholson, Outram, Havelock, Edwards etc. they fought the toughest battles in the stages of the revolt and controlled the situation till reinforcements were received from abroad.

It was ruthlessly quelled by the British within six months. Therefore the movement turns out to be a failure, and they could not able to achieve any of its objectives due to many reasons. The revolt of 1857 is considered as one of the biggest event in the history of India, though it has very less chance of success against an organized and powerful enemy.

The revolt of 1857 was overpowered within a little over a year of its outbreak. There were many reasons behind the failure of the revolt. The revolt lost its power after few months and within a short period of time it was completely suppressed the government. The failure of the revolt mesmerized many people but it was not unexpected. The revolt did not spread all over the part of the country, nor did the group or the section of the people take part in the revolt. The revolt was spread only upto U.P, Delhi and West Bengal. It does not assume any National character. Most of the south and the west India remained largely outside the fold of the revolt. A good number of the Indian rulers refused to give a helping hand to the rebels and some of them were openly hostile to the rebels and helped the British in overpowering the revolt. Most of the upper and the middle classes and the modern educated Indians also refuse to support the revolt.

It is said that the revolt was an unorganized effort. The rebels were poor in ideology which could be required in the captured areas. Due to the lack of ideology none of them knew what to do after the capture of a region. There was also lack of leadership in the movement, which made the movement fragile. Lack of coordination and central leadership was also the reason for the failure. Though there were some leader in the revolt but they were not capable leaders, they have no idea or experience about the leader, they possess no leadership quality which is very essential to lead the war. As compare to Indians, the Britisher have brilliant leaders who could lead and guide them in the war. The Indian also did not get any support from the people which become their weakness. The Britisher also keeps a strong bond with the eastern, western and southern part of India, from where the forces were sent to suppress the revolt. Sikh soldiers of the Punjab areas also remain loyal to British. Besides this support they also receive a support from various section of Indian public silently, as a result all these support become the courage and strength for the British.

Many of the revolutionaries were brave but there was lacked of leadership qualities. Most of the leaders lacked a national perspective and were confined by narrow and personal gains. Most of the leaders fought only for their comfort and also to liberate their own territories. There were no

such National leaders to coordinate the movement and give it a purpose and direction. Another reason for the failure of the revolt was the shortage of weapons and finances. The resource utilized by the Britisher was all modernized which is far superior to those of the rebels which were outdated. In addition with sophisticated weapons, the Britishers also introduced new scientific invention such as the telegraph system and postal communication. The main reason behind the invention of telegraph and postal service is to keep in touch with the Indian to receive all the information about the Indian administration, in order to extract all the resources of the Indians, the reason behind all those invention was for their beneficial. With the help of their telegraph and postal service the British connect with several part of the country. The revolutionaries lacked resources such as men, money, discipline, organization. The resources of the Britishers government were much more superior as compare to those of the rebels. The arms and weapons of the rebel used by the rebel was inferior. The Indian sepoy those who belongs to the British army were also not allow to used their sophisticated weapons, which proved that the British treat Indians as inferior to them. The British took advantage on the weakness of the Indian sepoy and humiliate them to suppress them. Moreover the Britishers have some brilliant generals to command them in the war field. The little weapons which exist were also outdated which were incomparable to the modern weapons of the Britishers. The rebels fought the revolt with the outdated weapons while the Britishers used all the sophisticated weapon in the revolt. This is also one of the reasons why the rebels had less chances of success. The Crimean and the Chinese wars was concluded in the year 18 which helped the British Government to pour out the whole energy to India.

The Commander in chief also receives information about the movement of the Indians from the electric telegraph. Moreover the rebels had few supports most of the Sikhs, Gorkhas and the Rajputs gave supports to the government, the rulers of Kashmir, Rajasthan and the Patiala also gave a helping hand to the British government. There were many rulers such as the Scindias, Holkars, Nizma of Hyderabad, Nawab of Bhopal, Rajas of Patiala, Nabha, Jind Jodhpur etc, besides this there were also big Zamindars and the traders who strongly supported the British. The Battalions of the Sikhs, Gorkha and the Rajput also remained royal to the British to overpower the revolt. Besides, the rebels were also poorly organized. There was no coordination in the uprisings of the revolt in many of the country. They are not enable to carry through their early military successes. There was also no proper planning and organization. The risings took at

different places were loose and also loose the connection. Revolt did not take place at the same time. In the revolt there were also no common aims and ideals. All the leaders involve in the revolt had different aims ,the only one common aim of the leaders were the anger against the foreign government. Nana Sahib aim was to restore the power of the Peshwa, and on the other hand Bahadur Shah wanted to restore the power of Mughals. In many of the places the people were scared by the cruelty of the rebels. All the people fought for their own benefit, the princes fought for to regain their lost prestige, and the taluqdars jointed regain their privileges, and the peasant for the loses of their economic, there were no unity among the people in the revolt. All rebels fought in different groups. In times of need they could bring all the forces together which could worked as their strength towards their enemies. There were no such able leaders and genius leaders who can lead them to the destiny of the country.

The rebels regarded Bahadur Shah as old and feeble emperor, they regard Nana Sahib as brave but he does not posses any foresight, Tantia Tope and Kanwar Singh though both them does not possess any title to their credit to attract popular attention but attract popular attention, but according to them the best among them was Rani Laxmi Bai, who possess all the leadership qualities she have the quality to lead the a large number of military. Her death gave a great blow to the rebels The revolutionaries like Malleson and Wilson said that although the revolt was to start on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1857 but due to the incident of newly Enfield rifles resulted in its premature. The revolt did not start on the fixed date which created hurdle for the Indian sepoy as they were not prepared of stuffs to utilized for the war and so due to lack of awareness they struggles in the revolt which became their weakness. Because of lack of vision, strategy and planning on the part of the rebel force the revolt was a doomed for the rebels. There was also no proper leadership to guide or to led them in the revolt, since there was no proper leaders they lack ideas and thought, there was no one to share their ideas or thought how to lead the revolt, were ideas and thoughts play an important role in the revolt, they lack the most essential part. Their mind was not broaden and they confine only with narrow minded. The britishers were also fighting with their back against the wall because this is the only for them. They were stuck in the middle of nowhere.

Once the British secure a position from which further progress may be made, they extract all the resources and made a big assault on Delhi with full force and energy. Lack of response was also

another causes for the failure of the revolt, only the three big cities rebelled with the result that the Britishers didn't have to fight on different front. If the rebel would have been succeed in getting similar revolts and uprising in a dozen cities across the country, the situation would have been different. Almost all the southern India remained passive with only sporadic and haphazard outbreak of violence. Since it was ruled by Nizam many of the states did not participate in the war. The feudal elite as well as the rulers of the states play a very important role by extending moral, political and financial support, for crushing the uprising of the lower middle class of Bengal. The Sikh fought with vengeance, as the Britisher annexed Punjab 8 years ago with the support of Bengalis. In the same, the Pathans who belong from North West Frontiers province and also Potoharis who were from Northern Punjab were on the side of British for capturing Delhi. It was analysis that there was unequal fight between a decaying agriculture empire and a rising industrial empire in which the die was cast before the battle began. Although India used to produce 2percent of world GDP in the 100s but more than 80 percent of her income was produced by the agriculture sector. As the population grew there was enough supply of labour force, preventing the necessity to use machine in agriculture operation or its value addition. The revolt of 1857 failed due to weak leadership and also it was not well organized.

The Indian soldiers were not well trained and also had no experience about the war were as on the other side the British soldiers were well trained and were well equipped troops. Besides, the Indian weakness the Indians leader Bahadur Shah was not brave general to lead the soldiers in the war. The revolt also failed to extent to large Part of the country, and at the same time many population did not support it. Several societies like the moneylender, merchant And modern educated Indian were also not in the support of the revolt, rather they were against the revolt. There were lack of interest in the revolt, many population did not show their interest towards the revolt, the lack of interest shown by the intellectual in the movement was major problem. some few who support the revolt was on the side of the Britishers. Some of the loyalists were the Nizam of Hyderabad, Sikander Begum of Bhopal, Sir Jang Bahadur and Maharaja Sindha of Gwalior.

Many groups of rebels fought the war for different reasons and serve and remained loyal only to their respective leaders. Each of them seek to reestablished the order of their leaders. By making Bahadur Shah the as the emperor of Hindustan, the rebels seek to bring back the medieval



political order rather than replace it with an alternative political authority. Nana Sahib and Tantia Tope tried to revive the Maratha power while on the other side Rani Lakshmi Bai, tried to regain the lost territories. We're not The revolt of 1857 has become the landmark event in the history of India. The revolt start early before the fixed date, much before the scheduled date which led the revolt into crushed and as a result failed miserably. The revolt broke out in an uncertain situation in the country for which the people were not mentally prepared. They were not aware about their role in that emergency. It is considered as one of the first great event of Indians to struggle for freedom from British imperialism. After the revolt it is said that it saw major changes in British policies and also in the administrative set up of India. By July 1858, the revolt was completely suppressed. The revolt has brought the feelings of nationalism in the mind of the Indians masses. All the above said factors were the combine causes which lead to the downfall of the revolt.

## CHAPTER 3: NATURE OF THE REVOLT

In the history of India the revolt of 1857 is known as the most momentous chapter, as it was the movement taken by the Indian to fight for the freedom. There were lots of misunderstanding about the views of the revolt among the different scholars and the Historians. Many views exists about the revolt but it has divided only in two categories. There are lots of differences in the opinion in regards to the revolt. There are various views and opinion that has been expressed by different historians and scholars as regards to the character or nature of the revolt of 1857. Some historians are of the view that was a lawless revolt by the group of sepoys in the province of North western.

Whereas on the other side some historians says that it was not just an sepoys mutiny as a large number of people were involve in the revolt. Though it was just a sepoys mutiny in the initial part of the revolt but gradually it turned out to be a real mass upsurge. In support to the opinion expressed by some of the modern historians it is said that some of the common people along with the support of the sepoys revolted at several places in the Northern and central India. There also came up with the opinion that some common people in some common places came forward to fight with the British with ordinary weapons which was completely outdated. Were as on the other side the British used sophisticated weapon. The Indians first and foremost chief target was to destroy the nearby British factories. And also in areas like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar peasant and artisans also revolted against the British rulers as also the Zamindars, a new class created by them. The rebels did not show any sign of hesitation and rush inside the court and treasury. Indeed, the participation of the common people gave the revolt its popular character.

Talking about Karl Marx who was also a great scholar, who wrote several essays in which he describe about the revolt as Nationalist fight for Independence. Where on the other hand, Marxist writers describe to this event as uprising of peasant against feudal system of exploitation. There is also another great revolutionary V.D Savarkar who came up with different view in regard to the revolt, he describe the revolt as the first struggle for Independence. M. N Roy looked at this event as the reaction of the feudal against capitalism. On the day of centenary, Dr. Ramesh Chandra Majumder wrote and published two book about the revolt which entitled “Sepoy Mutiny” and “Revolt of 1857” Dr. Majumdar considered it as the revolt of sepoy. He said that in

some of the few places non military also came in support of the sepoys but they were local landlords, talukdars and the feudal leaders.

According to him it was nothing better than feudalistic reaction of the revolt. Many of the historians stated that the revolt cannot be considered as narrow, isolated and reactionary. By electing Bahadur Shah as the emperor of India, the sepoys have instill a symbol of Hindu and Muslim unity. In the Ajamgarh declaration a call was given to all classes of people to joint against the British rule. They have no idea about the National government, but nationalism exist in them. So it can be rightly called as national movement. R. C. Majumdar gave his analysis of the revolt of 187in his famous book entitled The Sepoy Mutiny and the revolt of 1857.

Subsequently he elaborated some of his arguments in the chapters he contributed to the Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan's paramountcy and the Indian Renaissance. He maintains the revolt took different aspects at different places. I some regions like Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. It was a mutiny sepoys joined later by disgruntled element eager to take advantages of anarchy; in other areas like the U.P, some part of Madhya Prasedh and Western parts of Bihar. The mutiny of sepoy was followed by the general revolt in which apart from the soldiers, civilians, particularly the disposed ruler of Indian states, landlord, tenants and other took part; in still other part of the country like Rajasthan and Maharastra. The civil population sympathized with the rebels but kept themselves within bounds of law and did not take part in overt acts of rebellion such Sir John Lawrence, Seeley and Malleson termed it as sepoys mutiny, they called the sepoys as the unpatriotic and selfish as they fought against the constituted Government with no such native leader as well as no strong support from anyone.

But they say that all these views is not acceptable as though it is said that the revolt was started by the military but the revolt was not stick only by sepoys or army. It is said that not all the army joint the revolt nor the whole army was on the support of the rebels. Sir.John describe the revolt of 1857 as a "wholly unpatriotic and selfish sepoy Mutiny with no native leadership and proper support". According to him, it was a rebellion of the Indian sepoy against the constituted government of the day. Some Indian states, it is conceded, also joined in the revolt but these were states which nursed grievances because of the annexation policy of Lord Dalhousie. The British Government, as the constituted authority of the land suppressed the revolt and restored law and order. The interpretation is unsatisfactory. Unquestionably, the revolt began as a military

rising, but it was not everywhere confined to the army. Even the army as a whole did not join the revolt, and a considerable section fought on the side of the Government. In fact the rebels came from almost every section of the population. In Oudh it enjoyed the support of the masses and so also in some districts of Bihar. In the trials of 1880 to 9 thousand of civilians, along with the soldiers were held guilty of rebellion and punished.

According to L.E.R. Rees it is difficult to agree that the revolt was a War of fanatic religionists against Christians. During the heat of the rebels of the rebellion the ethical principles underlying the various religion had little influence on the combatants. Both sides quoted their religious scriptures to cover their combatants. Both sides quoted their religious scriptures to cover their excesses over the other party. The Christians ultimately won but not Christianity. The Hindus and Muslims were defeated but not their respective religions. True Christianity like western science has influenced the Indian mind but the Christian missionaries had astounding success in the work of proselytization.

And neither according to J.G Medley nor was it “a war of races, a struggle between the white and the black. True, all the whites in India, whatever their nationality, were ranged on one side, but not all the Blacks. As the caption J. G. Medley point out “ In fact for every white man in camp there certainly twenty blacks ones”. In the British war camps Indians served as cooks and looked after the comforts of the soldiers. It was the black palanquin bearers who carried the White wounded soldiers out of the danger zone. Leaving the non-combatants out of account there was high proportion of Indian soldiers in the company’s army that took part in the suppression of the rebellion. To be more correct, it was a war between the Blacks rebels on one side and the Whites rulers supported by other Black on the other side. T.A Holmes also come up with the new opinion about the revolt, followed by some few English historians , according to him the revolt was a conflict between the civilization and the Barbarism for racialist. The explanation smacks of narrow racialism.

During the rebellion both the European and the Indians were guilty of excesses. If the Indians were guilty of the murder of European women and in some cases children in Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow, the record of the British was equally tarnished by dark deeds which were no less and barbaric than those of the Indians. Hodson indulged in indiscriminate shooting at Delhi. Neil took pride in the fact that he hanged hundreds of Indians without any trial whatsoever. Around

Allahabad there was hardly a single tree which was not used as a gallows for unfortunate peasants. At Banaras even the street urchins were caught and hanged. Sir James Outram and W. Taylor stated that revolt was the conflict between the Hindu and Muslim to eradicate the British rule in India. Though this view and conception was also not sufficient and satisfactory. According to S.N. Sen, the mutiny was inevitable. No dependent nation can forever reconcile itself to foreign domination.

A despotic government must ultimately rule by the sword though it might be sheathed in the velvet. In India the sword was apparently in the custody of the sepoy Army. Between the sepoy and his foreigner master there was no common tie of race, language and religion. The mutiny was not inevitable in 1857 but it was inherent in the conclusion of the empire. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad said if the uprising was a result of a nationalist upsurge alone. The answer cannot be an unqualified affirmative if nationalism is understood in its modern sense. There is no doubt that the participants were moved by the patriotic considerations, but these were not strong enough to provoke a revolt. S.B. Chaudhuri it was certainly the first war of Independence, as in the whole canvas of the recorded history of India it would be difficult to find a parallel to this gigantic anti foreign combine of all classes of people and of many provinces of India. There was never a war in India lasting continuously for more than a year and simultaneously in all the religions which had for its objective the abasement and ejection of the alien ruling power.

## **Conclusion**

The uprising of 1857 was an epoch making event in the annals of the history of the nineteenth century as it harnessed the people urge for freedom through a powerful movement which encapsulated diverse approaches and ideologies for the attainment of an immense vision freedom of country from the British colonial rule and establishment of an independent India of the Indians. This extraordinary goal resulted in its becoming the largest armed struggle waged against the colonialism in the nineteenth century. With the ousting of the British from power in Delhi and Lucknow and the establishment of the rebel government in these two centre which functioned, about temporarily, from May to September 1857. The establishment of the spacious and absorptive ideas of Hindustan where the multi the multi religious and multi furious castes and sects were all integrated and assured of the safety of their life, religion, honour and property

exemplified the extraordinary efforts of the revolutionaries in their writing the envisaging of the country as “Hindus and Muslims of Hindustan”

The uprising of 1857 is a most momentous, if tragic, event in the history of modern India. Historians have held divergent views about the outbreak of 1857. Firstly, it has been argued that it was a mutiny of a company's sepoys, pure and simple. The sepoys were discontented on account of various reasons among which the alleged supply of greased cartridges was the principal one. Secondly, it has been said that the uprising marked a struggle between the civilization of the west and that of India. It has been suggested that the fast approaching tide of the western civilization caused a great alarm in the mind of the conservative section and made them combat against the British rule. Thirdly, some scholars are of the view that the uprising reflected the discontent of the expropriated feudal classes whose powers and privileges had been lately assailed by the British. Fourthly, the great uprising was viewed as a secret Muslim conspiracy to oust the British from India and to restore old Muslim ways. It has been asserted that the Muslim court stirred up the Mutiny for selfish political reasons. This movement is also said to have been encouraged by the representatives of the dispossessed house of Awadh monarchy.

Lastly, the Indian uprising has been regarded as the first Indian war of Independence. These different points amply indicate that the uprising of 1857 was not a simple movement but a complex one. It would be a mistake to treat it as a disconnected and sudden explosion. History of Uprising of 1857 is largely understood through the writing of British. Greater part of the records out of which history takes shape, come from British sources, and the large material of the Indian side suffered destruction during the course of the revolt, 1857 to 1858. The most celebrated sources on the subject are the works of John William Kaye, Martin Montgomery, T.R. Holmes, G. B. Malleson, G.W. Forrest, Charles Ball, Colin Campbell, Macleod Innes, M.R. Gubbins. They show their views of contemporary British historians.

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